



**Bat Emergence Survey
Barnsley Road Cottage, Penistone**

Report reference: R-2371-04
October 2015

Report Title:	Bat Emergence Survey Barnsley Road Cottage, Penistone
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Summary Statement

Emergence surveys indicate likely absence of roosting bats. However, due to the nature of the roof providing multiple small crevices and the possibility of roosting nearby recommendations are made to ensure that the risk of impacts on bats or their roosts is minimised.

Introduction

1. Subsequent to the recommendations made in Brooks Ecological Bat Roost Potential Survey (R-2371-03) detailed bat survey was commissioned for a cottage off Barnsley Road, Penistone, Sheffield. (SE 245 038).
2. Information relating to local and legal status is provided in report R-2371-03 and is not repeated here. 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 2 surveyors were 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 2015 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	Dry, overcast, cool light breeze.	Low

6. Surveys were directed by Rob Weston BSc (Hons) MSc MIEEM. Rob has many 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 a member of the West Yorkshire Bat Group, the Bat Conservation Trust and runs training in bat surveys for student ecologists.

Results

Survey 1 – 27th August 2015

7. The first bat seen was a common pipistrelle at 20:34, 25 minutes after sunset. This bat was clearly seen to enter the site from between buildings to the east, heading west then up past the northern edge of the site.
8. This was repeated by another common pipistrelle at 20:40, this activity likely represents two individuals commuting through the site after emerging elsewhere. Following this a single common pipistrelle was seen foraging around trees to the west of the site.
9. Also around this time three individual, possibly myotis, bats were seen commuting in a north westerly direction along the south western elevation of the cottage in quick succession. These bats were commuting purposely through the site having likely originated from nearby offsite.
10. From 20:45 a common pipistrelle was observed foraging around a courtyard to the north of the site until 20:57, this was the last bat observed on site.
11. No bats were seen to emerge from the surveyed building and bat activity was generally low.

Survey 2 – 3rd September 2015

12. The first bat seen was a common pipistrelle at 20:10, 17 minutes after sunset. This appeared along the west of the adjacent cottage before commuting westwards. The bat was not seen to have emerged but was possibly roosting further south east along the adjacent cottage or other nearby building to the rear of the property.
13. The next bat heard was a common pipistrelle foraging around the trees to the south of the site along Barnsley Road at 20:20. This foraging path was repeated throughout the survey and was last observed at 20:36.
14. Another single common pipistrelle was noted occasionally foraging around trees to the north and west of the site from 20:24 until the end of the survey.
15. A final common pipistrelle was seen briefly foraging in the courtyard to the north at 20:38.
16. At no point were any bats seen or suspected to emerge from the surveyed building.

Figure 1 Bat activity drawing. Shaded Yellow area indicates the possible location of a small common pipistrelle roost in the adjacent building.



Evaluation and Recommendations

17. Emergence survey work has confirmed the likely absence of roosting in the section of building where demolition is proposed.
18. However, due to the nature of the roof having multiple small crevices between the tiles, and the potential presence of a single common pipistrelle roosting in the roof of the adjacent cottage. It is recommended that if works are to commence during the peak season when bats are active (April - August) that another emergence survey is undertaken in order to confirm absence of roosting immediately prior to works, or that works to remove tiles from the roof are supervised by a suitably qualified ecologist. During the remainder of the year (when emergence survey is not suitable) it is advised that the roof strip is supervised by a suitably qualified ecologist.
19. Should works to the building beyond the extension be proposed in the future, then further survey work is recommended to clarify the status of roosts in these areas.

General advice

20. 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.
21. 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. As such it may be possible to incorporate a bat box into the new façade of the building where the extension is to be demolished. If this area is to be rendered then it may be possible to incorporate a Schwegler Bat Tube 2FR into the design otherwise an external bat box such as the Schwegler 1FQ could be fitted to the exterior of the building or a Schwegler 1FF to a nearby tree.

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>