

Intended for
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Document type
Bat Survey Report

Date
September 2026

Document ref
REH2026N02195

STAIRFOOT ROUNDABOUT/GRANGE LANE BRIDGE, BARNSELEY BAT SURVEY REPORT

STAIRFOOT ROUNDABOUT/GRANGE LANE BRIDGE, BARNSELY BAT SURVEY REPORT

Project name **Stairfoot Roundabout**
Project no. **REH2026N02195**
Recipient **Barnsley Council**
Document type **Bat Report**
Version **0.1**
Date **22.09.2026**
Prepared by **MYAT**
Checked by **---**
Approved by **---**
Description **STAIRFOOT ROUNDABOUT/GRANGE LANE BRIDGE, BARNSELY
BAT SURVEY REPORT**
Document ref **REH2026N02195**

Revision	Date	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Description
1	22.09.2026	MH/RT	JM	MJ	

This report is produced by Ramboll at the request of the client for the purposes detailed herein. This report and accompanying documents are intended solely for the use and benefit of the client for this purpose only and may not be used by or disclosed to, in whole or in part, any other person without the express written consent of Ramboll. Ramboll neither owes nor accepts any duty to any third party and shall not be liable for any loss, damage or expense of whatsoever nature which is caused by their reliance on the information contained in this report.

Ramboll UK Limited
Registered in England & Wales
Company No: 03659970
Registered office:
240 Blackfriars Road
London
SE1 8NW

CONTENTS

SUMMARY ii

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Site Context and Status	1
1.3	Proposed Works	1
1.4	Objectives	1
1.5	Legislation and Policy Framework	2
2.	METHODOLOGY	3
2.1	Survey Methodology	3
2.2	Bat Activity and Crossing Point Survey	3
2.3	Ecological Evaluation	4
2.4	Limitations and Constraints	4
3.	Results	6
3.1	Bat Activity Surveys	6
4.	Discussion & Recommendations	7

Appendix 1

Maps

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: Survey Locations map

survey 1 (1) 20/05/26

SURVEY 2 (2) 24/06/2026

APPENDIX 2

SURVEY RESULTS – SURVEY PROFORMAS

APPENDIX 3

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

SUMMARY

Ramboll UK Limited ("Ramboll") was commissioned in February 2026 by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council ("the Client") to undertake bat surveys of the former railway bridge crossing Grange Lane at Stairfoot Roundabout, Barnsley (hereafter referred to as "the Site"). The surveys were required following amendments to the red line boundary and project scope, to inform a planning application for proposed improvements to Stairfoot Roundabout, including the demolition and replacement of the former railway bridge. The surveys were undertaken to assess the potential use of the bridge by roosting bats and to determine whether the bridge functions as a commuting / crossing point for bats over the road.

Night-time bat surveys were undertaken on 20 May 2026 and 24 June. Low levels of bat activity were recorded during both survey visits, involving mainly common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) with two recordings also of soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) passes. No other bat species were recorded.

No bats were recorded emerging from the bridge structure.

During the 20 May 2026 survey <20 pipistrelle bats were recorded commuting and foraging. The majority of activity related to foraging within the vegetation along the vegetated Pennine Trail route. In total of six pipistrelle bats were observed crossing over the bridge.

During the 24 June 2026 survey, a low number of common pipistrelle bats (max. 10) were recorded. Three pipistrelles were observed crossing over the bridge, flying at approximately 4m height.

Due to the timing and number of bats observed, there was no evidence of the bridge supporting a commuting route that may be important to the integrity of a roost location. The low levels of bat activity likely relate to the lack of vegetation on the bridge and the high levels of light and noise disturbance associated with the road network.

The proposed demolition of the existing bridge has the potential to disrupt a pipistrelle commuting route over the bridge used by small numbers of bats and could lead to some bat mortalities. However, in view of the low level of activity recorded this is considered unlikely to affect the conservation status or distribution of these common species within the local area.

Whilst no evidence of roosting was recorded at the time of surveys, bats are mobile species and often move between potential roost locations. The bridge and associated vegetation could also support nesting birds. It is therefore recommended that a suitably experienced ecologist is present at the outset of works to inspect the bridge and oversee vegetation removal if conducted between March and September.

Where possible it is also recommended that any replacement structure is designed and implemented to enhance connectivity and safe passage for bats and other wildlife along the TransPennine Trail, and into the wider landscape.

Should works be delayed >12 months it is recommended that an updated review is conducted.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Ramboll UK Limited ("Ramboll") was commissioned by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council ("the Client") to undertake dusk bat surveys of the former railway bridge crossing Grange Lane at Stairfoot, Barnsley (the "Site"). The surveys were commissioned to inform a planning application for proposed improvements to Stairfoot Roundabout, including the demolition and replacement of the existing former railway bridge.

The surveys followed amendments to the red line boundary and project scope and were undertaken to provide an up-to-date assessment of the use of the bridge by bats. In particular, the surveys sought to determine whether bats were using the bridge as a roosting feature and whether the bridge and surrounding habitat formed part of an established commuting or crossing route.

This report presents the methodology and results of the two bat surveys undertaken during May and June 2026 and provides an assessment of the potential effects of the proposed works on bats, together with appropriate recommendations.

1.2 Site Context and Status

The survey was undertaken to an updated Site boundary supplied by the Client, centred on Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SE 37278 05598. The Site comprises an urban area of busy A roads, including Grange Lane and Doncaster Road, in the vicinity of Stairfoot Roundabout, Barnsley. Areas of grassland, woodland, mixed scrub and introduced shrub are present within the Site.

The Trans Pennine Trail crosses the Site from northwest to southeast, passing over Grange Lane via a former railway bridge. The wider area is dominated by commercial and residential development, particularly to the north and west, with a more open mixture of commercial and residential land uses, farmland and areas of woodland to the south, east and northeast. The Stairfoot Disused Railway Local Wildlife Site lies approximately 50 m northeast of the Site. The Trans Pennine Trail provides a linear corridor through the wider landscape, with connectivity to woodland, ponds, farmland, scrub, hedgerows and the River Dearne floodplain corridor to the north and southeast, including Netherwood Country Park. The bridge therefore provides a potential connection across the busy Grange Lane road corridor.

1.3 Proposed Works

The proposals for the Site comprise improvements to Stairfoot Roundabout, including road widening and junction improvements intended to alleviate traffic congestion. It is understood that the existing former railway bridge crossing Grange Lane will be demolished and replaced as part of the proposed works.

The demolition of the existing bridge and construction of the replacement structure has the potential to alter the existing habitat connectivity and flight routes used by bats. The potential effects of the proposals on both roosting bats and bats commuting through the Site have therefore been considered as part of this assessment. It is understood that the bridge which crosses Grange Lane is to be demolished and replaced as part of the proposed works.

1.4 Objectives

The objectives of the bat surveys were to assess the potential use of the former railway bridge crossing Grange Lane by bats and to provide an up-to-date evidence base to inform the proposed development.

The surveys were undertaken to determine whether bats were emerging from or otherwise using the bridge structure as a roosting feature, to identify the species and level of bat activity associated with the bridge and surrounding habitat, and to assess whether the bridge and road corridor function as a commuting or crossing point.

The report is supported by the following appendices:

- Appendix 1: Site & Surveyor Locations
- Appendix 2: Survey Proformas
- Appendix 3: Legislation and Policy Context

1.5 Legislation and Policy Framework

There are several acts of legislation and planning policies which refer to the protection of wildlife. These are summarised in Appendix 3 for reference purposes but should not be regarded as a definitive legal opinion. When dealing with individual cases, the full texts of the relevant documents should be consulted and legal advice obtained if necessary.

All bats and their resting places are protected under UK legislation, under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Under this legislation it is an offence to:

- Deliberately take, injure or kill a wild bat;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats;
- Damage or destroy a place used by bats for breeding or resting (i.e., bat roosts), even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time;
- Possess or advertise / sell / exchange a bat (dead or alive) or any part of a bat; or
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost.

In addition, several species of bat are listed on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 as species of principal importance in England.

The National Planning Policy Framework (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2024¹) requires public authorities to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment including by minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity when taking planning decisions. The Environment Act, 2021 has strengthened the duty to conserve biodiversity within the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, such that all public authorities are required to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Additionally, all wild birds and their nests are protected under the wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, making it illegal to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or
- to take, damage, destroy or block access to the nest of any wild bird, while in use or being built; or
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird

¹ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2024) National Planning Policy Framework.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Survey Methodology

A Preliminary Roost Assessment comprising an external inspection of the former railway bridge was undertaken on 4 March 2026. The assessment identified features within the bridge structure and associated vegetation that had potential to support roosting bats. Taking account of the structure and wider factors including lighting, disturbance and connectivity, the bridge was assessed as having low suitability for roosting bats with reference to the Bat Conservation Trust's Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2023)².

Two dusk bat surveys were undertaken on 20 May 2026 and 24 June 2026 in suitable weather conditions during the optimal bat activity season. The surveys were designed to assess both potential bat emergence from the bridge structure and the use of the bridge as a commuting and crossing feature over Grange Lane. The roost emergence surveys² and crossing-point surveys were conducted with reference to good practice guidelines including those developed by Altringham and Berthinussen (2015)³, to monitor bat flight activity associated with linear transport infrastructure.

The first survey, undertaken on 20 May 2026, was completed by four suitably experienced surveyors positioned both above and below the bridge. Surveyor positions were selected to provide clear views of the bridge structure, potential roost access points and the flight corridors associated with the bridge. This arrangement enabled simultaneous assessment of potential emergence activity and bat movements through and around the bridge.

The second survey, undertaken on 24 June 2026, was completed by two suitably experienced surveyors and was focused on assessing commuting and crossing activity associated with the bridge and surrounding road corridor. Surveyors were positioned to provide coverage of the relevant flight corridors and to record the direction and behaviour of bats moving through the survey area.

Infra-red and thermal imaging equipment was used during the surveys, together with Elekon Batlogger detectors to record bat echolocation calls. Static cameras were deployed during the first survey and were subsequently reviewed following the survey. Acoustic recordings were analysed using BatExplorer, with species identification undertaken where the quality of recordings allowed.

Surveyors recorded the time and location of bat activity, species where possible, number of bats observed, direction of travel and behaviour, including commuting and foraging activity. Survey observations were cross-referenced with acoustic recordings and, where applicable, camera footage during post-survey analysis.

2.2 Bat Activity and Crossing Point Survey

The surveys commenced approximately 15 minutes before sunset and continued for at least 1.5 hours after sunset. Survey conditions were considered suitable for bat activity on both survey visits.

The first survey on 20 May 2026 was undertaken by four surveyors, with positions above and below the bridge allowing potential emergence activity and movements along and across the bridge to be monitored simultaneously.

The second survey on 24 June 2026 was undertaken between 21:30 and 23:30. Weather conditions were sunny and warm, with 0% cloud cover. The temperature was approximately 27°C at the start of the survey and 24°C at the end of the survey. The survey used an infra-red camera and Elekon Batlogger detectors.

² Collins, J. (ed.) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London. [Bat Survey Guidelines 23](#)

³ Altringham J and Berthinussen A (2015) WC1060 DEVELOPMENT OF A COST-EFFECTIVE METHOD FOR MONITORING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MITIGATION FOR BATS CROSSING LINEAR TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE. School of Biology. University of Leeds. [BATS & INFRASTRUCTURE 2015 Berthinussen, Altringham.pdf](#). (Notably, Appendix G [12715_WC1060APPENDIXG \(7\).PDF](#))

The 24 June survey was specifically focused on the use of the bridge and surrounding road corridor by commuting bats. Surveyors recorded visual observations of bats, including species, number of individuals where distinguishable, direction of travel and behaviour. The survey therefore provided additional information on whether bats were regularly crossing the road corridor associated with the bridge.

Table 2.1: Summary of Bat Survey Conditions

Survey Date	Sunset	Start of Survey	End of Survey	Surveyor	Bat Detector and Camera Type	Weather conditions
20/05/2026	20:29	20:40	22:40	JM, RT, MH, HY, x4 cameras	Batlogger M, Cannon IR camera, FLIR TI camera	17-14°C, Cloud cover 3/8, Wind 0/12, Rain 0.
24/06/2026	21:40	21:15	23:15	RT, HY, x2 Cameras	Batlogger M, Cannon IR camera, FLIR TI camera	

2.3 Ecological Evaluation

Where appropriate, an assessment of likely ecological impacts can be undertaken in accordance with CIEEM guidelines (CIEEM, 2018Error! Bookmark not defined.) where clear evidence is available to substantiate and justify the findings. In the absence of such evidence, the ecological feature is merely identified as a potential constraint to development.

The Bat Mitigation Guidelines⁴ outlines a framework for assessing the importance of bat roosts and foraging / commuting habitat. As part of these considerations, the number and rarity of bat species present should be considered in context to the location and nature of records. A tabulated, matrix approach to determining roost value is provided within the Guidelines to assist in the valuation of roosts and overall bat assemblages, whereas professional judgement is more heavily relied upon when determining the potential importance of foraging areas and flightlines.

2.4 Limitations and Constraints

Data from bat surveys should ideally be from the most recent survey season² and otherwise should not exceed 18 months, unless there are any significant changes to feature or context (CIEEM, 2019⁵).

All electronic bat detectors have a level of bias. To reduce this bias the same detector type was employed by surveyors on the survey wherever possible. Batlogger M detectors were used as these are known to be good at detecting quieter calling bat species such as brown long-eared bats and therefore the risk of missing such species is reduced.

The survey conditions when undertaking emergence surveys can limit visibility, with lighting during a dusk survey being optimum at the beginning and becoming darker throughout the survey. NVA’s

⁴ Reason, P.F. and Wray, S. (2025). UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines: a guide to impact assessment, mitigation and compensation for developments affecting bats. Version 1.2. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Ampfield. [Bat-Mitigation-Guidelines-2025-V1.2.pdf](#)
⁵ CIEEM (2019) Advice Note on the Lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys. April 2019.

were utilised during the survey to aid post-survey analysis, thus reducing the effects of this limitation to a suitable level.

The survey approach recommended by Altringham and Berthinussen³ for monitoring bats crossing linear infrastructure was consulted when devising an appropriate survey effort and methodology for the bridge. This is intended for use when existing habitat/vegetation features (such as hedgerows and tree lines) are proposed to be severed by infrastructure and to monitor the successfulness of replacement features post-development. Whilst this did not entirely meet the development scenario being assessed herein, it was considered an appropriate proxy. Bat flight heights were not recorded using poles with LEDs, as safe flight height above ground level was not considered as relevant in the already elevated (above traffic) bridge context. Surveys were ceased after the two initial surveys as the threshold of >10 passes by bats of common species was not exceeded. No other bat species were recorded, despite 'near optimum' survey conditions, and in view of the highly illuminated/disturbed context.

Bats are highly mobile creatures and may use roosting features and commuting corridors differently from one day to the next and throughout the year. The absence of a particular species and/or bat flight/roosting behaviour cannot definitively be confirmed by a lack of field signs on the survey and only concludes that an indication of its presence was not located during the survey effort.

Ramboll is satisfied that this report represents a robust appraisal of the site in relation to bats. If any action or development has not taken place on this land within 12 months of the date of this report, the findings of this survey should be reviewed by a suitably qualified ecologist and may need to be updated.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Bat Activity Surveys

Two dusk bat surveys were undertaken to assess the use of the former railway bridge as both a potential roosting feature and a commuting/crossing point over Grange Lane. The survey proformas are provided in Appendix 2.

Survey 1 – 20 May 2026

The first dusk bat survey was undertaken on 20 May 2026 by four surveyors positioned above and below the bridge.

No bat activity was recorded by the surveyors positioned beneath the bridge. No bats were recorded emerging from the bridge during the survey, and subsequent review of the static camera footage did not identify any bat emergences.

The first bat commuting activity was recorded above the bridge at approximately 21:32, approximately 1 hour after sunset, when a soprano pipistrelle was observed commuting in a south-easterly direction along and beyond the bridge. The bat passed over surveyor position MH before continuing past surveyor position RT. Further pipistrelle passes, commuting over the bridge in a south westerly direction were observed at 21:33, 21:36, 22:00 and 22:03 (2 bats). A total of six commuting passes over the bridge was observed.

Overall, the survey recorded a low level of bat activity, predominantly comprising common pipistrelle with low numbers of soprano pipistrelle.

Survey 2 – 24 June 2026

The second survey was undertaken on 24 June 2026 between 21:30 and 23:30 by two surveyors. Weather conditions were sunny and warm, with 0% cloud cover. Temperatures were approximately 27°C at the start of the survey and 24°C at the end.

The first bat was recorded as a single common pipistrelle observed flying over the northern extent of the bridge at height at approximately 22:10, 25 minutes after sunset.

Repeated common pipistrelle foraging activity was then recorded between 22:11 and 22:39 with bats flying along the vegetation of the Pennine Trail to the northwest of the bridge and partially overflying the bridge, looping back to the vegetation in the northwest – not commuting across the bridge.

At 22:17 a single common pipistrelle and at 22:28 two common pipistrelle bats were observed commuting across the bridge from the southeast to the vegetation to the northwest, along the Pennine Trail.

Overall, the survey recorded a low level of bat activity, entirely comprising common pipistrelle.

4. DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

No bats were recorded emerging from the bridge during either survey. Post-survey review of the camera footage did not identify any emergences. The survey results therefore indicate the likely absence of a bat roost within the bridge structure.

The level of bat activity observed during the surveys was considered to be low, particularly when considering the optimal survey conditions (warm, still, dry weather), the seasonal timings of the surveys (covering the optimum active bat flight period, including the maternity period) and the presence of established vegetation either side of the bridge. This low level of activity is likely attributable to the presence of high levels of artificial lighting around the bridge and along the associated road network, and high levels of disturbance associated with traffic. Whilst these surveys focussed on the peak active flight period for bats and activity during other times of the year can only be inferred, the threshold for additional survey requirements was not met and it is considered unlikely the bridge currently presents an important feature for bats in this context at other times of year.

The survey observations demonstrate that pipistrelle bats are utilising the vegetation, particularly to the northwest of the bridge, for foraging, with flights straying onto the bridge, but in the main returning back to the vegetation to forage. The activity was distributed over the survey duration rather than comprising a concentrated period of bat movement. The timings and volume of recorded bat activity do not indicate that the bridge or its immediate surroundings are associated with important flight lines associated with the integrity of any roosts during the optimum survey season.

More widely, there are no obvious alternative crossing points for bats within the area though road and traffic density decrease away from Stairfoot Roundabout, with residential gardens abutting roads leading to Penistone Railway Line to the west and Bosville Fields, Roots Allotments to the east. The desk study conducted in support of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Ramboll 2026) recorded only nine records of bats within the last 10 years, comprising pipistrelle foraging records in the general area. There were four granted European Protected Species Licences (EPSM) from 2016, 925m east of the Site. This was for the destruction of a soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) roost at the former Ardsley House Hotel.

The proposed demolition of the existing bridge will likely disrupt the existing commuting route and foraging opportunities for low numbers of common species of bats, during demolition and construction. There is also the potential for mortality of bats through traffic collision risks. Following completion of the works, changes to the structure, surrounding vegetation and artificial lighting could also alter the suitability of the route for commuting bats if connectivity across Grange Lane is not maintained/re-established.

In view of the number and species of bats involved and noting the density of the road system in this area however this is considered unlikely to affect the conservation status or local distribution of the species concerned.

Where possible, opportunities to enhance the potential future commuting value of any replacement bridge or underpass to facilitate bat and wider species movement along the TransPennine Trail are recommended, with reference to the Bat Mitigation Guidelines^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}.

Where possible, the potential for adverse effects should also be minimised during construction by reducing the loss of existing vegetation along adjacent areas of the TransPennine Trail running to the southeast and northwest. The duration of works should ideally be timed to minimise affects during the bat active flight season (April/May- October) and avoiding/minimising artificial light spill.

In view of the mobile nature of bats and the potential for the bridge and its associated vegetation to support nesting birds, it is recommended that a suitably experienced ecologist is consulted to oversee vegetation clearance and demolition at the outset.

APPENDIX 1

MAPS

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION PLAN

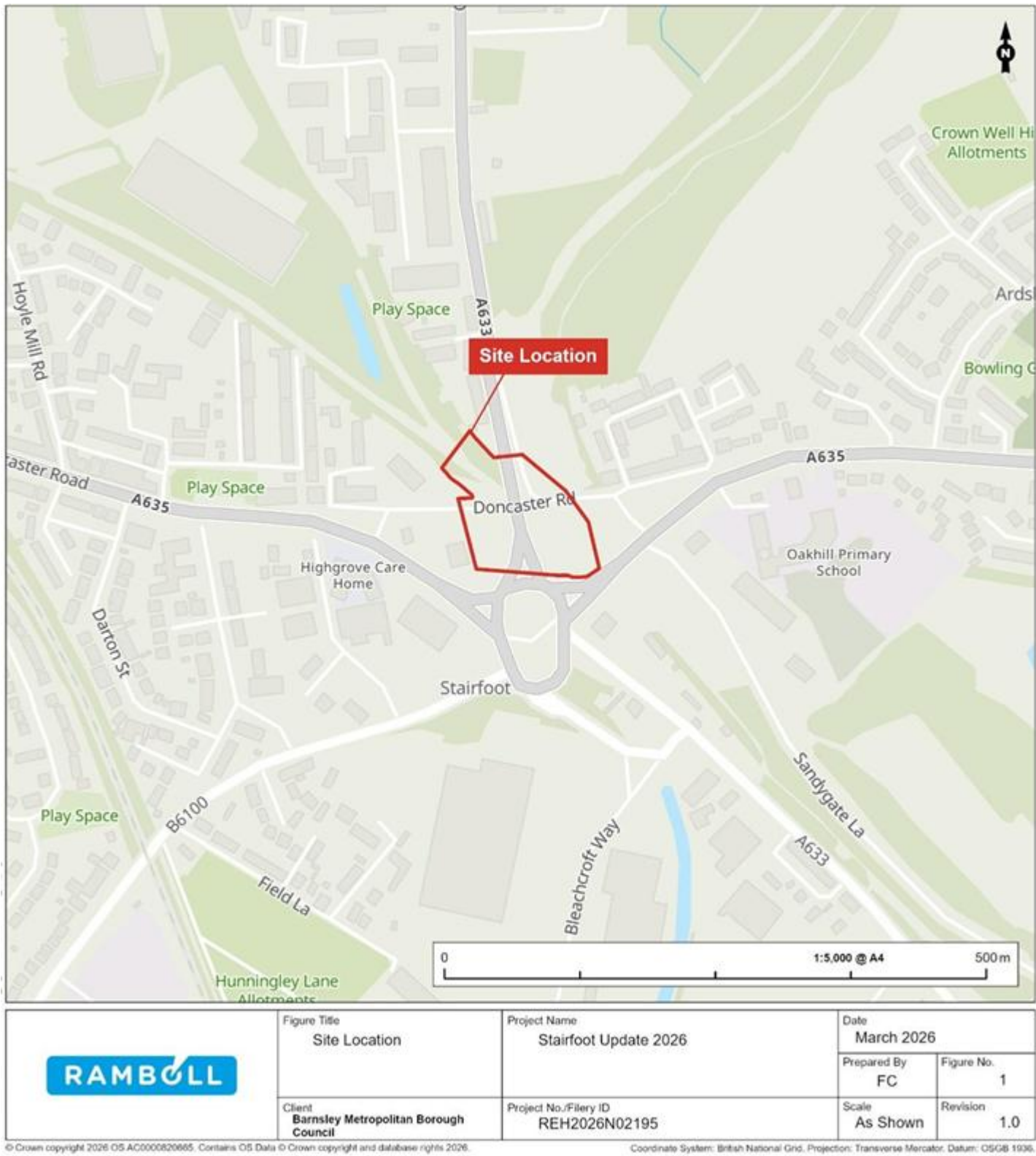
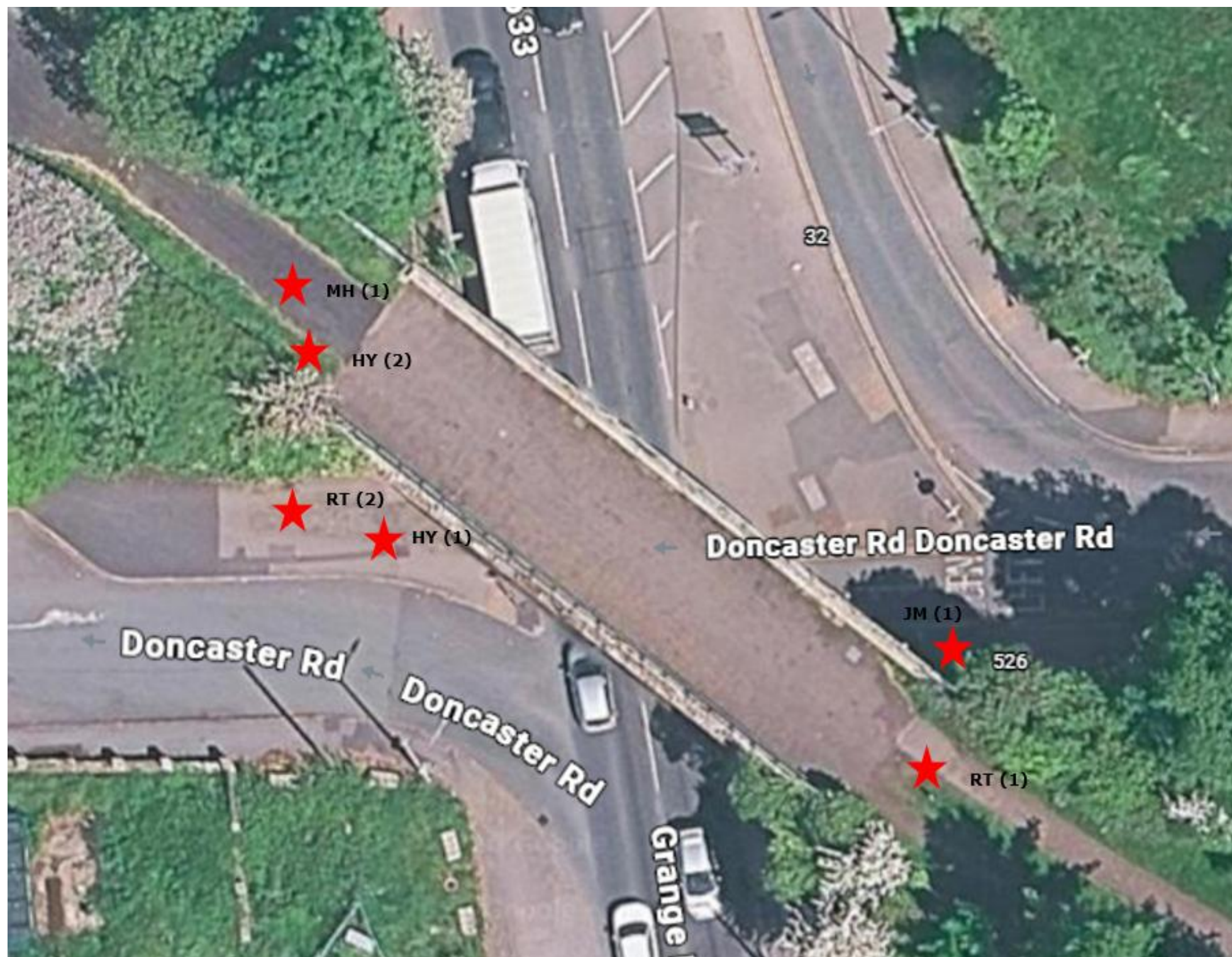


FIGURE 2: SURVEY LOCATIONS MAP



SURVEY 1 (1) 20/05/26
SURVEY 2 (2) 24/06/2026

APPENDIX 2

SURVEY RESULTS – SURVEY PROFORMAS

SURVEY 1: 05 MAY 2026 EMERGENCE SURVEY RESULTS

Project		Stairfoot		Building reference		Bridge						
Surveyor		RT		Date		20.05.2026						
Survey no		1		Survey start/end times		20:39 - 22:39						
Sunset/rise time		20:29		Equipment reference e.g. BLA, BLM, Lux metre		BLM 1612-2402 - Red camera						
Surveyor-Easting, Northing				Surveyor location		South-east side of bridge above road						
General weather conditions		Calm and warm						Moon-phase				
Limitations		N/A										
Temperature (°C start and end)	15 / 14	Cloud cover (Oktas 0-8)	4	Wind (Beaufort 0-12)	0	Rain (0-5)	0	Lux level (survey end, each compass direction)	N	S	E	W
Species - (CP=common pipistrelle, SP=soprano pipistrelle, LE=long-eared, N=Noctule, S=Serotine, M=Myotis, U=Unknown)												
Activity type - (E = Emergence, R = Return to roost, C = Commuting, F = Foraging, S = Socialising)												
Check moonphase at https://moonphases.co.uk/ . Lux reading (Chest height, N, S, E, W)												
Time	Species	Number of bats	Seen/not seen (S/NS)	Activity type	Direction of flight	Notes						
21:32	Soprano Pipistrelle	1	Seen	Commuting	SE	Flying towards me following bridge then overhead (i)						
21:36	Soprano Pipistrelle	1	Seen	Commuting	SE	Commuting up across the bridge (ii)						
22:00	Common Pipistrelle	1	Seen	Commuting	SE	Commuting up across the bridge (iii)						
22:03	Common Pipistrelle	2	Seen	Commuting	SE	X2 CP Commuting up across the bridge (v)						
22:14	Soprano Pipistrelle	1	HNS	Foraging		HNS						
22:20	Common Pipistrelle	1	HNS	Foraging		HNS						

Project		Stairfoot		Building reference		Bridge						
Surveyor		MH		Date		20.05.2026						
Survey no		1		Survey start/end times		20:39 - 22:39						
Sunset/rise time		20:29		Equipment reference e.g. BLA, BLM, Lux metre		BLM 1717- 2833 - Green camera						
Surveyor-Easting, Northing				Surveyor location		west side of bridge above road						
General weather conditions		Calm and warm					Moon-phase					
Limitations		N/A										
Temperature (°C start and end)	15 / 14	Cloud cover (Oktas 0-8)	4	Temperature (°C start and end)		Cloud cover (Oktas 0-8)	4	Temperature (°C start and end)	15 / 14	Cloud cover (Oktas 0-8)	4	Temperature (°C start and end)
									x			
Species - (CP=common pipistrelle, SP=soprano pipistrelle, LE=long-eared, N=Noctule, S=Serotine, M=Myotis, U=Unknown)												
Activity type - (E = Emergence, R = Return to roost, C = Commuting, F = Foraging, S = Socialising)												
Check moonphase at https://moonphases.co.uk/ . Lux reading (Chest height, N, S, E, W)												
Time	Species	Number of bats	Seen/not seen (S/NS)	Time	Species	Notes						
21:32	49 KHZ	1	Seen	Commuting	South-east	Flew towards Rob (over bridge) – recorded by Rob						
21:33	49 KHZ	1	Seen	Commuting	South-east	Flew towards Rob (over bridge) – not recorded by Rob (vi)						
21:36	41 KHZ	1	Seen	Commuting	South-east	Flew towards Rob (over bridge) – recorded by Rob						
21:41	47	1	Not seen									
21:42	48	1	Not seen	Foraging								

21:53	45	1	Seen	Foraging	South-east	
21:57	46	1	Seen	Foraging	South-east	
21:59	47	1	Seen	Foraging	South-east	
22:02	47	2	Seen	Foraging	South-east	
22:09	47	1	Seen	Foraging	South-east	
22:13	Common pipistrelle	1	Not seen		Common pipistrelle	
22:14	Common pipistrelle	1	Not seen		Common pipistrelle	

Project		Stairfoot		Building reference		bridge underside			
Surveyor		Harvey Yates		Date		20/05/2026			
Survey no		1		Survey start/end times		20:42 - 22:39			
Sunset/rise time		20:29		Equipment reference e.g. BLA, BLM, Lux metre		WF IR2			
Surveyor-Easting, Northing				Surveyor location					
General weather conditions		Calm & warm						Moon-phase	
Limitations									
Temperature (°C start and end)	15 / 14	Cloud cover (Oktas 0-8)	2/8	Wind (Beaufort 0-12)	0	Rain (0-5)	0	Lux level (survey end)	
Species - (CP=common pipistrelle, SP=soprano pipistrelle, LE=long-eared, N=Noctule, S=Serotine, M=Myotis, U=Unknown)									
Activity type - (E = Emergence, R = Return to roost, C = Commuting, F = Foraging, S = Socialising)									
Check moonphase at https://moonphases.co.uk/ . Lux reading (Chest height, N, S, E, W)									
Time	Species	Number of bats	Seen/not seen (S/NS)	Activity type	Direction of flight	Notes			
						No bats recorded			
Species - (CP=common pipistrelle, SP=soprano pipistrelle, LE=long-eared, N=Noctule, S=Serotine, M=Myotis, U=Unknown)									
Activity type - (E = Emergence, R = Return to roost, C = Commuting, F = Foraging, S = Socialising)									

SURVEY 2: 26 MAY 2026 EMERGENCE SURVEY RESULTS

Project	Stairfoot		Building reference									
Surveyor	RT		Date	24/06/2026								
Survey no	2		Survey start/end times	21:30/23:30								
Sunset/rise time	21:45		Equipment reference e.g. BLA, BLM, Lux metre	BLM 1533-2237/Yellow camera								
Surveyor-Easting, Northing			Surveyor location	Under Bridge								
General weather conditions	Very sunny and very warm							Moon-phase				
Temperature (°C start and end)	27 / 24	Cloud cover (Oktas 0-8)	0	Wind (Beaufort 0-12)	0	Rain (0-5)	0	Lux level (survey end, each compass direction)	N	S	E	W
Species - (CP=common pipistrelle, SP=soprano pipistrelle, LE=long-eared, N=Noctule, S=Serotine, M=Myotis, U=Unknown)												
Activity type - (E = Emergence, R = Return to roost, C = Commuting, F = Foraging, S = Socialising)												
Check moonphase at https://moonphases.co.uk/ . Lux reading (Chest height, N, S, E, W)												
Time	Species	Number of bats	Seen/not seen (S/NS)	Activity type	Direction of flight	Notes						
22:10	CP	1	s	commuting		Flew high over end of bridge E-W						

Project	Stairfoot	Building reference										
Surveyor	HY	Date	24/06/2026									
Survey no	2	Survey start/end times	21:30/23:30									
Sunset/rise time	21:45	Equipment reference e.g. BLA, BLM, Lux metre										
Surveyor-Easting, Northing			Surveyor location									
General weather conditions	Very sunny and very warm							Moon-phase				
Limitations												
Temperature (°C start and end)	24 / 20	Cloud cover (Oktas 0-8)	1	Wind (Beaufort 0-12)	1	Rain (0-5)	0	Lux level (survey end, each compass direction)	N	S	E	W
Species - (CP=common pipistrelle, SP=soprano pipistrelle, LE=long-eared, N=Noctule, S=Serotine, M=Myotis, U=Unknown)												
Activity type - (E = Emergence, R = Return to roost, C = Commuting, F = Foraging, S = Socialising)												
Check moonphase at https://moonphases.co.uk/ . Lux reading (Chest height, N, S, E, W)												
Time	Species	Number of bats	Seen/not seen (S/NS)	Activity type	Direction of flight	Notes						
22:11	CP	2	S	F	SE	Foraging in vegetation to north east of bridge, including some flight towards mid bridge but returning – not crossing						
22:15	CP	1	S	F	SE	Foraging in vegetation to north east of bridge, including some flight towards near - mid area of bridge, returning – not crossing						
22:17	CP	1	S	COM	NW	Commuted over bridge ~ 4m height (viii)						

22:26	CP	2	S	F	SE	Foraging in vegetation to north east of bridge, including some flight towards near - mid area of bridge, returning – not crossing
22:28	CP	2	S	COM	NW	Commuted over bridge ~ 4m height (X)
22:39	CP	1	S	F	SE	Foraging in vegetation to north east of bridge, including some flight towards near - mid area of bridge, returning – not crossing

APPENDIX 3

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Important Notice: This section contains details of legislation applicable in England and Wales only (i.e. not including Scotland, the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland or the Channel Islands) and is provided for general guidance only. While every effort has been made to represent the current (at the time of writing) situation with respect to the UK's position outside of the EU and to ensure accuracy throughout, this section should not be relied upon as a definitive statement of the law.

Over the past few years, three important bills have been published which are intended to shape how growing pressures on the environment post-Brexit (post-transition period) are tackled. Both the Agriculture Bill and Fisheries Bill gained Royal Assent in November 2020 and are now the Agriculture Act 2020 and Fisheries Act 2020 respectively; and, more recently, the Environment Bill was passed into law in November 2021, becoming the Environment Act 2021. *N.B. as environment policy is a devolved matter, most of this Act applies to England only.*

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AFFORDED TO SPECIES

The objective of the EC Habitats Directive⁶ is to conserve the various species of plant and animal which are considered rare across Europe. The Directive is transposed into UK law by **The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)** and **The 'Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)**.

Various amendments to the 2017 Regulations in England and Wales have been made through the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. These changes came into effect on the 1 January 2021 following the UK's departure from the EU and the end of the Transition Period. The changes are largely limited to 'operability changes' that will ensure the Regulations can continue to have the same working effect as before.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is a key piece of national legislation which implements the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and implements the species protection obligations of Council Directive 2009/147/EC (formerly 79/409/EEC) on the Conservation of Wild Birds (EC Birds Directive) in Great Britain.

Since the passing of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, various amendments have been made, details of which can be found on www.opsi.gov.uk. Key amendments have been made through the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000).

As well as delivering long-term targets to reduce waste and improve resource efficiency and improve air and water quality targets, the **Environment Act 2021** aims to halt the decline of nature by 2030, mandates Biodiversity Net Gain for developments in England and amends the

6 Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to introduce an additional purpose for granting a protected species licence in relation to development which is 'for reasons of overriding public interest'. The Act also introduces the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP), which will be a new public body intended to hold government and public authorities to account, although the government will be able to issue guidance to the OEP on how it enforces policies and legislation.

Some of the key biodiversity elements in the Act that will have a bearing on species protection in the UK include:

- A strengthened biodiversity duty on Local Planning Authorities;
- Biodiversity net gain to ensure developments, including Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP), deliver at least 10% increase in biodiversity;
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies to support a Nature Recovery Network;
- Duty upon Local Authorities to consult on street tree felling;
- Strengthen woodland protection enforcement measures;
- Conservation Covenants;
- Protected Site Strategies and Species Conservation Strategies to support the design and delivery of strategic approaches to deliver better outcomes for nature;
- Introduces the power for the Habitats Regulations to be amended or 'refocused' to 'to deliver creative public policy thinking that delivers results'.

This section does not provide further detail on the Environment Act 2021 as, at the time of writing (November 2021), the Act, in its final form, has not been published and it remains to be seen how and when the various elements will be enacted at a national and local level.

Other legislative Acts affording protection to wildlife and their habitats include:

Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975

Deer Act 1991

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996

Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000

Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Species and species groups that are protected or otherwise regulated under the aforementioned legislation, and that are most likely to be affected by development activities, include herpetofauna (amphibians and reptiles), badger, bats, birds, dormouse, invasive species, otter, plants, red squirrel, water vole and white clawed crayfish.

Explanatory notes relating to species protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), which includes smooth snake, sand lizard, great crested newt, natterjack toad, all bat species, otter, dormouse and some plant, invertebrate and fish species,

are given below. **These should be read in conjunction with the relevant species sections that follow.**

In the Habitats Directive, the term 'deliberate' is interpreted as being somewhat wider than intentional and may be thought of as including an element of recklessness.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) does not define the act of 'migration' and therefore, as a precaution, it is recommended that short distance movement of animals for e.g. foraging, breeding or dispersal purposes are also considered where relevant.

In order to obtain a mitigation licence for species protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), the application must demonstrate that it meets all of the following three 'tests': i) the action(s) are necessary for the purpose of preserving public health or safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequence of primary importance for the environment; ii) that there is no satisfactory alternative and iii) that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

Bats

All species of bat are fully protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) through their inclusion on Schedule 2. Regulation 41 prohibits:

Deliberate killing, injuring or capturing of Schedule 2 species (e.g. all bats)

Deliberate disturbance of bat species as:

a) to impair their ability:

to survive, breed, or reproduce, or to rear or nurture young;

to hibernate or migrate

b) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species

Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place

Keeping, transporting, selling, exchanging or offering for sale whether live or dead or of any part thereof.

Bats are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) in respect to sub-sections 9 (4) (b) and (c) and 9 (5) through their inclusion on Schedule 5. Under this Act, they are additionally protected from:

Intentional or reckless disturbance while in their place of shelter (at any level)

Intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection

Selling, offering or exposing for sale, possession or transporting for purpose of sale.

How is the legislation pertaining to bats liable to affect development works?

The appropriate licence issued by the relevant countryside agency (e.g. Natural England, Natural Resources Wales) will be required for works liable to affect a bat roost or for operations likely to result in a level of disturbance which might impair their ability to undertake those activities mentioned above (e.g. survive, breed, rear young and hibernate). The licence is to derogate from the relevant legislation but also to enable appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place and their efficacy to be monitored.

Though there is no case law to date, the legislation may also be interpreted such that, in certain circumstances, important foraging areas and/or commuting routes can be regarded as being afforded protection, for example, where it can be proven that the continued usage of such areas is crucial to maintaining the integrity and long-term viability of a bat roost⁷.

7 Garland & Markham (2008) Is important bat foraging and commuting habitat legally protected? Mammal News, No. 150. The Mammal Society, Southampton.