



Leigh Ecology Ltd

Protected Species and Habitat Surveys

Barn at Brook House Farm, Lower Road, Halewood, L26 3UB.

On behalf of T and O Harrison

Bat Activity Survey Report

Report number: HALEW2/2022

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Date: 18th July 2022

Approved: R. Leigh

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO READERS

This report has been prepared for T and O Harrison in accordance with the terms and conditions of appointment for bat activity surveys. Leigh Ecology Ltd cannot accept any responsibility for the use of or reliance on the content of this report by any third party.

The advice contained in this report is based on the information available and/or collected during the period of study. We cannot completely eliminate the possibility of important ecological features being found through further investigation and/or by survey at different times of the year or in different years.

Surveys and assessments are undertaken on the understanding that nothing in our reports will be omitted, amended or misrepresented by the client or any other interested party.

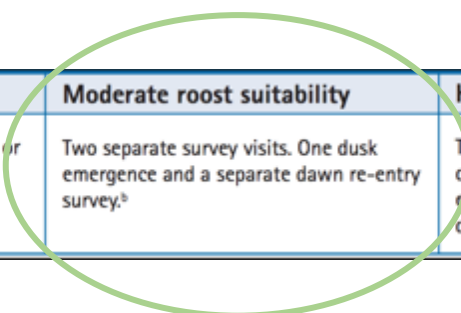
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Introduction

Leigh Ecology Ltd was commissioned by T and O Harrison to undertake a series of bat activity surveys on a traditional brick barn, with both single-storey and two-storey configuration; said dwelling is the subject of a planning application for renovation works, and a change of usage from an agricultural unit to a commercial block, located at Lower Road, Halewood, L26 3UB.

The client has previously commissioned a bat scoping survey, conducted by Leigh Ecology in April 2022 - HALEW/2022. This survey recorded several instances of slipped tiles and potential entry points, especially on the slate tile, single-storey section; consequently, the building was classified as **moderate roost suitability**; therefore, two bat activity surveys were suggested.



Low roost suitability	Moderate roost suitability	High roost suitability
One survey visit. One dusk emergence or dawn re-entry survey ^a (structures). No further surveys required (trees).	Two separate survey visits. One dusk emergence and a separate dawn re-entry survey. ^b	Three separate survey visits. At least one dusk emergence and a separate dawn re-entry survey. The third visit could be either dusk or dawn. ^b

Leigh Ecology Ltd was commissioned to undertake the recommended phase 2 surveys.

The two dusk emergence surveys were undertaken on the 8th of June and the 5th of July 2022 and were undertaken in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust, Bat Surveys Good Practice Guidelines (2016).

The surveys were led by Roy Leigh ACIEEM, a licensed bat surveyor, number 2015-15883 –CLS.

For the emergence surveys, 4 surveyor points monitored the building to ensure complete coverage for any emerging bats. Both surveys began 30 minutes before the recorded dusk time and continued for 90 minutes after.

The surveyors used Wildlife Acoustics Echometer/IPAD 4 and EMT pro bat detectors to record the echolocations of active bats. The surveyors were positioned as shown in figure 1, to ensure full coverage of the dwelling, in order to view the elevation, and roof, and gain full coverage simultaneously.

No bats were noted emerging from the target building.

The surveys detected up to 2 Common Pipistrelle bats foraging at the front of the barn; these bats were noted at the surveyor point located within the front courtyard and are not considered to be roosting within the building.

Noctule Bat activity was recorded overhead, this species is not considered to be roosting within the proposal footprint.

Given the results, one can assume that **the building does not currently hold a bat roost**, it is likely the bats recorded roost locally; the adjacent buildings and surrounding area offer good habitat for both roosting and foraging.

Methodology

The surveys were led by Roy Leigh ACIEEM, a licensed bat surveyor, number 2015-15883 –CLS.

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The surveyors used Wildlife Acoustics Echometer/IPAD 4 and EMT pro bat detectors to record the echolocations of active bats.

The surveyors were positioned at each face of the dwelling in order to view the elevation, and roof, and gain full coverage simultaneously (see surveyor location plan below).



Figure 1 - Surveyor Positions.

Dusk Emergence Results

08th June 2022

Start time	End time	Dusk time	Starting temp °	End temp °	Wind	Rain	Cloud %
21.10	22.55	21.35	15	14	0	0	30

21.51	NOCTULE	Heard not seen
21.54	NOCTULE	Passing N -> S
22.00	NOCTULE	Heard not seen
22.21	NOCTULE	Passing E -> S
22.21	COMMON PIPISTRELLE	Foraging front area of barn
22.26	COMMON PIPISTRELLE	Heard not seen



5th July 2022

Start time	End time	Dusk time	Starting temp °	End temp °	Wind	Rain	Cloud %
21:15	23:00	21:38	16	14	0	0	100

21.25	NOCTULE	Passing overhead
21.26	NOCTULE	Passing overhead
21.56	NOCTULE	Heard not seen
22:01	COMMON PIP	Foraging front courtyard
22.02	NOCTULE	Overhead

Conclusions and Recommendations

The results of the activity surveys indicate that the target building does not currently contain a bat roost.

Therefore, given that the building does not contain a current roost, it is suggested that the proposed works can proceed with caution and any bat related constraints should be covered by adhering to a bat safeguard method statement.

However, in order to comply with local biodiversity gain policy, it is suggested that three bat boxes/bricks are erected on the elevation facing away from the street/local flood lighting.

Where lighting is absolutely necessary in areas of tree/shrub planting this will be low wattage, directional, low level and/or shaded to minimise light spill (<1Lux) onto potential flight lines and foraging habitat to ensure that the overall impact caused by lighting the site is negligible. The lighting scheme will be designed with regard to guidance such as the Bat Conservation Trust Statement on the impact and design of artificial light on bats, and the Institution of Lighting Professionals Guidance Notes, to minimise disturbance to bats and other wildlife due to artificial lighting.

During the first bat activity survey an active wren's nest was located within the fabric of the building. Several old nests were present within the barn building.

Works on the building should aim to be outside of the bird nesting season (March – August). However, if this is not possible, a bird nesting check should be completed by an experienced ecologist prior to works commencing.