



Bat Assessment
Roost Characterisation Surveys

of
Saville Lane
Thurlstone
Barnsley
South Yorkshire

for

Nationwide Structures Ltd

(17th May 2018)

2018-01(02)

PROTECTED SPECIES

This report contains sensitive information relating to protected species. The information contained herein should not be disseminated without the prior advice of Ecolocation.

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Acknowledgements:

This report has been prepared in accordance with the CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing Second Edition (2017) and is compliant with the CIEEM Code of Professional Conduct.

Summary

- A dusk bat activity survey of two buildings on Saville Lane, Thurlstone was undertaken on 14th May 2018.
- The proposed development included the demolition of both buildings and redevelopment of the Site to provide a new workshop building.
- A previous bat assessment was undertaken at the Site in 2014. This was then updated in February 2018. The previous survey work consisted of a daytime initial walkover survey (preliminary roost assessment) and two bat activity surveys and found no evidence of roosting bats but identified potential for crevice-dwelling bats and therefore recommended that demolition works be carried out under a watching brief by a licensed bat worker.
- Following comments made by the county ecologist a further bat activity survey to inform the application for demolition was required.
- The dusk bat activity survey undertaken during optimal survey conditions on the 14th May 2018, confirmed that no bat roosting was taking place, within the buildings, at the time of the survey. A good amount of foraging and commuting activity was observed, however, only two species of bats were recorded; these included common and soprano pipistrelle.
- As no roosting activity was identified on Site, the proposed demolition of both buildings was therefore not considered likely to impact upon roosting bats.
- Bats are highly mobile and when not in hibernation can occupy a building overnight. It is essential therefore that due vigilance be maintained before and during any works to ensure their protection. The lack of evidence of roosting at this stage does not constitute confirmation that this is not taking place intermittently or may not take place in the future. As such, suitable enhancements to ensure roosting opportunities are available post-development have been included within section 5 of this report.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Instruction

Ecolocation were commissioned by Nationwide Structures Ltd to undertake a single dusk emergence survey of two buildings at Saville Lane, Thurlstone in South Yorkshire (hereafter referred to as the 'Site').

1.1.1 Preliminary Survey

A previous bat assessment was undertaken at the Site in 2014. The previous survey work consisted of a daytime initial walkover survey (preliminary roost assessment) and two bat activity surveys and found no evidence of roosting bats. In addition to this an updated initial bat survey was undertaken on the buildings in February 2018. This report should be read in conjunction with the previous report for the Site prepared by Ecolocation, reference 2014-05(03) Revision B, dated 20th November 2014 and reference 2018-01(02), dated 15th February 2018.

1.1.2 Site location

The Site (grid reference SE 230 033) was located off Saville Lane in Thurlstone, South Yorkshire. The Site included two buildings: the sales purchasing office building and old printing store.



Figure 1: Survey boundary

1.1.3 Proposed Plans

The proposed plans for the new workshop, numbers 2017/JD/3C and 2017/JD/4, both dated 29/11/17, were used in the impact assessment and production of this report. It was understood that the proposed works would involve demolition of the existing buildings and erection of a new workshop building.

1.2 Survey Purpose

The purpose of the survey and report was to:

- Identify presence/absence of bat roosts at the Site
- If bat roosts are present, determine species, access and egress points, roost type and size
- Assess the impact of the proposed works on bats
- If bat roosts are present, provide details of a bat mitigation strategy to maintain the favourable conservation status of the bat species in question
- Determine the need for a bat mitigation licence from Natural England
- Determine the need for any further bat surveys to inform a mitigation scheme or a bat mitigation licence

1.3 Legislation & Planning Policies

A number of UK and European legislation and policies deal with the conservation of biodiversity. This section briefly outlines the legal and policy protection afforded to bats and their habitats.

Bats and their roost sites are protected under UK and European legislation including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and the Habitats Directive. The legislation makes it an offence for any person to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat.
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb bats, where that disturbance may affect the ability of those bats to survive, breed, rear or nurture their young, or is likely to significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of any bat species, whether in a roost or not.
- Damage or destroy a place of shelter (roost) of a bat, be that a resting or breeding place.
- Possess a bat, whole or in part, alive or dead.
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a roost
- Sell or offer for sale or exchange whole or parts of bats, alive or dead.

The ODPM Circular 06/05 makes the presence of a protected species a material consideration within the planning process. It states that it is essential for the presence of protected species and the extent they may be affected by proposed development be established through appropriate surveys before the planning permission is granted and encourages the use of planning conditions to secure the long-term protection of the species.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) section 11 sets out applications to conserve and enhance the natural environment. Paragraphs 109 and 118 of the NPPF state that net gains to biodiversity should be sought and encouraged and that net losses in biodiversity must be avoided.

The Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council's adopted Core Strategy contains policy CSP 36 Biodiversity and Geodiversity. This sets out the expectation for development to conserve and enhance biodiversity features through measures including protecting and improving habitats and species and having regard to species and habitats of principle importance.

2 Methodology

2.1 Nocturnal Bat Activity Surveys

A single nocturnal bat activity survey was carried out in accordance with Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 3rd edition (BCT, 2016). This comprised one dusk emergence. Surveyors were positioned to give full coverage of the buildings and potential access points to observe bat activity in the area and identify any bats emerging from a roost. The timings of the survey and weather conditions at the start and end of the survey were recorded. The dusk survey started 15mins before sunset and continued until 1.5-2hrs after sunset.

2.1.1 Dusk Emergence Survey

The dusk emergence survey was undertaken on 14th May 2018 by the following surveyors, led by Grant Bramall (licensed bat ecologist):

Map ID	Personnel	Equipment used
GB	Grant Bramall	Pettersson 230x
RS	Rachel Sheard	Magenta 5
JD	Jon Downing	Magenta 5
EB	Eryn Bunting	Magenta 5

Table 1: Survey personnel and equipment

Locations of surveyors are shown with the results of the survey in Figure 1.

2.2 Limitations

There were no significant limitations at the time of survey.

3 Results & Evaluation

3.1 Bat Activity Surveys

Following the results of the initial bat survey a single dusk bat activity survey was carried out to encompass both buildings.

3.1.1 Site Description

Both buildings surveyed offered low suitability for roosting bats; and following comments from the county ecologist a single activity survey was undertaken as the proposed works will involve demolition of both existing buildings to facilitate redevelopment of the Site to provide a new workshop building.

3.1.2 Dusk Emergence Survey

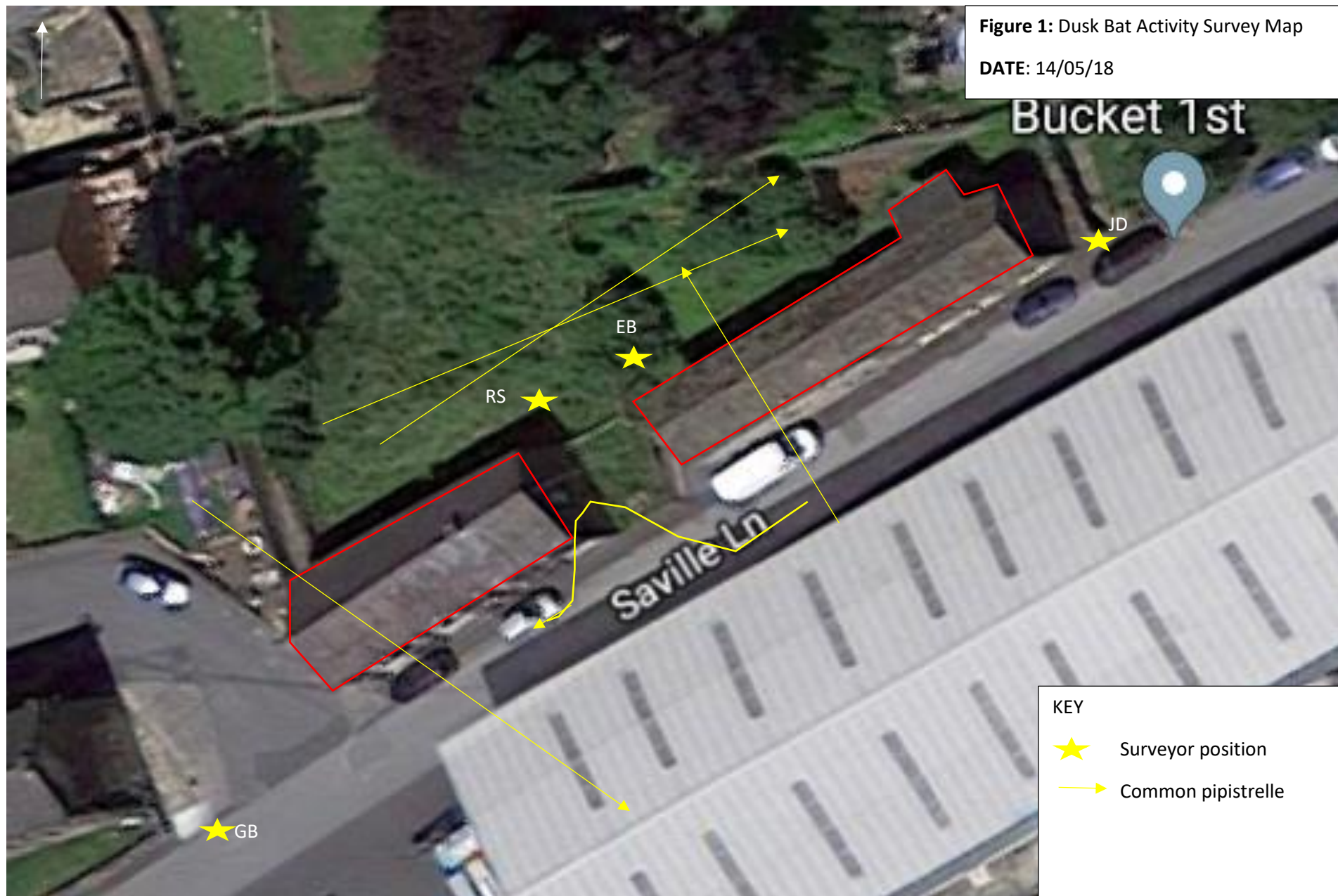
The dusk emergence survey was undertaken on 14th May 2018, using four surveyors. Sunset was at 20:58hrs.

Parameter	Start	End
Time	20:35hr	22:50hrs
Temperature	14°C	11°C
Cloud cover	10%	10%
Precipitation	None	None
Wind speed (Beaufort scale)	1	

Table 2: weather conditions during dusk survey on 14th May 2018

Only two species of bats were recorded during the dusk activity survey undertaken on 14th May 2018. These included a number of common pipistrelle passes and a single soprano pipistrelle pass. No bats were seen to emerge from any of the buildings. The survey was undertaken in suitable weather and a good amount of bat foraging and commuting activity was observed.

Please refer to the following inserts for the results.



4 Discussion & Conclusions

The results of the initial bat assessment of the buildings indicated no evidence of bats, with the buildings identified as offering low suitability for roosting. A dusk bat activity survey undertaken during optimal survey conditions on the 14th May 2018, confirmed that no bat roosting was taking place, within the buildings, at the time of the survey. A good amount of foraging and commuting activity was observed, however, only two species of bats were recorded; these included common and soprano pipistrelle.

As no roosting activity was identified on Site, the proposed demolition of both buildings was not, therefore, considered likely to impact upon roosting bats.

Bats are highly mobile and when not in hibernation can occupy a building overnight. It is essential therefore that due vigilance be maintained before and during any works to ensure their protection. The lack of evidence of roosting at this stage does not constitute confirmation that this is not taking place intermittently or may not take place in the future. As such, suitable enhancements to ensure roosting opportunities are available post-development have been included within section 5 of this report.

5 Recommendations and Enhancements

The National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 117 states that "To minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should...promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations". In order to ensure no net loss of biodiversity in accordance with NPPF & Circular 06/2005 recommendations are made below:

- No further survey work in respect of bats is recommended at this stage. However, following the survey work, there remains low suitability for roosting within the two buildings to be demolished by crevice-dwelling bat species. It is therefore recommended that the initial demolition works target areas with suitability for bats and are carried out under **a watching brief by a licensed bat worker**.

The watching brief will be preceded by a **toolbox talk** to all contractors.

Old printing store

The licensed bat worker will inspect all suitable gaps in the brickwork and timbers in the old printing store with an endoscope immediately prior to disturbing works. The licensed bat worker will then supervise the removal of tiles at the ridge, gable ends and eaves. If evidence of bats, including droppings, is found works will stop while Natural England are contacted for advice on how to proceed.

Sales purchasing building

The licensed bat worker will supervise the removal of tiles at the ridge, gable ends and eaves and any areas of raised tiles providing access to a gap between the tiles and lining. If evidence of bats, including droppings, is found works will stop while Natural England are contacted for advice on how to proceed. Mitigation for bats will be necessary if evidence of bats is found during works. As the buildings have only low suitability for crevice-dwelling species, an appropriate replacement roost site, if necessary, would involve installing a bat box on an appropriate tree or building, to be advised by the licensed bat worker.

- Any proposed **lighting** both during works and permanent lighting following completion of the development should be **cowled** to prevent backspill and light should be directed towards the ground and away from potential bat foraging, commuting and roosting areas such as the River Don corridor to the south, and any nearby retained trees. Ideally, sodium-based light bulbs should be used as these emit lower levels of UV light and are therefore less disruptive to nocturnal wildlife.

Suggested ecological enhancements

The National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 118 states that "Opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged". Therefore, additional recommendations for biodiversity enhancements are provided below: During the construction of the replacement buildings, it is advised that two integrated bat boxes are included at both properties. The licensed ecologist will conduct a site visit to ensure that these are installed correctly.

A small number of bat boxes, such as the Schwegler 1FF, for species such as pipistrelle could be erected on retained or new trees or the proposed building, in order to provide additional opportunities for roosting bats. Boxes should be placed in a south-facing direction between 4 and 5m high. Ecolocation would be happy to offer further advice on this if necessary.

6 References

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