



Ref: A090070-182

Date: 15 June 2017

By email only to: rebecca.humble@wyg.com

FAO: Homes and Communities Agency

C/O: Rebecca Humble

Dear Rebecca,

RE: Colt International, New Lane, Havant: Bat Dusk Emergence/ Dawn Return Surveys

This letter provides the results and interpretation of a bat dusk emergence survey conducted on 24th May and a pre-dawn return survey conducted on 15th June 2017 of the former social building (Building 2) at Colt International, New Lane, Havant (herein referred to as 'the site').

Introduction

Following an ecological appraisal undertaken by WYG on 18th January 2017, identified the potential for a building onsite to support roosting bats. WYG was subsequently commissioned as part of a multi-disciplinary tender by the Homes and Communities Agency to complete dusk emergence / dawn re-entry surveys of the building identified as holding bat roosting potential in order to inform a proposed development at the site.

The bat surveys were recommended based on:

- The occurrence of bat records in the local area;
- The presence of suitable foraging and commuting habitat on site and in the surrounding landscape (hedgerows, grassland, etc.) and;
- Potential direct / indirect impacts to some of these habitats including buildings as a result of the development proposals.

This report details the findings of the dusk emergence and pre-dawn return surveys of Building 2 and recommends, where necessary; provisional measures to avoid, minimise and offset the potential impacts to roosting, commuting and foraging bats as a result of the proposed development. This report provides information to inform a planning application for the site.

Site Location

The proposed development site is situated within the Havant Borough and is bordered by New Lane, Martin Road and Bartons Road, centred on OS Grid Reference SU 72617 08008. The site comprises a large former factory building surrounded by hard standing and amenity grassland, with several mature trees bordering the southern and western boundaries. New Lane runs along the eastern boundary, Martin Road to the west, and Bartons Road along the northern boundary. The site covers a total area of approximately 3.35 hectares and is surrounded by both industrial and residential areas to the north, south and west, whilst arable fields are located to the east.



Legislation

All 18 British bat species are listed in Schedule 5 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) and under Schedule 2 of the *Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amended) Regulations 2010* as European Protected Species. Furthermore, the *Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000* (Schedule 12, Paragraph 5) has amended Section 9 of the 1981 Act. They are, therefore, fully protected under Section 9 of the 1981 Act and under Regulation 41 of the *Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amended) Regulations 2012* which transposes the Habitats Directive into UK law.

This makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill any bat;
- Deliberately disturb bats, in particular where it is likely to:
 - Impair their ability to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young;
 - Impair their ability to hibernate or migrate; or
 - Affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of bats.
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct the access to the place of shelter or protection; and
- Damage or destroy a bats breeding site or resting place.

The Bechstein's bat is also listed on Appendix II of the Bonn Convention (and its agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe, 1994), Appendix II of the Bern Convention, and Annexes II and IV of the EC Habitats and Species Directive. The 1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals classifies this species as Vulnerable.

Unmitigated removal of linear corridors such as sections of hedgerows and increases in habitat disturbance (through lighting, noise and vibration impacts) during construction and operational phases of a proposed development could indirectly impact bats that use the site to forage and commute. For example, lighting impacts could potentially sever a commuting route between a nursery roost and foraging ground such that it impairs bat's ability to rear young. Furthermore, direct impacts to bats may occur through road traffic mortalities in the operational phase of a proposed development. Such indirect and direct impacts could result in an offence being committed.

Methodology

Data Search

As part of the Ecological Appraisal completed by WYG in January 2017 (WYG, 2017), site and species specific information was sourced through direct consultation with the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC), the ecological records centre for Hampshire. HBIC provided information in relation to the presence of protected species, designated sites and areas of regional, national or international importance within 2 km of the site.

No European designated sites (RAMSAR, Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation) are present within 10km of the site that have been specifically designated for bats.





Bat Emergence/ Return Surveys

The purpose of nocturnal surveys was to determine if any bats were roosting within the former social club building on-site, and if so to identify which species and how many were present. The building was assessed as offering **moderate Suitability** (BCT, 2016) to support roosting bats.

In line with BCT (2016) guidelines, two nocturnal bat surveys were recommended for one building on-site (Building 2), comprising one dusk survey on the 24th May 2017 and a pre-dawn survey due on the 15th June 2017. Two surveyors were positioned around the building so that all elevations could be observed, and all potential bat access points or roosting features could be seen. All surveyors used an Elekon Batlogger (time expansion). This allowed all ultrasonic frequencies to be monitored and recorded simultaneously.

The dusk emergence survey commenced approximately thirty minutes before sunset and lasted for approximately one and a half hours after sunset. The re-entry survey commenced approximately one and half hours prior to sunrise and concluded fifteen minutes after sunrise. Surveyors were positioned in static locations so that all elevations of the building could be surveyed throughout both surveys.

Table 1 below shows the survey dates, dusk/dawn times, survey times and weather conditions during the dusk emergence survey. Temperature readings and cloud cover assessments were undertaken *in-situ* whilst detailed wind-speed data has been sourced from the Met Office website (Met Office, 2015). The surveyor positions for the surveys is illustrated in Figure 1.

Table 1: Weather conditions during bat surveys at Colt International, New Lane, Havant

Survey Effort	Date	Dusk/Dawn Times	Survey Times	Survey Commencement Weather Conditions	Survey End Weather Conditions
Dusk Emergence Survey	24.05.17	20:59	20:29 – 22:29	18.1°C; 70% cloud cover; no wind; nil precipitation	16.8°C; 20% cloud cover; no wind; nil precipitation
Pre-Dawn Return Survey	15.06.17	04:50	03:20 – 05:05	14.4°C; 70% cloud cover; no wind; nil precipitation	13.0°C; 40% cloud cover; no wind; nil precipitation

Results

Colt International Building 2: Dusk Emergence Survey 24th May 2017

No bats were observed emerging from the building during this survey.

A low level of activity was recorded with all the observations occurring to the south of the building. Three species of bat were recorded; noctule, common and soprano pipistrelle. The first bat, a noctule was heard but not seen at 21:19. All further activity on-site related to commuting and foraging pipistrelles, which were recorded intermittently from 21:36 to 22:11 this included bats both visually observed and heard but not seen.

Colt International Building 2: Pre-Dawn Return Survey 15th June 2017

No bats were observed emerging from the building during this survey.





A low level of activity was recorded with no bats visually observed. Two species of bats were recorded; noctule and common pipistrelle. The first bat, a noctule was heard but not seen at 03:31. The majority of activity recorded on-site related to foraging noctules, with one common pipistrelle recorded foraging at 04:10. Recordings were made between 03:31 to 04:32, ceasing nineteen minutes prior to dawn.

Conclusions and Recommendations

No incidences of bats emerging from Building 2 were recorded during the dusk emergence or pre-dawn return surveys. As the surveys were carried out in conditions suitable for bats to leave the roost, it is currently considered highly unlikely that roosting bats are present in the building. As such a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) will not be required to demolish the building as part of the proposed development, subject to confirmation after a pre-dawn return survey.

As no bat roosts have been recorded onsite and the habitat within the site boundary is of low quality for foraging and commuting bats, it is not considered likely that the proposed development will have a significant negative impact local bat populations.

It is recommended that some bat related ecological enhancements are provided in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). With respect to bats their presence on-site and within the local area, a proportion of the new structures built as part of the proposed development should have artificial bat roosting features such as bat tiles, bricks or boxes installed. Due to the low level of activity around the site and current lack of suitable habitat, it is considered that the provision of a bat tile on three buildings and one building mounted bat box will provide an enhancement for roosting bats in comparison to the current conditions onsite. In-depth enhancement advice, including recommendations for artificial roost locations can be provided upon the final layout plan being produced.

The results of the dusk emergence and pre-dawn return surveys of Building 2 will remain valid for 18 months (i.e. until December 2018). It may be necessary to consider updating the survey after this time, or if either the development impacts or the habitat conditions on site change within two years. This will help to establish if bat activity has changed in the interim period and to inform future mitigation measures, if necessary.

Yours sincerely,

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Figure 1: Surveyor Position Plan

