

# Ecological Walkover Survey

Site Address: Scania Shepton Mallet, Ball Lane, Shepton Mallett, Somerset BA4 4RN

Client Name: Lewis Simms

Reference: Ecological Walkover Survey

Date: 06/11/2023

## **Background**

Arbtech Consulting Limited was instructed by Lewis Simms to undertake an Ecological Walkover Survey at Scania Shepton Mallet, Ball Lane, Shepton Mallett, Somerset BA4 4RN (hereafter referred to as “the site”). The survey was required to inform a planning application for the confirmation and assessment of bat boxes installed as biodiversity improvements to the site (hereafter referred to as “the proposed development”). A plan showing the proposed development is provided in Appendix 1.

No previous ecology reports have been produced for this site by Arbtech Consulting Ltd or, to the author’s knowledge, by any other consultancy. The Preliminary roost assessment (PRA) survey was conducted by Arbtech Consulting Ltd on the 14/04/2023. The buildings on site offered no value for bats, and it was suggested that two bat boxes are installed within the trees on the boundary of the site to provide opportunities for roosting bats.

The aim of the survey was to evidence of the installation of the bat boxes and to conclude the correct installation.

## **Site Location and Landscape Context**

The site is located at National Grid Reference ST65844457 and has an area of approximately 0.6ha comprising of steel commercial buildings with vehicle storage for articulated lorries, with a northern boundary of trees and scrubs. It is surrounded by further commercial buildings to the south and immediately to the west. To the east is priority listed broadleaf woodland and a large reservoir. The wider landscape comprises of scattered residential and farm buildings, as well as the wider agricultural landscape, with a mixture of grazing pastures and arable fields, which include a network of hedgerows. A site location plan is provided in Appendix 2.

## **Survey Methodology**

A walkover of the site was undertaken to establish whether the biodiversity enhancement measures outlined within PRA report have been implemented and whether any remedial action is required to ensure that these are in an optimal location.

## **Results**

Two low-profile Woodstone bat boxes have been installed as recommended. These have been placed on the northern boundary site on semi-mature trees. These trees are high up the bank away from the existing buildings and have had branches and limbs trimmed in order to provide unobstructed flight access for bats. These have been installed at a proper height of 3m or more and are flat against the trunks, and not installed at an angle.

These bat boxes face in a direction away from the buildings and the 24/7 outdoor lighting. These face agricultural land. These boxes are also installed directly along the boundary line of trees and hedgerows, which provides an immediate commuting corridor from these boxes as well as places these beside foraging areas. These boxes are installed in a good location.



## ***Conclusions and Recommendations***

In future, to check if bats have up taken these boxes, this can be done by consulting the local Somerset bat group which can send out volunteers. This should not be done without an appropriate licensed bat worker on site.

### ***Author***

Annabel Sharpe

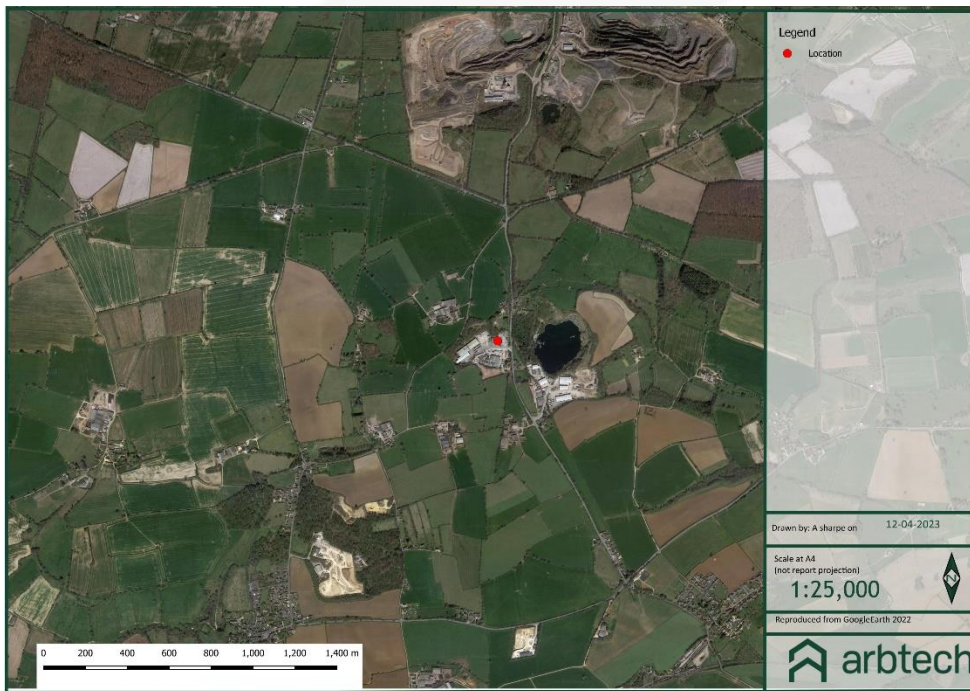
### ***Reviewer***

Mel Reid BSc (Hons) MRes MRSB, Senior Consultant

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**Appendix 1 – Site Location Plan****Appendix 2 – Bat box location**

