

18 Springwood Road, Thongsbridge

Bat Survey Report

31 July 2022



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1. Summary

- 1.1.1 The bat survey was commissioned by the client Ruth Hellawell on 15 June 2022. The survey was undertaken to inform a planning application for the proposed demolition of a single storey dwelling.
- 1.1.2 The preliminary roost assessment survey and two nocturnal surveys were conducted in July 2022.
- 1.1.3 A single common pipistrelle was recorded roosting in the verge of the roof on the southern gable end. Consequently, a European Protected Species Mitigation Licence must be obtained, or the site registered under the Bat Mitigation Class Licence system. The mitigation described below will form part of the licence application.
- 1.1.4 To mitigate for the loss of the summer day roost, three Greenwoods Ecohabitat 'Two-Crevise' bat boxes will be erected on trees near the bat roost.
- 1.1.5 The demolition (specifically the work impacting the roost) should be completed either during spring (mid-March to May) or autumn (September to early November).
- 1.1.6 The roof tiles must be removed by hand under supervision following a toolbox talk by an ecologist.
- 1.1.7 Any bats that are captured should be moved to the bat boxes on the nearby trees. Any injured bats will be taken into care, pending future release on the site.
- 1.1.8 If capture of bats is not possible then exclusion with a one-way exclusion device would be required. Exclusion devices would remain in place for a minimum of five nights of suitable weather prior to the start of works in that area in order to give the bats the opportunity to leave the roost.

2. Introduction

- 2.1.1 The bat roost survey was commissioned by the client Ruth Hellawell on 15 June 2022. The survey was undertaken to inform a planning application for the proposed demolition of a single storey dwelling.
- 2.1.2 The building is situated in a semi-rural location in the village of Thongsbridge 1.7km northeast of Holmfirth and 6.5km south of Huddersfield town centre.
- 2.1.3 A preliminary roost assessment survey was conducted, followed by two nocturnal surveys. The survey aimed to determine of the likely presence or absence of roosting bats and, if present, the roost locations, access points, species present, level of use and the importance of nearby landscape features.
- 2.1.4 The legislative context to the survey and assessment reported here is included in Appendix 1.

3. Habitat Assessment

- 3.1.1 The surrounding area comprised a variety of habitats including residential, grassland and woodlands (see Figure 1). The area was considered to provide optimal foraging habitat for bats and therefore any locally occurring species could be present.
- 3.1.1 Table 1 summarises the habitats present, adjacent to and further afield of the surveyed building.

Table 1. Location and habitat table

Name and address: 18 Springwood Road, Thongsbridge HD9 7SJ			
OS Grid Ref. SE 15443 09487		Altitude. 165m	
Local Planning Authority: Kirklees Council			
Features on site and adjacent to site			
Feature	On site	Adjacent	Comments
Buildings	✓	✓	Residential
River bordered by trees			River Holme 400m west
Standing water			Nearest standing water approximately 350m east
Bridges tunnels and culverts			Associated with River Holme
Trees	✓	✓	On site and in wider area
Woodland			Nearest woodland 325m east
Grassland	✓	✓	Amenity grass (lawn) on site with larger area of amenity grass 40m in all directions

Figure 1. Site location, as indicated by red circle



3.2 Aims

3.2.1 The survey was conducted to help determine the following:

- The presence/absence of roosting bats.
- Potential roosting areas and access/egress points into structures.
- Determine the level of bat roost potential associated with the structures.
- Identify further survey work or mitigation requirements.

4. Methodology

4.1 Data Consultation

- 4.1.1 A request was made to West Yorkshire Bat Group (WYBG) and West Yorkshire Ecological Record (WYER) for records of bats within a 2km radius of the site.
- 4.1.2 A search of the Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website was undertaken to identify historic European Protected Species (EPS) licences obtained for locations within 2km of the site.

4.2 Field Survey

4.2.1 The following personnel conducted the survey on 4 July 2022:

- Greg Slack (MCIEEM; Class licence WML-A34-Level 4, 2017-28068-CLS-CLS)

4.2.2 The following activities were carried out during the surveys in compliance with relevant Bat Survey Guidelines (Collins 2016; and Anon 2022):

- A brief inspection and assessment of the site and habitats within and surrounding the site.
- An extensive examination of all parts of the buildings to record structural features and condition and features that may be suitable for use by roosting bats. Particular attention was paid to any crevices or gaps in walls, lintels, gaps between beams and joists and to the possibility of finding droppings stuck to walls, floors or other surfaces, or insect remains below beams, among a number of other factors. Any signs indicative of a bat roost presence including live or dead bats, droppings, feeding remains, scratch marks and staining were recorded.
- An assessment of the building's bat roost potential (negligible, low, moderate, high or confirmed roost).

4.2.3 The following equipment was used or at hand during the survey:

- Clulight
- Binoculars
- Endoscope
- Ladders
- Camera

Nocturnal Survey

4.2.4 Two nocturnal bat surveys comprising dusk emergence surveys were completed on 4 and 27 July 2022. The following personnel conducted the surveys and were equipped with Wildlife Acoustics EM Touch bat detectors and tablet recorders:

- Greg Slack; and
- Carl Dixon.

4.2.5 The nocturnal surveys required two surveyor positions. The surveyor positions were covered either by a surveyor using an EM Touch bat detector supported by an infrared (IR) camera and IR lighting system¹ or, an unsupervised infrared (IR) camera and IR lighting system with an EM Touch bat detector. The surveyor positions are shown in Figure 2 and coverage during each survey is shown in Table 2.

¹ The cameras used were all from the Cannon XA series. Every camera location was accompanied by at least one additional IR floodlight. Cameras and lights were mounted on separate tripods.

Figure 2 – Nocturnal survey surveyor positions



Table 2. Surveyor position coverage during nocturnal surveys.

Surveyor Position	Coverage	
	4 July 2022	27 July 2022
1	Surveyor and IR Camera	Surveyor and IR Camera
2	Surveyor and IR Camera	Unsupervised IR Camera and bat detector

4.2.6 The camera footage from locations where a surveyor was also present was reviewed as required to check and confirm the observations made by the surveyors. Camera footage from unmanned locations was reviewed in full by an experienced bat surveyor, with all observations noted in a table. The start and end view shown on the camera is provided in Appendix 2 for all unmanned camera locations to demonstrate the lighting levels present in these areas.

4.2.7 Both surveys continued from 15 minutes before sunset until 1.5 hours after sunset.

4.3 Survey Limitations

4.3.1 No limitations to an effective bat survey were identified.

5. Results

5.1 Data Consultation

5.1.1 West Yorkshire Ecology provided 124 bat records for locations within a 2 km radius of the site. Species positively identified in the data consultation comprised: common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*; soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*; brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*; Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*; noctule *Nyctalus noctula*; and Leisler's bat *Nyctalus leisleri*. The search also identified records attributed to an unidentified pipistrelle bat species *Pipistrellus* sp., and unidentified bat species. The nearest roost record to site was for an unknown bat species dated 2003 and located approximately 250 m west of the site.

- 5.1.2 West Yorkshire Bat Group provided 54 records for locations within a 2km radius of the site. No additional species were present within the West Yorkshire Bat Group data. The closest record to the site appeared to be a duplicate of the unknown bat roost record held by West Yorkshire Ecology which was located approximately 250 m to the west of the site.
- 5.1.3 Four historical bat EPS mitigation licences have been issued for locations within 2 km of the surveyed building. The nearest was issued in 2016 to permit the destruction of a common pipistrelle resting place at a location approximately 940m northwest of the site. The four licences were located across separate locations, all of which were to the west of the surveyed building. Three of the licences covered the destruction of common pipistrelle resting places, the fourth licence (issued in 2009) covered impacts to a Leisler's bat roost.

5.2 Field Survey

- 5.2.1 A single common pipistrelle was recorded emerging from a roost within a porch on the southern gable end of the house (B1). The building had a moderate number but low diversity of roost features and was considered to offer low roost suitability. The building is described in detail below.

Description

Building 1

- 5.2.2 The site comprised a single storey brick built detached bungalow with additional rooms in the attic (Plate 1). The building was thought to date from the 1950s or 60s. The building had a soffit box present at the eaves with a mortared verge present on the gable ends. The window frames were uPVC and a small amount of uPVC cladding was present on a porch on the southern gable end.
- 5.2.3 A glazed conservatory was present on the eastern elevation of the property (Plate 2).

Building 2

- 5.2.4 A detached garage was present to the north of the bungalow (Plate 3). The garage was constructed from pre-fabricated concrete panels with a corrugated asbestos cement sheet roof.

Plate 1. Front of the building (west elevation)



External inspection

Building 1

- 5.2.5 All features with potential to accommodate roosting bats were associated with the rosemary tile roof. There were missing and raised tiles across the roof and mortar gaps beneath vent tiles on the ridge. There were also gaps present between tiles at the roof verges above the gable ends.
- 5.2.6 The lead flashing that was present was generally fairly tight fitting and offered little in the way of bat roosting potential.

Plate 2. Rear of building including the conservatory



Building 2

- 5.2.7 The garage adjacent to the building was not considered to have any features likely to be used by roosting bats.

Plate 3. Rear of the garage including the roof



Internal inspection

- 5.2.8 The roof contained two bedrooms which had been taken out by the time of the survey. No ceiling was present so the Type 1F bituminous felt was visible along the pitch of the roof (Plate 4). No features likely to be used by bats were recorded within the inside of the building and no signs of bats were found.

Plate 4. Inside of roof-space



Nocturnal Survey

4 July 2022 – dusk emergence survey

- 5.2.9 Sunset was at 21:37 and the temperature at the beginning of monitoring was 12°C, with a gentle breeze (Beaufort Scale Force: 3) and seven oktas cloud cover. The weather conditions remained broadly the same and the weather was dry throughout.

- 5.2.10 One common pipistrelle was recorded emerging from the verge of the southern gable end of the roof above the porch at 22:04 (location shown in Plate 5). The first bat recorded was a common pipistrelle recorded a minute before the emerging bat at 22:03 (25 minutes after sunset). That bat was recorded foraging in the garden of the property to the south. Occasional common pipistrelle activity was recorded throughout the survey together with a noctule recorded at 22:49 and 23:00.

Plate 5. common pipistrelle roost emergence location



Nocturnal Survey

27 July 2022 – dusk emergence survey

- 5.2.11 Sunset was at 21:11 and the temperature at the beginning of monitoring was 18°C. There was a slight air (Beaufort Scale Force: 1) and full (eight oktas) cloud cover. These weather conditions remained broadly the same throughout. Spots of rain were recorded just after the start of the survey (from 20:59) progressing to light rain before ceasing after approximately five minutes. It remained dry throughout the majority of the survey, however, light rain was recorded again at 22:32 (nine minutes before the end of the survey).
- 5.2.12 No bats were recorded emerging from the building during the survey. The first bat recorded was a common pipistrelle recorded at 21:15 (four minutes after sunset). That bat was recorded foraging in the garden to the north. A noctule was also recorded at 21:15, shortly after the common pipistrelle. Regular common pipistrelle activity was recorded throughout the survey.

6. Assessment

6.1 Summary and Evaluation of Findings

- 6.1.1 Building 1 was identified as a summer day roost used by a single common pipistrelle. The roost will be lost during the proposed demolition of the building.

6.2 Further Survey, Recommendations and Enhancements

- 6.2.1 To mitigate the loss of the common pipistrelle roost in Building 1, three double-chambered bat boxes should be erected on nearby trees. The first of the trees is an oak (*Quercus* sp.) located approximately 20 m to the west of the roost location (Plate 6). This tree will have two boxes located at a height of approximately 3.5 m facing southeast and southwest. The second tree is a silver birch (*Betula pendula*) located approximately 20 m to the west of the roost (Plate 7). This tree will have one box located at a height of approximately 3.4 m facing south-southeast.
- 6.2.2 The oak tree will need some ivy removing to ensure the entrance to the bat boxes isn't blocked and the silver birch will require one branch (directly below the proposed box location) to be removed to allow bats an uncluttered approach to the box. These works have already been contracted by the client, and the bat boxes are ordered.

Plate 6. Oak bat box tree location

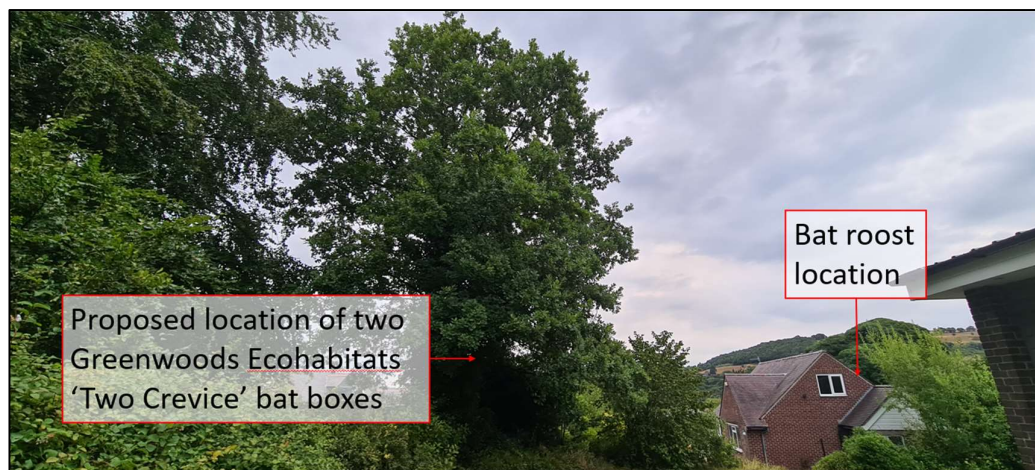
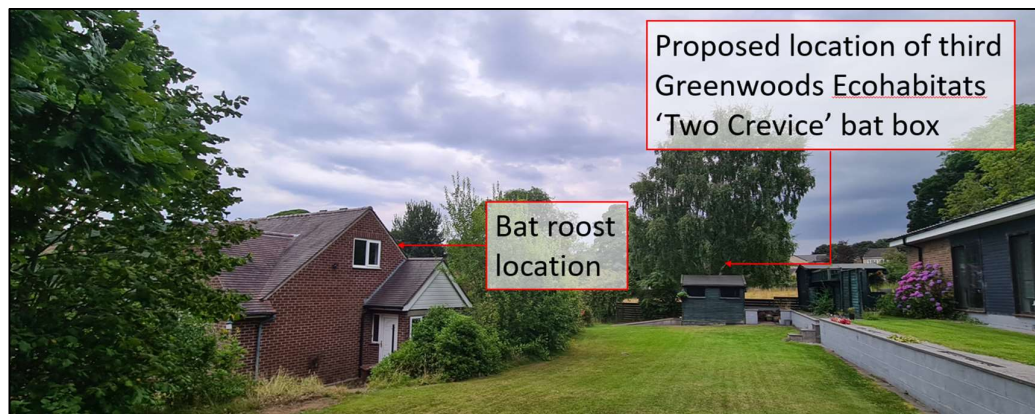


Plate 7. Silver birch bat box tree location



- 6.2.3 It is recommended that the following mitigation measures are implemented in order to prevent harm to any bats that may be present during the demolition:
- The demolition (specifically the work impacting the roost) should be completed either during spring (mid-March to May) or autumn (September to early November).
 - The roof tiles must be removed by hand following a toolbox talk by the ecologist.

- The removal of tiles along the ridge, eaves, and gable ends should be completed under direct supervision of the ecologist. The other roof tiles can then be removed providing the ecologist is available to capture and move any bats found.
- Any bat capture required should be undertaken by the ecologist supervising the works following the delivery of a Toolbox Talk to contractors.
- If capture of bats is not possible then exclusion with a one-way exclusion device would be required. Exclusion devices would need to remain in place for a minimum of five nights of suitable weather prior to the start of works in that area in order to give the bats the opportunity to leave the roost.
- Any bats that are captured should be moved to the bat boxes on the nearby trees. Any injured bats will be taken into care, pending future release on the site.
- Because of the low conservation status of the roost (single roosting common pipistrelle day roost) no post construction monitoring is required.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1.1 A single common pipistrelle roost is present within the roof verge at the southern gable end of the property which is proposed to be demolished. Consequently, a European Protected Species Mitigation Licence must be obtained, or the site registered under the Bat Mitigation Class Licence system once planning permission has been obtained.
- 7.1.2 Three Greenwoods Ecohabitats bat boxes will be installed before the demolition occurs. Two of the boxes will be placed on an oak tree, and one on a silver birch. Both trees are approximately 20 m from the bat roost location. The boxes will mitigate for the loss of the bat roost.

8. References

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

Anon (2022) Interim Guidance Note: Use of Night Vision Aids for Bat Emergence Surveys And Further Comment On Dawn Surveys. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Appendix 1. Legislation and Policy

8.1 Legislation and Policy Guidance

- 8.1.1 Bats receive protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 8.1.2 It is an offence to:
- Deliberately capture (or take), injure or kill a bat.
 - Intentionally or recklessly disturb bats whilst they are occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection or obstruct access to any such place.
 - Damage or destroy the breeding or resting place (roost) of a bat.
 - Possess a bat (live or dead), or any part of a bat.
 - Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost.
 - Sell (or offer for sale) or exchange bats (dead or alive), or parts of parts.
- 8.1.3 The Convention on Biological Diversity, signed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992, requires member states to develop national strategies and to undertake a range of actions aimed at maintaining or restoring biodiversity. The UK Biodiversity Strategy was produced in response to the Convention.
- 8.1.4 In England & Wales, the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act, 2006 imposes a duty on all public bodies, including local authorities and statutory bodies, in exercising their functions, “to have due regard, as far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”. It notes that “conserving biodiversity includes restoring or enhancing a population or habitat”. Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*, Bechstein’s *Myotis bechsteinii*, brown long-eared, greater horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, lesser horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, noctule and soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* are included as priority species within Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. At a more local level there are Local Biodiversity Action Plans for smaller geographical areas which may cover a greater or lesser range of bat species.
- 8.1.5 Where it is proposed to carry out works which will have an adverse impact on roosting bats, the site must either be registered on the Bat Mitigation Class Licence (BMCL) or a European Protected Species (EPS) license must first be obtained from Natural England. This requirement applies even if no bats are expected to be present when the work is carried out.
- 8.1.6 The National Planning Policy Framework for England was revised in 2019. This document states that plans should ‘promote the conservation, restoration and re-creation 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’.

Appendix 2. Unsupervised Camera View

27 July 2022 Surveyor Position 2 Emergence Survey

Start Image



End Image



Appendix 3. Bat Records

In accordance with best practice and the requirements of bat licensing, bat records collected during surveys are supplied to the relevant biological record centres and bat groups. The records to be supplied in accordance with this survey are shown below. House names/numbers are not given out by record holding organisations except under very particular circumstances. Please let us know if you object to the distribution of these records.

Date	Species	Site Address	OS Grid Ref	Notes	No
04.07.22	Common pipistrelle	Springwood Road, Thongsbridge	SE 15428 09455	Roosting bat	1
27.07.22	Noctule	Springwood Road, Thongsbridge	SE 15428 09455	Foraging	1