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11/07/2022

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Dear Tony Harrison (VINCI Construction Ltd),

Radcliffe Marketplace

Methodology

Breeding birds

A Breeding Bird Survey was undertaken on 26th May 2022. The survey method was based on the new Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts (Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group, 2022). A single bird survey was undertaken due to the PEA, which was undertaken in October being suboptimal for identifying nesting birds. A single breeding bird survey was deemed appropriate due to the urban nature of the site and limited suitable nesting habitats present onsite. The targeted breeding bird survey also looked in detail at the adjacent River Irwell and the Radcliffe market chambers riverside wall as sand martins were known to be nesting.

The survey took place during the optimal time of day for bird activity, beginning within an hour of sunrise and finishing by late morning. The survey visit was planned to avoid adverse weather conditions such as strong wind and heavy rain, as this can reduce bird activity and detectability.

The survey was undertaken by Huw Morgan, a competent ornithologist with over 15 years of experience working with birds. A pre-determined transect route was followed at a slow walking pace. All birds which were heard or seen, with the aid of binoculars, were recorded and registered on a plan using standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) activity codes. Birds heard and seen outside the site boundary were also recorded.

Bats

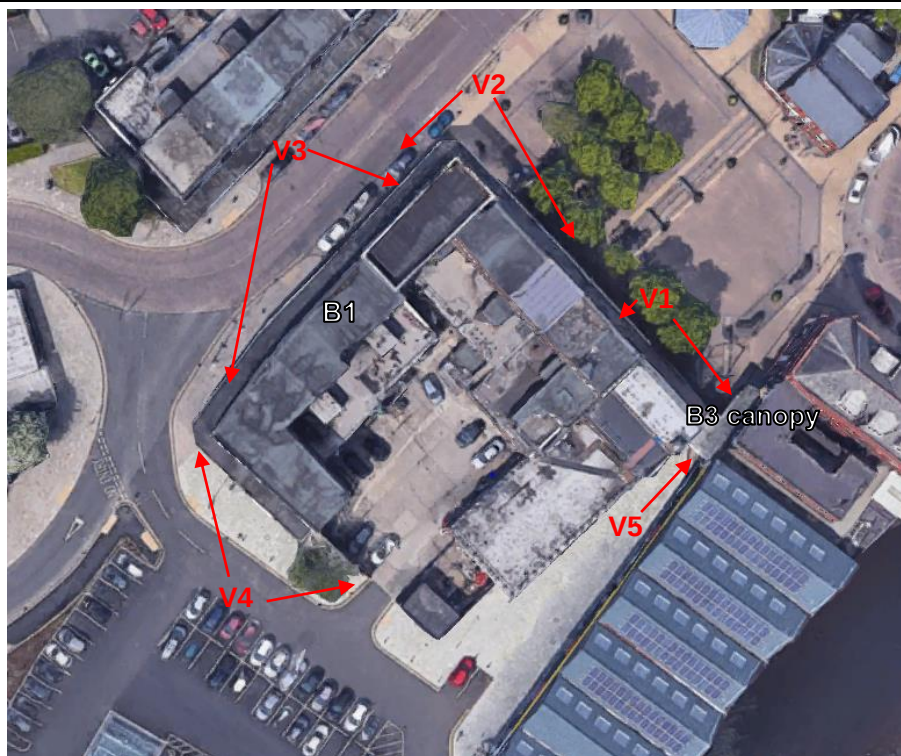
Bat Emergence and Re-Entry Surveys were undertaken following guidance set out in Collins (2016). All surveys were conducted using appropriate handheld bat detectors suitable for commercial use and were undertaken by competent and suitably trained bat surveyors.



Five suitably qualified bat surveyors were positioned around the building B1 (which was identified as having moderate bat potential during the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal) to observe the areas of highest bat-roosting potential during the Nocturnal Surveys.

Please refer to Figure 1 for the approximate location of the surveyors.

Figure 1 Approximate Location of Surveyors



Data Analysis

An Echo Meter Touch 2 was used to record bat calls during the survey. Data from the Echo Meter Touch 2 was converted from WAV to ZCA using Wildlife Acoustics Kaleidoscope Software and was analysed using AnalookW.

Limitations

Breeding birds

Due to the size of the buildings, not all aspects could be viewed from the ground and therefore evidence of nesting birds may have been missed. Due to the urban nature of the site, this is not considered to be a major constraint.



Bats

Nocturnal Bat Surveys were completed following guidance set out in Collins (2016) and were carried out by competent and trained surveyors. However, due to the surveys being conducted by observation during low light conditions, this may cause constraint of visual assessments. No surveyors were visually constrained during the survey, other than that of low light conditions, and all potential roosting features were observed throughout the survey period.

The surveys were conducted in optimum weather conditions, following guidance set out in Collins (2016).

Results Summary

Breeding Birds

During the Breeding Bird Survey, a number of bird species were recorded within and adjacent to the site, with the majority of birds recorded in association the River Irwell.

A colony of sand martins (*Riparia riparia*) was recorded within the river wall of the marketplace, with a minimum of five pairs recorded in holes close to Blackburn Street road bridge. In addition, a pair of dippers (*Cinclus cinclus*) were recorded nesting underneath Blackburn Street road bridge.

A pair of bullfinches (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) were recorded nesting in a stand of Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) at the base of the river wall, adjacent to Radcliffe Marketplace.

Grey wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) were recorded on the river, with large areas of suitable nesting habitat present, however, no evidence of breeding within or adjacent to the site was observed, though they are likely to be nesting within the local vicinity.

Feral pigeons (*Columba livia domestica*) were recorded nesting on and within the majority of buildings within the site and a single pied wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) was recorded carrying food on a building to the north-west of the marketplace, confirming breeding within close proximity to the site.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), blackbird (*Turdus merula*), goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) and dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) were recorded singing in vegetation within and adjacent to the site. The majority of birds were recorded singing in areas of vegetation on the eastern bank of the River Irwell and were assumed to be possible nesting birds.

A kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) was heard upstream of the site. No suitable nesting habitat for the species was present within the site, however, they are likely to nest up and downstream from the site.



A number of additional birds were recorded on the River Irwell, comprising mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*), lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus*), cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) and grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), though no evidence of breeding was noted.

No other confirmed, probable or possible nesting birds were recorded within the site. Great tit (*Parus major*), blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), magpie (*Pica pica*), jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*), collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), carrion crow (*Corvus corone*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were recorded utilising the site or flying overhead.

Bats

During the Nocturnal Bat Surveys no bats were identified roosting within building B1 and its adjoining canopy (between B1 and B3). A single common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) was observed foraging during the dawn survey and common pipistrelle was the only species noted during the dusk survey.

No bats were seen to emerge/re-enter building B1 and the canopy between B1 and B3, and no bats were observed in relation to any of the potential roost features.

Nocturnal Bat Survey Results

The following subsections provide a summary of bat activity noted on the Dusk Emergence and Dawn Re-Entry Surveys. Please refer to Appendix I for the full survey forms.

Dawn Re-Entry Survey 21st June 2022

During the Dawn Re-Entry survey common pipistrelle was the only species recorded. Common pipistrelle was recorded at all vantage points, with the first recorded at V6 at 03:11. The last bat was recorded at 03:53, approximately 47 minutes before sunrise.

No re-entries were recorded during the survey.

Dusk Emergence Survey 05th July 2022

During the Dusk Emergence Survey, common pipistrelle was recorded at all vantage points with the exception of V5. Common pipistrelle was the only species noted during the survey. The species was observed foraging over the building and above the adjacent trees. The first bat recorded was at 22:21 at V1 and V2, approximately + 41 minutes after sunset.

No emergences were recorded during the survey.

Interpretation of bat results



During the surveys common pipistrelle were observed foraging and commuting adjacent to the building and the nearby trees, however, no bats were seen to emerge/re-enter building B1 and the canopy between B1 and B3. No other bat species were recorded during the surveys. Due to the low level of activity noted, and the timing the bats were recorded, it is anticipated that a bat roost is located within the local area **but not** within the site or close proximity to the site.

No bat emergences or re-entries were observed during the survey, and no bat activity was observed in relation to any of the potential roosting features. As such, it is evident that **no bats** currently utilise the building B1 and the canopy between B1 and B3 for roosting. Therefore, no further assessment, mitigation or licencing is required for the works to proceed. In the unlikely event that a bat is found inside building B1 and the canopy between B1 and B3 during the works, all works are to cease immediately. Following this, a suitably qualified ecologist should be contacted, and further advice sought from Natural England.

Next steps

Bats

As there were no bats identified emerging/ re-entering B1 or the canopy between B1 and B3 during the bat surveys, no further steps are required to safeguards bats onsite. However, as is discussed above in the unlikely event that a bat is found inside any buildings due for roof repairs or demolition, works must cease and advice sought from an ecologist and Natural England.

Breeding Birds

The Radcliffe market hall riverside wall will require soft blocking of any crevices suitable for nesting sand martins outside of the breeding bird season this year (from September 2022). This is to discourage sand martins from nesting in the riverside wall in 2023 over the summer months (June - August 2023) when construction of the floating pontoon and market hall balcony installation works are due to take place. The soft blocking will take place early September 2022 prior to the first herbicide application for treatment of invasive plant species. Following completion of the construction works, soft blocking will be removed to allow the nesting provision for sand martins to be reinstated.

Yours sincerely,

Amy Harris - Senior Ecologist - MCIEEM

On behalf of RSK Biocensus



RSK
biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Paul Lang".

Technical and quality review - Mark lang Associate Director MCIEEM, CEcol, cEnv

APPENDIX 1

COLLECTION OF DATA

Bat survey sheets

Dawn Re-entry Survey

21st June 2022

Date: 21/06/2022
Sunrise: 04:40
Start time: 03:10
End time: 04:55

Weather conditions: Dry, 11°C, 60% cloud cover, still (2 mph)

Surveyor: Lowri Thomas (V1)

TIME	SPECIES	ACTIVITY
03:22	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen (HNS).
03:32	Common pipistrelle	HNS

Surveyor: Carlin Jones (V2)

TIME	SPECIES	ACTIVITY
03:22	Common pipistrelle	HNS
03:26	Common pipistrelle	HNS
03:33	Common pipistrelle	HNS
03:52	Common pipistrelle	HNS

Surveyor: Caitlin Forde (V3)

TIME	SPECIES	ACTIVITY
03:25	Common pipistrelle	Commuting north to south
03:27	Common pipistrelle	HNS
03:34	Common pipistrelle	HNS
03:53	Common pipistrelle	HNS

Surveyor: Matthew Sandham (V4)

TIME	SPECIES	ACTIVITY
03:14	Common pipistrelle	HNS
03:26	Common pipistrelle	HNS

Surveyor: Rhian Keating (V5)

TIME	SPECIES	ACTIVITY
03:11	Common pipistrelle	HNS
03:33	Common pipistrelle	HNS

Dusk Emergence Survey

05th July 2022

Date: 05/07/2022
Sunset: 21:40
Start time: 21:25
End time: 23:10

Weather conditions: Dry, 15°C, 80% cloud cover, still

Surveyor: Ciara Bass (V1)

TIME	SPECIES	ACTIVITY
22:21	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen (HNS).
22:25	Common pipistrelle	Commuting south to west adjacent to building.
22:28-22:53	Common pipistrelle	Continuous foraging adjacent to building.

Surveyor: Matthew Sandham (V2)

TIME	SPECIES	ACTIVITY
22:21	Common pipistrelle	Commuting towards building.
22:25	Common pipistrelle	HNS.
22:31	Common pipistrelle	Continuous foraging over building.
22:33	Common pipistrelle	HNS.
22:34	Common pipistrelle	Continuous foraging over building and adjacent trees.
22:39-22:51	Common pipistrelle	Continuous foraging over building and adjacent trees.

Surveyor: Chris Marston (V3)

TIME	SPECIES	ACTIVITY
22:21	Common pipistrelle	HNS.
22:25	Common pipistrelle	HNS.

Surveyor: Christian Dean (V4)

TIME	SPECIES	ACTIVITY
22:02	Common pipistrelle	HNS.
22:25	Common pipistrelle	HNS.

Surveyor: Olivia McKechnie (V5)

TIME	SPECIES	ACTIVITY
		No activity recorded.