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Martin Prescott Environmental Services

*Woodland Management, Ecological
Surveying, Wildlife Events...*

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Bat Survey of Proposed Development Site, Preston Road, Longridge

June/July 2011

Surveyor- Martin Prescott (lic no. 2010/4226)

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1. Introduction

1.1 Reason for Survey

As part of a proposed residential development several trees and sections of hedgerow may be removed and a bat survey was requested

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1.2 The Site

The site was at map ref SD602361, approximate centre, on Preston Road, Longridge, Lancashire

It can be conveniently divided into four sections:

1. Section 1 Improved grassland with hedgerows and hedgerow trees
2. Section 2 Improved grassland with occasional hedgerow trees
3. Section 3. Several large trees, remnants of old orchard and stable buildings
4. Section 4 Rank grassland and brambles with tree line and scrub and hedges

2. Method

2.1 Risk Assessment, Possible Hazards

The access easy and posed no hazards other than those normally encountered when surveying in the field at night.

2.2 Daylight Survey

The trees and buildings on site were inspected and assessed for bat roosting potential

Category	Roost Potential	Assessment
1	Negligible	Where a tree initially looks as though it may have bat roost potential, but on closer inspection, no potential roost sites are found. A confirmation that the tree has been inspected.
2	Low	A roost possibility, of low quality, a tree that the surveyor would not expect bats to use. A tree with shallow holes or a light covering of Ivy, or a large tree with no visible rot or signs of holes.
3	Moderate	A roost possibility, of higher quality, but the potential roosts are in some way not ideal. Holes could be upward facing or very low down, or the approach to a hole or even the whole tree could be cluttered. A tree away from possible commuting routes and decent foraging. A tree with a particularly dense covering of Ivy. Often a large tree with rot with a possibility of rot holes that cannot be seen, requiring further inspection. Bat occupation would not be expected, but a surveyor would not be surprised to find bat occupation.
4	High	An ideal cavity or cavities for roosting bats, probably downward facing with an uncluttered approach. A tree on a likely commuting route, or close to good foraging. A prominent tree likely to be easily detected by bats. Requires further survey. No signs of bat occupation.
5	Confirmed	Direct evidence of bat occupation. Existing records, droppings, urine stains all count. Requires further survey and a DEFRA licence before any work likely to cause disturbance is carried out.

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This survey was carried out at a season when bats were likely to be active, therefore signs of bat occupation such as staining of the trees may be evident

The site and immediate area were assessed for bat foraging and commuting potential
The immediate area was assessed for bat roosting potential

2.3 Evening Surveys

The site was surveyed by transect, mostly by following the boundaries of the sections, i.e. hedges and tree lines

Surveyors slowly patrolled the site equipped with heterodyne bat detectors between about 15 minutes before sunset until about 80 minutes after sunset by which time it was too dark to see clearly and a good sample of dusk emerging and foraging times had been surveyed.

They watched for signs of bats emerging from roosts in the trees, recorded commuting routes and foraging.

1st Survey, section 1, by two surveyors walking the boundaries in opposite directions

2nd Survey, section 2 by one surveyor, walking the boundary and sections 3 and 4 patrolled by one surveyor.

The surveyor in section 2 carried an "Anabat" detector and the sonograms were analysed later.

2.4 Dawn Survey

Two surveyors, equipped with heterodyne bat detectors, walked transects, covering the whole site, from about 80 minutes before sunrise until 10 minutes after sunrise

They watched for signs of bats returning to roost in the trees, recorded commuting routes and foraging

2.5 Equipment

The equipment used consisted of a hand held torch, short-focus binoculars, heterodyne bat detectors and an "Anabat" monitoring detector.

2.6 Limitations

Trees were in full leaf at the time of the survey limiting the view of the upper canopy.

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3. Results

3.1 Tree assessment

Numbers refer to those used in the report of the tree survey by Iain Tavendale, "Survey Details For Trees, Preston Road, Longridge", 20th December 2010

The following trees were considered to have bat roosting potential:

5 Pear

Hole at 3m height, facing SW High potential

6 Ash

Ivy cover Low potential

7 Ash

Hole at 6m height, facing SW High potential

8 Ash

Dead branch at about 16 metres height, possible holes, moderate potential

9 Ash

Occasional dead branch, no holes in view, moderate potential

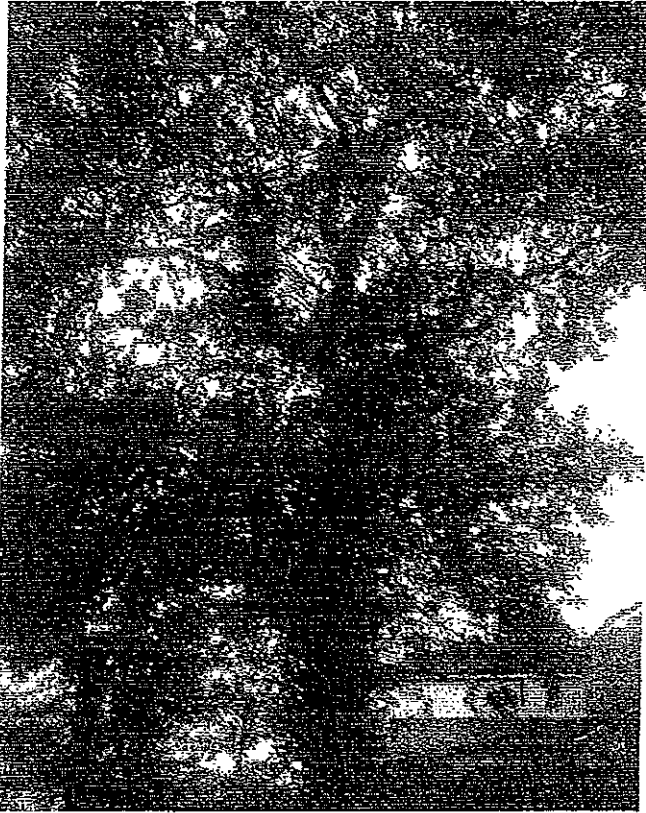
10 Oak

Some dead wood, no holes in view, low potential

11 Oak

Dense Ivy. No holes visible, but possibly obscured Suspected Common Pipistrelle roost

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Tree 11, dense Ivy

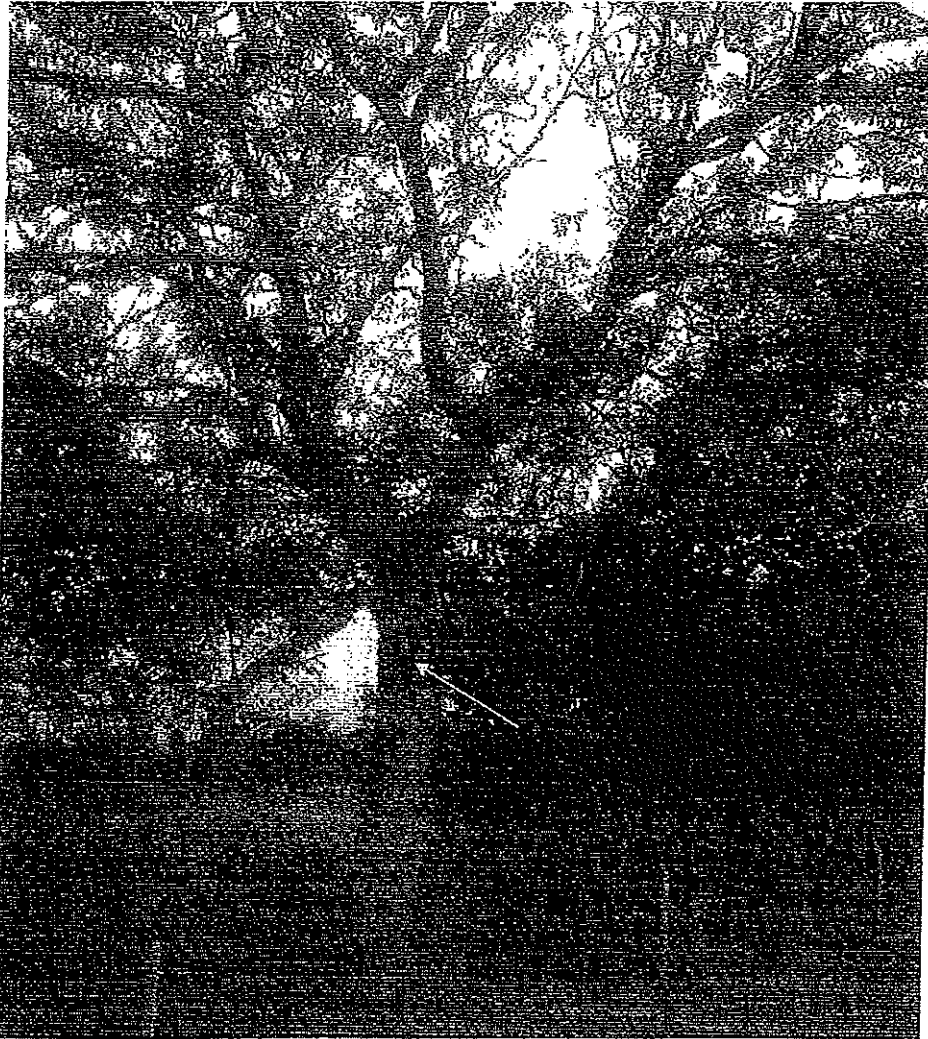
12 Ash

Dense Ivy, No holes visible, but possibly obscured. Low potential

18 Ash

Major decay, hole in trunk, suspected Soprano Pipistrelle roost

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Tree 18 crevice in trunk

21. Ash

Dense Ivy, No holes visible, but possibly obscured Low potential

33 Ash

Dense Ivy, No holes visible, but possibly obscured Low potential

35 Ash

Dense Ivy, No holes visible, but possibly obscured Dead branch Low potential

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3.2 Activity Surveys

Section 1

Bordered by mainly Hawthorn hedges with several hedgerow trees along the SW border. None of these trees were considered to have more than low bat roosting potential.



Commuting Common Pipistrelles, evening

Commuting Common Pipistrelles, dawn

Foraging Soprano Pipistrelle dawn

Foraging Common Pipistrelles, low level, i.e. up to one foraging bat

Foraging Common Pipistrelles, high level, i.e. one-three foraging bats

Five Common Pipistrelles were seen commuting across the northern end of the field from west to east, between 13 and 25 minutes after sunset

By 25 minutes after sunset the foraging pattern as illustrated above was established and continued until 75 minutes after sunset when there was a marked decrease in activity

Commuting *Myotis* bat, at end of evening survey

Possible Soprano Pipistrelle tree roost

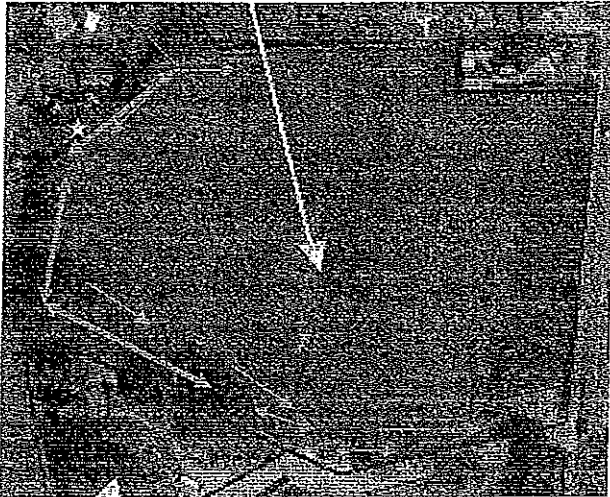
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Section 2

Bordered by mainly Hawthorn hedge to NW, W and SW

Bordered by scrub and gardens to the N

There were trees on the S border, and the E border was fenced.



Commuting Common Pipistrelles

Foraging Common Pipistrelles, low level, i.e. up to one foraging bat

Foraging Common Pipistrelles, high level, i.e. one-three foraging bats

Possible Common Pipistrelle tree roost

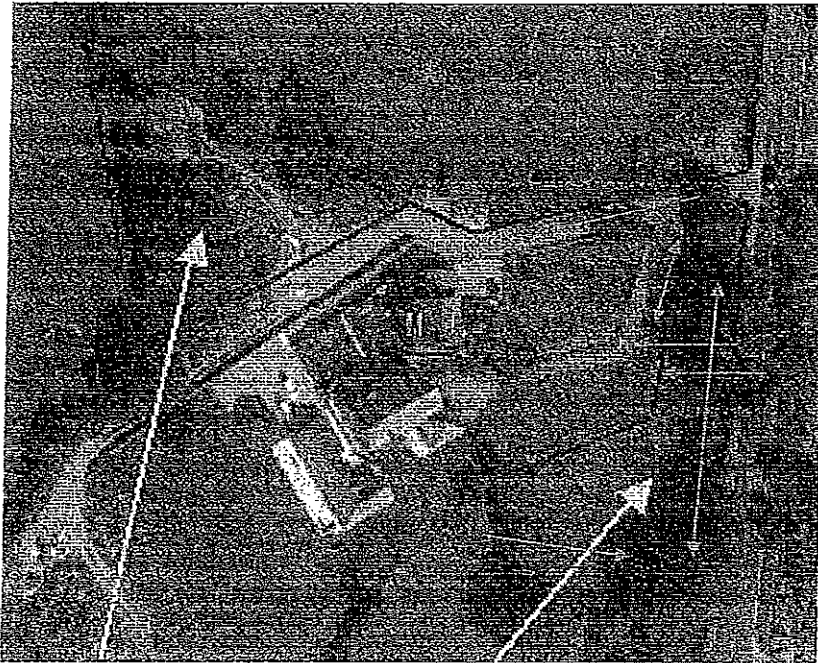
Commuting Common Pipistrelles at dawn

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Sections 3 and 4

Section 3, group of trees including fruit trees

Section 4, rank grassland and brambles, tree line along road, large Ash at south end



Section 3

Section 4

Commuting Common Pipistrelles, evening

Foraging Common Pipistrelles, low level, i.e. up to one foraging bat

Foraging Common Pipistrelles, high level, i.e. one-three foraging bats

Foraging Soprano Pipistrelle, evening, low level

Commuting *Myotis* bat

Foraging Soprano Pipistrelles, dawn

3.3 Possible Foraging and Roosting Sites

The immediate area was moderately well vegetated with hedgerows with hedgerow trees and reservoirs nearby and was considered of moderate potential for foraging bats

There were many houses nearby likely to have high bat roosting potential

The commuting pattern indicates a Common Pipistrelle roost in the housing estate to the north of the site

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4. Conclusions

4.1 Several trees had significant potential for roosting bats. Trees 11 and 18 are suspected roosts.

Indications are that there is a major Common Pipistrelle roost in the housing estate to the north of the site.

4.2 There were significant foraging areas along all hedges and tree lines on site. There were particularly high foraging levels along the hedges to the west of sections 1 and 2.

There was a major commuting route from the housing estate along the dividing hedge between sections 1 and 2, along the east edge of section 3 and heading off site to the east along the access track.

There was also commuting along the north edge of section 2.

4.3 Nesting birds are likely to use the trees and scrub between March and August inclusive. They may be difficult to see in the canopies of the trees, and very difficult in the scrub, hedge and Ivy along Hollins Brow.

5. Recommendations

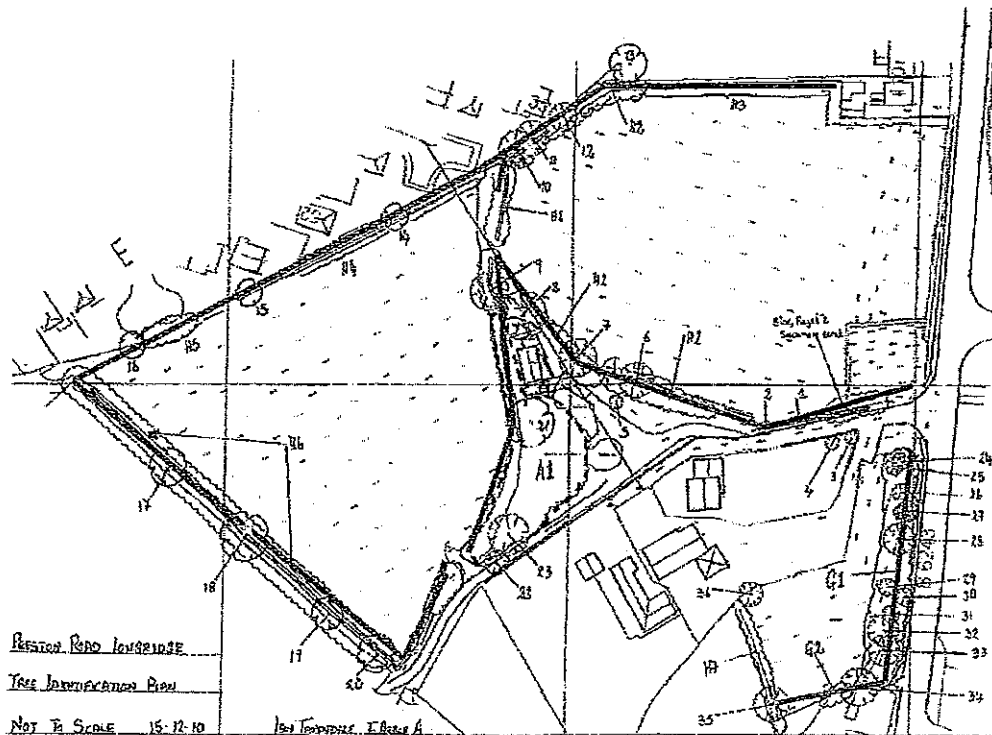
5.1 Hedges and trees around the edges of sections 1 and 2, see plan below, are important to roosting and foraging bats and must be left wherever practicable. Any trees which need to be removed, for example for safety reasons, must be replaced, preferably with Oaks.

The tree line along east and south edges of section 4 should also be retained if at all practicable.

It is recommended that the north and south boundaries of section 2, marked in blue on the plan below, are planted with a hawthorn hedge to consolidate the commuting routes.

Trees 11 and 18 are suspected roosts and must not be disturbed without further surveys.

Trees 5-12, 18, 21, 33 and 35 if needing removal, must be removed by felling from the top under the supervision of a suitably qualified bat worker.



Hedges/trees recommended for retention _____

Hedges/trees recommended for planting _____

Suspected bat roosts

5.2 No parts of the hedgerows or trees should be directly lit

5.3 The trees, Ivy and shrubs which need removal must not be removed within the season for nesting birds; April to August inclusive, unless it can be ensured no active nests are present

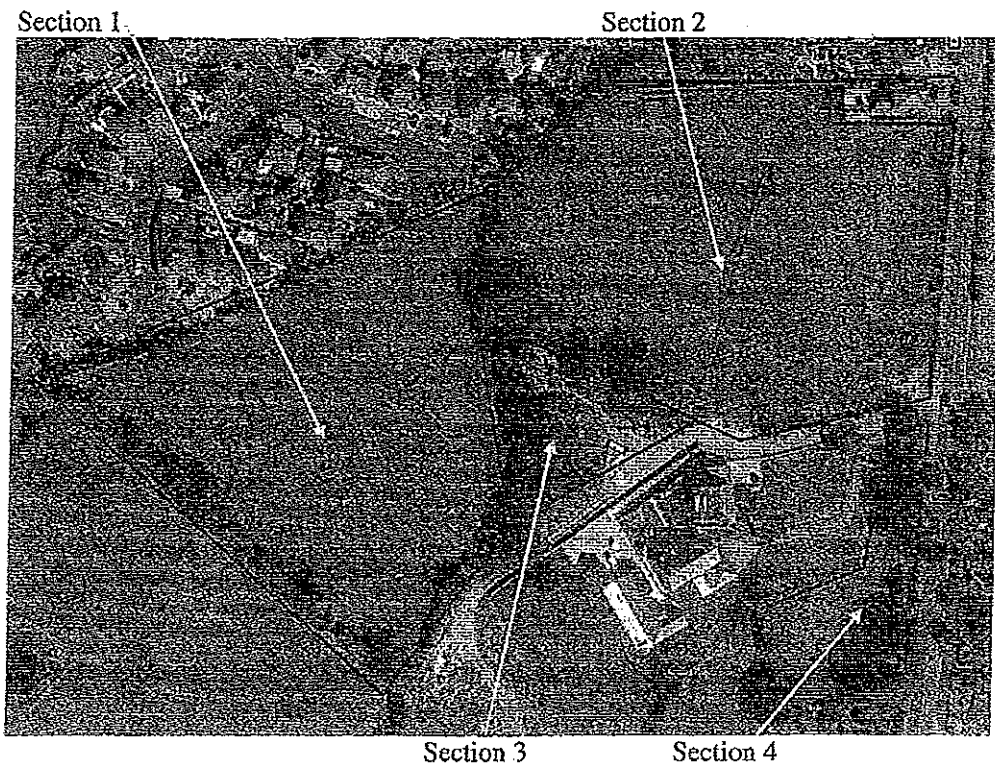
This may be very difficult, refer to the consultant

5.4 It should be remembered that bats are occasionally found in the most unexpected places. If any bats are found during the work, Natural England (01942 820364) or myself (0161 796 6211, 07946 488467) should be notified and work stopped immediately.

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6. Plan and Photos

Aerial View



M G Prescott