

Ecological Support for Infrastructure Works, North Wales

Context and the challenge

In North Wales, Equans UK & Ireland supported continuity of an overhead power line project where the proximity of a large tree created a health and safety risk. Before tree works are undertaken, environmental legislation required surveys to confirm whether bats were present, as they are a legally protected species. The live infrastructure and a limited four-week outage window added further pressure to ensure the work could proceed safely and on schedule.

Our role

We were engaged at the pre-construction stage to provide specialist ecological support. As the tree could only be accessed safely using rope climbing, the primary contractor's own team was unable to carry out the surveys due to insurance restrictions. Our licensed bat surveyors, trained in rope access, were deployed to complete both the required inspections and ensure compliance with environmental law.

The solution in action

Working closely with the site team, we integrated two key surveys into the programme:

- ▶ an initial climbing inspection
- ▶ a pre-works check on the day of tree works.

By responding rapidly to the late planning requirement, our team delivered the surveys within two weeks, well inside the critical four-week power outage window.

Throughout, we balanced ecological responsibilities, regulatory compliance, and the safety requirements of working around live power infrastructure.

Outcome and impact

The project proceeded on schedule without costly delays, ensuring the tree works could be undertaken safely. Compliance was maintained, environmental harm avoided, and the client gained the assurance that works were being managed lawfully and responsibly.

We ultimately helped enable a high-risk, time-critical project to move forward by combining specialist ecological skills with practical, responsive support.



For advice or support with ecological compliance on your projects, reach out to:

✉ enquiries.uk@equans.com

