



76 Portsmouth Road, Southampton, SO19 9AN

Phase 2 Bat Survey Report

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1.0 Summary

Ecosupport undertook a Preliminary Roost Appraisal of the Site at Portsmouth Road as it is proposed this is demolished to be replaced with new residential dwellings. The main building was classified as having Moderate Bat Roosting Potential and a garage was classified as having Low Bat Roosting Potential. Phase 2 Bat Emergence Surveys were undertaken and this found no bats roosting although some Common Pipistrelle activity was recorded in the vicinity with low numbers of bats commuting and foraging on site and nearby. Measures to mitigate for the loss of roosting opportunities have been set out and measures to enhance the site for roosting bats and nesting birds have been set out in line with local and national policies.

2.0 Introduction

Background

- 2.1 Peach Ecology was commissioned in August 2023 to carry out a Phase 2 Bat Emergence Survey at 76 Portsmouth Road, Southampton, SO19 9AN (Appendix A), central Grid Reference: SU4435710979, laid out as shown in Appendix B. This report will be submitted to Southampton City Council along with the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report by Ecosupport¹ for permission to construct new dwellings to replace the existing building.

Brief

- 2.2 To carry out a Phase 2 Bat Emergence Survey.

¹ Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 76 Portsmouth Road, Southampton, Ecosupport (23rd May 2022)

3.0 Methodology

Bats

- 3.1 Two bat emergence surveys took place, these were both dusk surveys. The surveys started at least 15 minutes before sunset and continued until 1.5 hours after sunset. Three surveyors were present during the surveys positioned at opposite sides of the main building to give good coverage of the building and access points, a third person was placed at a point covering a single access point on the garage but also giving some coverage of the main building also. Equipment used included hand-held Elekon Bat Logger M bat detector/recorders and Canon Infrared Cameras and IR Lighting. Sounds were analysed on Elekon Software. Details on the environmental conditions were taken at the time of survey. Davog McCloskey (Licence number 2015-11951-CLS-CLS) was present at the surveys.

4.0 Results and Discussion

Bats

Phase 2 bat survey

- 4.1 Two Phase 2 bat emergence survey took place. Surveyors monitored the presence of bats and the direction bats flew within the vicinity of the site.
- 4.2 Table 1 below shows a summary of the conditions, equipment and personnel present during the bat surveys.

Survey Date	Survey type	Surveyors	Equipment used	Duration	Weather	Sunset /sunrise time
26 th August 2023	Dusk	DM, AR, CH	Elekon Batlogger M and Infrared camera X 3	1930 - 2134	0% cloud cover, wind force 0, no rain, 20°C at start of survey and 15°C at end	2004
7 th August 2023	Dusk	DM, AR, RN	Elekon Batlogger M and Infrared camera X 3	2000 - 2212	0% cloud cover, wind force 0, no rain, 19°C at start of survey and 17°C at end	2042

Table 1: Environment conditions and surveyors present during bat surveys

- 4.3 During the first survey no bats were recorded roosting. Bat activity at the site was very low and only occasional passes were recorded in the distance (to the south and west) and two short periods of foraging by Common Pipistrelle were seen in the rear garden with a bat recorded and seen foraging on both occasions between the garden and land to the south and west. These occurred at 2115 and 2130 for approximately 2-3 minutes on both occasions. A single pass by a Common Pipistrelle was recorded to the north at 2132 but was not seen.
- 4.4 During the second survey on the 26th August no bats were recorded roosting however a Common Pipistrelle was recorded emerging from the property to the west at 2017. This flew east across the site and although it left the site the same bat may have been recorded shortly after foraging on a loop. During the survey other bat records included:
- Two passes to the north of the building by Common Pipistrelle at 2110 and 2117 and a period
 - Brief passes, heard but not seen to the east by Common Pipistrelle at 2023, 2025, 2028, 2059, 2110, 2125, and 2127.
 - At 2039 a Common Pipistrelle was recorded briefly foraging over the eastern hedgerow which surrounds an area of lawn
 - Regular passes and foraging to the south of the building in the back garden and outside of the site boundary, most were heard but not seen from 2023 until the end of the survey. The majority of this activity appeared to come from the garden to the west which has good coverage of trees and shrubs.
- 4.5 A European Protected Species licence is not required to undertake the works.
- 4.6 Enhancement measures set out will be followed.

Birds

- 4.7 No signs of nesting birds were recorded during the survey although it was late in the year. It is recommended that the building is demolished under supervision and outside of the bird nesting season. Measures for nesting birds will be incorporated into the new proposals.

5.0 Requirements and Recommendations

Bats

- 5.1 A new integrated bat roosting feature will be incorporated into each new dwelling.
- 5.2 No new external lighting will be used where it might impact bats, their flight lines, their roosts or roost entrance – a lighting plan will be provided if external lighting is proposed. At most a single downlighter will be used on the new dwelling.

Birds

- 5.3 Each new dwelling will have an integrated feature for nesting swifts incorporated into it as high as possible, facing east or north.

Invertebrates

- 5.4 Two bee bricks will be installed into each dwelling facing south.

Landscaping

- 5.5 A new native species hedgerow will be planted around the boundary of the site to compensate for any loss in vegetation.

Appendix A: Site location



Appendix B: Site Layout and Aerial Image



Appendix C: Protected species legislation

European Protected Species

Bats

These species are listed in Schedule 5 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) and Schedule 2 of the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010*. They are afforded full protection under Section 9(4) of the Act and Regulation 41 of the Regulations. These make it an offence, *inter alia*, to:

- deliberately capture, injure or kill any such animal;
- deliberately disturb any such animal, including in particular any disturbance which is likely:
 - to impair its ability to survive, breed, or rear or nurture their young;
 - to impair its ability to hibernate or migrate;
 - to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of that species; or
- damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of any such animal; or
- intentionally or recklessly disturb any of these animals while it is occupying a structure or place that it uses for shelter or protection; or
- intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any place that any of these animals uses for shelter or protection.

In addition, five British bat species are listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive. These are:

- Greater horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*);
- Lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*);
- Bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*);
- Barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*);
- Greater mouse-eared bat (*Myotis myotis*).

In certain circumstances where these species are found the Directive requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) by EC member states to ensure that their populations are maintained at a favorable conservation status. Outside SACs, the level of legal protection that these species receive is the same as for other bat species.

Nationally Protected Species

Breeding Birds

With certain exceptions², all wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by section 1 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended). Therefore, it is an offence, *inter alia*, to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; or
- intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

These offences do not apply to hunting of birds listed in Schedule 2 subject to various controls.

Bird species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act receive further protection, thus for these species it is also an offence to:

- intentionally or recklessly disturb any bird while it is nest building, or is at a nest containing eggs or young; or
- intentionally or recklessly disturb the dependent young of any such bird.

² Some species, such as game birds, are exempt in certain circumstances