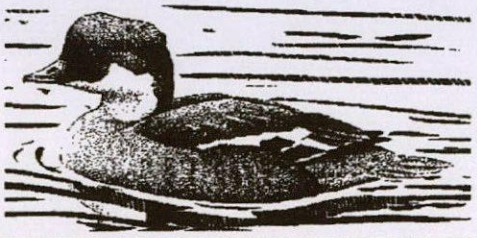
Bat Survey to
Land at Park Hollow
Wombwell
Barnsley
S73 0HN



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1. Summary

1.1 A daylight bat survey to land at Hollow Park, Wombwell was commissioned by MDA Architects to establish the likelihood of the site being used by roosting bats ahead of proposed development work.

1.2 The survey was undertaken at a time of year which is considered sub-optimal for bat occupancy and, therefore, aimed to establish the likelihood of bats on the site by looking for evidence of roosts or by noting potentially suitable roosting cavities.

1.3 The survey results suggest that the land has no potential roost value for bats though offers foraging habitat. Bats are likely to be roosting in dwellings close by and will be seen foraging around the site on summer evenings but the proposed development is unlikely to severely reduce the bat potential of the site.

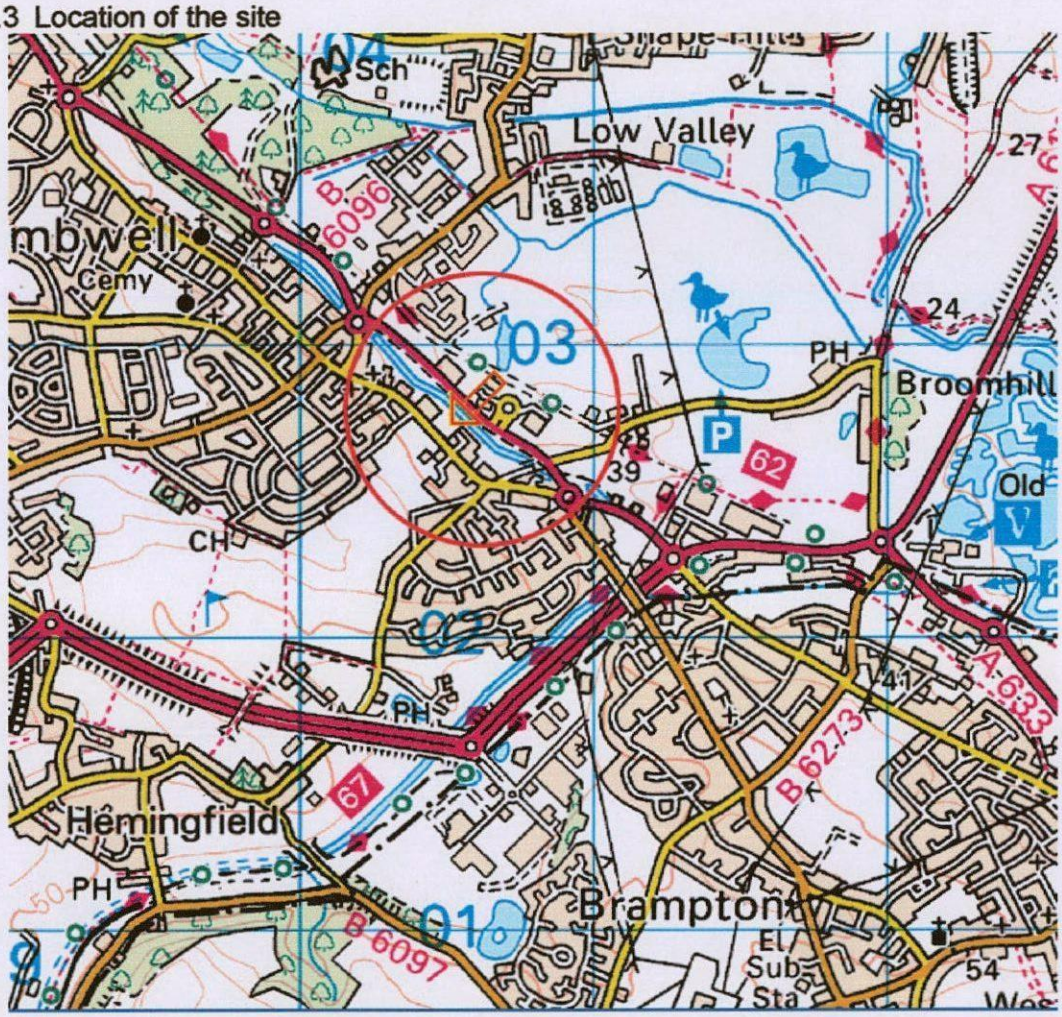
1.4 Removal of the two large trees and subsequent development of the land is unlikely to have any major impact on bats as they will continue to be able to feed along the disused canal to the rear of the site. Inclusion of a permanent bat roost has been suggested to improve the site's potential. The development will not have any impact on maternity roosts or the local bat population and will not cause fragmentation of roosts or loss of habitat.

2. Introduction

2.1 MDA Architects commissioned a bat survey to land at Park Hollow, Wombwell, S73 0NH (NGR SE405027) in accordance with the Planning Authority's request, to determine whether bats have or are using the property as a roost site. The survey took place at a time considered an sub-optimal period for bat roost occupancy, therefore, the survey aimed to establish the likelihood of bats using the site.

2.2 The owner is currently seeking permission to remove two large trees and develop the site with a residential build.

2.3 Location of the site



2.4 This report sets out the findings of a daytime survey carried out to the above property on Thursday 6th February 2014 and highlights the ecological constraints and opportunities associated with the proposed works and appraises the potential impacts. Appropriate actions to ensure the protection of bats are identified and mitigation measures detailed where appropriate.

2.5 The bat survey was undertaken by John Gardner, licence number 20123013 (Conservation & Scientific).

3. Aims of the Survey

3.1 The survey was carried out to establish the following:

- Likelihood of particular buildings, structures, trees (where appropriate) or other features to support bats
- The presence or absence of bats e.g. in a particular building, structure or tree
- Specific features used within the survey area by roosting bats

4. Bat legislation

4.1 All bats and their roosts are protected under the EC Habitats Directive 1992 (EC1992), as implemented by the Habitat Regulations 1994. These regulations amend the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which provides protection to certain animals under Section 9 and listed in Schedule 5 of the Act. Under the Act (As Amended) it is an offence intentionally or recklessly to disturb a protected animal or to damage, destroy, or obstruct access to any place or structure which is used for shelter or protection. This is irrespective of whether the animals are present.

4.2 Where bats are likely to be affected by development proposals, an EPS licence is required from Natural England. Licensing cannot be taken for granted. A licence application must satisfy defined criteria in an appropriate reasoned statement. It must be accompanied by a suitable method statement for the works and appropriate proposals for mitigation of any likely adverse impacts to the protected species.

5. Survey methods

5.1 Daytime survey

5.1.1 The daylight survey was undertaken on Thursday 6th February 2014 and consisted of a visual inspection of the land.

5.1.2 The survey aimed to identify areas that are normally favoured by bats such as trees or buildings and to inspect possible roosts searching for signs of use by bats e.g. scratching and staining around entrances to holes, using high powered lamps and binoculars.

5.1.3 An individual building may have several features of potential interest to roosting bats associated with it. It is not always possible to confirm usage of a feature by bats as often the animals may be present on one day and no evidence of occupation may be found on the next. Consequently it is customary when undertaking such surveys to assign each feature to a defined category of roosting potential as follows:

Negligible: This category is usually used where a feature appears initially to have significant bat roost potential, but is considered on closer inspection to have low or negligible potential to support roosting bats. It is usually used during surveys to confirm that inspection of a feature has been carried out and has found that the feature is not considered to comprise suitable habitat for roosting bats.

Low: This category is used to describe a feature that may have some superficial interest to roosting bats, but is considered sub-optimal to the extent that bats are not considered likely to use the feature for shelter. A cavity that is open at the top allowing access to wind and rain may be considered to be of low bat roost potential.

Moderate: This category is used to describe a feature that has some potential to support roosting bats, but is considered to be less than ideal in some way. For example the feature may be occupied by other animals, such as birds or squirrel; it may be subject to disturbance or have sub-optimal connectivity with navigational features. A surveyor would be neither surprised nor expect to find a bat using such a feature. Features considered to be of moderate roosting potential would not automatically be subject to an activity survey unless otherwise highlighted.

High: This category is used to describe an optimal feature considered to be ideally suitable for use by roosting bats where no evidence of occupation by bats has been found. Features considered to be of high bat roost potential (BRP) may include upwards-leading cavities of appropriate dimensions and height from the ground, with no obstructions below the cavity entrance. The site may be particularly prominent within the landscape and is likely to have good connectivity with navigational features and sufficient suitable foraging habitat in the vicinity. Features with high BRP are likely to be subject to activity surveys to assist confirmation of their status, and may be subject to a watching brief during works that may disturb them.

Confirmed: This category is used where positive evidence of bats usage has been recorded from a feature. For example, bats or bat droppings may be present, or existing bat records may be associated with the feature. A licence from the DEFRA is likely to be required if the bat roost is to be disturbed by the development.

5.2 Emergence and return surveys

5.2.1 No emergence survey was undertaken due to the time of year.

5.3 Desk Study

5.3.1 No desk study was undertaken as the land has no bat roost potential. The land is surrounded by residential dwellings and is close to local nature reserves connected by water courses. Without doubt there will be an active and healthy bat population but no roost are likely on the site.

6. Survey results

6.1 The daytime survey

6.1.1 The site is comprised of a small area of land next to the disused Barnsley canal and has a number of small to medium sized trees. Chickens kept on site have removed all traces of vegetation on the site.

6.1.2 The small plot of bare ground has a mixture of trees on site comprising sycamore, chestnut, ash, black poplar and oak. None of the trees are of any

maturity and none have thick enough trunks to have rot hols or woodpecker holes that might be of interest to bats.

6.1.3 The two large trees in the centre of the site which are earmarked for felling do not have any crevices, rot holes or woodpecker holes that would provide potential roost sites for bats. Removal of these two trees will not have any impact on bat maternity roosts. There are a good number of smaller tress on the perimeter of the site that are likely to remain and will provide foraging and a navigation corridor for bats passing through the site.

6.1.4 The ground beneath the trees is bare earth and nearly all vegetation has been cleared by the chickens that are kept on site. Lack of ground vegetation means less habitat for insects and therefore less food for bats.

6.1.5 The land is adjacent to a disused canal which joins the site to both residential dwellings and good foraging habitat. The canal will provide feeding and a linear route through the area and bats are likely to be recorded close by on summer evenings but the survey site is of little as a roosting site.

Table 1: Summary of bat roost potential features

Building/Tree	Feature	Description of bat roost potential	BRP value	Prescription
Number/Name	Describe Feature	Simple/description	Negligible Low Medium High	Advice
Tree	Large black poplar	Although a reasonable height, there is not much girth and no rot holes or crevices were noted	Negligible	No action
Tree	Whitebeam(?)	Small tree not much girth and no rot holes or crevices were noted	Negligible	No action
Trees	Boundary trees	No trees of any significant height or girth and no cavities noted	Negligible	No action

7. Assessment and mitigation

7.1 At the time of the survey there was no evidence to suggest that bats were or have been using the site in any capacity other than to fly through on route to other areas.

7.2 The two trees earmarked for felling are not large enough to provide the necessary rot holes or cavities that bats would require for roosting is not a single feature on the site that would have any potential interest to bats though the site is located in an area which is very good for bats and there are likely to be roosts in close proximity.

7.3 In order to improve the sites suitability for roosting bats, an enclosed bat brick should be incorporated into the east or south wall of any new dwelling erected on site (see http://www.ibstock.com/sustainability-ecozone.asp)

8. Conclusion

8.1 It is unlikely any development of the site will have any detrimental effect on bats in the area. It will not harm or damage any maternity roosts and will not cause loss or fragmentation of habitat.

Appendix 1 Photos of the site

