

Land off Moor Lane, Lundwood

Bat Survey Report

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1. Summary

- 1.1.1 The bat survey was commissioned by the client and owner of the site Lynn Wood on 20th August 2019.
- 1.1.1 The survey was undertaken to inform the proposed demolition/removal of stables and outbuildings to make way for a small development comprising a single residential property.
- 1.1.2 The preliminary roost assessment survey was conducted on the 23rd August 2019.
- 1.1.3 The site comprises four structures including three concrete block-built stables and a wooden shed at Moor Lane off Pontefract Road, Lundwood.
- 1.1.4 There were no visible signs of bat presence on either the inside or outside of the surveyed buildings and whilst one of the buildings displays a little potential to support roosting bats, the visual inspection is considered sufficiently robust to be confident that bats are not roosting in the buildings.
- 1.1.5 It was concluded that no further survey effort is necessary providing that works commence within 24months of survey.
- 1.1.6 Demolition should take place when it will not affect nesting birds (March to September) or they should be preceded by a nesting bird check, to be undertaken by an ecologist.
- 1.1.7 An ecological enhancement recommendation relating to the fitting of one bat box in the new development is included in the report.
- 1.1.8 It is also recommended that an open sided structure, suitable for future use by nesting swallows is included in the proposals, to mitigate for the loss of existing swallow nesting opportunities.

2. Introduction

- 2.1.1 The bat survey was commissioned by the client and owner of the site Lynn Wood on 20th August 2019. The survey was undertaken to inform the proposed demolition/removal of stables and outbuildings, to make way for a small development comprising a single residential property.
- 2.1.2 Four on site structures, are proposed for demolition/removal. Middleton Bell Ecology were therefore contracted initially to conduct a baseline assessment to determine the likely presence or absence of roosting bats and to identify roost locations, access points, species present, level of use and the importance of nearby landscape features.
- 2.1.3 The four outbuildings are situated on land accessed from Moor Lane, off Pontefract Road, in Lundwood, approximately 3.4km northeast of the centre of Barnsley.

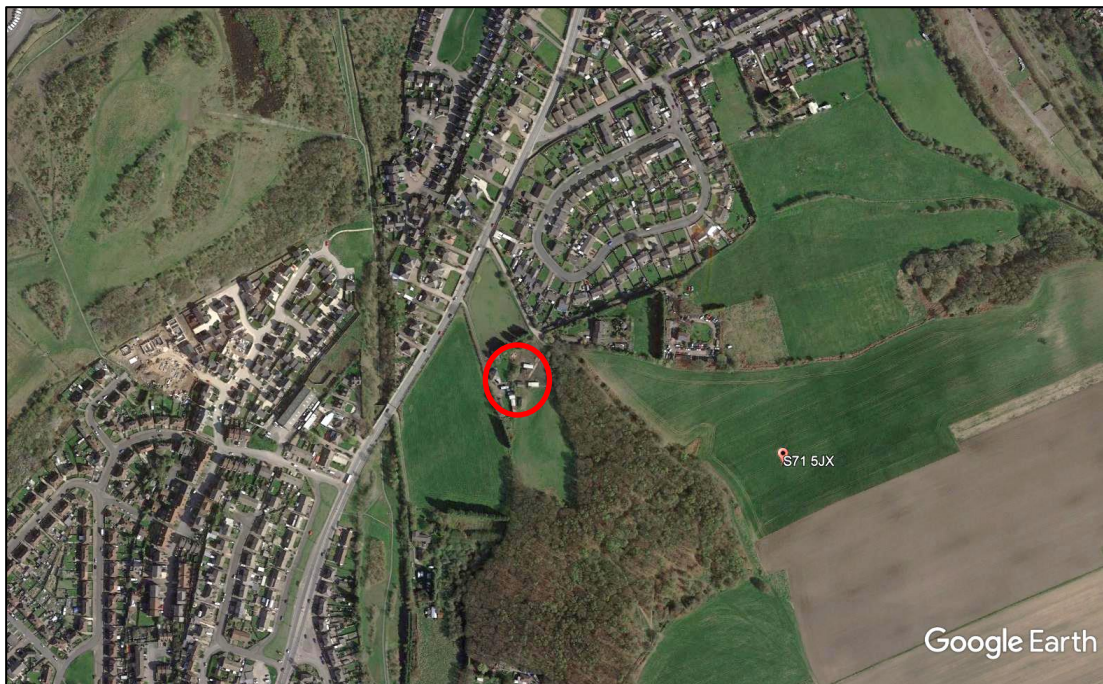
3. Habitat Assessment

- 3.1.1 The surrounding area consists of a variety of habitats including the built environment (residential), grassland and woodlands. In spite of the site's close proximity to Barnsley there is good foraging habitat for bats present adjacent to the site (see Figure 1). However, there is much light pollution in the area and therefore species present in the area are likely to be restricted to common and widespread species.
- 3.1.2 Table 1 summarises the habitats present, adjacent to and further afield of Moor Lane at Lundwood.

Table 1. Location and habitat table

Name and address: Land off Moor Lane, Lundwood, Barnsley S71 5JX			
OS Grid Ref. SE 37776 07854		Altitude. 46m	
Local Planning Authority: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council			
Features on site and adjacent to site			
Feature	On site	Adjacent	Comments
Buildings	✓	✓	Residential property 19m west
River bordered by trees			None within 500m
Standing water			None within 500m
Bridges tunnels and culverts			
Trees	✓	✓	Trees are present on the border of the site in all directions
Woodland		✓	15m from one of the buildings
Grassland	✓	✓	Pasture

Figure 1. Site location, as indicated by red circle



3.2 Aims

3.2.1 The survey was conducted to help determine the following:

- The presence/absence of roosting bats.
- Potential roosting areas and access/egress points into structure.
- Determine the level of bat roost potential associated with the structure.
- Identify further survey work or mitigation requirements.

4. Methodology

4.1 Data Consultation

4.1.1 The decision was made not to request bat records from either the Biological Records Centre or bat group (South Yorkshire Bat Group) given the lack of bat roost potential displayed by the surveyed structures.

4.1.2 A search of the Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website was undertaken to identify historic European Protected Species (EPS) licences obtained for locations within 2km of the site.

4.2 Field Survey

4.2.1 The following personnel conducted the survey on 23rd August 2019:

- Peter Middleton (MCIEEM; Class license WML-A34-Level 4, 2017-27977-CLS-CLS)

4.2.2 The following activities were carried out during the surveys in compliance with relevant Bat Survey Guidelines (Collins 2016):

- A brief inspection and assessment of the site and habitats present to within 300m.
- An extensive examination of all parts of the buildings both inside and out to record structural features and condition and to record features that may be suitable for roosting bats. Particular attention was paid to any crevices or gaps in walls, lintels, gaps between beams and joists and to the possibility of finding droppings stuck to walls, floors or other surfaces, or insect remains below beams, among a number of other factors. All and signs indicative of a bat roost presence including live or dead bats, droppings, feeding remains, scratch marks and staining were recorded.
- An assessment of the buildings' bat roost potential (negligible, low, moderate, high or confirmed roost).

4.2.3 The following equipment was used or at hand during the survey:

- Clulight
- Binoculars
- Endoscope
- Ladders
- Camera

4.3 Survey Limitations

4.3.1 No limitations to the preliminary roost assessment survey were encountered.

5. Results

5.1 Data Consultation

5.1.1 One historical bat EPS mitigation licence has been issued for a location within 2km of the surveyed buildings. The licence issued in 2009 granted permission to destroy a common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* resting place in a location 1.9km north-northeast of the application site.

5.2 Field Survey

5.2.1 No evidence of bat roosting was recorded on site. The buildings lack any significant bat roosting potential and were assessed as displaying a negligible level of bat roost potential overall. The buildings are described in detail below.

Description

5.2.2 The surveyed structures comprise three concrete block-built stables and a wooden shed (see Figure 2 and Plates 1 to 4). Building 1 (B1) and Building 3 (B3) have single skin concrete block external walls beneath a pitched corrugated asbestos cement roof, whilst Building 2 (B2) is also built of single skin concrete blocks, this structure has a shallow mono pitched sheet metal roof. There is wood sarking beneath the asbestos sheets on B1 and B3. Building 4 (B4) comprises a square shaped wooden shed with a flat bitumen felt roof.

Figure 2. Site Plan



External inspection

- 5.2.3 With the exception of gaps beneath the corrugations of the asbestos roof sheets on B1 and B3, all structures lack features with potential to accommodate roosting bats. External walls on B1, B2, B3 & B4 (including wood cladding on the gables of B1 & B3) are all single skin and therefore there are no voids, crevices or other features with potential to support roosting bats. The corrugations of the asbestos roof sheets on B3 are large and considered unlikely to be used by roosting bats, this feature was easily inspected with the aid of a high-powered lamp and the gaps were found to be 'cobwebby' and no signs of bats were found. Whilst the gaps beneath the corrugation on B1 are more suitable for crevice dwelling bats, the gaps were found to be very 'cobwebby' and again no signs of bats were found.

Plate 1. Building 1



Plate 2. Buildings 2 & 3



Plate 3. Building 3



Plate 4. Building 4



Internal inspection

- 5.2.4 There are no roof-voids in any of the buildings. There is wood sarking beneath the asbestos sheets on B1 & B3 with 5-10mm gaps between the planks (see Plate 5). No signs of bats were found but several defunct swallow *Hirundo rustica* nests were located.

Plate 5. Inside of B1



6. Assessment

6.1 Summary and Evaluation of Findings

- 6.1.1 No bats were found roosting in the buildings during the preliminary daytime assessment and there were no signs of bat occupation. The surveyed buildings are considered to display an overall negligible level of potential for use by roosting bats.
- 6.1.2 Whilst there is a little potential for bats to access the voids beneath the corrugations on B1 and B3, this feature was thoroughly inspected, and no signs of bats were found. The findings of the visual inspection are considered to be an accurate account of the status of bats at the site and in this instance, it is considered that the absence of roosting bats can be confidently determined. Consequently, no further survey work is recommended.
- 6.1.3 Several defunct swallow nests were recorded from the surveyed buildings.

6.2 Legislation and Policy Guidance

Bats

- 6.2.1 Bats receive protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 6.2.2 It is an offence to:
- Deliberately capture (or take), injure or kill a bat.
 - Intentionally or recklessly disturb bats whilst they are occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection or obstruct access to any such place.
 - Damage or destroy the breeding or resting place (roost) of a bat.

- Possess a bat (live or dead), or any part of a bat.
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost.
- Sell (or offer for sale) or exchange bats (dead or alive), or parts of parts.

6.2.3 The Convention on Biological Diversity, signed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992, requires member states to develop national strategies and to undertake a range of actions aimed at maintaining or restoring biodiversity. The UK Biodiversity Strategy was produced in response to the Convention.

6.2.4 In England & Wales, the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act, 2006 imposes a duty on all public bodies, including local authorities and statutory bodies, in exercising their functions, “to have due regard, as far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”. It notes that “conserving biodiversity includes restoring or enhancing a population or habitat”. Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*, Bechstein's *Myotis bechsteinii*, brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus*, greater horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, lesser horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, noctule *Nyctalus noctula* and soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* bats are included as priority species within Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. At a more local level there are Local Biodiversity Action Plans for smaller geographical areas which may cover a greater or lesser range of bat species.

6.2.5 Where it is proposed to carry out works which will have an adverse impact on roosting bats, the site must either be registered on the Bat Low Impact Class Licence (BLICL) or a European Protected Species (EPS) license must first be obtained from Natural England. This requirement applies even if no bats are expected to be present when the work is carried out.

6.2.6 The National Planning Policy Framework for England was revised in 2019. This document states that plans should ‘promote the conservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity’.

Birds

6.2.7 Special penalties relate to offences concerning birds listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). In addition to the offences detailed above relating to all wild birds, it is illegal to intentionally or recklessly disturb any Schedule 1 bird or their dependent young while nesting.

6.2.8 All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), which makes it illegal (subject to exceptions) to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird.
- Take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or eggs of any wild bird.

6.3 Recommendations/enhancements

6.3.1 No bats were recorded roosting on site during the survey works and consequently there is no compulsory requirement for mitigation. However, in order to enhance the

ecological value of the site and in accordance with the aims of the National Planning Policy Framework (2019), it is suggested that a bat roosting feature is added as part of the re-development. It is advised that a bat box, such as the Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box C (see Plate 6) is integrated into the new development. The box should be sited at wall top height away from areas of light spill. For further information on appropriate bat roosting features please contact Middleton Bell Ecology.

Plate 6. Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box C



- 6.3.2 Consideration should also be given to the provision of a lean-to structure such as a carport, log store or other open sided structure that can provide continued nesting opportunities on site for swallow.

6.4 Conclusion

- 6.4.1 There were no visible signs of bat occupation on either the inside or outside of the surveyed buildings and they were considered to offer negligible bat roost potential overall.
- 6.4.2 The thorough daytime visual inspection of the buildings is in this case considered sufficiently robust to be confident that bats are not roosting in the buildings and therefore no further survey effort is necessary providing works commence within 24 months of the survey date. If works are to commence after this date, then Middleton Bell Ecology should be contacted to determine the requirement for update survey.
- 6.4.3 Works should proceed with caution and vigilance for unexpected bat presence, as single bats can roost almost anywhere. If bats are subsequently discovered, work should be stopped, and further advice sought without delay.
- 6.4.4 It is an offence to damage or destroy active bird nests therefore demolition should take place outside of the bird nesting season which in this case is from March to September. Any works undertaken during the main nesting bird season should be preceded by a nesting bird check, to be undertaken by an ecologist.

7. References

Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines. The Bat Conservation Trust.