Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

LEAPINGS VIEW, LEAPINGS LANE, THURLSTONE.

OS REF: SE 2272 0312.

BAT SURVEY.

Ref No: **220213.**

Date: **7th February 2022.**

Cliff Edge, Cliff Road, Darfield, Barnsley, S73 9HR.
Tel. 01226 753271.
info@whitcher-wildlife.co.uk www.whitcher-wildlife.co.uk
Company No. 4401613.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page Number
1. INTRODUCTION.	**3**
2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.	**4**
3. SURVEY RESULTS.	**6**
4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.	**8**
5. RECOMMENDATIONS.	**9**
6. REFERENCES.	**10**
Appendix I. BAT INFORMATION.	**12**

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans for the development of an area of land at the end of Leapings Lane in Thurlstone. The buildings on site are planned to be demolished.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd was therefore commissioned to carry out a bat survey of three buildings on the site to update a previous bat survey carried out in 2015 and to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works.

1.3. This survey was carried out on 4th February 2022 and this report outlines the findings of that survey 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.

****

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 fascia's 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 Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition)*, with an assessment of the buildings suitability for roosting bats made in accordance with these guidelines.

2.6. This survey was carried out by Jenny Whitcher Roebuck MCIEEM. Since 2001 Jenny has had experience in a professional capacity as a Wildlife Consultant carrying out Ecology Surveys and Phase 1 Habitat surveys. Jenny holds Natural England Survey Licences in respect of bats, great crested newts, crayfish and barn owls, NRW and SNH Survey Licences in respect of bats and great crested newts. She has also successfully completed a number of courses run by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and the Field Studies Council (FSC) in the relative protected species, plant species and in carrying out Phase 1 Habitat Surveys. As a full member of CIEEM she is committed to continuous professional development, a continual process of learning and career development, a condition of CIEEM membership.

****

3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. A desktop data search was requested from South Yorkshire Bat Group for records of bats and bat roosts within 2km of the survey area.

3.1.2. There are no records specific to the survey area. The nearest records lie 250m to the southeast and are bat callout records from 2015 and 2016. The nearest roost record lies 550m to the north in a quarry and was recorded in 2016.

3.2. Site Description.

3.2.1. The survey area are the three buildings on the area of land at the end of Leapings Lane in Thurlstone. Each building has been given a number and are shown below.



3.2.2. The site is bordered by grazing land and pockets of woodland with residential housing in the wider surrounding area. The aerial photograph below shows the survey area and the wider surrounding area.



3.3. Daytime Survey Results.

3.3.1. **Building 1** has two stories and is constructed from brick and has been rendered. The building has a corrugated pitched roof with no loft space. The building is generally in a good condition with just the rendering missing from the east and north elevations. All windows are in place and sealed. There are some gaps around the large metal double doors, although these do not provide roosting potential.



3.3.1.1. No bats or bat field signs were identified around Building 1 and the building is assessed as having **negligible** potential for roosting bats. No bird nests were identified.

3.3.2. **Building 2** is a large open barn attached to Building 1 on the west elevation. The barn is constructed from partial brick and breeze block walls with wooden and metal corrugated cladding with a corrugated metal and plastic sloping roof and is open to the roof. The barn is currently used as storage.




3.3.2.1. No bats or bat field signs were identified around Building 2 and the building is assessed as having **negligible** potential for roosting bats. No bird nests were identified.

3.3.3. **Building 3** is a single storey barn that is constructed from partial breeze block walls and metal corrugated cladding. The barn has a slopping corrugated steel roof with no loft space and is currently used for storage. On the northern elevation there is a timber built extension with a steel, corrugated, pitched roof.




3.3.3.1. No bats or bat field signs were identified around Building 2 and the building is assessed as having **negligible** potential for roosting bats. No bird nests were identified.

****

4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1. Building 1 is generally in good condition with no features suitable for roosting bats.

4.2. Buildings 2 and 3 are of construction that is generally unsuitable for roosting bats.

4.3. All three buildings are assessed as providing **negligible** potential for roosting bats with no bats or bat field signs identified.

4.4. No signs of nesting birds were identified during this survey.

****

5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. No bat roost was identified in the buildings during the survey. Therefore, there is no requirement for any further surveys or for a Natural England licence.

5.2. Nevertheless, individual bats can seek temporary shelter almost anywhere and therefore it is recommended that conversion of the existing buildings is undertaken with due 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 should be contacted for further advice.

5.3. It is recommended that during development of the site at least two integrated bat boxes are installed in two of the new buildings to provide bat roosting opportunities.

****

Prepared by:	
Jenny Whitcher Roebuck MCIEEM.	Date: 7th February 2022.

Checked by:	
Derek Whitcher, BSc, MCIEEM, MCMI	Date: 7th February 2022.

6. REFERENCES.

Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. 2017. ***Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Second Edition.*** CIEEM, Hampshire.

Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. 2017. ***Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing, Second Edition.*** CIEEM, Hampshire.

1981. ***Wildlife and Countryside Act.*** *http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69* (accessed 18/02/16)

2000. ***Countryside and Rights of Way Act.*** *http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents.*

2017. ***The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations.*** *http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made.*

2012. ***National Planning Policy Statement.*** *https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2*

Anon. 1995. ***Biodiversity: the UK Steering Group report. Vol 2: Action Plans.*** HMSO, London.

Collins J. (ed.) 2016. ***Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good Practice Guidelines.*** 3rd ed. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

English Nature. 2004. ***Bat Mitigation Guidelines.*** English Nature, Peterborough, UK.

BTHK 2018. ***Bat Roosts in Trees – A Guide to Identification and Assessment for Tree-Care and Ecology Professionals.*** Exeter: Pelagic Publishing.

****

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 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.