

Bat Emergence Survey Report

39 London Road

Cowplain

Hampshire

PO8 8DF

NGR: SU 69058 10897



25th August 2024

Sylvatica Ecology Ltd

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Limitations and Liabilities

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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.

In order to minimise the likelihood of adverse effects on protected animal species over time, it is accepted good practice, in accordance with Natural England (NE) (formerly English Nature) guidance for ecological surveys to be repeated should works be deferred for over 12 months from the date of initial survey.

It is the duty of the landowner, developer and operations managers to act responsibly and to comply with current environmental legislation if protected species are suspected or found prior to, or during works.

The recommendations and information contained within this report are based on the information provided on the development works prior to the surveys being carried out. Should the development proposals change then the findings and recommendations contained within would potentially require revision.

The findings within this report do not constitute legal advice. Should this be required, then a suitably qualified professional practitioner should be contacted.

Author	Signed	Contact
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1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of two bat emergence surveys carried out at 39 London Road, Cowplain, Hampshire, PO8 8DF, NGR: SU 69058 10897.
- 1.2 The survey work used the guidance detailed within Bat Surveys Guidelines for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines (BCT 2023) and the Interim Guidance Note on Surveys and Night Vision Equipment (BCT 2022) as the basis to the survey methodology.
- 1.3 No bats were observed emerging from the building and bat foraging activity within the local environment was relatively low. No further recommendation relating to bat surveys or licencing is made.
- 1.4 Recommendation regarding the installation of a bat box as an enhancement has been made. In the highly unlikely event that a bat is found during the development works, then works should cease, the bat left undisturbed in situ and consultation be made with a suitably qualified ecological consultant as to the most appropriate way to proceed. If the bat is injured, then contact should be made with the National Bat Helpline on 0345 1300 228.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 This report presents the findings of two bat emergence surveys carried out at 39 London Road, Cowplain, Hampshire, PO8 8DF, NGR: SU 69058 10897. A previous bat roost potential report identified features that were categorised as having a moderate potential to support roosting bats. Therefore, emergence surveys were carried out.

- 2.2 Figure 1: Site Location in Wider Landscape



Legal Status of Bats

- 2.3 The potential presence of bat roosts within a proposed development site has to be considered as 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'.
- 2.4 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.

- 2.5 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.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The survey work used the guidance detailed within Bat Surveys Guidelines for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines (BCT 2023) and the Interim Guidance Note on Surveys and Night Vision Equipment (BCT 2022) as the basis to the survey methodology.

Lead Surveyor

- 3.2 The survey work and reporting has been led by Richard Law BSc MRes CEnv MCIEEM FLS. Richard has been undertaking ecological survey work within the last 20 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 (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).

Equipment Used

- 3.3 Echometer Pro 2 bat detector with iPad processor unit and Bat Box Duet detectors were used to detect bat echolocation. A mixture of night vision equipment was used including: Sionyx Aurora IR camera, a Pulsar Axion 30S thermal imaging camera and a set of Yukon Tracker night vision binoculars. Calls were analysed, when required, identifying species following Russ (2021).
- 3.4 The night vision observation equipment gave a view of the features of the building surveyed that was not possible with the naked eye, enabling effective observation to continue in the dark. The cameras were installed on tripods, which enabled the surveyor to work normally without having to hold the camera steady. The Axion 30S enables a live feed to be viewed and recorded directly through a suitable tablet, which in this incidence was an iPad Pro. The Sionyx Aurora IR camera provide a wide angled view which is also recorded and fixed throughout the survey. The Yukon Tracker night vision are also head mounted, enabling handing free usage. All recorded footage is then reviewed following the survey

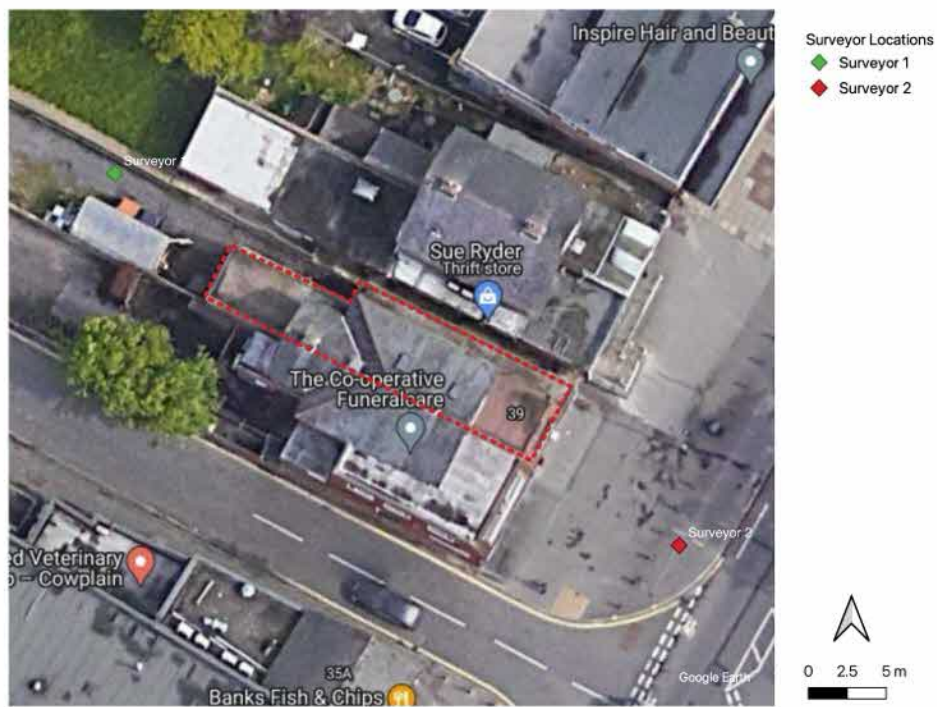
Survey Type

- 3.5 Emergence survey is undertaken to observe bats emerging from roost. In addition to observation, night vision and thermal imaging equipment was used to ensure that features can be effectively viewed in the dark and that any footage can be reviewed following the survey.

Other Protected Species

- 3.6 The ecological surveys focused on the potential presence of bats and the emergence surveys focused on this species group. However, incidental notes are made as to the potential or actual presence of other protected species.

3.7 Figure 2: Surveyor Positions



4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 This section provides an account of the results from the surveys carried out on the building. These findings will inform any further recommendations outlined within this report.

Survey Meta Data

- 4.2 Table 1: Timings and Weather Conditions

Date	Sunset/ Sunrise	Survey Start and End	Temp	Rain	Wind Speed (Beaufort Scale) and direction
29 th July 2024	20:52	20:25 – 22:25	27 °C to 23 °C	None	Still
19 th August 2024	20:13	19:45 – 21:45	18 °C to 17 °C	Light rain during day then clear.	Southerly (3)

- 4.3 The bat surveys were carried out at a time of year when bat activity, is considered, to be apparent and within the maternity season (May to August). The weather conditions were appropriate for a bat survey to be carried out.

Bat Survey Results

- 4.4 Table 2: 29th July 2024 – Emergence Survey

Time	Species	Passes	Activity and Location
21:38	C.pip	1	Brief foraging pass to the west close to surveyor 1
21:44	C.pip	1	Foraging pass along treeline to the southeast
21:58	S.pip	1	Commuting north along the eastern treeline
22:13	C.pip	1	Commuting pass – heard not seen
C.pip = Common Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>) S.pip = Soprano Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>)			

4.5 No bats were observed emerging from the building. Foraging and commuting passes from common pipistrelle were observed and recorded to the east and west of the survey area. A single pass of soprano pipistrelle was observed to the southeast, along the treeline adjacent to the main road.

4.6 Table 3: 19th August 2024 – Emergence Survey

Time	Species	Passes	Activity and Location
21:45	C.pip	1	Commuting pass – heard not seen
22:22	C.pip	1	Commuting pass – heard not seen
22:34	C.pip	1	Commuting pass – heard not seen
C.pip = Common Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>) S.pip = Soprano Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>)			

4.7 No bats were observed emerging from the building. Only three commuting passes from common pipistrelle were heard from the position of surveyor 2.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 No bats were observed emerging from the building and bat foraging activity within the local environment was relatively low. No further recommendation relating to bat surveys or licencing is made.

5.2 As an ecological enhancement, it is recommended to install a bat box within the structure of the new building. These would provide an enhancement in the form of roosting habitat within the local area. The type of box recommended to be installed is detailed below but the type could vary depending on the aesthetics of the finished development project:

One Bat Access Brick

5.3 In the highly unlikely event that a bat is found during the development works, then works should cease, the bat left undisturbed in situ and consultation be made with a suitably qualified ecological consultant as to the most appropriate way to proceed. If the bat is injured, then contact should be made with the National Bat Helpline on 0345 1300 228.

5.4 No other protected species were observed within the building during the two surveys.

6.0 REFERENCES

BCT (2023) Bat Survey Guidelines for Professional Ecologist – Good Practice Guidelines

BCT (2022) Interim Guidance: Use of night vision aids for bat emergence surveys and further comment on dawn surveys

English Nature (2004) Bat Mitigation Guidelines IN13.6

HMSO (1981) The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) HMSO, London.

HMSO (2017). The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c). (As amended) Regulations 2017

Russ, J (2021) Bat Calls of Britain and Europe – A Guide to Species Identification. Pelagic Publishing

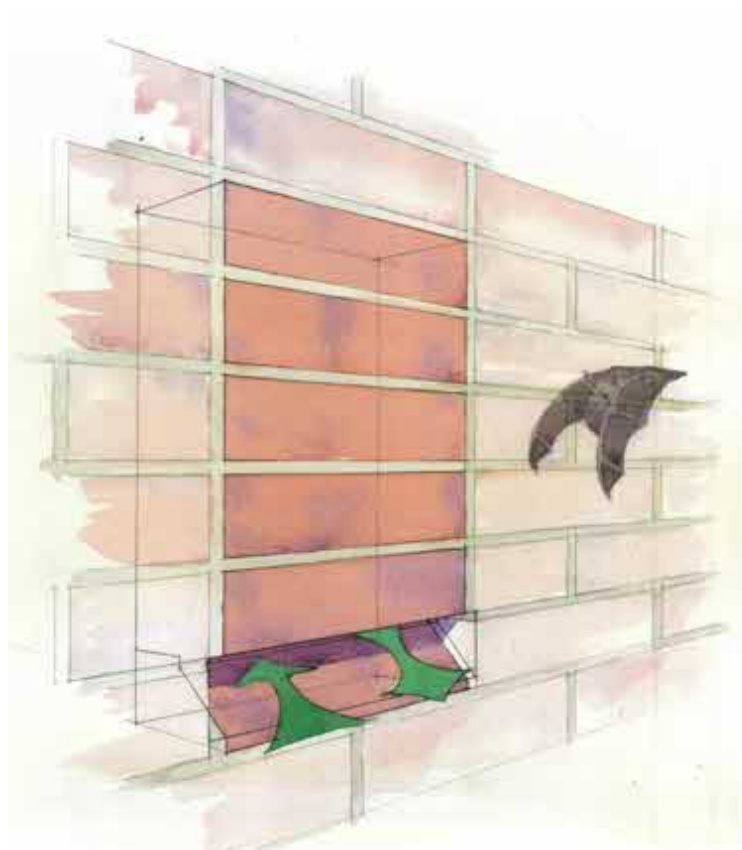
Sylvatica Ecology (2024) Preliminary Bat Roost Potential Survey – 39 London Road, Cowplain, Hampshire, PO8 8DF,

7.0 MAP OF BAT ACTIVITY



8.0 RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENT FEATURE

Habitat Access Brick



[Images from NHBS.com](https://www.nhbs.com)