

Martin Prescott Environmental Services

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30.5.2022

Bat Survey of 15 Brooklands Road, Holcombe Brook, Bury. **Surveyor- Martin Prescott (Licence no.2015/15466-CLS)**

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Summary

A minor Common Pipistrelle roost was found in the front dormer. A mitigation licence will be required to legalise the destruction of this roost and possible disturbance of the bats. The method statement accompanying this report will be the basis of this licence application.

The building was situated in low quality bat foraging habitat amongst many other dwellings.

No signs of nesting birds were found.

1. Introduction

1.1 Reason for Survey

It is proposed to extend this dormer bungalow by the addition of a complete first floor. There is the potential to affect bats and their roosts and bat survey was required.

1.2 The Site

The site was at 15 Brooklands Road, Holcombe Brook, Bury. BL0 9SW.
Map ref. SD78011477.

2. Method

2.1 Risk Assessment, Possible Hazards

The required access was easy.
The buildings were in a safe condition.
There were no hazards other than those normally encountered when surveying sound buildings or at night.

2.2 Daylight Survey, 1.02.2022

The building was assessed for bat roosting potential.

This survey was carried out at a season when bats had not been fully active for some time and signs of bat occupation may not be evident.

Areas searched were:

Outside; eaves, roof and walls for potential bat access holes, surfaces under eaves for signs of bat occupation.

Inside; lofts for signs of bat occupation.

There was no cellar.

The immediate area was assessed for bat roosting and foraging potential.

2.3 Evening Emergence Survey, 10.4.2022

Two surveyors, equipped with heterodyne bat detectors, were sited either side of the building such that any emerging bats would be in view.

The survey started about 15 minutes before sunset and ended about 68 minutes after sunset by which time it was too dark to see clearly and bat emergence would be complete.

All observed bat activity and the weather conditions were recorded.

2.4 Evening Emergence Survey, 4.5.2022

Two surveyors, equipped with heterodyne bat detectors, were sited either side of the building such that any emerging bats would be in view.

The survey started about 15 minutes before sunset and ended about 70 minutes after sunset by which time it was too dark to see clearly and bat emergence would be complete.

All observed bat activity and the weather conditions were recorded.

2.5 Evening Emergence Survey, 29.5.2022

Before the emergence survey started, the outside of the house was searched for signs of bat occupation such as droppings and staining.

Two surveyors, equipped with heterodyne bat detectors, were sited either side of the building such that any emerging bats would be in view.

The survey started about 15 minutes before sunset and ended about 75 minutes after sunset by which time it was too dark to see clearly and bat emergence would be complete.

All observed bat activity and the weather conditions were recorded.

2.6 Comments

Three evening surveys, rather than two evenings and one dawn survey, were used as rather low dawn temperatures occurred at the time of the last survey and were forecast as such for many days after. Under these conditions there is a risk that bats would return to the roost long before dawn and be missed by a dawn survey.

The last survey, carried out on 29th May 2022, was considered to be well within the maternity season as a maternity roost was detected on 21st May 2022, also in Greater Manchester, by the consultant.

The surveyors were Martin Prescott, Helen Taylor-Boyd, Danny Taylor-Boyd and John Harrison-Bryant, all experienced in the use and limitations of the detectors used.

2.7 Equipment

The equipment used consisted of EMT, Anabat Express, Anabat Scout, Duet and Batbox III detectors, a camera, a hand-held torch, head torches, ladders and short focus binoculars.

3. Results

3.1 Habitat Survey

The immediate surrounds included many dwellings, likely to have similar or higher bat roosting potential than the house surveyed here. The area had scattered small trees and semi-mature gardens.

It was considered to have low bat foraging potential and unlikely to support anything more than low numbers of Common Pipistrelles.

The nearest woodland was over 400 metres away.

3.2 Buildings Survey, see plans and photos.

This dormer bungalow had two roof voids, one at the west end, over the living area, and one at the east end, over the garage.

Both voids were insulated at floor level and the roof was felt lined. Wasps' nests were found in both voids. No signs of bat occupation were found.

The eaves of the building were well sealed, but there were gaps under hanging tiles on the dormer section suitable for roosting bats.

3.3 Evening Emergence Survey, 10.4.2022

The survey started at 19.45hrs BST and ended at 21.09.

Sunset was at approximately 20.00 at which time the weather conditions were 11.4c, 3/8 cloud, wind 0 Beaufort. By the end of the survey the temperature had dropped to 8.3c, conditions suitable for foraging bats.

The first bat recorded was a Common Pipistrelle foraging to the west of the property at 19.46.

A Common Pipistrelle was seen to enter a crevice under the hanging tiles of the dormer to the front (north) of the building at 20.01 and emerging at 20.07.

A Common Pipistrelle was seen to enter a crevice under the hanging tiles of the dormer to the front (north) of the building at 20.08 and emerging at 20.10.

A Common Pipistrelle was seen to enter a crevice under the hanging tiles of the dormer to the front (north) of the building at 20.14 and emerging at 20.15.

A Common Pipistrelle was seen to enter a crevice under the hanging tiles of the dormer to the front (north) of the building at 20.44. It was not seen to re-emerge, although by this time it was becoming dark and it was difficult to see clearly.

From 19.46 until 20.44 one and occasionally two Common Pipistrelles were recorded foraging almost continuously. After this time no bat activity was recorded.

3.4 Evening Emergence Survey, 4.5.2022

The survey started at 20.28hrs BST and ended at 22.09.

Sunset was at approximately 20.45 at which time the weather conditions were 11.2c, 0/8 cloud, wind 2 Beaufort. By the end of the survey the temperature had dropped to 8.3c, with a clear sky and wind at Beaufort 0-1, conditions suitable for foraging bats.

The first bat recorded was a Common Pipistrelle heard only at 21.01.

A Common Pipistrelle was seen emerging from the house next door to the east at 21.09.

A Common Pipistrelle was seen to emerge from a crevice under the hanging tiles of the west end of the dormer to the front (north) of the building at 21.28.

A low level of Common Pipistrelle activity was recorded, only 7 contacts in all. The last contact was at 22.00.

3.5 Evening Emergence Survey, 29.5.2022

Before the emergence survey started, the outside of the house was searched for signs of bat occupation such as droppings and staining. No such signs were found.

The survey started at 21.04 BST and ended at 22.38.

Sunset was at approximately 21.23 at which time the weather conditions were 11.6c, 6/8 cloud, wind Beaufort 1, conditions suitable for foraging bats.

The first bat recorded was a Common Pipistrelle commuting to the rear of the building at 21.30.

A Common Pipistrelle was seen emerging from under the hanging tiles of the front dormer at 21.35.

A low level of commuting and foraging behaviour by Common Pipistrelles was recorded until 22.27.

The survey ended at 21.38 by which time it was too dark to see clearly and the weather conditions were 10.5c, 7/8 cloud, wind Beaufort 1.

4. Conclusions

4.1 There was a minor roost of Common Pipistrelles under the hanging tiles of the dormer at the front (north) of this building.

4.2 The immediate area was considered to have low bat foraging potential with nearest areas of moderate bat foraging potential about 400 metres away.

4.3 There were many buildings nearby likely to have similar or higher bat roosting potential than the building surveyed here.

4.4 Nesting birds were considered very unlikely in the building but a small section of hedge is due for removal and nesting birds are a low possibility.

5. Recommendations

5.1 A minor Common Pipistrelle roost was confirmed and a Mitigation Licence will be required to legalise the offences of destroying a roost and disturbing the bats. This will involve delays and extra expense.

Brief details of roost replacement are illustrated below.

For details see accompanying method statement. This method statement will become the basis of the method statement in the mitigation licence application.

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

5.3 Bat surveys are generally valid for 12 months.

5.4 It is unlikely that there will be problems with nesting birds. It is an offence to disturb active birds' nests and any nests found during work must be left undisturbed (5 metre exclusion zone) until the young have fledged. If in doubt refer to the consultant.

6. Photos/Plans



P1 Loft 1, insulated floor, felt lining



P2 Loft 2, insulated floor, felt lining

Emergence/re-entry points



P3 Gaps at hanging tiles, front aspect

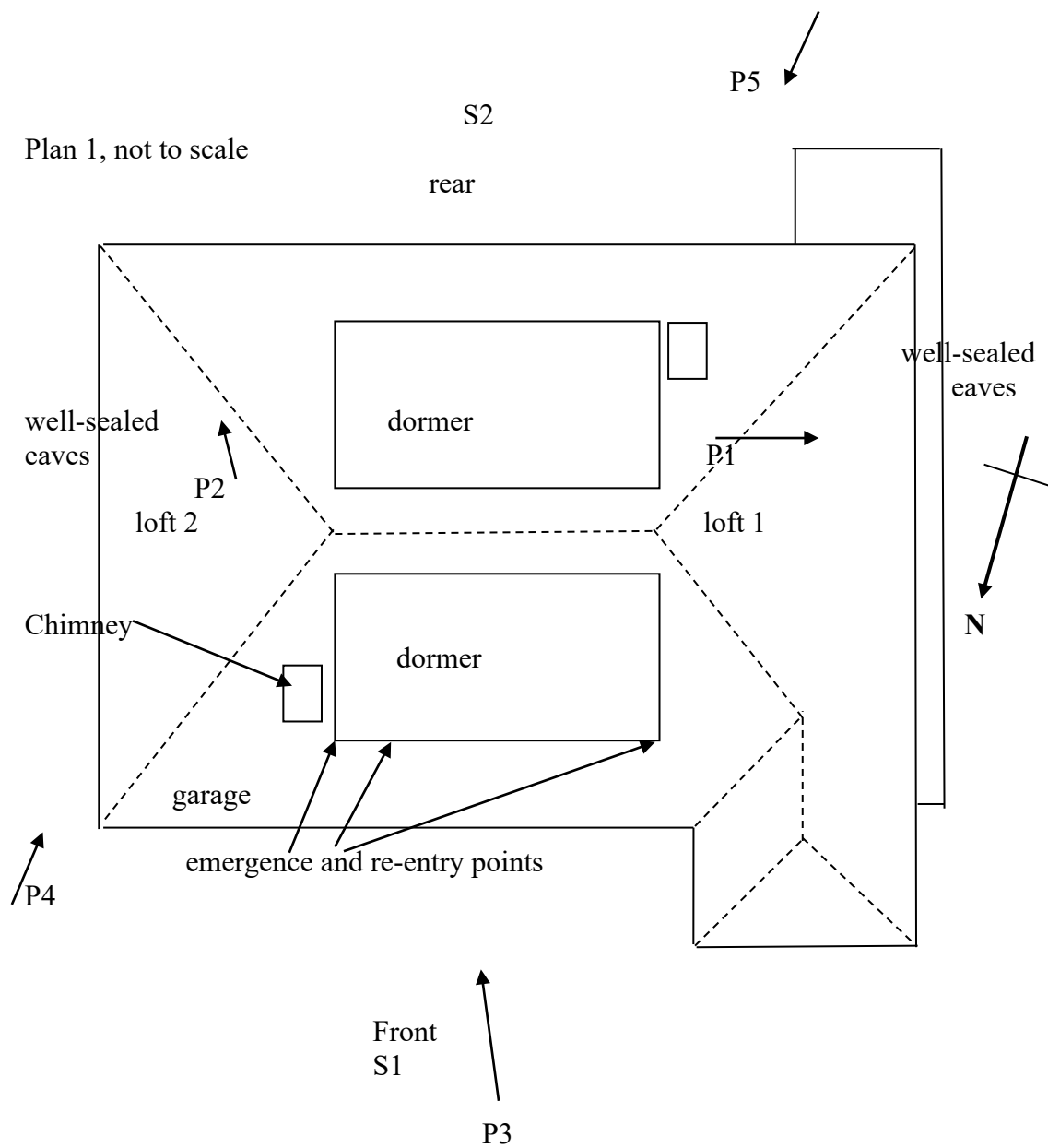


P4 Well-sealed eaves

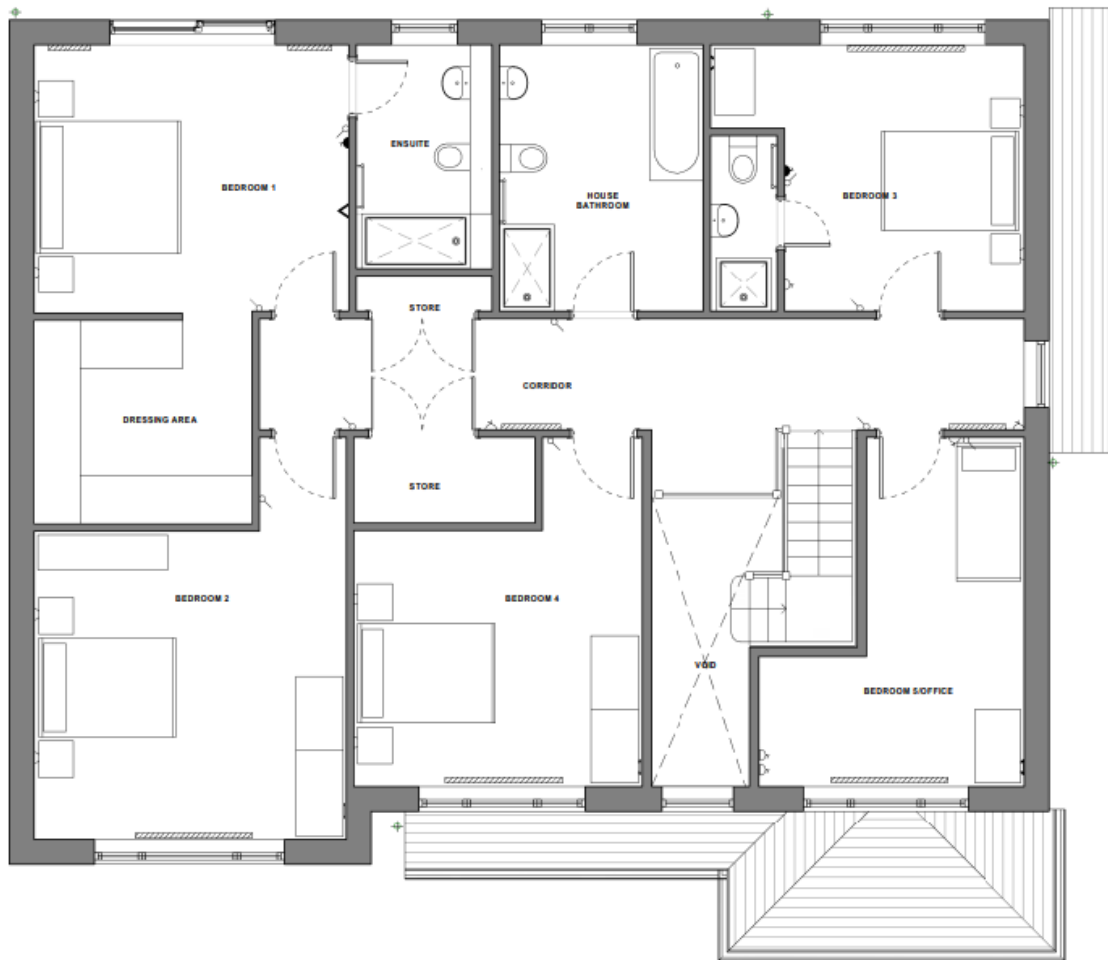


P5 Gaps at hanging tiles, rear aspect

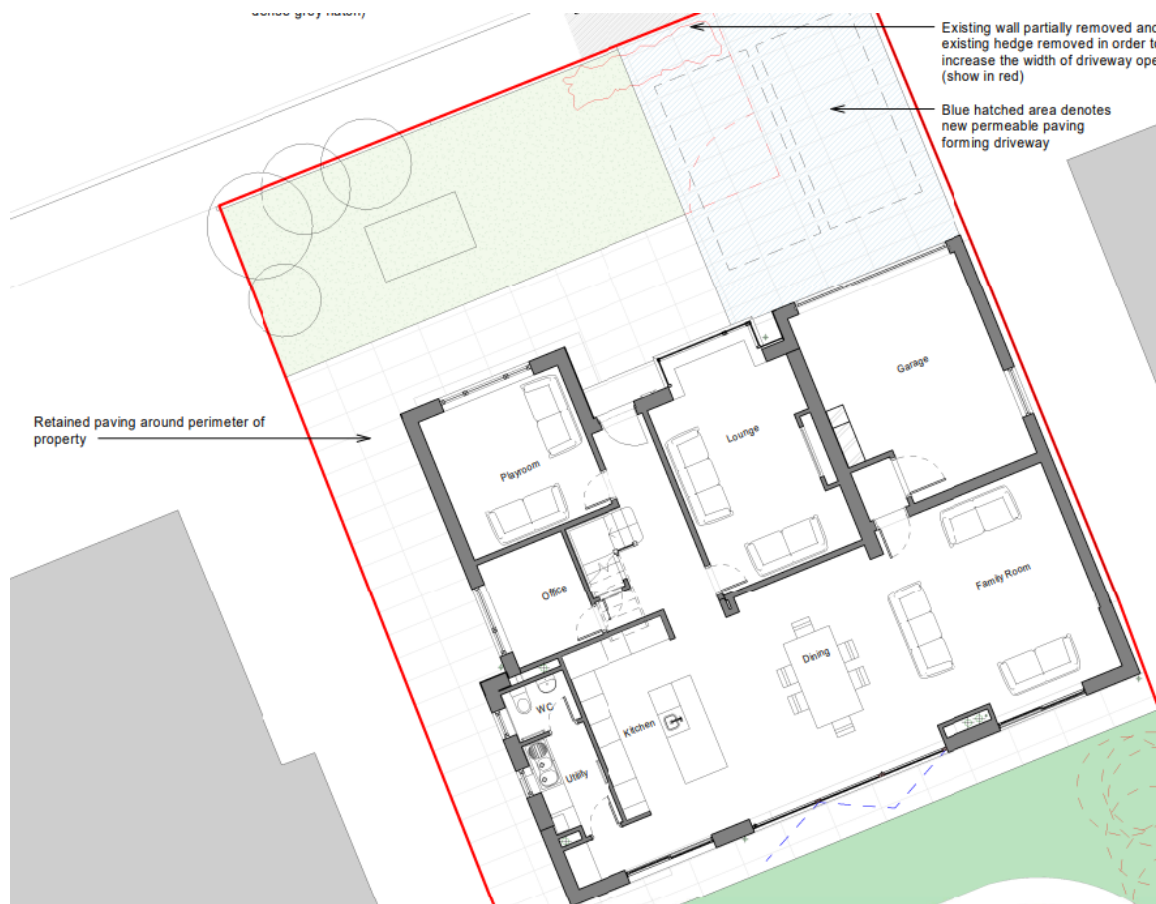
Plan 1, not to scale



P = photos
S = surveyors



Plan of proposed first floor addition, requiring removal of bat roost in the dormer.



Plan of proposed ground floor showing small section of hedge to be removed



Proposed front elevation, sites of replacement roosts

8. Consultant's Qualifications

Martin Prescott: Curriculum Vitae to January 2022

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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 Lincs. 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 Lincs. 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, Greater 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

Martin Prescott