

**Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.**



CROWN AND ANCHOR, BARUGH GREEN.

OS REF: SE 31308 08505.

BAT SURVEY.

Ref No: 250735.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page Number
1. INTRODUCTION.	3
2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.	5
3. SURVEY RESULTS.	6
4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.	13
5. RECOMMENDATIONS.	14
6. REFERENCES.	15
Appendix I. BAT INFORMATION.	16

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. An application is being prepared for an extension to the rear of an existing building which is currently in use as a pub and restaurant.

1.2. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was carried out by Wildscapes in May 2025 and recommendations were made for one further dusk emergence survey.

1.3. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd was therefore commissioned to carry out a bat survey of the building to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works.

1.4. A further Preliminary Roost Assessment and dusk emergence survey has now been carried out and this report outlines the findings of both the PRA, and the subsequent survey.

1.5. Appendices I of this report provides additional information on bats and the protection afforded to them and is designed to assist the reader in understanding the contents of this report.

1.6. This report should be read alongside the PEA by Wildscapes (May 2025).

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. The preliminary roost assessment and dusk emergence survey were conducted in accordance with Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition)*. The dusk emergence survey 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.

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

2.7. This survey was carried out by Jess Mason MSc ACIEEM FRGS. Since 2018 Jess has had experience in a professional capacity as an Ecologist carrying out ecology surveys and phase I habitat surveys. Jess holds Natural England survey licences in respect of bats (2023-11208-CL18-BAT), barn owls (2024-11866-CL29-OWL), and great crested newts (2023-11456-CL08-GCN), and a Scottish Natural Heritage survey licence in respect of barn owls. She has also successfully completed a number of courses run by CIEEM and the FSC in the relative protected species and carrying out

habitat surveys and has a MSc in Biological Recording. Jess is an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. Data Search Results.

No data search was carried out as this is already included in the preliminary ecological appraisal prepared by Wildscapes (May 2025). Details of relevant bat records can be found in that report.

3.2. Site Description.

3.2.1. The site is located in a semi-urban area in Barnsley, South Yorkshire. It is surrounded by residential housing to the south, agricultural fields to the north, with car parking and garden habitats surrounding the building.

3.2.2. The aerial map below shows the location of the survey area in red, and the surrounding landscape.



3.2.3. The survey area comprises a complex building consisting of a two-storey main building with multiple single-storey extensions.

3.3. Preliminary Roost Assessment.

3.3.1. The building comprises a two-storey building with extensions to the sides and rear, all of which have rendered walls. The walls are in good condition with no cracks, gaps or crevices suitable for roosting bats.



3.3.2. Gable ends were present at the northeast and southwest ends of the two storey building, as well as at the northwestern end of the rear single-storey extension. All were in good condition and the roof was well-sealed to the walls, providing no potential roost features for bats.



3.3.3. Both soffits and fascias were present on different parts of the building, and both were mostly in good condition. However, two potential roost features were identified, shown in the photographs below. One feature consisted of a small gap behind a plastic repair to fascia, and the other consisted of a missing board on a soffit beneath a flat roof, potentially leading to a small cavity.



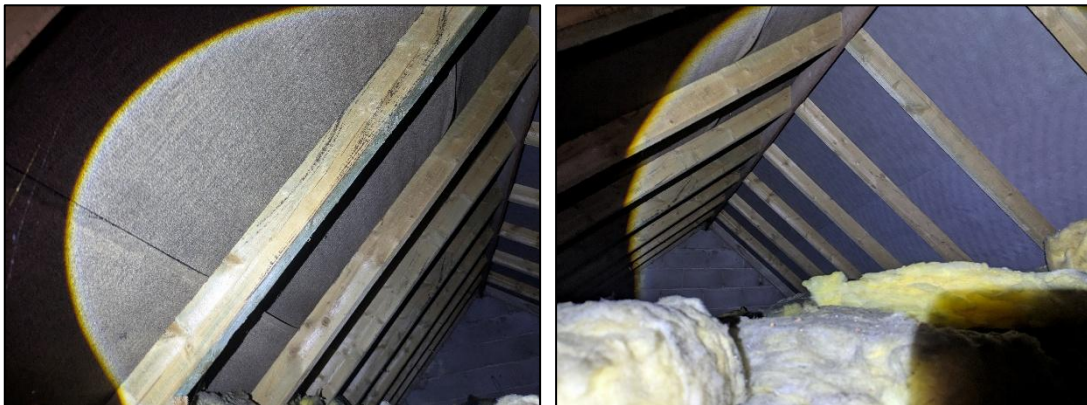
3.3.4. The roof of the main two-storey part of building and two single-storey extensions have pitched roofs covered by slate tiles, shown in the photos below. Missing and slipped tiles were identified throughout, providing potential roost features for bats. Small areas of missing mortar were present underneath the ridge tiles on the main part of the building.



3.3.5. A flat roof covered by roofing felt was present on one extension on the north of the building. This did not provide any roosting potential for bats.



3.3.6. The loft space was accessed within the two-storey section of the building where possible. The loft space was lined with a breathable membrane which was in good condition with no visible access points into the loft space. No bats or field evidence was found inside the loft space.



3.3.7. The building has previously been assessed as having low potential in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) report prepared by Wildscapes. The results of this survey confirm that no changes in the condition of the building have occurred since that report was prepared, and therefore the assessment of the building remains as low potential for roosting bats.

3.4. Dusk emergence survey – 23rd July 2025.

3.4.1. As the property was initially assessed as having low potential for roosting bats, one dusk emergence survey was recommended and subsequently carried out.

3.4.2. The survey was led by Jess Brown, who holds a level two Natural England survey licence in respect of bats (2015-10823-CLS-CLS). She was accompanied by one other surveyor who is an experienced assistant.

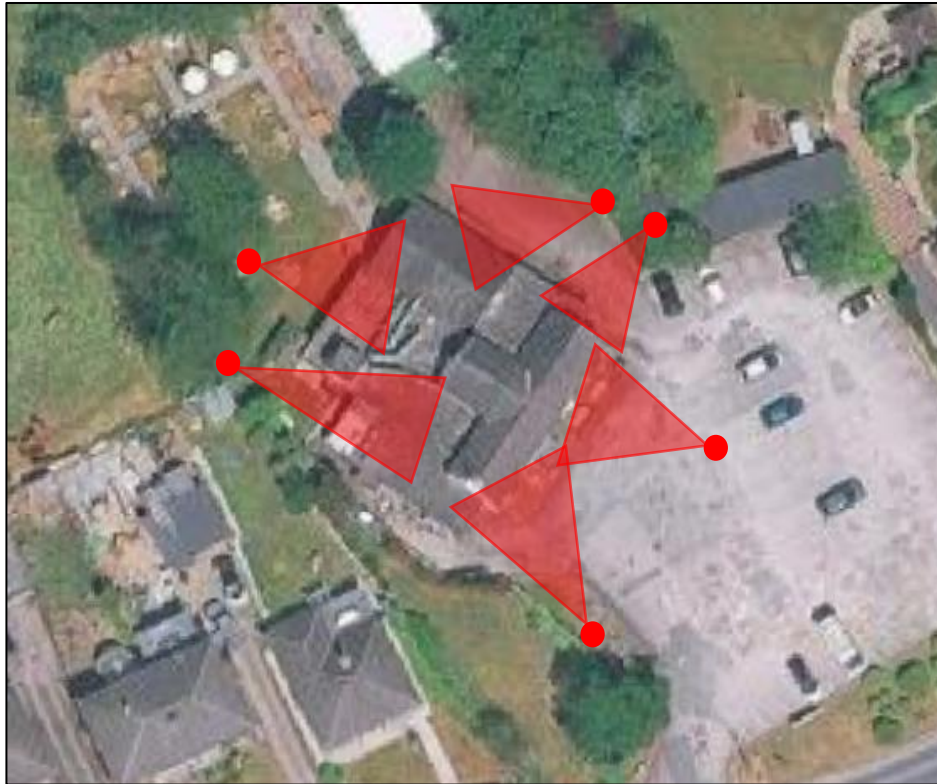
3.4.3. Both surveyors were equipped with Batbox Duet detectors and two-way radios. Two Anabat Express static recorders were deployed around the site to record bat activity for subsequent computer analysis using Analook Software.

3.4.4. Six infrared cameras and infrared torches were also set up around the property, ensuring that all aspects of the building were covered as much as possible.

3.4.5. The aerial photograph below shows where the Surveyors (S) and Anabats (AB) were located throughout the survey.



3.4.6. The aerial photograph below shows where the cameras were positioned along with their approximate field of view.



3.4.7. The below shows start and end still photographs which show the views of the cameras both at the beginning of the survey as well as at the end of the survey.





3.4.8. The survey was carried out on the 23rd July 2025. The evening was mild, with a temperature of 16°C at the start of the survey with a very slight breeze measuring 1 on the Beaufort scale. Light rain occurred on arrival, but all rain stopped before the start of the survey. Sunset was at 21:18 and the survey lasted from 21:03 until 22:33.

3.4.9. No bats were seen to emerge from the building. This was confirmed by subsequent analysis of the infrared camera footage.

3.4.10. Activity was low throughout the survey, with a maximum of four calls recorded by either of the Anabats. The surveyors observed one common pipistrelle briefly foraging around the beer garden to the north of the building.

4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1 No bat roosts were found during the dusk emergence survey. Therefore, the proposed works will have no impact on roosting bats.

4.2. The site is located in an urban location, with some potential for foraging and commuting non-light sensitive bat species. However, the proposed works will not cause any loss or fragmentation of bat foraging or commuting habitats.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. As no roosting bats were identified within the building during the dusk emergence survey, there are no further recommendations or licence requirements regarding bats and the proposed works.

5.2. However, individual bats can opportunistically roost almost anywhere and therefore it is recommended that the proposed works are carried out with due care and attention and in the unlikely event that a bat is found during those works, it should be kept safe and professional advice should be sought immediately.

5.3. To satisfy the NPPF requirements to provide enhancements on the site, it is recommended that an integrated bat box is provided in the new building. This should ideally be south facing and located at least 4m above ground level.

5.4. Along with these recommendations, this report should be read in conjunction with the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) prepared by Wildscapes (May 2025) and all recommendations in that report should be followed.

Prepared by:	
Jess Mason MSc ACIEEM FRGS	Date: 6 th August 2025

Checked by:	
Ruth Georgiou BSc MCIEEM	Date: 13 th August 2025

6. REFERENCES.

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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.