

**Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.  
Wildlife Consultants.**



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**HARTCLIFFE ROAD, PENISTONE.**

**BAT SURVEY.**

**Ref No:- 130514.**

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013.**

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# **1. INTRODUCTION.**

1.1. Persimmon Homes Ltd is drawing up plans for the development of an area of land off Hartcliffe Road in Penistone.

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

1.3. This survey was carried out on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013 and this report outlines the findings of that survey and makes appropriate recommendations.

1.4. Appendix I of this report provides back ground information with respect to bats and the legal protection afforded to them.

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## **2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.**

2.1. The buildings were thoroughly checked internally and externally for potential bat roosting sites in line with L Hundt (2012). *Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines* 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 fascias 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. All survey work was carried out in line with the Bat Conservation Trust, Good Practice Guidelines

2.6. This was followed by a dusk emergence survey of the buildings by an experienced team of two surveyors.

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### **3. SURVEY RESULTS.**

#### ***3.2. Site Description.***

3.2.1. The aerial photograph below shows the surveyed building and immediate surrounding area.



#### ***3.3. Day Time Survey Results.***

3.3.1. The building comprises a single storey farm store located towards the southern end of the surveyed area.



3.3.2. The walls of the building predominantly comprise rubble filled stone walls with occasional areas of recent pointing. The rear wall of the building has been partially repaired with concrete blocks. Abundant voids were identified within the walls although no bat field signs were identified around the voids during this survey.

3.3.3. The front wall of the building comprises single skin corrugated sheeting. This area provides no suitable bat roosting opportunities.

3.3.4. The roof of the building comprises a low pitched corrugated sheet roof with a small section of sloping roof to the front of the building. Internally the roof is open to the inside of the corrugated sheeting with exposed king post timbers.



3.3.5. The corrugated sheet roof does not provide suitable opportunities for roosting bats and no bat field signs were identified around the roof during this survey.

3.3.6. Internally the building displays abundant voids within the walls although no bat field signs were identified around the voids during this survey. The roof timbers were all found to be in a good condition with tight joints displaying no suitable bat roosting sites.

#### **3.4. Dusk Emergence Survey.**

3.4.1. A dusk emergence survey was carried out by two surveyors on the evening of 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

3.4.2. The evening was clear and still with a temperature of 15°C at 21:00.

3.4.3. One of the surveyors holds a current Natural England bat survey license and the other is an experienced bat surveyor.

3.4.4. Each surveyor was equipped with a Batbox Duet detector, a two way radio and with an Anabat static recorder close by to record bat activity for subsequent computer analysis.

3.4.5. The position of each surveyor was as shown on the following aerial photograph.



3.4.6. The following bat activity was recorded by the two surveyors.

21:33. Distant Pipistrelle 45 flew up the farm track from the southeast circled and returned the same way it came.

21:37. Pipistrelle 45 flew from the northeast over the building to the southwest.

21:41. Pipistrelle 45 from the northwest foraged along the farm track and returned the way it came.

21:43. Pipistrelle 45 flew from the south, over Surveyor 2, foraged at the front of the building and returned the same way as it came

22:00. Pipistrelle 45 heard briefly foraging to the west of the site.

3.4.7. The Anabat recordings mirrored the observations of the surveyors with Pipistrelle 45s the only species of bat recorded.

3.4.8. No bats were seen to emerge from the building or foraging within the building during this survey.

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## **4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.**

4.1. The area around the building is generally open exposed fields with small amounts of vegetation. The habitat around the site is therefore assessed to be of low foraging value.

4.2. The day time visual inspection of the building identified no bat activity within the building. Externally a number of potential roosting locations were identified but these would at best be limited to use by small number of crevice dwelling Pipistrelle bats. No bat field signs were identified around the external walls of the building.

4.3. The dusk emergence survey identified only a small number of Common Pipistrelle 45 bats passing over the site and occasionally foraging near the building.

4.4. No bats emerged from the building during this survey.

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## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. The building have a low potential for roosting bats with no bats or bat field signs found during the day time inspection and no bats emerging from the buildings during the dusk emergence survey. Therefore, no further surveys are recommended and there is no requirement for a Natural England EPS licence in connection with the proposed demolition of the existing buildings on the site.

5.2. Nevertheless, individual bats can seek temporary shelter almost anywhere and therefore it is recommended that all personnel employed of the demolition works are briefed to be vigilant and in the unlikely event that a bat is found, the bat should be covered and protected and work should cease at that location until further advice has been sought from the undersigned.

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Checked by:	
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## **Appendix I. BAT INFORMATION.**

It is necessary to understand a little about bats, their basic nature, ecology and legal protection in order to evaluate the findings of this report.

Over 15 species of bat have been recorded in Britain. These fall into two families, the horseshoe bats and the 'ordinary bats'. 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 shortage of food, caused by pesticides, as insects are their sole diet, and habitat change.

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.

Bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, The Habitats Regulations 1994 and the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000.

It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or capture or disturb bats or to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter or protection.

A breeding or resting site of any bat is known as a bat roost. A bat roost is therefore any structure a bat uses for shelter or protection. Because bats tend to use the same roosts each year, legal opinion is that the roost site is protected whether or not the bats are present at that time.

Bat roosts can be identified by looking for:-

- Suitable holes, cracks and crevices.
- Bat droppings.
- Prey remains.
- By carrying out night observations using a bat detector.

Where development proposals are likely to affect a bat roost site, a licence is required from Natural England.

The person applying for that licence has to be suitably qualified and experienced in bat matters. That person is then responsible for ensuring that the measures contained in the licence are carried out.