



**THE OLD BAKERY, CARLTON STREET,
CUDWORTH.**

OS REF: SE 38655 09177.

BAT SURVEY REPORT.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to demolish The Old Bakery Building, located on Carlton Street, Cudworth and erect two dwellings in its place.

1.2. A Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) was carried out in November 2022 by Wildscenes and will likely accompany this report. Within their report, they classified the buildings on site to be of low potential but deemed further surveys unnecessary.

1.3. To comply with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines, the Local Planning Authority requested that a dusk emergence survey be carried out, as would typically be expected of a property with low potential.

1.4. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd have been commissioned to carry out the bat activity survey only. They have had no other input regarding the categorisation of the roost potential of the building and this report does not constitute agreement with the assessment.

1.5. A dusk emergence survey was carried out on 27th June 2023. This report outlines the findings of that survey.

1.6. Appendices I to II of this report provide additional information on specific species and are designed to assist the reader in understanding the contents of this report.

2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. The structure was checked for potential bat roosting sites in line by looking for the following signs: -

- * Holes, cracks or crevices.
- * Bat droppings.
- * Prey remains.

2.2. A thorough external inspection was carried out from ground level for any gaps or openings of the structure which may provide suitable roost access points and field signs to indicate possible use by bats.

2.3. All 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.

2.4. 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 structures suitability for roosting bats made in accordance with these guidelines.

2.5. 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.

2.6. All surveyors were equipped with Batbox Duet bat detectors, or similar. The use of static recording devices such as Anabats and video cameras with infrared lights were also utilised where appropriate.

2.7. The dusk emergence survey was led by Mitchel Greenhalgh, an ecological consultant with an array of experience in conducting surveys on a variety of flora and fauna in a professional capacity. Mitchel holds a level two Natural England survey licence in respect of both bats (2022-10386-CL18-BAT) and great crested newts (2023-11209-CL09-GCN) and is working towards gaining further survey licences. He has attended courses run by CIEEM and the FSC and also holds a BSc in environmental

science attained from the University of Leeds. He is an associate member of CIEEM is therefore committed to continuous professional development.

3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. The Surveyed Area.

3.1.1. The surveyed area is a group of buildings located on the site of Edgerton Lodge. The map below shows the location of the buildings which were included within the surveys.



3.1.2. Shown below are photographs taken by Whitcher Wildlife Ltd which show the general conditions of the buildings and potential roost features.





3.2. Data Search Results.

3.2.1. Data search requests were sent to the Barnsley Biological Records Centre (BBRC) and the South Yorkshire Bat Group (SYBG) to identify records of any bats within a 2km radius of the survey area.

3.2.2. SYBG returned a small number of records of common bat species including common and soprano pipistrelle, noctule and Daubenton's bat, most of which relate to Carlton Marsh Nature Reserve. The closest records are of a common pipistrelle roost, 125m north of the survey area, and of an injured bat 375m east of the survey area.

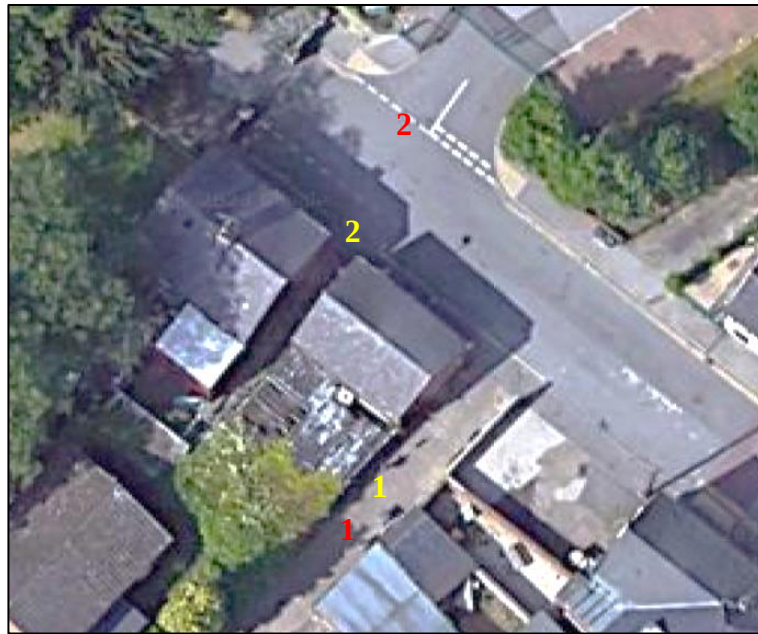
3.2.3. No records were returned which are relevant to the site itself or the immediate surroundings.

3.3. Dusk Emergence Survey Results.

3.3.1. A dusk emergence survey of the building with low potential was carried out by two surveyors on the evening of 27th June 2023. One surveyor holds a current Natural England licence for surveying bats and the other is an experienced assistant.

3.3.2. Each surveyor was equipped with a Batbox Duet detector and a two-way radio for communication. In addition, eight static Anabat recorders were deployed, one by each surveyor to record bat activity for subsequent analysis using Analook software.

3.3.3. The position of the surveyors and the static Anabats are shown on the aerial photograph below where a yellow number is an Anabat recorder and a red number is a surveyor.



3.3.4. The evening was fine, dry and a little overcast with a wind measuring 1 on the BWS, with a temperature of 17°C at the start of the survey. Sunset was at 21:39 and the survey started at 21:24 and ended at 23:09.

3.3.5. A general summary of the activity around the site is given below.

3.3.5.1. Surveyor one recorded almost no activity throughout the duration of the survey. Only two bats were seen, which were a noctule passing high south to north at 21:59 and a common pipistrelle passing west to east at 22:12. No bats were seen to emerge from the building.

3.3.5.2. Surveyor two recorded more activity than surveyor one due to foraging activity along the tree line close to the park, which comprised solely of common and soprano pipistrelles. This foraging began at 22:08 and continued intermittently for the duration

of the survey. Surveyor two also recorded a small number of common pipistrelles travelling west to east into the park at 22:12, 22:14 and 22:22 and the noctule at 21:59. No bats were seen to emerge from the building.

3.3.6. The Anabat recorders situated with each surveyor generally agreed with their findings. All bats were found to be common pipistrelles with the exception of the noctule at 21:59 and one myotis call briefly recorded at 22:19.

3.3.7. No bats were seen to emerge from or enter the building on the site throughout the entirety of the survey.

3.3.8. No birds were seen to emerge from or enter any the building on the site throughout the entirety of the survey.

4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1. The PRA survey undertaken by Wildscenes categorised the main building as having low potential for roosting bats and the rear flat roofed section as having negligible potential for roosting bats. In line with those findings, a dusk emergence survey of the main building has been carried out in the with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines.

4.2. Throughout the entirety of the survey, no bats were seen to enter or emerge from any buildings on site.

4.3. Throughout the surveys, activity was generally moderate, but limited almost exclusively to common and soprano pipistrelles along the tree lines within the park. One myotis species and once noctule were also recorded. Activity outside the park was minimal.

4.4. Throughout the entirety of the survey, no birds were seen to enter or emerge from any of the buildings on site concluding that no nests are currently present within them.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. No bat roosts were identified in any of the buildings during either of the surveys and therefore, if the assessment of the buildings within the PRA is accepted, in line with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines, no further bat surveys are required prior to works commencing.

5.2. However, opportunistic bats can roost almost anywhere and the workforce should remain vigilant during the works. If any bats are found, works must cease immediately and the undersigned should be contacted immediately for further advice.

5.3. Whilst no birds were identified entering or leaving the building, it does have potential for nesting birds. Therefore, it is recommended that any demolition works be carried out outside of the nesting bird season, which extends from March to August each year. If this is not possible, then the works should be preceded by a nesting bird survey. Should any nests be identified, they must remain undisturbed until the young have fledged.

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Appendix I. BAT INFORMATION.

Ecology

There are currently 18 species of bat residing in Britain, 17 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 of 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”.