

**BAT SURVEY AT -  
STABLE BLOCK AT  
JERSEY FARM  
KNOWSLEY ROAD**

DATE AND TIME OF VISIT  
1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2021 12.00 am

WEATHER CONDITIONS  
Overcast, 6 -18 mph west, north west breeze. 7 C

REFERENCE NO. 6060



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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**

Demolition of existing stable block prior to construction of new dwelling.  
Impact of development in relation to potential bat habitat:-  
Removal of an existing building.

## **TYPE OF BUILDING**

The building is a disused detached Stable block containing 3no loose boxes forming an L shaped structure.



North and East elevation



South and part east elevation



West Elevation



Ariel view

### **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 has been carried out during the hibernation period.

The entire structure was easily examined.

### **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 684319 149m elevation**

The stable is an ancillary building to Jersey Farm. It is located in an elevated position 15 m south of the house at the corner of a surrounding field. The property is 185 m to the East of the main settlement area which is adjacent to Knowsley road.



### **FORAGING POTENTIAL IN THE LOCATION**

The stable block is located in an elevated exposed position within the curtailage of Jersey farm the adjacent barns form two further residential properties and a garage building is also within 9m of the stable.

Pastureland surrounds the stable which are bound mainly by fences with some native hedgerow and occasional mature trees, the nearest being 90m to the north east.

Ramsgreave wood is the nearest significant wooded area at 470m to the west. A smaller wooded area is located adjacent to the railway line which is 350m to the east.

The nearest water course is Showley brook 188m to the NW. There are no significant areas of standing water within 1 km.

The site is not in or near to any nature conservation sites.

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



### **WALL CONSTRUCTION**

The walls are vertical treated timber boarding fixed over a timber frame. The lower sections of the walls internally are reinforced with ply sheets.



Front elevation

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

The timber walls are in good condition with no signs of rot. They do not have any cracks or crevices with the potential to provide any roost habitat. When the stables were in use the interior would have been accessible via stable doors. However as it is currently locked up there are no significant access points.

## **ROOF CONSTRUCTION**

The roof is pitched with a corrugated sheet finish, with 3 no clear plastic sections over each loose box the timber barge boards are flush to the gable walls. The gutters are fixed to the walls and to a timber fascia to the roof overhang over stable doors.



South roof pitch



Gable barge boards

## **BAT ACCESS POINTS IN ROOF**



The underside of the roof overhang

The roof pitch could be examined closely. The sheets were tight fitting and in reasonable condition although some had warped. The barge boards were tight fitting and did not provide gaps behind. The corrugations did provide access points at the eaves. However the external roof structure does not provide any potential bat roost habitat.

**ROOF SPACE**



There was not an enclosed roof void in the stable. The timber purlins and the underside of the sheets were fully visible and easily examined. All were in good condition and did not provide any roost habitat. All the surfaces and floors were inspected for dropping or feeding evidence the result was negative. No signs of any current hibernation or historic use by bats was evident. The space did not provide any roost potential.

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

The external walls of the stable and the roof overhang were the focus of this scoping survey. The building was, closely visually examined for droppings, staining or feeding remains indicating any bat access. The result was negative.

	Yes	No
<b>BAT SIGNS, INTERNAL</b>		
SIGHTED		X
DROPPINGS		X
DETECTOR RESULTS		X
STAINING/GREASE MARKS		X
SUSPECT SUMMER ROOST		X
SUSPECT WINTER HIBERNACULA		X
INSECT OR MOTH FEEDING EVIDENCE		X

The interior of the stables were examined internally for any of the above listed potential signs of bat presence. The walls were largely single leaf timber boarding and the lined lower sections did not provide any voids. None of the above evidence was found. The structure did not provide any bat roost habitat.

**CONCLUSION**

The building does not provide any roost or foraging potential, the removal of the stable will not result in any loss of roost habitat. No evidence was found which would indicate that bats have hibernated or roosted in the past or are currently hibernating in the building. It is highly unlikely that bats will uncovered or disturbed during the demolition. The proposal will not impact on any potential commute or foraging route of any local bat population. No further survey effort is required nor is mitigation 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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