

Your Ref:  
Our Ref: 8336

Richard Parker  
Smithies Bridge Farm  
Clitheroe  
Lancashire  
BB7 4NA

Tuesday, 22 November 2022

Dear Mr Parker

**RE: SCOPING BAT SURVEY**  
**LOCATION: SMITHIES BRIDGE FARM, CLITHEROE**  
**PROPOSAL: REMOVAL OF EXISTING LIVESTOCK SHELTER STRUCTURE TO BE REPLACED BY NEW AGRICULTURAL BUILDING**

I would report that we have undertaken a scoping bat survey at the above site, which is to have an existing livestock shelter removed to make way for a new agricultural building. The site was assessed to identify its potential for use by bats.

The methodology we used to inspect this site was as follows.

#### **Desk and Field Study**

- ⇒ Likely bat roosting and feeding sites adjacent to the site were identified from aerial photography. This allows us to determine likely commuting routes into and off the site.
- ⇒ A search was made of the Envirotech dataset. The purpose of the search is to establish the species of bat that have been recorded in the local area.
- ⇒ Assessment of adjacent bat feeding and roosting sites from aerial photography.
- ⇒ Visual assessment of the building from the ground and ladders where appropriate using binoculars, torch and endoscope by a licensed bat surveyor.
- ⇒ Assessment of the building potential for use by bats and need for additional survey to conclude the reasonable probable absence of bats.

The site was assessed on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 and it was found to be located in habitat which would provide a moderate to high level of foraging opportunities for bat species. It is in a rural setting but adjacent to a very busy road and is subject to light spill, noise and vibration from passing vehicles.

The immediate surroundings are dominated by exposed pasture fields and fragmented hedgerows with a river and fragmented woodland in the local area. The fields and hedgerows will have a low to moderate foraging potential for bats but the river and fragmented woodland further afield will have a high value.

There are no records for bats at the site, however recent surveys by Envirotech have located bats using the surrounding habitat. The potential presence of bats at the site is therefore dependent upon roost quality and availability. It is unlikely habitat quality will limit use of the site by bats.







The structure is made from sheet metal panels over a steel frame with timber joists



There were no enclosed voids, crevices or cracks in any part of the structure



The internal space is extremely light, draughty and exposed due to the missing three sides and poor fitting roof

There were no bats present and no past evidence on any surfaces on or inside the structure



The adjacent building that the proposed structure will adjoin is fully pointed across the entire gable elevation

The structure is made from single skin sheet metal panels with some timber boards at ground level. The frame is made from steel with timber joists to support the roof panels. The roof panels are loose fitting and three of the sides to the structure are missing. There were no enclosed voids, cavities or crevices in the entire structure that could provide safe or suitable roosting potential for bats.

The internal space is naturally extremely light and draughty from the open sides and poor fitting roof.

There were no bats present and no past evidence on any of the surfaces inside or on the structure such as droppings, urine staining or prey items.

The gable end of the adjacent barn that the proposed new structure will adjoin was found to be fully pointed across the entire elevation. The proposed new building will stand alone and be structurally independent of this.

Overall the structure has no potential for roosting bats. No evidence of bats has been found at the site.

As a consequence we consider that undertaking an emergence survey and full habitat assessment of the building and its surroundings is unwarranted. The areas affected by work are likely to have a negligible significance to bats.

We consider that although the risk to bats is negligible, as with all sites the following generic working guidelines should be followed.


### **General working guidelines**

1. Be aware that bats may be present around the site, advise contractors accordingly.
2. Be observant during work for bats and or droppings in wall junctions. Bat droppings are black or brown and the size of grains of rice. Unlike mouse droppings which are hard, bat droppings will crumble between the fingers if squeezed.
3. Be observant during work for bats which may use the building if the new areas of the walls are exposed and left open overnight. Bats are opportunistic and may make use of gaps opened up during work overnight.
4. **If bats are found, stop all work and contact the ecological consultant for this project Andrew Gardner Tel: 07812 081320 for advice prior to work re-commencing.**

5. If it is necessary to remove a bat to avoid it being harmed, gloves should be worn. It should be carefully caught in a cardboard box and kept in the dark in a quiet place until it can be released at dusk near to where it was found, or moved to an undisturbed part of the site, with outside access, and placed in a location safe from predators.

If you have any queries or comments regarding our assessment of this building please do not hesitate to contact me in the first instance and I would be happy to clarify any issues with you.

Yours Sincerely



Andrew Gardner BSc (Hons), MSc, MRICS, Dip NDEA  
Natural England Bat License (Level 2)  
Director Envirotech NW Ltd