



Bernard Stilwell

Director
Bernard Stilwell Architects LLP
10 Christina Street
London
EC2A 4PA

Daniel Simmons

Director and Principal Ecologist
Simlaw Ecology Limited
Harrowlands Park
Dorking
Surrey
RH4 2RA

Date: 21 July 2021

Project Reference: SE21-6171

Dear Mr Stilwell,

This letter report provides the background, methodology and findings following the first, dusk bat transect survey carried out by Simlaw Ecology Limited at Old College Lawn Tennis Club, Dulwich on 13 July 2021.

Background

Simlaw Ecology was commissioned Bernard Stilwell Architects in July 2021, to assess the impact of proposed new tennis court being built at the Old College Lawn Tennis Club, 10 Gallery Road, London, SE21 7AB (TQ330734). The proposed development includes removal of two trees (T1 and T2).

The scope of the Bat Activity and Impact Assessment will include two dusk bat activity surveys of the area of land being built into the new proposed tennis court, and passive bat monitoring with a static detector across two months, recording the bat activity between dusk and dawn every night in the Zone of Ecological Impact (ZoEI) of the proposed new tennis court.

Bernard Stilwell Architects and the old College Lawn Tennis Club plan to start works on the new tennis court in March 2022. Simlaw Ecology was therefore commissioned in July 2021 to carry out static monitoring of ZoEI; to advise of any potential ecological constraints of the proposed development; and, to identify any appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures required to avoid unlawful impacts to bats or their roosts resulting from the proposed developments.

Methodology (Ground Based Tree Assessment)

Each of the trees was inspected from ground-level, using close focussing binoculars and, where required, a 1-million candle power spotlight, to identify any Potential bat Roosting Features (PRF). Target PRF's included: knot holes, desiccation fissures, lifted bark, hazard-beams or any other sites of damage, disease or association (e.g., dense ivy cladding), that could create voids or crevices in which bats could roost.

Methodology (Bat Activity Surveys)

The Bat Activity and Impact Assessment will be informed by the findings of two dusk activity surveys, carried out on 13 July and 09 August 2021.

The activity surveys will involve nocturnal observation of bat activity within the Application Site, aiming to capture all activity associated with the habitats within it. Two surveyors will sit at separate ends of the area proposed for the new tennis court, Listening Posts 1 and 2.

Where recorded, bat activity will be categorised as 'Commuting', 'Foraging', 'Social' and 'Song-flight'¹.

Two surveyors will carry out each activity survey. The surveyors will be equipped with an Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro bat detector supported by an Apple iPad Mini 5 interface, on which all bat activity will be recorded. Recordings will be later analysed using Wildlife Acoustics' Kaleidoscope Pro software to aid the identification of species in accordance with the best available literature (Middleton *et al.*, 2016; Russ, 2012). Sonogram stills of each species recorded during the surveys, containing GPS location, date and time of the recording, will be provided in the final report.

Both dusk bat activity surveys will be carried out during the optimum survey period for bats (May – August, inclusive) and in suitable temperature and weather conditions. The dusk bat activity transect surveys will begin at sunset and continue until at least 2-3 hours after sunset.

All survey methods are in accordance with The Bat Conservation Trust's *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines - 3rd Edition* (Collins, J. (ed.) 2016), and *The Bat Worker's Manual* (Mitchell-Jones and McLeish, 2004).

Methodology (Passive Monitoring)

The passive bat monitoring will be carried out using one, Wildlife Acoustics Song Meter 4 (SM4BAT) static bat detectors, placed ~2.5m from ground level on a tree on the boundaries of the Application Site. The detector was placed within the southern boundary of the Application Site facing north into the area of the proposed new tennis court.

The detectors were set to record bat activity between sunset and sunrise on each night between 13 July and 09 August 2021.

Results (Ground Based Tree Assessment: 13 July 2021)

No trees to be removed (T1 and T2) or trees within the ZoEI contained any features that would be suitable to support roosting bats. T1 and T2, and all trees on the boundary of the Application Site, were therefore assessed as having negligible bat roost suitability.

Results (Dusk Bat Transect Survey: 13 July 2021)

Sunset on 13 July was at 21:13. The survey began at 21:13 and finished at 23:13. Weather conditions were suitable, dry, with a minimum ambient air temperature of 18 °C, wind was Beaufort 1-2 and there was 5% cloud cover.

The following bat species were recorded in flight within the Application Site:

¹ During which male bats emit high volumes of social calls in order to denote territory and attract females.

- Common pipistrelle;
- Leisler's bat.

Leisler's bats were recorded five times, with bats of this species heard foraging and commuting in the vicinity of the Application Site. A single Leisler's bat was observed foraging from south to north across the Application Site.

The first Leisler's bat was recorded at 21:28 (15 minutes after sunset). This recording is inside of the anticipated emergence time of this species (Russ, 2012), suggesting that bats of this species are roosting nearby, but not within the Application Site, and commuting to the area to forage.

Common pipistrelles were recorded 25 times, with one bat of this species observed commuting northeast through the south of the Application Site, leaving the Application Site to the east. The remaining recordings of common pipistrelles were of unobserved bats foraging and social calling within audible range of the Application Site but not within the Application Site itself.

No further bat activity was recorded during the survey.

Further Surveys

No further surveys of the trees to be removed (T1 and T2) will be required to inform the assessment.

The single, remaining dusk activity survey will be carried out on 09 August 2021 and the static detector will monitor the bat activity within the Application Site up until this point. The data from all surveys will then be used to determine the impact of the proposed new tennis court on bat activity.

The Bat Activity and Impact Assessment Report will be produced within four weeks of the final bat activity survey.

I trust that this letter provides assurance that sufficient information will be obtained to confirm that the proposed developments can proceed lawfully.

If, however, any party requires any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the team on the details below.

With best wishes,



Daniel Simmons Director and Principal Ecologist

S I M L A W E C O L O G Y

T: 01306 898 400

M: 07745 526 866

E: daniel@simlawecology.uk

www.simlawecology.uk