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Bat Roost Survey

Erection of two storey side extension and front porch extension (demolition of existing single storey side extension and front porch) at Rosewood Farm, Chapel Lane, Cronton, WA8 4NT

CLIENT: Ms Louise Knight
SURVEYS: August 2021

Rev 01: Issued 16th August 2021.

Executive Summary

This report has been prepared on behalf of Ms Louise Knight in relation to the identification and location of protected bat species at the property known as Rosewood Farm, Chapel Lane, Cronton, WA8 4NT (Grid Ref: SJ 494 882).

An initial assessment of the site was taken 7th August 2021 and the areas of the building affected by the proposals were assessed for suitability for bat roosts. The side single storey extension was assessed as having low value for bats, whilst the front porch was assessed as having negligible value for roosting bats. Full physical searches were also carried out on 7th August 2021 by Environmental Business Solutions (EBS). During the physical searches the building was also searched for signs of nesting birds. No signs of bat or bird habitation were noted during physical search. Due to these findings EBS recommended 1 dawn / dusk surveys using 2 surveyors to be conducted during 2021.

Dawn/dusk surveys were conducted on the 9th / 10th August 2021. No bats were noted emerging from the buildings. No signs of bat habitation were noted during physical searches. No signs of bird habitation were noted during physical search.

It is the opinion of EBS that at present it is unlikely that bats are roosting or birds nesting in the building at the present time.

Overall, it was concluded that the proposed development will not have a negative impact on the local bat or bird population within the surrounding environment as the buildings do not appear to contain roosts or nesting birds at present.

**Bill Gaudie,
BSc hons (Wildlife Conservation), MCIEEM
Natural England Licence No CLS001191
ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANT**

1. Introduction.

1.1 Site Overview. The site is located at National Grid Reference SJ 494 882 and is situated in a semi-rural area of Cronton, Merseyside. It consists of a two-story residential building, Brick / sandstone built, rendered, with apex tiled roof, the side extension to be demolished is single storey, brick built, rendered with slate roof. The front porch is fabricated sealed unit. The area surveyed also contains areas of small managed gardens, a driveway and scattered mature trees. The site is bordered immediately to the west and south by open countryside and by similar properties to the east and north. All walls, attic areas and roofs are easily accessible with no constraints.

1.2 Proposed Works. Erection of two storey side extension and front porch extension (demolition of existing single storey side extension and front porch).

1.3 Aims of survey. The identification and location of protected bat species at Rosewood Farm, Chapel Lane, Cronton, WA8 4NT (Grid Ref: SJ 494 882).

1.4 Legislation Considerations. All species of bat are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the European Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994, and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This legislation makes it illegal to possess or control any live or dead specimens, to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter, protection or breeding, and to intentionally disturb a bat while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose. Most resident nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which protects birds, nests, eggs and nestlings. Some rarer species, such as barn owls, are afforded extra protection. If bat species are present at the proposed redevelopment site, the purpose of this report will only summarise the potential requirements for a bat mitigation package or project. A separate mitigation report or project will be required which will include the necessary compensation measures to maintain the conservation status of a European Protected Species.

1.5 Qualification and Experience. With over 14 years' experience, licensed bat ecologist Bill Gaudie BSc (Wildlife Conservation), MCIEEM, Natural England licence number: CLS001191, supervised all surveys. Janet Gorst MA has over 6 years experience in dawn / dusk bat surveying, assisted on all surveys.

Fig 1. Site location – Wider area.



Fig 2. Site Location-immediate area



2. Methodology

2.1 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for Roosting Bats

- 2.1.1 Dates: 7th August 2021
- 2.1.2 Conditions. Showers with good visibility.
- 2.1.3 Surveyors. Mr W Gaudie, BSc hon's (Wildlife Conservation), MCIEEM, Natural England Licence No CLS001191.
- 2.1.4 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. A walkover of the proposed site to observe, assess and record any habitats suitable for bats to roost, commute and forage within the site and immediate surrounding areas. As per; Section 4.3 - Bat Conservation Trust (2016). *Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines 3rd Edition*. **Bat Conservation Trust, London**. ISBN 13 978-1-872745-96-1.
- 2.1.5 Equipment. Visual Optics VO18-10ww endoscope, Petzl Ticker LED head torch, Cluson Smartlite 1,000,000 candlepower torch, ladders.

2.2 Data Search

- 2.2.1 <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/> Was consulted for designated sites and European Protected Species Licensing in the near area.

2.3 Day time building survey.

- 2.3.1 Dates. 7th August 2021.
- 2.3.2 Conditions. Showers with good visibility.
- 2.3.3 Surveyors. Mr W Gaudie, BSc hon's (Wildlife Conservation), MCIEEM, Natural England Licence No CLS001191. Ms J Gorst MA.
- 2.3.4 Bat roost survey. Internal and external physical search of the buildings. As per; Bat Conservation Trust (2016). *Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines 3rd Edition*. **Bat Conservation Trust, London**. ISBN 13 978-1-872745-96-1.
- 2.3.5 All roof spacing, voids, cracks (internal and external) and over hanging tiles were searched for signs of bat habitation.
- 2.3.6 Equipment. Visual Optics VO18-10ww endoscope, Petzl Ticker LED head torch, Cluson Smartlite 1,000,000 candlepower torch, white sheets, extendable ladders.
- 2.3.7 All roof spacing, ledges, walls (internal and external) and over hanging tiles were searched for signs of bird habitation.

2.4 Bat dusk and dawn surveys with 2x surveyors .

- 2.4.1 Dates. 9th / 10th August 2021 see Table 1 below.
- 2.4.2 Conditions. See Table 1 below.
- 2.4.3 Timings. Dusk Surveys 20 minutes before sunset – 2 hours after sunset, Dawn Surveys 2 hours before sunrise – 20 minutes after sunrise (See Table 1 below)
- 2.4.4 Surveyors. Mr W Gaudie, BSc hon's wildlife conservation, MCIEEM. Natural England Licence No CLS001191, Miss J Gorst MA.
- 2.4.5 Area surveyed. Outside of buildings, see Fig 3 for positions of surveyors
- 2.4.6 Method. As per; Bat Conservation Trust (2016). *Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines 3rd Edition*. **Bat Conservation Trust, London**. ISBN 13 978-1-872745-96-1.
- 2.4.7 Equipment. 2 x Echo Meter Touch 2 Probat detector, Garmin etrex GPS, Meteos Skywatch weather station, Yukon NVMT.2.3x42 night vision.

Survey	Visit No	Date	Position of Surveyors	Min Temp °C	Wind m/s	Rain	Sunset / Sunrise
Dusk	1	090821	★	15.0	4.0	Dry Cloudy	20.54
Dawn	1	100821	★	14.0	3.5	Dry Cloudy	05.46

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3. Results

3.1 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

3.1.1 Table 2. Building descriptions.

Building Reference (see Appendix 3)	Description	Suitability for roosting bats
Side Extension	A brick built rendered residential property (occupied) with tiled apex roof. All brick work, tiles and soffits are in good condition. No Evidence of bat presence noted during physical / endoscope searches. See Photos below.	Low
Front Porch	Fabricated plastic / glass, flat roof. No Evidence of bat presence noted during physical / endoscope searches. See Photos below.	Negligible



North / west of rear extension.



North / east of rear extension.



Showing wall of proposed extension.



Front porch.

3.2 Survey Data.

3.2.1 According to the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside database, there are no statutory designated sites within 2km of the site. There are no areas of Ancient Woodland within 1km of the site.

3.3 Daytime Building Survey

The following features of all structures on site were assessed

- Type / age of building
- Aspect of building
- Wall construction, focussing what brick type was used and presence of cavity or rubble filled walls.
- Roof form and structure
- Nature of eaves
- Presence and condition of lead flashing
- Gaps under eaves, around windows, lead flashing etc
- Presence of roof insulation
- Roof structure.

Particular attention was paid to:

- Beams for hanging bats
- Droppings beneath beams
- Droppings and urine stains on walls
- Droppings or urine stains on any materials left stored
- Corpses
- Bat fly (*Nycteribiid*) cases

3.3.1 No signs of bat presence found during physical search of buildings

3.3.2 Floors and surfaces of sills, beams and brickwork in roof spaces all dust present, suggesting that the buildings had not been disturbed recently. No signs of droppings, insect cases or scratch-marks.

3.3.3 No sign of any bat activity was noted within the building but north of the Site.

3.3.4 No sign of any bird nesting was noted within the buildings.

3.4 Bat dusk and dawn surveys.

3.4.1 No bats were recorded entering or leaving the buildings at dawn or dusk.

3.4.2 Common Pipistrelle bats were recorded transecting the north of the site on several occasions but not associated with any of the buildings.

4. Constraints

4.1 Constraints on Survey Information. None

4.2 Constraints on Equipment Used. None

4.3 Potential Impacts of Development.

4.3.1 Designated Sites. Due to the size of the proposed development it thought that no designated site will be impacted upon.

4.3.2 Roosts. It is not thought that bats are roosting in any parts of the building at present.

4.3.3 Foraging and Community Habitat. The proposed development is not thought to have any detrimental ecological effects to the area. Any disturbance will be minimal and temporary.

5. Recommendations.

5.1 Further Surveys

- 5.1.1 Bat. If demolition of buildings is substantially delayed into another bat survey season, then surveys should be repeated.
- 5.1.2 Bird. Works should take place outside of the bird breeding season if possible (e.g. March to August). If this is not possible, then an ecologist will inspect individual buildings to confirm whether birds are nesting. No works will be conducted if birds are nesting in accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

5.2 Mitigation Measures.

- 5.2.1 Roost Sites. With reference to Natural England Bat Mitigation Guidelines (2004), no further mitigation is required at this point. No roosts are thought to be affected by the proposed development.
- 5.2.2 Foraging and Commuting Sites. With reference to Natural England Bat Mitigation Guidelines (2004), no further mitigation is required at this point. Not thought to be affected by proposed development.

5.3 Compensation.

- 5.3.1 Natural England Bat Mitigation Guidelines (2004) states “Where roosts of low conservation significance are to be lost to development, bat boxes may provide an appropriate form of mitigation, either alone or, preferably, in combination with the provision of new roosts in buildings. In such cases, the type of bat box provided should be appropriate to the species.” As the current buildings do not hold any roosts no compensation is deemed necessary. However, as most buildings can have some suitability for bat roosts, EBS think it appropriate for new bat boxes to be erected around the remaining site and buildings prior to any renovation is commenced.

- 6. **Summary.** Full physical searches along with dusk/dawn surveys provided no evidence of bat habitation in any parts of the buildings. Due to the findings of these surveys, it is thought that the proposed development is unlikely to have any negative effect on any bat or bird populations at the present time. It is the opinion of EBS that if the above recommendations regarding mitigation and compensation are followed then the development will result in a nett gain to biodiversity in the immediate area.

**Bill Gaudie,
BSc hons (Wildlife Conservation), MCIEEM**

7 References

Bat Conservation Trust (2016). Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines 3rd Edition. Bat Conservation Trust, London. ISBN 13 97998-1-872745-96-1

RSPB (2002) The Population Status of Birds in the UK 2002-2007

The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations 1994. HMSO

Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)

Countryside Rights of Way Act (2000)

English Nature. (2004) *Bat Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature