

Brackley Investments
6 Lower Farm Barns
Bainton Road
Bucknell
Bicester
Oxon OX27 7LT

23/07/2020

Attn: Mr Rollo Marmion

Dear Rollo

Results of the bat emergence surveys on 3 trees undertaken on the 22nd July 2020 at land to the rear of Helmsley House, Bartons Road, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 5NB.

This letter report provides the results from a dusk emergence survey carried out by Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd in relation to proposals to fell tree T37 and provide further assessment of tree T3 and the dead tree at land to the rear of Helmsley House, Bartons Road, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 5NB (grid reference SU733078). The location of the site is shown in *Figure 1*.

An initial assessment of the trees on site for bat roost suitability and nesting birds was carried during the daytime on the 16th July 2020 by Calum Cooper BSc GradCIEEM. Calum has over five years of post-qualification experience in ecological consultancy and is trained and experienced in carrying out protected species surveys. This survey is covered under a separate letter-report.

Subsequently, a dusk emergence survey was carried out on trees; T37, T3 and the dead tree on the 22nd July 2020. This was carried out by Calum Cooper BSc GradCIEEM, Chloe Mockridge MSc GradCIEEM, Rozel Hopkins MSci and Manuela Naprta MSci who are all experienced in carrying out bat surveys using detectors. The weather conditions were mild (16.8°C), dry, clear and calm (Beaufort scale 0).

All work followed standard survey protocol in *Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines, 3rd edition* (2016) and was supervised/ reviewed by John Poland CEnv MCIEEM CBiol MSB, who is a full member of CIEEM, a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv), a Chartered Biologist (CBiol) and multi-species licence holder with 20 years of experience in ecological consultancy.

Survey methodology

A detailed survey was carried out on the tree that is proposed to be removed (T37) identifying suitable features that could be used by roosting bats. It was assessed as having low-moderate bat roost suitability, thus a minimum of one dusk emergence survey was recommended.

The tree was assessed for its suitability to support roosting bats using the following inspection equipment: high-quality 10x42 binoculars; a 1,000,000 candlepower Clulite™ CB2 torch; an LED pen torch; an Explorer Premium™ wireless inspection camera with recordable monitor; and a 3.8m surveyors' ladder. As the tree was assessed from ground level, binoculars were employed to view higher areas of the tree, to identify potential access points. A description of the tree was recorded on a survey sheet, and digital photographs were taken as a permanent record.

Other trees on site were also assessed; trees T3 and a dead tree just outside the redline area were identified as having low bat roost suitability. Under *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, 3rd edition* (2016) a minimum of one dusk emergence survey was recommended.

The dusk emergence survey commenced 15 minutes before sunset and continued for 90 minutes after sunset. The surveyors were located with good views of the potential bat access points identified during the initial site visit. The timing of the visit, from early evening until after dark, was aimed at detecting active bats in the vicinity.

The surveyors recorded all bat activity encountered but particular attention was focused on any bats emerging. The results were documented by noting the time, bat species and behaviour (*e.g.* commuting, foraging, social interaction *etc.*). Surveyors were in constant contact via hand-held radios so that information could be easily exchanged regarding bat activity. The time between all surveyors devices was synchronised so time data was recorded precisely.

Bat detectors are used so that surveyors can identify most bat species in the field, using the heterodyne/frequency division output in combination with bat shape, flight pattern and behaviour. Surveyors were equipped with BatBox Duet™ detectors connected to solid-state recorders (Edirol R-05) to record bat calls for later sonogram analysis using BatSound4™ computer software. Frequency division, whereby the ultrasound is divided by 10 into an audible range, has a considerable advantage over time-expansion for survey work as it allows recordings to be taken in real time. This ensures that all bat activity is recorded. In addition, each surveyor was equipped with an Anabat Express™ static detector to record any *Myotis* calls (amongst other bats) in tandem with the other equipment, with a particular emphasis on detecting any activity by Bechstein's bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*).

Results

No bats were observed emerging from the trees surveyed. Common pipistrelles and soprano pipistrelles were recorded flying in the vicinity of the trees, indicating the weather was suitable for bat emergence and foraging. The data from the surveys is given in *Table A* and a plan illustrating bat activity is given in *Figure 2*.

Interpretation

Although tree T37 has low-moderate bat roost suitability, no bats were observed emerging or re-entering.

As the tree is not currently a bat roost, a bat EPS licence from Natural England is not required before it is felled.

However, it is recommended that the tree is soft-felled under ecological supervision as a precautionary measure and that the winter hibernation period is avoided. If felling is delayed until 2021, a pre-felling emergence survey is recommended to confirm the likely absence of bats.

It is not anticipated that the removal of this tree will impact foraging and commuting bats as the retained trees will still provide potential flight-lines for commuting bats and links to the wider landscape. The retained trees and nearby ancient woodland will continue to provide foraging habitat.

Changes in lighting can affect foraging and roosting bats. Therefore no lighting should be directed onto retained boundary vegetation (particularly the trees) and security lights should operate on a timer, to avoid any negative impact on bats.

In addition, no bats were observed emerging or re-entering T3 and the dead tree. It is therefore considered that these trees are not currently used by roosting bats.

It is understood that these trees are not currently proposed to be felled (with T3 also subject to a Tree Preservation Order). If this changes and felling is subsequently proposed, a pre-felling emergence survey is recommended to reaffirm the likely absence of bats.

Constraints

No specific constraints other than a single emergence survey only gives a snapshot of bat activity on a site. The survey focused on surveying the trees for emerging bats but recorded immediate foraging activity within visual and audio range of the surveyors. It is our understanding that other bat activity/ transect surveys are being carried out on the site.

In summary:

- One dusk emergence survey was carried out on the 22nd July 2020 on trees T37, T3 and the dead tree;
- No bats were recorded emerging from or re-entering any of the trees surveyed.

I trust this advises your next course of action. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



John Poland CEnv MCIEEM CBiol MRSB
Principal Ecologist
john@hantsecology.co.uk

For and on behalf of HAMPSHIRE ECOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Figure 1. Aerial photographs showing the location of the site.

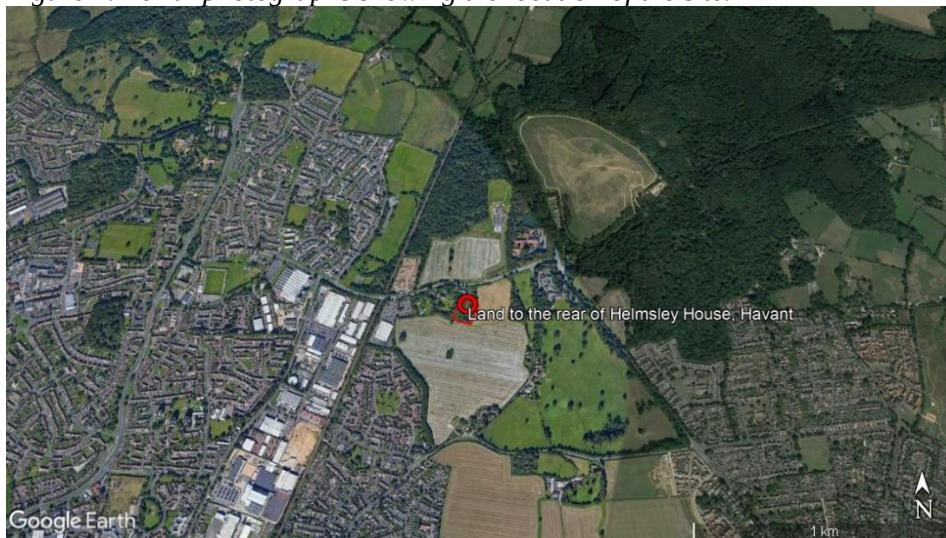


Figure 2. Plan showing bat activity (observations only) for the dusk emergence survey carried out on the 22nd July 2020. Arrows show direction of flight (where known).

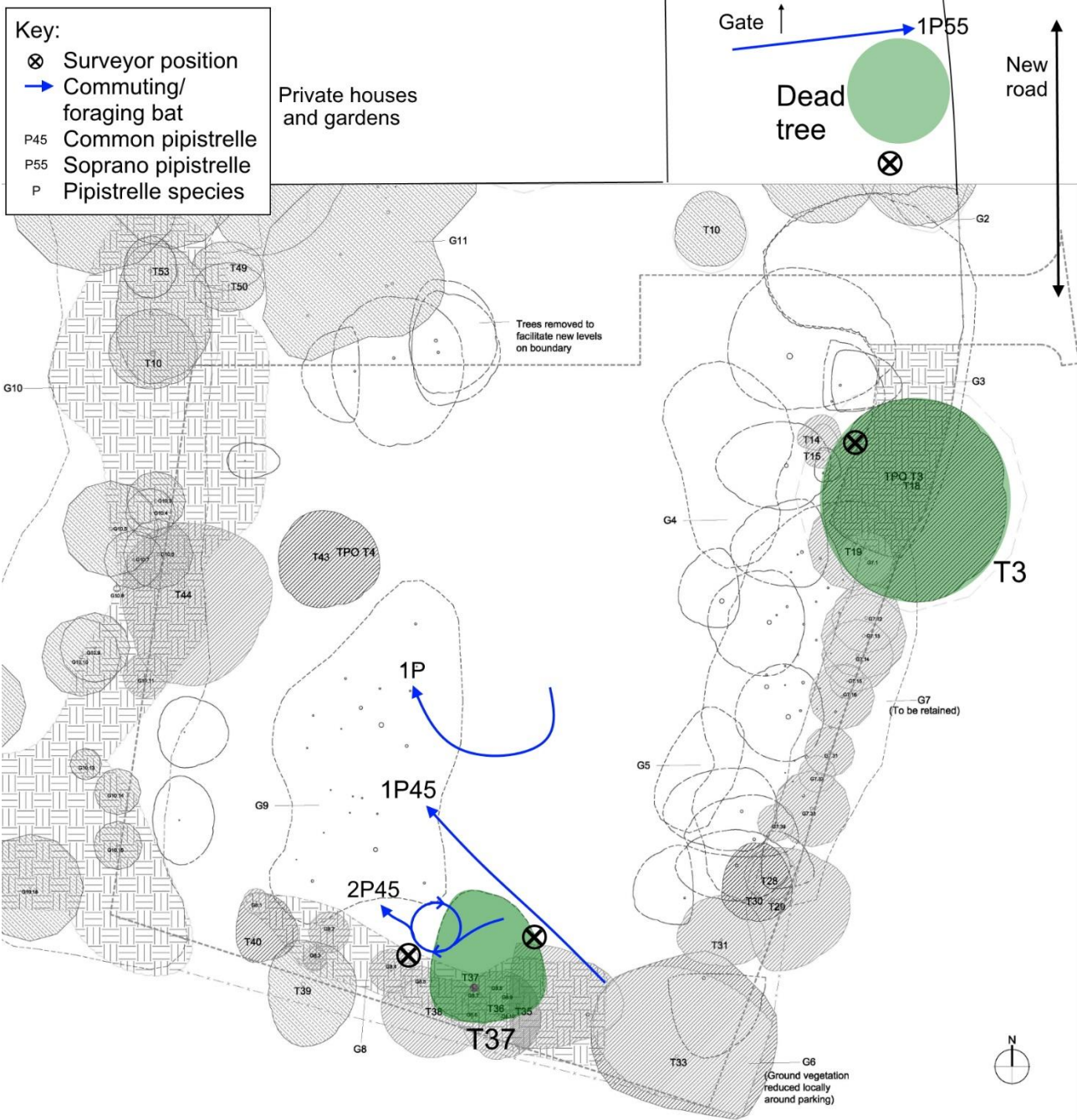


Table A. Dusk emergence survey data.

Date	22/07/2020			
Temp	16.8°C at start and 15.0°C at the end			
Weather	Mild, dry, clear and calm (Beaufort scale 0)			
Ecologists	Calum Cooper, Chloe Mockridge, Rozel Hopkins & Manuela Naprta			
Observer	Time	No.	Species	Observation
-	20:48		-	Ecologists commenced observations
-	21:03		-	Sunset
CM	21:19	1	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard foraging but not seen
CM	21:28	1	Pipistrelle species	Heard but not seen
CM	21:32	1	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard commuting but not seen
CC, RH	21:36	1	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard foraging but not heard
MN	21:51	1	Soprano pipistrelle	Foraging east over the northern part of the site
CC	21:52	1	Pipistrelle species	Heard but not seen
CM	21:53	1	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard but not seen
CC, RH	21:55	1	Common pipistrelle	Foraging and feeding near T37
CC, RH	21:55	2	Common pipistrelle	Heard foraging, feeding and 'chasing' but not seen
CC, RH	21:56	1	Common pipistrelle	Foraging and feeding near T37
CC	21:58	1	Pipistrelle species	Seen foraging in the field but not heard
MN	22:02	1	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard but not seen
CM	22:03	1	Common pipistrelle	Heard foraging but not seen
MN	22:07	1	Pipistrelle species	Heard but not seen
CC, RH	22:08	1	Common pipistrelle	Foraging west over the southern part of the site at altitude
MN	22:12	1	Pipistrelle species	Heard but not seen
CC, RH	22:13	1	Common pipistrelle	Heard foraging but not heard
CC, RH	22:20	1	Common pipistrelle	Heard foraging but not heard
CC	22:24	1	Common pipistrelle	Heard but not seen
MN	22:24	1	Pipistrelle species	Heard but not seen
MN	22:32	1	Common pipistrelle	Heard but not seen
-	22:33	-	-	Ecologists ceased observations