
Pilsworth Farm, Pilsworth Road, Bury, BL9 8QZ.

Further Bat Surveys

27th October 2023

INTRODUCTION

Following an initial Bat Scoping Survey undertaken on the 1st February 2023, EnviroSolution Ltd have completed a further two bat dusk surveys and a static bat detector survey of a set of outbuildings located at Pilsworth Farm, Pilsworth Road, Bury, BL9 8QZ (National Grid Reference SD 8209 5723). The additional bat dusk surveys were undertaken on the 2nd and 28th August 2023 with the static bat detector survey completed between the 2nd and 9th August 2023. Proposals are to convert the current farm buildings to provide dwellings.

Surveys were led by Richard Roe (BSc, MSc, MIEEM, CEnv). Richard has extensive experience of undertaking bat surveys as a professional ecological consultant with over twenty years' experience. Richard is also a licensed bat worker.

BAT SCOPING SURVEY SUMMARY FINDINGS

The study site comprises of a set of outbuildings located at Pilsworth Farm, Pilsworth Road, Bury. The site layout shown on Figure 1 in the Appendix.

The study site is located within a semi-rural setting to the south east of Bury. The nearby grasslands and woodland habitats are considered to offer areas of moderate-quality bat foraging habitat.

Building Sections 1-3 form the main outbuilding which is a two-storey brick and stone barn which is mainly used as a stables. The building has a pitched roof which is clad in slate. The main outbuilding is of pre-19th century origin.

Internally, the building support upper floor hay lofts. The upper floor haylofts are largely disused, and the hayloft entrances are closed with wooden boarding propped on scaffold poles.

Internal masonry and stonework is generally well pointed throughout with only occasional crevices in walls. Potential bats roosting habitat is offered behind roof trusses and at the roof ridge.

Addendum

No bat droppings were found either internally or externally associated with the outbuildings.

Externally, the two-storey outbuildings offer some areas of potential bat roosting habitat where there are occasional gaps under roof slates at the gables and some occasional gaps between the stone block work where mortar has decayed, areas of missing slate, and gaps under the ridge tiles.

Taking account of the potential bat roosting features identified, and the site's location, the two-storey section of outbuilding (Buildings 1-3) was assessed as offering '**moderate**' bat roosting suitability.

Building Sections 4-6 form a row of smaller, single storey outbuildings used as a kitchen, store and further horse stalls. These comprise of a pre-19th century converted cottages and 20th century breezeblock buildings. These buildings have a mix of slate, concrete and asbestos panel roofs. Externally, these buildings offer some areas of potential bat roosting habitat where there are gaps under a length of chipboard fascia and gaps under the gable end slates.

No bat droppings were found either internally or externally associated with the outbuildings.

Taking account of the potential bat roosting features identified, and the site's location, Buildings 4-6 were assessed as offering '**low**' bat roosting suitability.

A full description of the buildings and the identified potential bat roosting features can be found within the original Bat Scoping Report for the site.

BAT DUSK ACTIVITY SURVEYS

Methods

In accordance with the recommendation within the initial scoping survey, additional bat dusk surveys were undertaken on the 2nd and 28th August 2023. In addition, a further assessment of the interiors of Building 1 and Building 3 were undertaken by installing static bat detectors (2 x Anabat Express bat detectors) within each of the loft spaces for seven nights from the 2nd August until the 9th August 2023.

For the dusk emergence surveys, seven survey locations were used to allow full coverage of all potential roosting features identified at the site. Buildings 1-3 were surveyed on both evenings whilst buildings 4-6 were surveyed on 2nd August only.

The surveyors were equipped with heterodyne and time expansion bat detectors (Anabat Walkabout, Anabat Express, Echometer Touch 2 Pro and Elekon Bat Scanner). Surveyors were supported by Canon XA infrared night vision cameras, supported with infrared flood lights. Surveyor positions are shown on Figure 1.

Addendum

The dusk surveys commenced 15 minutes before sunset and continued up to 90 minutes after sunset. All bat species and bat behaviour were recorded.

Night vision camera footage was reviewed following survey.

Results

Dusk Emergence Surveys

The first survey was undertaken under suitable conditions on the 2nd August 2023 with weather recorded as dry, overcast, calm and with a temperature of 15°C. Sunset was recorded at 21.04. Surveyors were positioned at locations 1-7.

In summary, no bats were recorded roosting at the site. Relatively low levels of bat activity were recorded comprising of intermittent common pipistrelle bat passes. The first bat activity was recorded at 21.37 and comprised of a common pipistrelle pass located to the east of the main outbuildings. Common pipistrelle was the only bat species recorded around the site.

It was observed that the west face of the outbuilding is partially lit by security lighting of an evening.

Nesting swallow were observed entering the ground floor rooms of Buildings 1-3.

The second survey was undertaken under suitable survey conditions on the 28th August 2023 with weather recorded as dry, overcast with a light breeze and with a temperature of 16°C. Sunset was recorded at 20.09. Surveyors were positioned at locations 3-7.

In summary, no roosting bats were recorded at the site. Bat activity was again found to be relatively low comprising exclusively of intermittent common pipistrelle foraging activity and a single social calling male bat. The first bat activity (a common pipistrelle) was recorded at 20.49.

It was observed that the west face of the outbuilding is partially lit by security lighting of the evening.

Nesting swallow were observed entering Buildings 1-3.

Addendum

Static Bat Detector Survey

A further assessment of the interiors of the upper floors of Building 1 and Building 3 were undertaken by installing static bat detectors (Anabat Express) within each of the hayloft spaces for seven nights from the 2nd August until the 9th August 2023.

The main aim of the static survey was to determine whether the interiors of the main outbuildings were used as night roosts by brown long-eared bat or any myotis species.

The static detectors only recorded common pipistrelle bat activity. The recorded sonograms were typical of bats foraging in an open, uncluttered space and so were considered to be recordings of bats foraging around the exterior of the outbuildings as opposed to bats foraging or flying within the cluttered environment of the upper floor loft space.

No other bat species were recorded on the static detectors.

No activity was recorded suggestive of bats roosting within the hayloft interiors.

No bat droppings were identified within the haylofts during the previous bat scoping surveys.

Recommendations

Taking the previous preliminary roost assessment findings; the latest dusk survey and the static bat detector results into account, it is considered to be very unlikely that the site supports roosting bats.

Nevertheless, it is recommended that care is taken during works to convert the buildings. If any bats or evidence of bats are found, then works should immediately stop and further advice should be sought from an appropriately qualified ecologist.

It is recommended that that the overall site be enhanced for bats and breeding birds, with appropriate bat and bird boxes installed into the new development. Bat boxes should be built into the structure of the converted outbuilding or can be attached to the building exterior.

Bird nesting habitat should include suitable nest boxes for house sparrow and should also include suitable nesting habitat for swallow. Swallow nest cups would need to be installed within a covered structure and located at a minimum height of 2 m.

Sparrow nest boxes can also be built into the structure of the converted outbuilding or can be attached to the building exterior.