Bat, and Breeding Bird Scoping Survey

Rose and Crown Inn, Golcar

February 2023

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Site:

Rose and Crown Inn,
132 Knowl Road,
Golcar,
Huddersfield,
HD7 4AN

Dates: Scoping survey: 24th January 2023

Client's agent: L'Arche Developments (Yorkshire) Ltd

Planning Authority: Kirklees Council

Our ref: 1503-2023

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1 Summary

A bat, breeding bird and barn owl scoping survey at Rose and Crown, Golcar has found no evidence of bat use (feeding remains/droppings) within any of the surveyed buildings. However, low potential bat roosting habitat (PBRH) was identified within Buildings 1, 1a, 2, 3 & 4. Potential habitat includes wall top crevices, and gaps between stone slate tiles and liner.

Voids in Buildings 1 and 1a will not provide suitable habitat for significant roosts of void dwelling species; they are low, with cluttered flight spaces and no identifiable access. Buildings 3 void does offer potential habitat, however, there is no evidence to suggest use by void dwelling species. Due to a lack of evidence and minimal void habitat, the risk of void-dwelling species using the site in a maternity capacity is considered unlikely.

Demolition of Buildings 1, 1a, 2, 3 & 4 will result in the loss of potential crevice roost habitat that could not be fully assessed by visual inspection alone. Therefore, bat activity surveys, carried out between May and August, will be required to complete assessment the buildings and determine if the proposed development will impact roosting bats.

Crevice habitat lost to the development will be mitigated for via the installation of five integral bat boxes incorporated into the proposed dwellings. This level of mitigation is considered proportionate for the amount of PBRH that will be lost. Further mitigation may be required if summer surveys identify bat roosts. However, due to a lack of evidence and minimal void habitat mitigation is unlikely to require a change in plans.

There is potential for nesting birds to be impacted if they are utilising the dense vegetation on the south aspect of Building 1. Therefore, it is recommended that vegetation removal is undertaken outside of bird nesting season (March-August). However, if this is not possible then a pre-works check of the vegetation should be undertaken prior to works.

2 Introduction

MAB Environment and Ecology Ltd were commissioned by L'Arche Developments (Yorkshire) Ltd to undertake a bat, breeding bird and barn owl scoping survey on a pub and meeting house at The Rose and Crown Inn to accompany a planning application for demolition of the buildings and construction of 7 residential dwellings. Development plans can be found in Appendix 3.

The site is located within Golcar, Huddersfield (Central grid reference: SE09901576). The location of the site is shown on Figure 1 below, and the application site boundary is shown in Figure 2.

The report was written by Jake Walker BSc (Hons) of MAB Environment and Ecology Ltd.

The report's primary objective is to provide an impact assessment for the development on bats, define any necessary mitigation proposals, and to assess the requirement for a Protected Species Licence. A secondary objective is to assess potential impact on breeding birds.

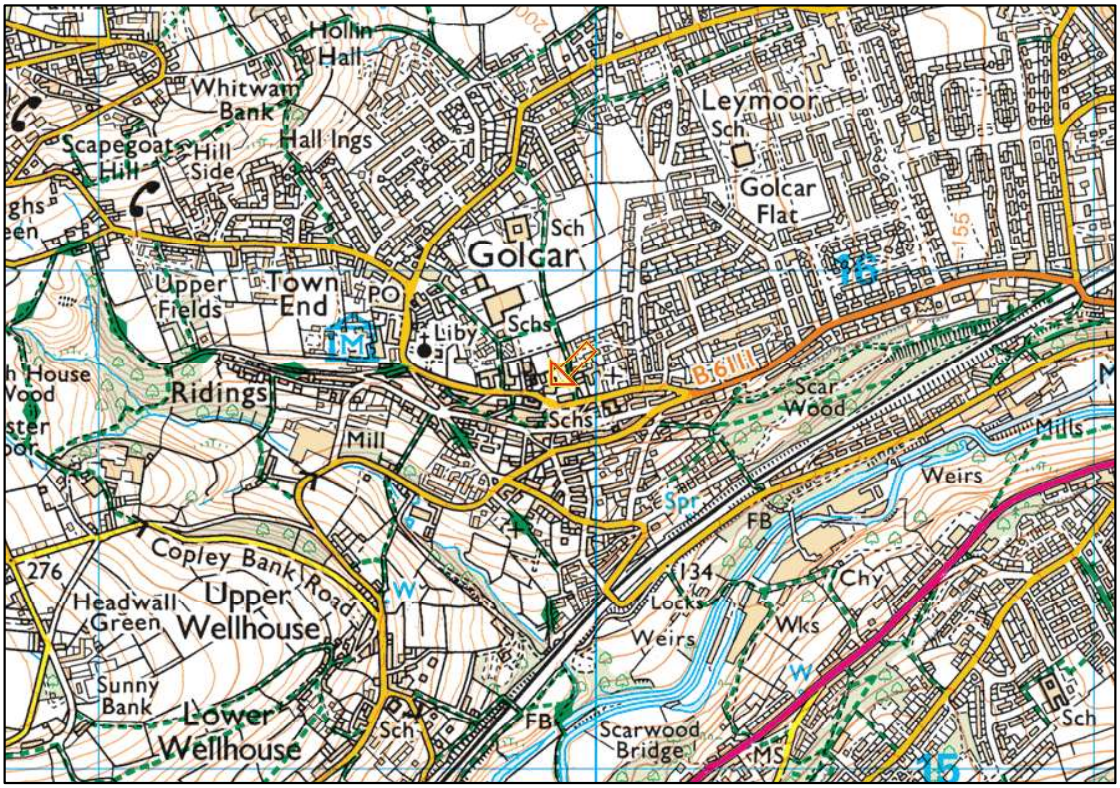

Figure 1: Site location.

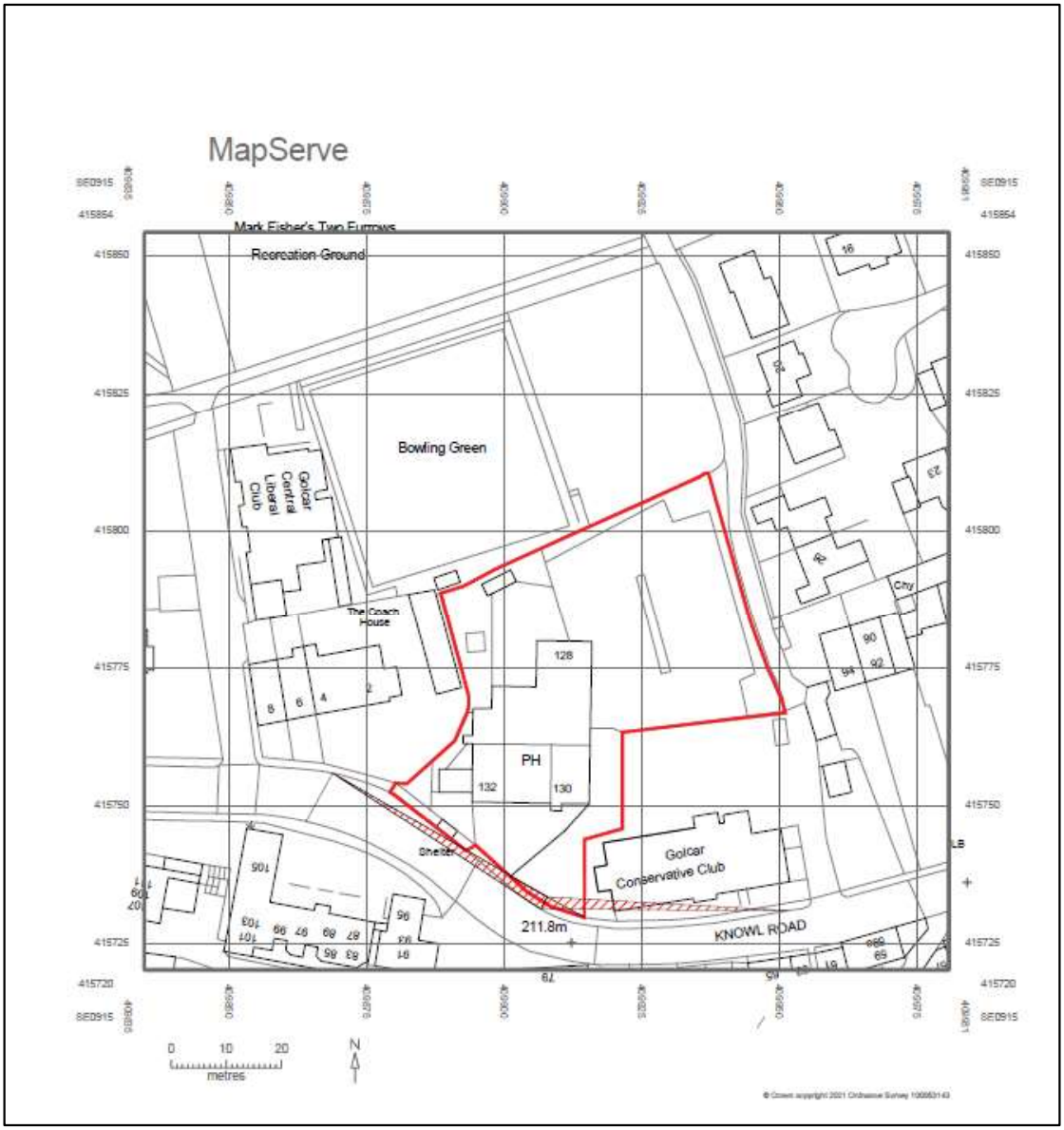

Figure 2: Red line application boundary.

3 Methodology

3.1 Desktop Study

3.1.1 Bat roost records for a 2km radius around the site were commissioned from the North Yorkshire Bat Group (NYBG).

3.1.2 Aerial imagery from Google Earth and 'MAGIC' government website were used to assess the location of the site and the surrounding habitat for value to bats. This includes proximity of the site to good bat foraging habitat such as woodland and water bodies and if the site is linked to such habitats by linear features like hedgerows, woodland edges or rivers which bats use to commute around the environment.

3.2 Field Survey

3.2.1 The site was surveyed by Jake Walker who is a Senior Ecologist and a qualifying member of CIEEM. He has worked for MAB since 2020 and holds a Class Survey Licence WLM-A34 (Bat Survey Level 1) registration number 2021-51430-CLS-CLS; and a Level 1 Class Survey Great Crested Newt Licence 2022-10177-CL08-GCN. He has a BSc (Hons) in Ecology and Environmental Science from the University of Hull.

3.2.2 The interior and exterior of the buildings were inspected during the day using halogen torches (500,000 candle power), binoculars, & ladders. All normal signs of bat use were looked for, including bats, bat droppings, feeding waste, entry and exit holes, grease marks, dead bats, and the sounds/smells of bat roosts.

3.2.3 All signs of breeding bird activity and barn owl (*Tyto alba*) activity were looked for. Signs looked for included white droppings, often vertical down walls or beams; active nests and nesting materials; (birds flying into and out of barns: generally, summer only); bird feathers, particularly swift (*Apus apus*), swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) and house martin (*Delichon urbica*), bird corpses, feeding waste (including pellets), and the sound/smell of birds.

3.2.4 Other trees within the site and areas of vegetation were also assessed for value to bats and their importance as foraging and commuting habitat.

3.2.5 The buildings were assessed for their degree of potential to support roosting bats. This includes assessing the building design, materials and condition. See Table 1 for more information.

Colour code	Bat roost potential.	Roosting habitats	Commuting and foraging habitats
	Confirmed	Signs of roosting bats present (e.g. entry / exit points, accumulated bat droppings, visible bats).	
Red	High risk	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.
Amber	Moderate risk	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only-the assessments in this table are made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting such as a line of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
Yellow	Low risk	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. Unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation)	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. Not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat. Suitable but isolated habitat that could only be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Grey	Negligible risk	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats.

Table 1: Guidelines for assessing the suitability of proposed development sites for bats. Adapted from BCT Bat surveys for Professional Ecologists, Good Practice Guidelines 2016.

4 Constraints

The surveys were constrained by season: bats were not active at the time of the survey, therefore, external evidence of bats is likely to have been removed by weather, and bat activity survey methodology is not available.

5 Site Description

The site is a former pub and meeting house consisting of several interconnected buildings. Buildings are fully described in Section 6.2 Visual inspection.

Figure 3: Target buildings outlined in red.

6 Results

6.1 Desktop Study

The site is situated within Golcar town, consequently, the surrounding habitat is predominately residential housing and gardens which will be of generally low value to foraging bats. However, expanses of urban green space and parcels of woodland are present within the immediate vicinity, these areas will offer higher quality foraging and commuting habitats; additionally, large expanses of deciduous woodland are located approximately 500m west of the site. Overall, the surrounding landscape will be of moderate quality for foraging bats; however, due to the intensive urbanisation of the surroundings increased levels of artificial light may have degraded the foraging habitat and its overall value to foraging bats.

Figure 4. Aerial view of the surrounding landscape.

6.1.2 Bat Group Records

Results of the West Yorkshire Bat Group record search identified no bat records relating directly to the site. Many of the records are incomplete or historical, with the most significant for a common pipistrelle maternity roost in 1996 approximately 1.1km south of the site. Other species recorded within 2km include Daubenton's and Natterer's bats. Full WYBG records are shown below in Table 2.

Table 2: Results of WYBG 2km record search.

Grid Ref	Location Name	Date	Common Name	Abundance
SE085144		07/08/2011	Daubenton's Bat	1 pass Count of Adult
SE085144	Slaithwaite Spa, River Colne	14/08/2008	Daubenton's Bat	0 Count of Adult
SE085144	Slaithwaite Spa, River Colne	28/08/2008	Daubenton's Bat	1 unsure Count of Adult
SE085144	Slaithwaite Spa, River Colne	10/08/2009	Daubenton's Bat	0 passes 1 unsure Count of Adult
SE085144	Slaithwaite Spa, River Colne	31/08/2009	Daubenton's Bat	0 passes 2 unsure Count of Adult
SE085144		15/08/2010	Daubenton's Bat	2 unsure Count of Adult
SE108156	Birch Park	01/01/1985	Natterer's Bat	1 Count of Adult
SE0985717729	99 Lamb Hall Rd, Longwood, HD3 3TH	02/06/1986	Pipistrellus	21-50 Count of Adult
SE1015917459	Kirklees, 70 Lamb Hall Road, Longwood, Huddersfield HD3 3TG	27/10/2000	Pipistrellus	
SE095147	Lowestwood Lane	05/08/1996	Common Pipistrelle	51-100 Count of Adult
SE104172	Lamb Hall Road	05/07/1999	Common Pipistrelle	21-50 Count of Adult
SE0958015074	8 Oak Drive	01/06/2001	Common Pipistrelle	uknown Count of Adult
SE098140	78 Causewayside, Linthwaite, Huddersfield	25/08/2010	Common Pipistrelle	
SE097145	Hoyle Ing Dyeworks, Linthwaite, Huddersfield	16/05/2011	Common Pipistrelle	1 Count of Adult
SE1120615322	67 Warneford Road, Cowlersley, Huddersfield	10/07/2006	Pipistrelle Bat species	

SE0938414355	Thornton & Ross, Linthwaite, Huddersfield	09/07/2007	Pipistrelle Bat species	not recorded Range
SE1003117597	82 Lamb Hall Rd, Longwood, HD3 3TJ	26/06/1996	Vesper Bat species	
SE0959115118	101 Lowestwood La, Golcar	02/04/1997	Vesper Bat species	Not Recorded Range
SE108165	Broomfield House, Broomroyd, Milnsbridge, Huddersfield	03/12/1998	Vesper Bat species	
SE0945413875	38 Stones Lane, Linthwaite, Huddersfield, HD7 5PD	23/07/2001	Vesper Bat species	30 Count of Adult
SE1037015800	British Legion, Golcar	20/08/2002	Vesper Bat species	Abundance not record Count
SE10681661	42 Leymoor Road, Longwood, Huddersfield, Kirklees	30/06/2005	Vesper Bat species	1 Count of Juvenile
SE1015917458	70 Lamb Hall Road, Longwood, Huddersfield	12/08/2007	Vesper Bat species	
SE10041400	168b The Rock Gillroyd Lane, Linthwiate, Huddersfield, HD7 5SR	03/09/2014	Vesper Bat species	

6.2 Visual Inspection

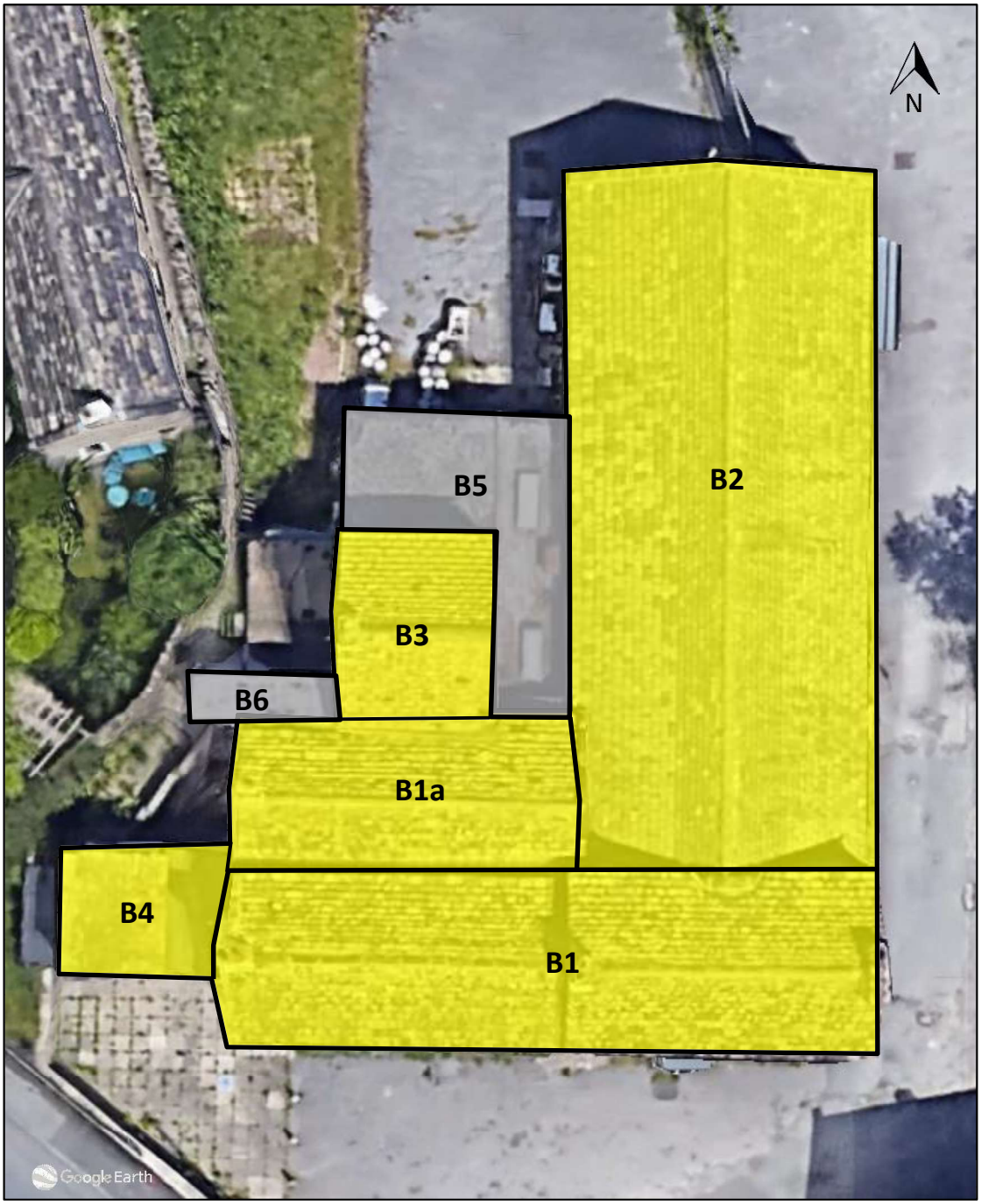

Figure 5: Visual inspection results.

<table>
<tr><th>Building ref</th><th>Description & photos</th><th>PBRH features</th></tr>
<tr><td>Building 1: Low risk of supporting roosting bats</td><td>Traditional 2-storey pub, with rendered stone walls and a bitumen lined, stone slate roof. Abundance of gaps between stone slate tiles, gaps between tiles and liner. Gaps along wall tops on the south elevation. Loft void is low height with exposed timber trusses, cluttered space which is heavily cobwebbed. No evidence of roosting bats (droppings/feeding remains) identified. No evidence of nesting birds, however, dense vegetation on the south elevation could support nests.
<table>
<tr><td> 
Photo 1: Building 1 - south aspect.</td><td> 
Photo 2: Building 1.</td><td> 
Photo 3: wall top gap.</td><td> 
Photo 4: Wall top gaps.</td></tr>
<tr><td> 
Photo 5: Internal roof structure.</td><td> 
Photo 6: Void structure.</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
</table>
</td><td>Gaps between stone slate tiles and liner

Wall top gaps & masonry crevices around timber purlins.</td></tr>
<tr><td>B5 & B6: Negligible risk of supporting roosting bats.</td><td>Single-storey flat roofed extensions – no potential bat roost habitat.</td><td>No PBRH</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr>
<td>Building 1a: Low risk of supporting roosting bats</td>
<td>Two-storey building extending from the north aspect of Building 1. Same construction as building 1. PBRH includes gaps between stone tiles and liner, and along wall tops. No evidence of bats found within void – small and low in height & cobwebbed. No clearly identifiable access.

Photo 7: Building 1a - west elevation.

Photo 8: Wall top gap.

Photo 9: North roof – gaps between tiles.

Photo 10: Building 1a void.</td>
<td>Gaps between tiles and liner and along wall tops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building 3: Low risk of supporting roosting bats</td>
<td>Two -storey extension, extending from north elevation of 1a. Stone clad, with bitumen lined, stone slate roof. – gaps between tiles. No evidence of bats in roof void, potential access via gaps between tiles and ripped bitumastic liner. Some internal masonry crevices between brickwork on west gable wall.

Photo 11: Building 3 – north elevation.

Photo 12: Building 3 void.

Photo 13: Deteriorated roof liner.</td>
<td>Gaps between stone tiles and liner

Potential void habitat and internal crevices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building 2: Low risk of supporting roosting bats.</td>
<td>Large single-storey building extending from the north elevation of B1. In generally good condition with well pointed walls and a blue slate tile roof – some gaps between slate tiles, ridge is well sealed. Gaps along eaves of west elevation. False ceiling internally no access to void space.

Photo 14: East elevation.

Photo 15: east roof.

Photo 16: West roof.

Photo 17: Eaves gap – west elevation.</td>
<td>Gaps between slate tiles and along eaves.</td>
</tr>
</table>

Building 4: Low risk of supporting roosting bats.	Single-storey extension, stone built with partially rendered walls on the north elevation. Roof is a combination of flat and lean to roof. Lean-to roof is tiles with stone slate tiles; low number of gaps between stone tiles.  **Photo 18: B6 – south elevation.**  **Photo 19: West elevation.**	Gaps between stone slate tiles.

7 Discussion and Analysis

No evidence of bat use (feeding remains/droppings) was found in any of the surveyed buildings, and Buildings 5 & 6 have a negligible risk of supporting bats. Additionally, the voids of Buildings 1 and 1a are sub-optimal for supporting void dwelling species, the voids are generally small with cluttered flight spaces; additionally, there were no clearly identifiable access points into the voids. Subsequently, the risk of void-dwelling species utilising these areas in a significant capacity is considered negligible.

No evidence of bats was identified within B3, therefore current evidence suggests that the void has not been utilised by void-dwelling species. However, the void does offer suitable potential roost habitat. With potential access via gaps between tiles and liner.

Buildings 1, 1a, 2, 3 and 4 have a low potential risk of supporting roosting bats. Potential roost habitat is generally limited to crevice habitat, including gaps between stone slate tiles and liner, wall top gaps and gaps along eaves. Due to the number and location, bat use of these areas could not be ruled out by visual inspection alone.

Demolition of Buildings 1, 1a, 2, 3 and 4, will result in the loss of PBRH that could not be fully assessed by visual inspection alone. Therefore, to complete the assessment bat activity surveys during the optimal survey season is required.

Due to a lack of evidence and minimal void habitat, the risk of void-dwelling species using the site in a maternity capacity is considered unlikely. Therefore, mitigation for any roosts identified by the summer surveys should not require a change in plans and can be incorporated within the existing development plan.

No evidence of nesting birds was identified in any of the buildings. However, dense vegetation along the south elevation of B1 could support common passerine species.

8 Impact Assessment

Bats

No evidence has been found to indicate that the development of the site will impact bats, however, low potential crevice-dwelling bat habitat was identified in Buildings 1, 1a, 2, 3 & 4. Demolition of these buildings will result in the loss of potential roost habitat that could not be fully assessed by visual inspection alone. There is also a risk of harm or disturbance to individual bats whilst the intended work is carried out. Table 2 illustrates the impacts on bats that may be caused by the demolition of the buildings.

Impact on bats	Impact on roosting habitats
Physical disturbance Noise disturbance through, for example increased human presence or use of noise generating equipment. Injury/mortality (e.g. in roost during destruction or through collision with road/rail traffic)	Modification of access point to roost either physically or through, for example lighting or removal of vegetation. Modification of roost either physically, for example by roof removal, or through, for example, changed temperature, humidity, ventilation or lighting regime. Loss of roost.

Table 3: Impacts on bats that can arise from proposed activities (from BCT survey guidelines 2016).

Birds

There is no evidence to suggest that the demolition of the buildings will impact nesting birds. However, dense vegetation on the south elevation of Building 1 could support nesting birds. Therefore, there is a risk of disturbance to nesting birds if works are undertaken during the bird nesting season.

9 Mitigation & Compensation

9.1 Mitigation Summary

To gain a full understanding of the use of the potential roost habitat identified across the low-risk buildings (1, 1a, 2,3 & 4), and to assess the extent to which bats may be affected by the proposed development, bat activity surveys of these buildings will be required. Surveys should be undertaken during the during optimal bat activity season (May-August).

No evidence of void roosting bats was identified within any of the buildings, and most of the voids are unsuitable for supporting significant roosts of void-dwelling species. Therefore, mitigation for roosts identified in summer should be able to be mitigated for via the incorporation of long-lasting professional-quality bat boxes.

Loss of potential bat roost habitat from the development should be mitigated for via the installation of 5 integral bat boxes. These should be installed within the proposed residential dwellings, placed in suitable locations, agreed by a suitable qualified ecologist. Replacement roost habitat should be integrated into the developments. Examples include Schwegler 1FR/2RF, Vivara Pro Build-in WoodStone Bat Box, and Bat access bricks which allow access into cavity walls. This level of mitigation is considered proportionate for the amount of PBRH that will be lost to the development, however, should the summer activity surveys identify bat roosts, additional boxes may be required.

We recommend that future works be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season. If this timing is not possible then a check should be made for active bird nests in areas to be worked on, immediately prior to works. If any nests are discovered, work to these areas shall be carried out once any chicks have fledged to avoid disturbance.

10 Recommended Ecological Enhancement

To enhance the site for nesting birds, integral bird nesting features could be installed within the proposed properties. Bird nest features should support local BAP species. Examples of suitable integral nesting habitat includes: Schwegler sparrow terrace 1SP which will provide nesting opportunities for house sparrows, a Kirklees BAP species. Provision for swifts, a UK Red List species, should also be included, examples of suitable habitat include, Vivara pro WoodStone Build-in Swift Nest Box Deep & No. 16 Schwegler Swift Box. Integrated bird habitat could be installed within 50% of the proposed dwellings.

11 Information concerning bat protection and the planning system

11.1 Relevant Legislation

All bat species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

Under the WCA it is an offence for any person to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bat; to intentionally disturb any wild bat while it is occupying a structure or place that it uses for shelter or protection; to intentionally damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place that a wild bat uses for shelter or protection; to be in possession or control of any live or dead wild bat, or any part of, or anything derived from a wild bat; or to sell, offer or expose for sale, or possess or transport for the purpose of sale, any live or dead wild bat, or any part of, or anything derived from a wild bat.

Under The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, it is an offence to (a) deliberately capture, injure or kills any wild animal of a European protected species (EPS), (b) deliberately disturb wild animals of any such species, (c)deliberately take or destroy the eggs of such an animal, or (d)damages or destroys a breeding site or resting place of such an animal. Deliberate disturbance of animals of a European protected species (EPS) includes in particular any disturbance which is likely to impair their ability (i) to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young; or (ii) in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

*Prosecution could result in imprisonment, fines of £5,000 per animal affected and confiscation of vehicles and equipment used***.** In order to minimise the risk of breaking the law it is essential to work with care to avoid harming bats, to be aware of the procedures to be followed if bats are found during works, and to commission surveys and expert advice as required to minimise the risk of reckless harm to bats.

11.2 Licences

Where it is proposed to carry out works which will damage / destroy a bat roost or disturb bats to a significant degree, an EPS licence must first be obtained from the Natural England (even if no bats are expected to be present when the work is carried out). The application for a license normally requires a full knowledge of the use of a site by bats, including species, numbers, and timings. Gathering this information usually involves surveying throughout the bat active season. The licence may require ongoing monitoring of the site following completion of the works.

Licences can only be issued if Natural England are satisfied that there is no satisfactory alternative to the development and that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

11.3 Planning and Wildlife

National planning guidance for ecological issues is set out in the updated February 2019 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The requirements are consistent with those specified in the July 2018 NPPF; which advocate biodiversity net gain and improvement where possible, as evidenced below.

Paragraph 174 refers to the requirement of plans to "protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity" In order to do this, "plans should:

a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity."

In paragraph 175 the NPPF indicates that "when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and
d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity."

The accompanying ODPM/Defra Circular 06/2005 remains pertinent; circular 06/2005 is prescriptive in how planning officers should deal with protected species, see paragraphs 98 and 99:

The presence of a protected species is a material consideration when considering a proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat (see ODPM/Defra Circular, para 98)

LPAs should consider attaching planning conditions/entering into planning obligations to enable protection of species. They should also advise developers that

they must comply with any statutory species protection issues affecting the site (ODPM/Defra Circular, para 98)

The presence and extent to which protected species will be affected must be established before planning permission is granted. If not, a decision will have been made without all the facts (ODPM/Defra Circular, para 99)

Any measures necessary to protect the species should be conditioned/planning obligations used, before the permission is granted. Conditions can also be placed on a permission in order to prevent development proceeding without a Habitats Regulations Licence (ODPM/Defra Circular, para 99).

The need to ensure ecological surveys are carried out should therefore only be left to coverage under planning conditions in exceptional circumstances.

Further to NPPF and OPDM Circular 06/2005, Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) states that 'Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity'. Section 40(3) also states that 'conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat'.

12 References

Circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System.
http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/circularbiodiversity

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

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. & McLeish, A.P. (2004). *Bat Workers Manual*. JNCC

Bat Mitigation Guidelines 2021 (Beta version). CIEEM 2021.

National Planning Policy Framework 2019:
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/revised-national-planning-policy-framework#revised-national-planning-policy-framework

Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/579/regulation/1/made

Appendix 1: Glossary of bat roost terms

Bat Roost Definitions:

Day roost: a place where individual bats, or small groups of males, rest or shelter in the day but are rarely found by night in the summer.

Night roost: a place where bats rest or shelter in the night but are rarely found in the day. May be used by a single individual on occasion or it could be used regularly by the whole colony.

Feeding roost: a place where individual bats or a few individuals rest or feed during the night but are rarely present by day.

Transitional / occasional roost: used by a few individuals or occasionally small groups for generally short periods of time on waking from hibernation or in the period prior to hibernation.

Swarming site: where large numbers of males and females gather during late summer to autumn. Appear to be important mating sites.

Mating sites: where mating takes place from later summer and can continue through winter.

Maternity roost: where female bats give birth and raise their young to independence.

Hibernation roost: where bats may be found individually or together during winter. They have a constant cool temperature and high humidity.

Satellite roost: an alternative roost found in close proximity to the main nursery colony used by a few individual breeding females to small groups of breeding females throughout the breeding season.

Appendix 2: Standard good working practices in relation to bats

Bats are small, mobile animals. Individual bats can fit into gaps 14-20mm wide. They can roost in a number of places including crevices between stonework, under roof and ridge tiles, in cavity walls, behind barge boards, in soffits and fascias and around window frames. Builders should always be aware of the potential for bats to be present in almost any small gap accessible from the outside in a building. The following guidelines are provided in order to reduce the risk of harm to individual bats.

- Roofs to be replaced, or which are parts of a building to be demolished, should be dismantled carefully by hand. Ridge tiles, roof tiles and coping stones should always be lifted upwards and not slid off as this may squash/crush bats.
- Re-pointing of crevices should be done between April and October when bats are active. Crevices should be fully inspected for bats using a torch prior to re-pointing.
- Any existing mortar to be raked should be done so by hand (not with a mechanical device).
- Look out for bats during construction works. Bats are opportunistic and may use gaps overnight that have been created during works carried out in the daytime.
- If any bats are found works should stop and the Bat Conservation Trust (0845 1300 228) or a suitably qualified bat ecologist should be contacted.

If it is necessary to pick a bat up always use gloves. It should be carefully caught in a cardboard box and kept in a quiet, dark place. The Bat Conservation Trust or a suitably qualified bat ecologist should be contacted.

Appendix 3: Development plan