KNIGHT SKY ECOLOGY
PRACTICAL ECOLOGY SOLUTIONS

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ECOLOGY TECHNICAL NOTE

SITE NAME & ADDRESS	Land off Leak Hall Lane, Denby Dale (grid reference SE 22909 08835)
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL	Housing (Outline Application)
PLANNING REFERENCE	Not available
ECOLOGY ASSESSMENT TYPE	**DUSK EMERGENCE BAT SURVEY**
DATE	18 July 2024
AUTHOR	Ryan Knight BSc (Hons) MCIEEM - Principal Ecologist

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Knight Sky Ecology was commissioned to undertake a dusk emergence bat survey of an outbuilding located on Land at Leak Hall Lane, Denby Dale. The survey was undertaken in relation to the proposed housing development at the site and the likely requirement for the demolition of the outbuilding located in the north-west corner of the site.

This technical note must be read in conjunction with the following report which provides details of the baseline ecological conditions of the site including a preliminary bat roost assessment of the outbuilding:

- Land off Leak Hall Lane, Denby Dale. Ecological Impact Assessment Report. April 2024 (Knight Sky Ecology, 2024)

The outbuilding was considered to have a 'low' suitability for use as a bat roost. The primary aim of the bat survey was to gather information on the presence or absence of a bat roost in the outbuilding. This report presents the results of the bat survey and provides all the necessary data, assessment and guidance to satisfy the relevant planning and conservation policy obligations and legislative framework. Details of the legislation afforded to bats is presented in the above listed report.

METHODS

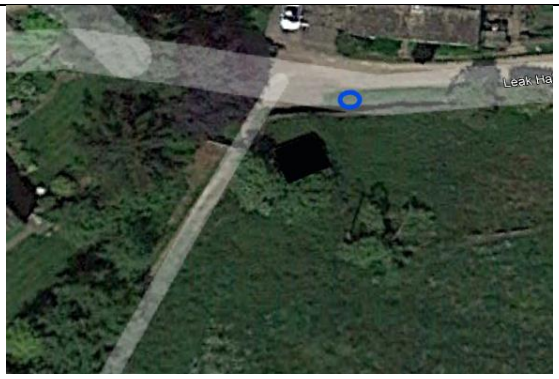
A single dusk emergence bat survey was undertaken on the outbuilding on 20th June 2024 to gather further information on the presence / absence of a bat roost.

With respect to the diminutive size of the structure, one survey position was required to gain clear sightlines of all potential roost features identified during the preliminary roost assessment and to record the species and numbers of bats emerging from the property if present. The survey position comprised a surveyor with a bat detector supplemented by infra-red cameras (commonly referred to as Night Vision Aids (NVAs)).

The survey was undertaken by a Natural England Level 2 bat licensed individual. Their name and qualifications can be forwarded separately if requested.

All footage from the NVA was fully reviewed via a desktop media player following the completion of the surveys. Table 2.1 details the survey time, weather conditions, equipment used and survey position.

Table 2.1. Survey data and conditions

Date	20/06/2024
Sunset	21:41
Survey duration	21:24 to 23:15
Weather conditions	• Dry throughout • 16°C at survey start • 15°C at survey end • 20% cloud cover • Wind 2 (Beaufort scale) • No significant weather changes were encountered throughout the survey
Personnel & equipment	• Unnamed Surveyor: Echometer Touch 2 Pro. and 1no. Sony IR camera with 2no. IR spotlights.
Survey position (O)	 

Assessment Comments

The survey was undertaken within the main bat activity period during weather conditions deemed suitable to conduct bat surveys in accordance with the guidance ('Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition). Bat Conservation Trust, London.' (Collins, J., (ed.) (2023)).

This report will remain valid for a period of 18 months from the date of issue. An ecologist should be contacted for advice on the revalidation requirements of the report if planning permission is not obtained (if required) or works do not commence within this time period.

RESULTS

The results of the dusk emergence survey are summarised in Table 1.1. No evidence of a bat roost was recorded.

The survey recorded a low but regular level of bat activity which included three species: common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and a Myotis species. Most activity comprised foraging and commuting passes along Leak Hall Lane.

Table 1.1. Dusk emergence survey results.

20/06/2024			
Time	**Species**	**No. of bats**	**Activity notes**
22:03	Common pipistrelle	1	Commuting along track (Leak Hall Lane)
22:11 to 22:29	Common pipistrelle	1-2	Occasional passes along track and in front of outbuilding
22:29	Myotis species.	1	Commuting pass not seen
22:37 to 22:45	Soprano pipistrelle	1 -2	Passes along track
22:45 to 23:15	Common & soprano pipistrelle	1	Very occasional activity
23:15	Survey Ended – No evidence of emergence recorded by surveyor or on camera footage.		

EVALUATION & CONCLUSIONS

The main findings derived from the bat survey are listed as follows:

- No evidence of a bat roost was recorded during the preliminary roost assessment and the outbuilding was considered to have a low suitability to support bats.
- No evidence of a bat roost was recorded during the dusk emergence survey on the outbuilding completed in June 2024.
- The dusk emergence survey recorded low but regular levels of bat activity which was dominated by common pipistrelle with soprano pipistrelle and a Myotis species.

The findings of the bat survey described in this technical note are considered sufficient to conclude that bat roosts are likely absent from the outbuilding.

Therefore, bats do not present a potential ecological constraint to the demolition of the outbuilding. The works will not result in any impacts to bats and will therefore remain compliant with the legislation. No further assessment or detailed mitigation is required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the nature of bats, there will always be a very low residual risk of encountering a bat during such works. This risk can be easily mitigated via the use of standard, good practice measures that can be adopted by the relevant contractors during the construction work.

In the unexpected event that a bat is discovered during the works, the contractors will be advised to stop immediately and contact the licensed ecologist whom will travel to site to provide assessment and advice. Contractors will be specifically forbidden to handle bats. Contractors will be advised that if it is necessary to remove a bat to avoid it being harmed, gloves MUST be worn. It should be carefully placed in a cardboard box and kept in the dark in a quiet place until the licensed ecologist arrives on site.

Recommendations for enhancements for bats were made in the Ecological Impact Assessment report (Knight Sky Ecology, 2024).