

7 Kidmore Road
Caversham
Reading
Berkshire
RG4 7LR

Bat Emergence and Re-Entry Survey

Ref: R2849/c

September 2021



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John Wenman Ecological Consultancy LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales with registered number OC339057.
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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1.1** John Wenman Ecological Consultancy LLP was commissioned by Mr Thomas Wrathmell to undertake a survey for the presence of bats within the detached house at 7 Kidmore Road in Caversham, Berkshire. The survey was commissioned in connection with a planning application to be lodged with Reading Borough Council seeking consent for a rear two-storey extension.
- 1.1.2** A preliminary bat roost assessment was undertaken in March 2021 and is reported separately (John Wenman Ecological Consultancy, March 2021, R2599/b). The survey found ten small droppings typical of pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus* sp.) and five medium-sized droppings typical of long-eared bats (*Plecotus* sp.) in the roof space of the house. There were sections of missing mortar along the verge of the rear gable end and gaps beneath lifted roof tiles. Thus, in order to determine if roosting bats are present or are likely absent, emergence and/or re-entry survey work was recommended.
- 1.1.3** Emergence and re-entry surveys were carried out in June and July 2021; no bats were observed emerging from or re-entering the property.
- 1.1.4** The survey data shows that the proposals are highly unlikely to result in bat roosts being damaged or destroyed, or to bats being disturbed. As such, a European Protected Species licence or registration of the site under a Bat Mitigation Class licence is not required for the planned works to go ahead lawfully.
- 1.1.5** Bats have roosted historically within the house, and it is possible that bats could be present in the future, therefore precautionary measures will be adopted during the work comprising pre-works loft inspection and provision of new bat roosting opportunities.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

2.1.1 John Wenman Ecological Consultancy LLP was commissioned by Mr Thomas Wrathmell to undertake a survey for the presence of bats within the detached house at 7 Kidmore Road in Caversham, Berkshire. The survey was commissioned in connection with a planning application to be lodged with Reading Borough Council seeking consent for a rear two-storey extension (see proposed elevation plans in **Appendix 3**).

2.1.2 A preliminary bat roost assessment was undertaken in September 2020 and is reported separately (John Wenman Ecological Consultancy, March 2021, R2599/b). The survey found ten small droppings typical of pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus* sp.) and five medium-sized droppings typical of long-eared bats (*Plecotus* sp.) in the roof space of the house, none of which were fresh. There were sections of missing mortar along the verge of the rear gable end and gaps beneath lifted roof tiles. Thus, in order to determine if roosting bats are present or are likely absent, emergence and/or re-entry survey work was recommended.

2.2 Legislative Background

2.2.1 All British bat species are fully protected by the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 ('Habitat Regulations') (as amended). In summary, the legislation combined makes it an offence to:

- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place or intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a structure or place used for shelter by a bat;
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb bats; in particular any disturbance which is likely to impair the ability of bats to survive, breed or reproduce or nurture their young; or in the case of hibernating or migrating bats, to hibernate or migrate; or to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species;
- Deliberately kill, injure or take any bat.

- 2.2.2** The government's statutory conservation advisory organisation, Natural England, is responsible for issuing European Protected Species licences that would permit activities that would otherwise lead to an infringement of the Habitat Regulations. A licence can be issued if the following three tests have been met:
- **Regulation 55(9)(a)** - there is "no satisfactory alternative" to the derogation, and;
 - **Regulation 55(9)(b)** - the derogation "will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range" and;
 - **Regulation 55(2)(e)** - the derogation is for the purposes of "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".
- 2.2.3** Local authorities have a statutory duty under Regulation 7(3e) of the Habitat Regulations to have regard to requirements of the Habitats Directive in the exercise of their functions. The Council must therefore consider and determine whether these three tests are likely to be satisfied by applications where survey findings show that European Protected Species licensing is necessary before granting planning permission.
- 2.2.4** European Protected Species licence applications can be submitted once all necessary planning consents have been granted and Natural England aim to issue a licence decision within 30 working days.
- 2.2.5** Licensable projects affecting small numbers of seven commonly occurring bat species may fall under the remit of the Bat Mitigation Class Licence (WML-CL21). The Class Licence permits 'Registered Consultants' to carry out licensable operations on site on behalf of clients following the registration of sites with Natural England at least 15 working days before the work is due to start.
- 2.2.6** Survey data supporting EPS licence applications or the registration of the site under the Bat Mitigation Class Licence (WML-CL21) must be up to date i.e. have been conducted within the current or most recent optimal survey season i.e. May to August. Therefore, if surveys show bats are present and licensable work is delayed until during or after the next survey season,

updated surveys will be required to support an application or site registration.

2.3 Site Location and Context

2.3.1 The house is situated on the western side of Kidmore Road in Caversham, Berkshire (OS Grid Reference: SU 70942 75311).

2.3.2 The house is bordered by further residential properties and their associated gardens on all sides, and beyond the houses to the east is a patch of broadleaved woodland approximately 60 metres away. Further patches of woodland are situated just under 500 metres to the east at Balmore Walk Park. Allotments are situated approximately 225 metres to the east and these connect to school grounds 270 metres to the east and scattered parkland trees at a cemetery approximately 290 metres to the northeast. The River Thames flows just over 530 metres to the south. The river and woodland habitats in the local area offer good quality foraging habitat for bats and provide potential commuting and foraging habitats likely to be of high value to bats.

2.4 Report Format

2.4.1 There follows a description of: the survey methods in **Section 3** presents a description of the survey methods; **Section 4** summarises the findings of the detector surveys; **Section 5** presents a discussion of the survey findings and recommendations. **Appendix 1** presents plans of the re-entry and emergence survey findings; **Appendix 2** presents the raw survey data; and **Appendix 3** presents a plan showing the new bat roost provision .

3 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

3.1 Evening Emergence and Dawn Re-Entry Surveys

3.1.1 Evening emergence surveys were undertaken on the 10th and 24th June 2021 and a dawn re-entry survey was undertaken on the 8th July 2021. Each survey was carried out by two surveyors: one surveyor was situated in the rear garden on the northern side of the property (Survey Location 1); the second surveyor was situated in the rear garden at the south-western side of the property (Survey Location 2).

3.1.2 The emergence surveys were undertaken with the aid of two Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro detectors and a Batbox Duet detector. The dawn re-entry survey was undertaken with the aid of an Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro and an EM3+ detector.

3.1.3 The Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro recordings were converted to ZC files in Kaleidoscope, before being analysed along with the Batbox and EM3 recordings using the AnalookW computer software package.

3.1.4 The evening emergence surveys started 15 minutes before sunset and continued until 1.5 hours after sunset and the dawn re-entry survey started 1.5 hours before sunrise and continued until sunrise.

3.2 Background Data Search

3.2.1 The Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire Bat Group was commissioned to carry out a search of bat records held by them for the site and land within a 2km radius.

3.3 Survey Constraints

3.3.1 There were no significant constraints to the re-entry and emergence surveys, which were undertaken at a suitable time of year for undertaking emergence surveys i.e. May to September (Collins 2016), and in conditions suitable for bat activity i.e. with air temperatures 10°C or above at sunset/sunrise (Collins 2016).

4 SURVEY FINDINGS

4.1 Evening Emergence Survey – 10th June 2021

- 4.1.1** No bats were observed emerging from the property by either surveyor.
- 4.1.2** The first bat recorded was a common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) foraging unseen, at 21:42, 24 minutes after sunset. The level of bat activity was moderate, with common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) bats recorded foraging over the rear garden and in the gardens of neighbouring properties. Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) bats were recorded passing unseen on two occasions, one of which was recorded by both surveyors at 21:55.

4.2 Evening Emergence Survey – 24th June 2021

- 4.2.1** No bats were observed emerging from the property by either surveyor.
- 4.2.2** The first bat recorded was a common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) at 21:27, three minutes after sunset, suggesting that it had emerged nearby. The level of bat activity was similar to the first survey, with common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) bats frequently recorded and seen foraging in the rear garden throughout the survey. A noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) was seen foraging above the house on one occasion.

4.3 Dawn Re-entry Survey – 8th July 2021

- 4.3.1** No bats were observed re-entering the property by either surveyor.
- 4.3.2** The level of bat activity was moderate for a dawn survey, with common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) bats frequently recorded and seen foraging and commuting over the rear garden. The last bat recorded was a common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) at 04:35, 21 minutes before sunrise, commuting north to west across the rear garden.

4.4 Background Data Search

- 4.4.1** The Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire Bat Group has no pre-existing records of bats at 7 Kidmore Road but has records of at least ten species in the surrounding area: common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), brown long eared (*Plecotus auritus*),

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Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*), whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*), serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*), noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), Leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*), and Nathusius' pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*).

- 4.4.2** The Group holds records of bat roosts and those within a 1km radius include; a brown long-eared and common pipistrelle roost recorded in 2015 (c. 200m from the site), a soprano day pipistrelle roost (c. 350m from the site), a common and soprano pipistrelle day roost within a house on Kidmore Road in 2017 (c. 580m north from the site).

5 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Assessment of Bat Roost Status

5.1.1 During the emergence and re-entry surveys, no bats were observed emerging from or re-entering the property. The emergence and re-entry survey findings, combined with the preliminary roost assessment and data search findings, suggest it is highly unlikely that the property currently supports roosting bats. The old bat droppings that were found in the roof space are considered to be from an historic roost that is no longer in use.

5.2 Impact of Proposals and Recommendations

5.2.1 Due to there only being temporary disturbance of a small area of the roof elevation during construction and the up-to-date survey data confirming the presence of historic bat roosts only, the proposals are not considered likely to result in the damage or destruction of any bat roosts, or to the disturbance of bats occupying roosts. As such, a European Protected Species licence will not be required for the planned works to go ahead lawfully. Precautions and enhancements for bats will be incorporated into the scheme as follows in 5.2.2 and 5.2.3 below:

5.2.2 Bats are highly mobile and have previously used the property as a roosting location and therefore it is possible that bats could be present in the future. To ensure there have been no changes between the surveys carried out in June-July 2021 and the commencement of works, a repeat pre-works loft inspection will be carried out by a licensed ecologist. In the unlikely event that fresh droppings are found or bat(s) are discovered during the pre-works check or during the course of the work, work must stop immediately. At this stage the licensed ecologist will provide further written advice and work will only continue once further written advice has been received; updated survey work and an EPSL may be required for the work to continue lawfully at this stage.

5.2.3 To maintain roosting opportunities for brown long eared and pipistrelle bats to avoid a net loss of roosting opportunities, either integral bat boxes or wall mounted woodcrete boxes such as the Schwegler 2FR bat tube or Beumaris Woodstone boxes will be installed at the gable apex of the western and northern elevations corresponding with the historically used roosting sites (refer to proposed bat roost provision in **Appendix 3**).

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6 REFERENCES

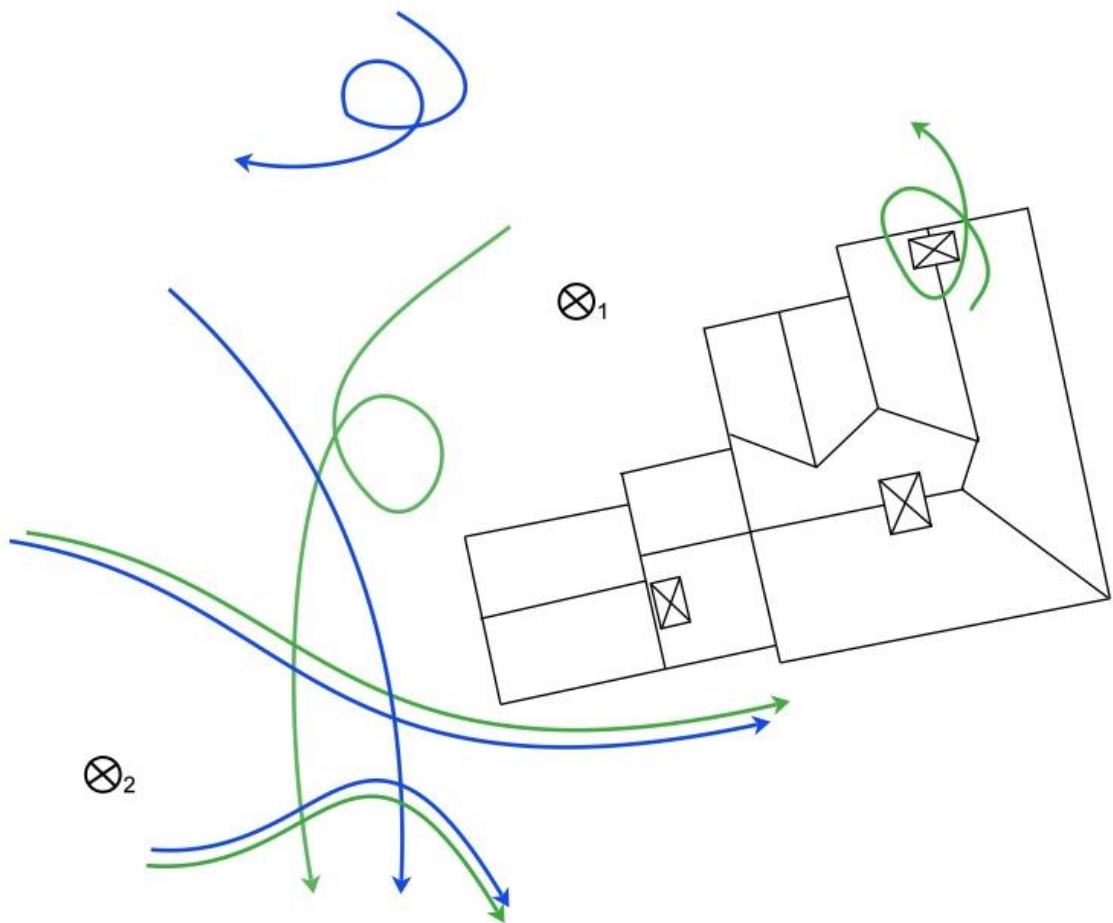
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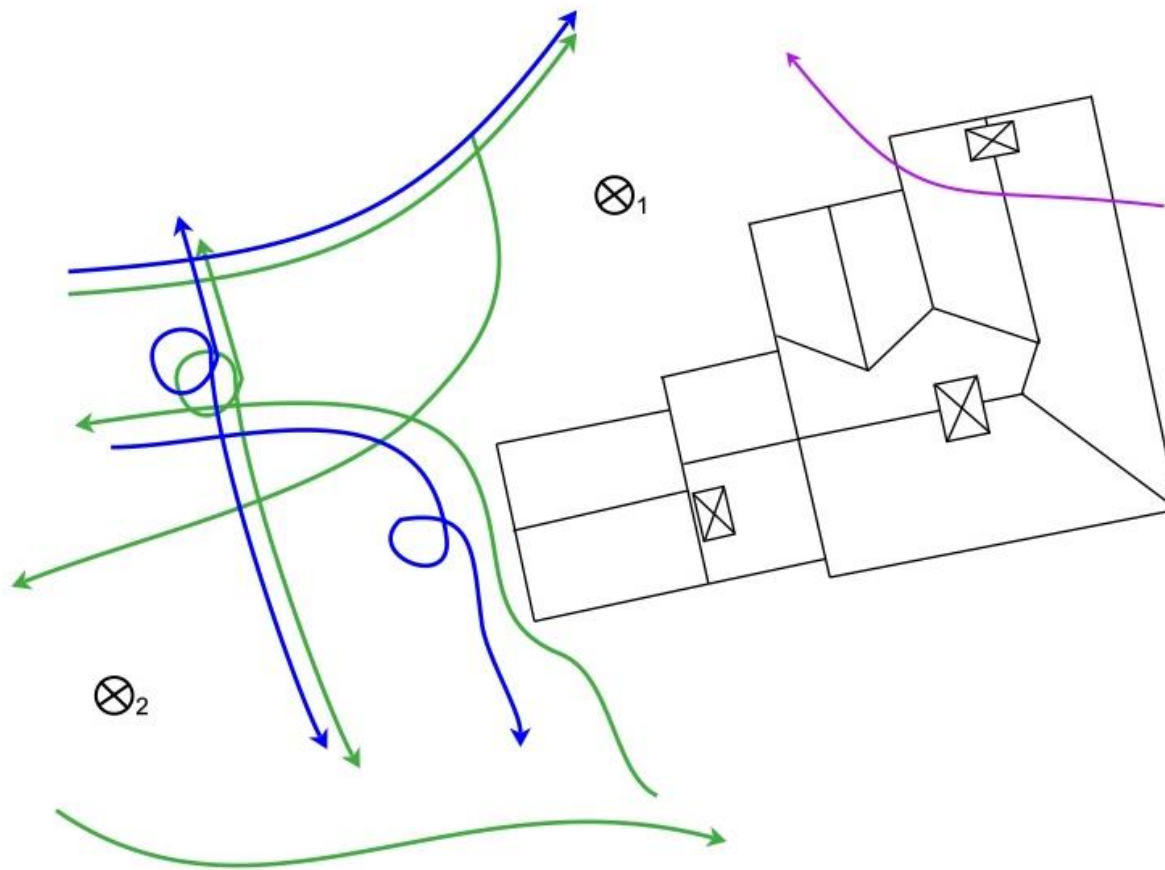
APPENDIX 1 - BAT EMERGENCE & RE-ENTRY SURVEY FINDINGS



⊗_n Surveyor location → Common pipistrelle flight path → Soprano pipistrelle flight path

Drawn by:	Date	Scale:	7 Kidmore Road Caversham	
MP	July 2021	Not to scale	Emergence survey 10th June - Bat survey findings	

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Surveyor location



Common pipistrelle flight path



Soprano pipistrelle flight path

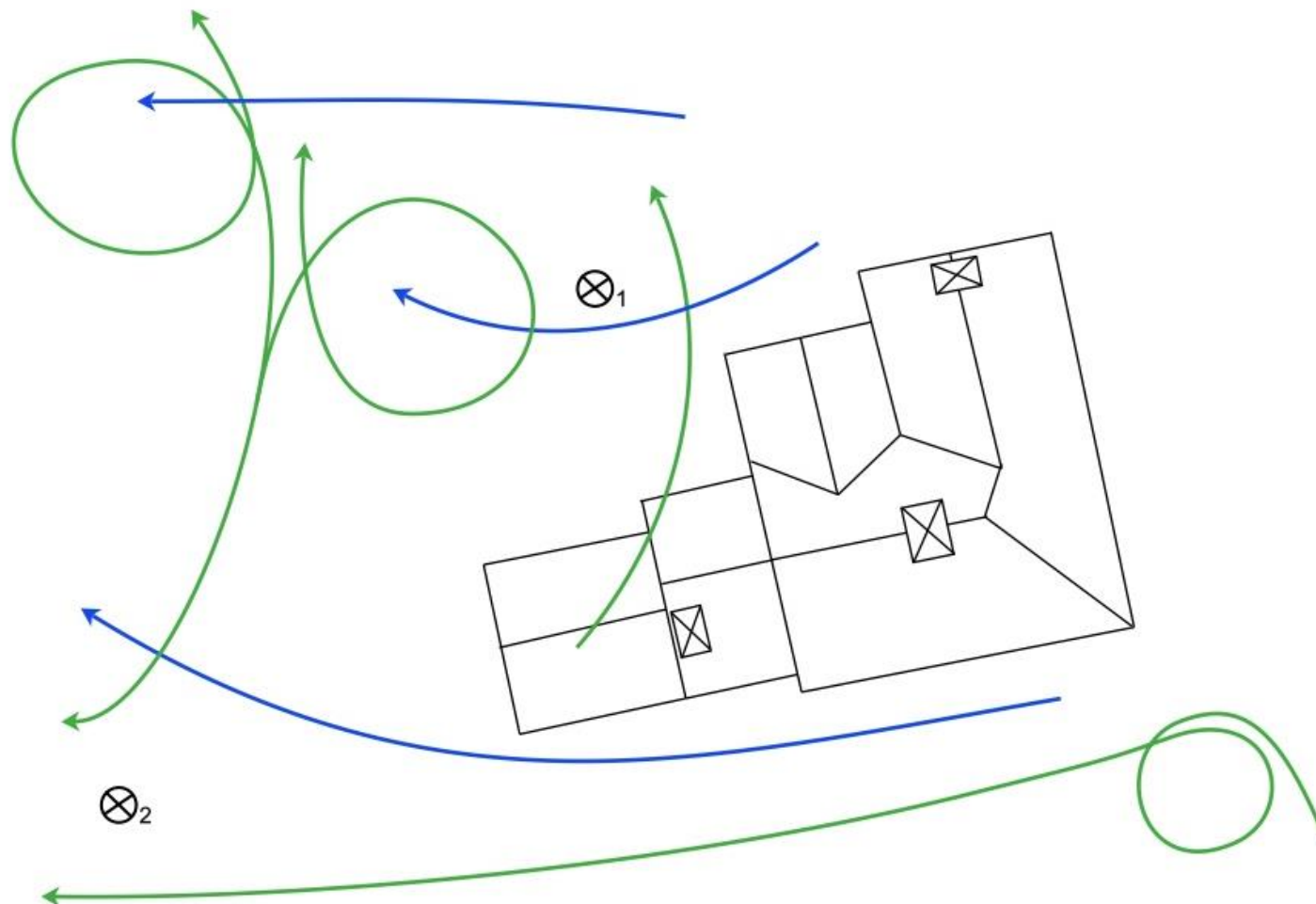


Noctule flight path

Drawn by:	Date	Scale:	7 Kidmore Road Caversham	
MP	July 2021	Not to scale	Emergence survey 24th June - Bat survey findings	

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$\otimes_n$ Surveyor location



Common pipistrelle flight path



Soprano pipistrelle flight path

Drawn by:	Date	Scale:	7 Kidmore Road Caversham	
MP	July 2021	Not to scale	Re-entry survey 8th July - Bat survey findings	

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APPENDIX 2 – BAT RE-ENTRY & EMERGENCE RAW SURVEY DATA

Evening Emergence Survey - 10th June 2021

Survey date: 10/06/21 Location 1: Rear garden, north of the house Surveyor: Meghan Porter Detector: Echometer Touch 2 Pro Weather conditions: 20°C, 80% cloud cover, dry, light wind Start time: 21:03 Sunset: 21:18 Finish time: 22:48		
Time	Species	Survey notes
21:55	Noctule	Heard not seen, foraging
22:01	Common pipistrelle	Seen, foraging over rear of the house
22:05	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen, pass
22:07	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen, distant foraging
22:22	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, distant foraging
22:30	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, distant foraging
22:41	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, distant foraging

Survey date: 10/06/21 Location 2: Rear garden, south-west of the house Surveyor: Jess Smith Detector: Echometer Touch 2 Pro and Batbox Duet Weather conditions: 20°C, 80% cloud cover, dry, light wind Start time: 21:03 Sunset: 21:18 Finish time: 22:48		
Time	Species	Survey notes
21:42	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, foraging
21:44	Noctule	Heard not seen
21:46	Common pipistrelle	Seen, foraging over garden from east to west
21:51	Common pipistrelle	Seen, foraging over garden from east to west
21:53	Soprano pipistrelle	Seen, foraging over garden from north to south
21:54	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
21:54	Soprano pipistrelle	Seen, foraging over garden from east to west
21:55	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
21:55	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen
21:55	Noctule	Heard not seen
21:57	Common pipistrelle	Seen, foraging loops over garden from east to south
21:58	Common pipistrelle	Seen, foraging to the south of the garden
21:58	Soprano pipistrelle	Seen, foraging to the south of the garden
22:00	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
22:01	Common pipistrelle	Seen, foraging loops over chimney on house to the east
22:06	Common pipistrelle	Seen, foraging loops over garden and chimney to the east
22:08	Common pipistrelle	Seen, foraging loops over garden from east to south
22:21	Soprano pipistrelle	Seen, foraging loops over garden to the north
22:28	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, foraging
22:37	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, brief
22:40	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen

Evening Emergence Survey - 24th June 2021

Survey date: 24/06/21

Location 1: Rear garden, north of the house

Surveyor: Meghan Porter

Detector: Echometer Touch Pro

Weather conditions: 17°C, 100% cloud cover, dry, low wind

Start time: 21:09

Sunset: 21:24

Finish time: 22:54

Time	Species	Survey notes
21:43	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen, very brief
21:50-54	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen, foraging nearby
21:57	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen, foraging nearby
22:09	Noctule	Seen, foraging above the house
22:11	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen, distant foraging
22:12	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen, distant foraging
22:42	Noctule	Heard not seen, distant foraging

Survey date: 24/06/21

Location 2: Rear garden, south-west of the house

Surveyor: Jess Smith

Detector: Echometer Touch 2 Pro and Batbox Duet

Weather conditions: 17°C, 100% cloud cover, dry, low wind

Start time: 21:09

Sunset: 21:24

Finish time: 22:54

Time	Species	Survey notes
21:27	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
21:28	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
21:32	Common pipistrelle	Seen, foraging over garden from west to east
21:40	Soprano pipistrelle	Two bats seen, foraging over garden from north to south
21:45	Soprano pipistrelle	Seen, foraging loops over garden from west to south
21:46	Common pipistrelle	Seen, foraging over garden from north to west
21:47	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen
21:49	Common pipistrelle	Seen, foraging loops over garden from north to south
21:51	Common and Soprano pipistrelle	Seen, foraging loops over garden from north to south – many passes by both
21:55	Soprano pipistrelle	Seen, foraging loops over garden from north to south
21:59	Common pipistrelle	Seen, foraging above neighbouring garden to the south
22:01	Common pipistrelle	Seen, foraging from south to west over garden
22:06	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen
22:07	Noctule	Heard not seen
22:09	Soprano pipistrelle	Seen, foraging over garden from west to east
22:11	Soprano pipistrelle	Seen, foraging over garden from west to east
22:25	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, foraging
22:35	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, foraging
22:36	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen, foraging
22:37	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen, foraging
22:39	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen, foraging
22:48	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen, foraging

Dawn Re-entry Survey - 8th July 2021

Survey date: 08/07/21

Location 1: Rear garden, north of the house

Surveyor: Meghan Porter

Detector: Echometer Touch 2 Pro

Weather conditions: 14°C, low wind, 50% cloud cover, dry

Start time: 03:26

Sunrise: 04:56

Finish time: 04:56

Time	Species	Survey notes
03:39	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, brief pass
03:50	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, brief pass
04:02	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, foraging nearby
04:09	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen, foraging and social calls nearby
04:11	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, brief pass

04:12	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen, brief pass
04:21	Common pipistrelle	Seen, commuting from south to north over the rear of the house
04:22	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, foraging nearby
04:26	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, brief
04:27	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen
04:28	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, brief pass
04:28	Soprano pipistrelle	Seen, flying east to west
04:30	Soprano pipistrelle	Two bats seen, flying east to west along northern boundary

Survey date: 08/07/21

Location 2: Rear garden, south-west of the house

Surveyor: Amy Denness

Detector: Echometer 3+

Weather conditions: 14°C, low wind, 50% cloud cover, dry

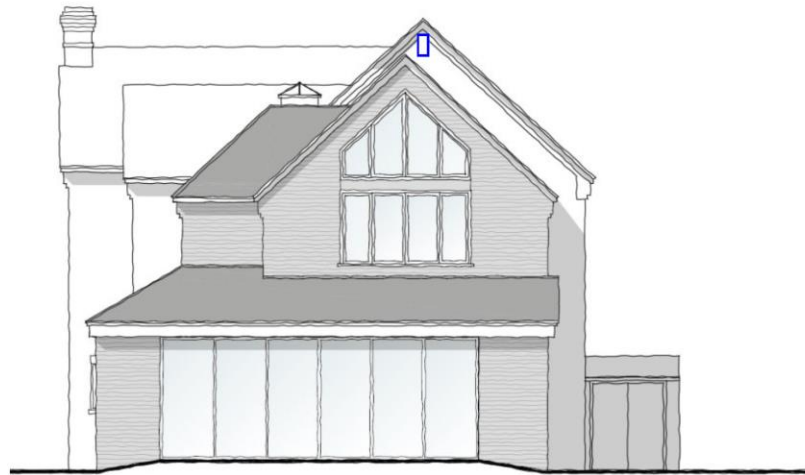
Start time: 03:26

Sunrise: 04:56

Finish time: 04:56

Time	Species	Survey notes
03:21	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen
03:38	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
03:50	Common pipistrelle	Seen foraging along southern boundary and neighbouring property
04:02	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
04:09	Soprano pipistrelle	Two bats seen, commuting together from east to west, along the southern boundary of the site
04:11	Soprano pipistrelle	Two bats seen, commuting one after the other east to west, along the southern boundary of the site
04:14	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen, distant call
04:15-18	Common pipistrelle	Seen, four foraging loops of the garden and neighbouring garden to the north of the
04:20	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen
04:21-28	Common pipistrelle	Seen, foraging loops around the garden and neighbouring garden to the north
04:28	Soprano pipistrelle	Seen, commuting from east to west
04:29	Common pipistrelle	Seen, foraging above the rear garden to the west of the site
04:31	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen
04:32	Soprano pipistrelle	Heard not seen
04:34-35	Common pipistrelle	Seen, commuting from north to west

APPENDIX 3 – PROPOSED BAT ROOST PROVISION



WESTERN ELEVATION



NORTHERN ELEVATION



Integrated or externally mounted bat box e.g.
Schwegler 2FR Bat Tube or Beaumaris Woodstone
Boxes (or similar spec.)



CLIENT Mr & Mrs Ashmore
PROJECT 7 Kidmore Road, Caversham
Reading, RG4 7LR
DRAWINGS Proposed Elevations

STATUS Planning DATE Feb 2021
SCALE 1:100 DRAWN GH CHECKED NO 3717/206 REV D

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