

Martin Prescott Environmental Services

*Woodland Management, Ecological
Surveying, Wildlife Events...*

FAO Ruth Vincent-Mercer
Architectural Services
Department of Operations

r.vincent@bury.gov.uk
0161 253 5355
07771 855448

Martin Prescott
330 Hollins Lane,
Hollins,
Bury,
Lancs.
BL9 8BS

0161 796 6211
07946 488467
martin.dauby@outlook.com

3.10.2020

Initial Bat Survey of Buildings at Park View Primary School, Prestwich. 1.10.2020

Surveyor- Martin Prescott, Lic. no. 2015/15466-CLS

Contents

1. Introduction

2. Method

3. Results

4. Conclusions

5. Recommendations

6. Photos/Plan

7. Surveyor's Qualifications

Summary

The two similar buildings had several crevices suitable for roosting bats. Initially, one activity survey at the appropriate season is recommended. The trees which are scheduled for removal had minimal potential for roosting bats, but nesting birds must be taken into account.

1. Introduction

1.1 Reason for Survey

The demolition of two old classrooms was proposed at this school and there was the potential to affect bats and/or their roosts and a bat survey was required.

1.2 The Site

The site was at Park View Primary School, Prestwich. M25 1FA.
Map ref. of the buildings SD81720329.

2. Method

2.1 Risk Assessment, Possible Hazards

The required access was easy.

The buildings were in a safe condition.

Because of the present virus outbreak, social distancing was observed.

There were no further hazards other than those normally encountered when surveying sound buildings.

2.2 Daylight Survey, 1.10.2020

The outside and insides of the buildings were searched for crevices suitable for bat access and the ground, walls, windows etc were searched for droppings. The survey was carried out at a time when bats would have been active recently and signs of occupation to the outside would be evident.

The roof voids were accessible via a false ceiling.

There were no cellars.

The area was assessed for roosting and foraging potential.

The potential for nesting birds was assessed.

2.3 Equipment

The equipment used consisted of a hand-held torch, ladders, a camera and short-focus binoculars.

3. Results

3.1 Daylight Survey, 1.10.2020, see plans and photos

The immediate area was well vegetated with mature and semi-mature trees. There were small areas of woodland and parkland within 300 metres.

The buildings were almost identical.

They were of brick with moss-covered pitched roofs, probably of tile or felting. There were many gaps suitable for roosting bats at the eaves and in masonry at the gables. Some of these gaps were large enough to be used by nesting birds, although no signs of nests were found.

The inside of the roof was well sealed with no possible access for bats from the roof area to the insides of the buildings.

None of the trees had any holes suitable for roosting bats. Although no nests were seen, nesting birds were considered likely.

4. Conclusions

4.1 The buildings were considered to have low potential for roosting bats.

4.2 There were many houses and other school buildings nearby likely to have similar bat roosting potential to the buildings surveyed here.

4.3 The nearby habitat was considered to have moderate potential for foraging Pipistrelles but was unlikely to be used by other species.

4.4 Both buildings and the trees were considered to have potential for nesting birds.

5. Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that one evening emergence survey is carried out on the buildings when bats are fully active and in the maternity season (normally mid-May to late June, but weather dependant).

Further surveys may be required if roosting bats are found or suspected.

In the unlikely event of a roost being confirmed, a mitigation licence will be required to legalise the destruction of the roost and/or disturbance of the bats. This will result in extra expense and delays.

5.2 It should be remembered that bats are occasionally found in the most unexpected places. If any bats are found during the work, the consultant (0161 796 6211, 07946 488467) or the local bat group should be notified and work stopped immediately.

5.3 The nearby trees will provide a foraging area for bats and foraging and nesting for birds and should be left wherever practicable.

Nesting birds are considered possible both in the trees and the buildings. If any active nests are found, they must be left undisturbed until the young have fledged. If in any doubt refer to the consultant.

To minimise this risk any trees which need to be removed should be removed between September and February inclusive when birds are unlikely to be nesting.

5.4 If there is to be any tree planting as part of this project, they should be native species. Rowan, Holly, Hawthorn, Guelder Rose and Bird Cherry are recommended as they are small trees with attractive blossom and fruit.

6. Photos/Plan



P1 Gable at west aspect, gap at corner



P2 Close-up of gap, similar gaps at all corners



P3 gaps in masonry, west aspect



P4 Close-up of gap, similar gaps in both buildings



P5 Crevice above window frame, north aspect



P6 Well-sealed ceiling



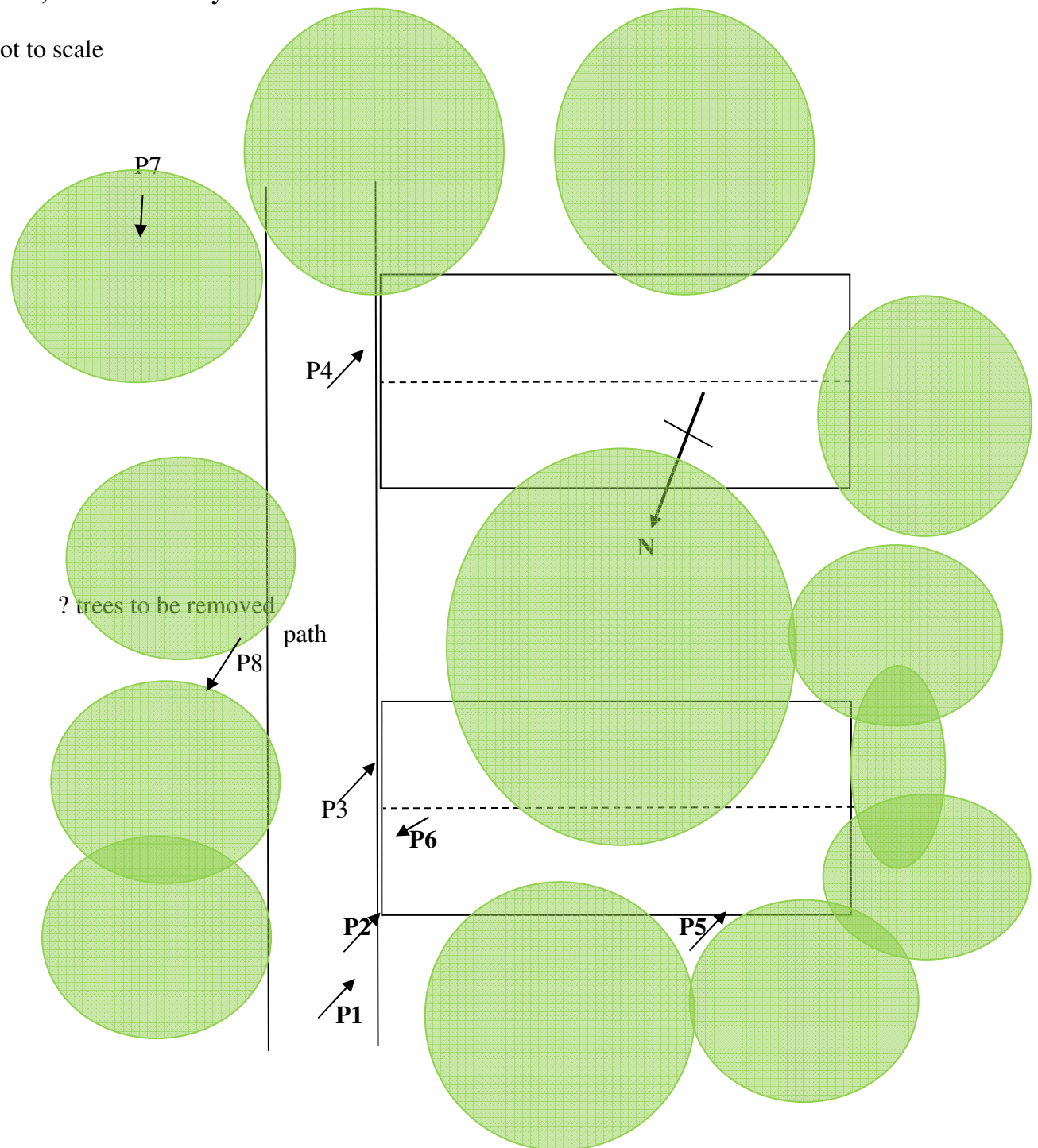
P7 Shallow hole in tree.
minimal bat roosting potential



P8 One of the young trees to be removed, no holes

Plans, illustrative only

Not to scale



P = photos

7. Surveyors Qualifications

Martin Prescott: Curriculum Vitae to January 2020

330 Hollins Lane, Hollins, Bury, Lancs., BL9 8BS
0161 796 6211
07946 488467
martin.dauby@outlook.com

From 1976 to 1997 I worked as a paint technologist before being made redundant.

Conservation-related Work Experience

1990 & 1991 Bats& Habitat Survey, transect survey, for Steven Harris, Bristol University, 6 surveys- voluntary

1991 Small mammal trapping project, Hollins Plantation, Bury- voluntary

1995-2018 Many ultra-sonic bat detector surveys at request of conservation groups, local residents, other ecologists etc. -voluntary

1998 – 2000 Bolton Museum, accessioning and re-housing Lepidoptera collection
Accessioning part of coleoptera collection- professional employment

1993-1999 Served on Bury MBC Wildlife Advisory Group- voluntary

1994-present Many bat talks given to Natural History Societies, Conservation Groups, Schools etc.

March-April 1999 Borough wide pond survey for breeding toads, for Bury MBC- professional employment.

2001 Accessioning of natural history collection Rossendale Museum- professional employment

2001-2006 Great Crested Newt work:
Netting, bottle trapping and
strim search for Great Crested Newts.
Bucket trap inspection and terrestrial night search
Newt fence removal.
Professional employment.

2001-2002 Accessioning of part of Lepidoptera collection Oldham Museum- professional employment

2003-2015 Several Bat Hibernacula surveys, Clwyd caves and mines with Stan Irwin and Clwyd Bat Group- voluntary

Aug 2003 Invasive plant survey, Philips Park LNR for Bury MBC- professional employment

1994-2018 Kirklees Valley, Bury, Mill Pond Bat Survey, Bury. 32 ponds repeatedly surveyed. Initiation through to final report- voluntary. Continued to present as major bat group project.

2000-2004 Wildlife Gardening business- professional employment

2003-2006 Several tree planting and tree-thinning contracts.

Oct 2003- May 2004 Co-Leading bat survey of Local Nature Reserve, arising from successful tender to Bury MBC- including roost (tree and building), foraging, commuting surveys and report recommending suitable management- semi-professional employment

2004-present Many professional bat surveys for private clients, ecological consultant companies and government organisations, including many successful EPSM licence applications.

Other Experience

Early 1990's and 2005, 7 and 9 Attended 6 National Bat Conferences.

1999 Informal bat studies, Queensland, Australia

March 2002 Informal bat detector surveys in Sarawak and Sabah, Malaysian Borneo

Oct- Nov 2003 Informal bat detector surveys in Sarawak and Sabah, Malaysian Borneo

Nov 2003 Caving and informal bat search, Borneo

2003-2019 Voluntary Bat Warden with English Nature

2004-2019 Project Officer and Chair of South Lancs. Bat Group

1991-2011 Chair and organiser of a local conservation group.

2016 Voluntary bat surveys, transects and mist netting, Zambia

2018 Voluntary bat surveys, transects and mist netting, Zambia

Training Courses

1992 10-day flowering plant ID course, Manchester University.

March 1998 Butterfly Habitat Management, 2-day training course.

27.7.1999 Water Vole training day, NRA

1999	Introduction of wildflowers into new plantations, Woodland Wildflowers Project, Milton Keynes
18.5.2001	Woodland ecology training, Philips Park, Bury
2001	Trained for and obtained basic chain-saw and felling licence (National Proficiency Tests Council) no. S69098
22-24.7.2003	BCT training course for Bat Consultants, North Downs
2003-2011	Many in-house training days with South Lancs. Bat Group. I have run small parts of these training days.
2003-2004	Training for bat roost visitor's licence
October 2004	Obtained bat roost visitor (conservation) licence.
EN Bat (Science and Education) licence, all counties of England	
EN Bat (Conservation) licence, Gtr. Manchester and Lancashire	
Latest Licence no. 2015-15466-CLS	
CCW Licence to disturb and take bats for scientific or educational purposes, all counties of Wales.	
Latest Licence no. 68585:OTH:CSAB:2015	
October 2008	Confined spaces training - Howarth Training and Safety
October 2010	updated
July 2011	Advanced Bat Survey Techniques, Geoff Billington (4 days)
July 2012	"Anabat" stage 2 training, Dr Sandie Sowler

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