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Dear Sir/Madam,

Bat Roost Assessment at 1 Sandbeds, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD9 6RD

Introduction

David Watts Associates Ltd have been instructed by Mr John Marsden to produce a Bat Roost Assessment at 1 Sandbeds, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HS9 6RD.

A previous report was produced by JCA Ltd (Butler, 2018)¹. A scoping survey on 28th June 2018 identified the building as having moderate potential for roosting bats. A further dusk emergence survey on 23rd August 2018 and dawn re-entry survey on 6th September 2018 did not identify bats emerging from or re-entering the building.

This report provides an update to the JCA report, and should be cross referenced with the previous report.

Methods

The update survey was carried out by Miranda Cowan MCIEEM on 15th June 2020. The survey was based upon methodologies prescribed by Collins (2016)². This involved a detailed inspection of the exterior and interior of the building. Any structural features with potential for use by roosting bats were recorded and any suitable access points were identified. Any direct evidence of bats, such as scratch marks, oil stains, droppings and feeding remains were also identified.

Results

Bungalow

The bungalow is constructed from bricks and cladded with wooden slats. A pitched roof structure is constructed of wood, with prefabricated concrete tiles, with all barge-boarding, soffits and fascia constructed from wood.

¹ Butler, J. (2018). *Extended Phase 1 Habitat and Bat Survey Report at: 1 Sandbeds, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD9 6RD* [technical report]. JCA Ltd, Halifax

² Collins, J. (ed) (2016). *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd Edition)*. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

There were no obvious voids between the wooden boarding and roof tiles and no evidence of bat droppings throughout.

Externally, two layers of chicken wire had been placed along the length of the soffit boards and attached to the fascia with nails. The layering of wire significantly prevents any access or egress for bats. Only two small voids (4 x 3 cm) in the wire were present on the east-facing aspect of the building, although the gaps were heavily cobwebbed.

Previous surveys completed by JCA identified a small number of missing roof tiles, however, at the time of this more recent assessment, there was significant accumulation of moss throughout the roof tiles, which concealed any previously noted potential gaps. The southern aspect of the roof was covered with roofing felt which was securely fixed to the roof with no obvious gaps.

No evidence of bat droppings was identified below two voids on the east-facing aspect of the bungalow or throughout the remainder of the building.

Garage

The garage was built from a combination of bricks, wood and corrugated asbestos, with the overhangs of the roof being concealed with vegetation and cobwebs. There was no evidence of bat droppings internally or externally of the garage.

The structure of the garage would otherwise be more suitable for accommodating breeding birds, particularly species such as blackbird or robin. At the time of the survey, no active nests were identified.

Conclusion

Due to the presence of chicken wire and accumulations of moss across the roof tiles, the potential for roosting bats is assessed as low. No bat droppings were located either externally or internally of the bungalow or garage.

Due to the absence of signs of bats both during this and the previous surveys, it is not anticipated that bats are roosting within the building, and therefore no further surveys are recommended. In the unlikely event that bats are identified during demolition of the building, works should cease and a suitably qualified ecologist should be consulted immediately.

Yours faithfully,

David Watts MCIEEM

Principal Ecologist

David Watts Associates Ltd

Appendix 1: Photographs



Bungalow, east aspect



Bungalow, north aspect



Bungalow, south aspect



Bungalow, roof tiles



Garage



Garage internal roof