

Bat Emergence and Re-Entry Surveys (BERS)

Survey site:

New Hall Field House, High Street, Earl Shilton, Leicester, Leicestershire LE9 7DH

Client:

Noorie Siddiqi

Report date:

16th August 2024

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application for the proposal described as:

“Extension to the front of the property and roof repairs”

This report is supplementary to the Preliminary Roost Assessment report completed by Chase Ecology 2023.

BERS survey methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: [BERS Methodology and Legislation - 2024.](#)

This report is an addendum to and must be read in conjunction with the Preliminary Roost Assessment completed by Chase Ecology (2023) for the same site address. This table may include further work you will need to commission (if any) to obtain planning permission or comply with legislation for other consent. All clients are expected to read and understand this section, or to contact the lead surveyor for advice.

Executive Summary

Background

There is one building on site, designated B1. A PRA by Chase Ecology in November 2023 found no evidence of bats within the building. However, it was assessed as providing 'low' habitat value for crevice-dwelling bats due to gaps in the roof covering and missing hanging tiles.

BERS results

Building 1 was subject to one BERS survey on the 16th of August 2024. The survey did not record any bat roosting activity and there was minimal bat activity seen throughout the survey.

No bat roosts were identified at the site. Consequently, no impacts on bats or their roosts are foreseen.

The site surveys were designed and managed by Rhiannon Jensen O'Brien Consultant Ecologist BSc (Hons) MSc (Accredited Agent on Natural England Bat Licence Number: 2019-41480-CLS-CLS)

See surveyor locations in the **BERS plan in Appendix 1**

Limitations

Although the building's unusual shape made it challenging to capture all elevations with IR cameras, the survey effort was enhanced by placing an additional unmanned IR camera on the western elevation and strategically positioning surveyors around the building. While the eastern elevation was partially obscured by a fence and trees from an adjoining property, all other elevations were covered. The recording was subject to full IR review post survey and no bat activity was recorded in close proximity to the building.

Field Survey							
Dusk Emergence Survey 1							
Building B1							
Surveyor and position		Lead Surveyor 1 – Michelle Walding-Kelly – Second year of bat surveying experience - observing the northwest and northeast elevations. Surveyor 2 – Adam Walding-Kelly– First year of bat survey experience – observing the southern elevations. Unmanned IR Camera – Observing the western elevation.					
Weather (start/end)		Temperature (°C): 19 Relative humidity (%): 50 Cloud cover (%): 0 Wind (m/s): 2 Rain: None			Temperature (°C): 17 Relative humidity (%): 64 Cloud cover (%): 40 Wind (m/s): 3 Rain: None		
Equipment used		Echometer Touch 2, Magenta 4, Nightfox Whisker IR camera, Nightfox IR torches					
Results							
Date of survey	Sunset Start - End	Species and numbers	Roost type	Structure reference	Roost location	Access points	Dimensions and explanation of roost location
16/08/2024	Sunset 20:28 20:13 – 21:58	N/A	N/A	B1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Surveyor observations							
Surveyor 1		No emergences seen. First bat seen was a common pipistrelle at 20:51. The bat arrived from the west and began foraging back and forth along the northern elevations of B1 before continuing east offsite. Two further common pipistrelles quickly followed the same route as the first bat and began foraging until 20:57. Five distant passes by common pipistrelles were heard not seen at 21:27, 21:32, 21:33, 21:42 and 21:43. No further activity was observed.					

		
<i>IR position 1</i>	No emergences were recorded. No additional bat activity was recorded.	
<i>Surveyor 2</i>	No emergences were observed. No bat activity observed. A distant pass by a noctule bat was heard not seen at 20:52.	

<i>IR position 2</i>	No emergencies were recorded. No additional bat activity was recorded.	
<i>Unmanned IR Camera</i>	No emergencies were recorded. No additional bat activity was recorded.	
	No emergencies were recorded. No additional bat activity was recorded.	

Conclusions, Impacts and Recommendations	
<i>Survey Results Summary</i>	The combined survey data has indicated a likely absence of roosting bats. No bats were observed emerging from the building during the emergence survey, and no evidence of bats was found during the preliminary assessment survey. Common pipistrelles were seen commuting from west to east and vice-versa, with brief foraging activity recorded in the rear garden.
<i>Impact Assessment</i>	The proposed development is to create an extension along the southern elevation and repair damage to the roof. No impacts are anticipated to roosting bats, however, an increase/change in artificial lighting and machinery on site could disrupt bat roosting, foraging and commuting behaviour.
<i>Recommendations</i>	A low impact lighting strategy will be adopted for the site during and post-development, which will include the following measures: • Light spill on to the northern boundary line should be avoided. • Use narrow spectrum light sources to lower the range of species affected by lighting. • Use light sources that emit minimal ultra-violet light. • Avoid white and blue wavelengths of the light spectrum to reduce insect attraction and where white light sources are required to manage the blue shortwave length content they should be of a warm/neutral temperature <4,200 kelvin. • Not use bare bulbs and any light pointing upwards. The spread of light will be kept in line with or below the horizontal. • Light spill will be reduced via the use of low-level lighting used in conjunction with hoods, cowls, louvers and shields. Lights will also be directional to ensure that light is directed to the intended areas only. • External lighting will be on PIR sensors that are sensitive to large objects only (so that they are not triggered by passing bats) and will be set to the shortest time duration to reduce the amount of time the lights are on. • Wall lights and security lights will be 'dimnable' and set to the lowest light intensity settings. There are several products on the market that allow the control of the light intensity and the duration that the lights are on. All lighting on the developed site will make use of the most up to date technology available. In the unlikely event a bat is found during works, construction must stop, and a qualified ecologist should be contacted to safely remove the bat/s.
<i>Enhancements</i>	Integrated bat boxes x 1 will be installed in the new dwelling. These will be placed high up at eaves level, face north/northwest if possible, and be unlit by artificial light.

Appendix 1: BERS plan



Version control			
Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft	0.1	Michelle Walding-Kelly, BSc (Hons), Assistant Ecologist	17/08/2024
Review	0.2	Josephine McCarthy, Consultant Ecologist, [Natural England Bat Licence Number: 2019-41480-CLS-CLS (CL18 Level 2)]	26/08 2024
Final	1.0	Michelle Walding-Kelly BSc (Hons), Assistant Ecologist	26/08/2024

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