Bat and Breeding Bird Survey Report	
For:	**Coda Studios Ltd**
Site	Grove Hill School Barnsley South Yorkshire S71 1EU
Date:	September 2014

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Client:	Coda Studios Ltd
Site Name:	Grove Hill School, Barnsley S71 1EU
Grid Reference:	SE 35247 06319
Report:	Bat and Breeding Bird Survey Report
Date of survey:	September 2014
Surveyed by:	**Helen Holford** Natural England Bat Licence Bat survey class: CLS02997 **Natasha Estrada** Bsc (Hons), MRes, CMIEEM, Natural England Bat Licence Bat survey class: CLS02740

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Summary:

The building formerly a primary school on Grove Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire is confirmed as a small Common Pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* bat day/transitional roost.

As a result proportionate mitigation will be needed to facilitate the development in respect of European Protected Species. A European protected species mitigation licence will need to be obtained from Natural England to legally facilitate the demolition.

A no bird passerine nests were recorded within the site. As a result no mitigation will be required in respect of breeding birds.

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1. Introduction and Background to the Site

1.1. A bat survey is required to satisfy an application for demolition of the former infant school and primary school at Grove Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S71 1EU. The buildings are to be demolished to allow development of 33 dwellings on the site.

1.2. The site compromises of a former infant and primary school and is located in Barnsley, off Grove Street, South Yorkshire close to the city centre and opposite Barnsley Football Ground. The central OS grid reference is recorded as SE 35247 06319.

2. Protected Species Legislation

2.1. All species of bat and their breeding sites or resting places (roosts) are protected under Regulation 41 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is an offence for anyone intentionally to kill, injure or handle a bat, to possess a bat (whether live or dead), disturb a roosting bat, or sell or offer a bat for sale without a licence. It is also an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter, whether they are present or not.

2.2. Relevant legislation includes the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), which states that all birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law. Special considerations of Schedule 1 birds and European protected species should be made.

3. Survey and Site Assessment

3.1 Existing information on bats, *(all species)* at the survey site

A national biodiversity network gateway search was conducted for bat records within the area. Furthermore Sheffield City Council biological records centre who hold records for Barnsley were contacted for bat records held for the site and a 2km radius.

Records for three species of Chiroptera; Common pipistrelle, *pipistrellus pipistrellus,* Soprano pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and Daubenton's, *Myotis daubentonii* are held within 2km of the site.

3.1. Status of bats in the local / regional area

Consultation would suggest that bat species of local provenance are common but generally under recorded in the local area.

3.2. Objectives of the survey

The objective of this survey was to establish the presence or likely absence of bats and whether bats (all species) were using the buildings on the site for roosting or as a place of shelter and if present to identify to species level, determine the population size and nature of the roost.

3.3. The occupation by birds of all species was noted and the activity level assessed.

3.5. Survey areas

3.5.1 The former infant school at Grove Street, Barnsley (to the east of the site)

The building is currently vacant and in good condition, it is primarily constructed from brick with a slate roof. A small number of areas of mortar between the brickwork is absent in places providing suitable cracks and fissures that bats could utilise.

The slate roof has few areas with loose tiles. Such areas can provide potential access for bats in which to enter the property and roost behind the under felt and within cavities.

Due to the height of the access hatch into the roof space survey of this area was not possible.

3.5.2 The former primary school at Grove Street, Barnsley (to the west of the site)

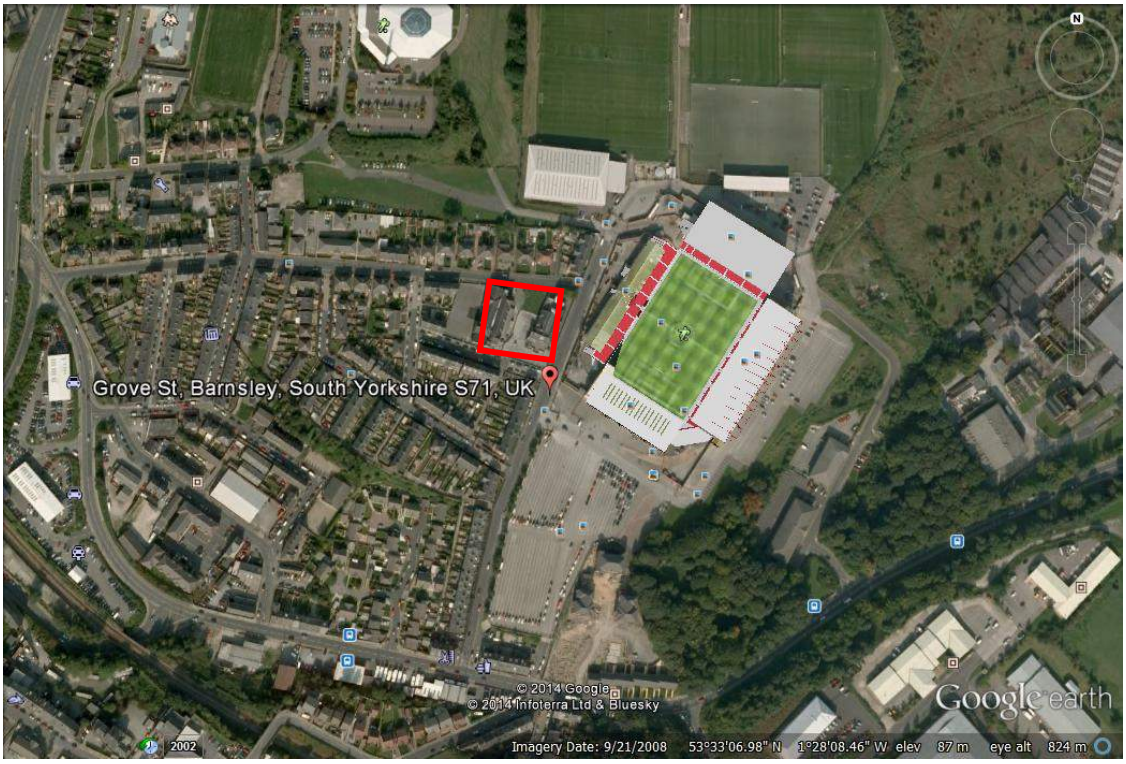
The building is currently being used as a storage area. It is primarily constructed from stone with a slate roof. The stone work is in a good state of repair with a small number of areas of mortar between the stone is absent in places providing suitable cracks and fissures for access and egress that bats could utilise for entry and exit of the building.

The slate roof is in a state of disrepair and shows a number of areas with loose and absent tiles. Such areas can provide potential access for bats to enter the property and roost gaps in wooden joists and within cavities in mortar.

Internally the roof has roof timbers exposed with no under felt. A number of internal potential roosting areas were recorded where gaps between wooden joists existed and mortar was absent.

The building including roof void was fully accessible for survey.

Figure 1: The site in its wider setting rural setting (site shown with red keyline).



4.0 Survey Methodology

4.1 Daytime survey (all structures)

Where accessible all cracks and fissures in the buildings were examined using an explorer premium image recording endoscope and close focusing binoculars. Particularly attention was shown around roof beams and junctions of exposed timbers.

Windows, window sills where present and any debris were examined for bat field signs.

Internally the roof space was accessible in the former primary school for endoscopic camera and visual field sign survey.

An external examination was conducted to identify potential roost sites and access points and any signs of actual occupation such as scratch marks,

droppings, smudge marks, discarded moth wings and urine staining etc.

4.2 Assessment of site and surrounding habitats

The site is located in an urban environment with predominantly dense residential areas to the south and west.

Large areas of optimum foraging habitat, commuting lines and natural roosting opportunities for bats are located 2km to the north and east of the site.

- Dearne Valley Park, a Local Nature Reserve has areas of amenity grassland, two large water bodies a mosaic of wetland habitats and pockets of broadleaved woodland.
- Approximately 2km east of the site the broadleaved woodland of Scorah Woods provides good foraging habitat for bats.
- The Fleets a 10 acre tree-lined fishing lake lies approximately 1.5km from the site to the northwest.
- The tree-lined Barnsley Canal and River Dearne approximately 0.6km from the site run north to southeast providing a major wildlife corridor with foraging, commuting lines and natural roosting opportunities for bats.

4.3 Emergence survey

For each survey the surveyors operated a Bat Box Duet and Bat Box II detectors an Anabat SD2 static detector was also used to record bat passes and activity on the site.

Where possible, species were identified from contacts, and if the bat was seen, visual cues were used to aid identification.

All bat passes and contacts were recorded on to field maps. Where possible the behaviour of the bat was also recorded, to further inform of the use of the site. The number of bats observed was also recorded.

Bat activity is strongly affected by weather conditions and surveys were conducted in suitable weather conditions as outlined within the Bat survey guidelines 2nd edition. All surveys were undertaken in dry and calm conditions, during which bats are most likely to be active.

Emergence surveys were conducted during suitable weather conditions as outlined in Natural England bat mitigation guidelines 2004 and BCT guidelines 2007 and 2012). The emergence surveys commenced half an hour before dusk and ended over two hours after dark in order to encompass the emergence times of different species within the locality.

4.4 Timing

The initial survey was conducted on the 29th August 2014. This is a viable period to survey buildings of this type.

Activity surveys were conducted throughout September 2014 during suitable weather conditions as outlined in table 1.

4.5 **Table 1:** Emergence survey timings and conditions

Date of survey	Temperature ◦C	Start time	End time	Weather conditions
1st September 2014	17	19:25	22:00	Dry, 0.00mm precipitation, NW 10mph wind speed
15th September 2014	16	18.50	21:25	Dry, 0.00mm precipitation, NE 5mph wind speed
29th September 2014	15	18.20	21.55	Dry, 0.00mm precipitation, SE 7mph wind speed

4.6 Personnel

The internal and external surveys were carried out by bat ecologist Helen Holford (Natural England bat licence CLS02997) Qualifying member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and Natasha Estrada (Natural England bat licence CLS02740) who is a full member of CIEEM.

The activity surveys were conducted with further staff positioned on each aspect of the building. Upon bats being identified proportionate survey effort was employed in order to maximise effort and results.

5.0 Survey Findings

5.1 The former infant school, Grove Street, Barnsley

The building is in a good state of repair and currently vacant.

All suitable entrance points for bats were surveyed as well as where present windows, window sills, walls and stationary objects for bat field signs. The roof space was not available for survey due to access issues.

No field signs to indicate the presence of bats was recorded within this building. No bats were recorded in situ.

A small number of emergence and re-entry points were highlighted during the inspection survey; gaps or missing slates and cracks and missing mortar within stonework as potential entrances and exit points for bats.

No bats were observed emerging from this building during any of the activity surveys.

5.2 The former primary school, Grove Street, Barnsley

The building is in a state of disrepair and currently used as a storage area.

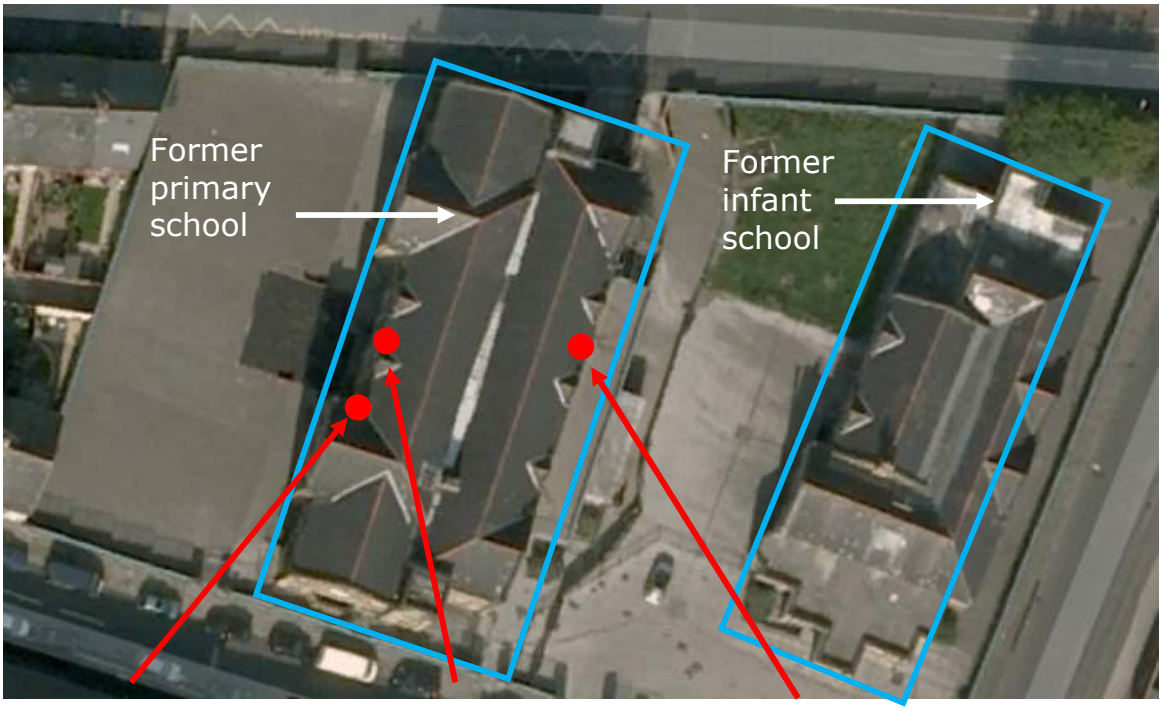
All suitable entrance points for bats were surveyed as well as where present windows, window sills, walls and stationary objects for bat field signs.

The roof space was available for survey, all areas where gaps between joists and areas of missing mortar in stonework were available for endoscopic survey.

No field signs to indicate the presence of bats was recorded within this building. No bats were recorded in situ. .

A number of potential emergence and re-entry points were highlighted during the inspection survey. A peak count of six Common pipistelle, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* bats were observed emerging from lifted / loose slates during activity surveys see Figure 2 for locations.

Figure 2: Location of bats emerging during activity.



5.3 Common pipistrelle roost

The former primary school, Grove Street, Barnsley building is confirmed as being used as small Common pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* bat transitional/day roost. Bats were observed emerging from missing or gaps in slate tiles from three locations of the building on the north eastern aspect of the property.

Roost classification: Transitional/day

6.0 Interpretation and evaluation

6.1 The surveys produced evidence to suggest use of the former primary school building on Grove Street, Barnsley as being used by one species of bat. Under current proposals one species of bat Common pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* is affected by the proposed demolition of the building.

6.2 Bat contacts from non emerging species were recorded as being low throughout the activity surveys with only a small number of Common pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* bat passes being recorded.

6.3 The site is located within 2km of an area of optimal foraging habitat, natural roosting opportunities and commuting lines.

6.4 The site is subject to overspill from artificial lighting both from street lighting and Barnsley Football Club on evening match fixtures.

6.5 The building shows limited suitability for hibernacula use predominantly due to thermal fluctuations.

6.6 No breeding bird nests were recorded in either building at the time of survey.

7.0 Site Status Assessment

7.1 The northern aspect roof space of the former primary school, Grove Street, Barnsley property is confirmed as a transitional/day roost for Common Pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* bat.

7.2 A number of access and egress points were recorded within the roof tiles and to a small extent within the stonework and windows of the former primary school.

7.3 No breeding bird nests were recorded on site.

8.0 Ecological constraints

8.1 Surveys were conducted during sub-optimum timings, however within recommended BCT guidelines (2007 and 2012) for activity surveys. Weather conditions were within BCT guidelines recommended for activity surveys.

8.2 The roof space of the former infant school was unavailable for survey. All areas of the former primary school were fully

accessible for endoscopic and field sign survey.

9.0 Assessment of Impacts

9.1 Based on the survey results the building and areas identified herein are confirmed to be used by bats. As such a suitable mitigation strategy will need to be employed in order to stay within the legislation awarded to the species.

9.2 Without a suitable mitigation strategy proposed demolition of the former primary school is likely to have an impact on bats and contravene current legislation.

10.0 Mitigation

10.1 Mitigation is required to avoid or reduce the impact of development proposals on the population of bats present, either roosting or feeding. Licences maybe required where a roost site is threatened in some way by a scheme.

10.2 Under current plans impacts on bats and their roosts are predicted. As a result for any works to commence a method statement should be produced outlining a proposed mitigation strategy in respect of bats. An EPS licence will need to be obtained from Natural England prior to demolition.

10.3 The method statement should be adhered to during refurbishment works.

10.4 No works should commence on the property until a method statement has been compiled by a suitably qualified ecologist and an EPS licence in respect of bats has been obtained from Natural England.

11.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

11.1 One species of bat was recorded emerging during activity surveys from the former

primary school, Grove Street, Barnsley.

11.2 A mitigation strategy will be required to facilitate the works along with an EPS licence obtained from Natural England.

Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this report and its contents in view of potential ecological constraints to development or the likely presence or absence of species it must only be viewed as a snap shop in time and therefore not be viewed as definitive. Due to external factors such as seasonality, weather etc having the potential to affect survey results no liability can be assumed for omissions or changes that may or may not occur after the date this report was produced.

Appendix One

Locations 1 and 2, the northern aspect of the former primary school, Grove Street, Barnsley with access and egress points highlighted in red.



Appendix two: Location 1



Location 2



Appendix three: Location 3, the southern aspect of the former primary school, Grove Street, Barnsley with access and egress point highlighted in red.

