

Bat Emergence and Re-Entry Surveys (BERS)

Survey site:

38 Yardley Road, Hedge End, Southampton, SO30 0HQ

Client:

Sharon Taylor

Report date:

1st June 2024

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application for the proposal described as:

Enlarged dormers on to both north and south elevations.

This report is supplementary to the Preliminary Roost Assessment report completed by Chase Ecological Consultancy.

BERS survey methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: [BERS Methodology and Legislation - 2024.](#)

This report is an addendum to and must be read in conjunction with the Preliminary Roost Assessment completed by Chase ecological consultancy (2024) for the same site address and client. This table may include further work you will need to commission (if any) to obtain planning permission or comply with legislation for other consent. All clients are expected to read and understand this section, or to contact the lead surveyor for advice.	
Executive Summary	
No bat roosts were identified at the site. Since no new lighting schemes are planned, there will be no impact on bat foraging or commuting routes. The creation of additional habitat for bats is recommended in line with the local authorities' duty to request enhancements under the NPPF (2023).	
The site surveys were designed and managed by Anna Dolby, BSc (Hons) (Accredited Agent: Natural England Protected Species Licence Numbers: [Bats] (2018-33540-CLS-CLS)	
See surveyor locations in the BERS plan in Appendix 1.	
<i>Limitations</i>	The security lights were not switched off for the first BERS survey. However, these lights are motion sensors and are likely to reflect the usual conditions of the site. All security lights were off for the duration of the second survey. The view of the northern elevation was partially obscured by hedgerows and the neighbouring building. However, audio detectors would have detected any proximate activity, and surveyors were positioned to detect any bats arriving to or leaving from the building.

Field Survey							
Dusk Emergence Survey 1							
Building B1							
<i>Building inspection prior to survey</i>		The building was not subject to an updated internal inspection as no loft spaces are present. The building was previously inspected internally by Chase Ecological Consultancy in 2024. Please refer to the Preliminary Roost Assessment report completed by Chase Ecological Consultancy, 2024					
<i>Surveyor and position</i>		Lead Surveyor 1 – Anna Dolby BSc (Hons) (Accredited Agent: Natural England Protected Species Licence Numbers: [Bats] (2018-33540-CLS-CLS) – observing the northern elevation Surveyor 2 – Abby Pidgen – 3 years bat survey experience – observing the western and southern elevations Surveyor 3 – Romany Poole – 3 years bat survey experience – observing the northern and eastern elevations Surveyor 4 - Sarah Facey – 6 years bat survey experience – observing the eastern and southern elevations					
<i>Weather (start/end)</i>		Temperature (°C): 14 Relative humidity (%): 77 Cloud cover (%): 10 Wind (m/s): 0.1 Rain: None			Temperature (°C): 10.9 Relative humidity (%): 85 Cloud cover (%): 0 Wind (m/s): 0.1 Rain: None		
<i>Equipment used</i>		Echo meter Touch 2, 4 x Nightfox Whisker IR cameras & 4 x Nightfox XB5 Pro IR torch and 4x hand-held radios.					
Results							
Date of survey	Sunset, start and end time	Species and numbers	Roost type	Structure reference	Roost location	Access points	Dimensions and explanation of roost location
08/05/2024	20:38 20:23–22:08	No emergences	N/A	B1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Surveyor observations							

<i>Surveyor 1</i>	No emergencies observed. A common pipistrelle bat (CP) was observed foraging at the south elevation/in the rear garden-where?) at 20:54. No further activity was recorded during the survey.	N/A
<i>IR position</i>	The footage reflected the view of surveyor 1.	
<i>Surveyor 2</i>	No emergencies observed. The first activity recorded was a pass by a serotine bat at 21:11. The bat was heard not seen. A common pipistrelle was observed foraging in the neighbour's garden at 21:13. (brief or constant foraging activity from 21:13 to when?) Three further passes by common pipistrelles were recorded between 21:22 and 21:51. The bats were heard not seen?	N/A
<i>IR position</i>	The footage reflected the view of surveyor 2.	

<i>Surveyor 3</i>	No emergences observed. The first activity recorded was a direct pass by a common pipistrelle bat at 20:52. The bat was heard not seen. At 21:08 a common pipistrelle was observed foraging between the back and front gardens. Foraging activity continued for approx. 10minutes? At 21:11 a common pipistrelle was observed/recorded foraging along the hedgerow before continuing in a westerly direction, offsite. The last activity recorded was a pass by a common pipistrelle at 21:42. The bat was heard not seen.	N/A
<i>IR position</i>	The footage reflected the view of surveyor 3.	
<i>Surveyor 4</i>	No emergences observed. The first activity recorded was a direct pass by a common pipistrelle bat at 20:59. The bat arrived from the east and continued off site in a westerly direction. The last bat detected was a soprano pipistrelle, heard but not seen, at 21:55. Occasional passes by common pipistrelle were recorded, including one with social calling at 21:48. No further activity was observed.	N/A

<i>IR position</i>	The footage reflected the view of surveyor 4.	 An infrared (IR) photograph of a building at night. The image shows the upper portion of a structure with a gabled roof and a chimney. The building is illuminated by a bright light source, likely a night vision or IR camera, creating a high-contrast scene. A timestamp in the bottom right corner reads "09/08/2024 22:10:19".
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Field Survey							
Dusk Emergence Survey 2							
Building B1							
<i>Surveyor and position</i>		Lead surveyor 1 – Abby Pidgen – 3 years bat survey experience – observing the northern elevation Surveyor 2 – Rebecca Gane – 7 years bat survey experience - observing the western and southern elevations Surveyor 3 – Andy Wilkins – 3 years bat survey experience - observing the northern and eastern elevations Surveyor 4 – Jayne Wilkins – 4 years bat survey experience - observing the eastern and southern elevations					
<i>Weather (start/end)</i>		Temperature (°C): 14 Relative humidity (%): 65 Cloud cover (%): 80 Wind (m/s): 0.5 Rain: None			Temperature (°C): 14 Relative humidity (%): 83 Cloud cover (%): 0 Wind (m/s): 1 Rain: None		
<i>Equipment used</i>		Echo meter Touch 2, 5 x Nightfox Whisker IR cameras & 4 x Nightfox XB5 Pro IR torch and 4x hand-held radios.					
Results							
Date of survey	Start, end and sunset time	Species and numbers	Roost type	Structure reference	Roost location	Access points (include # of them)	Dimensions and explanation of roost location
29/05/2024	20:52 21:07 22:37	No emergences	N/A	B1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Surveyor observations							
<i>Surveyor 1</i>		No emergences observed. The first activity observed was a commuting pass by a noctule bat at 21:25. The bat passed northwest over the building. A common pipistrelle bat was seen at 21:31 heading southeast over the building. A common pipistrelle was heard but not seen at 21:37. The final bat of the survey was a common pipistrelle observed passing south and then north across the gardens at 22:02.				N/A	

<i>IR position</i>	The footage reflected the view of surveyor 1.	
<i>Surveyor 2</i>	No emergences observed. The first activity recorded was a commuting pass by a noctule bat at 21:26. The bat passed south to north at height above B1. Second species recorded was common pipistrelle at 21:31, commuting west over the building between the two dormers. A common pipistrelle foraged over the driveway and commuted offsite at 21:32, two individuals were recorded commuting south along the western aspect of the house and finally a common pipistrelle commuted across the driveway. The last bat recorded was at 22:04 and was seen not heard.	N/A

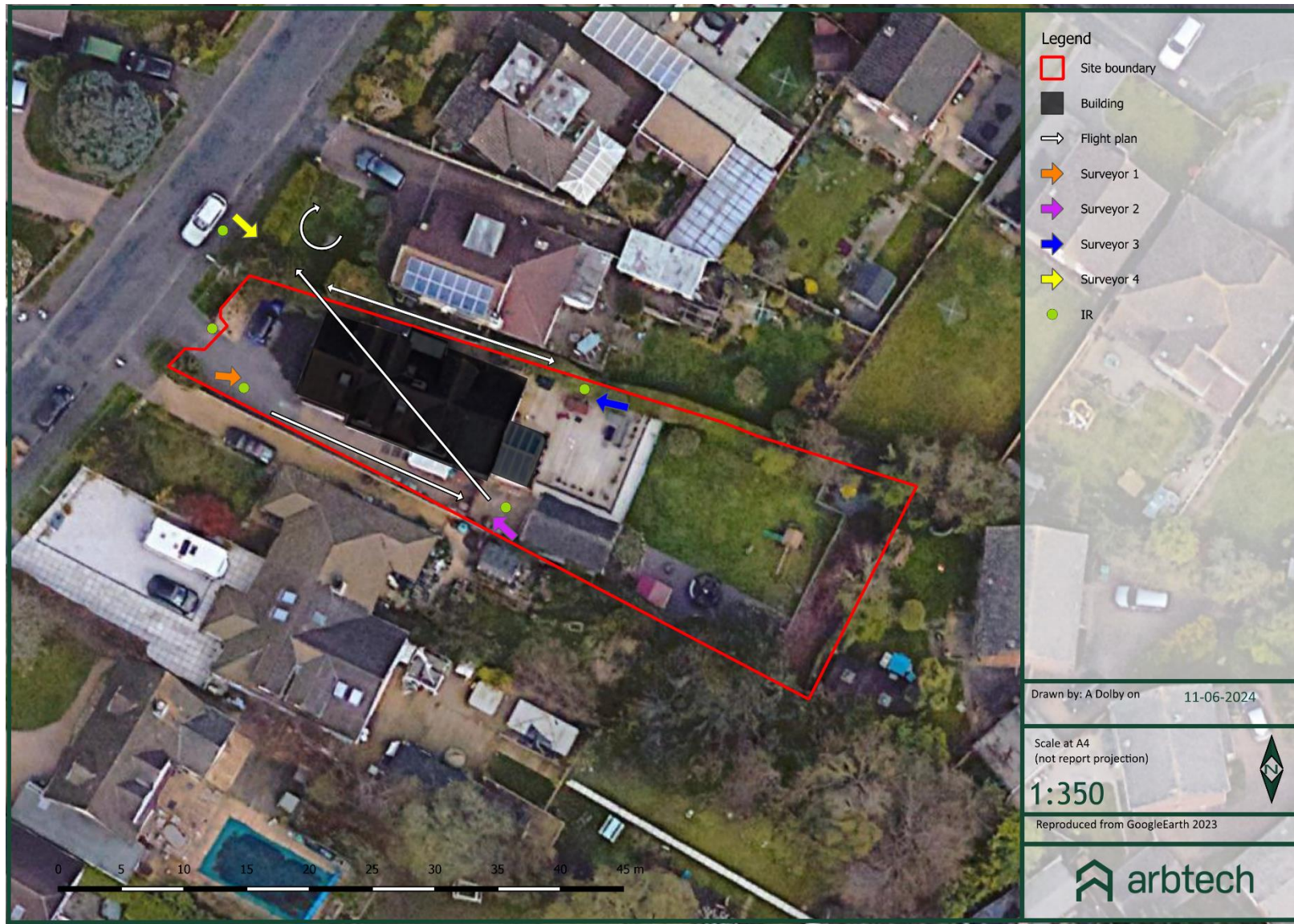
<i>IR position</i>	The footage reflected the view of surveyor 2.	
<i>Surveyor 3</i>	No emergences observed. First bat was noctule, heard not seen at 21.30/32. A Common pipistrelle was also HNS at 21.54. A direct pass by a brown long-eared bat was observed at 21:59. The last bat recorded was a common pipistrelle foraging at the rear of the property before continuing north over the roof of B1.	N/A
<i>IR position</i>	The footage reflected the view of surveyor 3.	
<i>Surveyor 4</i>	No emergences observed. First bat 21.25 was a noctule seen commuting over the building northwest. A common pipistrelle was heard not seen at 21.31 21.38. At 21.43 a common pipistrelle commuting north to south at the side of building. A common pipistrelle was also heard not seen at 21:59. The last bat was a common pipistrelle, heard not seen at 22:04.	N/A

<i>IR position</i>	The footage reflected the view of surveyor 4.	
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Conclusions, Impacts and Recommendations	
<i>Survey Results Summary</i>	No bats were observed emerging from the building during the survey. No evidence of bats was present during the PRA completed by Chase ecological consultancy (2024). Consequently, the surveys have concluded a likely absence of bats roosting within the building. A low level of foraging and commuting activity by common pipistrelles was recorded on site and within the vicinity.
<i>Impact Assessment</i>	Bats are very unlikely to be roosting within this building and thus, there are not anticipated to be any impacts on bats in this location as a result of the proposed development. However, bats are highly mobile creatures that switch roosts regularly and therefore, the usage of a site by bats can change over a short period of time. Any bats that begin using the buildings during the intervening period between the surveys being undertaken and works commencing could be injured or killed and their roosts destroyed. Since no new lighting schemes are planned, there will be no impact on bat foraging or commuting routes.
<i>Recommendations</i>	The works will follow a precautionary approach. Any potential roost features highlighted in the previous reports will be carefully removed by hand. In the unlikely event that a bat or evidence of bats is discovered during the development, all work must stop, and a licensed bat ecologist must be contacted for further advice.
<i>Enhancements</i>	A single bat box is recommended to enhance roosting opportunities at the site for bats. Use of a bat brick integrated into the fabric of the building is favourable (i.e. bat access tiles). A surface mounted external bat box will also provide suitable enhancement. Bat box type will be providing roost provision for crevice dwelling bat species. Bat boxes must be placed at least 4m from ground level, sheltered from strong winds and access to sunlight throughout the day, this is typically south, southeast or southwest.

Version control			
Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft	0.1	Anna Dolby, BSc (Hons), Graduate Ecologist	10/06/2024
Proof	0.2	Josephine McCarthy, Consultant Ecologist, [Natural England Bat Licence Number: 2019-41480-CLS-CLS (CL18 Level 2)]	14/06/2024
Final	1.0	Anna Dolby, BSc (Hons), Graduate Ecologist	17/06/2024

Appendix 1: BERS plan



Limitations and Copyright

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