

COYNE ENVIRONMENTAL

26 Beech Hill

Hadley Wood

EN4 0JN



Bat Activity Survey **September 2023**

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INTRODUCTION

Coyne Environmental has been instructed to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of 26 Beech Hill, Hadley Wood to establish the potential presence or absence of protected ecological features of significance. This is required for a planning application to be submitted to London Borough of Barnet Council (LBB)

The PEA survey and Report has now been completed. This found no evidence of any ecology or wildlife of significance which would be affected by the proposal. However, it was not possible to definitely rule out the presence of bats in the loft or using the grounds. The property is also next to Hadley Wood golf course which has habitats favourable to bats. Under the Precautionary Principle, a bat activity survey (BAS) has been undertaken.

Bats are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981), Schedule 5 but since 2007 the effective protection for bats is Schedule 2 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994. Bats are classified as European Protected Species (EPS) and Outline Mitigation and Compensation Strategies must be considered in any application that may affect bats.

This Report has taken account of the WCA 1981(amended), EEC Habitat Directive 9243/EEC (1992) and the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010 (amended). The surveys are to inform WHDC on EPS and from the results if a Licence Application will be necessary.

I am a qualified ecologist, Associate of the Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management and with over 35 years' experience in the environmental field. The BAS of the application site, was carried out on 15th September 2023. This was conducted as a dusk survey.

The survey was assessed as necessary in accordance with Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist. Good Principles Guidelines (3rd edition). Within this on the Trigger List No 8- "All proposals in situations where bats are known to have been present "was considered relevant. In NPPF reference to OOPM circular 0612005 and BS Biodiversity 42020 (2013) were also taken into account.

EMERGENT SURVEY

The lead ecologist was Kenneth Coyne, Bat Licence holder no. 2015-15943-CLS-CLS and had one assistant ecologist. The survey was carried in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trusts Bat Surveys, Good Practice Guidelines, 2016 (3rd ed.). Each surveyor was equipped with bat detector EchoMeter Touch 2 and Batbox Duet, a 1000 lumens torch and recorded bat activity on standard pro-forma sheets. The dusk survey started 15 minutes before sunset to 2 hours after.

The weather conditions on the survey were within the acceptable limits for bat surveys, generally good, no rain, light winds above 10c throughout. The emergent survey covered both sides of the house and garden.

From this BAS, the following results were obtained where you will see that bat activity was recorded. These were Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), and a Natterer (*Myotis nattereri*),

The majority of the activity was Common Pipistrelle foraging around the back garden. Soprano Pipistrelle were recorded mainly along the hedge line in both directions. These were joined by a single Natterer, which ventured out from the golf course. Noctules were observed high above the site commuting between habitats.

Bat Activity Survey

RESULTS	
15/09/23 Dusk	
Temp. 21C Humd. 60% Cloud 75% Wind 2 Percip. Dry but rain forecast	
At 19:52 a common pipistrelle was heard in the back garden. From 20:06 to 20:17 common pipistrelles were foraging over the rear garden	
At 20:13 over the front garden a Soprano pipistrelle passed over the roof	
A Noctule continued to forage from 20:26 to 20:41	
Common pipistrelles were observed continually foraging around the rear garden from 20:09 to 20:26	
At 20:19 a Natterer was heard commuting over the rear garden	
At 20:34 a Soprano pipistrelle was heard near the front garden	
At 20:39 a Noctule was heard in the rear garden.	

Common pipistrelle foraging activity continued from 20:33 to 21:18

At 21:19 a Noctule was heard coming from the golf course

A Soprano pipistrelle was heard at 20:45 and 21:21 over the back garden

A Noctule was heard at the end of the rear garden at 21:32

Most of the remaining bat activity were common pipistrelles concentrated along the boundary of the rear garden until 21:36

ASSESSMENT

The BAS has shown that 26 Beech Hill, Hadley Wood does have bat activity. The bats are using the whole of the garden for foraging and commuting to other habitats (golf course). The main activity was towards the rear garden and the far end, towards the golf course. The hedge line was also used by both Soprano and Common pipistrelle for foraging. pipistrelle. Noctules were observed mainly commuting to other habitats The Natterer was coming from the golf course over the site

The proposal being considered is to replace the current dwelling with two new houses. The BAS has shown that bats are using the whole of the site. However, the majority of activity is coming from Hadley Wood Golf Course and not near to the existing residence. The proposal is to not only to build on the existing footprint but also a second dwelling in the rear garden. This will affect the foraging activity of bats currently feeding in this area.

CONCLUSION

Coyne Environmental has been commissioned to investigate 26 Beech Hill, Hadley Wood for evidence of ecology of significance and bats in particular. The site is adjacent to Hadley Wood Park Golf Course which is a habitat for bats. Consequently, the foraging range extends into the garden and is also used as a commuting area to other locations.

This BES as well as the PEA study have now been completed. These have concluded that the site does not have any ecology or wildlife that would be affected by this proposal. The BES has also shown that bats are active in the area and do use the grounds for foraging and commuting to other habitats. The main activity was not near the house and no exits or entries was found on the survey.

The proposals are to build two new dwellings on site, similar to the development next door. This will remove all the existing vegetation in the rear garden, particularly the mature trees.

In order to comply with the requirement for mitigation proposals in the Environment Act 2021 it is recommended that a landscape design of the new gardens should be of native species, to provide habitats for wild life including bat and bird boxes, hedgehog homes etc be undertaken. This will not only improve the ecology of the site but also the biodiversity of the whole area.

Therefore, in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust (2012) Guidelines and having regard to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, I conclude that although 26 Beech Hill, Hadley Wood has evidence of bats using the grounds the proposal should not unduly affect this activity with appropriate mitigation. I conclude that no further ecological surveys or environmental studies are needed and that an application can be submitted to Barnet Council on this basis.

REFERENCES

Bat Activity Survey Sheet 1

Bat Activity Survey Sheet 2

Coyne Environmental Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) Report

JNCC Handbook surveys for Phase 1 Habitat surveys (2010)



DATE: 15.9.23

SITE: 06 Beach Hill Hedgely

SURVEYOR: JAP

Start: 19:45

Sunset:

Finish: 21:45

Species	Activity	Time	Notes	Task	Start	Finish
CP	C/F	19:52	not seen	Temp oC	21	
CP	C	20:04	Frags/BG	R/Humd %	60%	
CP	C	20:12	"	Cloud %	75%	
CP	C	20:17	"	Wind O/S	0	
NOE	C	20:26	over head	Precip	Dry	
CP	C	20:31	not seen	Dawn	Start	Finish
CP	C/F	20:39	not seen	Temp oC		
20:19 NAT	C		near gully	R/Humd %		
SB	C	20:24	not seen	Cloud %		
NU	C	20:38	on trees	Wind O/S		
CP	C	20:44	not seen	Precip		
CP	C	20:10	not seen	Set/Rise		
NOE	C	20:19	"	Activity Key:		
CP	C	20:29	"	P = Pass	DS = Dawn Swarming	
CP	C	20:37	"	DP = Distant Pass	H =	
CP	C	20:38	"	F = Feeding	Hawking	
CP	C	20:38	"	E = Emerged	LS = Light sampling	
CP	C	20:38	"	RE = Re entered		
CP	C	20:38	"	C = Commuting		
CP	C	20:38	"	CA = Constant activity		
CP	C	20:38	"	S = Seen		
CP	C	20:38	"	Species Key:		
CP	C	20:38	"	CP = Common pip, Unid pip = unidentified pip		
CP	C	20:38	"	SP = Soprano pip, Unid SB = unident big bat		
CP	C	20:38	"	N = Nectule		
CP	C	20:38	"	S = Serotina		
CP	C	20:38	"	BLE = Brown Long Eared		
CP	C	20:38	"	My = Myotis		
CP	C	20:38	"	B = Barbastelle		
CP	C	20:38	"	LH = Lesser Horseshoe		
CP	C	20:38	"	GH = Greater Horseshoe		
CP	C	20:38	"	Unid = Unidentified		
CP	C	20:38	"	Sketch Map of Site		



