

# Bat Scoping Survey Report

9 Downham Road,  
Chatburn,  
BB7 4AU

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## **A Summary**

In July 2014 Batworker consultancy was commissioned to undertake a survey of the building at 9 Downham Road, Chatburn, BB7 4AU to assess the potential for it's use by bats.

A visual daytime survey was carried out on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014.

A central grid reference for the site is SD7698544109

No signs of bats were recorded during the survey. No roosting opportunities or possible bat access into the roof space was recorded.

**In light of the findings of this report it is recommended that:**

- [        **no further activity surveys are required.**
  
- [        **as no risk to bat roost sites has been identified, no mitigation scheme is needed to allow development of the building.**

**The surveyor does not consider the proposed works are likely to result in a breach of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) therefore the proposed development does not require an EPS Licence (EPSL) to proceed lawfully.**

**In the unlikely event bats are discovered or disturbed during building renovation, work must be halted until the bat license holder can attend the site and give further advice as necessary.**

## **B Introduction**

In July 2014 Batworker consultancy was commissioned to undertake a survey of the building at 9 Downham Road, Chatburn, BB7 4AU to assess the potential for it's use by bats.

A visual daytime survey was carried out on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014 in order to support plans to redevelop the barn and associated outbuilding.

A central grid reference for the site is SD7698544109

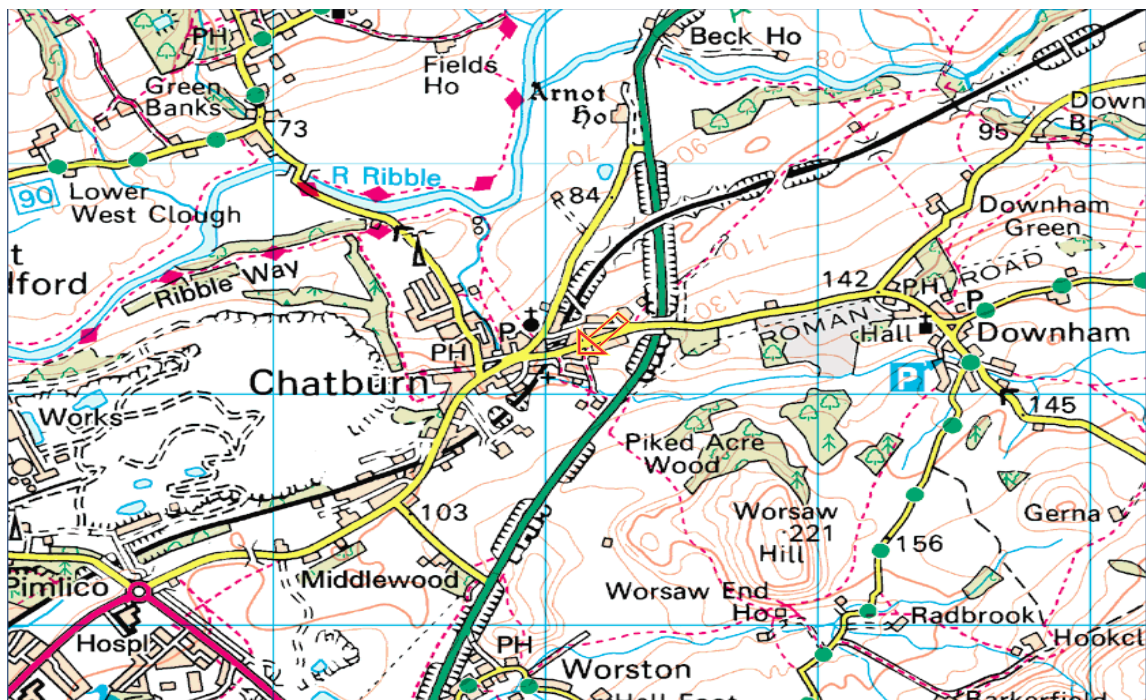
## C Survey and Site Assessment

### Objectives of the survey

The survey was carried out to determine both current and historic bat use of the site and to establish status of the bat species using the building prior to development work taking place.

### C1 Survey site location

The site is located at SD7698544109



Location of site



Aerial View showing surrounding habitat

## **C2 Site/Habitat description**

9 Downham Road, Chatburn consists of a traditionally constructed stone barn with double pitched stone slate roof and associated brick built outbuilding.

It is located within a semi urban area of housing surrounded with improved and semi improved grassland with remnant hedgerow which offers low potential for foraging bats. Some street trees offer foraging opportunities but again this is considered of low value.

### **C2.1 Pre existing information on local species**

A data search with East Lancashire Bat Group revealed no recorded bat roosts within 1km of the site.

### **C3 Field Survey**

#### **C3.1 Visual inspection**

An inspection was carried out to search for and identify potential access points, roosting opportunities and signs of bat use both internally and externally.

Equipment used included:

- [ Cluson CB-1 1M candle power lamp
- [ SeeSnake CA 300 video endoscope
- [ Opticron close focusing binoculars

All buildings, roof spaces, rafter, beams and wooden cladding were investigated. Crevices likely to provide roosting opportunities were also targeted.

Evidence searched for included:

- [ Presence of bats both free hanging and within crevices
- [ Audible squeaking from within cavities/behind cladding
- [ Scratch marks below and around openings
- [ Bat droppings, urine staining, feeding remains and rub marks.

#### **C3.2 Personnel**

All surveys were conducted by Dave Anderson MSc, Natural England Science, Education and Conservation bat licence holder (licence no.20123170) a bat surveyor and ecologist with 20 years experience.

#### **C3.3 Survey Summary**

<b>Survey</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Timings</b>
Visual	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2014	1 hour

#### **C3.4 Survey constraints**

Access to all areas of the building and good visual inspection was possible, therefore there were considered to be no survey constraints



## **C4 Results**

### **C4.1 Visual Inspection**

#### **Bats.**

No signs of roosting bats were found.

No feeding remains or droppings were recorded.

The roof space was considered to have low potential for roosting bats given the good condition of the slates, ridge tiles, and barge boards which offered little opportunity for bats to access the roof space.

No suitable joints in barn joists were available to be utilised by bats.



Roof of main barn



Roof of main barn





Brick built outbuilding with single skin roof



Barn western end

## **C 5 Recommendations**

In light of the findings of this report it is recommended that as no risk to bats or bat roost sites has been identified, no further surveys or mitigation scheme is needed to allow development of the building.

In the unlikely event bats are discovered or disturbed during roof tile removal or building renovation, work must be halted until the bat license holder can attend the site and give further advice as necessary.

## **E Bibliography**

- Barn Owls and Rural Planning Applications      Barn Owl Trust 2009
- Barn Owl Survey Methodology and Techniques for use in Ecological Assessments      Shawyer, C. August 2011
- Bat Mitigation Guidelines      Natural England 2006
- Bat Survey Guidelines 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition      Bat Conservation Trust 2011
- Bat Workers Manual 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition      JNCC 2004

## **Bats and the Law**

**Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981**, principally those relating to powers and penalties, have been amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act). The CRoW Act only applies to England and Wales.

### Section 9(1)

It is an offence for any person to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bat.

### Section 9(4)(a)

It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly\* damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place that a wild bat uses for shelter or protection.

(\*Added by the CRoW Act in England and Wales only)

This is taken to mean all bat roosts whether bats are present or not.

### Section 9(4)(b)

It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly\* disturb any wild bat while it is occupying a structure or place that it uses for shelter or protection.

(\*Added by the CRoW Act in England and Wales only)

## **The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994**

### Section 39(1)

It is an offence

(a) deliberately to capture or kill any bat

(b) deliberately to disturb any bat

(d) to damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of any bat.

The difference between this legislation and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 is the use of the word 'deliberately' rather than 'intentionally'. Also disturbance of bats can be anywhere, not just at a roost. Damage or destruction of a bat roost does not require the offence to be intentional or deliberate.

## **Barn Owls and the Law**

### **Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)**

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Part, if any person intentionally (or recklessly as amended by the CRoW Act, 2000) (a) kills, injures or takes any wild bird; (b) takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while

that nest is in use or being built; or (c) takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird. he shall be guilty of an offence.

(5) Subject to the provisions of this Part, if any person intentionally- (a) disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is at, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or (b) disturbs dependent young of such a bird, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.



## **Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000)**

### **Part III Nature conservation and wildlife protection**

#### **74 Conservation of biological diversity**

(1) It is the duty of (a) any Minister of the Crown (within the meaning of the Ministers of the [1975 c. 26.] Crown Act 1975), (b) any Government department, and (c) the National Assembly for Wales, in carrying out his or its functions, to have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in accordance with the Convention.

#### **SCHEDULE 12 AMENDMENTS RELATING TO PART I OF WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981**

1. In section 1(5) of the 1981 Act (offence of intentional disturbance of wild birds) after "intentionally" there is inserted "or recklessly".

## **The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)**

### **PART 3, (40): Duty to conserve biodiversity**

(1) Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

(3) Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.