

**BAT SURVEY AT -
PADDOCK GATE,
14 WISWELL LANE,
WHALLEY.**

DATE AND TIME OF VISIT
13th Jan 2020 2.00 pm

WEATHER CONDITIONS
Overcast, strong 20-30mph westerly wind. 8 C

REFERENCE NO. 5876



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UK BAT ECOLOGY

- It is thought that there are 18 native species of bats in the UK, most of which have seen declines in numbers over the last century.
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- As insect feeding species the preferred habitats include woodland, grassland, agricultural land, wetland and rivers which provide good foraging potential.
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- Bats typically roost close to foraging sites and use linear features such as hedgerows, tree lines and rivers to navigate. It is important to maintain these features, as removal is thought to contribute to the decline in numbers.
- Bats will roost in a wide variety of sites and built structures, including underground structures (caves , bridges) and trees . Types of roost and times of year used.

Hibernacula - November to March

Temporary roosts - March to April and August to October

Maternity roosts – May to August

Summer roosts – Used by Males and immature females

Mating roosts – September and October

- Disturbance to a Hibernacula or Maternity roost is the most damaging for any local bat population. The same Maternity roosts are typically used year after year commencing between May to early June and are colonised with mature females and their young, any disturbance can lead to abandonment of the young and loss of the roost will have a significant impact on the bat population. Hibernacula roosts typically consist of underground sites caves, cellars etc or buildings which maintain cool and fairly constant temperatures. Bats hibernate (deep sleep , torpor) to survive the winter months when insects are in short supply so they hibernate to conserve energy and survive on their fat stores. Any disturbance which wakes the bats can result in unnecessary use of the energy reserves and thus reduces the chance of survival over the winter months.

THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT BY: LYNNE RUSHWORTH WHO HAS COMPLETED THE BAT CONSERVATION TRUST'S 'BATS AND BAT SURVEYS' FOUNDATION COURSE FOR CONSULTANTS, AND 'PLANNING AND PREPARATION OF BAT SURVEYS' COURSE

EMERGENCE SURVEYS ARE CARRIED OUT WITH A SECOND SURVEYOR WITH ELEVEN YEARS EXPERIENCE OF ASSISTING ON EMERGENCE SURVEYS

THE BRIEF

In conjunction with the submission of an application for planning approval, this survey was commissioned to identify if bats are currently present in the building, to assess if it has been used in the past or if there is any potential for future use of the building.

All British bats and their roosts are legally protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

BAT LEGISLATION - Summary of offences under the law:

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 to

- (a) Deliberately to capture or kill any bat
- (b) Deliberately to disturb any bat
- (c) 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.

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.

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

If it is discovered that development may impact upon bat roosts (thus leading to an offence being committed) a mitigation plan should be devised and a Bat Mitigation Licence applied for from the relevant government department (i.e. Natural England). Gaining a licence will depend on many variables, such as the bat species present, roost type, roost size and its local/regional/national importance

LIMITATIONS OF REPORT

***NOTE:** The absence of bats is near impossible to prove. The bats' high mobility means it is virtually impossible to rule out bats using any type of structure for roosting or habitat for foraging or on a flight path.*

- External walls and internal rooms inspected from ground level.
- Roof spaces, attics and lofts will only be inspected if safe access is possible.
- Winter surveys will provide limited results. However internal inspection should determine if bats have used the building in the previous year.
- Any building whose structure is considered dangerous can only be inspected from a safe distance. Crevice-roosting bats ie. Pipistrelles, some Myotis species and Brown long eared bats can remain unseen even after close inspection in small spaces ie. cavity walls, roof structures soffits or cladding.
- Bat roosting evidence ie. Droppings or insect remains can be removed by weather conditions or sweeping/cleaning internally so this lack of evidence cannot always prove undoubtedly that bats are absent.

EQUIPMENT USED ON SURVEY

- 'MAGENTA 5' BAT DETECTOR
- BINOCULARS
- HIGH POWERED TORCH
- LADDERS FOR HIGH LEVEL INSPECTION
- CAMERA
- ENDOSCOPE

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Proposed new dwelling constructed in the garden of an existing house.

Impact of development in relation to potential bat habitat:-

Removal of 10 no trees and a small section of hedge in the garden prior to construction of new house,

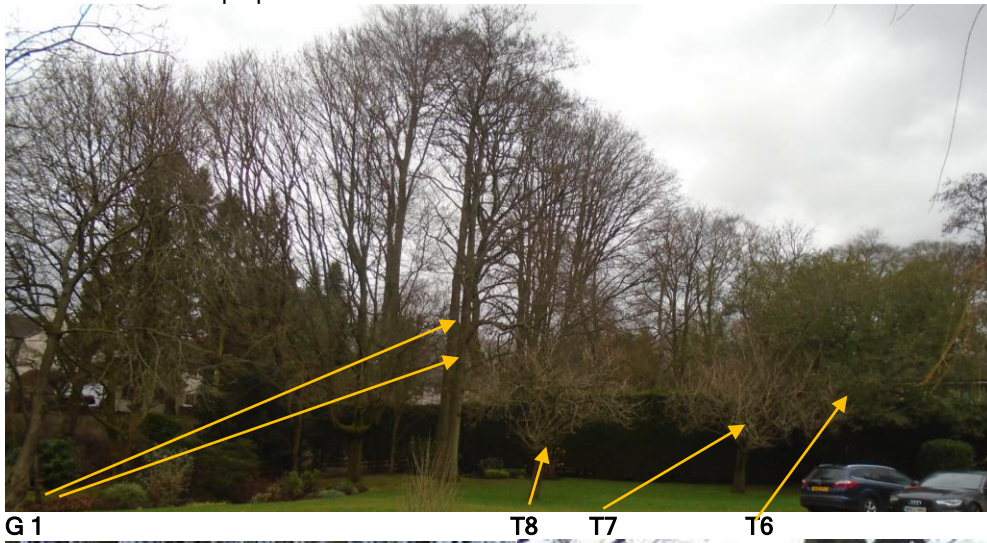
Assessment of trees to determine if they provide any potential roost habitat for bats.

The drawing below illustrates the trees to be removed.



TYPE OF BUILDING

The proposed house is a detached dormer bungalow to be built in the grounds of an existing detached house. The trees which are proposed to be removed are indicated below.



Section of hedge to be removed



METHODOLOGY

The survey methodology follows the guidelines published in the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT- Bat surveys, good practice guidelines 2nd Edition)

Scoping survey ; (Non invasive) carried out by one surveyor to assess if the site has any potential value for protected species and determine if bats are currently or have historically used the building.

Emergence survey ; are conducted 20 minutes before sunset and up to two hours after. Emergence surveys are conducted between the months of April through to end of September (weather dependant).

October to April (winter months) bats are inactive during the hibernation period.

All surveyors used have many years experience in conducting bat emergence surveys

CONSTRAINTS

The survey was carried out during the inactive period, scoping only carried out.

AIMS OF THE SURVEY

To ensure the proposed development will not affect any protected species

The survey will; Identify past, current or potential use of the site by protected species.

Assess any impact of the proposed development on these species

Outline a mitigation scheme for any species affected by the development (if required)

LOCATION SD737368 elevation 68m

The house and its large garden are located on the north west outskirts of the settlement area of Whalley. Approx 421m south of the A59 and 366m to the south west of the A671.



Location of proposed house

FORAGING POTENTIAL IN THE LOCATION

The garden site is located in a semi- rural area, the large garden contains a significant number of mature trees particularly along the boundary adjacent to Wiswell lane, further trees line the side and rear boundaries. The nearest area of standing water is 490m to the west of the site a small partially culverted stream runs 45m to the west. The area is considered to provide good foraging and roost potential.



Location of proposed
new house

BAT ACCESS POINTS IN TREES

The two Wild cherry trees which are to be removed are 6 and 7 m high respectively. Trunks and branches mainly in good condition with no splits or crevices which have the potential to provide any roost habitat for bats.

T7

T8



There is however an exception on the north west side of T7 which has a small split resulting in some decayed wood, close inspection however did not reveal any potential for roosting.



Himalayan tree Cotoneaster is multi stemmed from the base, the main branches are in reasonable condition with no splits or crevices (potential roost habitat for bats). The voids between the fine stems were examined closely with the aid of an endoscope, evidence of previous or current use was not found.

T6



A pair of Alder trees approx 24 m high. the trunk and all visible branches were examined for any signs of rot, splits or crevices, the result was negative the trees did not provide any potential roost habitat.

G1



Common Ash tree, approx. 24 m high which is in poor condition due to disease, branches have been removed and many appear to be dead. Close inspection did not reveal any crevices or splits in the timber which would have the potential to provide roost habitat.

T18



Common Ash approx. 10m high all trunk fully visible, the tree does not provide any potential roost habitat.

T20



Common Horse Chestnut, approx. 14m high, twin trunk fully visible, the tree does not provide any potential roost habitat. **T25**



Sycamore 14 m high trunk fully visible the tree does not provide any potential roost habitat.

T26



Wild Cherry, 14m high trunk fully visible the tree does not provide any potential roost habitat.

T27



Hedge is deciduous it did not provide any bat roost potential.



CONCLUSION

The removal of these trees and small section of hedge will not impact on the existing forage potential of this area, nor will it result in loss of any potential roost habitat.

The trees proposed to be removed will not significantly reduce the existing tree canopy and will not break or impact on any existing commute/forage routes.

No mitigation is required or further survey effort.

All contractors should be made aware of their responsibilities' to protected species and work should proceed with due diligence and in the unlikely event that any bats are discovered work must be stopped immediately and a licensed bat worker must be contacted for advice on how to proceed

RISK ASSESSMENT

(The level of probability that bats are using the property is calculated on the evidence found.)

LOW

NOTES:

The precautions below should be incorporated in the unlikely event that any bats are found to be present in the intervening time between surveys and work commencing on site.

When bats are found to be present in a building:

- A NATURAL ENGLAND licence will be required before any building work is undertaken.
- Pointing work should not be undertaken during winter months as hibernating bats might be entombed.
- Work to roof structure should not be undertaken between late May, June, July and August.
- Small areas of wall could be left un-pointed to encourage potential roosting sites.
- Care must be taken when removing existing roof timbers, and any new timbers or treatment of existing timbers must be carried out using chemicals listed as safe for bat roosts.
- NOTE: The onus lies with the applicant to satisfy themselves that no offence will be committed if the development goes ahead.

If bats are ever found during building work, stop work immediately and contact the Bat Conservation Trust or Natural England.

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0845 1300 228

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Cheshire-Lancashire Team
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