

Ainsworth Care Home, Knowsley Road, Ainsworth, Bury, BL2 5PT

RESULTS OF BAT ACTIVITY SURVEYS

September 2021

[ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd ref: 2021-117b]

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Document Control

Survey Type:	Surveyors	Survey Date(s)
Dusk emergence survey	Catie Haworth B.Sc. (Hons) M.Sc. Ecologist; and Brian Robinson B.Sc. (Hons) MCIEEM Senior Ecologist	4 th August 2021
Dawn re-entry survey	Catie Haworth and Leah Hart	17 th September 2021
Reporting	Personnel	Date
Author	Catie Haworth B.Sc. (Hons) M.Sc. Ecologist	28 th September 2021
Signature(s)		
Checked	Brian Robinson B.Sc. (Hons) MCIEEM Senior Ecologist	1 st November 2021
Revised and issued	Catie Haworth B.Sc. (Hons) M.Sc. Ecologist	3 rd November 2021
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SUMMARY

- i. The results of a licensed daylight bat survey and assessment of the building and trees at land at Ainsworth Care Home, Knowsley Road, Bury in May 2021 are presented in *2021-117 Ainsworth Care Home, Knowsley Road, Ainsworth, Bury, BL2 5PT: Ecological Survey and Assessment* (ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd, 2021), hereafter the 'initial ecological assessment'. No evidence of the current or previous use of the buildings or trees by roosting bats was detected during the daylight inspections.
- ii. The gate house was assessed to be of 'moderate' suitability for use by roosting bats owing to the presence of features suitable for use by crevice roosting bat species at the gate house, and its setting within a wider landscape of habitat suitable for use by foraging and commuting bats.
- iii. In accordance with Table 7.3 of *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn)* (Collins, J. (ed), 2016) at least two bat activity surveys are required to confirm the presence / absence of roosting bats for a building with moderate suitability for use by roosting bats.
- iv. This report presents the results of one dusk emergence bat activity survey and one dawn re-entry bat activity survey carried out at the gate house in August and September 2021.
- v. No bat emergence (or re-entry) at the building was detected.
- vi. Common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle bat activity was detected at the site during the surveys. Anabat detectors recorded common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle calls; both are common and widespread species in the area.
- vii. There are no constraints on the refurbishment works in relation to roosting bats. The guidance and recommendations presented in the initial ecological assessment remain appropriate for the site.
- viii. As advised at **Section 4.1**, if demolition/refurbishment works have not commenced by May 2022 an updated bat survey and assessment of the building is recommended to ensure that works are informed by the current bat roost status at the site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The results of a licensed daylight bat survey and assessment of the building and trees at land at Ainsworth Care Home, Knowsley Road, Bury in May 2021 are presented in *2021-117 Ainsworth Care Home, Knowsley Road, Ainsworth, Bury, BL2 5PT: Ecological Survey and Assessment* (ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd, 2021), hereafter the 'initial ecological assessment'.
- 1.2 The survey and assessment was requested in connection with a planning application to construct two residential properties with associated access and curtilage at the site, including the refurbishment of the existing gate house building to a guest house.
- 1.3 No evidence of the current or previous use of the buildings by roosting bats was detected during the daylight inspections. The daylight survey and assessment advised that, owing to the presence of potential roost features of suitability for use by crevice roosting bat species at the gate house, and its setting within a wider landscape of habitat suitable for use by foraging and commuting bats, the gate house was assessed to be of 'moderate' suitability for use by roosting bats.
- 1.4 In accordance with Table 7.3 of *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn)* (Collins, J. (ed), 2016) at least two bat activity surveys are required to confirm the presence / absence of roosting bats for a building with moderate suitability. At least one survey must be carried out between May and August, inclusive.
- 1.5 This report presents the results of one dusk emergence bat activity survey and one dawn re-entry bat activity survey carried out at the gate house in August and September 2021.

2.0 METHOD OF SURVEY

2.1 Presence / Absence Surveys: Dusk Emergence and Dawn Re-entry Surveys

- 2.1.1 Two surveyors, experienced in conducting bat surveys, were positioned at suitable locations to maximise the coverage of the roof and elevation walls of the gate house (including all potential roost features identified during the daylight survey and assessment) to determine any emergence or re-entry into the building by roosting bats. Surveyor positions are presented at **Figure 1**.
- 2.1.2 Heterodyne detectors were used to determine any bat detected to species or group (for example, *Myotis* species often cannot be reliably separated to species via their echolocation calls). Recording bat detector units¹ were used to record and analyse echolocation calls after the survey using Anabat Insight call analysis software.
- 2.1.3 The dusk emergence survey commenced 15 minutes before sunset, and continued until 1.5 hours after sunset. The dawn re-entry survey commenced 2 hours before sunrise and continued until 15 minutes after sunrise, provided all bat activity had ceased at this point.
- 2.1.4 One SANNCE CCTV system (comprising a 1080N Digital Video Recorder with screen and one 720P high definition camera with night vision, supplemented with additional infra-red lighting) was used as described in the table below as a supplementary survey technique.
- 2.1.5 The survey information is presented below. Surveyor positions are presented at **Figure 1**, appended.

¹ i.e. Anabat Express and Anabat Scout

Table 2.1: Dusk Emergence and Dawn Re-entry Survey Dates, Weather Conditions and Surveyors

Date	4 th August 2021	17 th September 2021
Sunset / Sunrise	21:01	06:45
Start time	20:30	04:45
End time	22:15 ¹	07:00
Wind	Light Air (Beaufort scale 1)	Calm (Beaufort scale 0)
Precipitation	Dry and overcast at 20:30, heavy rain began at 22:00	Clear skies and dry throughout
Air temperatures	16°C throughout	12°C throughout
Surveyor Position	Surveyor and Detector	
1	Catie Haworth Anabat Scout	Leah Hart Batbox III and Anabat Express
2	Brian Robinson and SANNCE CCTV system Peersonic RPA3 ²	Catie Haworth Anabat Scout

¹Survey was cut short at 22:15 owing to heavy rain that began at 22:00.
²Recording detector at Position 2 during the dusk emergence survey did not record owing to technical fault, however the buildings elevations were observed in infra-red during the survey (via a monitor).
It was determined that the supplementary SANNCE CCTV system was not required for the second survey as all elevations of the building could be reliably surveyed by two surveyors during a dawn re-entry survey; bats will typically circle roost locations prior to re-entry and are typically easier to detect at re-entry than emergence.

2.2 Survey Limitations

- 2.2.1 Owing to heavy rain that began at 22:00 during the dusk emergence survey the survey finished 15 minutes earlier than planned; the weather prior to 22:00 was suitable for the survey. It is considered likely that any bats would have already emerged prior to the heavy rain at 22:00, which was 1 hour after sunset; it is therefore not considered to be a significant survey limitation, and that a reliable survey repetition had been completed.
- 2.2.2 Otherwise, the surveys were carried out at an appropriate time of year for the detection of bat activity and during suitable weather conditions. All relevant elevations and roof pitches of the buildings could be observed. No other survey limitations were experienced.

3.0 SURVEY RESULTS

3.1 Dusk Emergence Survey: 4th August 2021

- 3.1.1 No bat emergence or re-entry was observed or detected at the gate house on 4th August 2021.
- 3.1.2 Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) was the only species of bat detected. The first bat was detected at 21:04, 3 minutes after sunset. Foraging activity was observed over the site and boundary trees 21:04 and 21:56.
- 3.1.3 Raw data are appended at **Table 7.1**.

3.2 Dawn Re-entry Survey: 17th September 2021

- 3.2.1 No bat re-entry was observed or detected at the gate house on 17th September 2021.
- 3.2.2 Common pipistrelle were detected between 04:54 and 06:20, with the last recording 25 minutes before sunrise.
- 3.2.3 Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) were detected between 05:29 and 05:30, with the last recording 75 minutes before sunrise. No other bat species were detected.
- 3.2.4 Raw data are appended at **Table 7.2**.

4.0 ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Bat Roost Status

- 4.1 An appropriate survey effort in accordance with the relevant survey guidelines has been carried out. No bat emergence, or re-entry at the building was detected.
- 4.2 There are no constraints on the demolition works in relation to roosting bats. Renovation works may proceed in accordance with the relevant timings (outlined below) and in accordance with the guidance and mandatory actions in relation to nesting birds presented within the initial ecological assessment.
- 4.3 During refurbishment, it is advised that the roof tiles are lifted, rather than slid, and the underside of the tiles should be checked for bats before the tiles are stacked or discarded.
- 4.4 If at any time during the works a bat is discovered or suspected all contractors must withdraw from the area and ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd (01772 750502) or the local bat group (0161 8648850) must be contacted for further guidance.

Validity of Bat Surveys

- 4.5 The results of the bat activity surveys carried out will remain valid until the 2022 bat activity survey season (May onwards). If refurbishment works have not commenced before May 2022 an updated bat survey and assessment of the site is advised to ensure that the any works are informed by the current bat roost status at the site.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No bat emergence or re-entry was detected at the gate house. The presence of roosting bats is reasonably discounted.
- 5.2 There are no constraints on the refurbishment works in relation to roosting bats. Refurbishment works should proceed in accordance with the guidance and recommendations presented within the initial ecological assessment. The guidance and mandatory actions in relation to the protection of nesting birds, as presented in the initial ecological assessment, remains applicable.
- 5.3 If demolition / refurbishment works have not commenced by May 2022 an updated bat survey and assessment is recommended to ensure that the demolition works are informed by the current bat roost status at the site.

6.0 REFERENCES

Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals, 2018. *Guidance Note 08/18. Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK. Bats and Built Environment series.*, Warwickshire: ILP.

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Stone, E. L., 2014. *Bats and Lighting: Overview of current evidence and mitigation guidance*. Bristol: University of Bristol.

7.0 APPENDIX: TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 7.1: Activity Survey 1, Date: 4th August 2021, Sunset time: 21:01, Start time: 20:30

Surveyor Position 1: Catie Haworth

Time	Species	Notes
21:04 to 21:15	Common pipistrelle	Occasional foraging activity and passes
21:15 to 21:45	Common pipistrelle	Constant foraging over site and boundary trees
22:00	-	Heavy rain commenced
22:15	End	-
The Anabat Scout made the following recordings: 109 common pipistrelle recordings between 21:04 and 21:56.		

Surveyor Position 2: Brian Robinson

Time	Species	Notes
21:10 until 21:45	Common pipistrelle	Occasional brief passes, all heard not seen
The Peersonic RPA3 failed to record; no bat emergence (or re-entry) was observed.		

Table 7.2: Activity Survey 2, Date: 17th September 2021, Sunrise time: 06:45, Start time: 04:45

Surveyor Position 1: Leah Hart

Time	Species	Notes
04:45	Start	-
05:29 to 06:20	Common pipistrelle	Faint and occasional activity, no visual sightings
07:00	End	-
The Anabat Express made the following recordings: 45 recordings of common pipistrelle between 05:10 and 06:18; and 3 recordings of soprano pipistrelle between 05:29 and 05:30.		

Surveyor Position 2: Catie Haworth

Time	Species	Notes
04:45	Start	-
04:54	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, foraging
05:09	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, foraging
05:29 to 05:34	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, continuous foraging
05:45	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, brief pass
05:49	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
05:57	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen
06:01	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, brief pass
06:05	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, brief pass
06:12	Common pipistrelle	Observed flying south to north along western elevation of gate house
06:13	Common pipistrelle	Observed flying north to south over gate house
06:14	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
07:00	End	-
The Anabat Scout made the following recordings: 47 recordings of common pipistrelle between 04:54 and 06:15.		

Figure 1: Map to Show Bat Activity Surveyor Positions

