

**BAT SURVEY AT -
12 CENTRAL AVENUE
CLITHEROE**

**DATE AND TIME OF VISIT
17th March 2024 5.00 pm**

**WEATHER CONDITIONS
Overcast , Light westerly breeze . 9 C**

REFERENCE. [REDACTED]



SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY: LYNNE RUSHWORTH



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: [REDACTED] 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 SIXTEEN 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

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

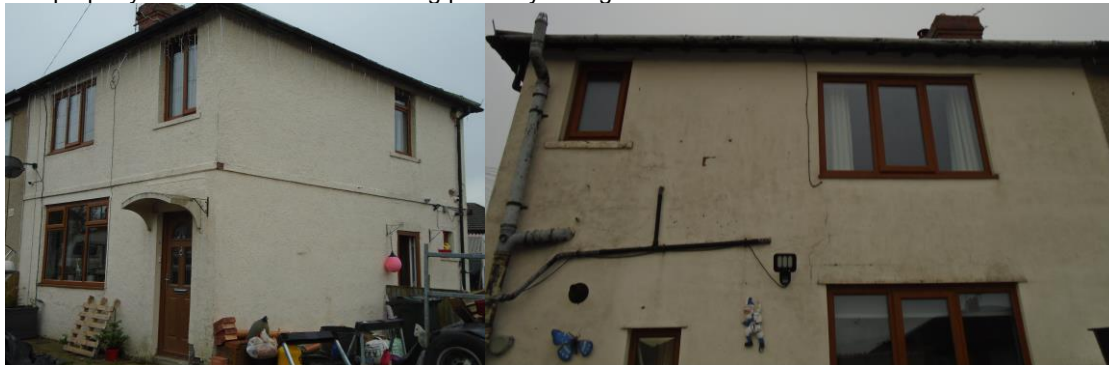
Two storey extension to the side elevation.

Impact of development in relation to potential bat habitat:-

Disruption to the existing roof.

TYPE OF BUILDING

The property is a semi detached dwelling probably dating from 1950's.



Front and side elevation

Rear elevation

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

Scoping only survey carried out towards the end of the hibernation period.

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: 735411 68 m elevation

The property is in an urban location in the settlement area of Clitheroe, on a well established housing estate adjacent on all sides to other properties of a similar age and type.



FORAGING POTENTIAL IN THE LOCATION

There are no broad leaf wooded areas, water courses or areas of open water within 450m of the house. It is surrounded by suburban gardens containing domestic shrubbery with the exception of a small group of mature trees located in neighbouring gardens 50m to the N.E of the house, and a line of trees either side of the railway track 135 m to the East. This vegetation provides a reasonable level of forage potential however there is not a good connection to the property. nor to any optimal forage habitat in the greater locality. The location generally provides sub optimal foraging potential. There are no designated nature conservation areas affecting this site



WALL CONSTRUCTION

The walls are brick/ block cavity, with a textured render finish.



BAT ACCESS POINTS IN WALLS

The walls are in excellent condition and do not have any cracks or crevices. It is not possible for bats to access the walls.

ROOF CONSTRUCTION

The roof is hipped with a blue slate finish. The rafter ends were exposed at the eaves with the render finish up to the roof structure.



BAT ACCESS POINTS IN ROOF

The condition of the slates, ridge and hip tiles was examined from the ground with the aid of binoculars, they appeared to be in reasonable condition with no loose tiles or significant gaps. The chimney flashing was tight fitting and the eaves which could be examined from the first floor windows did not have any gaps at the abutment with the house walls. The ridge and hip pointing was all present. The roof did not provide any access points with the potential to provide roost habitat for bats.

ROOF SPACE



The roof space was accessible it was possible to examine the structure. The property has been re-roofed using modern underlay. The timbers including the hips and purlins are in reasonable condition with no rot or decay. The quilt between the ceiling joists was very clean with no dropping or insect debris.

However the space was damp with the presence of condensation, likely due to the well sealed nature of the structure resulting in the lack of ventilation to the space. The space provided sub optimal roost potential for bats and no current or previous use was evident.

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

The external features to the side of the property being affected by the development, were the main focus of this survey. The flashings, walls and eaves were visually examined for droppings, staining or feeding remains. No evidence was found.

	Yes	No
<u>BAT SIGNS, INTERNAL</u>		
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 careful inspection of the interior did not reveal any evidence that bats are present in the building / roof structure, or have been in the past.

CONCLUSION

This building is located in an area with low value foraging potential. The building is not accessible to bats and there are no signs that it is currently used or has been used in the past for roosting, maternity or hibernation. The construction of this extension will not disturb an existing bat roost or remove any high value potential habitat. It is highly unlikely that any bats will be uncovered or harmed during any work carried out here. The size of the extension will not impact on any potential foraging or commute routes. No further survey effort or mitigation is required.

However habitat enhancement is required, it is suggested that a Schwegler (or similar) bat panel be incorporated in the new north west elevation, min 4m above the ground level all in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

**1 Schwegler FE Bat
Access Panel**

with optional back plate
External Dimensions:
H 30 x W 30 x D 8 cm
Weight: 7.8 kg



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
15 Cloisters House
8 Battersea Park Road
London SW8 4BG
0845 1300 228

Natural England Cheshire-Lancashire Team
Cheshire-Lancashire Team
Pier House
Wallgate
Wigan WN3 4AL

LIVING WITH BATS

- **Bats are not rodents**, and will not nibble or gnaw at wood, wires or insulation.
- **Bats do not build nests** and therefore do not bring bedding material into the roost; neither do they bring their insect prey into the roost.
- **All bats in the UK eat insects**, so they are a great form of natural pest control!
- **Bat droppings** in the UK are dry and crumble away to dust. As a result, there are no known health risks associated with them.
- **Female bats usually have only one baby a year**, so properties do not become 'infested'.
- **Most bats are seasonal visitors** to buildings - they are unlikely to live in the same building all year round, although they are loyal to their roosts and so usually return to the same roosts year after year.
 - **Bats are clean and sociable animals** and spend many hours grooming themselves.