

39 Woodfield Park Road,
Emsworth,
PO10 8BE

PHASE 1 DAYTIME BAT SURVEY

14th September 2023

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Level 1 bat license holder no. 2020-46400-CLS-CLS



Prepared by

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SUMMARY

This report constitutes a phase 1 bat survey carried out on the 14th September 2023 at 39 Woodfield Park Road, Emsworth, PO10 8BE

No evidence of bats was found within the dwelling, however there is a loose ridge tile and some potential openings in the soffits on the east face through which bats could enter.

Therefore, the dwelling has low potential for roosting bats and a phase 2 bat survey is not recommended.

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INTRODUCTION

Background

I was contracted to undertake a Phase 1 Daytime Bat assessment of 39 Woodfield Park Road, Emsworth, PO10 8BE

This report presents the findings of the survey undertaken on 14th September 2023, which is aimed at assessing the suitability of the house and gardens to support bats.

Site Setting and Description

The property is a detached dormer bungalow in Emsworth. It is surrounded by detached and semi-detached properties with small gardens. There are no large trees or woodland within 30m.

METHODS

Background Data Search

According to the DEFRA MagicMap website <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx> the nearest EPS bat licence issued to the plot was for a site 761m to the west in Emsworth covering Soprano Pipistrelles.

Phase 1 Bat Survey Methods

The Daytime Bat Assessment / Phase 1 Bat Survey was undertaken in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines (Hundt, 2012).

Details of the survey methods are given below.

The property was investigated externally to identify potential bat access/egress locations and roosting areas such as gaps or holes between wooden cladding, roof tiles, fascias and soffits and to record direct evidence of bat presence such as droppings and urine staining. This was followed by a detailed investigation of all accessible internal spaces to record evidence of bat roosting activity such as droppings, feeding remains, live animals, corpses, urine staining and fur staining. The building was assessed as to its suitability for supporting roosting bats. The survey conformed to current Bat Conservation Trust guidelines (Bat Conservation, (2012) Bat surveys for professional ecologists: Good practice guidelines 3rd edition).

The details of the assessment criteria used to determine the ecological value of on-site attributes is outlined below. During the Phase 1 survey the assessment criteria are based on the potential for the site to support the species considered. However, in many cases Phase 2 surveys will be required to confirm presence /absence of any bat species and hence the

importance of a population at the site, therefore the assessment of value should be considered as provisional.

Where possible, a provisional assessment of potential will be made although this may well require Phase 2 surveys to confirm status.

High Potential- High potential buildings are those that have features highly suitable for use by roosting bats, including gaps around soffits, hanging tiles, extensive roof spaces etc. High potential buildings are often, but not always, buildings of more historic construction. Further Phase 2 surveys will be required to confirm the presence/absence of bats.

Medium Potential- Medium potential buildings have a moderate number of features that may be utilised by bats for roosting, these may include loose fascias, roof spaces etc. Further Phase 2 surveys are likely to be required to confirm the presence/absence of bats.

Low Potential- Low potential buildings are those that provide limited bat roosting potential although some features that may be utilised by bats may be present. Further Phase 2 surveys are likely to be required to confirm the presence/absence of bats.

No/Negligible Potential – These are buildings that are extremely unlikely to support roosting bats due to the absence of suitable features. Further Phase 2 surveys are unlikely to be required for buildings with negligible potential.

Phase 1 Survey Timing and Weather Conditions

The Phase 1 bat survey was carried out on the evening of the 14th September 2023, which was a bright day with 20% cloud cover and an ambient temperature of 18 °C.

Phase 1 Survey Equipment

During the Phase 1 survey the surveyor was equipped with 10x42 close focus binoculars and a high-powered torch.

RESULTS

Phase 1 Bat Survey Results

Bats are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, and also receive additional protection via The Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations (2010) from intentional killing and injury and from intentional damage, destruction or obstruction of access to a place of shelter. It is an offence to kill or injure a bat or interfere with any roosting or resting site. A bat roost is interpreted as "any structure or place used for shelter or protection" whether or not bats are present at the time or not. Barbastelle Bats, Bechstein's Bat, Noctule, Soprano Pipistrelle, Brown Long-eared Bat, Greater Horseshoe Bat and Lesser Horseshoe Bat are also UK BAP Priority Species and SPI.

The property was subject to a full Phase 1 bat survey. It is a dormer bungalow dating to mid 20th century. The roof is covered with close-fitting cement tiles which are in poor order (see figures 1 and 2) The soffits and fascias are in dilapidated condition with some openings where the wood has rotted away (See figure 3).

The loft is currently open as the ceiling has been removed. It is lined with bituminous felting which is in poor condition. (see figure 4).



Figure 1. North and west elevation looking east.



Figure 2. Eastern and southern elevations looking west. Red arrow indicates potential opening for bats.

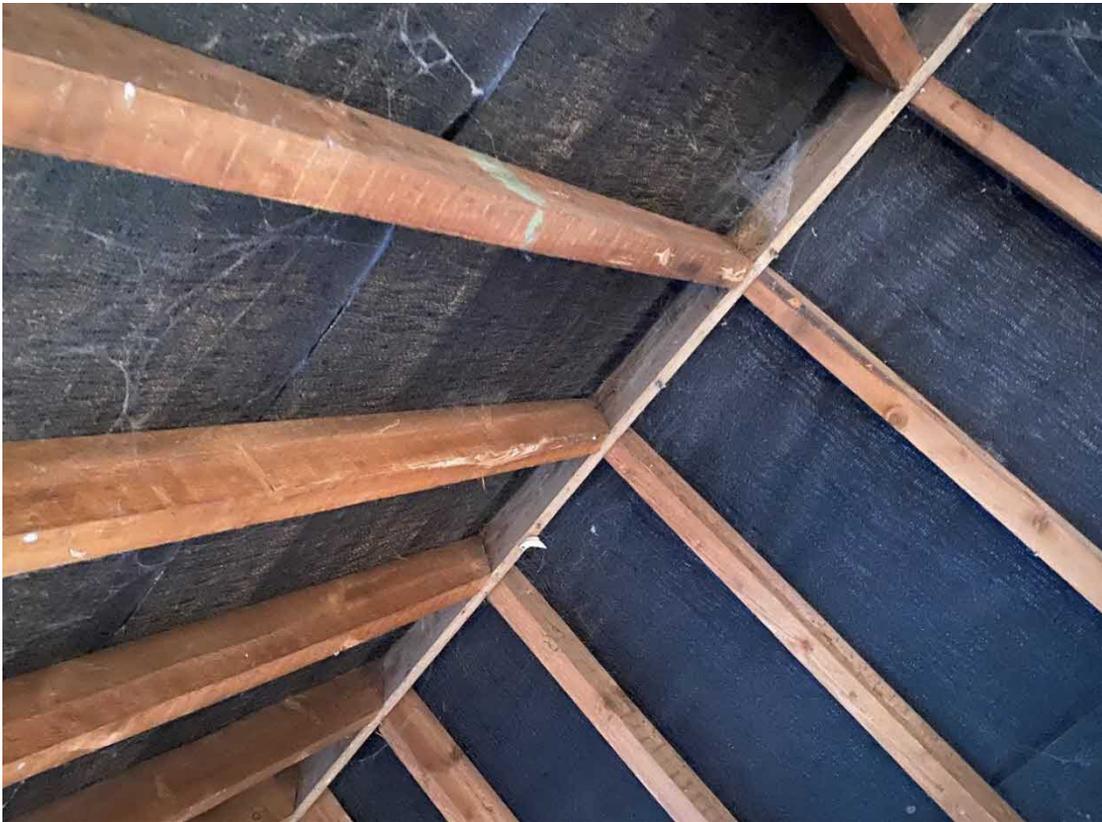


Figure 3. Loft looking southwest

CONCLUSIONS

No evidence of bats was found within the dwelling, however there is a loose ridge tile and some potential openings in the soffits on the east face through which bats could enter. Therefore, the dwelling has low potential for roosting bats and a phase 2 bat survey is not recommended.

A dusk emergence survey is required to confirm whether bats are utilising the property.

This would entail the structure being surrounded by surveyors (one would be required in this instance) such that all potential entrance/exit points are covered. The structure is then watched from either 15 minutes before sunset to 2 hours after or 2 hours before dawn to sunrise.

All emerging or re-entering bats are recorded along with their flight path, their species and the time of flight.

An emergence survey would identify:

- Whether bats are present in a structure, the species and number involved
- Entrance and exit points for the roost
- The type of roost
- Actions needed to be taken to ensure legal compliance

REFERENCES

Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (3rd Edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London

Institute of Environmental Assessment (1995). *Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment*. Institute of Environmental Assessment, London.

JNCC (2004) *Bat workers manual* (3rd edition). JNCC, Peterborough.

Reason, P.F. and Wray, S. (2023). *UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines: a guide to impact assessment, mitigation and compensation for developments affecting bats*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Ampfield.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Google Maps: www.maps.google.co.uk

Magic Interactive Map: www.magic.gov.uk

39 Woodfield Park Road,
Emsworth,
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Phase 2 Bat emergence survey

SEPTEMBER 2023



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METHODS

The surveys were conducted at dusk on the 22nd September 2023.

Surveyors were stationed to the west (viewing the western and northern elevations), and east viewing the southern and eastern elevation. Canon XA40 HD digital camcorders with IR illumination were also deployed (See figure 1). Survey commenced 30 minutes before sunset and continued until 90 minutes after sundown. EchotouchPro, Echotouch, and Batbox Duet detectors were employed to monitor and record bat activity. Walkie-talkie communications were maintained between surveyors to avoid multiple counting and help triangulate emergence and flight lines.

RESULTS

The night of the 22nd September was calm and clear with low activity with just a single soprano pipistrelle recorded foraging over the gardens to the west and southwest.

The raw data is shown in appendix 1 and the flight lines are shown on figure 1.



Figure 1. Locations of viewers, cameras (Blue stars) and flight paths (red line)

(courtesy of Googlemaps)

SPECIES ENCOUNTERED

Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*

Singleton seen foraging over the garden immediately west of no.39

CONCLUSIONS

No bats emerged from the property and activity was very low with just a single soprano pipistrelle recorded foraging over the gardens to the west.

Although the survey was carried out in September (which is considered suboptimal), the very limited potential roost spaces and isolation from woodland and trees meant that a negative emergence survey would in this instance be a reliable guide to the property's potential for bats. The very low bat activity levels during the survey also indicated that the area is not likely to support large numbers of bats in the spring and summer.

Lighting can be detrimental to roosting, foraging and commuting bats. Any new lighting around the buildings must be focused away from the tree lines and hooded or baffled to ensure minimal light spillage. Lamps of greater than 2000 lumens (150 W) must not be installed.

APPENDIX 1. FIELD DATA

22nd September 2023

Project		Start time	18.25	Finish	20.31	Temperature	16C at start 13 C at finish
Surveyors	JD RD			sunset	19.01	Weather 0% cloud beaufort 0	
Bat passes heard							
Station no.	Start time		No.	passes	comments		
W	19.16-17	Soprano pipistrelle	1	5	Foraging over garden to west (see fig 1, flightline A)		
W	19.22-23	Soprano pipistrelle	1	3	Foraging over garden to west (see fig 1, flightline A)		