Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

120B, THE BUNGALOW, ST GEORGES ROAD.

OS REF: SE 34162 05834.

DAYTIME, DUSK AND DAWN BAT SURVEY.

Ref No: **230537.**

Date: **14th July 2023.**

Cliff Edge, Cliff Road, Darfield, Barnsley, S73 9HR.
Tel. 01226 753271.
info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk www.whitcher-wildlife.co.uk
Company No. 4401613.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page Number
1. INTRODUCTION.	**3**
2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.	**4**
3. SURVEY RESULTS.	**6**
4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.	**14**
5. RECOMMENDATIONS.	**15**
6. REFERENCES.	**17**
Appendix I. BAT INFORMATION.	**18**
Appendix II. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.	**20**
TOOLBOX TALK – BATS.	**21**
TOOLBOX TALK – NESTING BIRDS.	**22**

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. A planning application is currently being prepared to demolish and develop an existing bungalow and associated outbuildings within the surrounding land between Hawthorne St and St Georges Road, Barnsley.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd was therefore commissioned to carry out a bat daytime and dusk emergence survey of the site to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works. During this survey access could not be gained internally as the building has been condemned and several features were identified in the roof. Therefore, the building was assessed as having moderate potential for roosting bats and a further dawn bat survey was recommended.

1.3. The daytime and dusk emergence surveys were carried out on 17th May 2023 and the dawn survey was carried out on 5th July 2023. This report outlines the findings of those surveys and makes appropriate recommendations.

1.4. Appendix I and II of this report provides additional information on bats and nesting birds and the protection afforded to them and is designed to assist the reader in understanding the contents of this report.

****

2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. The buildings were thoroughly checked internally and externally for potential bat roosting sites by looking for the following signs: -

* Holes, cracks or crevices.
* Bat droppings.
* Prey remains.
* Staining on external walls.

2.2. Unless otherwise stated, all lofts were accessed and inspected using a high-powered torch and where necessary an endoscope.

2.3. A thorough external inspection was carried out from ground level for any gaps or openings in the roof and ridge tiles, behind soffits and fascia's and in the walls of the structure for suitable roost access points and field signs to indicate possible use by bats.

2.4. All window cills, walls and the ground around the structure were checked for signs of bat droppings or staining to indicate possible use by bats. Where necessary, ladders were utilised to gain access within the limits of health and safety.
Any access constraints encountered are outlined within the following report.

2.5. All survey work was carried out in line with Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition)*, with an assessment of the buildings suitability for roosting bats made in accordance with these guidelines.

2.6. The subsequent dusk emergence survey was also conducted in accordance with Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition).* It was conducted by a sufficient number of surveyors to cover all areas of roosting potential, in suitable weather conditions from fifteen minutes before sunset to at least an hour and half after.

2.7. All surveyors were equipped with Batbox Duet bat detectors, or similar. The use of static recording devices such as Anabat SD2's and video cameras with infrared lights were also utilised were appropriate.

2.8. The survey was carried out by a team of surveyors led by James Campbell MCIEEM. Since 2003 James has had experience in a professional capacity as a Wildlife Consultant carrying out Ecology Surveys and Phase 1 Habitat surveys and is a full member of CIEEM. James holds licences with several licensing bodies including:-

- Natural England Survey Licences in respect of bats licence number:- 2015-10823-CLS-CLS, water voles, great crested newts, white clawed crayfish, badger class licence and barn owls.
- Scottish Natural Heritage Licences in respect of bats and great crested newts.
- Countryside Council for Wales Licences in respect of bats and great crested newts.

He has also successfully completed numerous courses run by CIEEM, BCT and FSC regarding protected species and in carrying out Phase 1 Habitat surveys. He is also confined spaces trained and qualified to NVQ Level 2 in tree climbing and aerial rescue.

3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. Data Search Results

3.1.1. An online desktop data search was carried out with Sheffield Biological Records Centre and South Yorkshire Bat Group for records of bats and bat roosts within 2km of the survey area.

3.1.2. There were numerous records identified during the data search. However, the records below are the nearest to the survey area.

- Pipistrelle bat 0.23km from the survey area.
- Daubenton's bat 0.23km from the survey area.
- Brown long eared bat 0.52km from the survey area.
- Noctule bat 0.98km from the survey area.
- Leisler's bat 1.49km from the survey area.

3.1.3. The survey area was not situated within any designated sites or known bat roost site.

3.2. Site Description.

3.2.1. The surveyed building comprised a small bungalow, which extended to the east of a hair and beauty salon on St Georges Road. The building was surrounded by gardens with a small garage, toilet, coal shed and garden shed. The extended surrounding area comprised densely populated residential areas. The aerial photograph below shows the location of the property and the immediate surrounding area.



3.2.2. The surveyed building was single storey with red brick walls and a multi pitched roof with four gable ends. The roof was covered with blue slate, ridge tiles and wooden fascia's at the eaves with intermittent damaged plastic guttering. A large area of dense ivy was identified growing on the north-eastern gable end of the building. There was a small wooden lean-to porch on the southern elevation of the building in a poor condition.



3.2.3. The outbuildings comprised a red brick coal shed and toilet with a concrete roof, a red brick garage covered with dense ivy and a small wooden dilapidated shed also covered with ivy.





3.3. Daytime Survey Results.

3.3.1. The Bungalow.

3.3.1.1. The walls were in good condition with no opportunities for roosting bats. The window and door frames were all well sealed with no gaps or crevices around them suitable for bats to access the buildings.





3.3.1.2. The blue slate covering the roof was in a poor state of repair, with slipped slates, gaps around the eaves and missing mortar on the gable ends. These features provided opportunities for roosting bats. There were no bat field signs identified outside the building during this survey.





3.3.1.3. No access could be gained to the inside of the building during this survey.

3.3.1.4. Overall, the structure was considered to have **moderate potential** for roosting bats also due to not being able to access the inside of the building during this survey.

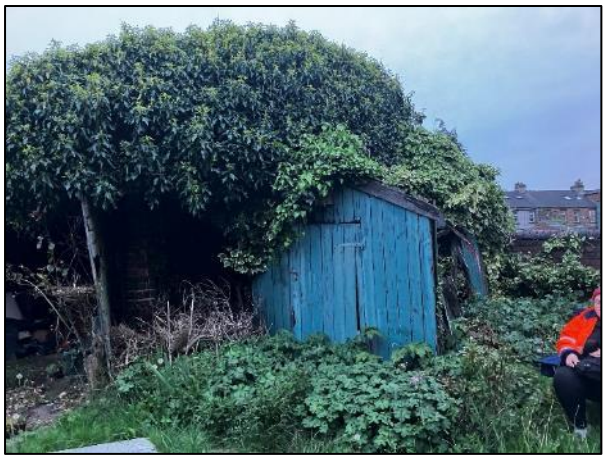
3.3.1.5. There were numerous opportunities for nesting birds during the nesting season identified during this survey. However, no nests were identified during this survey.

3.3.1.6. The building will not provide a suitable potential habitat for hibernation as there is no access for bats to any areas that will maintain a stable temperature or humidity during the bat hibernation period.

3.3.2. The Outbuildings.

3.3.2.1. The outbuildings comprised a red brick coal shed and toilet with a concrete roof, a red brick garage covered with dense ivy and a small wooden dilapidated shed also covered with ivy.





3.3.2.2. All of the buildings were in a very poor state of repair and they were all covered with extremely dense ivy.

3.3.2.3. The buildings were assessed as having **negligible potential** for roosting bats.

3.3.3. Nesting Birds.

The outbuildings and dense ivy do present a high potential for nesting birds during the nesting season. However, no nests were identified during this survey.

3.4. Dusk Survey Results.

3.4.1. Two surveyors carried out a dusk emergence survey on the evening of 17th May 2023. The evening was dry and clear with a temperature of 12ºC at 20:48. The weather was mild and still. Sunset was at 20:48 and the survey commenced at 20:33.

3.4.2. The two surveyors were positioned so that they could see all aspects of the building to be surveyed. The position of each surveyor (S) was as shown on the aerial photograph below. Each surveyor was equipped with a Batbox Duet detector and Anabat recorder and a two-way radio for communication.



3.4.3. One of the surveyors holds a current Natural England bat survey licence (2016-19548-CLS-CLS) and the other surveyor was an experienced assistant.

3.4.4. A low level of Common Pipistrelle activity was recorded both surveyors, commuting and foraging along the liner buildings and roads. There were very low numbers of foraging bats identified throughout the survey mainly flying from the north to the south.

3.4.5. Anabat 1 with Surveyor 1 recorded twenty-seven Common Pipistrelle calls between 21:22 and 21:52.

3.2.6. Anabat 2 with Surveyor 2 recorded thirty Common Pipistrelle calls between 21:21 and 21:51.

3.4.7. There was no activity over the site from 21:52 onwards and no bats emerged from the building.

3.5. Dawn Survey Results.

3.5.1. Two surveyors carried out a dawn survey on the morning of 5th July 2023. The morning was dry and clear with a temperature of 11ºC at 03:28. The weather was mild and still. Sunrise was at 04:43 and the survey commenced at 03:15.

3.5.2. The two surveyors were positioned so that they could see all aspects of the building to be surveyed. The position of each surveyor (S) was as shown on the aerial photograph below. Each surveyor was equipped with a Batbox Duet detector and Anabat recorder and a two-way radio for communication.



3.5.3. Both surveyors hold a current Natural England bat survey licences: 2016-19548-CLS-CLS and 2018-35087-CLS-CLS.

3.5.4. A low level of Common Pipistrelle activity was recorded by both surveyors, commuting and foraging along the liner buildings and roads from the north to the south.

3.5.5. Anabat 1 with Surveyor 1 recorded eight Common Pipistrelle calls between 03:55 and 04:14.

3.5.6. Anabat 2 with Surveyor 2 recorded four Common Pipistrelle calls between 03:53 and 04:14.

3.5.7. There was no activity over the site from 04:14 onwards and no bat accessed the building.

****

4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1. The building was generally in a good condition. However, there was no access into the building and there were gaps in the roof slates. Therefore, as the building could not be surveyed internally the building was assessed to have **moderate potential** for roosting bats in line with the Bat Conservation Good Practice Guide to Bat Surveys.

4.2. The initial dusk emergence survey and the dawn survey identified no bats emerging or accessing the building and low levels of foraging bats. It is assessed that the building is not currently being used by roosting bats. Therefore, the proposed works will have no impact on roosting bats. However, the following recommendations should be followed in line with the proposed works.

4.3. Nesting potential was identified in the outbuildings and the dense ivy. However, no nests or nesting activity was identified during this survey. The proposed works will have a **high impact** on nesting birds if the buildings are demolished during the nesting season, which extends from March to August. However, if the buildings are demolished outside the nesting season this will have a **low impact** on nesting birds.

****

5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. Although no bats were identified roosting in the building, as individual bats can seek temporary shelter almost anywhere all personnel should be briefed on the identification of bats and a toolbox talk on bats has been included at the end of this report to provide further information. The works should be carried out with care and in the unlikely event a bat is found during the works, the bat should be carefully covered and protected, work should cease at that location and the undersigned should be contacted for further advice.

5.2. It is recommended that, where possible, all works are carried out during the winter, which is outside the nesting bird season, March to August. If the works are carried out during this time, a thorough nesting bird survey should be carried out by a suitably knowledgeable and experienced person prior to works commencing. If any eggs or young are found to be present, they should be left unhindered till they have fledged.

5.3. It is recommended that the bat roosting potential is incorporated in the new development to enhance the biodiversity of the site and surrounding area. An integrated bat box should be installed in a suitable location not above doors or windows and away from lights.



****

Prepared by:	
James Campbell MCIEEM.	Date: 14th July 2023.

Checked by:	
Ruth Georgiou. BSc, MCIEEM.	Date:

6. REFERENCES.

Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. 2017. ***Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Second Edition.*** CIEEM, Hampshire.

Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. 2017. ***Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing, Second Edition.*** CIEEM, Hampshire.

1981. ***Wildlife and Countryside Act.*** *http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69* (accessed 18/02/16)

2000. ***Countryside and Rights of Way Act.*** *http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents.*

2017. ***The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations.*** *http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made.*

2012. ***National Planning Policy Statement.*** *https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2*

Anon. 1995. ***Biodiversity: the UK Steering Group report. Vol 2: Action Plans.*** HMSO, London.

Collins J. (ed.) 2016. ***Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good Practice Guidelines.*** 3rd ed. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

English Nature. 2004. ***Bat Mitigation Guidelines.*** English Nature, Peterborough, UK.

BTHK 2018. ***Bat Roosts in Trees – A Guide to Identification and Assessment for Tree-Care and Ecology Professionals.*** Exeter: Pelagic Publishing.

****

Appendix I. BAT INFORMATION.

Ecology

There are currently 18 species of bat residing in Britain, 17 of which of which are known to breed here. They are extremely difficult to identify in the hand and even more so in flight.

All appear to be diminishing in numbers, probably due to habitat change and shortage of food, caused by pesticides, as insects are their sole diet.

As their diet consists solely of insects, bats hibernate during the winter when their food source is at its most scarce. They will spend the winter in hollow trees, caves, mines and the roofs of buildings.

Certain species, particularly the pipistrelle (the commonest and most widespread British bat) can quickly adapt to man-made structures and will readily use these to roost and to rear their young.

Surveys

During walkover surveys, bat roosts can be identified by looking for:

- Suitable holes, cracks and crevices within any building, tree or other structure.
- Bat droppings along walls, window cills, or on the ground.
- Prey remains, such as insect wings.

Further investigations can be made using endoscopes, by carrying out aerial inspections of trees or by conducting bat activity surveys during dusk and dawn over summer months.

Legislation

Bats are protected under Appendix II and III of the Bern Convention (1982), Schedule 5 and 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), Annex IV of the Habitats Directive (some species under Annex II), Annex II of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) and EUROBATS agreement. Numerous species are

also listed under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) making them species of principal importance.

All bats and their roosts are therefore protected in the UK. This makes it an offence to kill, injure or take any bat, to interfere with any place used for shelter or protection, or to intentionally disturb any animal occupying such a place.

The UK has designated maternity and hibernacula areas as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) under the Habitats Directive. Implementation of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan also includes action for a number bat species and the habitats which support them.

Where development proposals are likely to affect a bat roost site, a licence is required from Natural England.

Appendix II. NESTING BIRD INFORMATION.

Ecology

The nesting season will vary according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September. It is also worth remembering that some birds nest in trees and scrub, but others are ground nesting or prefer man- made structures or buildings.

Surveys

Nesting bird surveys search for potential nest sites in vegetation, buildings etc. Potential nesting sites are observed over a suitable period of time for bird movements or calling male birds that would indicate the presence of a nest. The presence of a nest can be identified from the field signs without the necessity to see the nest itself, thereby avoiding any disturbance of the nests. The best way to avoid this issue is to plan for vegetation clearance to be carried out outside the bird-nesting season.

Legislation

Nesting birds are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Part 1. -(1) Of the Act states that: - If any person intentionally: - kills, injures or takes any wild bird; takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird, he shall be guilty of an offence.

Part 1. -(5) of the Act states that: - If any person intentionally: - disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young; or disturbs young of such a bird, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 amends the above by inserting after “intentionally” the words “or recklessly”.

Toolbox Talk: Bats

Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Ecological Consultants

18 species of bat have been recorded in Britain, 17 of which are known to breed here.



Identification.

Some species can be extremely difficult to identify in the hand and even more so in flight.

Species such as the Brown Long Eared bat pictured above can be more easily identified in the hand. Whereas, the Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle are more difficult to identify.

Bats are more easily identified by field signs such as droppings or feeding remains.





Habitat.

Bats are highly specialised creatures and require a relatively narrow range of suitable conditions in order to sustain a viable population. Bats require an abundant supply of flying insect food in places where they can easily be caught and they need safe and reliable roosting sites, particularly during breeding and hibernation.

Bats are heavily dependent on buildings and trees for their roost sites and therefore extremely susceptible to disturbance from human activities. Development schemes can also isolate bat populations and sever roost sites from favoured feeding areas by removing hedgerows or other features used as commuting routes.

Bats are susceptible to disturbance and have been known to abandon roost sites after instances of disturbance. The effects of disturbance are more pronounced at different times of year. Serious disturbance during breeding can result in the breeding females being killed or the abandonment and subsequent starvation of dependant young. Repeated disturbance during winter hibernation can result in the death of adult animals from starvation.

The level of protection afforded to bats in the UK and European legislation reflects the fact that it is now generally accepted that bats have declined substantially, maybe by as much as 60%, over recent years. Most species are declining and vulnerable with all species being protected.

As their diet consists solely of insects, bats hibernate during the winter when their food source is at its most scarce. They will spend the winter in hollow trees, caves, mines and occasionally the roofs of buildings.

Certain species, particularly Pipistrelle, can quickly adapt to manmade structures and will readily use these to roost and to rear their young.

Legislation.

Bats and their roosts are fully protected at all times (whether the bats are currently present or not). This protection comes from the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (updated by the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000) and the Habitats Regulations 1994. Under this legislation it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, capture or disturb bats or to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter or protection.

Under the Habitats Regulations, where bats may be affected by development proposals, a licence is required from Natural England. Natural England's published guidelines on the licence procedure indicate that if, on the basis of survey information and specialist knowledge of the species concerned, the proposed activity is reasonably likely to result in an offence then a licence is required. If, on the other hand the proposed activity is reasonably unlikely to result in an offence, then a licence is not required.

If bats or bat field signs are identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk

Toolbox Talk: Nesting Birds

Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Ecological Consultants

The bird nesting season varies according to the weather each year but generally commences in March, peaks during May and June and continues until September.
A bird's nest is the place in which a bird lays and icubates its eggs. Some species build a nest structure while other species lay their eggs directly onto the ground or on a rocky ledge. Nests can be constructed from a variety of materials and are usually lined with feathers or fur.

Identification.

Some birds construct nests in an area where it can be seen while others construct nests that are hidden from view and are more difficult to identify.

The photograph to the right shows a Moorhen nest which can easily be seen.





Nests can also be identified from field signs without the necessity to see the nest itself. The presence of a nest can be identified by seeing the adult birds leaving and returning to the nest regularly with food to feed the chicks.

The photograph to the left shows a Wren's nest in overhanging tree roots, which is almost impossible to see.

Care should be taken at any time during the nesting season particularly when regular bird activity is seen, or birds can be heard calling.





Habitat.

Birds regularly nest in a variety of places with some species nesting in buildings or vegetation and others nesting on the ground or on water. However, birds may nest in any habitat or situation if they identify a suitable nest site.







Legislation.

Part 1. -(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 states that:

If any person intentionally or recklessly:

- Kills, injures or takes any wild bird.
- Takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built, or
- Takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird.

He shall be guilty of an offence.

Part 1. -(5) of the Act states that:

If any person intentionally or recklessly:

- Disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young, or
- Disturbs young of such a bird.

He shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

If a nest or potential nesting activity is identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk