Brooks Ecological
Grounded advice

Bat Emergence Survey
Old Mill, Barnsley Road, Penistone

Report reference: R-2371-02
September 2015

Report Title:	Bat Emergence Survey Old Mill, Barnsley Road, Penistone
Report Reference:	R-2371-02
Written by:	Joshua Birchall BSc(Hons) Graduate Ecologist
Technical review:	Sam Kitching BSc (Hons) Grad CIEEM Ecologist
QA review:	Robert Weston BSc(Hons) MSc MCIEEM Technical Director
Approved for issue:	Robert Weston BSc(Hons) MSc MCIEEM Technical Director
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Unit A, 1 Station Road, Guiseley, Leeds, LS20 8BX
Phone: **01943 884451**
01943 879129
Email:admin@brooks-ecological.co.uk
www.brooks-ecological.co.uk
Registered in England Number 5351418

smas worksafe consultant
www.smasltd.com
as recognised by
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Summary Statement

Emergence surveys indicate likely absence of roosting bats and bat activity in general was very low during the surveys. Therefore, proposals can proceed with minimal risk of impacts on bats or their roosts.

Introduction

1. Subsequent to the recommendations made in Brooks Ecological Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (R-2371-01) detailed bat survey was commissioned at the Old Mill off Barnsley Road, Penistone, Sheffield (SE 244 038).

2. Information relating to local and legal status is provided in report R-2371-01 and is not repeated here. However these two reports should be read in conjunction for full context.

Method

3. Brooks Ecological specialise in bat surveys ranging from individual buildings through to complex sites requiring numerous visits with large teams. In terms of the survey effort, number of personnel required and number of visits required to be able to properly evaluate the building(s) use by bats we refer to the Bat Conservation Trust, Survey Good Practice Guidelines (2012). However these guidelines are not prescriptive and we approach each site individually as required using our professional judgement and significant experience base.

4. In this case, 2 visits with a team of up to 2 surveyors, was deemed necessary to fully evaluate the potential use of the site for roosting. The surveys were carried out on the 27th August and 3rd September with surveyors positioned around the building to cover all aspects where bats could potentially emerge, and to establish activity levels around the site.

5. The surveyors, using heterodyne detectors, were in place at least half an hour before dusk and left once all species of bat would be expected to have left a roost and patterns of activity within the site had been appraised. Conditions and dates are summarised in table 1 below:

Table 1 Survey summary

Date of Survey	Temperature Start/End	Weather	Invertebrate activity
27.08.15	15˚C / 12˚C	Dry, overcast, light breeze.	Moderate
03.09.15	13˚C / 12˚C	Overcast but dry, cool light breeze.	Low

6. Survey and assessment was directed by Sam Kitching BSc (Hons) Grad CIEEM. Sam has over 3 years experience of carrying out bat surveys in a professional capacity and is registered to use the new Class Survey Licence WML CL18 (Bat Survey Level 2). He is also an active member of the West Yorkshire Bat Group.

Results

Survey 1 – 27th September 2015

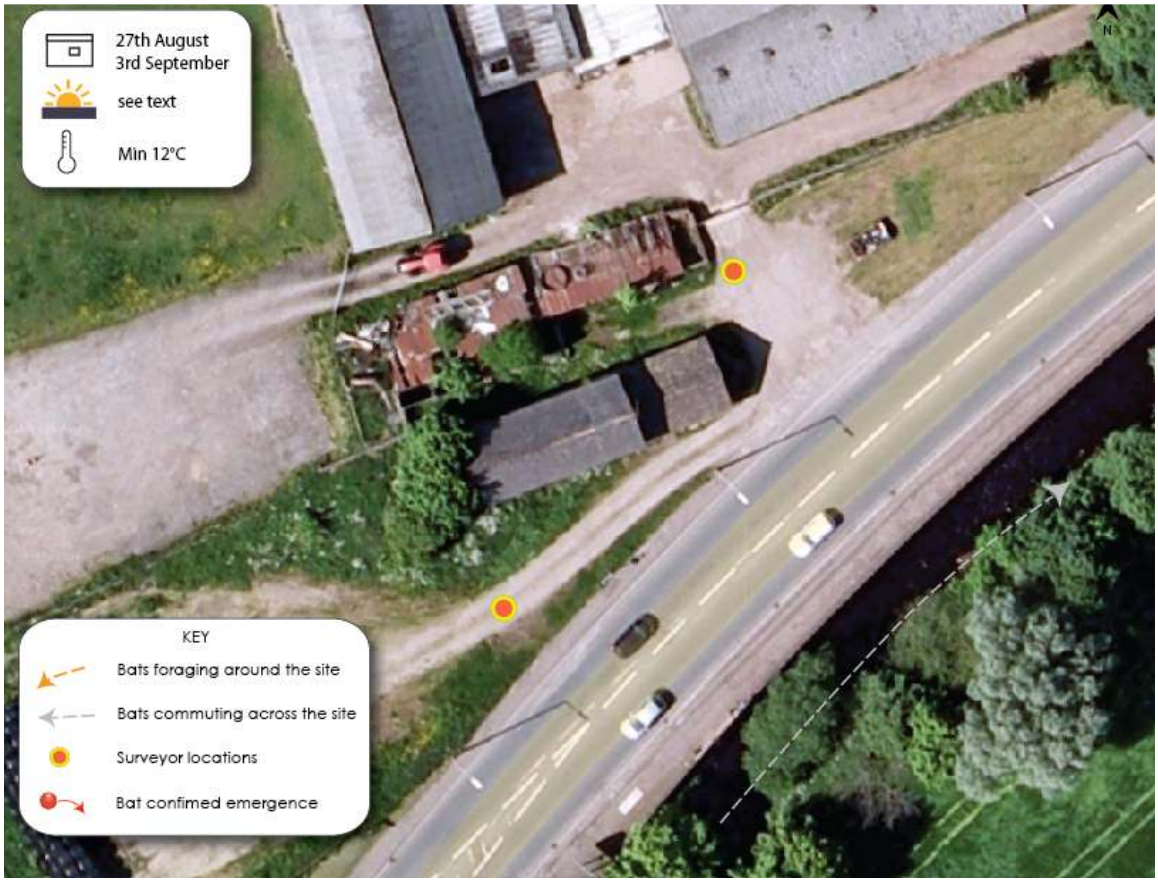
7. No bats were seen or suspected to have emerged from the surveyed building. Equally, no bats were seen or heard in the area during the entirety of the survey

Survey 2 – 3rd August 2015

8. Bat activity was limited to along the River Don, when a single common pipistrelle was heard behind the surveyor positioned along Barnsley Road at 20:54. It is likely this bat was commuting along the River Don, which flows east – west c.30m south of the site.

9. At no point were any bats seen or suspected to emerge from the surveyed building.

Figure 1 Bat activity drawing, summary of both surveys



Evaluation and Recommendations

10. Following emergence survey work it is concluded that the building is very unlikely to support roosting bats and that further survey effort is not required in support of this conclusion.

11. The proposed works can proceed with little risk of impacting on bats.

General advice

12. Even where surveys have been carried out which demonstrate absence of roosting, site workers should always be aware that bats can move into buildings previously found not to support them. On this basis work should proceed with care and if a bat is found during the proposed demolition, works should stop immediately and a professional ecologist and/or the bat helpline (on 0845 1300 228 Bat Conservation Trust) should be contacted. The local office of Natural England should also be contacted to seek advice.

13. The UK government's latest guidance on nature conservation in relation to development (NPPF) makes it clear that opportunities should be sought through their planning system to use development as an opportunity to enhance sites for wildlife where possible. Proposals for the development could incorporate areas that could be attractive to roosting bats in new houses, such as adapted roof tiles and ridges which can be cheaply and easily incorporated into new buildings.

References

Bat Conservation Trust (2012) Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines

English Nature (2004) Bat Mitigation Guidelines. English Nature, Peterborough.

JNCC (2004) The Bat Workers Manual. 3rd Edition.

ODPM circular 06/05 (2005) Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System
http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/circularbiodiversity

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