

SMEEEDEN FOREMAN

Landscape Architecture • Ecology • Arboriculture

Building Management Service Ltd
Huddersfield Road
Elland
West Yorkshire
HX5 9BW

24th July 2023

Re: SF3422 Earlsfield Park Bat Activity Transect Survey

Dear Mr Holder,

A bat activity transect survey was undertaken at Earlsfield Park on 10th July 2023, with a static bat detector deployed on site for 7 days following the survey, in order to provide an update to the existing report and surveys compiled by Ascerta in 2017 (see *Bat Survey and Assessment, Earlsfield Park, Knowsley Lane, L34 4AH* (Ascerta, December 2017)). Conditions on site have changed since 2017 when the original surveys were carried out with the buildings previously located on site having been demolished.

Ascerta valued the habitats on site, including semi-improved grassland, tall ruderal vegetation, trees and hedgerows, to offer 'moderate to high' quality commuting and foraging habitats for bats. Following the 2017 surveys Ascerta assessed the entire site as having moderate ecological value to bats for foraging and commuting habitat. The site was identified to be in regular use by several species, predominantly common and soprano pipistrelle bats, with foraging behaviour mainly focused along the woodland edges.

The dusk bat activity transect survey carried out by Smeeden Foreman Ltd on 10th July 2023 was undertaken by one surveyor walking all accessible areas of the site. The survey was undertaken to recommendations within the Bat Conservation Trusts Bat Surveys Good Practice Guidelines (2016). A Titley Anabat Express detector was used to record bat activity on site, with a handheld heterodyne detector also used to assist the surveyor with bat identification in the field with an automated detector deployed on site for a period of seven night to also record activity. Refer to the table below for survey logistics.

Table 01: Survey Logistics

Date	Start time	Finish time	Sunset / sunrise	Temp.	Cloud cover	Wind speed	Rain	Humidity
10/07/2023	21:30	23:35	21:30	17-15°C	75%	7mph	0%	76%

Survey results:

- The first bat activity was recorded at 22:24, fifty-four minutes after sunset, with an unseen common pipistrelle bat heard foraging.
- Bat activity was low throughout the survey with three bats recorded during the survey, each completing one pass of the surveyor.
- Final bat activity was recorded at 22:44 of a commuting common pipistrelle near the woodland edge.
- A possible foraging soprano pipistrelle bat was also recorded at 22:26.

Survey conclusions:

Bat activity was low during the survey with a low number of bats recording commuting and foraging across the site. Recordings from the Anabat Express detector used during the survey were analysed confirming the common and soprano pipistrelles are utilising the site for commuting or foraging purposes.

Automated survey results:

Following the dusk transect survey an automated detector was deployed on the northern site boundary within the tree line located there for seven nights (10th-16th July 2023). Data recordings were analysed confirming presence of a *Myotis* bat species and an unidentified Pipistrelle bat species in addition to common and soprano pipistrelle bats to be utilising the site.

Recommendations as per Ascerta (2017) recommended that foraging and commuting corridors are retained and avoiding the use of lighting on adjacent features of ecological value such as the woodland and hedgerows. Provided these areas are not illuminated, and a buffer zone to include hedgerow planting and limited public access to the woodlands can be incorporated within the proposals, there will be no net loss of bat foraging habitat within the site. Public open space should be designed to be used as commuting habitat for bats and that public open space be landscaped with plants that will encourage species which bats use as a food source.

Kind regards,

Mark Smeeden

BA DipHort DipLA MCihort CMLI
Director

SMEEDEN FOREMAN
Landscape Architecture • Ecology • Arboriculture