



LAND AND PARTNERS

BAT EMERGENCE SURVEYS

LAND NORTH OF LONG COPSE LANE

EMSWORTH, HAMPSHIRE

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1 Introduction

In 2016, Prime Environment Limited (Prime Environment) was instructed by Land and Partners (the Client) to undertake bat emergence and re-entry surveys of an area of land north of Long Copse Lane, Emsworth (Ordnance Survey (OS) grid Reference SU 747 079) (The Study Area).

This comprises horse paddocks, ménage, spoil heaps, small woodland copses and a residential property with a garden.

1.1 Aims and Objectives

The aims of the study were to:

- Establish the presence or likely absence of bats within the residential property within the Study Area

Ecological information for the assessment was provided by emergence and re-entry bat surveys.

Information regarding habitats present within the Study Area and discussions and recommendations are presented in a separate Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA).

3 Method

The survey followed current best practice guidelines¹ and were led by Chris Morrell BSc (hons), Chris has over nine years' professional ecology experience, is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and holds a class 2 licence for bat surveys.

This report was finalised and approved by Hayley Farnell MSc BSc hons. Hayley is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and has over 12 year's professional experience within environmental consultancy.

3.1 Bat Emergence and Re-entry Surveys

Survey effort is presented in Table 1. The surveys followed the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) guidelines² for roost counts.

Table 1
Survey Effort

Building ID ^a	Categorisation	Date	Survey Type
B01	High	08/08/2016	Dusk
		30/08/2016	Dawn
		13/09/2016	Dusk

^a Identification number allocated in Phase 1 survey

The dusk surveys began 15 minutes before local sunset and continued for an hour and a half after. The pre-dawn survey commenced an hour and a half before sunrise and finished 15 minutes after sunrise. Surveyors were positioned around the Site so that the features identified in the initial survey could be adequately viewed in low light conditions.

The surveyors observed the buildings for emerging/returning bats and used ultrasonic 'bat detectors' to transpose, listen to and record their echolocation calls. Call characteristics, such as pitch and repetition rate are diagnostic for species, or groups of species. Using a combination of visual observations and the echolocation calls, bats were identified to species or groups in the field and the calls were further analysed using sonogram software after the survey.

3.2 Constraints

Any ecology assessment must be considered as a 'snapshot' of the site conditions at the time of the survey; ecological constraints will change over time and therefore the findings of this report are considered to be valid for a period of one year from the survey, after which the report should be reviewed to assess whether the survey should be repeated.

¹ Froglife (1999) *Advice Sheet 10 Reptile Survey*

² Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (3rd edn). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

4 Results

4.1 Weather Conditions

Weather attributes are presented in Table 2. Overall the surveys were undertaken during optimum conditions for bat activity.

Table 2 – Weather Conditions during Survey

Date	Survey Type	Start Time	End Time	Wind Speed ^a	Cloud Cover (%)	Temperature (°c)
08/08/2016	Dusk	20.22	22.37	2	20	15
30/08/2016	Dawn	04.45	06.15	1	10	9
13/09/2016	Dusk	19.07	21.22	1	20	17

a – Beaufort scale

4.2 Emergence/re-entry surveys

No bats were seen emerging from or re-entering the building from any of the observed points or anywhere else in the field of vision of the surveyors.

Bat activity was extremely low during all the surveys. Three species were recorded (not entering or emerging from the building): common and soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus* and noctule bats *Nyctalus noctula*.

4.3 Conclusion

No bats were observed emerging or re-entering the building during the surveys, undertaken in optimal weather conditions, at Holly Bank Farm in August and September 2016. It is considered unlikely that bats roost within these buildings.

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