

**BAT SURVEY AT -  
HOLMFIELD  
LONG ROW  
MELLOR**

DATE AND TIME OF VISIT  
18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 11.00 am

WEATHER CONDITIONS  
Clear sky , 17 - 45 mph south west, wind 5 C

REFERENCE NO. 6169



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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**

Removal of conservatory, replace with roofed extension. Single storey flat roofed extension to the south east elevation and single storey side extension adjacent to north east gable.

### **Impact of development in relation to potential bat habitat:-**

Disruption to the south east rear elevation roof pitch and north east gable.

## **TYPE OF BUILDING**

Detached Bungalow possibly dating from the 1980's .



Part front elevation



South West side elevation



Rear elevation

## **METHODOLOGY**

The survey methodology follows the guidelines published in the Bat Conservation Trust ( BCT- Bat surveys, good practice guidelines 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 scoping survey was carried out during the winter inactivity period. It was not possible to access the interior of the house.

## **AIMS OF THE SURVEY**

To ensure the proposed development will not affect any protected species

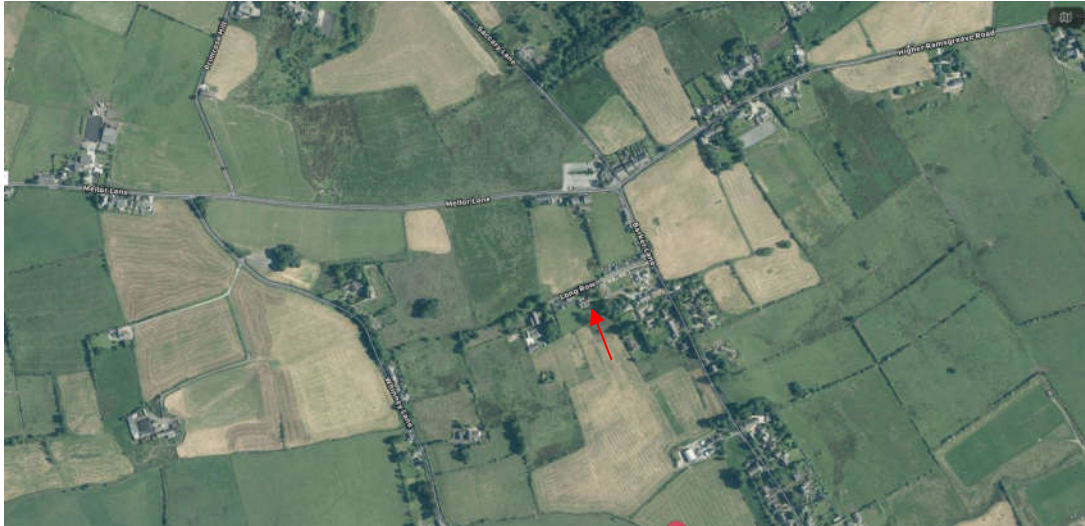
The survey will ; Identify past ,current or potential use of the site by protected species.

Assess any impact of the proposed development on these species

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

## **LOCATION SD 667308 175m elevation**

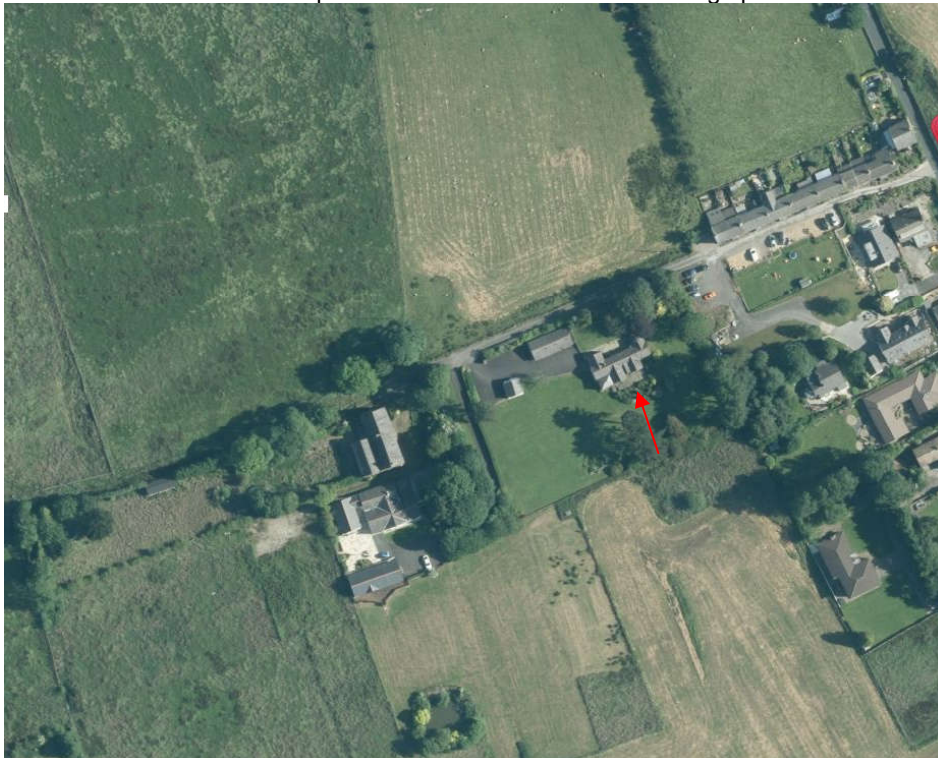
The house is located on Long row a small lane off Barker Lane it is on the edge of a small satellite residential area to the East of the main settlement area of Mellor.



## **FORAGING POTENTIAL IN THE LOCATION**

The house is set in an exposed position in a large garden laid mainly to lawn with two large detached garage buildings to the west of the house. There are mature broad leaf trees located along the north east and part of southern garden boundaries. Properties are located to the west and the east with the greater area extending to pasture land. Some of the fields are bound by hedgerow which provide some connection to further small groups of mature trees in the locality. There are no areas of standing water or significant water courses within 900m of the house.

The location is considered to provide a medium to low level of forage potential.



### **WALL CONSTRUCTION**

The front and rear elevations are random stone flush pointed. The side elevations have a white painted smooth render finish. The conservatory has a random stone base wall.



### **BAT ACCESS POINTS IN WALLS**

All walls are in perfect condition with no access points or any cracks or crevices which could provide roost habitat for bats.

### **ROOF CONSTRUCTION**

The pitched roof has outriggers to the front and rear elevations. The roof has a slate finish with ridge tiles and lead valley gutters at roof abutments. The timber fascias are fixed flush to the walls, the barge boards to the outrigger gables project from the face of the walls on the rear north west elevation, the outriggers on the south east rear elevation have flush barge boards.

The conservatory roof is glazed with polycarbonate in upvc frames.



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### **BAT ACCESS POINTS IN ROOF**

The slate roof is in good condition, the slates are tight fitting as are the fascias. The lead flashings at the abutments of the outriggers are in good condition with no gapping.

All the eaves and fascias were examined closely for any evidence of bat roost activity.

No access points were found in the roof finish or at eaves level. Suitable crevice habitat was not in evidence behind the projecting barge boards all were well sealed at the wall abutments.



		Yes	No
<b><u>BAT SIGNS, EXTERNAL</u></b>	SEEN		X
	DROPPINGS		X
	MAGENTA BAT5 DETECTOR RESULT		X

The external features of the property particularly the roof ( which could be closely examined ) were the main focus of this scoping survey. The lead flashings, eaves, fascias, barge boards, ridge slates, walls and any sills were visually examined for droppings, staining, grease marks or feeding remains. No evidence was found.

### **CONCLUSION**

This house is very well maintained and does not provide any bat access points or any high value crevice habitat. No bats will be disturbed or exposed during the building works on this property nor will the scale of the single storey extensions remove any forage potential or break any potential forage/ commute routes. The extensions will not have a negative impact on any local bat population.

It is not considered necessary to carry out an emergence survey.

Mitigation or timing constraints are not required

**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.

The Bat Conservation Trust  
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8 Battersea Park Road  
London SW8 4BG  
0845 1300 228

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