



Bat Emergence and Re-entry Surveys (Interim Report)

12 Spring Court Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 8JP

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Industry Guidelines and Standards

This report has been written with due consideration to:

- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2018). Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.1. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2020). Guidelines for Accessing, Using and Sharing Biodiversity Data in the UK. 2nd Edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- British Standard 42020 (2013). Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development.
- British Standard 8683:2021 (2021). Process for Designing and Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain.

Proportionality

The work involved in preparing and implementing all ecological surveys, impact assessments and measures for avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement should be proportionate to the predicted degree of risk to biodiversity and to the nature and scale of the proposed development. Consequently, the decision-maker should only request supporting information and conservation measures that are relevant, necessary and material to the application in question. Similarly, the decision-maker and their consultees should ensure that any comments and advice made over an application are also proportionate.

The desk studies and field surveys undertaken to provide a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) might in some cases be all that is necessary.

(BS 42020, 2013)

Executive Summary

Arbtech Consulting Ltd was instructed by Rob Allum and Diane Smith to undertake Bat Emergence and Re-entry Surveys (BERS) at 12 Spring Court Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 8JP (hereafter referred to as “the site”). The survey was required to inform a planning application for the demolition of the existing dwelling and development of site to provide 4no. new dwellings and associated landscape, parking and works (hereafter referred to as “the proposed development”).

The following is work you will need to commission to comply with planning policy and legislation. Further information, along with opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, are outlined in Table 4 of this report.

Feature	Survey Results Summary	Impact Assessment	Recommendations
<p>Roosting Bats (B1)</p>	<p>Surveys to date have identified two roosts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A (likely) transitional/occasional roost of common pipistrelles with a peak count of 1no. individual located under the apical hanging tile of the middle dormer window at the eastern elevation. This roost is considered to have low conservation value in line with the Bat Mitigation Guidelines (English Nature, 2004). 2. A (likely) day roost of common pipistrelles with a peak count of 1no. individual located under the lifted lead flashing on the gable end clad with hanging tiles at the eastern elevation. This roost is considered to have low conservation value in line with the Bat Mitigation Guidelines (English Nature, 2004). 	<p>The proposed development will result in the demolition of B1. This will result in the destruction of the bat roosts and will cause disturbance, death, or injury to bats.</p> <p>However, the full impacts of the works cannot be fully evaluated until the completion of the third survey.</p>	<p>One more bat emergence and re-entry survey is required during the active bat season (optimal May to August, suboptimal September) to discern whether more roosts are present in B1.</p> <p>Three surveyors are required to provide full coverage of the building. Infra-red cameras should be used as an aid.</p> <p>Once this survey is complete and planning permission is obtained, a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) or Bat Mitigation Class Licence (BMCL) will be required. These licences require that surveys have been undertaken within the most recent active bat season and planning permission must have been granted, and all relevant wildlife-related conditions have been discharged prior to submission.</p>

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1.0 Introduction and Context

1.1 Background

Arbtech Consulting Limited was instructed by Rob Allum and Diane Smith to undertake Bat Emergence and Re-entry Surveys (BERS) at 12 Spring Court Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 8JP (hereafter referred to as “the site”). The survey was required to inform a planning application for the demolition of the existing dwelling and development of site to provide 4no. new dwellings and associated landscape, parking and works (hereafter referred to as “the proposed development”). A plan showing the proposed development is provided in Appendix 1.

The aim of the BERS was to determine the presence or likely absence of roosting bats and to characterise any roosts present. This has been undertaken with due consideration to the “Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists —Good Practice Guidelines” publication (Collins, 2016).

The BERS have been informed by a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) which was completed by ACD Environmental Ltd. on 13th January 2023 (ACD Environmental Ltd., 2023). Though no bats or evidence of bats was recorded during the PRA, the building (B1) contains a number of features which are suitable for roosting bats; as such, the building is considered to have high suitability to support roosting bats.

1.2 Site Location and Landscape Context

The site is located at National Grid Reference TQ 31039 98142 and has an area of approximately 0.14ha. There are two buildings on site, the main dwelling (B1) and an outbuilding shed (O1). B1 was subject to survey; O1 was assessed to have negligible value for roosting bats. There is a vegetated garden on site which provides limited foraging and commuting habitats. Large arable fields with linear hedgerows to the northwest and west contain more suitable foraging and commuting habitats. A site location plan is provided in Appendix 2.

1.3 Scope of the Report

This report provides a description of the bat activity observed and recorded during BERS. The aim of the surveys was to determine the presence or likely absence of bats and to characterise any roosts present including species, number of individuals, number and location of roost access points, and to gain an understanding of how bats use the site. The report provides information on possible constraints to the proposed development as a result of bats and summarises the requirements for any mitigation proposals, including a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL), where appropriate, to achieve planning or other statutory consent and to comply with wildlife legislation.

To achieve this, the following steps have been taken:

- BERS of the built structure has been undertaken to determine the presence or likely absence of bat roosts.
- An outline of potential impacts on any confirmed or unidentified roosts has been provided, based on the proposed development.
- Recommendations for mitigation have been made, along with advice on the requirements for a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) application if appropriate.
- Opportunities for the enhancement of the site for roosting, foraging and commuting bats have been set out.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 BERS

Three BERS, comprising three dusk emergence surveys, were recommended by the PRA. This interim report contains the results of the first two dusk emergence surveys on B1 and will be updated after the third. The surveys involved surveyors positioned around the building ensuring that all elevations and roof sections with suitable roosting features could be clearly observed. Particular attention was paid to the areas of the building identified as providing suitable access points to bat roosts. Each surveyor was assigned an area of the building to observe for the duration of the survey.

Surveyors used heterodyne and frequency division bat detectors, and Echo Meter Touch detectors connected to iPads or Android tablets. Bat echolocation calls recorded during the surveys were analysed using Wildlife Acoustics sound analysis software Kaleidoscope V3.1.7 when required. The Echo Meter Touch includes an auto ID function for bat species, however this is not 100% accurate and further post-survey sound analysis is often required to confirm species that could not be identified by the auto ID software during the survey. Surveyors also used head torches, survey record sheets and pens/pencils for recording all activity observed during the surveys. Each surveyor was also provided with a handheld radio for communication between surveyors to assist with confirming ambiguous bat activity e.g. a bat emergence or a bat passing over the building.

A maximum of two night vision aid recording kits were set up to monitor the building during the BERS. This comprised a CS-1 thermal camera mounted on a tripod, and Nightfox Red Goggles set up on a tripod with two separate infrared lamps on a second tripod to provide additional illumination. Analysis of the footage was subsequently undertaken to detect roosting activity.

Dusk emergence surveys commenced 15 minutes before sunset and continued for 1½ - 2 hours after sunset – depending upon bat activity and surveyor visibility. Surveys were a minimum of two weeks apart.

Surveys were completed during optimal weather conditions i.e., when temperatures were above 10°C, with no rain or strong winds (greater than 5m/s), as these adverse weather conditions can impact upon bat emergence and foraging behaviour.

2.2 Surveyors

A total of three surveyors were used to cover B1. The name, bat licence details or level of bat survey experience and the designated position of each surveyor during each survey is detailed in the tables in Section 3.1 below and shown on the plan in Appendix 3.

2.3 Bat Roost Characterisation

When bat roosts are present, the bat surveys undertaken at a site facilitate the characterisation of the roost type. This allows for appropriate mitigation and compensation to be designed to inform a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) application to Natural England. Note bat roost characterisations are subject to change pending the completion of the third and final BERS.

Bat Emergence and Re-entry Surveys

The definitions of bat roost types are provided below, taken from the *Bat Mitigation Guidelines* (English Nature, 2004) and the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) publication *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines* (Collins, 2016).

Day roost: a place where individual bats, or small groups of males, rest or shelter in the day but are rarely found by night in the summer.

Night roost: a place where bats rest or shelter in the night but are rarely found in the day. May be used by a single individual on occasion or it could be used regularly by the whole colony.

Feeding roost: a place where individual bats or a few individuals rest or feed during the night but are rarely present by day.

Transitional / occasional roost: used by a few individuals or occasionally small groups for generally short periods of time on waking from hibernation or in the period prior to hibernation.

Swarming site: where large numbers of males and females gather during late summer to autumn. Appear to be important mating sites

Mating sites: sites where mating takes place from later summer and can continue through winter.

Maternity roost: where female bats give birth and raise their young to independence.

Hibernation roost: where bats may be found individually or together during winter. They have a constant cool temperature and high humidity. Sites where hibernating bats have been confirmed by appropriate survey effort should be classed as 'hibernation confirmed'.

Satellite roost: an alternative roost found in close proximity to the main nursery colony used by a few individual breeding females to small groups of breeding females throughout the breeding season.

Other: roost types are interchangeable and not always easy to classify according to the nuances of certain species.

2.4 Limitations

These surveys follow best practice guidance to confirm presence or likely absence of roosting bats and where present, characterise the roost. However, this information is collected at finite dates and times, and provides an indication of the conditions on site only. The use of the building, and the site as a whole by bats, at all times cannot be established based on this information. Bats are highly mobile creatures that switch roosts regularly and therefore the usage of a site by bats can change over a short period of time.

There were no specific limitations to the survey.

3.0 Results and Evaluation

3.1 Survey Results


The results of each survey are provided in the tables below and shown on the plan in Appendix 3.


To date, a peak count of 2no. common pipistrelles were observed emerging from the eastern elevation of B1:

- During the first visit, 1no. common pipistrelle was seen emerging from a gap under the apical hanging tile of the middle dormer window, 1no. common pipistrelle was seen emerging from a gap under the lifted lead flashing on the northern side of the gable end clad in hanging tiles.
- During the second visit, 1no. common pipistrelle was seen emerging from a gap under the lifted lead flashing on the northern side of the gable end clad in hanging tiles.

Table 1: Survey results (first visit)

Date		02/06/2023	
Start and end times		20:55 – 22:25 Sunset: 21:09	
Weather conditions		Start: Temp: 13.1°C Relative Humidity: 64% Cloud Cover: 10% Wind: BF1 Rain: None	End: Temp: 10.5°C Relative Humidity: 73% Cloud Cover: 30% Wind: BF1 Rain: None
Surveyor (position) As shown in Appendix 3		David Lionel – 2 years bat survey experience: Position 1 – observing the western elevation of B1 Michelle Huang (Lead Surveyor) – Accredited Agent under Natural England Bat Licence Number: 2022-10404-CL18-BAT: Position 2 – observing the southern and eastern elevations and roof structures of B1 Andrew Lee – 1 year bat survey experience: Position 3 – observing the eastern and northern elevations and roof structures of B1	
IR position As shown in Appendix 3		Position 1 - observing the observing the southern and eastern elevations and roof structures of B1	
Building reference	Surveyor position	Notes/observations:	
B1	1	The first bat activity detected was a common pipistrelle which was heard on the detector but not seen at 21:26. Between 21:27 and 22:03, common pipistrelles were seen passing the rear garden from the southwest towards the northeast and vice versa, and observed foraging in the rear garden. The final bat activity detected was a common pipistrelle which was seen passing from southwest towards the northeast at 22:15.	

<p>B1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p><u>One common pipistrelle was observed to emerge from B1 from Position 2.</u></p> <p>The first bat activity observed was the emergence of 1no. common pipistrelle from the apical hanging tile of the middle dormer window on the eastern elevation; the bat flew southeast after emerging at 21:36. At 21:41, a common pipistrelle was seen passing from the northeast towards the southwest on the western side of B1. At 21:55, a common pipistrelle was seen passing from the east and circled around the surveyor before flying east. The final bat activity detected was a common pipistrelle which was heard on the detector but not seen at 22:15.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Figure 1. Emergence point (circled in red) of 1no. common pipistrelle at 21:36.</i></p>
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<p>B1</p>	<p>3</p>	<p><u>One common pipistrelle was observed to emerge from B1 from Position 3.</u> The first bat activity detected was the emergence of 1no. common pipistrelle from a gap under the lifted lead flashing on the northern side of the gable end clad in hanging tiles at 21:31; the bat flew southeast after emerging. At 21:36, a common pipistrelle was heard on the detector but not seen. The final bat activity detected was a common pipistrelle which was heard on the detector but not seen at 21:55.</p>  <p><i>Figure 2. Emergence point (circled in red) of 1no. common pipistrelle at 21:31.</i></p>
<p>Other observations</p>		<p>No bird activity was associated with B1. Streetlights in front of B1 turned on at 21:09.</p>

Building reference	IR position	Notes/observations:
B1	1	<p>No emergencies were captured on camera.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Figure 3. Snapshot of thermal camera footage.</i></p>

Table 2: Survey results (second visit)

Date		16/06/2023	
Building inspection prior to survey		The roost features identified during the PRA were subject to an inspection prior to the BERS to check for evidence of roosting bats. An internal inspection of the loft void was also completed. No evidence of roosting bats was found internally or externally.	
Start and end times		21:00 – 21:35 Sunset: 21:19	
Weather conditions		Start: Temp: 21.9°C Relative Humidity: 38% Cloud Cover: 50% Wind: BF1 Rain: None	End: Temp: 16.9°C Relative Humidity: 55% Cloud Cover: 40% Wind: BF1 Rain: None
Surveyor (position) As shown in Appendix 3		Andrew Lee – 1 year bat survey experience: Position 1 – observing the western elevation of B1 Emma Platts – 1 year bat survey experience: Position 2 – observing the southern and eastern elevations and roof structures of B1 Michelle Huang (Lead Surveyor) – Accredited Agent under Natural England Bat Licence Number: 2022-10404-CL18-BAT: Position 3 – observing the eastern and northern elevations and roof structures of B1	
IR position As shown in Appendix 3		Position 1 - observing the observing the southern and eastern elevations and roof structures of B1 Position 2 – observing the eastern and northern elevations and roof structures of B1	
Building reference	Surveyor position	Notes/observations:	
B1	1	The first bat activity detected was a common pipistrelle which was heard on the detector but not seen. At 21:58. Between 21:58 and 22:18, common pipistrelles were seen foraging atop Position 1, with the majority heading towards the northwest and towards the west. The final bat activity detected was a common pipistrelle which was heard on the detector but not seen at 22:22.	
B1	2	The first bat activity detected was a common pipistrelle which was seen flying over the roof from the northwest towards the southeast at 21:56. Between 22:05 and 22:11, common pipistrelles were heard on the detector but not seen. The final bat activity detected was a common pipistrelle which was heard on the detector but not seen at 22:21.	
B1	3	<u>One common pipistrelle was observed to emerge from B1 from Position 3.</u> The first bat activity detected was a noctule which was heard on the detector but not seen at 21:47. At 21:47, 1no. common pipistrelle was observed emerging from a gap under the lifted lead flashing on the northern side of the gable end clad in hanging tiles. At 21:56, a common pipistrelle was seen flying over the roof from the northwest towards the southeast. The final bat activity detected was a common pipistrelle which was seen passing from the northeast towards the southwest at 21:58.	



Figure 4. Emergence point (circled in red) of 1no. common pipistrelle at 21:47.

Other observations

No bird activity was associated with B1. Streetlights in front of B1 turned on at 21:15.

Building reference	IR position	Notes/observations:
B1	1	 <p>The image shows a two-story house with a brick chimney and a gabled roof. A red box highlights a section of the roof, which is magnified in a separate inset on the right. The inset shows a thermal image of the roof area, with a timestamp in the bottom right corner that reads "2023/06/16 22:28:41".</p>

Figure 5. Snapshot of infrared camera footage.


B1	2	<p>One common pipistrelle was observed to emerge.</p>  <p>The figure consists of three sequential thermal images of a house's roof and windows. Each image shows a bright, glowing area on the roof, indicating the presence of a bat. A blue circle in each image marks the emergence point. The top of each image shows a signal strength icon, a Wi-Fi icon, and a zoom level of "x1.0".</p>
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Figure 6. Snapshots of thermal footage of the emergence trajectory of 1no. common pipistrelle at 21:47.

Table 3: Survey results (third visit – to commence on 30/06/2023)

Date		30/06/2023	
Start and end times		TBD Sunset: 21:21	
Weather conditions		Start: Temp: TBD Relative Humidity: TBD Cloud Cover: TBD Wind: TBD Rain: TBD	End: Temp: TBD Relative Humidity: TBD Cloud Cover: TBD Wind: TBD Rain: TBD
Surveyor (position) As shown in Appendix 3		Michelle Huang (Lead Surveyor) – Accredited Agent under Natural England Bat Licence Number: 2022-10404-CL18-BAT: Position TBD David Lionel – 2 years bat survey experience: Position TBD Andrew Lee – 1 year bat survey experience: Position TBD	
IR position As shown in Appendix 3		TBD	
Building reference	Surveyor position	Notes/observations:	
B1	1	TBD	
B1	2	TBD	
B1	3	TBD	
Building reference	IR position	Notes/observations:	
B1	TBD	TBD	
Other observations		TBD	

4.0 Conclusions, Impacts and Recommendations

Taking the field survey results into account, Table 4 presents an evaluation of the value of the building for roosting bats in relation to the proposed development which will comprise the demolition of the existing dwelling and development of site to provide 4no. new dwellings and associated landscape, parking and works.

Table 4: Evaluation of the building on site for roosting bats

Building	Survey Results Summary	Impact Assessment	Recommendations	Biodiversity Enhancement Opportunities ¹
B1	<p>Surveys to date have identified two roosts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A (likely) transitional/occasional roost of common pipistrelles with a peak count of 1no. individual located under the apical hanging tile of the middle dormer window at the eastern elevation. This roost is considered to have low conservation value in line with the Bat Mitigation Guidelines (English Nature, 2004). 2. A (likely) day roost of common pipistrelles with a peak count of 1no. individual located under the lifted lead flashing on the gable end clad with hanging tiles at the eastern elevation. This roost is considered to have low conservation value in line with the Bat Mitigation Guidelines (English Nature, 2004). 	<p>The proposed development will result in the demolition of B1. This will result in the destruction of the known bat roosts and will cause disturbance, death, or injury to bats.</p> <p>However, the full impacts of the works cannot be fully evaluated until the completion of the third survey.</p>	<p>One more bat emergence and re-entry survey is required during the active bat season (optimal May to August, suboptimal September) to discern whether more roosts are present in B1. Three surveyors are required to provide full coverage of the building. Infra-red cameras should be used as an aid.</p> <p>Once this survey is complete and planning permission is obtained, a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) or Bat Mitigation Class Licence (BMCL) will be required. These licences require that surveys have been undertaken within the most recent active bat season and planning permission must have been granted, and all relevant wildlife-related conditions have been discharged prior to submission.</p>	<p>The installation of bat boxes at the site will provide additional roosting habitat for bats.</p> <p>The exact number and specifications to be confirmed upon completion of BERS on B1.</p>

¹ The Local Planning Authority has a duty to ask for enhancements under the NPPF (2021).

5.0 Bibliography

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Appendix 1: Proposed Development Plan



12 Spring Court Road
 Limited L2 & P

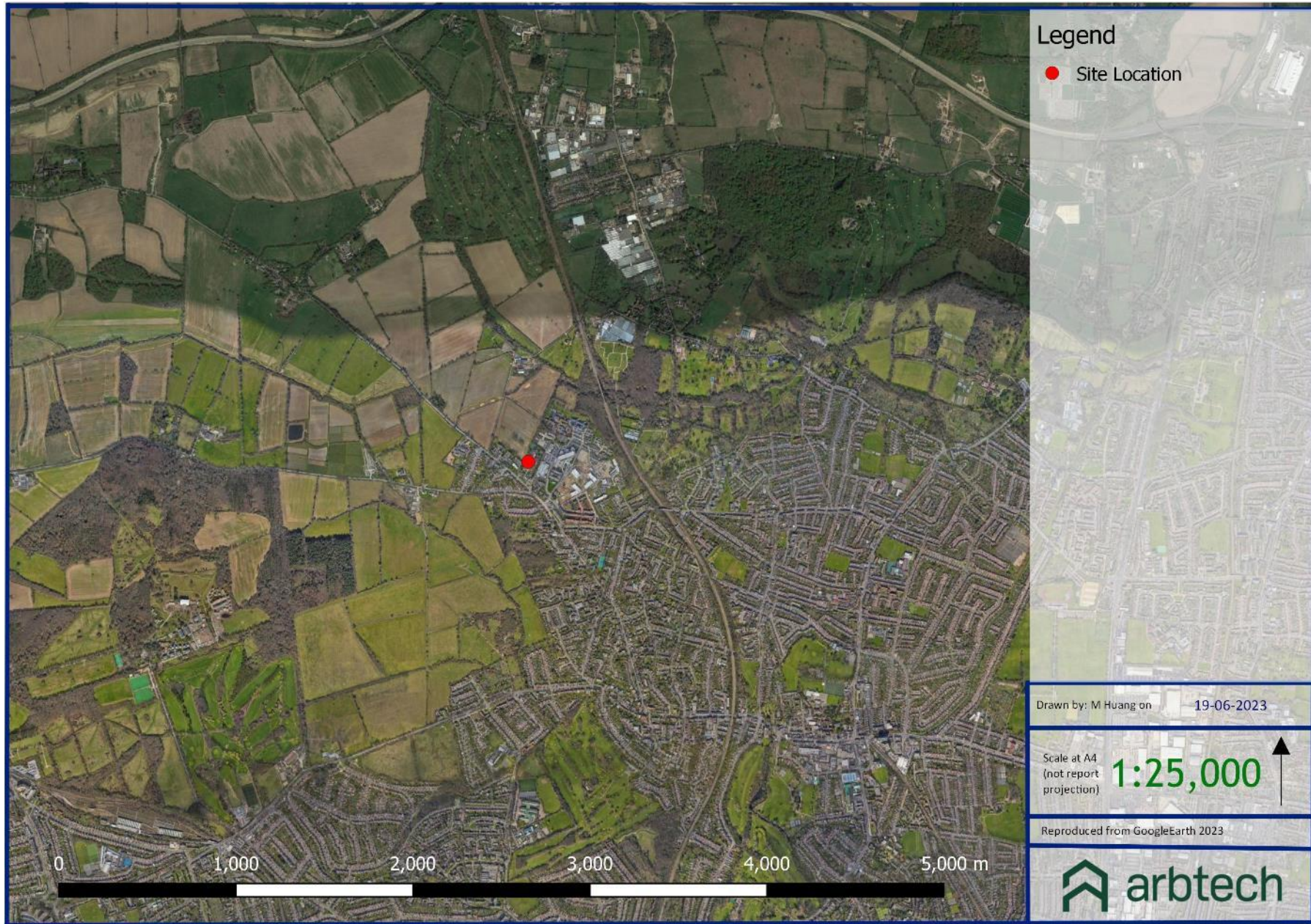
12/2023
 Date: 12/2023
 Drawn: [Name]
 Scale: 1:1200

12 Spring Court Road
 Limited L2 & P

Site Location Plan and Proposed Site Plan
 4 no. new dwellings

Kirby . Cove . Architects
 1200
 120
 1:1

Appendix 2: Site Location Plan



Appendix 3: BERS Plan



Appendix 4: Legislation and Planning Policy Related to Bats

LEGAL PROTECTION

All species of bat are fully protected under *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017* (as amended) through their inclusion on Schedule 2.

Regulation 43: Protection of certain wild animals - offences

(1) A person is guilty of an offence if they:

- (a) Deliberately captures, injures or kills any wild animal of a European protected species,
- (b) Deliberately disturbs wild animals of any such species,
- (c) Deliberately takes or destroys the eggs of such an animal, or
- (d) Damages or destroys a breeding site or resting place of such an animal,

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1) (b), disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely—

- (a) To impair their ability:
 - (i) To survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young; or
 - (ii) In the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or
- (b) To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

Bats are also protected under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) through their inclusion on Schedule 5. Under this Act, they are additionally protected from:

- Intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level)
- Intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection
- Selling, offering or exposing for sale, possession or transporting for purpose of sale

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

National Planning Policy Framework 2021

The National Planning Policy Framework promotes sustainable development. The Framework specifies the need for protection of designated sites and priority habitats and species. An emphasis is also made on the need for ecological infrastructure through protection, restoration and re-creation. The protection and recovery of priority species (considered likely to be those listed as species of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006) is also listed as a requirement of planning policy.

In determining a planning application, planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by ensuring that: designated sites are protected from harm; there is appropriate mitigation or compensation where significant harm cannot be avoided; measurable gains in biodiversity in and around developments are incorporated; and planning permission is refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats including aged or veteran trees and also ancient woodland.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and the Biodiversity Duty

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions. This is commonly referred to as the 'biodiversity duty'.

Section 41 of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of 'principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity'. This list is intended to assist decision makers such as public bodies in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the Act. Under the Act these habitats and species are regarded as a material consideration in determining planning applications. A developer must show that their protection has been adequately addressed within a development proposal.

EFFECT OF LEGISLATION AND POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT WORKS

A European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) issued by Natural England will be required for works likely to affect a bat roost or for operations likely to result in a level of disturbance which might impair their ability to undertake those activities mentioned above (e.g. survive, breed, rear young and hibernate). The licence is to allow derogation from the relevant legislation but also to enable appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place and their efficiency/success to be monitored. The legislation may also be interpreted such that, in certain circumstances, important foraging areas and/or commuting routes can be regarded as being afforded *de facto* protection, for example, where it can be proven that the continued usage of such areas is crucial to maintaining the integrity and long-term viability of a bat roost (Garland & Markham, 2008).

There are 17 species of bat breeding in England and Natural England issues licences under Regulation 55 of the Habitats Regulations to allow you to work within the law.

Licences are issued for specific purposes stated in the Regulations, if the following three tests are met:

- The purpose of the work meets one of those listed in the Habitats Regulations (see below);
- That there is no satisfactory alternative;
- That the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status (FCS) in their natural range

The Habitats Regulations permits licences to be issued for a specific set of purposes including:

- include preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of over-riding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment;
- scientific and educational purposes;

- ringing or marking; and,
- conserving wild animals.

Development works fall under the first purpose and Natural England issues bat mitigation licences for developments.

EUROPEAN PROTECTED SPECIES POLICIES

In December 2016 Natural England officially introduced the four licensing policies throughout England. The four policies seek to achieve better outcomes for European Protected Species (EPS) and reduce unnecessary costs, delays and uncertainty that can be inherent in the current standard EPS licensing system. The policies are summarised as follows:

- Policy 1; provides greater flexibility in exclusion and relocation activities, where there is investment in habitat provision;
- Policy 2; provides greater flexibility in the location of compensatory habitat;
- Policy 3; provides greater flexibility on exclusion measures where this will allow EPS to use temporary habitat; and,
- Policy 4; provides a reduced survey effort in circumstances where the impacts of development can be confidently predicted.

The four policies have been designed to have a net benefit for EPS by improving populations overall and not just protecting individuals within development sites. Most notably Natural England now recognises that the Habitats Regulations legal framework now applies to 'local populations' of EPS and not individuals/site populations.