Martin Prescott Environmental Services

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11.5.2021

Bat Survey of 19 Chadwick Crescent, Dewsbury
Consultant- Martin Prescott (lic. no. 2015-15466-CLS)

Contents

Summary

The building was considered to have low bat roosting potential. No signs of bat occupation were found. Work can proceed with very low risk to roosting bats. The recommended precautions must be taken.

1. Introduction

1.1 Reason for Survey

It is planned to extend this building, and there is the potential to harm bats and destroy their roosts and a bat survey was requested.
The extension will be to the rear (NE) and the side (NW) and being 2-storey will impinge of the roof area at these aspects.

1.2 The Site

The building was at 19 Chadwick Crescent, Dewsbury. WF13 2JF.

2. Method

2.1 Risk Assessment, Possible Hazards

Due to the present virus outbreak masks and disposable gloves were worn when inside the building and the distance of 2 metres was maintained between surveyors and occupants of the house.
The building was easily accessed. There were no hazards other than those normally encountered when surveying basically sound buildings or at night.

2.2 Daylight Survey, 7.5.2021

A daylight survey was carried out in order to assess the site and search for potential roosting sites and sign of bat occupation.
The outside of the building was searched for signs of bats such as their prey remains, droppings and urine stains and gaps suitable for bat access.
The loft was not boarded out and had a thick layer of insulation on the floor. It was therefore not possible to see where the beams were and a full search was not considered safe. It was only searched from the loft hatch.
The building was assessed for nesting bird potential.

2.3 Evening Emergence Survey, 7.5.2021

Two surveyors, experienced in the use and limitations of bat detectors, were sited around the buildings such that any emerging bats would be in view.
The survey started at 15 minutes before sunset and ended about 75 minutes after sunset by which time it was too dark to see clearly.
All observed bat activity and the weather conditions were recorded.
Any signs of nesting birds were recorded.

2.4 Equipment

The equipment used consisted of hand-held torches, head torches, dust masks, disposable gloves, heterodyne bat detectors (Batbox III, Magenta and Duet), an Anabat Express detector and short-focus binoculars.

3. Results

3.1 Daylight Survey, 7.5.2021, see photos and plan

The house was of brick with a hipped tile main roof with a small gable to the front.
It was occupied.
There were possible gaps where bats could gain access such as under hanging tiles at the small front gable and under soffits at the corners of the roof area.

There was one loft which was heavily insulated at floor level. The roof tiles were felt-lined.
Access was not considered safe as the beams could not be located so it was searched from the loft hatch.
This was not considered a serious limitation as it was a small empty loft.
No signs of bat occupation were found.

The house was considered to have low bat roosting potential.

3.2 Possible Foraging Sites

The immediate area included a tree line leading from the bottom of the garden about 15 metres from the house and gardens with occasional trees. This was likely to have moderate bat foraging potential for Common Pipistrelle with other species possible.
There was an urban park with many mature trees and a river about 450 metres away both likely to have moderate-high bat foraging potential for Common Pipistrelle, with other species likely.

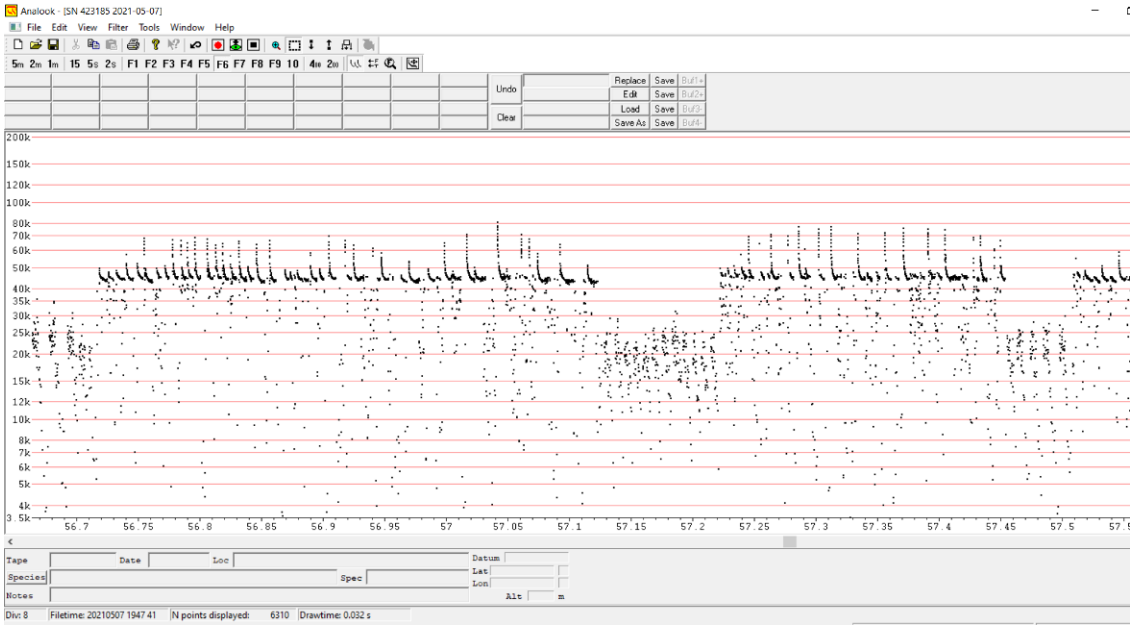
3.3 Alternative Roosting Sites

There were many houses nearby which were likely to have significant potential for roosting bats.

3.4 Evening Emergence Survey 7.5.2021

Sunset was at approximately 21.49hrs BST and the weather conditions at sunset were 11.5c, 0/8 cloud, wind Beaufort 0. The temperature had dropped to 7.0c by the end of the survey.
The survey started at 21.34 and ended at 22.17 by which time it was too dark to see clearly.
The first bat recorded was a Common Pipistrelle, heard only at 21.06. At 21.09 a Common Pipistrelle was seen arriving from the NW and heading SE. Between then and 21.30, 38 Common Pipistrelles were seen behaving in roughly the same way. By this time, it was becoming more difficult to see the bats, but from contacts with the heterodyne detectors, a low level of bat commuting and foraging activity was recorded between then and the end of the survey.
Only Common Pipistrelles were recorded.
Emergence was neither observed no suspected.

Both surveyors have many years' experience in the use and limitations of heterodyne bat detectors. They were Martin Prescott (27 years' experience) and Gabriele Simms (16 years' experience).



Common Pipistrelle confirmed by Anabat sonogram

No signs of nesting birds were seen.

4. Conclusions

4.1 The house was considered to have low bat roosting potential.
Although there were gaps suitable for bat access, there were many other houses within 300 metres which were likely to have many suitable gaps.
No bats were roosting in the building at the times of the survey.

4.2 There were many buildings nearby which were considered to have significant bat roosting potential and there was strong evidence that there was a Common Pipistrelle maternity roost close by to the north-west of this building.

4.3 Nesting birds are very unlikely.

5. Recommendations

5.1 Work can commence with minimal risk to roosting bats.
If work has not started by May 2022, a repeat survey will be required.

5.2 It should be remembered that bats are occasionally found in the most unexpected places. If any bats are found during the work, Natural England (01942 820364), the local bat group, or myself (0161 796 6211, 07946 488467) must be notified and work stopped immediately.

5.3 Problems with nesting birds are not anticipated, however if any active nests are found, they must be left undisturbed until the young have fledged. If in any doubt refer to the consultant.

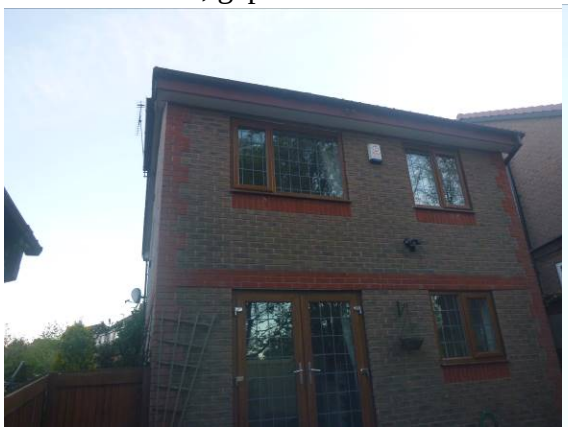
6. Photos/plan

P1 Front aspect (SW)

P2 Possible gap under hanging tiles

P3 West corner, gap under soffit

P4 NW gable, well-sealed



P5 Rear aspect, NE

P6 Gap in soffit, East corner

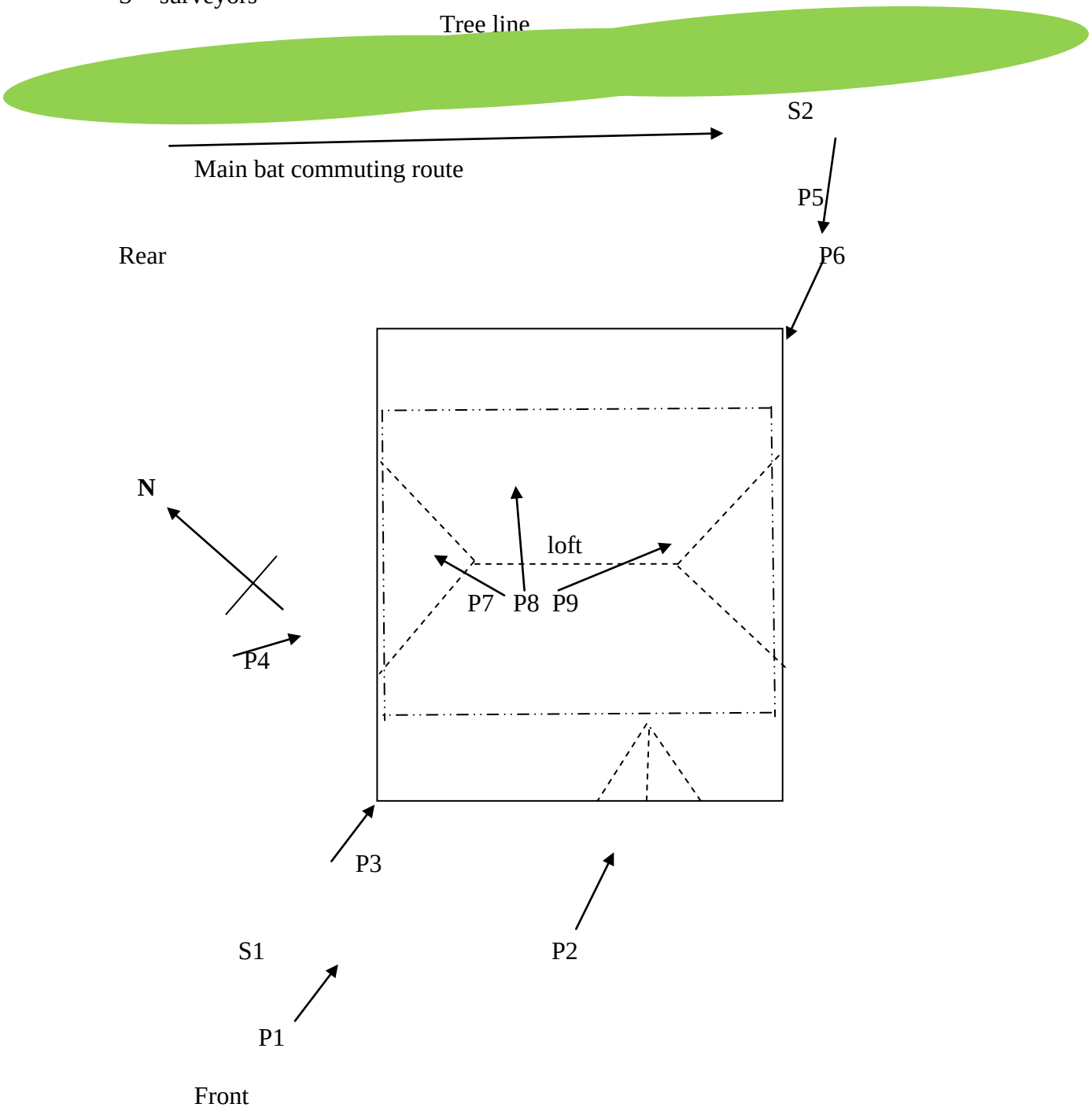
P7 Loft, felting in good condition

P8 Loft, thick layer of insulation

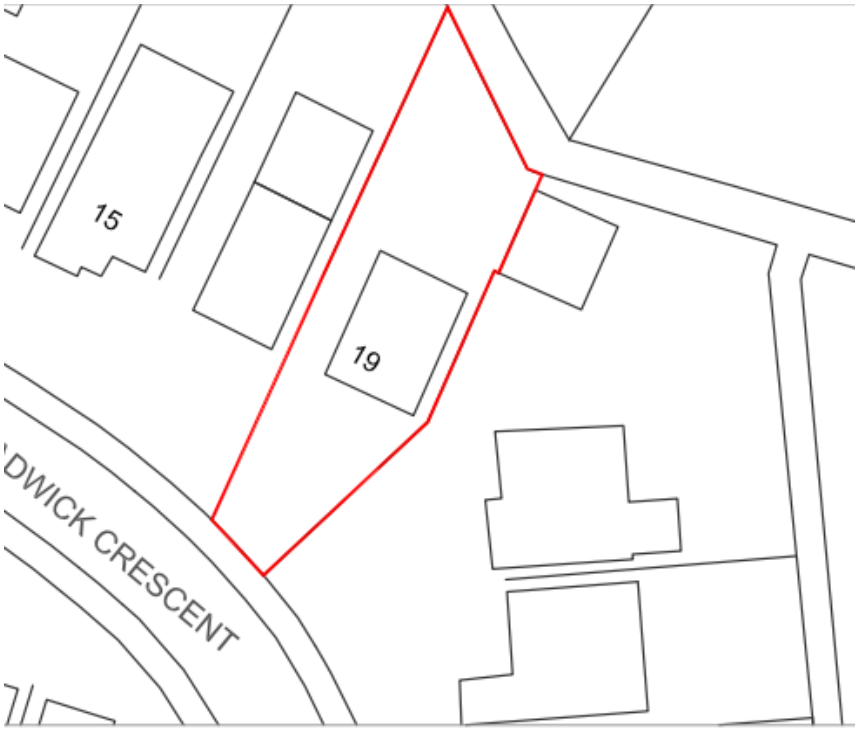
P9 Loft, SE gable. No signs such as droppings

Plan, not to scale

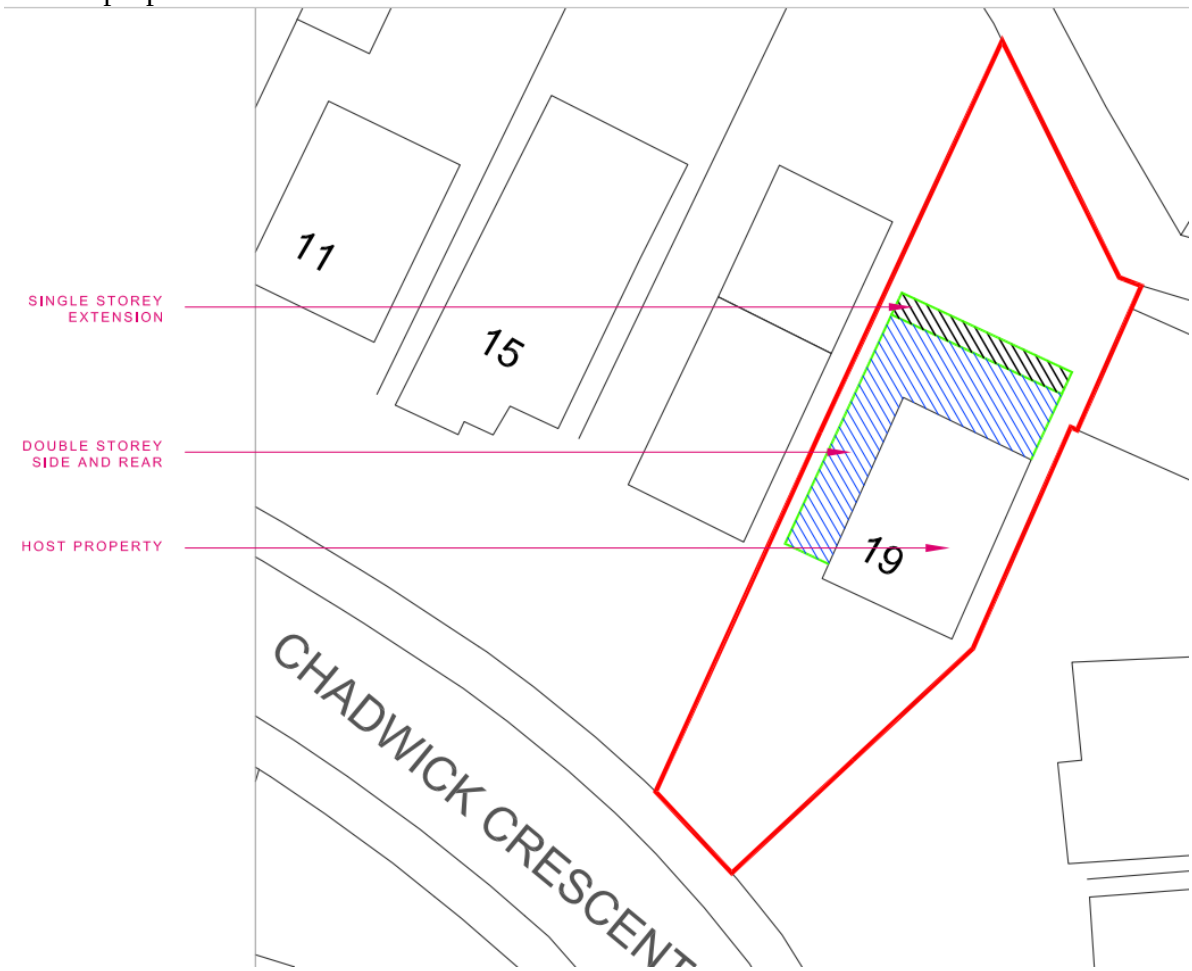
P = photos
S = surveyors



Location Plan



Plan of proposed extensions



7. Surveyors Qualifications

Martin Prescott: Curriculum Vitae to January 2021

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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- 2019. Kirklees Valley, Bury, Mill Pond Bat Survey, Bury. 32 ponds repeatedly surveyed. Initiation through to final report- voluntary. 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 Lancs. 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 Lancs. Bat Group. I have run small parts of these training days.**
2003-2004	**Training for bat roost visitors licence**
October 2004	**Obtained bat roost visitor (conservation) licence.**

EN Bat (Science and Education) licence, all counties of England
EN Bat (Conservation) licence, Gtr 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 **October 2010**	**Confined spaces training - Howarth Training and Safety updated**
July 2011	**Advanced Bat Survey Techniques, Geoff Billington (4 days)**
July 2012	**"Anabat" stage 2 training, Dr Sandie Sowler**

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