



“Providing Common Sense Solutions for Sustainable Development”

Paul Keeling (Director/Principal Ecologist), Lulworth House, 51 High Street, Cheadle, Staffordshire, ST10 1AR,
M: 07838 377 612 (direct line), E: paul@evolutionecology.co.uk, www.evolutionecology.co.uk

3-5 Craven Road, Reading

Bat and Bird Presence/Absence Survey Report – September 2022



Bat and Bird Presence/Absence Survey

Bat and Bird Presence/Absence Survey

At

3-5 Craven Road,
Reading,
RG1 5LE

For

Chris Jones (Director – First Plan) on behalf of
Andy Mansell (Decon PM Limited)

Bat and Bird Presence/Absence Survey

0. Executive Summary

0.1 Report rationale

This report has been prepared at the request of Chris Jones (Director – First Plan) on behalf of Andy Mansell (Decon PM Limited). This is in relation to the identification and location of protected bats and bird species at the **two timber extensions, 3-5 Craven Road, Reading, RG1 5LE** (grid reference: SU 72570 72920).

The ‘Preliminary Roost Appraisal (PRA) Survey’ (daytime inspection survey) and the bat activity surveys (dusk/dawn) were undertaken by Evolution Ecology Ltd on the following dates;

- 13th of September 2022 (PRA survey and dusk activity survey).

0.2 Background

Under the current proposals, the two low-quality lean-to extensions will be demolished.

Bat and Bird Ecology

Timber Extensions - (bats) No roosting bats or nesting birds were seen emerging from the two timber structures. Therefore, no bat/bird **compensation** measures (new bat/bird boxes) are required to be installed at the site with regard to the demolition of the timber extensions.

Mitigation Measures – Time avoidance measure in terms of demolishing the timber structures outside the bird breeding season is required to prevent disturbing any nesting birds.

The birds' nesting season is between March and August.

0.3 Ecological Provisions

Please see ‘Section 5 – Ecological Provisions’ for further details.

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Bat and Bird Presence/Absence Survey

1 INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared at the request of Chris Jones (Director – First Plan) on behalf of Andy Mansell (Decon PM Limited). This is in relation to the identification and location of protected bats and bird species at the **two timber extensions, 3-5 Craven Road, Reading, RG1 5LE** (grid reference: SU 72570 72920).

The 'Preliminary Roost Appraisal (PRA) Survey' (daytime inspection survey) and the bat activity surveys (dusk) were undertaken by Evolution Ecology Ltd on the following dates;

- 13th of September 2022 (PRA survey and dusk activity survey).

1.1 Site Description

The site is comprised of hardstanding ground, building, amenity grassland and scattered trees. Surrounding the site are residential units, commercial units, roads, amenity grassland and scattered trees.

Figure 1: An aerial map showing the location of the two timber extensions (blue outlines) at the site (red outline) in relation to some of the local landscape.



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1.2 Proposed works

Under the current proposals, the two low-quality lean-to extensions are to be demolished.

1.3 Aims of the survey

The actions of the surveyors on-site and during the production of the report were conducted in accordance with Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) guidelines (3rd Edition). The aim of the survey was to undertake an appraisal of the building/s and the surrounding area to establish the following:

1.3.1 Survey protocol considered any protected bat species on-site**Bats**

- To establish the probability of bats and their roost sites being present at the proposed redevelopment site.
- To assess the roost status.
- To assess suitable food resources and habitat requirements.
- If a roost site is found, provide an impact assessment.

1.3.2 Survey protocol also considered any protected bird species on-site:**Barn Owls**

- To establish if barn owls were using the site.
- To locate nest sites if present.
- To assess what types of activities were shown within the site of interest.
- To evaluate suitable food resources and habitat requirements.
- To provide an impact assessment if barn owls are present.

Birds

- To establish if birds were using the site.
- To locate nest sites if present.
- To assess what types of activities were shown within the site of interest.
- To evaluate suitable food resources and habitat requirements.
- To provide an impact assessment if nests are found.

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1.3.3 The information was subsequently used in conjunction with the knowledge of the proposed works at the site to determine:

- What impacts the works are likely to have on any protected species found at the site.
- The need for any Natural England development licence application to be made in respect of activities concerning protected species.
- Recommendations for any mitigation measures that would be required.

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2 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

2.1 Summary of survey methods

The objective of this report is to provide an ecological evaluation of the site in relation to its suitability for bat and bird utilisation. The survey considered the potential for roosting bats and gathered any anecdotal evidence (i.e., bats, bat droppings, feeding remains, urine stains and grease marks) that may support their presence within the building unit(s).

2.1.1 Walkover survey

A walkover survey of the site and a visual inspection of the building/s and any trees were undertaken to determine the availability of the required resources for the protected species in the immediate area. This would allow us to determine:

- Presence or absence of bats on-site (i.e., roosting).
- Evidence and/or potential of bat roosts on-site (i.e., summer roosts).
- Whether additional surveys are required.

2.1.2 External Inspection of the Building/s Elevations

The building/s on-site were inspected both externally and internally for signs of bat activity. Notes were made on the following in accordance with the guidelines published by the BCT for the scoping and surveying of building/s and built structures:

The objective of this survey was to locate suitable ingress, and egress points that protected species (bats) could use to fly into the building/s and also to identify any areas within the building/s in which these species may be able to roost and/or nest. The survey method used to inspect the external walls and roof of the buildings was a visual assessment with the use of binoculars, a torch, an endoscope, and ladders in full daylight.

This allowed us to determine the following information:

- Type and age of building/s.
- Type of construction.
- Presence of potential roost features (e.g., missing roof tiles, raised tiles, roof voids).
- Presence of suitable entry and exit points (e.g., broken windows, missing windows and doors/ridges and the apex of the buildings).
- Amount and location of evidence of bats such as the presence of live or dead bats, droppings, grease marks, urine stains and/or characteristic smell of bats.

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2.1.3 Internal Inspection of the Building/s Elevations and Rooms

The object of this survey was to locate and focus on areas that provide appropriate environmental conditions for bats. To do this, we must:

- Look for warm dark areas, joints, crevices, beams and cavities for possible bat roost sites and nest sites.
- Locate roost sites.
- Listen for bats.
- Examine floors, walls and structural elements for droppings, corpses, skeletons and dead insects.

2.1.4 Building/s Rating

In the absence of evidence, structures have been assigned a rating of suitability from negligible to a high potential for supporting bats. The rating is based on the location of the structure in the surrounding landscape, the number, and type of features suitable for use by bats and the surveyor's experience.

For example, a structure with a high level of regular disturbance with few opportunities for access by bats, that is, in a highly urbanised area with few, or no mature trees, parkland, woodland or wetland would generally equate to having negligible potential. Conversely, a pre-20th century or early 20th-century building with many features suitable for use by bats close to good foraging habitat would have high potential.

2.1.5 Roost Categories

Any structures with evidence of bats will be further evaluated to assess which of the following roost categories may be present on-site (if any):

- **Maternity or Nursery Roost** – used by breeding bats, where pups are born and raised to independence (anecdotal evidence may support this prospect).
- **Hibernation Site** – where bats may be found during the winter (this is assessed within the context of this report).
- **Daytime Summer Roost** – used by males and/or non-breeding females.
- **Night Roost** – where bats rest between feeding bouts during the night but are rarely present during the day.
- **Feeding Roost** – where bats temporarily hang up to eat an item of prey.

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- **Transitional (or Swarming) Site** – where bats may be present during the spring or autumn (this cannot be assessed within the context of this report).

2.1.6 Bat Detector Survey (Dusk/Dawn surveys)

If required, the object of this survey is to detect active bats leaving possible roost sites identified in the external and internal surveys. This is achieved by:

- Being at the site 30 minutes before sunset and 90 minutes before sunrise.
- Listening for social calls at potential roost sites.
- Standing at different transect points around the buildings, using the bat detector for hearing the bats, plus trying to see the first bats emerge.
- Standing at different transect points at foraging areas.
- Carrying out this survey up to two hours after the first bats emerge and 15 minutes after sunrise. This will cover the emergence and returning period to the roost site, for some bat species.

- 2.1.7 Evidence will be used to determine whether a European Protected Species (EPS) licence will be required to ensure legal compliance during development. This will also include identifying which mitigation measures [if any] would be most appropriate.

2.2 Pre-survey data search

- 2.2.1 A Local Records Centre (LRC) data search was not undertaken due to the small size and nature of the redevelopment works. The overall impact on biodiversity is likely to be localised and of low significance. It is considered very unlikely that the restoration works will have any impact outside the footprint of the works.

The data search results are considered unlikely to impact the decision-making process, and therefore, an LRC search has not been undertaken. This approach is consistent with CIEEMs Guideline for Accessing and Using Biodiversity Data (2016), which states that a 'low impact or small-scale development (e.g. by size, extent, duration of works, magnitude or locality)' may not require a LRC search where: there is no requirement for any other preliminary survey (e.g. for habitats or other protected species) other than nesting birds or barn owls; and no trees likely to use by roosting bats are to be affected (e.g. felling, pollarding, crown reduction, limb removal).

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2.3 Surveyors Information

2.3.1 The survey was undertaken by licensed bat ecologist/s and members of the Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (CIEEM):

- **Mr Paul Keeling** BSc (Hons), MCIEEM, Principal Ecologist, Natural England Bat Survey Licence Number: 2015-11546-CLS-CLS Bat Survey Level 2.
- **Mr Ashley Milward** - Assistant Ecologist.

2.4 Field surveys

2.4.1 Evolution Ecology Ltd has no previous ecology information about the site.

2.4.2 Roost Surveys - weather conditions and timing

The building/s on-site was externally and internally inspected for the presence of bats and birds with the use of binoculars, torches, an endoscope, and ladders in full daylight.

Table 1: Preliminary Roost Appraisal (PRA) Survey and Dusk Activity Survey, Environmental Variables

Environmental variables	PRA Survey of the building/site and Dusk Activity Survey – 13 th of September 2022.
Temp Start	12°C
Temp Finish	11°C
Humidity Start	80%
Humidity Finish	80%
Cloud Cover Start	100%
Cloud Cover Finish	100%
Wind Speed Average	6mph
Precipitation	Dry

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2.4.3 Roost and Activity Surveys

During the PRA survey, the types of equipment used included an endoscope, ladders and torches.

The type of equipment used during the dusk and dawn bat activity surveys are the Batbox Duet, S.S.F. Bat2 heterodyne and frequency division bat detectors, along with the Echo Meter Touch 2 (E.M.T.) bat detector.

Echo Meter Touch 2

The E.M.T. bat detector is a data recorder that distinguishes bat calls from other sound sources in real-time (online signal analysis). Calls are recorded digitally as call sequences. The E.M.T. is used alongside Batbox Duet and S.S.F. Bat2 heterodyne and Frequency Division bat detectors and provides an unbiased statistical analysis of bat species recorded during a survey on site. All statistical analysis software is included in the E.M.T., giving us real-time results quickly and efficiently.

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3 RESULTS

3.1 Field surveys

3.1.1 Habitat description

The site is comprised of hardstanding ground, building, amenity grassland and scattered trees. Surrounding the site is residential units, commercial units, roads, amenity grassland and scattered trees.

3.2.1 Bat roost and birds nest (including barn owl) survey

Table 2: External features for the buildings' identified during the PRA.

<u>'External' features of the buildings</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Staffordshire blue/clay tiles		☒
Slate tiles		☒
Cement/concrete tiles		☒
Felt roof	☒	
Pitch roof		☒
Skylights		☒
Flat roof	☒	
Brick solid walls		☒
Cavity walls	☒	
Timber beams	☒	
Rendered walls		☒
Gaps in the windows		☒
Cracks/crevices in walls	☒	
Slipped/missing/dislodged tiles		☒
Gaps around fascia/soffit	☒	
Air/ridge vents		☒
Birds' nests		☒
Prefabricated steel sheeting	☒	
Breeze Blocks		☒
Timber cladding	☒	
Notes: N/A		

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Table 3: Internal features for the buildings identified during the PRA.

<u>Internal features for the buildings</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Shed Roof	N/A	N/A
Timber beams	“	“
Steel beams	“	“
Commercial rooms	“	“
Educational rooms	“	“
Storage rooms	“	“
Warehouse	“	“
Agricultural (inc. domestic livestock)	“	“
Derelict building	“	“
Moth/Butterfly remains	“	“
Mouse droppings	“	“
Cobwebs	“	“
Bat droppings	“	“
Birds' nests	“	“
Notes: An internal inspection of the two timber extensions were not undertaken because at the time of our survey, the buildings' presence/absence asbestos survey hadn't been completed.		

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3.2.3 Summary of the external and internal inspections

Due to the minimal potential bat and bird access points and suitable roosting features, the two timber extensions are deemed as 'Low' potential for roosting bats.

Therefore, one dusk bat activity survey is required to be completed during the bat activity season.

Table 4: Features of buildings and built structure classification, which may indicate the potential for bats. The full guidance can be found in the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Survey Guidelines.

Bat Conservation Trust

Table 7.3 Recommended minimum number of survey visits for presence/absence surveys to give confidence in a negative result for structures (also recommended for trees but unlikely to give confidence in a negative result).

Low roost suitability	Moderate roost suitability	High roost suitability
One survey visit. One dusk emergence or dawn re-entry survey ^a (structures). No further surveys required (trees).	Two separate survey visits. One dusk emergence and a separate dawn re-entry survey. ^b	Three separate survey visits. At least one dusk emergence and a separate dawn re-entry survey. The third visit could be either dusk or dawn. ^b

^a Structures that have been categorised as low potential can be problematic and the number of surveys required should be judged on a case-by-case basis (see Section 5.2.9). If there is a possibility that quiet calling, late-emerging species are present then a dawn survey may be more appropriate, providing weather conditions are suitable. In some cases, more than one survey may be needed, particularly where there are several buildings in this category.

^b Multiple survey visits should be spread out to sample as much of the recommended survey period (see Table 7.1) as possible; it is recommended that surveys are spaced at least two weeks apart, preferably more. A dawn survey immediately after a dusk one is considered only one visit.

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Table 5: Low/Moderate/High potential building(s) survey recommendations. The full guidance can be found in the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Survey Guidelines. These guidelines are what all local authorities abide by.

Table 4.1 Guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats, based on the presence of habitat features within the landscape, to be applied using professional judgement.		
Suitability	Description Roosting habitats	Commuting and foraging habitats
Negligible	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.
Low	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^a 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^b). A tree of sufficient size and age to contain PRFs but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential.^c	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as a 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 be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions ^a 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 lines 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.
High	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 ^a 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.

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3.2.4 Activity Dusk and/or Dawn Surveys

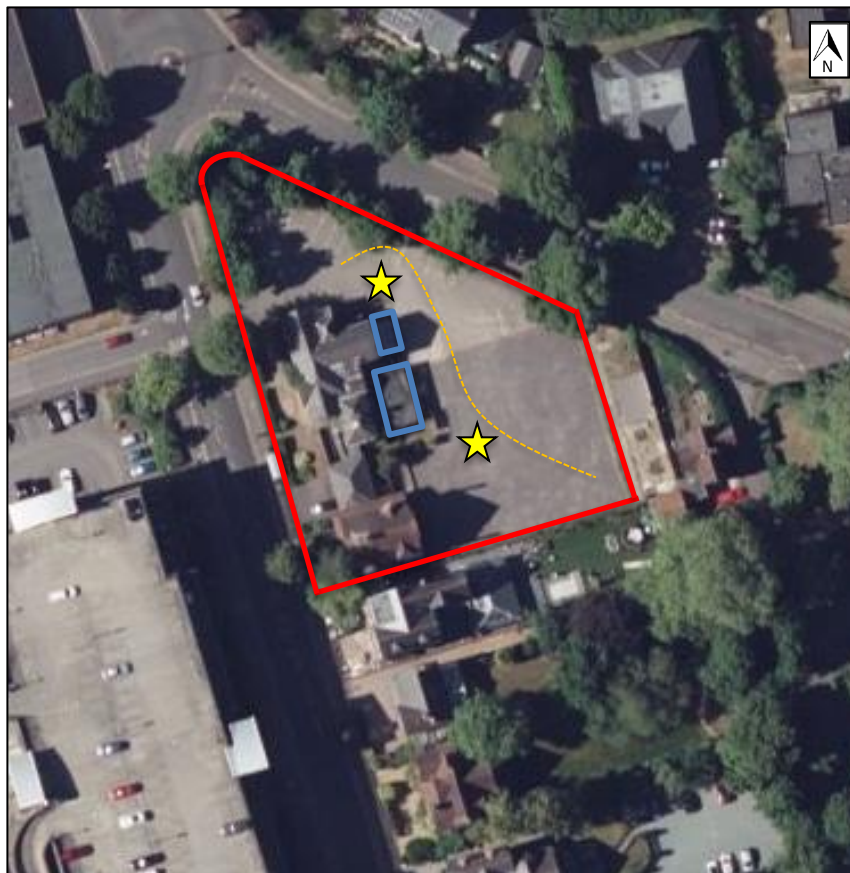
13th of September 2022 Dusk Activity Survey –

- During the dusk activity survey, two pipistrelle bats were seen at dusk foraging around the rear of the main building (car park area). It is thought that there is a roost somewhere in the main building, or they are roosting in one of the nearby properties.

Timber Extensions Summary - It can be concluded from the above survey results that there are no bats roosting in the two timber extensions.

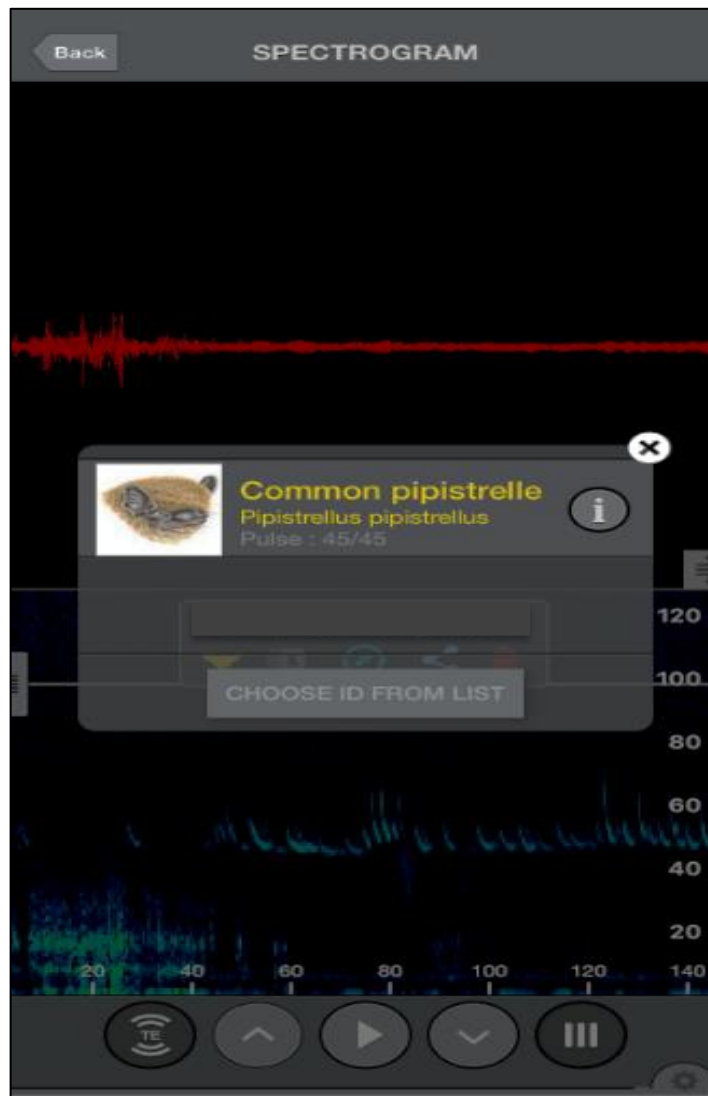
Main Brick Building - In 2015, 'Innovation Group Environmental Services' undertook dusk/dawn bat activity surveys and confirmed the presence of Common Pipistrelle bats roosting in the main brick building (please see Appendix B, Plates 5 and 6 in this report, and/or page 23 and 24 of their report for the roost location).

Figure 2: This image shows an aerial view of the site (red outline), the two timber extensions (blue outlines), the surveyors' locations during the dusk activity survey (yellow stars), and the bat flight paths (orange dotted line).



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Figure 3: This spectrogram shows a Common Pipistrelle bat recorded flying/foraging at the site.



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4 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 Constraints on survey information

There were no constraints regarding obtaining survey information.

4.2 Constraints on equipment used

No constraints were present with regard to the equipment used during the survey (i.e., endoscope, ladders, and high-powered binoculars).

4.3 Potential impacts of the re-development

Based on the current planning proposal, the potential impacts have been identified as follows:

4.3.1 Designated sites

Any designated sites nearby are not applicable to the proposed project, as only demolition of the two timber extensions at the site is taking place. This, therefore, means that any building works would be of no detriment to the surrounding landscape.

4.3.2 Roosts**Timber Extensions - Short-term impacts: Disturbance**

There will be no impact on bats or their roosts, with no mitigation or compensation measures required.

Timber Extensions - Long-term impacts: Roost modification

Same as 'Short-term impacts: Disturbance.'

Timber Extensions - Long-term impacts: Roost loss

Same as 'Short-term impacts: Disturbance.'

4.3.3 Foraging and commuting habitat.

It is considered that the works to the extensions would have a negligible effect on potential foraging and commuting habitat. The timber extensions offer no foraging. The surrounding habitats provide the necessary foraging value that bats require, and during the redevelopment works, this will remain the status quo.

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4.4 Legislation and Policy Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework, Section 11: The recently published framework in 2012, replaces the previous Planning Policy Statement 9. Section 11: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment reaffirms the government's commitment to maintaining green belt protections and preventing urban sprawl, retains the protection of designated sites and preserves wildlife, aims to improve the quality of the natural environment and halt declines in species and habitats, protects and enhances biodiversity and promotes wildlife corridors.

Article 10 of the E.C. Habitats Directive: The published article requires government to develop features such as 'stepping-stones' on the landscape, such as clusters of ponds, tracts of rough grassland or scrubland and vegetated railway line embankments.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: All species of bat are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the European Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations 1994, and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This legislation makes it illegal to possess or control any live or dead specimens, to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter, protection or breeding, and to intentionally disturb a bat while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose.

Most resident nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which protects birds, nests, eggs, and nestlings. Some rarer species, such as barn owls are afforded extra protection.

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5 ECOLOGICAL PROVISIONS

5.1 Timber Extensions - (bats) No roosting bats or nesting birds were seen emerging from the two timber structures. Therefore, no bat/bird **compensation** measures (new bat/bird boxes) are required to be installed at the site regarding the demolition of the timber extensions.

Mitigation Measures – A time avoidance measure in terms of demolishing the timber structures outside the bird breeding season is required to prevent disturbing nesting birds.

The birds' nesting season is between March and August.

5.2 Main Brick Building - (birds) There have been nesting birds around the building's soffit/fascia/wall plate. Possibly house sparrows and/or swifts. The bird nesting season is between March and August, so legally, any re-roofing work must be undertaken outside the birds' breeding season.

(bats) - Two pipistrelle bats were seen at dusk foraging around the rear of the main building (car park area). It is thought there is still a roost somewhere in the main building.

We weren't able to locate the roost in the main building (recorded in 2015) because we were only surveying the two timber structures with only two ecologists on-site during one dusk survey visit. We couldn't observe all sections of the main brick building while watching the two timber structures (the previous ecology company used three ecologists during several dusk/dawn bat surveys for the main building).

5.3 Main Brick Building (Bats Option 1) – An 'Ecological Construction Method Statement' (ECMS) will need to be produced, detailing the ecological provisions required to safeguard bats and their roosts at the main brick building.

To assist in the production of the ECMS, talks with relevant parties will be required to confirm the timetable/schedule of works, the extent of the re-roofing works, and the disturbance/safeguarding of the bat roost and their access point.

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5.4 Main Brick Building (Bats Option2) – If, during the above talks, the bat roost and the access point cannot be retained, a Natural England (NE) development licence will be required to be obtained from NE. Please see the link below to NE.

Link - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bats-protection-surveys-and-licences>

5.5 Please Note - Construction works that impact bats and their roosts can only be undertaken between the months of October to March to prevent injury/killing of bats, and the reinstatement of the roosts should be carried out within this period.

Bats tend to use loft spaces during the summer months (April/May to September) as they require hot and dry roosts to provide shelter and give birth to their young (pups).

However, during the winter months (October to March), they require cool and humid roosts to hibernate, which tend to be caves, cellars, and mature trees. Nevertheless, some individual bats have been known to hibernate within their summer roosts.

Therefore, any works to the roof will require a Natural England licensed bat ecologist to undertake a watching-brief (Ecological Clerks of Works) to inspect the known bat roost for the presence of hibernating bats (please see the 2015 bat survey/report for the location of the known roost).

5.6 Update Dusk/Dawn Bat Activity Surveys – Up-to-date bat activity surveys should be undertaken during 2023 if the above redevelopments haven't been completed.

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6 SUMMARY

6.1 Bat and Bird Ecology

Timber Extensions Bats - It can be concluded from the above survey results that no bats are roosting inside the two timber structures at the site.

Main Brick Building – Bats are potentially roosting in the loft space of the main brick building, and birds have been nesting in the loft space of the main brick building.

Legal protection - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, birds cannot be disturbed during their nesting season (March to August), and bats and their roosts are protected all year round.

6.2 Ecological Provisions

Please see 'Section 5 – Ecological Provisions' for an outline of the proposed ecological provisions for the works at the site.

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7 REFERENCES

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8 APPENDICES

Appendix A: Site Plan

Appendix B: Additional Photographic Records

Appendix C: Bats and Artificial Light

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Appendix A: Site Plan



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Appendix B: Additional Photographic Records

Plate 1: A photograph of the rear of the main brick building and the two timber extensions at the site.



Plate 2: A photograph of the larger timber extension at the site.



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Plate 3: A photograph of the smaller timber extension at the site.



Plate 4: This image shows bird droppings along the wall plate of the main brick building (indicating recent bird nesting activity).



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Plate 5: A photograph of the Common Pipistrelle bat roost recorded in 2015 at the front of the main brick building (taken from the 'Innovation Group Environmental Services' report).

Surveyor	Philip May	Case Ref	E2108131515
Site Address	3-5 Craven Road, Reading, RG1 5LF	Survey Date	28/09/15
Building Type	NHS Offices	Roof Shape	Multi-Pitched and flat roof sections
Approximate Construction Date	1900's	Roof Cover	Clay tiles and waterproof membrane
Number of Stories	3	Roof Condition	Clay tiles are rounded and do not interconnect fully leaving suitable entrance gaps underneath. Despite this the roof is generally in good condition.
Number of Chimneys	5 and a dove cot feature	Soffits & Condition	Some gaps where soffits and exposed eaves have rotted, where they are present and the cladding in the gables have small holes.
Walls & Condition	All in excellent condition	Windows & Condition	Wooden frames and occasional PVC replacements— all in relatively good condition.
Signs of Bats	None	BRP	Moderate
Additional comments: Due to the ages of the building, the clay tiles have become warped over time leaving gaps between them, which are ideal entrances directly into the loft space. There are also some hanging tiles and timber cladding on the lower rear extensions.			
Building Plan			



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Plate 6: A photograph/s of the Common Pipistrelle bat roost recorded in 2015 at the front of the main brick building (taken from the 'Innovation Group Environmental Services' report).



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Appendix C: Bat and Artificial Lights

Artificial lighting is known to affect bat roosting and foraging behaviour with lighting shown to result in a range of impacts including roost desertion (BCT, 2009), delayed emergence of roosting bats (Downs et al., 2003), increased activity of some bat species and decreased activity by others (Stone et al., 2012).

An experimental approach using L.E.D. units, demonstrated that relatively fast-flying bat species, including common pipistrelle, showed no significant impacts as a result of new artificial lighting, even when lighting was set at relatively high levels close to 50 lux. In contrast, slow flying bats, including myotis bats (*Myotis* spp.) showed sharp reductions in presence, even at low light levels of 3.6 lux (Stone et al., 2012). Current recommendations for all bat species specifies that no bat roost should be directly illuminated (BCT 2014).

Mitigation and lighting design Bat friendly lighting plans should firstly look to avoid lighting where possible and minimise lighting impacts by adopting the following measures:

- Lighting curfews or use of P.I.R. sensors. Lighting curfews can be an effective way of avoiding impacts on bats. These curfews may involve either turning off lighting or dimming light units at specific times of the night, dimming units at key times of the year, providing the luminaire allows for this option via a control unit. Lighting to be triggered by P.I.R. sensors can be expected to be illuminated only when required and for a low proportion of the overall time.
- Consider no lighting solutions where possible. Options such as white lining, good signage, and L.E.D. cats eyes, should be considered as preferable, especially within Zones 1 and 2. Reflective fittings may help make use of headlights to provide any necessary illumination in some areas.
- Use only high pressure sodium, or warm white L.E.D. lamps where possible. High pressure sodium and warm white L.E.D. lamps emit lower proportions of insect attracting U.V. light than mercury, metal halide lamps, and white L.E.D. lighting. Generally, lamps should have a lower proportion of white or blue wavelengths, with a colour temperature <4200 kelvin recommended (BCT, 2014).
- Minimise the spread of light. The light spread should be kept at or near horizontal to ensure that only the task area is lit. Flat cut-off lanterns or accessories should be used to shield or direct light to where it is required. Baffles, hoods, louvres, and shields should be used where necessary to reduce light spill.
- Consider the height of lighting column. While downward facing bollard lighting is often preferable, it should be noted that a lower mounting height does not automatically reduce impacts to bats as bollard lighting can often be designed to provide up lighting. Where bollard lighting is considered to be the most appropriate system, bollard spacing or unit density should be kept to a minimum and units should be fitted with the appropriate hoods/deflectors to reduce up lighting. Column height should be carefully considered to balance task and mitigation measures.
- Avoid reflective surfaces below lights. The polarisation of light by shiny surfaces attracts insects increasing bat activity (BCT, 2012). Consequently, surface materials around lighting require consideration.

Bat and Bird Presence/Absence Survey

The Bat-Year



January Hibernating; using up fat reserves.



February Still hibernating; few fat reserves left.



March Some activity; occasional bat seen feeding.



April Awake and feeding at night.



May Females looking for nursery sites.



June Young born usually only one.

Bat and Bird Presence/Absence Survey



July Young still suckling.



August Young start catching insects; females leave nursery to find males.



September Mating season begins; start building fat reserves for hibernation.



October Search for suitable hibernation site.



November Hibernation begins although still some activity in warm weather.



December Hibernating.

Bat and Bird Presence/Absence Survey

9 LIMITING CONDITIONS/DISCLAIMERS (Unless stated otherwise)

9.1 The Service

- 9.2 Evolution Ecology agrees to supply ecological consulting services of a preliminary nature or a more thorough service as advised or as commissioned.

10 Fees

- 10.1 The client(s) will settle the agreed fee in full, within 30 days of receiving the invoice. Reports will remain the property of Evolution Ecology until full payment has been received. No liability is accepted for the contents of a report that is not paid in full. Any queries should be notified to Evolution Ecology within 7 days of the invoice date.
- 10.2 If the client(s) fails to pay within the time specified in 2.1 then Evolution Ecology shall charge the client(s) interest on the outstanding fee, both before and after any judgment, at the rate of 4% per annum above the HSBC Bank base rate, until payment is made in full (A part of a month being treated as a full month for the purposes of calculating interest).
- 10.3 In the event that it is necessary to recover any outstanding fees from the client(s), the client(s) will fully reimburse any costs and expenses incurred during the recovery period, including court costs. Evolution Ecology reserves the right to make a charge for every letter sent and telephone/fax call made, in connection with the recovery.

11 The Report

- 11.1 If any part of the report is lost, or altered without the written consent of Evolution Ecology, then the entire report becomes invalid.
- 11.2 The general format of reports is a certified product and cannot be shown, copied or distributed to third parties without the permission of Evolution Ecology. No liability is accepted for the contents of the report, other than to that of the client(s).
- 11.3 The report will purport not to express any opinion or comment as to the condition or structural integrity of any building and no reliance should be made on any such comments.

Bat and Bird Presence/Absence Survey

12.1 Insurance Cover

12.2 All work carried out by Evolution Ecology is covered by a £1,000,000 professional indemnity insurance.

13.1 Quality of Craftsmanship

13.2 When appointing an Ecologist, please use only suitably qualified and experienced companies (The Local Authority and the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Managers may be able to provide a select list of such companies)

13.3 Evolution Ecology will not accept liability for any works undertaken by any other companies, or contractors.