

Preliminary Roost Assessment

of

5 Papermill Lane, Bramford, IP8 4BP

Carried out for:

Mark Ayriss

1st

Prepared by:

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Executive summary

Overview

Abrehart Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Mark Ayriss to carry out a Preliminary Roost Assessment of 5 Papermill Lane, Bramford, IP8 4BP. Proposals are to extend the residential dwelling.

The site was a residential dwelling to the east of Bramford, near Ipswich and the A14. The local landscape includes further residential buildings and associated amenity gardens, along with open agricultural countryside, major carriageways, industrial complexes, woodland blocks, and hedgerows.

A Preliminary Roost Assessment was carried out on the 26th of June 2023 by Alister Killingsworth of Abrehart Ecology Ltd.

Results

The habitats recorded on and adjacent to the site included:

- Buildings
- Grassland
- Hardstanding
- Agricultural fields

The building was considered negligible for roosting bats, therefore, no further bat surveys are recommended.

1. Background to Commission

- 1.1 Abrehart Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Mark Ayriss to carry out a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) of a proposed development at 5 Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Suffolk (central grid reference TM 12952 46624; Fig. 1; hereafter referred to as the Site).
- 1.2 The survey was recommended to ascertain if the building is being /or has to potential to be used by bats, and to comply to the biodiversity requirements for developments.

Aims of Study

- 1.3 This report provides results and recommendations based on a bat roost inspection of one building at the Site. The aim of this study was to:
 - Assess the suitability of the building to support roosting bats;
 - Identify the presence of any evidence of roosting bats, where reasonably possible;
 - Determine, where possible, the likely type of roost present, if any.

Site Description

- 1.4 The Site is located to the east of Bramford, to the north-west of Ipswich and the A14, and is bordered by a row of houses either side. The house is a two-storey rendered brick building with a pitched roof.
- 1.5 The wider landscape has good linear hedgerow features (excellent bat foraging and commuting habitat) amongst agricultural land, grassland, and small pockets of woodland (potential foraging and roosting habitat) (see Appendix II).

MAGiC Site Location

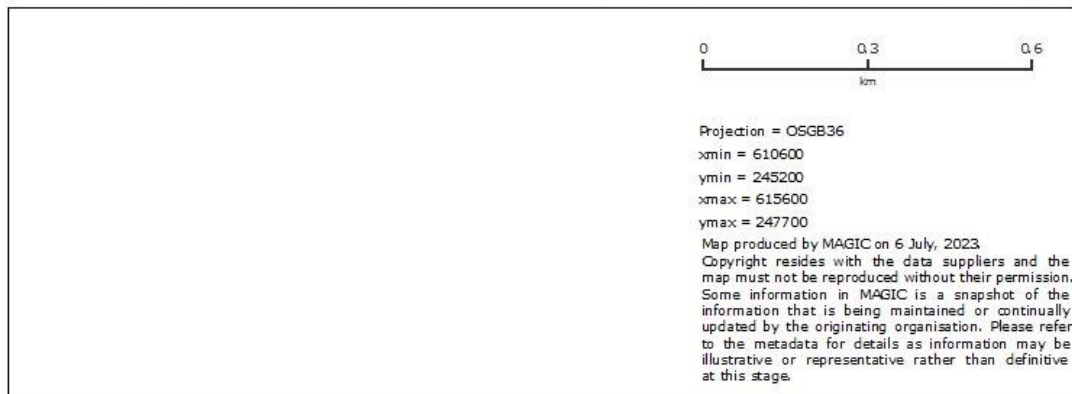
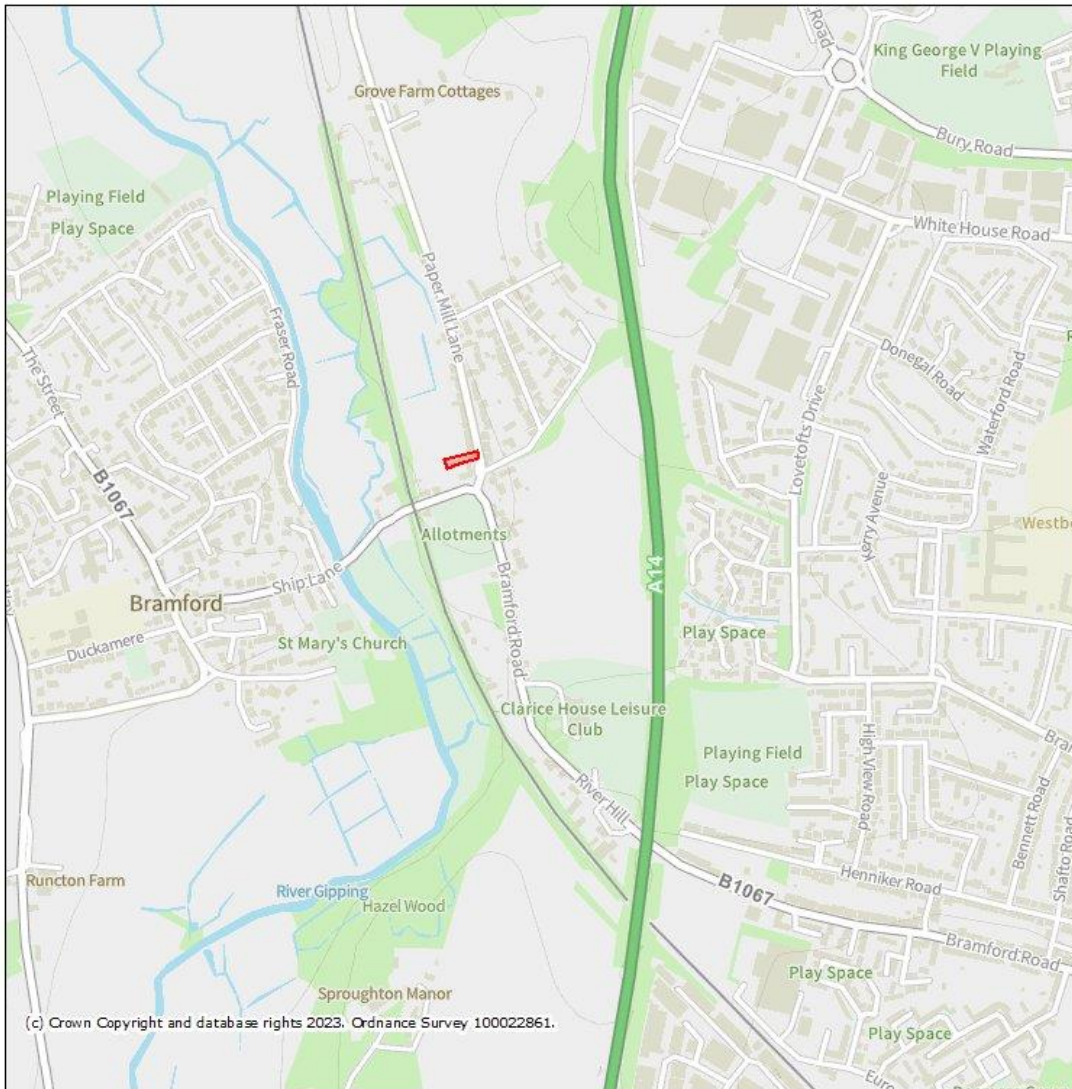


Figure 1. Site location

Relevant Legislation

- 1.6 All bat species and their roosts are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly:
- capture, injure or kill a bat;
 - disturb a bat; and to
 - destroy or obstruct access to a bat roost.
- 1.7 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 places responsibility on Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity in and around developments. Section 40 of the NERC Act requires every public body to “have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”. Biodiversity, as covered by the Section 40 duty, is not confined to habitats and species of principal importance but refers to all species and habitats. However, the expectation is that public bodies would refer to the Section 41 list (of species and habitats) through compliance with the Section 40 duty.
- 1.8 Appendix IV details legislation which protects species and groups relevant to the site (bats and birds).

2. Methods

Desk Study

- 2.1 Data obtained from the Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service (SBIS) and were used to conduct a data search for any information regarding records of this protected and priority species within a 2km radius of the Site. The data was received on the 19th of June 2023.
- 2.2 A 7km radius search for European Designated Sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsars was undertaken using MAGIC.
<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/>.

Field Survey

- 2.3 A Preliminary Roost Assessment was carried out by Alister Killingsworth (Natural England Bat Class Survey Licence Level 1 (WML-CL17) on the 26th of June 2023 in accordance with standard best practice methodology for roost assessments set out by the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT). Weather conditions during the survey were 75% cloud cover, a light breeze (Beaufort Scale 2-3), and a temperature of 21°C, with good visibility for external areas of the building.
- 2.4 The buildings were surveyed externally, and internally where possible, for their suitability to support roosting bats according to Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2016). The buildings were systematically searched for potential bat roost features (PRFs) and any evidence of roosting bats such as fur staining, urine splashes, droppings, smoothness at entry points and feeding remains. A torch and thermal imaging camera were used to investigate accessible features where necessary.

Survey Limitations

- 2.5 Sections of the roof space were not accessible during the survey due to stored materials; therefore, the loft space was observed using a torch where possible but large areas were not fully inspected.

3. Results

3.1 The following section details the results of the desk study and PRA. Consideration has been given to species likely to be found in the habitats recorded on site and potential impacts to designated sites within the local area.

Data Search

3.2 There were 40 records of bats within 2km of the Site from a data request search from Suffolk Biological Information Service (SBIS) see Appendix III.

3.3 Records were scattered from the surrounding landscape and comprised a variety of habitat types, from areas of grassland, grazing marsh, woodland blocks, to residential areas. The nearest of these records was from approximately 130m south of the Site.

3.4 Within 2km of the Site the following species were recorded: Brown long-eared (*Plecotus auratus*), Daubenton's (*Myotis daubentonii*), Leisler (*Nyctalus leisleri*), Noctule (*Nyctalus noctule*), Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), and Serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*).

3.5 A data search of Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) for Granted European Protected Species Applications revealed that there were no approved bat mitigation licences within 2km of the Site, the nearest approved licence was from approximately 2.1km to the south-east of the Site – granted in 2013 and ended in 2015.


3.6 There were no statutory designated sites within 2km of the Site.

3.7 There was one European Conservation Site within 7km of the Site, the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar. This is a wetland of international importance, comprising extensive mudflats, low cliffs, saltmarsh, and small areas of vegetated shingle. It provides habitat for an important assemblage of wetland birds in the non-breeding season and supporting internationally important numbers of wintering and passage wildfowl and waders. The site also holds several nationally scarce plants and British Red Data Book invertebrates.

Field Survey Results

3.8 The survey area included a single unoccupied residential dwelling within the site ownership boundary Figure I shows the location of survey areas within the Site. Recorded potential bat roosting features (PRFs) are detailed in Table 1 below and additional photos can be found in Appendix I.

Table 1: Recorded Features During the PRA

Photo	Description
<p>Exterior</p> 	<p>Single tile with minor damage on Northern aspect.</p> <p>The roof comprised of a pitched pantile roof with ridge tiles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The front aspect roofing was well sealed with no features associated with PRFs. • No gaps were observed around the chimney or under lead flashing. • The eaves were modern, of plastic construction, with no gaps. • Only minor damage to a tile on the northern side of the dwelling. • The walls were rendered brick with no missing mortar or gaps. • There were UPVC windows that were all sealed.



Interior



Access to the roof space was limited due to it being used for storage.

- The loft space had exposed rough wooden beams. These could provide roosting opportunities for bats no evidence of this was observed.
- The roof was lined with felt insulation.
- There were multiple cobwebs observed across the loft space indicating limited/no regular use by bats.
- No bat droppings, feeding remains or other evidence of bats were observed.
- No bats were seen at the time of survey.



Summary

The interior contained some features which were suitable to support roosting bats such as exposed beams. However, no evidence was found to suggest that bats are present within this area of the building.

The exterior had negligible features to support roosting bats, just a single tile with minor damage.

Overall, it is considered that this building has **negligible bat roost potential**.

4. Conclusions & Recommendations

- 4.1 There will be no impact to the features of the European Conservation Site, statutory conservation site, or non-statutory sites highlighted in the desk study. It is not considered necessary for a HRA report to be produced as part of this application.
- 4.2 No evidence of bats and only negligible PRF's were identified; **therefore, no further bat surveys are recommended.**
- 4.3 It is considered that there will be no significant long-term impacts to the conservation status of protected species in the area if the proposed development follows precautionary methodologies and recommendations for wildlife listed above.

5. References

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

JNCC (2010) *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: a technique for environmental audit* (revised reprint) JNCC: Peterborough.

Web references

http://www.bats.org.uk/data/files/bats_and_lighting_in_the_uk_final_version_version_3_may_09.pdf

<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

Appendix I: Site Photos



Exposed beams and boarding.



Limited accessibility due to storage use of the loft space.



No gaps under tile or around chimney or under lead flashing.



Sealed roofing with no gaps to the rear of the Site.



Sealed barge boards with no ingress points.



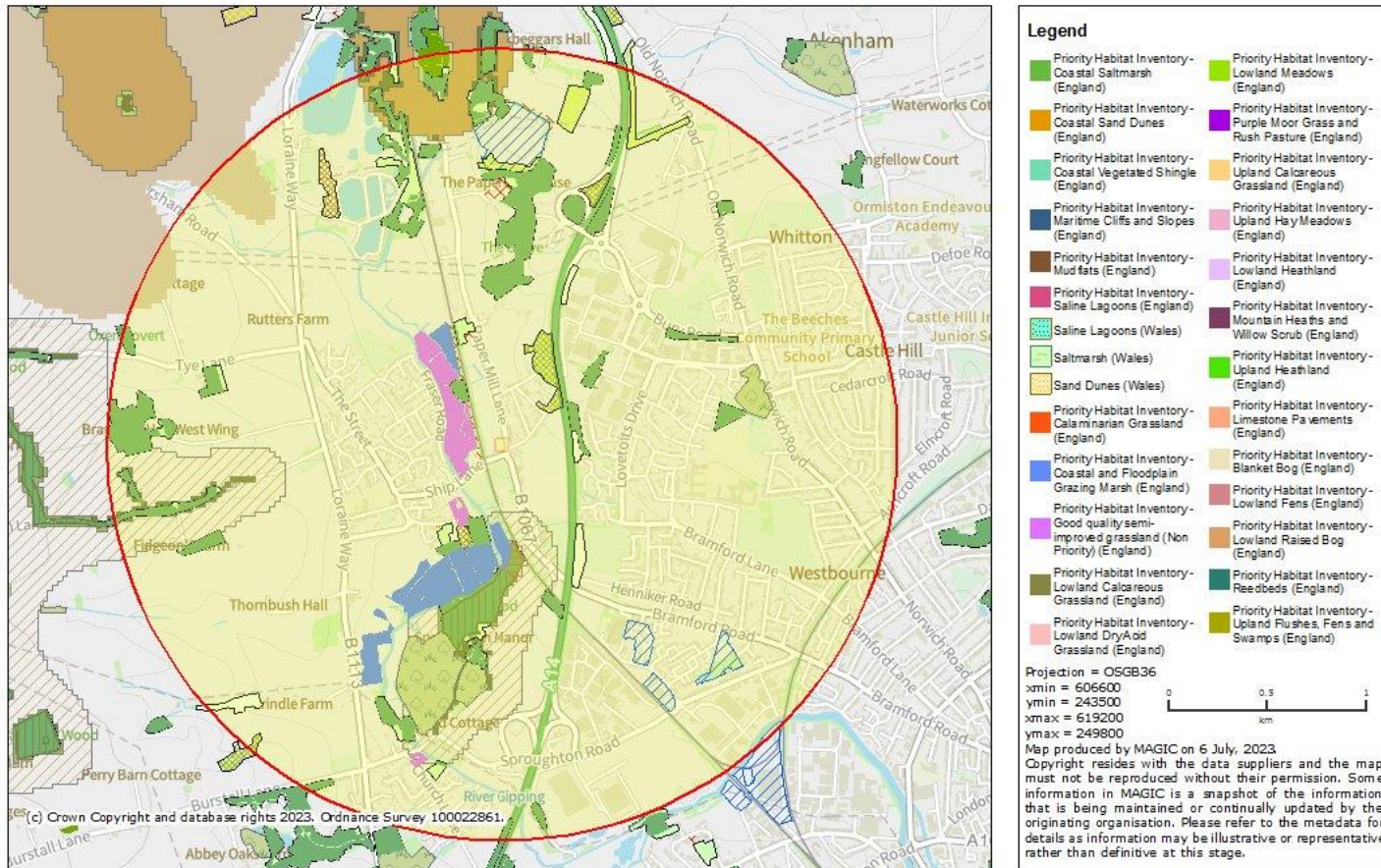
Minor damage to tile at the rear of the Site

Appendix II: Figures

Search for bat records within 2 km of the site

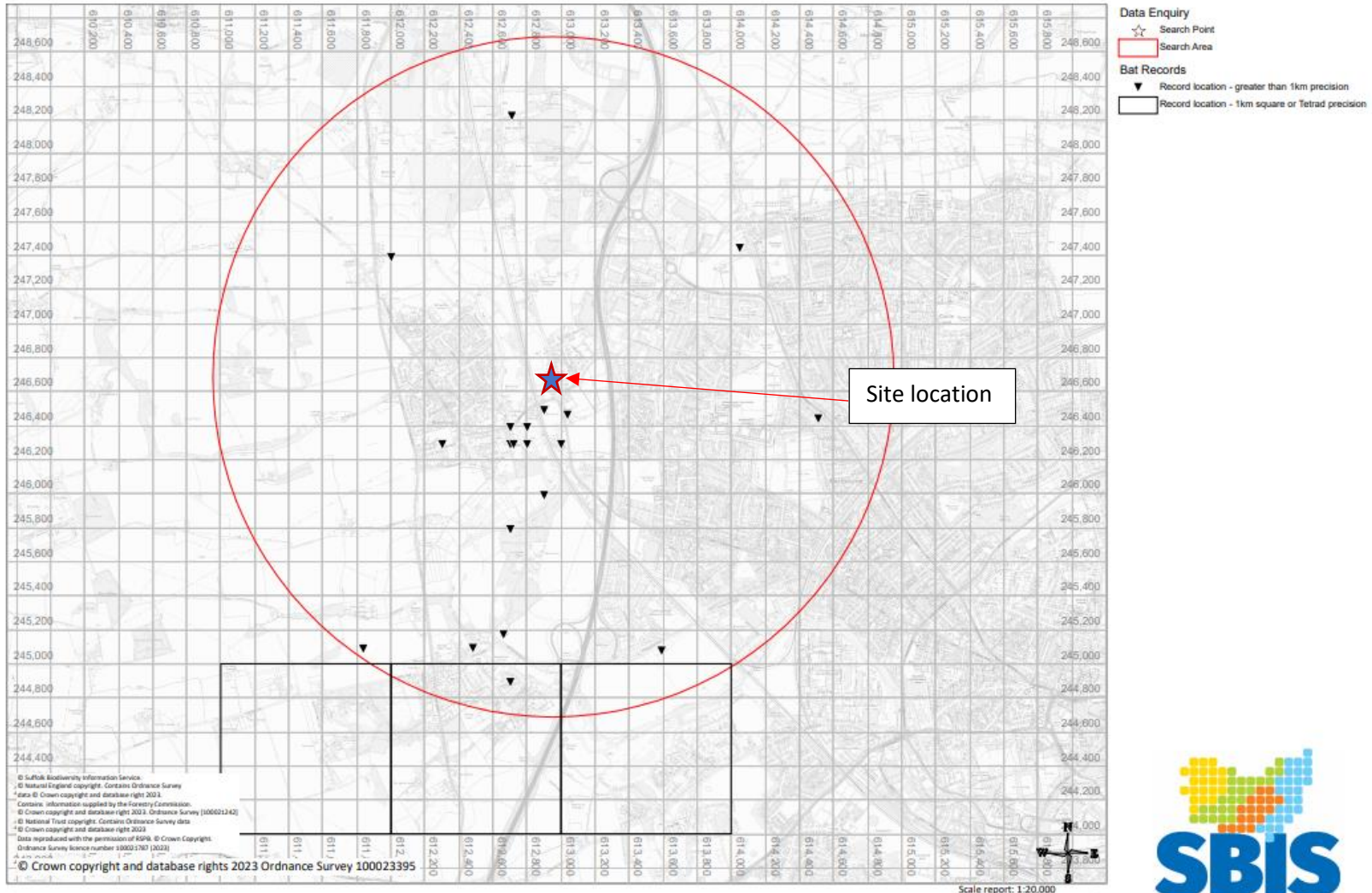
MAGIC

Habitat map



Appendix III: Desk Study

Bat recorded locations



Abrehart Ecology (5 Paper Mill Lane, Bramford TM12954 46688) 2km Bat Search



Date: 19/06/2023 | Drawn by: Andy Mercer

Species Recorded within 2km of the Site – Suffolk Bat Species Recorded within 2km of the Site -					
Common Name	Latin Name	Location	Site detail	Grid Ref	Year
Bat	Chiroptera	Bramford	21 Acton Road, Bramford	TM120474	2011
Brown Long-eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	Bramford	2 River Hill Bramford	TM130463	2003
Brown Long-eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	Ipswich	South of Sproughton Road	TM1358945086	2018
Brown Long-eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	Ipswich		TM14514645	2021
Daubenton's Bat	Myotis daubentonii	Sproughton		TM1183745098	2019
Daubenton's Bat	Myotis daubentonii	Sproughton		TM1244	2014
Daubenton's Bat	Myotis daubentonii	Sproughton	River corridor adjacent Sproughton Mill	TM1248045100	2008
Daubenton's Bat	Myotis daubentonii	Bramford	River Gipping Bramford	TM127449	2014
Daubenton's Bat	Myotis daubentonii	Bramford	Bramford River Gipping	TM127463	2014
Daubenton's Bat	Myotis daubentonii	Bramford	Bramford Meadows	TM129460	2014
Daubenton's Bat	Myotis daubentonii	Sproughton		TM1344	2014
Lesser Noctule	Nyctalus leisleri	Claydon	Paper Mill Farm, Claydon	TM1271048230	2017
Lesser Noctule	Nyctalus leisleri	Ipswich		TM14514645	2021
Noctule Bat	Nyctalus noctula	Sproughton		TM1183745098	2019
Noctule Bat	Nyctalus noctula	Claydon	Paper Mill Farm, Claydon	TM1271048230	2017
Noctule Bat	Nyctalus noctula	Bramford Meadows		TM127464	2014

Noctule Bat	Nyctalus noctula	Bramford	Bramford Meadows	TM128463	2014
Noctule Bat	Nyctalus noctula	Bramford		TM1303646472	2016
Noctule Bat	Nyctalus noctula	Ipswich	South of Sproughton Road	TM1358945086	2018
Noctule Bat	Nyctalus noctula	Ipswich		TM14514645	2021
Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Sproughton		TM1144	2014
Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Sproughton		TM1183745098	2019
Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Sproughton	River corridor adjacent Sproughton Mill	TM1248045100	2008
Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Sproughton	Hallfield Drive Sproughton	TM12664518	2019
Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Claydon	Paper Mill Farm, Claydon	TM1271048230	2017
Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Bramford Meadows		TM128464	2014
Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Bramford		TM1303646472	2016
Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Ipswich	South of Sproughton Road	TM1358945086	2018
Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Ipswich	Maypole inn, Ipswich	TM1404947454	2016
Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Ipswich		TM14514645	2021
Pipistrelle Bat species	Pipistrellus	Bramford Churchyard	church, bramford	TM12724630	2018
Serotine	Eptesicus serotinus	Bramford	River gipping	TM123463	2008
Serotine	Eptesicus serotinus	Bramford	River gipping	TM129465	2008

Soprano Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	Sproughton		TM1183745098	2019
Soprano Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	Sproughton	River corridor adjacent Sproughton Mill	TM1248045100	2008
Soprano Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	Claydon	Paper Mill Farm, Claydon	TM1271048230	2017
Soprano Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	Bramford	River Gipping Bramford	TM127458	2013
Soprano Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	Bramford Meadows		TM129460	2014
Soprano Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	Bramford		TM1303646472	2016
Soprano Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	Ipswich	South of Sproughton Road	TM1358945086	2018

Appendix IV: Relevant Protected Species Legislation

Species	Legislation	Protection
Bats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) (as amended) ▪ Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) (1981), Schedule 5 (as amended) ▪ Wild Mammals Act (1996) 	<p>It is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intentionally kill, injure or take any bat ▪ Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat ▪ Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a bat roost
Birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) (1981 (as amended)) 	<p>It is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird ▪ Intentionally take, damage or destroy nests in use or being built ▪ Intentionally take, damage or destroy eggs <p>Species listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA (1981) are afforded additional protection, making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb such species at, on or near an active nest</p>