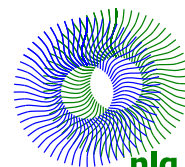


# 57 Leegate Road, Heaton Moor

## Building Inspection Report for Bat Roosting Potential



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**Project No:** NLG4445

**Title:** 57 Leegate Road, Heaton Moor Building Inspection  
Report for Bat Roosting Potential

**Client:** Charlie McGonagle

**Date:** January 2024

Status	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
V1	04/01/2024	Kelly Lomas Principal Ecologist	Rowena Tylden-Smith Senior Ecologist	
V2				
Final				

NLG Ecology Ltd has prepared this report for the sole use of the client, showing reasonable skill and care, for the intended purposes as stated in the agreement under which this work was completed. The report may not be relied upon by any other party without the agreement of the client and NLG Ecology Ltd. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report.

Data supplied by the client or from other sources have been used; it has been assumed that the information is correct. No responsibility can be accepted by NLG for inaccuracies in the data supplied by any other party. The conclusions and recommendations in this report are based on the assumption that all relevant information has been supplied by those bodies from whom it was requested.

Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work. This work has been undertaken in accordance with the quality management system of NLG Ecology Ltd. No part of this report may be copied or duplicated without the express permission of NLG Ecology Ltd and the party for whom it was prepared.

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## SUMMARY

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NLG Ecology Ltd. was commissioned by Charlie McGonagle to undertake a building inspection survey for bat roosting potential at 57 Leegate Road, Heaton Moor, Stockport, SK4 4AX. The survey was requested to satisfy a full planning application, which previously included plans for a single and two storey side and rear extension, and a roof extension. This application was granted permission by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council in January 2023; however, the structural condition of the property has since been found to be compromised, with a complete re-build now likely. A building inspection for bat roosting potential has been requested by the council due to the increased scope of works. Figures and photographs throughout Section 3 illustrate the location, habitat context and character of the site, with proposals shown in Appendix 1.

The survey was undertaken on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 by Kelly Lomas (Natural England Level 2 Class Licence holder for bats 2017-27638-CLS-CLS), assisted by Alex Bell.

This report outlines the survey results and any identified ecological constraints to the works (further informed by an open-source desk study search), summarised as follows:

- **Bats** – in its current condition, the detached, two storey house was assessed to have negligible potential for roosting bats in accordance with best practice guidance (Collins, 2023) due to a general lack of suitable features and no visible evidence of bat use. Whilst no further dedicated survey effort is recommended, caution should be exercised throughout the works due to the possibility of bats using the building opportunistically to roost. If any bats are suspected to be present or unexpectedly discovered during future works, works must cease and an ecologist must be contacted for advice;
- **Nesting birds** – in its current condition, the building offers potential access and nesting points to birds; a dead great tit was found on the first floor. Brickwork cavities were described on site as having only recently been opened up – soft blocking of these cavities with newspaper or similar is recommended to be undertaken as soon as possible before March so that no nesting birds (or roosting bats) take up residence. The main nesting season is March to August inclusive; and
- **General enhancements for wildlife** – in accordance with national and local planning policy and strategies for nature conservation (e.g. the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework, the NERC Act 2006 (Section 41) and the National Planning Policy Framework 2023), opportunities for biodiversity gain are suggested in Section 4.

**The data contained within this report are considered to be valid for a period of 18 months from the date of the last survey on site (i.e. until 19/06/2025).**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 Background

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- 1.1.1 NLG Ecology Ltd. was commissioned by Charlie McGonagle to undertake a building inspection survey for bat roosting potential at 57 Leegate Road, Heaton Moor, Stockport, SK4 4AX. The survey was requested to satisfy a full planning application, which previously included plans for a single and two storey side and rear extension, and a roof extension. This application was granted permission by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council in January 2023; however, the structural condition of the property has since been found to be compromised, with a complete re-build now likely. A building inspection for bat roosting potential has been requested by the council due to the increased scope of works. Figures and photographs throughout Section 3 illustrate the location, habitat context and character of the site, with proposals shown in Appendix 1.
- 1.1.2 The survey was undertaken on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 by Kelly Lomas (Natural England Level 2 Class Licence holder for bats 2017-27638-CLS-CLS), assisted by Alex Bell. Protected species which could potentially be affected by the proposed works were considered, the most relevant of which were roosting bats and nesting birds.
- 1.1.3 Relevant legislations that have informed survey effort are detailed in Appendix 2. Note that the text provides a brief summary of the legislation in relation to bats in England and Wales and the original Acts, Regulations and any amendments should be referred to for the precise wording.

## 1.2 Bat Biology

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- 1.2.1 Within the British Isles there are 17 resident (i.e. breeding) species of bat. Bats are nocturnal and feed entirely on insects. They use echolocation, a complex sonar system, to navigate around their surroundings and to forage.
- 1.2.2 Depending on the species of bat, habitat requirements vary widely, although features such as traditional pasture, woodland edges, parkland, and wetland are particularly good for bats as insects are abundant within these areas (Mitchell-Jones 2004). Linear features such as hedgerows, tree lines and watercourses are important for commuting as they assist navigation.
- 1.2.3 Bats utilise different roosts at different times of the year, and roost requirements vary between species. Typical roost sites include caves, mines, trees, and buildings. Bats hibernate between October and March and usually within a damp, unexposed roost which can maintain a relatively stable temperature such as caves, cellars and mines. Around March bats emerge from hibernation and gradually move to their summer roosts and during spring females gather together to form maternity colonies to give birth and rear their young. Summer and maternity roosts are typically found within man-made structures or suitable crevices in trees.
- 1.2.4 Birthing usually occurs late June – mid July, with the young able to fly within three to five weeks (Altringham 2003). By the end of August, most of the young bats are independent and the colony begins to break up. Mating takes place between August and December either at autumn swarming sites or winter hibernation sites. Bat roost sizes can vary from individual bats found within summer roosts, to hundreds of bats found within maternity colonies or hibernation sites.

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## 2 METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 Desk Study

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2.1.1 A desk study provides background information on the ecological interest of a site and complements data collected in the field by providing ecological context for the site and its wider landscape. The search area extended up to 2 km and incorporated the following resources:

- Defra's Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website, [www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk), was searched for European and National Statutory designated sites, to identify designations with criteria for bats;
- The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas (<https://nbnatlas.org/>) was searched for any bat records; and
- The Google Maps website (<http://www.google.co.uk/maps>) was reviewed to help provide wider site context, particularly in respect of bat commuting e.g. the presence of a continuous network of surrounding hedgerows may support findings drawn from field surveys.

### 2.2 Building Assessment for Bats

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2.2.1 The building assessment adhered to guidance within the Bat Mitigation Guidelines (Reason and Wray, 2023) and the Bat Survey Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2023), and involved detailed external and internal inspection of the currently unoccupied house. Equipment used to support the assessment included ladders, close-focusing binoculars, a high powered torch and an endoscope.

2.2.2 Externally, the roof sections, walls, soffit boxes, fascia boards and any associated voids and gaps were inspected for evidence of use by bats. This evidence can include staining and scratch marks around potential entrance points, bat droppings, and feeding remains. The building was also assessed for its potential to provide suitable roosting conditions for bats.

2.2.3 Internally, the house was inspected for evidence of bats in the form of droppings and feeding remains (e.g. moth and butterfly wings) and staining on crevices by fur oils or urine, as well as the bats themselves. Potential bat access points can include crevices and cavities in stone/brickwork, gaps along the eaves and gaps beneath roof tiles and felt.

2.2.4 The building was assigned a value for its bat roosting potential, as described in Table 2.1, below, which has been adapted from Collins (2023).

2.2.5 The classification of a structure corresponds to the level of further survey effort required i.e. the number of recommended emergence surveys for bats, in accordance with best practice guidance (Collins, 2023) and with the aid of night vision cameras. The levels for buildings are as follows: **negligible**: no survey requirement; **low**: one survey required; **moderate**: two surveys required; if bats are seen to emerge, then one further confirmation visit is required; and **high or confirmed day roost**: three surveys required.

**Table 2.1 - Visual Assessment Criteria for Buildings and Trees**

Potential Suitability	Description of Roosting Habitats	Potential Commuting and Foraging Habitats
None	No habitat features likely to be used by bats at any time of year (i.e. complete absence of suitable shelter opportunities for bats).	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of year (i.e. no habitats that provide continuous lines for bats to navigate along, or host insect populations for foraging bats).
Negligible	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flight-paths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year, although not suitable as regular roosting space, or for a larger number of roosting bats.	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of bats as flight-paths (e.g. gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream) but isolated i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape.  Suitable but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats (e.g. lone tree or patch of scrub).
Moderate	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats, but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status.	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for flight paths, such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens.  Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging, such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
High	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts e.g. maternity or classic cool/stable hibernation site.	Continuous, high quality habitat that is well-connected to the wider landscape and likely to be used regularly by bats for flight-paths, such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge.  High quality habitat that is well-connected to the wider landscape and likely to be used regularly by foraging bats, such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland.  Site is close to, and connected to, known roosts.
Confirmed Roost	Evidence of current or recent bat use.	Sighting/hearing of bats (including emergence). Presence of fresh droppings/staining. Small numbers of old droppings/staining. Smoothing near gaps, lacking cobwebs. Roosts identified from reliable source (e.g. land owner).

## 2.3 Nesting Birds

- 2.3.1 The building assessment included a visual search for any evidence of, and opportunities for, nesting birds.
- 2.3.2 Relevant legislation afforded to birds is presented in Appendix 2.

## 2.4 Survey Limitations

- 2.4.1 Whilst desk study records can help to inform and complement survey effort, they should not be treated as a comprehensive list of species present within the search area. Many species are under-recorded and a lack of records can reflect a lack of survey effort in certain areas rather than confirming absence of a species.

- 2.4.2 The building inspection was undertaken during winter, when wet and windy weather can often remove signs of bat use (for example, droppings adhering to brickwork).
- 2.4.3 Extensive works to the house have been undertaken since the previous granting of planning permission (reference DC/085614) in January 2023. This has included removal of the first floor ceilings/loft floor, which has opened the roof space and effectively removed the previously enclosed loft void.
- 2.4.4 Regular disturbance is likely to have occurred during works to the building in 2023, which have also included removal of the garage, removal of floors and stripping out of the interior across both floors. The building's suitability for roosting bats is therefore considered likely to have reduced significantly in recent months.



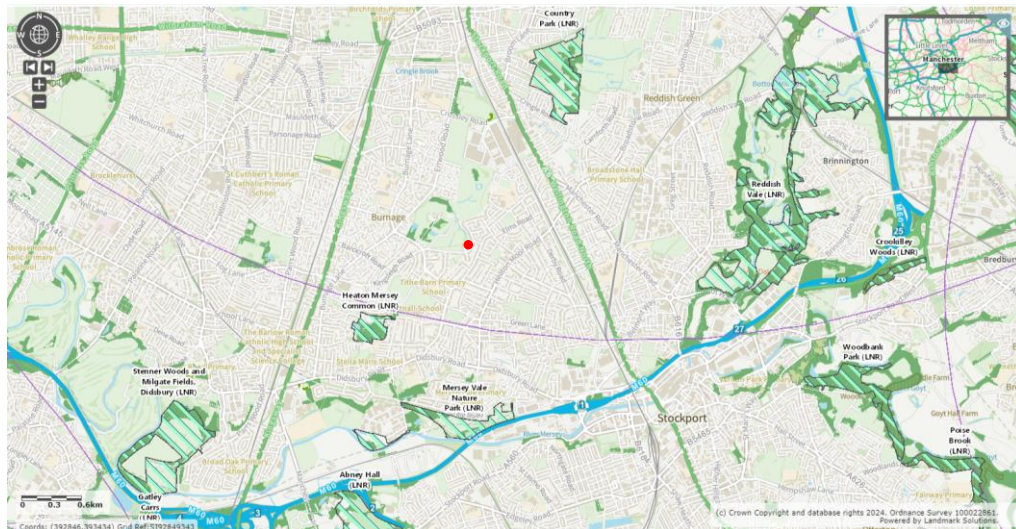
## 3 SURVEY FINDINGS

### 3.1 Desk Study

#### *Designations and Notable Habitats*

- 3.1.1 The house is situated within a residential area along the south-eastern edge of Heaton Moor Golf Club, with tall ruderal and scrub habitat bordering the garden and mature trees (silver birch *Betula pendula*) in close proximity. This provides an immediate foraging ground for any bats roosting in the locality; parks, allotments, playing fields and an extensive network of gardens are also present throughout the otherwise predominantly residential wider area, whilst the River Mersey is located less than 2 km south. Several Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are also located within 2 km, the closest of which is Heaton Mersey Common approximately 1.05 km south-west. See Figure 3.1 below for further site context.

Figure 3.1 – Location plan (proposal site highlighted by red dot), also showing areas of priority habitat within proximity to the proposal site and Local Nature Reserves (LNR). Screenshot from MAGIC Maps (<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>)



- 3.1.2 The site does not fall within any Impact Risk Zones for any Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), nor were any European and National Statutory designated sites with criteria for bats identified.
- 3.1.3 Priority habitat (in accordance with the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework, formerly UK BAP) recorded by MAGIC as being within 1 km of the site includes multiple areas of deciduous woodland, the closest being approximately 350 m west.
- 3.1.4 No records for granted EPS mitigation licences for bats were returned from within 2 km of the site. Licences do exist within 3 km of the site.

#### *Recorded Species*

- 3.1.5 The NBN Atlas (<https://nbnatlas.org> - accessed 20/12/2023) returned the following relevant records within 1 km of the proposal site:

- **Mammals (European Protected Species and Schedule 5 species as listed within the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981):** four common pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*); and

- **Birds (Schedule 1 species as listed within the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and birds of conservation red list):** 203 house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), 72 starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), 68 greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*), 45 swift (*Apus apus*), six fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*), 22 herring gull (*Larus argentatus*), 11 kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) and four lesser redpoll (*Acanthis cabaret*).

3.1.6 It should be noted that desk study data do not represent a comprehensive list of species present or absent within a search area and, if the habitat is suitable, a species should not be assumed to be absent based on a lack of records.

### 3.2 Building Inspection for Roosting Bats

#### External

3.2.1 The detached, red-brick, two storey property at 57 Leegate Road (see Photographs 1 to 7, below) is thought to have been built in the 1960s and is currently unoccupied and mid-renovation, with works on hold due to the structural issues (differing levels) that have become apparent during the works.

Photograph 1. 57 Leegate Road as viewed from the south-east	Photograph 2. Front/eastern elevation of the house
	
Photograph 3. Northern gable, showing brickwork holes	Photograph 4. South-west corner of the house
	

Photograph 5. Rear/western elevation of the house and garden area



Photograph 6. Closer view of tightly fitting roof tiles



Photograph 7. Openly adjoining habitat to the rear/west of the property



3.2.2 The house has a pitched, cross-gable roof, clad with concrete pan tiles, leaded valleys and a single brick chimney. UPVC windows, soffit boxes and fascias are also present. The roof was largely moss covered at the time of survey, with no visible gaps suitable for roosting bats beneath any tiles - a small number of apparent gaps were noted to be obstructed by moss and/or mortar, with the rest of the roof tiles appearing well-sealed, including along the rakes and ridges. Apparent gaps behind fascia board sections and soffit boxes were found to be superficial during closer inspection with binoculars and a high powered torch; close visibility of some eastern elevation fascia and soffit sections was afforded through the first floor windows on this side.

3.2.3 A garage has already been removed, with gaps in the brickwork noted on the northern and western house elevations where pipework has also been removed. These may provide potential access points for bats, however, no bat evidence was found internally and levels of disturbance and disruption to the building in recent months are considered likely to have deterred bat uptake to a large extent.

*Internal*

- 3.2.4 The interior of the property (see Photographs 8 to 13, below) has been stripped out, including floors on the ground floor and ceilings across the first floor. The ceiling removal has opened the roof space to the ridge and effectively removed the previously enclosed loft void. The roof is bitumen felt-lined and the felt is damaged in some areas; slim gaps were visible along the ridge close to an old chimney position where felt was partially missing, however, these were not visible during the external inspection. Whilst access opportunities are present via the aforementioned brickwork gaps, no evidence of bat use was found, although the floor space is likely to have been swept since removal of the ceilings. Cobwebbing (suggesting a lack of regular bat use) was noted along the ridge board and light levels were considered to be high for day roosting bats.
- 3.2.5 The ground floor comprises a series of rooms, with damp floor space and varying light levels; the largest room is shown in Photograph 13. This has potentially suitable perching/roosting points for bats, although no evidence was found.

Photograph 8. South-western interior first floor room	Photograph 9. North-western interior first floor room, showing brickwork hole
	
Photograph 10. Open roof structure	Photograph 11. Damaged roofing felt beyond former loft hatch
	

Photograph 12. Front, ground floor entrance



Photograph 13. South-eastern ground floor room



3.2.6 The building was assigned overall **negligible** potential for roosting bats based on a general lack of suitable roosting features, regular disturbance and lack of evidence; due to the layout of the site and small-scale nature of the proposals, there is unlikely to be any impact on bats in terms of both roosting and foraging/commuting.

### 3.3 Nesting Birds

3.3.1 No evidence of nesting birds was identified during the survey, although a dead great tit (*Parus major*) was found on the first floor. This is thought to have become trapped in recent weeks. The brickwork gaps offer access opportunities to birds, with suitable nesting locations present within the building.

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## 4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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### 4.1 Roosting Bats

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- 4.1.1 Whilst roosting opportunities are likely to be present nearby and habitats within the locality are suitable for foraging and commuting bat species, 57 Leegate Road was assessed to have **negligible** potential for roosting bats. However, there is always a low risk that any building can be used on occasion by roosting bats. As a legal requirement, should bat presence be suspected at any time during the works, works must cease and an ecologist must be contacted immediately. The ecologist will attend site, if necessary, to assess the situation and advise on how to proceed. This may involve seeking further advice from Natural England and the Bat Conservation Trust, and an application for a European Protected Species Mitigation licence to allow the works to lawfully commence.
- 4.1.2 As a general recommendation and due to the likelihood of foraging and commuting bat species in the vicinity, any proposed lighting should be sensitively designed so as to minimise impacts on wildlife associated with light disturbance.

### 4.2 Nesting Birds

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- 4.2.1 According to the main contractor, the brickwork cavities present have only recently been opened up. Soft blocking of these cavities with newspaper or similar is recommended to be undertaken as soon as possible before March so that no nesting birds (or roosting bats) take up residence, and so that no further birds become trapped; a check of the building interior should be undertaken prior to any soft blocking. The main nesting season is March to August inclusive. If any active nests are unexpectedly found during future construction works at the house, works must cease within a minimum 5 m buffer of the nest(s) in all directions until any chicks have fledged. Ecological advice should be sought in the event of any uncertainty.

### 4.3 Biodiversity Enhancements

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- 4.3.1 In accordance with national and local planning policy and strategies for nature conservation (e.g. the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework, the NERC Act 2006 (Section 41) and the National Planning Policy Framework 2023), opportunities for biodiversity gain are suggested to be incorporated within the development area as follows:
- Dedicated opportunities for roosting bats on the southern, western and/or northern elevations, such as integrated Habitat bat boxes or wall mounted bat boxes (large selection available from NHBS <https://www.nhbs.com> amongst other suppliers);
  - Provision of bird boxes (also available from NHBS) on the northern gable – these are recommended to include two swift boxes either integrated to the walls or installed after construction at a height of at least 5 m – examples vary in finish and include the Ibstock eco-habitat for swifts, WoodStone built-in deep nest box for swifts, and the 16s Schwegler swift box (with starling barrier). A house sparrow terrace such as the Vivara Pro WoodStone double chamber house sparrow nest box (or similar) is also recommended – this model can be integrated or installed following construction at a height of at least 3 m;
  - Connectivity with adjacent gardens and golf course habitats - terrestrial mammals such as hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) would benefit from connectivity with surrounding habitats – if closed fencing is ultimately planned, small, dedicated gaps of 13 cm x 13 cm would allow hedgehog commuting and foraging between these areas; and

- Planting of pollen-rich wildflowers, fruit bearing shrubs and native trees where possible and practical to offer opportunities to a range of wildlife, including bats and birds.

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## 5 REFERENCES

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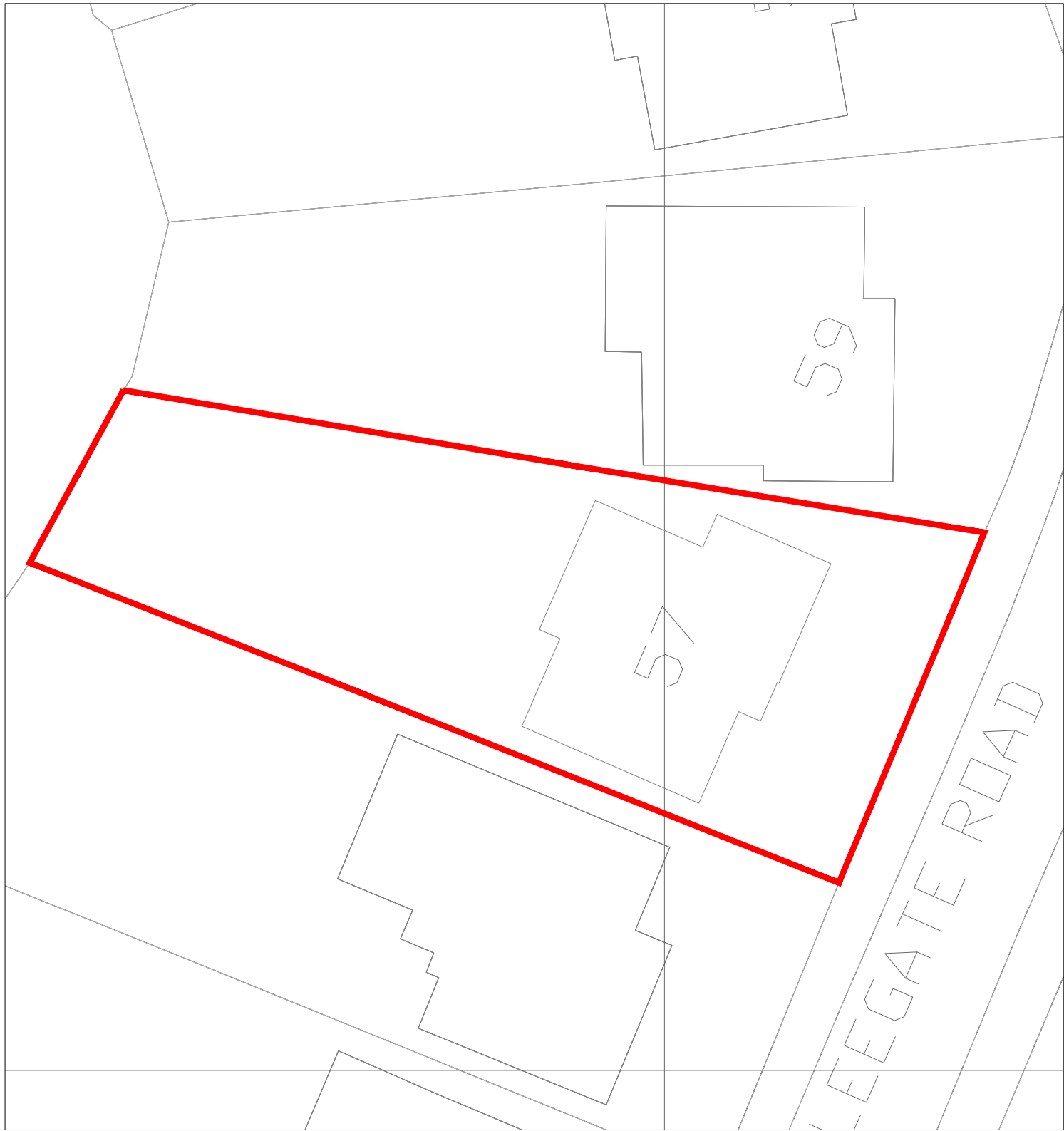
- Collins, J. (ed.) (2023). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4<sup>th</sup> edn). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.
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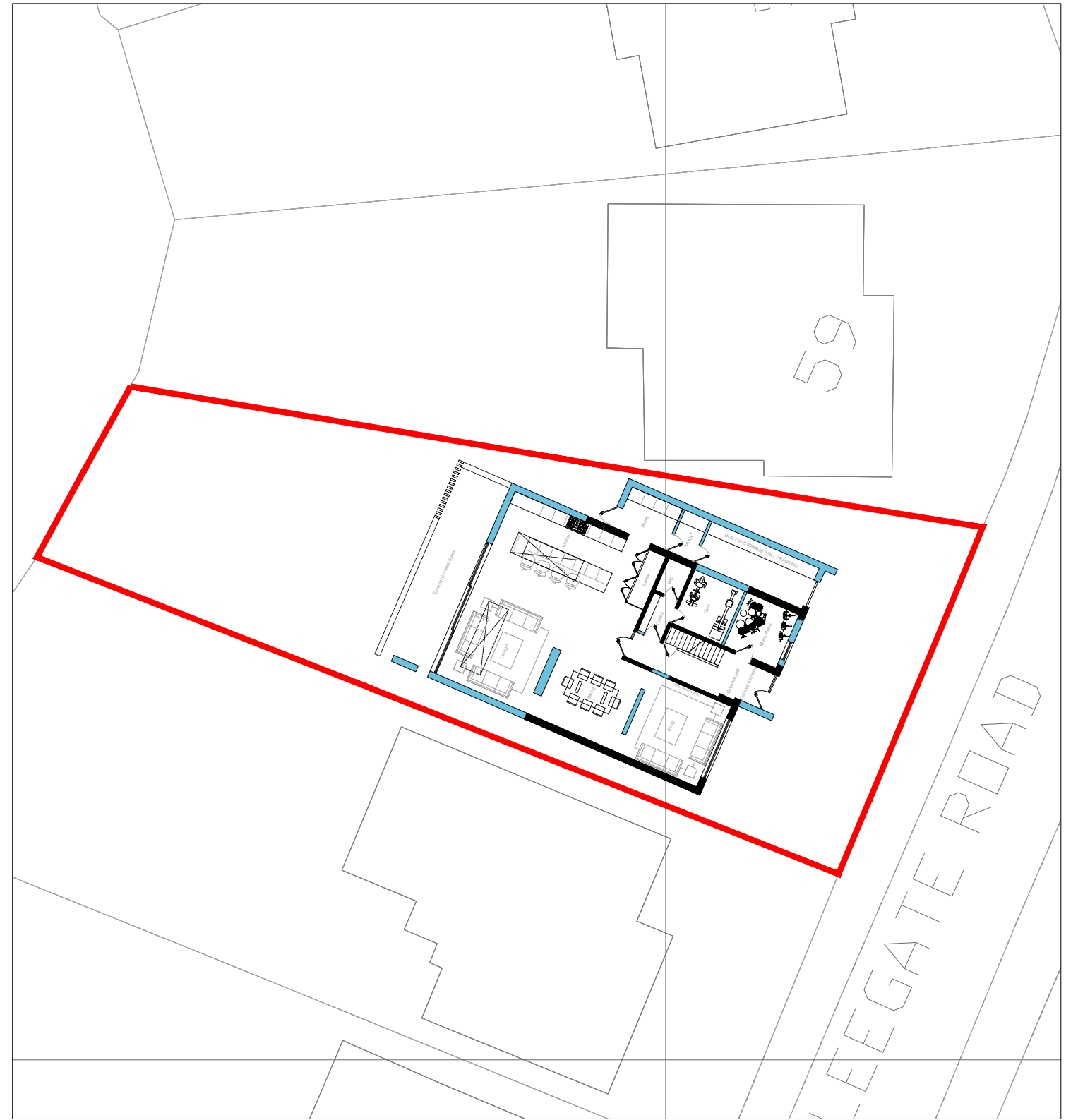
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## **APPENDIX 1 – SITE PROPOSALS**

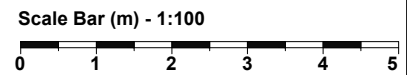
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PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR



PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR



- GENERAL NOTES:**
- All boundaries, dimensions and levels are to be checked on site before construction and any discrepancies reported to the Architect / Designer.
  - Partial Service: Any discrepancies with site or other information is to be advised to the Architect / Designer and direction and / or approval is to be sought before the implementation of the detail.
  - Block and site plans are reproduced under license from the Ordnance Survey.
  - Do not scale this drawing.
  - For the purpose of coordination, all relevant parties must check this information prior to implementation and report any discrepancies to the Architect / Designer.

**KEY**

- Existing Walls
- New Walls
- Steel beam
- Demolition
- Site Boundary

CLIENT <b>Mr McGonagle</b>		DRAWING <b>Existing &amp; Proposed Site Plan</b>	
PROJECT <b>57 Leegate Road, Heaton Moor</b>		SCALE <b>1:100</b>	PAPER SIZE <b>A3</b>
		DATE <b>10/06/2022</b>	DRAWN BY
		DRAWING No. <b>PD007</b>	REVISION <b>B</b>
<b>B</b> Updated Following Local Authority Comments <b>A</b> ISSUED FOR PLANNING		DATE <b>03.01.23</b> <b>10.06.22</b>	DRAWING STATUS <b>PLANNING</b>
REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	

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## APPENDIX 2 - LEGISLATION

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### Bats

All UK wild bat species receive full protection (Schedule 5 species) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which is further amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Taking these Acts together, it is an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection (S9:4b).
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a bat (S9:4c).
- The term 'reckless' is defined by the case of Regina v Caldwell 1982. The prosecution has to show that a person either deliberately took an unacceptable risk, or failed to notice or consider an obvious risk.

A bat roost has been interpreted to mean any structure or place which is used for shelter or protection whether or not bats are present at the time. Bat roosts may be defined (Hunt, L, 2012) as either (i) Transition Roosts, (ii) Maternity roosts, (iii) Satellite Roosts, (iv) Mating Roost, (v) Hibernation roosts, (vi) Night Roost, (vii) Day Roost, (viii) Feeding Roost or (ix) Swarming Sites.

Bats are listed under Annexes IIa and IVa of the EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, or the 'Habitats Directive'. Inclusion on Annex IVa means bats are a European Protected Species (EPS) and protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, thus it is an offence to:

- (a) deliberately capture, injure or kill any wild animal of an EPS,
- (b) deliberately disturb wild animals of any such species, in such a way as –
  - (i) to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear their young, or
  - (ii) in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate, or
  - (iii) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong;

A licence to disturb or take bats can be issued for certain purposes under Section 16 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and under Regulation 44 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 permitting activities that would otherwise be illegal under the legislation. Licences can take up to 30 working days to be issued by Natural England. Where impacts on bats are unavoidable, mitigation will be required to maintain and enhance the favourable conservation status of bats. Losses of bat roosts must be compensated for by the provision of new roosting sites and planting of new foraging habitat. Mitigation measures will need to be designed on a site specific basis and only in consultation with an expert. All mitigation proposals must be agreed with Natural England and put in place prior to the commencement of works.

### Nesting Birds

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) all wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is an offence 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
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.