23/9/2024

Nocturnal Bat Survey Report

Turner Fold, Ribble Valley
Reference: 81-933-R2-1
Date: September 24

e3p

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Site Address	Turner Fold, Read, Burnley, BB12 7QZ
Coordinates	E 376869, N 435030
Site Area	Less than 0.01 ha
Current Site Use	The site comprised a single story stand alone garage.
Proposed Development	Development proposals include the conversion of the building to be used as a holiday let, with associated car parking.
Results	Common pipistrelles were identified utilising the site for foraging and commuting. No bats were observed emerging from the building and no bats were observed within proximity to any potential roost features.
Conclusions and Recommendations	No further surveys, or a Natural England Bat Licence, are required for the proposed works to proceed. In the unlikely instance that any bats are located within the buildings or walls during the works, works should cease, and a suitably qualified ecologist should be contacted.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

E3P has been instructed by Roger Hindle Financial Services Limited to undertake Nocturnal Bat Surveys at Turner Fold, Ribble Valley; hereafter referred to as "the site".

The report was produced by Zach Squire-Watt, BSc (Hons), MSc, Consultant Ecologist at E3P, who has experience in completing Preliminary Roost Assessments (PRAs) and nocturnal bat surveys at many sites across the UK.

1.2. PREVIOUS SURVEYS

E3P conducted a PRA on the site in July 2024 (report reference: 81-933-R1). The site comprised a single-story stand-alone garage.

The on-site building was assessed for its suitability to support roosting bats, following the guidance set out in Collins (2023). The building was assessed as having **Moderate** bat roosting potential due to internal and external crevices within the brickwork and stonework, which are likely to provide bats with internal access as well as potential roosting features. The building was deemed as being unsuitable for high-value roosts, such as hibernation and maternity roosts, due to the building experiencing fluctuating temperatures.

1.3. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Development proposals include the conversion of the building to be used as a holiday let, with associated car parking.

1.4. SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located in the north of Read in the Ribble Valley adjacent to a residential area. Tuner Fold bounds the site to the south, and Whins Lane to the north. A woodland corridor is present approximately 60 m to the north, which is connected to the site via a treeline, and provides connectivity for bats to the wider landscape. Pockets of woodland within agricultural land are noted in the wider landscape. Please refer to Figure 1 for the approximate site location.

Figure 1 Approximate Site Location

1.5. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Nocturnal Bat Surveys were to identify:

- Any existing roosts within the site.
- Potential impacts of the proposed development on bats.
- The need for mitigation.

The survey findings are detailed in this report, along with any recommendations.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. NOCTURNAL SURVEYS

Two Bat Emergence Surveys were undertaken following the guidance set out in Collins (2023). Both surveys were conducted using Canon XA60 4K Camcorders, Magenta Bat 4 Detectors, and Titley Scientific Chorus Recorders (set to continuous mode). Surveys were undertaken by competent and suitably trained bat surveyors. Please see Table 1 and Table 2 for details of the surveys.

Table 1 Emergence Survey Details

SURVEY	DATE	SUNSET	SURVEY TIMINGS	WEATHER CONDITIONS
DUSK SURVEY 1	21/08/2024	20:24	20:09 - 21:54	Dry, 14°C, 95% cloud cover, light breeze
DUSK SURVEY 2	12/09/2024	19:32	19:17 - 21:02	Dry, 20°C, 25% cloud cover, light breeze

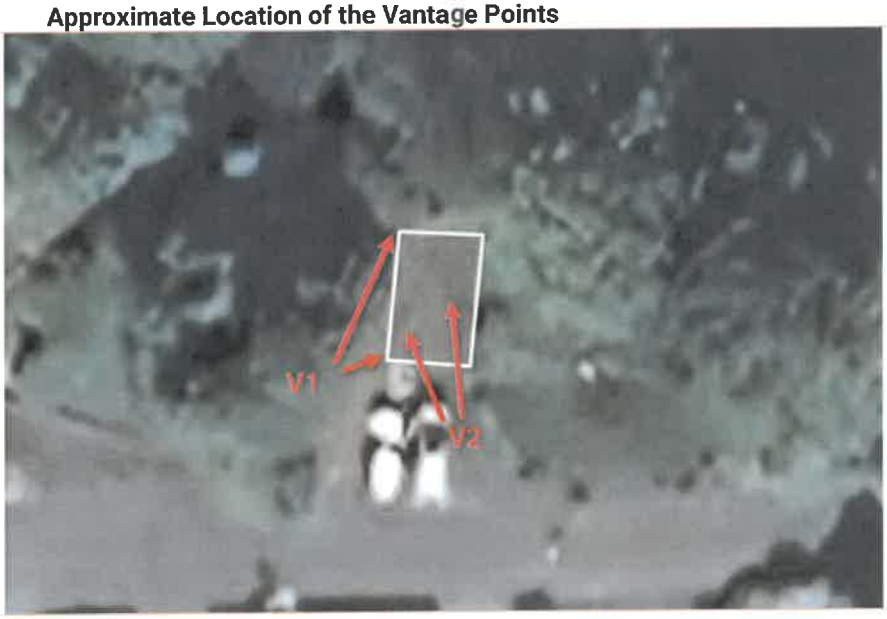
Table 2 Survey Vantage Point Details

VANTAGE POINT	DATE	DETECTOR	SURVEYOR
V1	21/08/2024	Chorus and Magenta	Zach Squire-Watt
	12/09/2024	Chorus and Magenta	Max McCormick
V2	21/08/2024	Chorus and Magenta	Max McCormick
	12/09/2024	Chorus and Magenta	Anna Cocker

Two camcorders were positioned around the building to observe the areas of bat-roosting potential during the nocturnal surveys (see Appendix II for the vantage point fields of view during the darkest time of the survey). Camcorders were monitored by suitably qualified bat surveyors, with the aid of Titley Scientific Chorus Recorders.

Please refer to Figure 2 for the approximate location of the vantage points.

Figure 2 Approximate Location of the Vantage Points



2.2. DATA ANALYSIS

Chorus recorders were used to record bat calls during the surveys. Data from these instruments was converted from WAV to ZCA using Wildlife Acoustics Kaleidoscope Software and was analysed using AnalookW. The recordings from the camcorders were analysed by Zach Squire-Watt in September 2024 and this involved reviewing the footage for any bat emergences.

2.3. SURVEY LIMITATIONS

Nocturnal Bat Surveys are completed following guidance set out in Collins (2023) and are carried out by competent and trained surveyors. However, due to the surveys being conducted by observation during low light conditions, this may cause constraints of visual assessments. This was resolved by using cameras as aids. All potential roosting features were observed throughout the survey time periods. All surveys were conducted in optimum weather conditions, following guidance set out in Collins (2023).

3. SURVEY RESULTS

The following subsections provide a summary of bat activity noted on the dusk emergence surveys. Please refer to Appendix I for the full survey forms.

3.1.1. DUSK EMERGENCE SURVEY 21ST AUGUST 2024

During the first dusk emergence survey, there was a moderate amount of common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) foraging and commuting activity at V1 and V2. The first common pipistrelle was heard but not seen at 20:34 at both vantage points, approximately ten minutes after sunset. Common pipistrelles are known to emerge at approximately 20 minutes after sunset, this indicates this species is roosting close to the site. The last two common pipistrelles were observed commuting south to north at 21:51 by V1 and V2, 87 minutes after sunset.

No bats were observed emerging from the surveyed building.

3.1.2. DUSK EMERGENCE SURVEY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2024

During the second dusk emergence survey, moderate levels of common pipistrelle foraging activity were recorded by V1 and V2. The first recorded was a common pipistrelle was observed by V2, 20 minutes after sunset. Common pipistrelles are known to emerge at approximately 20 minutes after sunset, this indicates this species is roosting close to the site. The majority of the activity was heard but not seen. The last common pipistrelle was heard but not seen at 20:39 by V2, 67 minutes after sunset.

No bats were observed emerging from the surveyed building.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. CONCLUSIONS

During the dusk emergence surveys, low levels of common pipistrelle foraging and commuting activity were observed. The earliest activity was a common pipistrelle which was recorded continuously foraging at 19:52 by V2 on the 2nd survey, 20 minutes after sunset. The timing indicates that the species is likely to be roosting near to site, but no emergences from the surveyed building were observed during the surveys.

Two survey visits were undertaken in August and September 2024, spaced three weeks apart. It is therefore considered that a sufficient amount of data has been gathered. Furthermore, the surveys were carried out during the bat maternity season. No evidence of maternity roosts was identified, as such it is apparent no maternity roosts are present within the site.

Therefore, it can be concluded that no bats are roosting within the building and no further assessment, mitigation, or Natural England Bat licencing is required for works to proceed.

4.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

In the unlikely event that a bat is found during works, all works is to cease immediately. Following this, a suitably qualified ecologist should be contacted, and further advice sought from Natural England.

5. REFERENCES

- Bat Conservation Trust (2023). Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night Guidance Note 8.
- Collins, J. (ed.) (2023). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, 4th edition. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.
- E3P (2024) Preliminary Roost Assessment – Turner Fold, Ribble Valley (Report Reference: 81-933-R1).

END OF REPORT

APPENDIX I
SURVEY FORMS

SURVEY FORMS

21ST AUGUST 2024

Date: 21/08/2024
Sunset: 20:24
Start time: 20:09
End time: 21:54

Weather conditions: Dry, 14°C, 95% cloud cover, light breeze.

Surveyor: Zach Squire-Watt (V1)

TIME	SPECIES	ACTIVITY
20:34	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:35	Common pipistrelle	Commuting south to north then back
20:36	Common pipistrelle	Foraging overhead
20:39	Common pipistrelle	Foraging above building
20:48	Common pipistrelle	Foraging around treeline to the west of the building
21:00	Common pipistrelle x2	One individual commuting south to north and another north to south
21:28	Common pipistrelle	Commuting north to south
21:51	Common pipistrelle x2	Commuting south to north

Surveyor: Max McCormick (V2)

TIME	SPECIES	ACTIVITY
20:34	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:35	Common pipistrelle	Commuting south to north then back
20:36	Common pipistrelle	Foraging overhead
20:39	Common pipistrelle	Foraging above building
20:48	Common pipistrelle	Foraging around treeline to the west of the building
21:00	Common pipistrelle x2	One individual commuting south to north and another north to south
21:28	Common pipistrelle	Commuting north to south
21:51	Common pipistrelle x2	Commuting south to north

12TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Date: 12/09/2024
Sunset: 19:32
Start time: 19:17
End time: 21:02

Weather conditions: Dry, 20°C, 25% cloud cover, light breeze.

Surveyor: Max McCormick(V1)

TIME	SPECIES	ACTIVITY
19:54	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:02	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:05	Common pipistrelle	Commuting north to south
20:07	Common pipistrelle	Commuting north to south
20:11	Common pipistrelle	Commuting south to north
20:15	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:18	Common pipistrelle	Continuously foraging
20:23	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:24	Common pipistrelle	Foraging north to south
20:32	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:35	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen

Surveyor: Anna Cocker (V2)

TIME	SPECIES	ACTIVITY
19:52	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
19:56	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
19:58	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
19:59	Common pipistrelle	Commuting north to south
20:02	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:05	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:07	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:11	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:15	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:16	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:18	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:21	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:21	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:23	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:24	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:26	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:32	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:36	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
20:39	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen

APPENDIX II
VANTAGE POINT FIELDS OF VIEW

VANTAGE POINT FIELD OF VIEW

21ST AUGUST 2024

Vantage Point 1 (V1)

Vantage Point 2 (V2)

12TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Vantage Point 1 (V1)

Vantage Point 2 (V2)