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Bat Survey Report

**162 Stakes Hill Road,
Waterlooville, P07 7BS**

NGR: SU 68719 08360

<i>Date</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Version</i>
25th August 2019	Richard Law BSc MRes CEnv CIEEM	1.0

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Summary

Sylvatica Ecology Ltd was commissioned to carry out bat surveys at 162 Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville P07 7BS; in relation to proposed development works.

An ecological assessment had been previously carried out on the 15th June 2019. This survey had found that there were features on the external faces of the building that exhibited a moderate bat potential. Therefore, further surveys were required to ascertain the presence/ likely absence of bats

Two emergence surveys were carried out on the 30th July and the 14th August 2019. While there was a small degree of bat activity in the close vicinity of the area, no emergence of bats was observed during the survey period. The property was surrounded by a moderate degree of street lighting, which enabled easy observation of the building to the surveyors, but this is also likely to limit the possibility of bats utilising the features surveyed.

Bat species observed in the vicinity were common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*). No other bat species were noted. The garden was well maintained, with close mown amenity grassland. The shrubs were generally ornamental non-native species offering little ecological value.

In the highly unlikely event that a bat is found during any demolition works, then advice must be immediately sought from a suitably experienced ecologist. Otherwise, no further recommendation is made relating to bats.

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1 Introduction

Aim of the study

- 1.1 This report presents the results, conclusions and recommendations following two sets of evening emergence surveys, carried out at the property of 162 Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville, NGR SU 68719 08360, following recommendation made within the Preliminary Ecological Assessment (Sylvatica Ecology 2019) that the building exhibited a moderate potential to support roosting bats.

Site description

- 1.2 The property consisted of a building utilised as residential accommodation, ornamental planting, scattered broadleaved trees and a large lawn area (amenity grassland). The adjacent habitats consisted of a mix of private gardens, residential properties and scattered broadleaved trees/ copses. Waterlooville is situated approximately 15 miles from the south coast of England in the county of Hampshire. This location is within a larger area of urban development which continues into Havant, Purbrook, Drayton and Portsmouth. There were areas of more open habitat, particularly eastwards. However, the A3(M) main road connecting this area with London was 2km to the east, forming a significant barrier to the dispersal of some wildlife.

Legal Status of Bats

- 1.3 All eighteen of the UK's bat species are protected under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended). The WCA states that *'a person is guilty of an offence if intentionally or recklessly they disturb [a bat] while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection; or he obstructs access to any structure or place which [a bat] uses for shelter or protection'*.
- 1.4 Bats are also protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Bats are listed as European protected species under which it is an offence if;
- *a person deliberately captures, injures or kills any wild animal of a European protected species;*
 - *deliberately disturbs wild animals of any such species;*
 - *damages or destroys a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.*

1.5 Disturbances of animals include in particular any disturbance which is likely to impair their ability to;

- *survive, breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young;*
- *in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or*
- *to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.*

1.6 **Figure 1 - Site Location (Red Line Boundary)**



2 Methodology

2.1 The survey was carried on using standard guidance and best practice methodology outlined in the Bat Workers Manual (Mitchell-Jones & McLeish, 2004), the Bat Mitigation Guidelines (English Nature, 2004) and Bat Surveys Guidelines for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines (BCT 2016). The surveyors were led by Richard Law (2015-12576-CLS-CLS).

2.2 Two surveyors were utilised on each occasion, covering the front and rear aspects of the property, giving a comprehensive coverage of all the potential features present.

2.3 An external assessment of the building was made for bats prior to each survey, using standard best practise methods as set out in BCT (2016) and (Mitchell-Jones, 2004), including checking for the following:

- droppings, particularly on sheltered areas such as window ledges, pipes or cobwebs where droppings can lie undisturbed,
- potential access points such as broken ventilation bricks or loose slates,
- staining from urine, faeces or fur rubbing.

Equipment Used

2.4 Echo Metre Touch Pro (using iPad Air 125GB) and a Heterodyne (Bat Box duet III) bat detector was used to pick up any ultrasonic calls that bats could have made during the surveys. Night vision equipment (Yukon NvB Tracker) was used to aid the check for emerging/ re-entering bats during the surveys.

Features Surveyed

2.5 Plates 1 & 2 – Gaps under the soffit boarding



2.6 Plates 3 & 4 – Gaps under the hanging tiles and roof tiles (northern roof face)



Lead Surveyor

- 2.7 The survey work and reporting has been led by Richard Law BSc MRes CEnv MCIEEM. Richard has been undertaking ecological survey work within the last 15 years on a number of differing locations throughout the United Kingdom for a variety of protected species, including bats (Class 2 2015-12576-CLS-CLS) reptiles, amphibians including great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) (Class 1 2016-20290-CLS-CLS) and terrestrial mammals including dormice (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) (2015-13188-CLS-CLS) and birds including barn owl licence (CL29/00236). Richard is also qualified in track and sign and trailing *via* an international system of assessment (www.trackercertification.com).

Limitations

- 2.8 It should be borne in mind that the behaviour of animals can be unpredictable and may not conform to standard patterns recorded in scientific literature. Therefore, this report cannot predict with absolute certainty, that animal species will occur in apparently suitable locations or habitats, or that they will not occur in locations or habitats that appear unsuitable.

3 Survey Results

3.1 **Table 1 –Survey Parameters and Weather Conditions for Evening Survey**

Date	Start Time	End Time	Sunset	Temperature at start °C	Temperature at end °C	Wind	Cloud Cover % (visual estimate)	Precipitation during survey
30 th July 2019	20:25	22:30	20:53	17.3	16.8	Light SW	100%	None
14 th August 2019	20:00	22:00	20:27	18.6	18.4	Light SW	75%	None

3.2 **Table 2 – Evening Emergence Survey 30th July 2019**

Time	Species	Number	Location	Behaviour
20:48	Noctule	1	High overhead, heading east	Commuting
20:54	Noctule	1	High overhead heading east	Commuting
21:57	Common pipistrelle	1	South of site, along tree line	Commuting/ Foraging
22:08	Common pipistrelle	1	South of site, along tree line	Commuting/ Foraging
22:13	Common pipistrelle	1	South of site, along tree line	Commuting/ Foraging
22:30 Survey End				

3.3 **Table 3 – Evening Emergence Survey 14th August 2019**

Time	Species	Number	Location	Behaviour
20:35	Noctule	1	High overhead heading east	Commuting
21:16	Common pipistrelle	1	South of site, along tree line	Commuting/ Foraging
21:20	Common pipistrelle	1	South of site, along tree line	Commuting/ Foraging

21:35	Common pipistrelle	1	South of site, along tree line	Commuting/ Foraging
21:44	Common pipistrelle	1	South of site, along tree line	Commuting/ Foraging
21:49	Common pipistrelle	1	South of site, along tree line	Commuting/ Foraging
21:52	Common pipistrelle	1	South of site, along tree line	Commuting/ Foraging
22:00 Survey End				

- 3.4 No bats were observed emerging during the surveys. A relatively low level of activity was recorded. Two bat species were recorded commuting and foraging near to the property. These were noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) and common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*).

4 Discussion and Recommendation

- 4.1 No emergence was recorded during the evening surveys. Therefore, no further recommendation is made relating to bats at this location.
- 4.2 In the unlikely event that a bat is discovered during any of the development works, then advice must be immediately sought from a suitably experienced and qualified ecological consultant as to the most appropriate actions.

5 References

BCT (2016) Bat Survey Guidelines for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines.

BS 42020 Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. & McLeish, A.P. (Eds) (2004). Bat Workers' Manual (3rd Ed.). JNNC, Peterborough.

JNCC (2010) Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A technique for environmental audit. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

Stace C. (1997) *New Flora of the British Isles* (second edition). Cambridge University Press.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) The Stationary Office, Norwich.