QUANTS environmental

Lumb Lane Nurseries,

Almondbury, HD4 6SZ

Dusk Emergence Bat Survey

August 2023

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Contents

1 Introduction 3

2 Methodology 5

2.1 Personnel 5

2.2 Dusk Emergence Bat Survey 5

2.3 Comments 5

3 Results 6

4 Conclusions and Recommendations 7

Appendix 1. Legislation and Conservation Context 8

1 Introduction

1.1.1.1 This report presents the results of Dusk Emergence Bat Surveys undertaken on at building at Lumb Lane Nurseries, Almondbury, HD4 6SZ. The survey has been completed to provide supporting information in relation to proposed development at the site.

1.1.1.2 The surveyed building is located at approximate grid reference SE16291428 and comprises a single building. This report should be read in conjunction with the previous report which identified this building as having low bat roost potential and recommended that a dusk emergence bat survey should be undertaken:

- Quants Environmental Ltd. (2023). Lumb Lane Nurseries, Almondbury, HD4 6SZ. Preliminary Ecological Appraisal including Bat Assessment. June 2023. Ref 1840.

1.1.1.3 The aim of this survey was to determine the presence / likely absence of bat roosts in the surveyed building.

1.1.1.4 The Dusk Emergence Bat Survey was undertaken on 27th July 2023 by Morgane Accault ACIEEM and Maxwell Caulton.

Figure 1. Site Location (aerial imagery dated 2021)

Figure 2. Site Location

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Photo 1. The surveyed building

2 Methodology

2.1 Personnel

2.1.1.1 The Dusk Emergence Bat Survey was undertaken by Morgane Accault ACIEEM[1] and Maxwell Caulton.

2.2 Dusk Emergence Bat Survey

2.2.1.1 The Dusk Emergence Bat Surveys was undertaken on the building on 27th July 2023. Two surveyors were present during the bat survey to provide sufficient coverage of all potential roost locations. The surveyors used Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro bat detectors.

2.2.1.2 The dusk emergence survey conditions are summarised in Table 1. The surveys were undertaken in accordance with current good practice guidelines[2].

Table 1: Dusk emergence bat survey conditions – 27th July 2023

Date	27th July 2023
Sunset	21:13
Survey duration	20:58 – 22:28
Weather conditions	Dry; 17°C – 16.5°C, cloud cover 0%, wind Bft 0.
Surveyor	Maxwell Caulton and Morgane Accault

2.3 Comments

2.3.1.1 The survey was undertaken within the optimum season for Dusk Emergence Bat Surveys (May to August/September). There were no significant constraints to achieving the aims of the survey.

[1] Natural England Class Licence Registration No. 2022-11070- CL17 Survey Level 1.

[2] Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn). The Bat Conservation Trust, London. Isbn-13978010872745-96-1.

3 Results

3.1.1.1 During the dusk emergence bat survey on 27th July 2023, no bat emergence was observed.

Table 2. Dusk emergence survey results – Position 1 facing south-east (Maxwell Caulton) – 27th July 2023

Time	Species and notes
20:58 – 21:45	No activity
21:45	1x Common Pipistrelle came from west and circled the building a couple of times, then flew back north-west toward neighbouring house
21:48	1x Pipistrelle social call, appeared from north and flew south
21:57	1x Noctule pass unseen
22:00	1x Common Pipistrelle flying over field to the south-east
22:08 – 22:09	1x Common Pipistrelle pass unseen
22:15	1x Common Pipistrelle pass unseen

Table 3. Dusk emergence survey results – Position 2 facing north-west (Morgane Accault) – 27th July 2023

Time	Species and notes
20:58 – 21:30	No activity
21:30	Owl seen flying north to south, too far to identify species
24:45	1x Common Pipistrelle heard foraging, unseen
21:47	1x Noctule pass unseen and 1x Common Pipistrelle pass unseen
21:52	1x Common Pipistrelle pass unseen
21:53	1x Noctule pass unseen
21:56	1x Noctule pass unseen
21:58	1x Common Pipistrelle pass unseen
21:59	1x Common Pipistrelle pass unseen
22:01 – 22:02	1x Common Pipistrelle pass unseen
22:05 to end	1x Common Pipistrelle foraging north-east by greenhouse

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1.1.1 During the dusk emergence bat survey on 27th July 2023, no bat emergence was observed. No evidence of nesting birds was observed at the building during the Dusk Emergence Bat Survey.

4.1.1.2 Sufficient survey effort has been undertaken to confirm that bat roosts are likely absent from the surveyed building. No further surveys or mitigation measures are considered necessary. In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is found during the works, work must stop immediately and advice sought from a suitably qualified ecologist before proceeding.

Appendix 1. Legislation and Conservation Context

European Protected Species (GCN, Otter, all Bats)

Great Crested Newt (GCN), otter and all British bat species are fully protected through The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 as European Protected Species (EPS). They also receive some protection through inclusion in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Under the legislation, it is an offence to deliberately capture, injure or kill a GCN, otter or bat. It is an offence to damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a GCN, otter or bat. It is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb a GCN, otter or bat while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection; or obstruct access to any structure or place which it uses for that purpose.

It is also an offence to deliberately disturb a GCN, otter or bat; in particular any disturbance which is likely (a) 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 (b) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

The 'appropriate authority' (Natural England in England) has powers to issue licences for various purposes including - (a) scientific or educational purposes… and (e) preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment. The appropriate authority shall not grant a licence under this regulation unless they are satisfied - (a) that there is no satisfactory alternative, and (b) that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. It is an offence for any person authorised by virtue of a licence to which this paragraph applies to contravene or fail to comply with any condition which the licence requires him to comply with.

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