



Bat Emergence and Re-entry Surveys

Former Nursery Buildings, Earl Street, Prestwich, Manchester M25 1GQ

Dreams Homes Construction

Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft	1	Jonathon Roberts	23/08/2022
Reviewed	1.1	Mel Reid BSc (Hons) MRes MRSB, Consultant	26/08/2022
Final	2	Mel Reid BSc (Hons) MRes MRSB, Consultant	26/08/2022

Arbtech Consultant's Contact Details:

Mel Reid BSc (Hons) MRes MRSB
Consultant
Tel: 07711591700 **Email:** melreid@arbtech.co.uk
<https://arbtech.co.uk>

Limitations and Copyright

Arbtech Consulting Limited has prepared this report for the sole use of the above-named client or their agents in accordance with our General Terms and Conditions, under which our services are performed. It is expressly stated that no other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report or any other services provided by us. This report may not be relied upon by any other party without the prior and express written agreement of Arbtech Consulting Limited. The conclusions and recommendations contained in this report are based upon information provided by third parties. Information obtained from third parties has not been independently verified by Arbtech Consulting Limited.

© This report is the copyright of Arbtech Consulting Limited. Any unauthorised reproduction or usage by any person other than the addressee is strictly prohibited.

Industry Guidelines and Standards

This report has been written with due consideration to:

- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2018). Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.1. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2020). Guidelines for Accessing, Using and Sharing Biodiversity Data in the UK. 2nd Edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- British Standard 42020 (2013). Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development.
- British Standard 8683:2021 (2021). Process for Designing and Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain.

Proportionality

The work involved in preparing and implementing all ecological surveys, impact assessments and measures for avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement should be proportionate to the predicted degree of risk to biodiversity and to the nature and scale of the proposed development. Consequently, the decision-maker should only request supporting information and conservation measures that are relevant, necessary and material to the application in question. Similarly, the decision-maker and their consultees should ensure that any comments and advice made over an application are also proportionate.

This approach is enshrined in Government planning guidance, for example, paragraph 174 of the National Planning Policy Framework for England.

The desk studies and field surveys undertaken to provide a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) might in some cases be all that is necessary.

(BS 42020, 2013)

Executive Summary

Arbtech Consulting Ltd was instructed by Dream Homes Construction to undertake Bat Emergence and Re-entry Surveys (BERS) at Former Nursery Buildings, Earl Street, Prestwich, Manchester M25 1GQ (hereafter referred to as “the site”). The survey was required to inform a planning application to change of use of a former nursery building to form 4 No. Dwellings, demolition of existing garage units to create 13. No dwellings with associated external works on land adjacent to the former nursery (hereafter referred to as “the proposed development”).

No bats were seen emerging from or re-entering the building during the surveys, and there was generally a very low level of bat activity in the area. Consequently, the probability that bats are using building B1 is extremely low. The development can proceed as there is an acceptably low risk to bats.

Contents	
1.0 Introduction and Context	6
1.1 Background	6
1.2 Site Context	8
1.3 Scope of the Report	8
2.0 Methodology	9
2.1 BERS	9
2.2 Surveyors	10
2.3 Limitations	10
3.0 Results and Evaluation	11
3.1 Survey Results	11
4.0 Conclusions, Impacts and Recommendations	15
4.1 Legislation and Informative guidelines	15
4.2 Evaluation	16
5.0 Bibliography	17
Appendix 1: Proposed Development Plan	18
Appendix 2: Site Location Plan	19
Appendix 3: Bat Survey Plan	20
Appendix 4: Legislation and Planning Policy Related to Bats	21

1.0 Introduction and Context

1.1 Background

Arbtech Consulting Limited was instructed by Dreams Home Construction to undertake Bat Emergence and Re-entry Surveys (BERS) at Former Nursery Buildings, Earl Street, Prestwich, Manchester M25 1GQ (hereafter referred to as “the site”). The survey was required to inform a planning application to change of use of a former nursery building to form 4 No. Dwellings, demolition of existing garage units to create 13. No dwellings with associated external works on land adjacent to the former nursery (hereafter referred to as “the proposed development”). A plan showing the proposed development is provided in Appendix 1.

The aim of the BERS was to determine the presence or likely absence of roosting bats and to characterise any roosts present. This has been undertaken with due consideration to the “Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists —Good Practice Guidelines” publication (Collins, 2016).

The BERS have been informed by a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) which was completed by Dunelm Ecology in April 2021 (Dunelm 2021). The survey results are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Results of the PRA and subsequent survey requirements

Feature	Survey conclusions (with justification)	Foreseen impacts	Recommendations
B1	Building has moderate value for roosting bats. The building includes several potential roosting features such as gable end verges, gaps under ridge tiles. The roof space is occupied by pigeons and have a low floor to apex height. Therefore, it is unlikely the roof space would be used by roosting bats.	The proposed development will result in the demolition of this building. This could result in destruction of any bat roosts present and could cause disturbance, death or injury to bats.	Two bat emergence and re-entry surveys are required during the active bat season (May – September) to confirm presence or likely absence of a bat roost in the building. Both of the surveys should be completed during the optimal survey period mid-May to August inclusive. One of these surveys should be a dawn re-entry survey or infra-red cameras should be used as an aid. Surveys should be a minimum of two weeks apart.

			Three surveyors are required to provide full coverage of the building. Surveys are likely to be required before planning permission can be granted. If bat roosts are confirmed in the building one additional survey will be required to inform an EPSL application to Natural England. The EPSL application requires that surveys have been undertaken within the most recent active bat season and planning permission must have been granted and all relevant wildlife-related conditions have been discharged prior to submission.
--	--	--	--

1.2 Site Context

The site is located at National Grid Reference SD 82261 03750 and has an area of approximately 0.084h comprising the building, residential roads, and hand standing. It is surrounded by terraced houses on residential streets with several trees to the south east of the building and a significant amount of grassland (made up of grasses, scattered trees, and shrubs) to the east.

A site location plan is provided in Appendix 2.

1.3 Scope of the Report

This report provides a description of the bat activity observed and recorded during BERS. The aim of the surveys was to determine the presence or likely absence of bats and to characterise any roosts present including species, number of individuals, number and location of roost access points, and to gain an understanding of how bats use the site. The report provides information on possible constraints to the proposed development as a result of bats and summarises the requirements for any mitigation proposals, including a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL), where appropriate, to achieve planning or other statutory consent and to comply with wildlife legislation.

To achieve this, the following steps have been taken:

- BERS of built structures has been undertaken to determine the presence or likely absence of bat roosts.
- An outline of potential impacts on any confirmed or unidentified roosts has been provided, based on the proposed development.
- Recommendations for mitigation have been made, along with advice on the requirements for a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) application if appropriate.
- Opportunities for the enhancement of the site for roosting, foraging and commuting bats have been set out.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 BERS

Two BERS, comprising one dusk emergence and one dawn re-entry survey, were undertaken of the building, as per the recommendations from the Preliminary Roost Assessment. The surveys involved surveyors positioned around the building ensuring that all elevations and roof sections with suitable roosting features could be clearly observed. Particular attention was paid to the areas of the building identified as providing suitable access points to bat roosts. Each surveyor was assigned an area of the building to observe for the duration of the survey.

Surveyors used heterodyne and frequency division bat detectors, and Echo Meter Touch detectors connected to iPads or Android tablets. Bat echolocation calls recorded during the surveys were analysed using Wildlife Acoustics sound analysis software Kaleidoscope V3.1.7 when required. The Echo Meter Touch includes an auto ID function for bat species, however this is not 100% accurate and further post-survey sound analysis is often required to confirm species that could not be identified by the auto ID software during the survey. Surveyors also used head torches, survey record sheets and pens/pencils for recording all activity observed during the surveys. Each surveyor was also provided with a handheld radio for communication between surveyors to assist with confirming ambiguous bat activity e.g. a bat emergence or a bat passing over the building.

An infrared recording kit was set up to monitor the building during the BERS. This comprised Nightfox Red Goggles set up on a tripod with two separate infrared lamps on a second tripod to provide additional illumination. Analysis of the footage was subsequently undertaken to detect roosting activity.

Dusk emergence surveys commenced 15 minutes before sunset and continued for 1½ - 2 hours after sunset – depending upon bat activity and surveyor visibility. Dawn re-entry surveys commenced 1½ - 2 hours before sunrise and continued until 15 minutes after sunrise. Surveys were a minimum of two weeks apart.

Surveys were completed during optimal weather conditions i.e., when temperatures were above 10°C, with no rain or strong winds (greater than 5m/s), as these adverse weather conditions can impact upon bat emergence and foraging behaviour.

Bat Emergence and Re-entry Surveys

2.2 Surveyors

The lead surveyor was Jonathon Roberts who was assisted by two surveyors, each with several years of bat survey experience. The designated position of each surveyor during each survey is detailed in the tables in Section 3.1 below and shown on the plan in Appendix 3.

2.3 Limitations

These surveys follow best practice guidance to confirm presence or likely absence of roosting bats and where present, characterise the roost. However, this information is collected at finite dates and times, and provides an indication of the conditions on site only. The use of the building and the site as a whole by bats, at all times cannot be established based on this information. Bats are highly mobile creatures that switch roosts regularly and therefore the usage of a site by bats can change over a short period of time. For both surveys, part of the south elevation of the building was obscured due to the dense treeline and the fact it backed onto private property. However, the obscured sections were minimal and surveyors were placed with vantage points that would see any activity should any bat emerge or re-enter in that area. On both surveys, no activity originated in that area. On the dawn survey (23/08/22), there was a significant amount of fog which affected visibility early on during the survey but after 30 minutes it had cleared.

3.0 Results and Evaluation

3.1 Survey Results

The results of each survey are provided in the tables below and shown on the plan in Appendix 3.

Table 2: Survey results first visit

Date		09/08/22
Start and end times		20:35 – 22:20 Sunset: 20:50
Weather conditions		Start: Temp: 24°C Relative Humidity: 43% Cloud Cover: 10% Wind: 3 mph (SE) Rain: None End: Temp: 20°C Relative Humidity: 57% Cloud Cover: 10% Wind: 3 mph (S) Rain: None
Surveyor (position) As shown in Appendix 3		Jonathon Roberts – Several years conducting bat surveys (Position 1 – observing the northern gable end, the eastern elevation of B1 and roof structure of B1) Steven Roberts – 1 years' experience conducting surveys (Position 2 – observing the south elevation, a section of the eastern elevation (including a gable end on the south east of B1, and the roof structure of B1) Ryan Foster – 1 years' experience conducting surveys (Position 3 – observing the western side of the building and part of the southern elevation)
Building reference	Surveyor position	Notes/observations:
B1	1	There were no emergences or re-entries. The first bat activity recorded was a common pipistrelle at 21:15 (25 minutes after sunset) on the Magenta and EMT, but was not seen. At 21:18 a common pipistrelle was observed feeding in the yard to the east of B1. There was regular common pipistrelle activity between 21:18 and 22:13 including feeding in the trees to the south east of B1. The last bat recorded was a common pipistrelle passing at 22:13.
B1	2	There were no emergences or re-entries.

		The first bat activity was a common pipistrelle recorded at 21:03 (thirteen minutes after sunset) on the Magenta and EMT, but it was not seen. The first bat observed was a common pipistrelle at 21:11 passing through the trees to the south east of B1. Regular common pipistrelle activity was recorded between 21:12 and 22:05, with commuting passes and distant passes recorded. The last bat recorded was a common pipistrelle at 22:05.
B1	3	There were no emergences or re-entries. The first bat activity was recorded as commuting pass of a common pipistrelle at 21:04 (14 minutes after sunset) passing from the south west traveling north east toward B1 and over. A common pipistrelle was observed passing low heading south west at 21:25 and another common pipistrelle was observed at 21:35 passing to the south west of the building. From 21:37 there was regular common pipistrelle activity recorded, mostly commuting passes. The last bat recorded was the commuting pass of a common pipistrelle at 22:17.

Table 3: Survey results (second visit)

Date		23/08/22
Start and end times		04:30 – 06:17 Sunrise: 06:02
Weather conditions		Start: Temp: 16°C Relative Humidity: 95% Cloud Cover: 100% Wind: 2 mph (SW) Rain: None End: Temp: 16°C Relative Humidity: 96% Cloud Cover: 95% Wind: 1 mph (NW) Rain: None
Surveyor (position) As shown in Appendix 3		Jonathon Roberts – Several years conducting bat surveys (Position 1 – observing the northern gable end, the eastern elevation of B1 and roof structure of B1) Oscar Smith – 1 years' experience conducting surveys (Position 2 – observing the south elevation, a section of the eastern elevation (including a gable end on the south east of B1, and the roof structure of B1) Ryan Foster – 1 years' experience conducting surveys (Position 3 – observing the western side of the building and part of the southern elevation)
Building reference	Surveyor position	Notes/observations:
B1	1	There were no emergences or re-entries. The first bat recorded was a common pipistrelle at 04:40 (1hr and 22 minutes before sunrise). It was heard on the magenta and EMT, but not seen. Multiple common pipistrelles were observed feeding and foraging in the trees and grassland to the east of the B1 between 04:44 and 05:39. The last bat recorded was a common pipistrelle at 05:41 (31 minutes before sunrise) passing from the north east to the south west.
B1	2	There were no emergences or re-entries. The first bat recorded was a common pipistrelle at 05:14 (48 minutes before sunrise). It was heard on the magenta and EMT, but not seen. Multiple common pipistrelles were observed feeding and foraging in the trees to the south east of B1 and in the grasslands/shrubs to the west. The final bat recorded was a common pipistrelle at 05:43 (19 minutes before sunrise). It passed overhead, moving away from B1 to the south east.

B1	3	There were no emergences or re-entries. The first bat recorded was a common pipistrelle at 05:18 (44 minutes before sunrise). It was heard on the magenta and EMT, but not seen. There was less activity observed from position 3 between 05:34 and 05:41, with only a few commuting passes recorded. The final bat was recorded at 05:43 (19 minutes before sunrise), commuting south west.
----	---	---

4.0 Conclusions, Impacts and Recommendations

4.1 Informative Guidelines

A summary of the relevant legislation and planning policies is provided in Appendix 4.

Bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019).

When bat roosts are present, the bat surveys undertaken at a site facilitate the characterisation of the roost type. This allows for appropriate mitigation and compensation to be designed to inform a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) application to Natural England.

The definitions of bat roost types are provided below, taken from the *Bat Mitigation Guidelines* (English Nature, 2004) and the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) publication *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines* (Collins, 2016).

Day roost: a place where individual bats, or small groups of males, rest or shelter in the day but are rarely found by night in the summer.

Night roost: a place where bats rest or shelter in the night but are rarely found in the day. May be used by a single individual on occasion or it could be used regularly by the whole colony.

Feeding roost: a place where individual bats or a few individuals rest or feed during the night but are rarely present by day.

Transitional / occasional roost: used by a few individuals or occasionally small groups for generally short periods of time on waking from hibernation or in the period prior to hibernation.

Swarming site: where large numbers of males and females gather during late summer to autumn. Appear to be important mating sites

Mating sites: sites where mating takes place from later summer and can continue through winter.

Maternity roost: where female bats give birth and raise their young to independence.

Hibernation roost: where bats may be found individually or together during winter. They have a constant cool temperature and high humidity. Sites where hibernating bats have been confirmed by appropriate survey effort should be classed as 'hibernation confirmed'.

Satellite roost: an alternative roost found in close proximity to the main nursery colony used by a few individual breeding females to small groups of breeding females throughout the breeding season.

Other: roost types are interchangeable and not always easy to classify according to the nuances of certain species.

An EPSL **will not be required** to enable the proposed works to be lawfully undertaken. Appropriate justification for this assessment is provided in Table 4 of this report.

Bat Emergence and Re-entry Surveys

4.2 Evaluation

Taking the field survey results into account, Table 4 presents an evaluation of the value of the buildings for roosting bats in relation to the proposed development which will comprise of 17 new dwellings being built on the site which will require the demolition (or partial demolition) of the building.

Table 4: Evaluation of buildings on site for roosting bats

Feature	Survey conclusions (with justification)	Foreseen impacts	Recommendations <i>Measures required to adhere to guidance, legislation and planning policies.</i>	Enhancements <i>The Local Planning Authority has a duty to ask for enhancements under the NPPF (2021)</i>
B1	A likely absence of roosting bats is confirmed from B1.	Bats are very unlikely to be roosting within this building and as such, there are not anticipated to be any impacts on bats in this location as a result of the proposed development.	In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is discovered during the development all work must stop and a bat licensed ecologist contacted for further advice.	Bat boxes should be incorporated into new buildings on the site e.g. Habibat Bat Box Schwegler 1FR Bat Tubes Bat tubes should be inserted into the fabric of the building during construction, positioned 3-5m above ground level facing in a south or south-westerly direction with a clear flight path to and from the entrance and facing landscapes areas, away from artificial light.

5.0 Bibliography

- British Standard 42020 (2013). Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development.
- British Standard 8683:2021 (2021). Process for Designing and Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2018). Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.1. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2020). Guidelines for Accessing, Using and Sharing Biodiversity Data in the UK. 2nd Edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Collins, J. (2016). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists —Good Practice Guidelines, 3rd edition, Bat Conservation Trust, London.
- Garland, L. & Markham, S. (2008) Is Important Bat Foraging and Commuting Habitat Legally Protected? <http://biodiversitybydesign.co.uk/cmsAdmin/uploads/protection-for-bat-habitat-sep-2007.pdf>
- Dunelm Ecology (2021). Preliminary Roost Assessment.
- Google Earth. Accessed on 15/08/2022.
- Institution of Lighting Professionals (2018). Guidance Note 08/18 Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK. Bats and the Built Environment Series Publication: http://www.bats.org.uk/news.php/406/new_guidance_on_bats_and_lighting.
- Magic database. <http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx> Accessed on 15/08/2022.
- Mitchell-Jones, A.J. (2004). Bat Mitigation Guidelines. English Nature, Peterborough.
- National Planning Policy Framework (2021) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>
- Natural England Designated Sites View. <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx> Accessed on 15/08/2022.
- Wray, S., Wells, D., Long, E., Mitchell-Jones, T (2010) Valuing Bats in Ecological Impact Assessment. IEEM In-Practice. Number 70 (December 2010). Pp. 23-25.

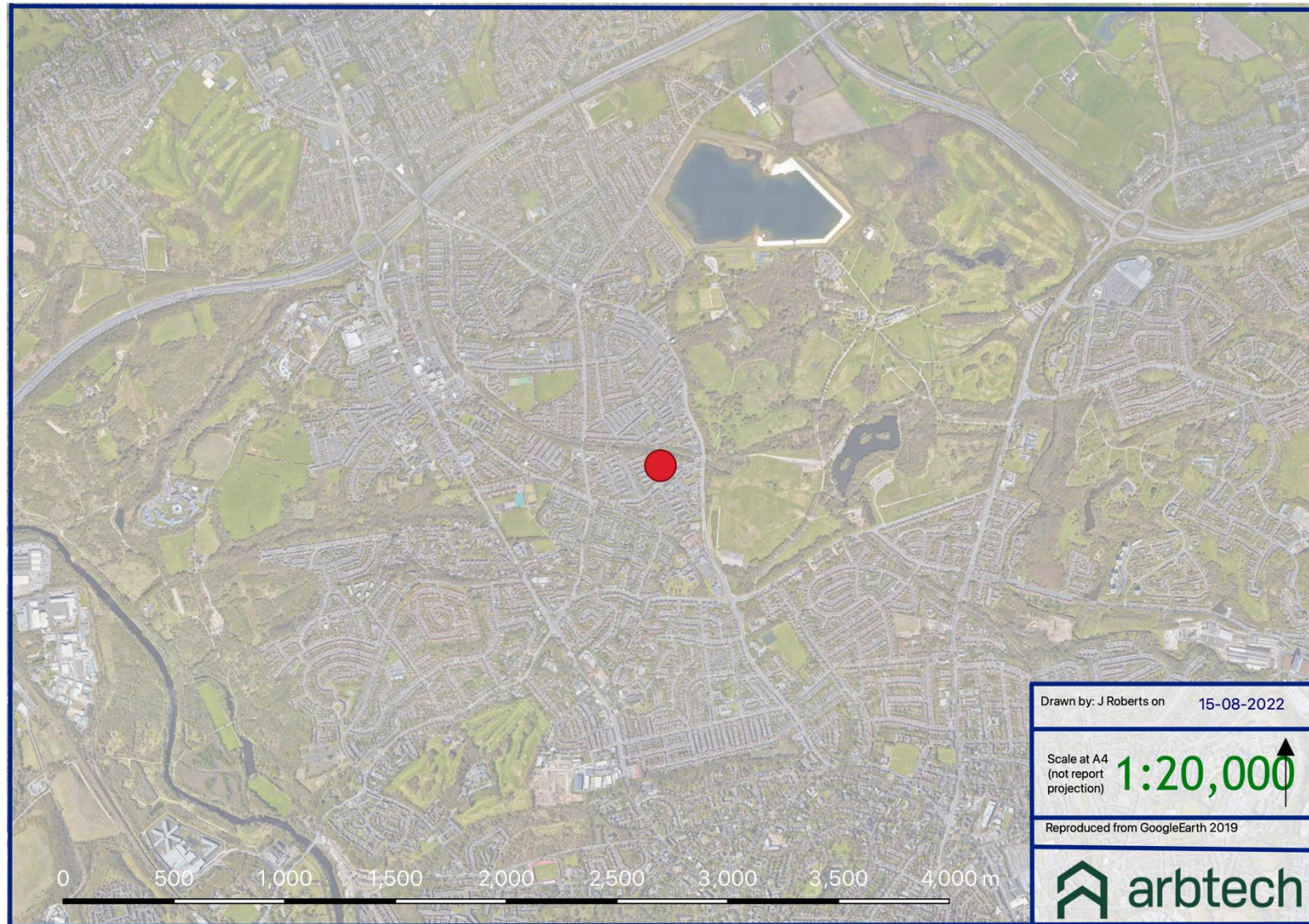
Appendix 1: Proposed Development Plan

PROGRESS DRAWING

This drawing is not intended to be used for contract pricing or fabrication purposes. All content is subject to change.

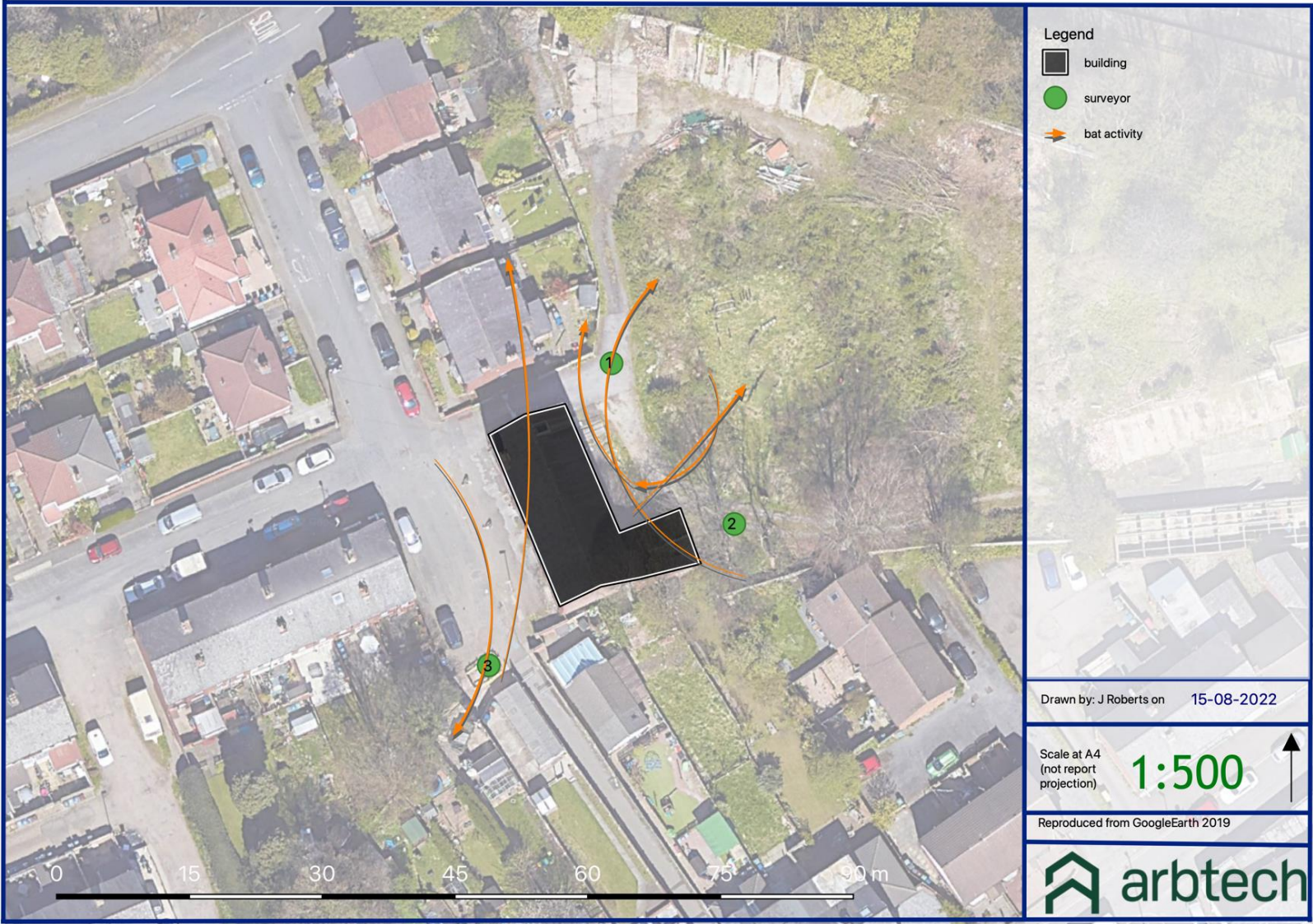


Appendix 2: Site Location Plan

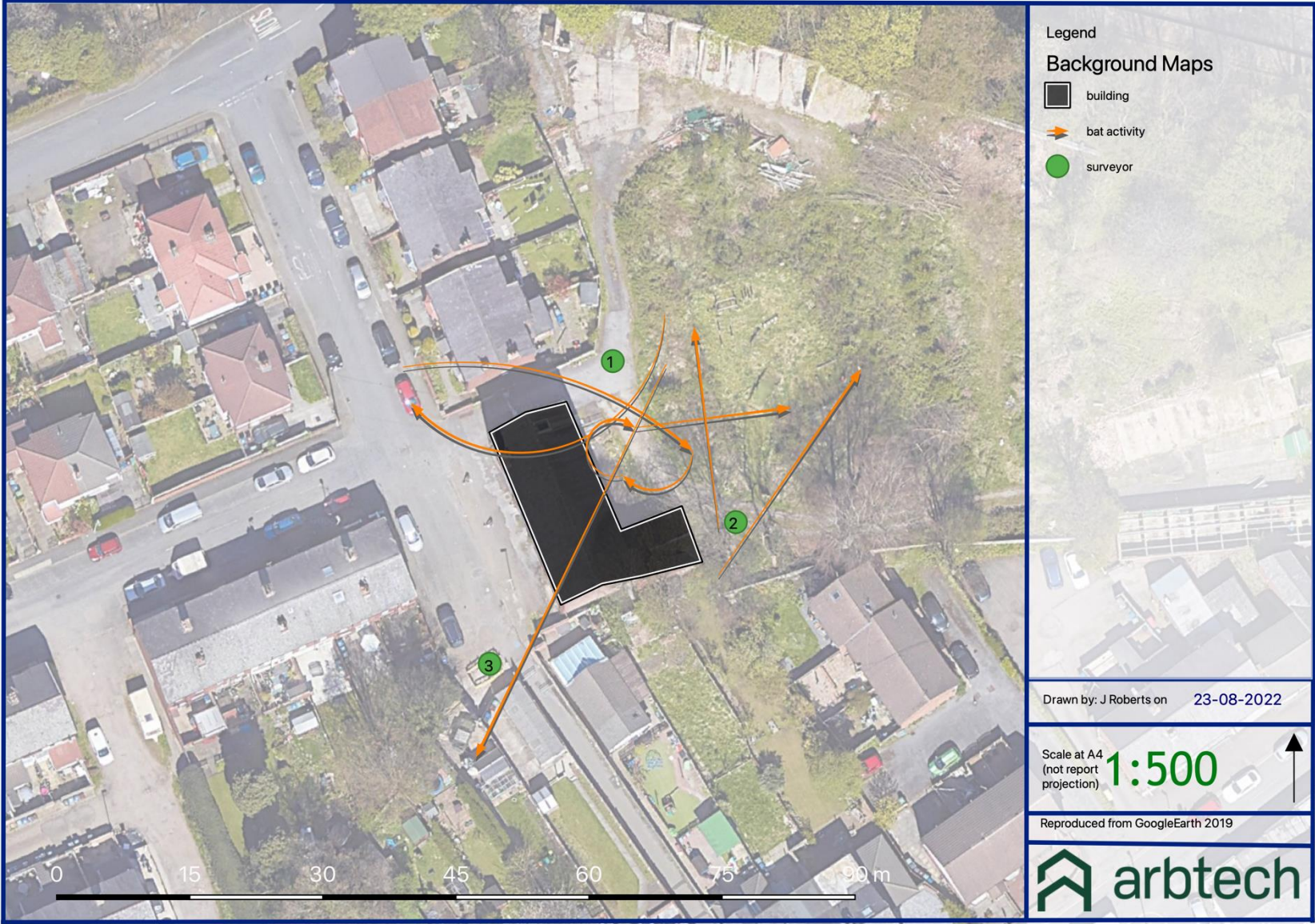


Appendix 3: Bat Survey Plans

Dusk Survey: 16/08/22



Dawn Survey: 23/08/22



Appendix 4: Legislation and Planning Policy Related to Bats

LEGAL PROTECTION

All species of bat are fully protected under ***The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*** (as amended) through their inclusion on Schedule 2.

Regulation 43: Protection of certain wild animals - offences

(1) A person is guilty of an offence if they:

- (a) Deliberately captures, injures or kills any wild animal of a European protected species,
- (b) Deliberately disturbs wild animals of any such species,
- (c) Deliberately takes or destroys the eggs of such an animal, or
- (d) Damages or destroys a breeding site or resting place of such an animal,

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1) (b), disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely—

- (a) To impair their ability:
 - (i) To survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young; or
 - (ii) In the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or
- (b) To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

Bats are also protected under the ***Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*** (as amended) through their inclusion on Schedule 5. Under this Act, they are additionally protected from:

- Intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level)
- Intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection
- Selling, offering or exposing for sale, possession or transporting for purpose of sale

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY (ENGLAND)

National Planning Policy Framework 2021

The National Planning Policy Framework promotes sustainable development. The Framework specifies the need for protection of designated sites and priority habitats and species. An emphasis is also made on the need for ecological infrastructure through protection, restoration and re-creation. The protection and recovery of priority species (considered likely to be those listed as species of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006) is also listed as a requirement of planning policy.

In determining a planning application, planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by ensuring that: designated sites are protected from harm; there is appropriate mitigation or compensation where significant harm cannot be avoided; measurable gains in biodiversity in and around developments are incorporated; and planning permission is refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats including aged or veteran trees and also ancient woodland.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and the Biodiversity Duty

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions. This is commonly referred to as the 'biodiversity duty'.

Section 41 of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of 'principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity'. This list is intended to assist decision makers such as public bodies in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the Act. Under the Act these habitats and species are regarded as a material consideration in determining planning applications. A developer must show that their protection has been adequately addressed within a development proposal.

EFFECT OF LEGISLATION AND POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT WORKS

A European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) issued by Natural England will be required for works likely to affect a bat roost or for operations likely to result in a level of disturbance which might impair their ability to undertake those activities mentioned above (e.g. survive, breed, rear young and hibernate). The licence is to allow derogation from the relevant legislation but also to enable appropriate mitigation measures to be put in place and their efficiency/success to be monitored. The legislation may also be interpreted such that, in certain circumstances, important foraging areas and/or commuting routes can be regarded as being afforded *de facto* protection, for example, where it can be proven that the continued usage of such areas is crucial to maintaining the integrity and long-term viability of a bat roost (Garland & Markham, 2008).

There are 17 species of bat breeding in England and Natural England issues licences under Regulation 55 of the Habitats Regulations to allow you to work within the law.

Licences are issued for specific purposes stated in the Regulations, if the following three tests are met:

- The purpose of the work meets one of those listed in the Habitats Regulations (see below);
- That there is no satisfactory alternative;
- That the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status (FCS) in their natural range

The Habitats Regulations permits licences to be issued for a specific set of purposes including:

- include preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of over-riding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment;
- scientific and educational purposes;

Bat Emergence and Re-entry Surveys

- ringing or marking; and,
- conserving wild animals.

Development works fall under the first purpose and Natural England issues bat mitigation licences for developments.

EUROPEAN PROTECTED SPECIES POLICIES

In December 2016 Natural England officially introduced the four licensing policies throughout England. The four policies seek to achieve better outcomes for European Protected Species (EPS) and reduce unnecessary costs, delays and uncertainty that can be inherent in the current standard EPS licensing system. The policies are summarised as follows:

- Policy 1; provides greater flexibility in exclusion and relocation activities, where there is investment in habitat provision;
- Policy 2; provides greater flexibility in the location of compensatory habitat;
- Policy 3; provides greater flexibility on exclusion measures where this will allow EPS to use temporary habitat; and,
- Policy 4; provides a reduced survey effort in circumstances where the impacts of development can be confidently predicted.

The four policies have been designed to have a net benefit for EPS by improving populations overall and not just protecting individuals within development sites. Most notably Natural England now recognises that the Habitats Regulations legal framework now applies to 'local populations' of EPS and not individuals/site populations.