



ENVIRONMENTAL
FLOOD RISK
DRAINAGE
ECOLOGY

Ref: CLE20196.005.001
Date: 25th March 2015

Alistair Fraser
c/o Derek Trowell Architects
1 Greenhill
Wirksworth
Derbyshire
DE4 4EN

F.A.O: Alistair Fraser

RE: Daytime Bat Survey, Three Garages at Norcroft Cottages, Cawthorne S75 4DY

Introduction

Clear Environmental Consultants, a trading division of RPS Environmental Management Ltd (Clear), was instructed by Alistair Fraser to carry out a daytime bat survey of a block of three garages at Norcroft Cottages in Cawthorne to assess whether the building had potential to support roosting bats. This report comprises the results of a daytime bat survey which followed best practice methodology (Hundt, L., 2012¹). The survey was carried out on 24th March 2015 by a licensed ecologist (Pamela Wakefield, Natural England licence no. CLS01151).

Proposed works include alterations to an existing garage block to house a new biomass boiler and associated equipment/fuel. One garage compartment will remain in use as a garage. The roof is proposed to be replaced and changed to a pitched roof.

This report pertains to these results only; recommendations included within this report are the professional opinion of an experienced ecologist and therefore the view of Clear.

Survey Results

The surveyed building comprised a garage block which was internally divided into three separate garage compartments. The building abutted a residential dwelling to the east and immediately to the west a separate garage block was present.

The building was a single storey, part brick, part stone built structure which was rendered on the north facing aspect. The roof was mono-pitched and comprised single skin corrugated material sheeting supported by wooden beams. Four single pane, wooden framed windows were present, one of which was boarded up. Potential access points for bats were observed at the top of some of the window frames and top of the wall plate leading into the interior of the building on the south and

¹ Hundt, L., 2012. *Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines, 2nd Edition*. London: Bat Conservation Trust.

west facing aspect, although following a detailed inspection of these features no evidence of bat usage was identified. The wooden doors on the north facing aspect had large gaps at the top which also could provide open access for bats into the interior of the building. Small areas of missing mortar were present between the stonework on the south facing aspect although following a detailed inspection no evidence of bat use was observed.

Figure 1: North facing aspect of the garage building



Internally the building was divided into three separate garages all of which were used for storage of household items. No loft space was present within the building and each section had a window resulting in a well-lit interior. The underside of the corrugating roof sheeting and the supporting wooden beams were visible and cobwebbed. Although during the external assessment access points were identified leading into the interior of the building, no features suitable for roosting bats were noted within the interior during the survey. Furthermore no evidence of bats, such as droppings was identified during the survey (although mouse dropping were recorded).

Figure 2: Internal view of a garage compartment



Clear Environmental Consultants
a trading division of RPS Environmental Management Ltd
St Paul's House, Jubilee Business Park
Stores Road, Derby, DE21 4BB
tel +44 (0)1332 387650
www.clearltd.com



Evaluation and Recommendations

The garage building was assessed for its potential to support roosting bats and was deemed to have 'negligible' potential. The roof structure, well-lit interior of the building and absence of bat evidence indicate that the building is unlikely to be utilised by roosting bats. Some potential roosting features were identified in the exterior of the building however these features were thoroughly inspected with a high powered torch and endoscope where necessary and no evidence of bat usage was identified within the cavity. It is considered due to the sheltered nature of the cavities that if bats had utilised these features in the past evidence would have been observed. No further survey effort is therefore considered necessary for this building.

If there are any queries or comments relating to this report please contact Clear for clarification or further information.

Yours sincerely



Pamela Wakefield
BSc (Hons) MCIEEM
Senior Ecologist

Clear Environmental Consultants
a trading division of RPS Environmental Management Ltd
St Paul's House, Jubilee Business Park
Stores Road, Derby, DE21 4BB
tel +44 (0)1332 387650
www.clearltd.com

