



CARR HEAD LANE BARN.

OS REF: SE 23515 05028.

BAT SURVEY.

Ref No: 210830.

Date: 28th July 2021.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to demolish the barn at the end of Carr Head Lane, Penistone and to develop the site. A bat survey report is required in support of that planning application.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has therefore been commissioned to carry out a bat day time assessment and dusk emergence survey of the site to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed development.

1.3. The surveys were carried out on 26th July 2021. This report outlines the findings of the surveys and makes appropriate recommendations.

1.4. Appendices I and II of this report provide additional information on protected species and the protection afforded to them and are designed to assist the reader in understanding the contents of this report.

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 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 sills, 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 Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition)*, with an assessment of the buildings suitability for roosting bats made in accordance with these guidelines.

2.6. The dusk emergence survey was conducted in accordance with Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition)*. It was conducted by three 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.

2.7. All surveyors were equipped with Batbox Duet bat detectors, or similar. The use of static recording devices such as Anabat were also utilised.

2.8. The survey was undertaken by a team of ecologists led by Derek Whitcher who has over twenty years' experience of surveying for wildlife and has run his own wildlife consultancy since 1998. He has extensive experience of a wide variety of survey techniques for a variety of species of protected wildlife supplemented by attendance on a wide range of training courses through CIEEM, FSC and BCT. As a member of CIEEM he is committed to continuous professional development, a continual process of learning and career development, a condition of CIEEM membership. He holds current Natural England, CCW and NRW survey licences for, bat, great crested newt and white clawed crayfish.

3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. Data Search Results.

The data search with Doncaster Biological Records Centre returned thirteen records. The majority of records are historic and the only relevant record from 2015 is located 350m to the northwest:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comment	Location
Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Activity	Former Royal Mail Sorting Office

The data search with South Yorkshire Bat Group returned fifty-five records. Of these two were considered to be historic from pre-2003. Eleven records were located within 1km of the site of which three were within 500m of the site:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comment	Location
Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Foraging	White Rose Way
Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Feeding	Hyde Park Cemetery
Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Activity	Hyde Park Cemetery
Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Activity	Hyde Park Cemetery
Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Callout and Released	College Road 180m East
Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Callout to Vets	Grove Place 220m West
Daubenton's Bat	<i>Myotis daubentoni</i>	On wall in day – taken into care	Doncaster Bus Station 350m North west
Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	-	Thorn Road
Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	-	Park Road
Soprano	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Callout and Released	West Street
Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	-	Hyde Park

Two records are for roosts in 2005 and 2012 respectively:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comment	Location
Bat	-	Roost behind hanging tiles.	Sandy Lane
Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Maternity Roost	Belle Vue Avenue

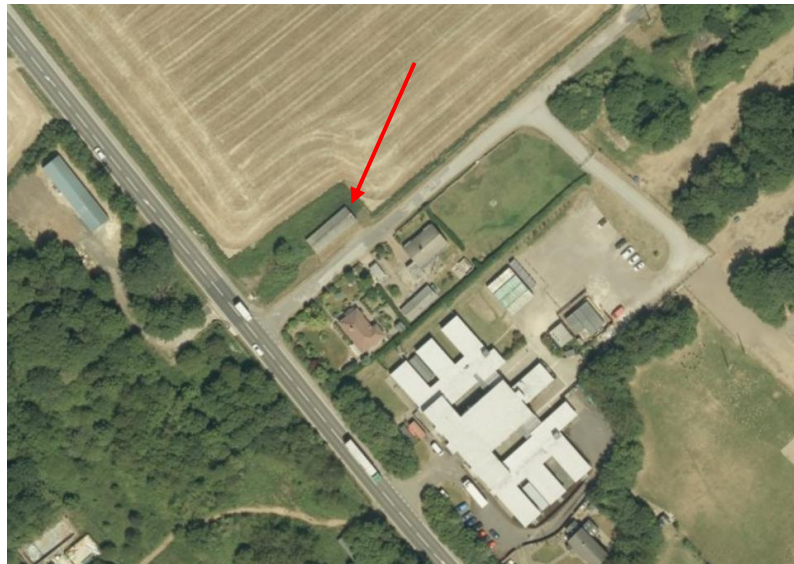
Of the remaining records, the majority are either activity records or call outs for common bat species.

3.2. Site Description and Day Time Assessment.

3.2.1. The site is located at the junction of Carr Head Lane and the A629 Halifax Road to the northwest of Penistone. The aerial photograph below shows the location of the building and the surrounding area.



3.2.2. The aerial photograph below shows the surveyed building in closer detail. The building is surrounded by arable and pastoral fields with Scout Dyke Outdoor Centre to the south and Scout Dyke Reservoir to the southwest.



3.3. Day Time Bat Survey Results.

3.3.1. The building is a single storey building built with single skinned brick walls that have been rendered on the outside and with a pitched roof with corrugated cement sheets supported on a metal framed roof.



3.3.2. The rendering is flaking off in places and the walls have cracks and crevices although none that are suitable for roosting bats.

3.3.3. Internally there are a number of rooms, the photograph below shows one of the largest.



3.3.4. There are also a number of smaller rooms and in some of these there are remnants of a fabric liner underneath the corrugated roof sheets, as shown below.



3.3.5. No bats or bat field signs were found inside or outside the building and the building was assessed to have a Low potential for a small number of crevice dwelling bats to roost only.

3.3.6. The building is located in an open and exposed location that is assessed to be only low value foraging habitat.

3.4. Dusk Emergence Survey Results.

3.4.1. Two surveyors carried out a dusk emergence survey on the evening of 26th July 2021. One of the surveyors holds a current Natural England survey licence and the other is an experienced assistants.

3.4.2. The evening was warm, still and clear with a temperature of 22°C at 20:44 and throughout the survey. Sunset was at 21:12 and the survey commenced at 20:30 and finished at 22:45.

3.4.3. The two surveyors were positioned so that they could see all aspects of the building to be surveyed. The position of each surveyor was as shown on the aerial photograph below.

3.4.4. Each surveyor was equipped with a Batbox Duet detector and a two-way radio and a static Anabat recorder was placed nearby to record bat activity.



3.4.5. During the survey the following bat activity was record by the surveyors.

21:37 - Noctule heard flying over but not seen.

22:08 - Common Pipistrelle flew SW along Carr Head Lane, turned and flew back again.

3.4.6. The Anabats recorders confirmed the observations of the surveyors with Noctules recorded between 21:27 and 21:51 and Common Pipistrelles at 21:08.

3.4.7. No bats emerged from the building and no bat activity was recorded around the building.

3.4.8. No nesting birds were identified during the surveys.

4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1. The building is a single storey building built with single skinned brick walls that have been rendered on the outside and with a pitched roof with corrugated cement sheets supported on a metal framed roof.

4.2. No bats or bat field signs were found inside or outside the building and the building was assessed to have a Low potential for a small number of crevice dwelling bats to roost only.

4.3. The building is located in an open and exposed location that is assessed to be only low value foraging habitat.

4.4. One dusk emergence survey was therefore undertaken by two surveyors who could see all sides of the building. During the survey noctule bats were observed foraging over the site and one Common Pipistrelle flew along Carr Head Lane foraging. No bats emerged from the building.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. No roosting bats were identified during the dusk emergence survey and therefore there is no requirement for a mitigation strategy or for a Natural England licence in connection with the proposed development.

5.2. Nevertheless, individual bats can seek temporary shelter almost anywhere and therefore it is recommended that works to the existing buildings are undertaken with due care. In the unlikely event a bat is found, the bat should be covered and protected, work should cease at that location and the undersigned should be contacted for further advice.

5.3. In order to provide biodiversity enhancements in line with the NPPF, it is recommended that at least one integrated bat brick is installed in the new building to be erected on the site.

5.4. It is recommended that integrated bat bricks with a finish that matches the walls of the new building are used. An example is shown below.



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Checked by:	
Jenny Whitcher Roebuck MCIEEM.	Date: 28 th July 2021.

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 sills, 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 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”.

Toolbox Talk: Bats

Whitcher Wildlife Ltd

Ecological Consultants



18 species of bat have been recorded in Britain, 17 of which are known to breed here.

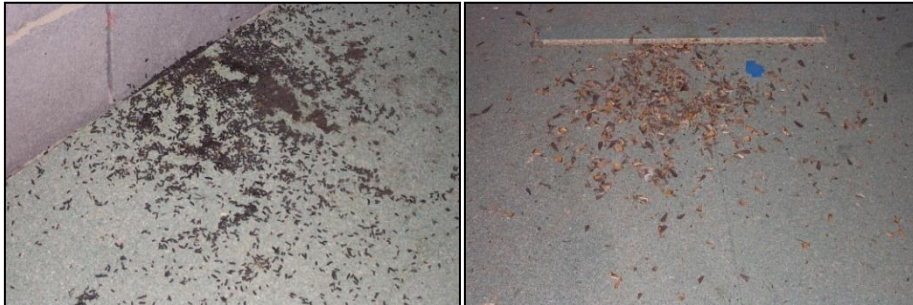
Identification.

Some species can be extremely difficult to identify in the hand and even more so in flight.

Species such as the Brown Long Eared bat pictured above can be more easily identified in the hand. Whereas, the Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle are more difficult to identify.



Bats are more easily identified by field signs such as droppings or feeding remains.



Habitat.

Bats are highly specialised creatures and require a relatively narrow range of suitable conditions in order to sustain a viable population. Bats require an abundant supply of flying insect food in places where they can easily be caught and they need safe and reliable roosting sites, particularly during breeding and hibernation.

Bats are heavily dependent on buildings and trees for their roost sites and therefore extremely susceptible to disturbance from human activities. Development schemes can also isolate bat populations and sever roost sites from favoured feeding areas by removing hedgerows or other features used as commuting routes.

Bats are susceptible to disturbance and have been known to abandon roost sites after instances of disturbance. The effects of disturbance are more pronounced at different times of year. Serious disturbance during breeding can result in the breeding females being killed or the abandonment and subsequent starvation of dependant young. Repeated disturbance during winter hibernation can result in the death of adult animals from starvation.

The level of protection afforded to bats in the UK and European legislation reflects the fact that it is now generally accepted that bats have declined substantially, maybe by as much as 60%, over recent years. Most species are declining and vulnerable with all species being protected.

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 occasionally the roofs of buildings.

Certain species, particularly Pipistrelle, can quickly adapt to manmade structures and will readily use these to roost and to rear their young.

Legislation.

Bats and their roosts are fully protected at all times (whether the bats are currently present or not). This protection comes from the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (updated by the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000) and the Habitats Regulations 1994. Under this legislation it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, capture or disturb bats or to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter or protection.

Under the Habitats Regulations, where bats may be affected by development proposals, a licence is required from Natural England. Natural England's published guidelines on the licence procedure indicate that if, on the basis of survey information and specialist knowledge of the species concerned, the proposed activity is reasonably likely to result in an offence then a licence is required. If, on the other hand the proposed activity is reasonably unlikely to result in an offence, then a licence is not required.

If bats or bat field signs are identified during works, stop all works and contact Whitcher Wildlife Ltd directly on 01226 753271 or at info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk