

WOODLANDS SERVICE STATION, FLEETWOOD

Nocturnal Bat Survey Report

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Report Control Sheet

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. SCOPE & PURPOSE

1.1.1. Collington Winter Environmental Ltd was commissioned by Penny Petroleum to undertake a nocturnal bat survey at the site at 132-138 Fleetwood Road North, Thornton-Cleveleys FY5 4BL. This report has been produced to inform a planning application at the site.

1.1.2. The author of this report is Andrew Taylor MSc, Graduate Ecologist at Collington Winter Environmental Ltd. The project has been managed and overseen by Katie Bird MEnvSci, ACIEEM Principal Ecologist at Collington Winter Environmental Ltd. Katie is highly experienced managing schemes and has produced many ecological reports to inform planning management plans.

1.1.3. A Preliminary Roost Assessment was undertaken of the site in August 2023 by Collington Winter Environmental which found the MOT garage building to provide **low** bat roosting potential. This was due to one gap at the apex of the western aspect giving internal access and lifted boarding present internally providing a potential roosting feature. Therefore, one nocturnal emergence survey was recommended, the results of which are detailed in this report.

1.2. LOCATION

1.2.1. Please refer to Figure 1.1 for the approximate site location. The site is located in Thornton-Cleveleys.

Figure 1.1 Site Location



1.3. OBJECTIVES

1.3.1. The objectives of the Nocturnal Bat Survey are as follows:

- Identify any bats roosting within the buildings.
- Assess the value of the buildings for roosting bats.
- Identify the species assemblage of bats using the site.
- Provide recommendations on any further surveys or mitigation required for bats.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1. NOCTURNAL BAT SURVEY

2.1.1. The nocturnal survey was undertaken as a dusk survey on 25th August 2023 by two suitably experienced surveyors.

2.1.2. Please refer to Figure 2.1 for locations of vantage points used during the survey.

Figure 2.1 Surveyor Locations



2.1.3. The surveys were undertaken in line with guidance as set out in Collins (2016), where possible. Surveyors used heterodyne handheld bat detector and an Echo Meter Touch 2 Bat Detector. All surveyors were suitably experienced undertaking bat emergence surveys. Please refer to Table 2.1 below for details of surveyors.

Date	Sunset/ Sunrise Time	Start	Finish	Surveyors	Weather Conditions
25/09/2023	19:04	18:49	20:34	VP1 – Sophie Jeremy VP2 – Andrew Taylor	Temp at start/end: 17 Celsius Cloud cover: 2 Wind: 1 max (Beaufort scale) Precipitation: None

2.2. SURVEY LIMITATIONS

2.2.1. The survey was undertaken during September. For sites assessed as low suitability, the optimal period for surveys to be undertaken is from May until August. (Collins 2023)

2.2.2. It is acknowledged that Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, 4th edition was

released prior to this survey. However, due to the proximity of the survey to the release of 2023 guidance, the survey followed guidance set out by Collins (2016).

3 SURVEY RESULTS

3.1. DUSK SURVEY (25/09/23)

- 3.1.1. Limited activity was recorded throughout the survey, with only common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) observed foraging or commuting in proximity of all vantage points.
- 3.1.2. Only one bat was recorded at 20:20 (approximately 76 minutes after sunset) by VP2 and was common pipistrelle. This bat was heard but not seen. This bat was behind the surveyor's position commuting through the treeline to the east of the site boundary. No bat activity was recorded by VP1.
- 3.1.3. **No roost locations were observed throughout the survey.**

3.2. ASSESSMENT

- 3.2.1. Limited bat activity was recorded throughout the survey with only common and widespread species being identified within the local area. Foraging and commuting activity was recorded minimally.
- 3.2.2. No bat roosts were located on site during the survey.
- 3.2.3. Due to no bat roosts being located on site, no further licences or surveys are required to proceed with the proposed development.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS AND MITIGATION

4.1. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 4.1.1. The proposed development works will include the conversion of the building into a commercial space and alterations to the roof. Based on the data collected during the nocturnal survey, no bats were identified roosting within the building. However due to the sub optimal conditions of the survey taking place outside of recommended UK survey times for summer roosts (Collins, 2023), it is not possible to confirm absence of roosting bats within the building and the causation of an offence to be committed by the way of disturbance or damage to bats or their roosts under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (As amended)
- 4.1.2. It is recommended that the following Precautionary Working Methods (PWMs) are to be undertaken under the supervision of a licenced bat ecologist to reduce the risk of killing or injuring any bats that may be affected during proposed works on the roof:
- All contractors working on the site will be briefed with a Toolbox Talk by the licenced ecologist, on the legal protection afforded to bats and their roosts, and on how to proceed if a bat is discovered during the course of the work.
 - The licenced ecologist will undertake a daylight inspection to assess the status of the site for bats prior to works commencing on site. The ecologist will check for fields of bats in relation to the northern aspect of the roof.
 - The licenced ecologist will attend site on the day of the scheduled works to undertake a search for bats in relation to the potential roosting features identified during the PRA conducted by Collington Winter (2023) prior to the works commencing. PRFs to be inspected include lifted boarding found internally on the western aspect of the building. If any bats are located, all works will cease, and Natural England is to be contacted immediately and a licence to be obtained.
- 4.1.3. Once the selected features have been removed under supervision, works can proceed in the absence of the licenced ecologist, at their discretion. If a bat is discovered at any unsupervised time, work must cease immediately, and a licenced bat handler must be called for advice. This advice will include leaving the bat to disperse of its own accord or wait for the licenced ecologist to move the bat. Builders and contractors are explicitly forbidden from handling bats except in the case of finding a trapped or injured bat. In which case the bat may be moved into a safe and secure place (e.g. a box) and the registered ecologist must be contacted immediately.

4.2. MITIGATION

- 4.3.1. All bats have some degree of sensitivity to artificial, night-time lighting. Introducing artificial lighting to areas that are not currently illuminated may sever important bat flight lines and discourage bats from using roost provisions.
- 4.3.2. It is advised that a light mitigation plan is produced to assess the pre- and post-development changes in lighting and to advise on an appropriately sensitive lighting scheme as part of the development.
- 4.3.3. The following measures will be implemented in the final proposed lighting strategy, following guidance outlined in the Institute for Lighting Engineers document “Guidance for the Reduction of Obtrusive Lighting” (2005) and BCT’s “Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK” (2023):
- Keep site lighting to minimum levels.
 - LED lighting with a warm white light to be used over cool white light (<2700Kelvin).
 - Lighting feature peak wavelengths greater than 550nm.
 - Light placement to be downward facing to prevent excess horizontal or vertical light spill.
 - Avoid illuminating habitats of value.
 - Us of time security lights should be set on motion-sensors and using short, 1-minute timers, to minimise light use.

- 4.2.1. Due to the nature of the species on site and their utilisation of the wider habitat for foraging and commuting purposes, crevice dwelling bat boxes could be installed as an ecological enhancement for the site.

5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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