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To whom it may concern,

Former Prescott Police Station, 6 Derby Street, Prescott, L34 3LG - Ecology Survey Summary and Requirement Further Works

Kingdom Ecology have carried out an initial bat scoping survey of a set of disused buildings located at the former Prescott Police Station, 6 Derby Street, Prescott, L34 3LG. Proposals are to convert the main police station building and to remove several outbuildings from the site.

This letter contains a summary of the initial findings of the bat scoping survey with a full survey report to follow after the completion of additional bat surveys at the site in the Summer of 2023.

Initial field surveys comprising of a daytime inspection were undertaken on the 5th October 2022. Surveys were carried out by Richard Roe (BSc, MSc, MIEEM, CEnv). Richard has extensive experience of undertaking bat surveys as a professional ecological consultant with over twenty years' experience. Richard is also a licensed bat worker.

The buildings were assessed as to their suitability to support bats following standard methodologies prescribed in English Nature's Bat Mitigation Guidelines (Mitchell-Jones 2004) and the Bat Conservation Trust's Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines 3rd Edition (BCT 2016).

Survey, comprising of an inspection of the interior and exterior of the buildings, was undertaken during daylight conditions using binoculars and a high-powered torch.

The study site is located to the west of Prescott town centre. Immediate surrounding land use principally comprises of residential housing. However, Prescott Churchyard and Cemetery are located approximately 200 m to the south of the site. Knowsley Safari Park is located approximately 500 m to the north of the site. These areas offer blocks of woodland, grassland and mature trees, such habitats offer good quality potential bat foraging opportunities.



The main police station building and associated outbuildings are set within an area of hardstanding car park. There are no mature trees at the site. The site layout and buildings present, are numbered and shown on Figure 1 in the Appendix.

The main Police Station Building (Building 1) is a two storey, brick-built, Victorian structure. The building has a part hipped and gable ended roof clad in tightly fitted slate. The roof was replaced approximately 10 years ago and is lined internally with modern breathable roof membrane.

Internally, the police station rooms have well plastered walls and ceilings, areas of polystyrene false-ceiling and are brightly lit by glazed windows. The main police station has a large central courthouse room which is approximately 6 m in height. There is a small, inaccessible void space above the vaulted ceiling of the courthouse. This small loft space is likely to be approximately 1 m in height. There are further loft spaces running above the gabled section of roof located on Derby Road. The loft spaces in this section are approximately 2.9 m in height; the internal face of the roof is lined in modern breathable roof membrane and the loft spaces themselves are not insulated. No bat droppings or other bat field signs were found within the main building interior.

Externally, the building has several broken windows however these have been sealed with netting to prevent pigeons from accessing the building interior. As the roof has been recently replaced, the slates and ridge are tightly fitted and in good condition. There are no obvious gaps at the building's eaves or gable ends, which also appear tight and well-sealed. There is a short parapet wall extending above the height of the eaves on the buildings south face with Derby Road and so this face is completely sealed.

There are some minor areas of lifting lead flashing located around the bases of the building's chimneys and around ventilation features which link to the void space above the courthouse. Otherwise, no obvious potential bat roosting features were identified to the building's exterior. These small areas of lifting lead flashing could offer suitable roosting habitat for individual or low numbers of non-breeding bats.

The building was assessed as offering a 'low' bat roosting potential. However, the surveyor understands that the roof of the building will not be affected by development proposals, with works exclusively affecting just the building interior.

Additional buildings at the site include two traditional, 19th century brick, slate-roofed outbuildings with upper floor haylofts (Buildings 2 and 4 of Figure 1). The buildings have 15 cm x 15 cm holes at the apexes of each gable. These holes provide potential bat and bird access to the building interior. The internal faces of the roof are unlined and supported on the original roof trusses. The haylofts are approximately 3m in height. Two old brown long-eared bat droppings were found within the hayloft of Building 4. Both of these buildings were assessed as offering a 'moderate' bat roosting potential.



Further buildings at the site include an open sided, lean-to and single-storey brick outbuildings; all of which have mono-pitched roofs clad in slate (Buildings 3, 5 and 6). There are areas of loose and missing slate associated with these buildings, plus further gaps at the north facing gables. No bat field signs were found associated with these buildings.

The remaining buildings at the site comprise of sets of concrete garages with flat-roofs clad in interlocking concrete tiles (Buildings 7 and 8). Both of these buildings were assessed as offering a 'negligible' bat roosting potential.

If proposed works will affect the identified potential bat roosting features associated with the buildings then further bat surveys would be required to assess these features. As the development will require the demolition of Buildings 2-7, these will all require further assessment.

Building 1 will only require further assessment if works will affect the existing roof or void spaces.

This further assessment would require at least one dusk/dawn bat activity surveys to be carried out of buildings assessed as offering a 'low' bat roosting potential during the active bat survey season (May-September inclusive).

Buildings assessed as offering a 'moderate' bat roosting potential will require at least two further dusk/dawn bat activity surveys.

The surveys of Buildings 2-6 should use at least five bat surveyors so that identified potential bat roosting features can be fully assessed. The surveys would aim to confirm the presence or otherwise of any bat roosts associated with the buildings and to identify the status of bat roosts present.

Following the completion of any required further survey, a full report will be provided describing the findings of the initial scoping survey and the findings of further bat activity surveys at the site.

Yours sincerely

Richard Roe

Ecologist

Prescot Police Station Bat Scoping Survey

Bat Roost Suitability

Building 1- Low
Building 2- Moderate
Building 3- Low
Building 4- Moderate
Building 5- Low
Building 6- Low
Building 7- Negligible
Building 8- Negligible

-  Study Site
-  Surveyor Location
-  Building

0 5 10 15 20 25 m



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