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Bat Survey of:

21 West Meadows Road Cleadon Sunderland SR6 7TU

Prepared for:

Mr B. Edge 21 West Meadows Road Cleadon Sunderland SR6 7TU

Job Ref: Edge_21WMR_Bat1.1

Report prepared by	Position	Date
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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.0.1 Dendra Consulting Ltd was commissioned by Mr B. Edge to undertake two bat activity surveys of 21 West Meadows Road, Cleadon. It is proposed to extend the property both vertically and in terms of its footprint to provide a larger dwelling house.
- 1.0.2 A risk assessment undertaken by Falco ecology in November 2019 concluded that the buildings were a moderate risk in terms of bat roosting potential and recommended two activity surveys.
- 1.0.3 Dusk and dawn activity surveys were undertaken on the 6th may and 28th May 2020 respectively. No bats were noted roosting within the building. As such, it is considered highly unlikely that bats roost within the building.
- 1.0.4 Recommendations are confined to the provision of emergency procedures in the unlikely event that bats are encountered.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Purpose of Report

2.1.1 Dendra Consulting Ltd was commissioned by Mr B. Edge to undertake two bat activity surveys of 21 West Meadows Road, Cleadon. A risk assessment undertaken by Falco ecology in November 2019 concluded that the buildings were a moderate risk in terms of bat roosting potential and recommended two activity surveys.

2.2 Details of Proposals

2.2.1 It is proposed to extend the property both vertically and in terms of its footprint to provide a larger dwelling house.

2.3 Legal Status of Bats

- 2.3.1 All UK species of bat are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019. This law makes it illegal to:
 - Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat
 - Deliberately disturb a bat^[*]
 - Damage or destroy a bat roost or resting place

^[*]Disturbance of bats includes in particular any disturbance which is likely to:

- Impair their ability
 - to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young; or
 - to hibernate or migrate
- Affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

3.0 SURVEY & SITE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Site Location and Surrounding Area

3.1.1 The property is located near the south eastern end of the Village of Cleadon in South Tyneside. The OS National Grid reference for the site is NZ38556159. The site is located on the edge of a 'leafy' sub-urban area. The surrounding landscape to the north, south and west is sub-urban for a minimum of 200m. To the east the property backs onto open arable land. The nearest water courses appear to be open ditches 450m to the west. There do not appear to be any true woodland within 500m of site; however small areas of scrub, hedgerows and large numbers of amenity trees are present within 500m.

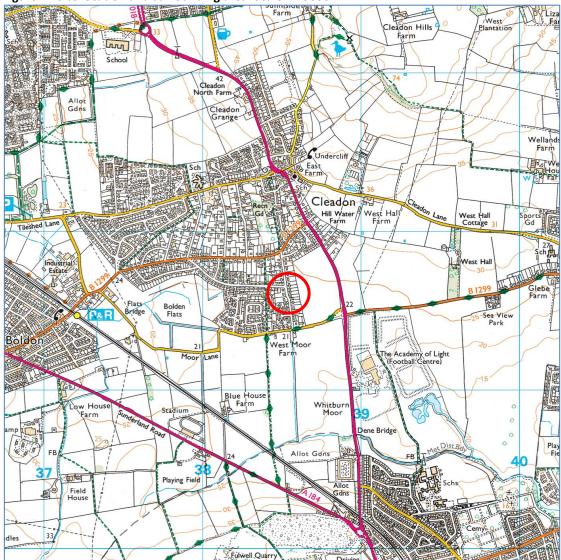


Figure 1 - Site location and surrounding area. Scale 1:25000.

3.2 Pre-Existing Information

3.2.1 No data search was undertaken as part of the activity surveys.

3.3 Status of Species Recorded in the Search Area

3.3.1 Local level

There is insufficient data available to assess the status of bats in the local area. The county/regional status of the species likely to exist in the search area is therefore likely to provide the most reasonable assessment.

- 3.3.2 County/regional levels (North East England Nature Partnership)
 - Common pipistrelles are found on modern housing estates and are ubiquitous throughout the whole of the DBAP area.
 - Soprano pipistrelles are known to occur on the Tees, Wear and Derwent but are probably more widespread.
 - Nathusius pipistrelles have been recorded feeding over the Tees and Cotherstone, near Bowes and near Whitworth on the Wear, but no roost sites are known.
 - Whiskered bats are fairly widespread but localised. Roosts in the Durham area are of national importance.
 - Brandt's bat is much rarer and the roosts in the Durham area are of national importance.
 - Natterer's bats roost in trees and large roof spaces, where they can warm up before leaving; this is one of Durham's rarer species.
 - Daubenton's bats are widespread along water courses and near water bodies throughout the region.
 - Brown long-eared bats are reasonably widespread, but localised. They
 require large undisturbed roof spaces within flying distance of suitable
 woods.
 - Noctule bats are localised in the area's mature woodland, in rural areas.

- 3.3.3 National level (Bat Conservation Trust)
 - Common pipistrelle Increasing
 - Soprano pipistrelle Stable
 - Whiskered bat Stable (data to be treated with caution)
 - Brandt's bat Stable (data to be treated with caution)
 - Natterer's bat Increasing (data to be treated with caution)
 - Noctule Stable
 - Daubenton's bat Stable
 - Nathusius' pipistrelle No population data published
 - Brown long-eared bat Stable

3.4 Site/Building Inspections

3.4.1 A detailed inspection of the building along with photographs is provided in the report produced by Falco Ecology (report ref: FE-040-001-400-R-01).

3.5 Survey Timing, Methodology & Personnel

3.5.1 The nocturnal activity surveys were conducted by an experienced lead surveyor, holding a Natural England Level 2 Class Licence to survey bats of all species for scientific and/or educational purposes (WML-CL18). The lead surveyor was accompanied by additional surveyors with previous experience of carrying out such surveys. A list of personnel, together with relevant Natural England Class Licence numbers, can be found in Figure 2. Weather conditions during the surveys are also summarised in Figure 3.

	Weather Conditions					
Date	Precipitation	Cloud cover (%)	Wind (Beaufort Scale)	Start temp (°C)	End temp (°C)	Surveyors and Licence numbers (Lead surveyor in bold)
06/05/2020 (Dusk)	None	0-20	1	10.4	9.7	Shaun Morrison 2015-12715-CLS-CLS +1 unlicensed surveyor
28/05/2020 (Dawn)	None	40-60	0	9.4	9.0	Shaun Morrison 2015-12715-CLS-CLS Christopher Cunningham Brown 2015- 10212-CLS-CLS

Figure 2 – Weather conditions and p	personnel during nocturnal survey.
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3.6 Survey Results

3.6.1 <u>Dusk Survey – 5th May 2020</u>

Bat activity was low throughout the survey. Both common and soprano pipistrelles were observed and/or heard on the detectors in low numbers. The first bat was recorded at 21.15 and the last bat at 21.51. No bats were recorded emerging from the building.

3.6.2 <u>Dawn Survey – 28th May 2020</u>

Bat activity was low throughout the survey. Only common pipistrelles were observed and/or heard on the detectors in low numbers. The first bat was recorded at 03.19 and the last bat at 04.05. No bats were recorded entering the building.

3.6.3 The results of the nocturnal bat activity survey are summarised in Figure 3, and a bat flight plan is provided as Appendix 1.

Date	Number of Surveyors	Sunset or Sunrise time	Start time	End time	Species recorded	Emergence/ Re-entry
06/05/2020 (Dusk)	2	20.51	20.36	22.00	Soprano pipistrelle Common pipistrelle	None
28/05/2020 (Dawn)	2	04.38	03.08	04.38	Common pipistrelle	None

Figure 3 – Table summarising findings of nocturnal survey

4.0 INTERPRETATION AND EVALUATION OF SURVEY RESULTS

4.1 Presence/Absence

4.1.1 The presence of bats was not recorded during the visual inspections or during the activity surveys. It is therefore it is considered highly unlikely that bats roost within the building.

4.2 **Population Assessment**

4.2.1 No roost has been recorded in the building and therefore a population assessment is not applicable.

4.3 Site Status Assessment

4.3.1 No bats were found to be roosting within the building and the building therefore holds very little conservation value for bats

4.4 Constraints

4.4.1 The survey was undertaken following the methodology set out in *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn)* (Collins, 2016), and were completed by competent and experienced surveyors, at an appropriate time of year. The temperatures were cool during the surveys; but bat activity was recorded during both surveys. No significant constraints were encountered.

5.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 Short Term Impacts: Disturbance

5.1.1 No roost has been found at the site therefore no impacts of this nature are predicted.

5.2 Long-Term Impacts: Roost Modification

5.2.1 No roost has been found at the site therefore no impacts of this nature are predicted.

5.3 Long-Term Impacts: Roost Loss

5.3.1 No roost has been found at the site therefore no impacts of this nature are predicted.

5.4 Long Term Impacts: Fragmentation and Isolation

5.4.1 The small scale nature of the proposals will not result in any fragmentation of bat habitat or result in the isolation of bat populations.

5.5 Post Development Interference Impacts

5.5.1 The proposals to extend an existing dwelling house use will not result in any significant increases in light, noise and general human activity given the urban setting.

5.6 Predicted Scale of Impacts

5.6.1 None predicted.

6.0 MITIGATION & COMPENSATION

6.1 Summary of Mitigation Strategy

- 6.1.1 In this instance no significant impacts on bats are predicted and no offence is likely. However, bats are highly mobile creatures capable of utilising many roosting sites throughout the year. Emergency procedures, in the event that bats are encountered during works, are therefore provided as follows:
- 6.1.2 As a measure of good working practice, the following information should be supplied to contractors undertaking the demolition works:
 - In the highly unlikely event that bats are found all works will stop and the consultant will be contacted immediately – Barry Anderson 07900894160/0191 3719636.
 - Where the consultant ecologist is unavailable, general advice can be sought from the Bat Conservation Trust National Bat Helpline, on 0345 1300 228.
 - If the roost is still intact, or can be repaired, this should be done immediately with bats left *in situ*.
 - Any injured bats, and bats which cannot be returned to the roost and may be vulnerable to inclement weather and/or predation, should be collected using gloved hands and placed into a suitable container with breathing holes.
 - Anyone bitten by a bat should seek immediate medical attention from their GP.
 - A European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licence may be required for the works to continue if bats are found.

6.2 Licensing Requirements

6.2.1 No roost has been found at the site and the works are highly unlikely to affect bats, and therefore no licence is required.

6.3 Timing and/or Phasing of Works

6.3.1 No roosts have been found at the site and therefore no restrictions on the timing of works are proposed.

6.4 Capture and Exclusion

6.4.1 Not applicable.

6.5 Roost Retention

6.5.1 Not applicable.

6.6 Roost Modification

6.6.1 Not applicable.

6.7 Replacement Roosts

6.7.1 Not applicable.

6.8 Supervision

6.8.1 Not applicable.

6.9 Monitoring

6.9.1 Not applicable.

6.10 Mitigation Site Ownership

6.10.1 Not applicable.

7.0 REFERENCES

Bat Conservation Trust & Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2017). *National Bat Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2017.* BCT & JNCC: London.

Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn)*. Bat Conservation Trust. London. ISBN-13 978-1-872745-96-1.

Mitchell-Jones A. J., (2004). Bat Mitigation Guidelines. English Nature.

North East England Nature Partnership

Available at: <u>https://neenp.org.uk/natural-environment/durham-priority-species/847-2/</u> Viewed 21st May 2020

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2019) Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/579/contents/made Viewed 29th May 2020

Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)

Available at: <u>http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents</u> Viewed 21st May 2020

8.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1a: Bat activity plan for nocturnal survey conducted on 06/05/2020

Appendix 1b: Bat activity plan for nocturnal survey conducted on 28/05/2020

