Hurst Lodge, Wallop

Bat Activity Survey Report

Mr & Mrs Uloth

November 2023

Document Control

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This report has been prepared for the sole use of the client. Any third party referring to this report or relying on the information contained herein, does so entirely at their own risk.

Whilst every effort has been made to guarantee the accuracy of this report, it should be noted that living creatures are capable of migration and whilst protected species may not have been located during the survey duration, their presence may be found on site at a later date.

The views and opinions contained within the document are based on a reasonable timeframe between the completion of the survey and the commencement of any works. If there is any delay between the commencement of works that may conflict with timeframes laid out within this document or have the potential to allow the ingress of protected species, a suitab qualified ecologist should be consulted.

It is the duty of care of the landowner/developer to act responsibly and comply with current environmental legislation if protected species are suspected or found prior to works.

Contents

Executive Summary

Building 1 – the main house; low numbers of common pipistrelle, a maximum of 5 during any one survey, were recorded emerging from the southern gable end and the northern face of the roof. These results classify the roosts as a summer, day roosts for this species.
Building 2 – the stable block; a single brown long-eared bat and low numbers of common pipistrelle were recorded emerging from the facias on the southern gable end. These results classify the roosts as a summer, day roost for these species.
The results of the dusk emergence surveys confirm that bats present an ecological constraint to the proposed building works to Building 1 & 2.
Subject to receiving planning approval, it will be necessary to apply for and obtain an European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) from Natural England under the conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) (Amendments) 2017 Regulations, to legally allow the proposed works to take place.
In June 2023 Daniel Ahern Ecology Ltd were commissioned by Mr & Mrs Uloth to undertake a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA), also known as a bat inspection survey, of a stable and the main house at Hurst Lodge in Over Wallop. The survey assessed **Building 1 – the main house was assessed as having MODERATE** bat roost potential based on the number of PRF recorded in the external fabric of the structure. **Building 2 – the stable block was CONFIRMED to house a bat roost, believed to be for a long-eared species.** Droppings recorded in the roof void were collected and sent for eDNA analysis to confirm species identification.
The desk-based assessment returned no records for SAC relating to Annex II bats within 7.5km of the site. A single EPSL had been granted within 2km of the site, which covered brown long-eared and common pipistrelle.
Mitigation and habitat enhancement recommendations are set out in section 4.2.

Introduction

1.1. Introduction

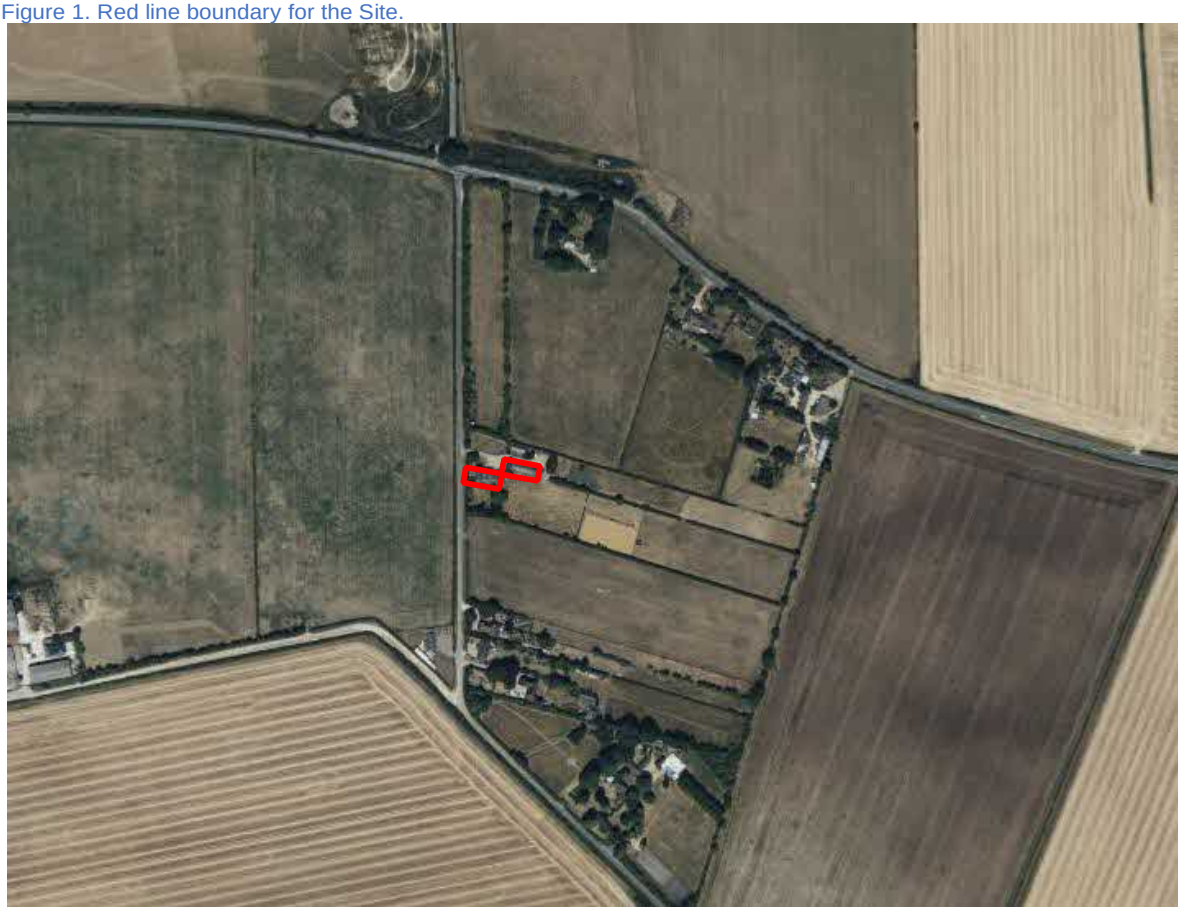
In June 2023 Daniel Ahern Ecology Ltd were commissioned by Mr & Mrs Uloth to undertake a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA), also known as a bat inspection survey, of a stable and the main house at Hurst Lodge in Over Wallop.

The survey assessed **Building 1 – the main house was assessed as having MODERATE** bat roost potential based on the number of PRF recorded in the external fabric of the structure. **Building 2 – the stable block was CONFIRMED to house a bat roost, believed to be for a long-eared species.** Droppings recorded in the roof void were collected and sent for eDNA analysis to confirm species identification.

1.2. Site Location and Description

Hurst Lodge, hereafter referred to as 'the Site', is located in Over Wallop in north Hampshire. (NGR SU 27854 40587). An aerial photo view of the site can be seen in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Red line boundary for the Site.



1.3. Development Proposals

The current proposal has not been finalised, but it will consist of the followin

Raise the roof of part of the first floor of the main house to improve the existing accommodation.
Raise the roof of the garage building to create a studio / home office.

1.4. Survey Objectives

The objectives of the bat inspection survey comprise the following:

Confirm the presence/absence of bats using the buildings;
Confirm which species of bat and in what number are present; &
Confirm how bats are using the building.

1.5. Quality Assurance

All ecological surveys are led by Ecologists who are members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) at the appropriate level. By joining the CIEEM staff sign up to a professional code of conduct.

Methodology

2.1. Activity Surveys

2.2. Dusk emergence survey

Three bat activity surveys were undertaken in Summer 2023, see Table 1, below, for details.

Table 1. Dusk Emergence Survey Dates.

Survey date	Building surveyed	Number of surveyors	Start time	Finish time	Temperature ºC
20/07/2023	Building 1 & 2	4	20:45	22:45	17
03/08/2023	Building 1 & 2	4	20:25	22:25	16
17/08/2023	Building 1 & 2	4	20:00	22:00	18

The dusk emergence surveys commenced approximately 30 minutes before sunset and continued for 90 minutes after sunset.

A combination of two surveyors and 2 video cameras with infra-red illuminators were present in order to survey all visible angles of the building. The time, location, number and species were recorded for each bat leaving or returning to a roost. Bat passes by foraging or commuting bats encountered during the survey were also recorded using standardised forms.

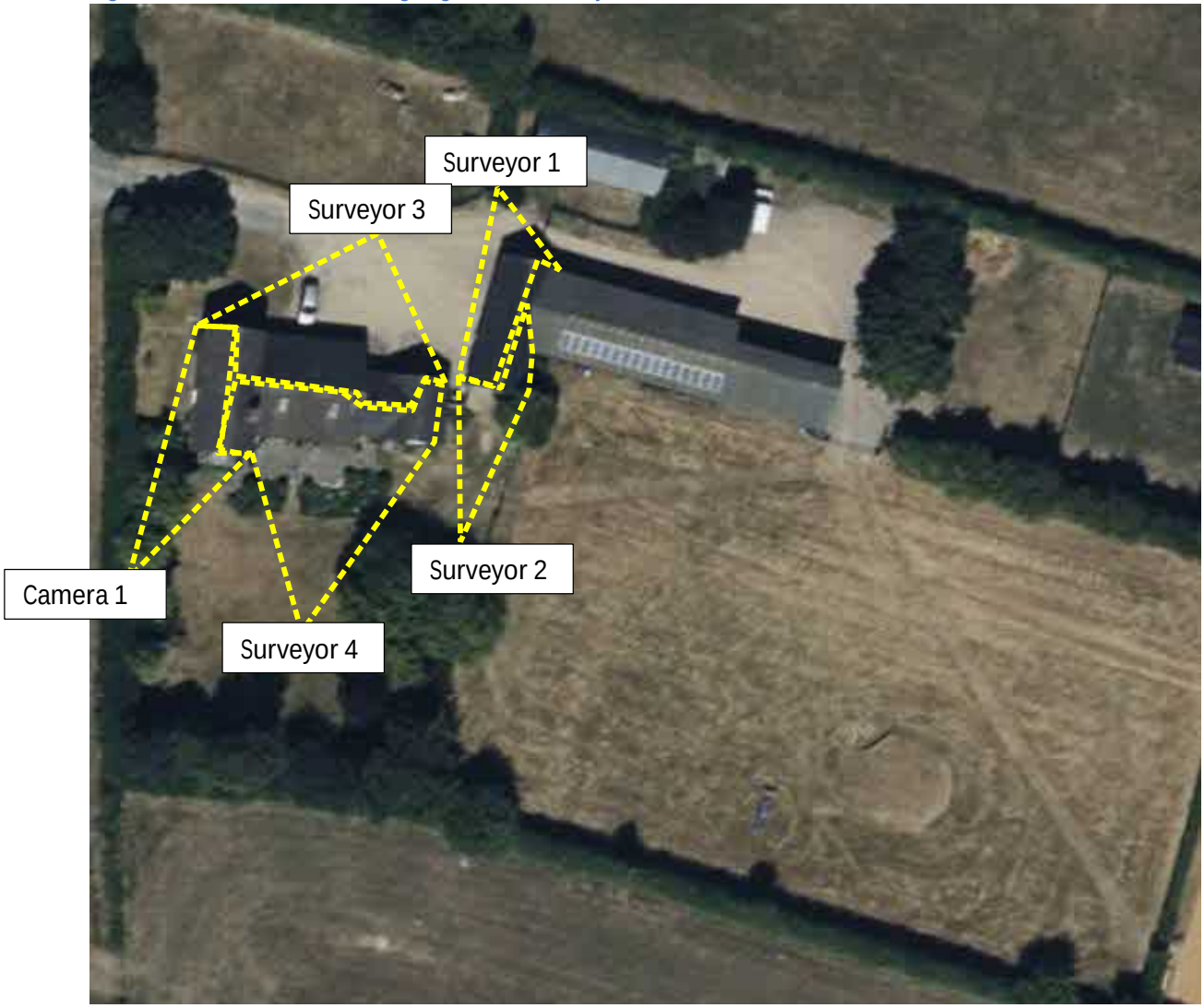
Equipment used:

Anabat Scout bat detectors;
Anabat Swift bat detectors;
Canon XA30 & XA35 camcorders with 850 nm infra red illuminators; &
Anabat Insight sound analysis software.

Location of the surveyors:

The surveyors were located in such a way as to achieve coverage of all parts of Building 1 & 2 during the surveys. See Figure 2, below, for the locations.

Figure 2. The location and viewing angles of the surveyors.



2.3. Limitations

The data provided by the online resources were not exhaustive. It is poss
not included in the data search occur within the vicinity of the proposed development site.

The internal and external inspection survey provides a snapshot of conditions at the time of survey. Bats are mobile creatures that will move into and out of areas.

The details within this report will remain valid for a period of 12 months; beyond that date it is advised that a review of ecological conditions is undertaken.

Results

3. Activity Survey

There was good weather with a light breeze throughout the surveys.

The results of the dusk activity surveys are set out in Table 3, below.

Table 3. Bat Activity Survey Results – Bat Emergence

Survey date	Site	Survey type	Bats recorded	Number recorded
20/07/2023	Building 1 & 2	Dusk Emergence	brown long-eared common pipistrelle	1 7
03/08/2023	Building 1 & 2	Dusk Emergence	common pipistrelle	9
17/08/2023	Building 1 & 2	Dusk Emergence	brown long-eared common pipistrelle	1 7

See Photos below for the roost/emergence points.

Photo 1 - Building 1, southern gable end

Photo 2 - Building 1, northern face of the roof

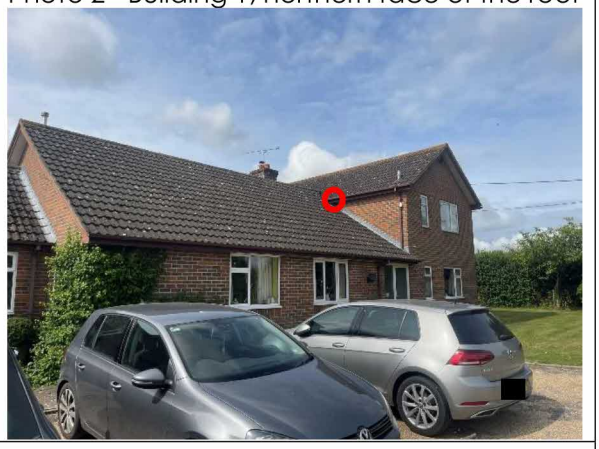
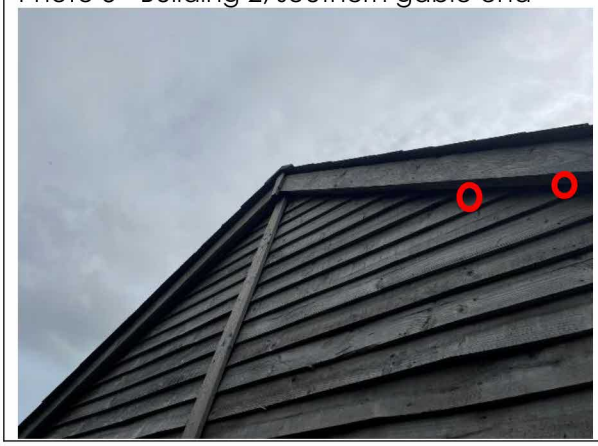


Photo 3 - Building 2, southern gable end



Details of bats recorded across the wider site are set out in Table 4, below.

Table 4. Bat Activity Survey Results – Ambient bat activity

Survey date	Site	Survey type	Bats recorded	Number recorded
20/07/2023	Building 1 & 2	Dusk Emergence	brown long-eared common pipistrelle Myotis species noctule serotine soprano pipistrelle	1 32 4 4 2 12
03/08/2023	Building 1 & 2	Dusk Emergence	common pipistrelle noctule serotine soprano pipistrelle	22 2 2 14

17/08/2023	Building 1 & 2	Dusk Emergence	brown long-eared common pipistrelle noctule soprano pipistrelle	1 18 1 12

Discussion and Recommendations

4.1. Discussion

4.1.1. Survey results

Building 1 – the main house; low numbers of common pipistrelle, a maximum of 5 during any one survey, were recorded emerging from the southern gable end and the northern face of the roof. These results classify the roosts as a summer, day roosts for this species.

Building 2 – the stable block; a single brown long-eared bat and low numbers of common pipistrelle were recorded emerging from the facias on the southern gable end. These results classify the roosts as a summer, day roost for these species.

The results of the dusk emergence surveys confirm that bats present an ecological constraint to the proposed building works to Building 1 & 2.

Subject to receiving planning approval, it will be necessary to apply for and obtain ar European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) from Natural England under the conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) (Amendments) 2017 Regulations, to legally allow the proposed works to take place.

The findings of this report are valid for 12 months from the issue.

4.2. Requirements

Mitigation measures:

Prior to any works taking place on site four Harlech woodstone bat boxes will be erected on trees adjacent to the site at a height at least 3m above the ground.

The buildings on site will be inspected by a Natural England C2 licenced ecologist immediately prior to any demolition/roof strip. The ecologist will use a flex endoscope to assist with this survey. This includes all gaps and cracks in the external brickwork and stonework on Building 5.

The “demolition” phase of the proposed development will take place between late October and late February to minimise any potential for crevice dwelling bats to be present. Should it take place outside of this window of time then it should be supervised by a Natural England C2 licenced ecologist

Should any bats be encountered during the supervised strip of the building they will be collected by the Natural England C2 licenced ecologist and moved to the p - installed bat box on the adjacent tree.

A Natural England C2 licenced ecologist will oversee the building strip, when the fabric in which bats were recorded roosting, is removed ie the roof and vegetation on the

western elevation of the house. This will ensure best practice is adhered to by the building contractor.

Habitat enhancement measures:

Bat box – install a large, multi-chamber woodstone bat box installed on a southern elevation of building 1 at a height above 3m. https://www.arkwildlife.co.uk/product/large-multi-chamber-woodstone-bat-box/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIgdvw8pTNgAMVh9XtCh07_gPlEAAYASAAEgIst_D_BwE

Create a bat loft in the roof of building 2. This should be W: 3m, L: 3m, H: 1.8m. Access should be created via the installation of two facia entrances measuring W: 4cm, H: 1cm.

"Bug" hotel – install an insect hotel Capri installed on a building or free standing post at a height of 1.5m above the ground. https://www.birdfood.co.uk/insect-hotel-capri?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIgoXo8pXNgAMVBPntCh3N9Q17EAQYBSABEgIgR_D_BwE

Legislation and Policy

5.1. Legislation

5.1.1. Bats

All species of bat found in the UK are listed under Schedule 5 of *The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended 2018) and are afforded protection under Section 9(1), Sectic 9(4)(b&c) and Section 9(5) of the Act. Under this legislation, a person is guilty of an offence if he intentionally or recklessly:

Kills or injures any bat;
Disturbs any bat while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection; or
Obstructs access to any structure or place which any bat uses for shelter or protection.

Bats are afforded additional protection through their inclusion on Schedule 2 o *The Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017* (as amended). Under Part 3 of this legislation, a person is guilty of an offence if he:

Deliberately captures, injures or kills a bat;
Deliberately disturbs a bat; or
Damages or destroys a bat breeding site or resting place.

Disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely to impair their ability to survive, breed or reproduce, rear or nurture their young, migrate or hibernate. It also includes any disturbance likely to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species. Consequently, attention should be given to dealing with the modificati development of an area if aspects of it are deemed important to bats, such as flight corridors and foraging areas.

5.1.2. Breeding Birds

Wild birds, their nests and eggs, are afforded protection under Section 1(1) of *The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended). Under this legislation, a person is guilty of an offence if he intentionally:

Kills, injures or takes any wild bird;
Takes, damages or destroys the nest of a wild bird included in Schedule ZA1;
Takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or
Takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird.