Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

35A & 37A WASHINGTON ROAD, GOLDTHORPE.

OS REF: SE 45723 03894.

BAT SURVEY.

Ref No:- **150739/1.**

Date: **18th September 2015.**

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. BWB Consulting Limited is to submit a planning application for the construction of a residential scheme at 35A and 37A Washington Road, Goldthorpe. These are two separate plots currently occupied by three-bed houses.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd has been commissioned to carry out an ecology survey of the site to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works.

1.3. Initial site surveys were carried out on 28th July and 13th August 2015 and these identified a low potential for roosting bats. Therefore a further dusk emergence survey was carried out on 17th September 2015. This report outlines the findings of all of the surveys and makes appropriate recommendations.

1.4. Appendix 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.

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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 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 L Hundt (2012). *Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines.*

2.6. This survey was not followed by a dusk emergence survey but a further dusk emergence survey was carried out on 17th September 2015..

2.7. The first survey was carried out by Michael Sims, Bsc. Environmental Conservation, ACIEEM. BSc. Environmental Conservation covered all aspects of the conservation sector; plant identification, survey standards and working within the planning system. Post-university Michael completed an apprenticeship with The Sheffield Wildlife Trust as a Biodiversity Skills Trainee. There he trained in Phase 1 Habitat survey, plant identification and bat survey. Upon his completion of this apprenticeship he was deemed fully competent in Phase 1 Habitat survey and also achieved an OCN in Environmental Conservation. In February 2011 he was recruited by Whitcher Wildlife Ltd. where he has specialised in Phase 1 Habitat Survey, but has

also branched out into protected species survey. He has attended a number of courses, whilst at both The Sheffield Wildlife Trust and at Whitcher Wildlife Ltd., focussing upon plant identification but also crayfish and great crested newt survey. He has been accredited as an Associate member of CIEEM and has obtained his Natural England survey licences for Bats and Great Crested Newts – in recognition of his competence and time spent working within the environmental sector.

The dusk emergence survey was carried out by Derek Whitcher along with a team of surveyors. Derek 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 survey licences for barn owl, bat, great crested newt and white clawed crayfish.

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3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. A data search was carried out through the South Yorkshire Bat Group for records of bats within 1km of the survey area; see Table 1. There are records of a particularly large pipistrelle roost approximately 1.2km to the north of the site, as well as records of smaller pipistrelle roosts and of foraging noctules and daubenton's. These records indicate that the area is actively used by both roosting and foraging bats.

Table. 1 – Records of bats, 1km of SE 458 038.

Date	Grid Reference	Type	Species	Number
04/07/1993	SE457051	House	Pipistrelle sp.	187
04/07/1993	SE457051		Vespertillionidae	138
06/07/1993	SE457051		Pipistrelle sp.	120
17/07/1993	SE457051		Pipistrelle sp.	187
01/08/1993	SE457051		Pipistrelle sp.	125
07/08/1993	SE457051		Pipistrelle sp.	63
08/07/1995	SE465040	House	Pipistrelle sp.	+ Dr
08/07/1995	SE465040		Pipistrelle sp.	4
24/07/1997	SE473034	House	Pipistrelle sp.	25
01/10/1998	SE464039		Vespertillionidae	1
01/11/2004	SE457022	Roost	Vespertillionidae	Unknown
18/04/2005	SE463045		Common pipistrelle	1
02/08/2005	SE460040		Vespertillionidae	Unknown
16/06/2006	SE455024		Vespertillionidae	1
03/06/2011	SE453020	Foraging	Common pipistrelle	3
03/06/2011	SE453020	Foraging	Noctule	1
03/06/2011	SE453020	Foraging	Daubenton's bat	3
31/03/2012	SE453046		Noctule	1
22/09/2012	SE455029		Common pipistrelle	1
06/07/2014	SE473034	Bat Care	Common pipistrelle	1
08/07/2014	SE458032	Bat Care	Common pipistrelle	1
-	SE457022	House	Vespertillionidae	+

3.2. Site Description.

3.2.1. The survey area covered the location of 35A and 37A Washington Road, Goldthorpe. This site is located within Rotherham, South Yorkshire; see Figure 1.

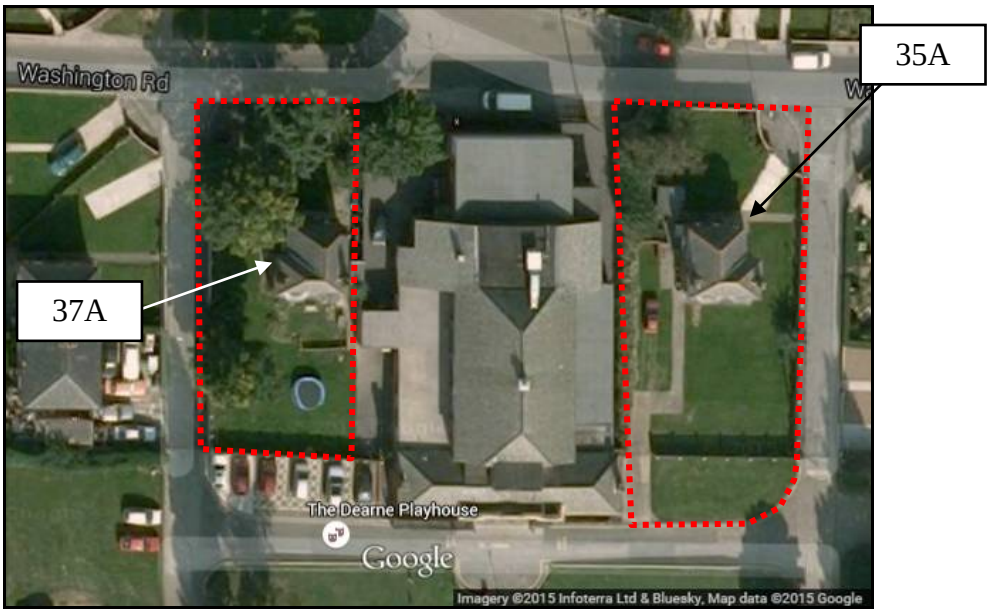

Fig. 1

3.2.2. 35A Washington Road.

3.2.2.1. 35A Washington Road is of brick construction and has a slate-tile hip and valley roof; see Figure 2. The brickwork is in a good condition, with the mortar present throughout and no damage apparently visible. The arrangement of the bricks indicates that a wall cavity is present.

Fig. 2

3.2.2.2. The roof of building is damaged, with large areas of missing tiles discovered, as well as gaps between the ridge tiles; see Figure 3.

Fig. 3

3.2.2.3. Wooden soffits are located around the building; see Figure 4.

Fig. 4

3.2.2.4. uPVC clad bay windows are located on the southern elevation of the building; see Figure 5.

Fig. 5

3.2.2.5. Semi-mature trees are located within the north-west of the site; see Figure 6.

Fig. 6

3.2.2.6. Internally, this building has a vacant loft space. There is no lining beneath the tiles, with the underside of the roof open to the room beneath. The roof is of wooden rafter and purlin construction; see Figure 7.

Fig. 7

3.2.3. 37A Washington Road, Goldthorpe.

3.2.3.1. 37A Washington Road is of brick construction and has a slate-tile hip and valley roof; see Figure 8. The brickwork is in a good condition, with the mortar present throughout and no damage apparently visible. The arrangement of the bricks indicates that a wall cavity is present. Wood-clad bay windows are located on the southern elevation of the building.

Fig. 8

3.2.3.2. The roof appeared to be in a reasonable condition; however, open lead flashing, slipped tiles and gaps between ridge tiles were discovered; see Figure 9.

Fig. 9

3.2.3.3. Wooden soffits are located around the building; see Figure 10.

Fig. 10

3.2.3.4. Internally, this building has a vacant loft space. There is no lining beneath the tiles, with the underside of the roof open to the room beneath. The roof is of wooden rafter and purlin construction; see Figure 11.

Fig. 11

3.2.3.5. Semi-mature trees are located along the northern and western extents of the site; see Figure 12.

Fig. 12

3.3. Daytime Survey Results.

3.3.1. Gaps within the roofs and between slipped tiles of these two buildings could potentially allow bats to access into the interiors of the buildings. Crevices discovered between roof timbers could be potentially be utilised as roosting spots. No lining was present beneath the tiles of either of these buildings, and as such, the roofs themselves offer no roosting opportunities. No bats or bat field signs were discovered within either 35A or 37A Washington Road.

3.3.2. Features around the exteriors of the buildings, such as open lead flashing, wooden fascias and open ridge tiles, are potentially suitable habitat for roosting bats. These features are small in extent, offering roosting potential for a low number of crevice-dwelling bats.

3.3.3. A vacated pigeon's nest was discovered between timber joints within the loft of 37A Washington Road. Nesting opportunities were discovered throughout both buildings and within garden vegetation.

3.4. Dusk Emergence Survey Results.

3.4.1. A dusk emergence survey was carried out on the evening of 18th September 2015. The evening was overcast with a light breeze and a temperature of 14°C at 19:45.

3.4.2. Four surveyors were positioned so as to be able to view all sides of the building simultaneously. Each surveyor (S) was equipped with a Batbox Duet detector and a two way radio and static Anabats (A) were placed with each surveyor, as shown below.

3.4.3. One of the surveyors holds a Natural England Class Survey Licence for bats and the other three are experienced bat surveyors.

3.4.4. The following are the observations of the surveyors.

Surveyor 1.

19:39. Heard very distant Common Pipistrelle to the north.
19:40. Common Pipistrelle flew around the corner of the house from the Theatre.
19:42. Distant Common Pipistrelle heard to the north.
19:52. Common Pipistrelle foraging around trees by road to the north
19:53. Common Pipistrelle foraging around trees by road to the north
19:54. Common Pipistrelle foraging around trees by road to the north
19:57. Common Pipistrelle foraging around trees by road to the north
20:01. Common Pipistrelle from the west around the south of the buildings and away east.
20:06. Heard very distant Common Pipistrelle to the north.

Surveyor 2.

Surveyor 2 observed no bat activity.

Surveyor 3.

19:31. Common Pipistrelle foraging, east to west, north of the site.
19:45. Two Common Pipistrelles flew west from houses to the east.
19:49. Common Pipistrelle from the north and briefly foraged along east side of the site.
19:53. Common Pipistrelle heard but not seen.
20:01. Common Pipistrelle from the west and flew away north.
20:03. Common Pipistrelle flew directly north to south.
20:07. Common Pipistrelle from north directly south.

Surveyor 4.

19:37. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.
19:51. Common Pipistrelle heard but not seen.

19:54. Common Pipistrelle from the north and away to the east.
20:04. Common Pipistrelle foraging over the site.
20:10. Common Pipistrelle foraging over the site.

3.4.5. The Anabats recorded the following bat activity.

Anabat 1 recorded Common Pipistrelles at 19:39, 19:51 and 19:53 and one Myotis call at 20:00. The Myotis is thought to have been a Whiskered bat but there was only one recording.

Anabat 7 recorded one distant Common Pipistrelle at 19:53.

Anabat 8 recorded Common Pipistrelles at 19:46, 19:50, 19:52, 19:56, 19:57, 20:01, 20:04, 20:05, 20:07 and 20:09.

Anabat 9 recorded Common Pipistrelles ay 19:31, 19:46, 19:56, 20:04, 20:05 and 20:07.

3.4.6. No bats emerged from either property during the survey.

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4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1. Due to the low number of potential roosting opportunities within both 35A and 37A Washington Road, and as no evidence was discovered of roosting within the structures, this site has been assessed as being ‘Low’ potential bat roosting habitat, in line with L Hundt (2012). *Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines.* As such, there is the potential for works at the site to impact upon a small number of crevice-dwelling bats that might be present.

4.2. The dusk emergence survey identified a low level of bat activity in the area around the site, almost entirely Common Pipistrelles but with one Myotis bat recorded, thought to be a Whiskered/Brandt’s bat. No bats emerged from either property. The proposed development will therefore have no impact on roosting bats.

4.3. Nesting opportunities were discovered within both surveyed properties and within vegetation around the site. Any works affecting these features, carried out during the nesting season, which extends from March to September, may also impact upon nesting birds.

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5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. During the first survey of the buildings they were assessed to have a Low potential for roosting bats and therefore it was recommended that a dusk emergence survey be carried out at the site, in line with L Hundt (2012). *Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines.*

5.2. The dusk emergence survey was undertaken on the evening of 17th September 2015. That survey identified a low level of bat activity over and around the site, almost entirely Common Pipistrelles but with one Myotis species recorded on one Anabat recorder.

5.3. No bats emerged from the buildings during the survey. There is a high level of confidence in the survey results and therefore no further surveys are recommended, no mitigation strategy is required and no Natural England licence will be required.

5.4. Nevertheless, individual bats can seek temporary refuge almost anywhere so it is recommended that the roof, lead flashing and fascia boards are all remover with care. In the unlikely event a bat is found, the bat should be covered and protected, work should cease at that location and Whitcher Wildlife Ltd immediately contacted for further advice.

5.5. It is recommended that all works to the buildings or vegetation at the site take place outside of the bird nesting season, which extends from March to September. If vegetation clearance must take place within this period, works must be preceded by a bird nesting survey. If any active nests are discovered during this survey, they, and the surrounding structure or vegetation, must be left in place until the young have fledged.

5.6. To enhance the biodiversity of the site, it is recommended that one bat brick is installed on each site as part of the development scheme. This will provide additional roosting opportunities in the outer skin of the building. An example bat brick is shown in Appendix II of this report.

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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.

18 species of bat currently reside 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 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 manmade structures and will readily use these to roost and to rear their young.

Bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Regulation 41 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, 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.

Appendix II. BAT BRICKS.

Enclosed Bat Box C with engraved motif

Designed specifically for the pipistrelle bat
Available in smooth blue, smooth gold & smooth red
Attractive "bat" motif
Discrete home for bats
Various sizes
Several roosting zones are created inside the box
Bats are contained within the bat box itself
Maintenance free with entrance at the base
Ideal for new build & conservation work