Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

9 BROOM CLOSE, WORSBOROUGH.

OS REF: SE 36547 04744

BAT SURVEY REPORT.

Ref No: **230681**

Date: **30th June 2023.**

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to demolish the house at 9 Broom Close, Worsborough.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd were therefore commissioned to carry out an initial Preliminary Roost Assessment and dusk emergence survey to establish whether there is a roost present and if there is, what species of bat is using the roost and in what numbers.

1.3. The surveys were carried out on 22nd June 2023 and this report outlines the findings of those surveys and makes appropriate recommendations.

1.4. Appendices I and II of this report provide background information with respect to protected species and the legal protection afforded to them.

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2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. The structure was checked for potential bat roosting sites in line by looking for the following signs: -

* Holes, cracks or crevices.
* Bat droppings.
* Prey remains.

2.2. A thorough external inspection was carried out from ground level for any gaps or openings of the structure which may provide suitable roost access points and field signs to indicate possible use by bats.

2.3. All 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.

2.4. 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 structures suitability for roosting bats made in accordance with these guidelines.

2.4. The subsequent dusk emergence survey was also conducted in accordance with Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition).* It was conducted by a sufficient number of 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.

2.5. All surveyors were equipped with Batbox Duet bat detectors, or similar. The use of static recording devices such as Anabat SD2's and video cameras with infrared lights were also utilised were appropriate.

2.6. The survey was carried out 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.

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3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. A data search request has been submitted to South Yorkshire Bat Group and Barnsley Biological Records Centre for existing records of bat roosts within 2km of the site.

3.1.2. No results have been received at this time. This report will be updated when the results are received.

3.2. Site Description.

3.2.1. 9 Broom Close is located in Worsborough, Barnsley, surrounded by residential properties and playing fields. The site is shown by the yellow arrow below.

3.2.2. The actual building to be demolished is shown marked by the yellow arrow below.

3.3. Preliminary Roost Assessment.

3.3.1. The building to be demolished is shown in the photographs below. It comprises a rectangular, two storey house with a single storey extension.

3.3.2. The building has brick cavity walls. Window and door frames are all in place but some of the windows are broken while some are covered by metal grids. There are gaps behind the metal grids and there are gaps behind the fascia boards.

3.3.3 The roof is flat and therefore unsuitable for roosting bats.

3.3.4. Inside the building, there has been a lot of damage done by vandals and there is asbestos present making it unsafe to access.

3.3.5. No bats or bat field signs were identified anywhere inside or outside the building but the building was assessed to have a low potential for roosting bats in line with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines.

3.4. Dusk Emergence Survey Results, 22nd June 2023.

3.4.1. A dusk emergence survey of the buildings was therefore carried out by three surveyors on the evening of 22nd June 2023. One surveyor holds a current Natural England licence for surveying bats and the other two are experienced bat surveyors.

3.4.2. Each surveyor was equipped with a Batbox Duet detector and a radio for communications. In addition, one static Anabat recorder was deployed by each surveyor to record bat activity for subsequent analysis using Analook software.

3.4.3. The positions of the surveyors and the static Anabats are shown on the aerial photograph below where S is a surveyor.

3.4.4. The evening was fine, with 25% cloud cover and a light wind blowing at 3 mph from the southeast, 0 on the BWS. The temperature was 20ºC at 21:10 and sunset was at 21:39. The survey started at 21:10 and ended at 23:10.

3.4.5. The following are the observations of the surveyor.

3.4.5.1. Surveyor 1.

22:16. Common Pipistrelle came from the west, circled and passed to the east.
22:22. Common Pipistrelle came from the northwest, circled and returned to the northwest.

22:29. Common Pipistrelle briefly heard not seen.

Anabat 19 with Surveyor 1 recorded two Common Pipistrelles at 22:16 and 22:22.

3.4.5.2. Surveyor 2.

22:16. Common Pipistrelle came from the west, circled and passed to the east.
22:22. Common Pipistrelle from the west, circled and returned.
22:28. Common Pipistrelle briefly heard not seen.

Anabat 12 with Surveyor 2recorded two Common Pipistrelles at 22:16 and 22:22.

3.4.5.3. Surveyor 3.

Surveyor 3 observed no bat activity.

Anabat 14 with Surveyor 3 recorded no bat activity.

3.4.5.4. No bats emerged from the building during the survey and there was no nesting bird activity in the building.

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4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1. During the day time Preliminary Roost Assessment, the building was assessed to have a low potential for roosting bats in line with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines.

4.2. During the dusk emergence survey, only two bats were recorded over the site, two Common Pipistrelles at 22:128 sand 22:20, both passing directly over the site from the south.

4.3. No bats emerged from any of the buildings on the site therefore the proposed works will have no impact on bats or bat roosts.

4.4. No nesting bird activity was observed.

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5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. No bats emerged from the buildings on the site. Therefore, no further bat surveys are recommended and there is no requirement for a mitigation strategy or a Natural England bat licence in connection with the proposed development of the site.

5.2. Nevertheless, individual bats can seek shelter almost anywhere and therefore, demolition of the buildings should be undertaken with due care and in the unlikely event a bat is found, work should cease in that area, the bat should be covered and protected and the undersigned contacted for further advice.

5.3. As the project involves only the demolition of buildings on the site, it is recommended that one bat box is installed on one of the trees to provide Biodiversity Enhancements in line with the NPPF.

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Prepared by:	
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Checked by:	
Ruth Georgiou. BSc, MCIEEM.	Date: 6th July 2023.

6. REFERENCES.

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Appendix I. BAT INFORMATION.

Ecology

There are currently 18 species of bat residing in Britain, 17 of which 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 cills, 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 of 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.