



Bat Survey

Furlong Road Methodist Church, Bolton

Survey carried out by:
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Survey site:
Furlong Road Methodist Church
Bolton upon Dearne
Barnsley.

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Report Prepared by Chris Needham BSc. (Hons.) MSc. MIEEM

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All information regarding the location of protected species is highly confidential and must not be circulated beyond that which is strictly necessary.

This report has been produced in a concise and unambiguous format to assist clear decision making.

The survey findings are a true representation of the conditions found at the survey site on the date and time of the survey.

1.0 Report Summary

The bat survey at Furlong Road Methodist Church, Bolton upon Dearne found bats were roosting in a section of the building that is to remain intact. Bats were not seen or detected leaving the section of the building that is to be demolished.

Opportunities for ecological enhancement schemes for bats should be investigated within the new roof structure.

2.0 Introduction

Ecoloserve Ltd. was commissioned by David Ryan to carry out a bat survey on Furlong Road Methodist Church, Bolton upon Dearne.

A section of the church is to be demolished. The rest of the church is to be sold for renovation into a living accommodation.

This survey is a follow up of a bat survey carried out by Karen Larkin. The objective of this survey was to gauge whether the section of the church that is to be demolished was used, had been used, or potentially could be used by roosting bats.

3.0 Surveyor/s

The survey was carried out by:

Christopher Needham BSc (Hons.) MSc. MIEEM.

Natural England bat licence 20114537.

Karen Larkin. Assistant ecologist. Injured Bat Care Coordinator for the South Yorkshire Bat Group. Natural England bat licence 20121336.

4.0 Status of Bats as a Protected Species

All bats in the United Kingdom are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.) Regulations 1994. It is an offence to damage or destroy any bat roost, intentionally or recklessly obstruct a bat roost, deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat or intentionally kill, injure or take any bat. Please refer to the original Acts for precise wording. It is stressed that bat roosts are protected against damage, destruction or obstruction, irrespective of whether or not bats are present at the time, and that current guidance issued by Natural England state that once bats have occupied a roost, it is, under normal circumstances, protected indefinitely.

5.0 Survey Conditions and Methods

| Survey date 2012 | Sunset (Approximate) | Weather |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 14th September | 19:23 | 16°C. Feeling quite warm. Bright sunny day. Cloud cover 8/8 then clearing to 2/8. Moderate blustery westerly wind. Dry. |
| | | |

During the survey the whole perimeter and the interior of the building was examined for signs of bats and potential bat access / exit points during daylight hours. There was no access to the roof space in the church. At dusk surveys were made using bat detectors to determine if bats were using any part of the building, what flight paths were used and what feeding areas were used.

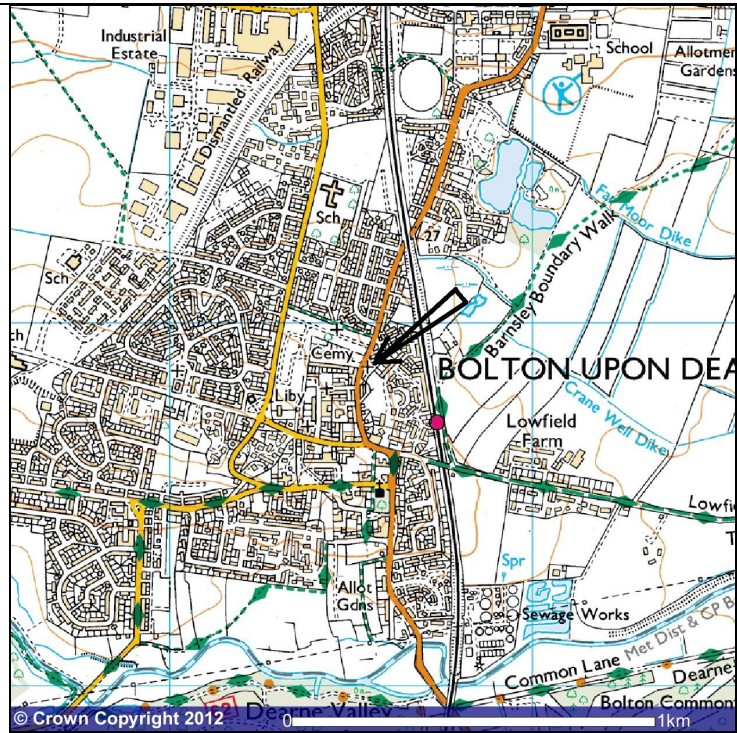
Equipment taken to the site consisted of:

- Ladders (not used)
- CB2 Clubman million candle power lamp
- Head lamp
- Compass
- Canon A710 camera
- GPS eTrex
- Tally counter (not used)
- Opticron Verano BGA 8X32 close focus binoculars
- Endoscope, Ridgid SeeSnake Micro CA-100 (not used)
- EM3 Bat Detector
- Magenta Bat4 detector

6.0 Location of the Survey Area

Survey area can be found at grid reference SE 45544 02874.

Survey area indicated by black arrow.



Aerial view of the church.

Church marked in yellow.



7.0 Photographs with Comments

Furlong Road Methodist Church.
Bolton upon Dearne.



Front of the church.



Front of the church.

Right of the red line indicates the
section of the building that is to
be demolished.



Interior of the main section of the church that is to remain intact.



Very high ceilings of the main section of the church.



Interior of the room to be demolished.



Very high ceilings in the room to be demolished.



Room that is to be demolished.



Small access hatch into the roof space.
There was no access into the roof space due to the height of the access hatch above the ground level.

The high ceiling indicates that there is only a small area of roof space.



South facing exterior of the church. This section of the church is to be demolished.



Rear of the church.
This section of the church is to remain intact.



Rear of the church.
Yellow arrows pointing to areas where bats were seen to leave or enter the building (information received from Karen Larkin).



8.0 Bat Ecology Information

Bats do not build a nest they just simply enter a space and roost there. Bats are not flying rodents such as mice. Unlike mice, bats are long lived and only have one sometimes two young per year. From April through to June female bats come together to have their young in maternity roosts. These particular roost sites are warm and sheltered away from the wind and rain. Bats are capable of entering buildings through holes a couple of centimetres wide. From spring through to autumn the location of the roost site can switch from one site to another for no apparent reason. At this time of year the roost site is high up in a roof space of a building or in a tree away from disturbances and predators.

9.0 Results of the Survey

Information received from Karen Larkin. Bat survey carried out on 21st August 2012. Four common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) were seen flying around the church. One of these was seen to emerge from the rear of the church via a fascia and another was observed entering the building at the rear of the church via a slit opening at the top of the building.

Survey carried out on the 14th September.

During the daylight inspection; there was no indication that bats were using the section of the church that is to be demolished.

During the evening survey; there was no indication that bats were using the section of the church that is to be demolished.

At 20.02: a common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) 45kHz detected flew from a westerly direction over the newly built church hall.

10.0 Evaluation and Recommendations

Bats were not seen or detected to leave or enter the section of the church that is to be demolished. However, (per: Karen Larkin) bats are present in another part of the church building. Extreme care has to be adopted here. Although the rear of the church and the part of the church to be demolished are distant from one another there is nothing to indicate that the roof spaces are not interconnected.

It is therefore recommended that a further examination is made by a suitably qualified ecologist just prior to the removal of the interior sections of the roof and when scaffold is erected to remove the roof tiles. If bats are not found then work can then proceed with care. Roof tiles are to be removed carefully by hand. Builders carrying out this work must be made fully aware of their responsibility if they encounter roosting bats. It is always stressed that in the event that bat/s are found within the structure of the building while work is in progress, work should stop immediately in that area and advice sought from an ecological consultant or Natural England.

After the section of the church has been demolished there are plans to sell the rest of the church so it can be used as a living accommodation. The rear of the church is a recognized bat roost.

This area of the church roof cannot be altered in any way without a Natural England mitigation bat license.

Such a license is acquired by a suitably qualified ecologist.

11.0 Ecological Enhancement Opportunities

In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government published the National Planning Policy Framework. This sets out planning policies on protection of biodiversity through the planning system. The document states - *opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged.*

As part of this development, opportunities should be explored to incorporate enhancement schemes for roosting bats.

Ecological enhancement schemes would require consultation between the architect for the development and an ecological consultant.

12.0 References

Hundt L (2012) *Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines*, 2nd edition, Bat Conservation Trust.

Mitchell-Jones A.J. McLeish, A.P. (2004) *Bat Workers Manual* (3rd Edition). Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

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Williams, C. (2010) *Biodiversity for Low and Zero Carbon Buildings, A Technical Guide for New Build*. Riba Publishing.