

# Preliminary Ecological Assessment

Land at Eaves Hall,  
Moor Lane,  
West Bradford,  
Clitheroe BB7 3JG

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## **Summary**

In June 2018 Batworker consultancy was commissioned to undertake a preliminary ecological assessment of land at Eaves Hall, Moor Lane, West Bradford, Clitheroe BB7 3JG to assess the potential for impact on protected species.

A daytime survey was carried out on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in order to support plans for development including installation of camping pods and creation of car parking and a path network. This was supplemented by great crested newt E-DNA sampling and monitoring bat activity with the placement of static detectors along boundary hedgerows.

**Bat use along boundary hedgerows was recorded, mitigation in the form of advice on lighting is included with this report.**

**A species rich meadow was recorded within the site, suitable management advice has been included within this report.**

**No evidence was recorded to suggest use of the site by protected species.**

**No evidence of badger was recorded within 100m of the site.**

**E-DNA sampling of the existing lodge recorded a negative result for great crested newts. No further survey effort is considered reasonable or necessary.**

**The surveyor does not consider the proposed development and change of use is 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.**

## Introduction

In June 2018 Batworker consultancy was commissioned to undertake a preliminary ecological assessment of land at Eaves Hall, Moor Lane, West Bradford, Clitheroe BB7 3JG to assess the potential for impact on protected species.

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## Survey and Site Assessment

### Objectives of the survey

The survey was carried out to determine current usage by protected species of the site and to establish status of those species using the site prior to development work being carried out.

### Survey site location



A central grid reference for the site is SD7365544977

## Site/Habitat description

The land is made up of a meadow of MG5 crested dogs tail – common knapweed grassland bordered by hawthorn and elder hedgerows with mature ash, oak and sycamore present.



To the north east of the site a lodge is present with areas of semi aquatic vegetation and open water.



The land can be considered to be of moderate conservation value.

## Surrounding habitat.



The land is located in a rural area on the edge of . Habitat is dominated by improved and semi improved grassland, with blocks of ancient woodland located to the east and west of the site.

## **Pre Existing data on local species**

A search of the MAGIC website revealed no EPS licence applications within a 1km radius. The East Lancashire Bat Group database held no roost records within 1km of the site.

From personal experience of surveying for and researching bats in Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumbria, and Calderdale in particular, the following species were considered.

Common Pipistrelle – known to roost on sites where suitable foraging habitat is available.

Soprano Pipistrelle – known to roost on sites where suitable foraging habitat is available.

Whiskered/Brandt's – species often found roosting in buildings close to woodland.

Natterer's – a typical upland bat with foraging bats being recorded high on heather moorland. Often roosting in barns.

Daubenton's – a species commonly associated with aquatic habitats.

Long Eared bat – a woodland species which has been recorded foraging over in bye meadows and rough grassland sites. Often roosting in barns.

## **Field Survey Methodology**

### **Bat Static Detector Survey**

Anabat Express static detectors were placed along boundary hedgerows to assess bat activity over an 11 night period. Analysis of recordings was made using AnalookW software to identify bat species and note timings of activity.

### **Field survey**

A survey of the surrounding habitat was carried out to assess potential for other protected species – badgers and great crested newts. This included a search for field signs, and assessment of pond habitat where applicable.

### **Great Crested Newt E-DNA**

Sampling protocol was followed to collect water from the pond. Samples were sent to and analysed by Nature Metrics following a standardised test.

### **Personnel**

All surveys were conducted by Dave Anderson MSc, Natural England Science, Education and Conservation bat licence holder (2015-15784-CLS-CLS) a bat surveyor and ecologist with 20 years experience.

### **Survey Summary**

<b>Survey</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Timings</b>
Visual	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	1 Hour
Static bat detector	20.6 – 2.07.2018	Sunset to sunrise

## **Results**

### **Bat Survey**

Commuting and foraging activity along both hedgerows was recorded during the survey period with myotis sp, brown long eared, common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and noctule bat present. Timing of recordings suggests bats emerging from nearby roosts and using the site to forage throughout the night.

### **Badgers**

No evidence of presence of badgers or foraging by badgers was recorded within 100m of the site.

### **Great Crested Newt**

One pond was recorded within the north eastern end of the site. The pond was assessed to be of moderate suitability for crested newts, however E-DNA testing of the pond returned a negative result for presence of great crested newt.

## **Management and Mitigation**

Provision for car parking should be positioned at the southern end of the site on land of low conservation value.

Paths through the site should use a PH neutral substrate.

Areas of meadow should be mown for hay in late July or early August each year. A second cut in late September or early October may be carried out.

Where unavoidable the use of artificial lighting is to be limited to the essential minimum, and any lighting to be used should avoid upward pointing lights, with the spread of light being directed to ensure hedgerows and field boundaries are kept dark.

Lighting with a low UV component should be used to reduce invertebrate attraction, and directional lighting/shielding of lights is to be used throughout to avoid excessive light spill.

## **Conclusion**

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