

## **Appendix 9.2 Bat Emergence Survey, September 2013**



**Bat Emergence Survey  
Former Bierley Treatment Works  
Oakenshaw  
West Yorkshire**

Report reference: R-1623-02  
September 2013

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|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Report Title:       | Bat Emergence Survey<br>Former Bierley Treatment Works<br>Oakenshaw<br>West Yorkshire |
| Report Reference:   | R-1623-02                                                                             |
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| Technical review:   | Peter James Brooks BSc (Hons) MA MIEEM CEnv<br>Managing Director                      |
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| Approved for issue: | Peter James Brooks BSc (Hons) MA MIEEM CEnv<br>Managing Director                      |
| Date:               | 30.09.13                                                                              |

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### Summary Statement

Emergence surveys indicate the likely absence of roosting bats. Work to the property can proceed with little risk of impacting on roosting bats following standard precautions.

## Introduction

1. Subsequent to the recommendations made in Brooks Ecological's appraisal report (R-1623-01) detailed bat survey was commissioned at the former Bierley Treatment Works, Oakenshaw, West Yorkshire.
2. The site includes a number of buildings associated with the former water treatment works. The larger of these buildings (labelled 1 and 2) are located next to the site entrance, with a small number of much smaller structures occurring across the site. In our previous assessment it was determined that only building 2 had potential to support roosting bats and is the focus of this survey.
3. Information relating to local and legal status is provided in report R-1623-01 and is not repeated here. However these two reports should be read in conjunction with for full context.

## Method

4. Brooks Ecological specialise in bat surveys ranging from individual buildings through to complex sites requiring numerous visits with large teams. In terms of the survey effort, number of personnel required and number of visits required to be able to properly evaluate the building(s) use by bats we refer to the Bat Conservation Trust, Survey Good Practice Guidelines (2012). However these guidelines are not prescriptive and we approach each site individually as required using our professional judgement and significant experience base.
5. In this case, 2 visits with a team of 2 surveyors, was deemed necessary to fully evaluate the potential use of the site for roosting. The surveys were carried out on the 27<sup>th</sup> August and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013 with surveyors positioned around the building to cover all aspects where bats could potentially emerge, and to establish activity levels around the site.
6. The surveyors, using heterodyne detectors, were in place at least half an hour before dusk and left once all species of bat would be expected to have left a roost and patterns of activity within the site had been appraised. Conditions and dates are summarised in table 1 below:

**Table 1:** Survey summary

| Date of Survey | Temperature | Weather                               | Invertebrate activity |
|----------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 27.08.13       | 20°C        | Dry, overcast.<br>Light wind.         | Moderate              |
| 10.09.13       | 15°C        | Fine. 50% cloud cover,<br>light wind. | Moderate              |

7. Surveys were directed by Rob Weston BSc (Hons) MSc MIEEM. Rob has many years experience of carrying out bat surveys in a professional capacity and is registered to use the new Class Survey Licence WML CL18 (Bat Survey Level 2). He is a member of the West Yorkshire Bat Group, the Bat Conservation Trust and runs training in bat surveys for student ecologists.

## Results

8. At the beginning of each surveys, a though search was carried out in good light looking for evidence of bat activity. On each occasion a single bat dropping was found against the external walls of the building. These were not consistent with any features to indicate roosting and are likely to be the result of foraging bats.

### *Survey – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2013 sunset 20:09*

9. The first bat seen was a Noctule, at 20:19, ten minutes after sunset. This bat was seen to arrive in the area from east of the site, and had clearly not emerged from the building.
10. The second bat of the night, a common pipistrelle, was seen at 20:41, thirty two minutes after sunset and was clearly observed entering the site from the north-west. A second common pipistrelle was seen at 20:45 this time entering the site from the south-east.
11. During the later half of the survey (20:59 onwards) two common pipistrelle's were observed foraging to the east of the building.
12. At no point were any bats seen or to suspected to have emerged from the survey building.

### *Survey – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013 sunset 19:35*

13. The first bat was heard at 20:05, which was 30 minutes after sunset. This bat, a Pipistrelle species, was only heard briefly and distantly from an offsite location.
14. The next bat, also pipistrelle sp. was seen three minutes later, and this time was clearly observed to enter the site from the north-west.
15. During the survey, only a small number of bats were either seen or heard, and most of these were seen to enter the site from either the northwest or the east.
16. The view of the building was unimpeded until it became fully dark during both surveys and ensuring any bats would have been observed had they emerged on either occasion.
17. At no point were any bats seen or to suspected to have emerged from the survey building.

## Evaluation and recommendations

18. Following emergence survey work it is concluded that the building is very unlikely to support roosting bats and that further survey effort is not required in support of this conclusion.
19. The proposed works can proceed with little risk of impacting on bats.

### *General advice*

20. Even where surveys have been carried out which demonstrate absence of roosting, site workers should always be aware that bats can move into buildings previously found not to support them. On this basis work should proceed with care and if a bat is found during the proposed demolition, works should stop immediately and a professional ecologist and/or the bat helpline (on 0845 1300 228 Bat Conservation Trust) should be contacted. The local office of Natural England should also be contacted to seek advice.
21. The UK government's latest guidance on nature conservation in relation to development (NPPF) makes it clear that opportunities should be sought through their planning system to use development as an opportunity to enhance sites for wildlife where possible. The proposals could easily include features to attract roosting and this can be designed into a number of the new buildings without creating conflicts with the home owner. Roosting features could be bespoke and designed in by the architect in cooperation with an ecologist or 'off the peg' bat boxes could be erected.

## References

Bat Conservation Trust (2012) Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines

English Nature (2004) Bat Mitigation Guidelines. English Nature, Peterborough.

JNCC (2004) The Bat Workers Manual. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.

ODPM circular 06/05 (2005) Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/circularbiodiversity>

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>