



Bat Emergence Survey

Former Calvert Carpets, Hutton Bank, Ripon

Report reference: R-3628-02

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Summary Statement

Emergence survey has been able to demonstrate the likely absence of roosts within on-site buildings hence no further survey or precaution is required in this respect.

Introduction

1. Subsequent to the recommendations made in Brooks Ecological's Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (R-3628-01), detailed bat survey was commissioned on two buildings within the former Calvert Carpets site off Hutton Bank in Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 5DT, Grid Ref. SE 3185 7225.
2. Information relating to local and legal status is provided in report R-3628-01 and is not repeated here. These two reports should be read together.

Method

3. Survey and assessment were directed by Christopher Shaw BSc (Hons) MCIEEM. Chris has over 8 years' experience of carrying out bat surveys in a professional capacity and is registered to use the new Class Survey Licence WML CL18 (Bat Survey Level 2). He is an active member of the West Yorkshire Bat Group and West Yorkshire Bat Care Scheme.
4. Brooks Ecological specialise in bat surveys ranging from individual buildings through to complex sites requiring numerous visits with large teams. In terms of the survey effort, number of personnel required, and number of visits required to be able to properly evaluate the building(s) use by bats we refer to the Bat Conservation Trust, Survey Good Practice Guidelines (2016). However, these guidelines are not prescriptive, and we approach each site individually as required using our professional judgement and significant experience base.
5. In this case, a single visit with a team of up to 5 surveyors, was deemed necessary to fully evaluate the potential use of the site for roosting. This survey was carried out in August 2018, with surveyors positioned around the two buildings, to cover all aspects where bats could potentially emerge, and to establish general levels of bat activity around the site. Conditions and dates are summarised in table 1 below:

Table 1 Survey summary

Survey Date	Survey type	Weather	Invertebrate activity
30.08.19	Emergence (sunset - 20:00)	16-14 °C. Dry. Calm. Part cloud.	Low

6. The surveyors, using heterodyne detectors, were in place at least half an hour before dusk and left once all species of bat would be expected to have left a roost and patterns of activity within the site had been appraised.

Results

7. Bat activity was found to be very low throughout the survey. The first bat of the evening, a common pipistrelle, was seen at 20:10 (10 minutes after sunset). This was clearly seen to enter the Site from the north, along the mature boundary tree line (see figure 1 below), and then remained on Site for the duration of the survey.
8. A short time after, two more bats followed the same flight path into the Site and also remained on Site, with foraging focussed along the eastern elevation of of building 1, but with occasional passed around building 1 and 3.
9. At no point were any bats seen or suspected to emerge from either of the surveyed buildings.



Figure 1

Bat emergence drawing

Evaluation & Recommendations

10. Following emergence survey work, it is concluded that the buildings are very unlikely to support roosting bats and that further survey effort is not required in support of this conclusion.

General advice

11. Even where surveys have been carried out which demonstrate absence of roosting, site workers should always be aware that bats can move into buildings previously found not to support them. On this basis work should proceed with care and if a bat is found during the proposed demolition, works should stop immediately, and a professional ecologist should be contacted.

Ecological Enhancement

12. The UK government's guidance on nature conservation in relation to development (NPPF) makes it clear that opportunities should be sought through their planning system to use development as an opportunity to enhance sites for wildlife where possible. Proposals for residential development could incorporate opportunities for roosting bats, such as integral boxes or adapted roof / ridges tiles – both of which can be easily, and discretely, incorporated into new buildings.

References

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