

FAO Hannah Murphy

26 Bell Close
Gonerby Hill Foot
Grantham
NG31 8GJ

Reference: 1175/NM/22

Delivered to: hannah_elise@hotmail.com

6th June 2022

Bat Activity Surveys at Highacre, Sutton-Cum-Granby, Nottinghamshire, NG13 9QA

Dear Hannah,

Morph Ecological Consultants would like to provide the details of the recent bat activity surveys required in relation to the planning application reference 22/00135/FUL (Rushcliffe Borough Council) at the above address. It is understood that the proposed works consist of the demolition of the current dwelling and erection of a new dwelling.

The Bat Surveyor carried out a Daytime Bat Survey in February 2022 (The Bat Surveyor 2022¹) of the dwelling and identified features suitable for roosting bats, as well as recording two droppings on a window. As the building was assessed as having 'moderate' bat roosting potential, two bat activity surveys were recommended to determine absence of roosting bats as suggested by the guidelines laid out in the Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines (Collins 2016²).

Methodology

The first survey was carried out by Steve Ralph MSc MCIEEM (bat licence number: 2019-43882-CLS-CLS) and Nikki Morton MSci ACIEEM (bat licence number: 2020-44906-CLS-CLS) on 12th May 2022. The survey was a dusk survey and therefore started 15 minutes prior to sunset (sunset was 20:50) and continued until an hour and a half after sunset. Anabat Scout bat detectors were used to record and hear any bat echolocation calls. The building was observed to identify any bats exit the building and what access features the bats are using.

The second survey was carried out by Nikki Morton MSci ACIEEM (bat licence number: 2020-44906-CLS-CLS) and James Lunt on the 30th May 2022. The survey was a dawn survey and started an hour and a half prior to sunrise (sunrise was at 4:46) and continued until 15 minutes after. Anabat Scout bat detectors were used to record and hear any bat echolocation calls. The building was observed to identify any bats returning to the building and what access features the bats are using. One Sony Handycam DCR-SR72 camera with additional infrared lighting was used during the survey to assist in identifying any potential access features.

The weather was favourable during both surveys. On the first survey, the temperature at sunset was 12°C with dry weather, a light breeze and 90% cloud. On the second survey the temperature at sunrise was 9°C with very light wind and overcast sky.

Continued Overleaf...

¹ **The Bat Surveyor 2021** Highacre, Sutton Lane, Sutton-Cum-Granby, Nottinghamshire, NG13 9QA: *Preliminary Roost Assessment*. A report under contract to Ben Murphy.

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

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Results

Bat Activity

No bats emerged from the building during the first or the second survey.

During the first survey, the first bat recorded was a common pipistrelle bat (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) at 20:57, which was recorded commuting from north of the site. There was fairly frequent foraging from common pipistrelle bats throughout the survey, most of which were recorded foraging along the trees within the garden and around the next-door property, as well as very close to the house. There were three common pipistrelle bats foraging at the same time around the house. The last bat recorded was a common pipistrelle at 21:50 after which there was no more activity.

During the second survey, no bats were recorded.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Evaluation

The building was assessed to have moderate potential for roosting bats and as such two bat activity surveys were carried out of the building. No bats were observed roosting within the building therefore the proposed building works can commence without a European Protected Species licence from Natural England. As bats move roosting sites frequently, if the works have not commenced within a year from this report, repeat surveys may be necessary.

The garden has been seen to be utilised in the early evening by foraging common pipistrelles, and there is likely to be a roost nearby due to the early recording time.

Mitigation Recommendations

The trees in the garden should be retained and lighting should be designed to not illuminate these trees to maintain the garden as a foraging area for bats to use.

Emergency Measures

In the extremely unlikely event that bats are found during the building works, then works must stop immediately and Morph Ecological Consultants should be contacted (Office number: 01773 770772, Nikki's Mobile: 07718 634289 or Steve's Mobile: 07934 890777).

In the first instance, if the bat/bats do not voluntarily fly out, then the tiles should carefully be reinstated as previously (leaving the gaps that were present previously). If this is not possible, then the area should be covered by a contaminant free material to protect the bats from the elements but also still providing a gap for the bats to escape.

If the bat becomes in harms way or the bat appears injured, they should be transferred to a secure ventilated box (e.g. a shoe box) with gaps no greater than a pencil with a tea towel or soft cloth inside. If it is required to handle the bat to put it inside the box, gloves must always be worn to avoid being bitten (due to the small risk of rabies transmission if bitten). The bat should be put in a safe place to await collection.

If anyone is bitten or scratched by a bat, then the area of the bite should be washed immediately with soap and water, and medical advice should be sought immediately.

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Enhancement Recommendations

Suitable enhancements have already been made by the client, in the form of two bat boxes attached to trees in the garden.

Legislation

All bat species are afforded full protection under UK and European legislation, including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Together, this legislation makes it illegal to:

- Intentionally or recklessly take, kill or injure a bat;
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts; and
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb bats.

If you would like to discuss the information contained within this report, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,


James Lunt (Student Member of CIEEM)



Assistant Ecologist
Morph Ecological Consultants Limited

Report approved by:

Nikki Morton MSci ACIEEM



Director
Morph Ecological Consultants Limited