

ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT (BATS)
(Emergence Surveys)

**Home Farm
Shaw Hill
Shaw
Wiltshire
SN12 8EW**

**Prepared for:
Mr T. Weaver
Date: 13/7/25.
Ref: NWP/ESR-13.7.25**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BatCraft was commissioned Mr T. WEAVER to carry out three dusk emergence surveys at HOME FARM, SHAW HILL, SHAW, WILTSHIRE SN12 8EW. The surveys were undertaken at the property to provide presence/absence of bats following the PEA undertaken by ARBTECH dated 22ND August 2024, of the same address to inform appropriate mitigation for the proposed works, if required. This report is to support a forthcoming planning application

A search of the local records centre returned records for common pipistrelle *pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle, *pipistrellus pygmaeus*, brown long eared *plecotus auratus*, noctule *nyctalus*, Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus* within a 2km search radius.

A desk top study was conducted prior to the surveys based upon a 2km search radius and it revealed 0 statutory designated site within.

There is 0 current European Protected Species Licences (EPSLs) for bats and there are 3 expired EPSL'S for bats with the latest expiry date of 30/3/21 within 2km of the site.

The dusk emergence surveys were conducted on 4/5/25- 25/5/25- 15/6/24. One species of bat was seen and heard foraging and in transit along the site's western boundary throughout the surveys, none were seen emerging from or re-entering the property to roost.

Some of the evidence observed during the preliminary survey (bat droppings) was still present, DNA analysis on collected droppings returned a result of brown long eared (*Plecotus auritus*) and inconclusive, the property was most probably a summer roost and feeding roost used on an opportunistic basis for a low number of bats, <5 and that an EPSL from Natural England (NE) is not required. However, a site-specific method statement should be required to comply with EU article 12 and 16 which helps guide works that affect a bat resting place when the species is not present, it will be necessary to ensure following development the 'favourable conservation status' of bats is maintained.

With careful timing and close supervision no offence should occur, and the FCS will remain unaffected. If bats are encountered during the work, all work must stop, and the project ecologist informed as an EPSL will be required.

This report is an addendum to and must be read in conjunction with the preliminary roost assessment completed by ARBTEH consulting ltd dated 22nd August 2024 for the same address.

This report confirms the findings of the survey, completed by an experienced licensed bat ecologist, in accordance with current best practice where possible, and outlines any ecological constraints or issues with the proposed works.

The combined evidence from the preliminary survey and activity survey provides a high level of confidence set out in this report. No bats or evidence of bats were seen entering or emerging from the property during the activity surveys. This indicates that the property is not being used as a roost by bats and that an EPSL from Natural England (NE) is not required.

1.INTRODUCTION

1.1 Instruction

BatCraft was instructed by Mr T. Weaver to carry out three dusk emergence surveys of Home Farm, Shaw Hill, Shaw Wiltshire SN12 8EW, to support a forthcoming planning application.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The dusk emergence surveys are designed to:

- Identify the presence/likely absence of bats using the building to roost.
- Estimate the size and status of any existing bat roost within the building.
- Establish where the bats are accessing the building.
- Determine the potential impacts on any bat roost from the proposed development.
- Determine if an EPSL and ecological method statement is required.

The emergence surveys and report writing were carried out in accordance with Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines 4th edition.

1.3 Proposed Works

The survey was commissioned in connection with a forthcoming planning application, final plans were not available however it would include demolition of the buildings surveyed.

1.4 Surveyor Background and Experience

The activity surveys were undertaken by Nicholas Powell and Adam Carroll and the report written by Nicholas Powell. Nicholas holds a Class 2 Bat License (CLS-11742) and has received training in bat ecology and surveying, bat detector use, acoustic monitoring/sonogram analysis, architectural terms for bat workers, bats and development, H & S awareness for bat workers, legislation for bat workers, British bats their ecology and conservation, surveying trees for bats, Bat ID and handling, bat biology.

Adam has received training in bat ecology and biology, surveying techniques, bat detector use, identification, acoustic monitoring, infrared equipment for ecologists, H and Safety awareness for bat workers.

2. Survey Methodology

2.1 Constraints/limitations

An assessment of the buildings was conducted on 4/5/25 prior to the first survey being undertaken and there appeared to be no significant material changes to the site and no constraints or limitations to the surveys. Weather conditions were suitable for the surveys, being conducted during warm weather and with insects in abundance with bats being observed foraging and in transit during the surveys.

2.2 Dusk Surveys.

The dusk surveys were conducted on the evening of evenings of 4th MAY 25TH MAY and 15th of June.

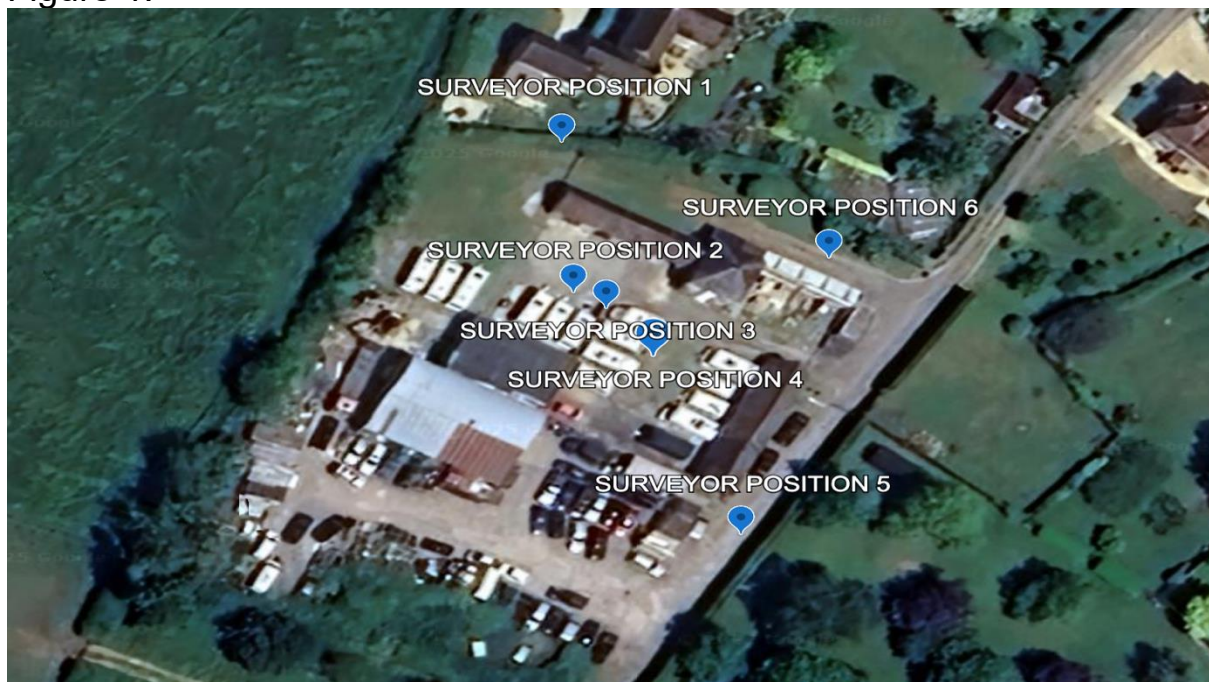
The surveyor/remote cameras were stationed (as shown in Figure 1) to ensure the features identified in the preliminary report could be observed, each surveyor position was covered with infrared equipment.

During the surveys bat activity was monitored using Batlogger m bat detectors along with Sony handycam night shot video cameras with high intensity IR lamps.

A screen shot from each camera at the darkest point of survey is below. Figure 4.

The detectors and cameras were fitted with SD cards for recording bat activity, allowing for later analysis with Kaleidoscope pro 3 software, VLC media player and Motion Meerkat.

Figure 1.



During the surveys no bats were seen emerging from and/or returning to the buildings to roost. In total 1 species was recorded and identified foraging and commuting along the hedgerow which forms the western boundary of the site. A simple summary of the bats recorded can be seen in Table 2. The most frequently used flight paths of the recorded brown long eared bat/s are shown in Figure 3.

HOME FARM, SHAW HILL, SHAW, WILTSHIRE SN12 8EW.

Figure 3.



Figure 4. Screenshot from each camera at darkest point of survey



HOME FARM, SHAW HILL, SHAW, WILTSHIRE SN12 8EW.



HOME FARM, SHAW HILL, SHAW, WILTSHIRE SN12 8EW.

3.Survey Findings

3.1 Dusk Surveys

DATE:	4th MAY 2025	25th MAY 2025	15th JUNE 2025
SURVEYOR AND LOCATION	1 ADAM CARROLL 2 REMOTE 3 NICHOLAS POWELL	1 ADAM CARROLL 2.REMOTE 3 NICHOLAS POWELL	1ADAM CARROLL 2. REMOTE 3 NICHOLAS POWELL
WEATHER CONDITIONS - START	Temperature 18.4°C Cloud cover <5% Humidity 58.6% Dry Wind Beaufort 1	Temperature 17.6°C, Cloud cover 90% Humidity 73.2% Dry Wind Beaufort 0-1	Temperature 24°C, Cloud cover 25% Humidity 64.5% Dry Wind Beaufort 0
SUNSET	20.39	21.12	21.28
START TIME	20.10	20.45	21.00
FINISH TIME	22.40	23.15	23.30
DURATION	02.30	02.30	02.30

Table 2. Summary of bats seen and recorded.

DATE	SURVEYOR POSITION	TIME	SEEN	HEARD	SPECIES	COMMENT
4/5/25	1 NICHOLAS POWELL	20.10- 22.40	Y	Y	BLE	First bat call recorded was 21.52, it was brief and feint. At 21.56 a bat was seen and heard foraging up the western boundary in a South to North direction. 3 passes, 6-8 minutes apart. Calls recorded were that of brown long eared. Last recorded call was feint at 22.17.
4/5/25	2.REMOTE, NO DETECTOR	20.10- 22.40	N	N/A		No emergences/re-entry recorded.
4/5/25	3 REMOTE, NO DETECTOR	20.10- 22.40	N	N/A		No emergences/re-entry recorded
4/5/25	4 REMOTE PLUS DETECTOR	20.10- 22.40	N	Y	BLE	No emergences/re-entry recorded First call 22.01, last call 22.11. 4 calls in total, all BLE.
4/5/25	5 ADAM CARROLL	20.10- 22.40	N	N		No bats were seen or recorded by surveyor or infrared/detector.
4/5/25	6 REMOTE, NO DETECTOR	20.10- 22.4	N	N/A		No emergences/re-entry recorded

DATE	SURVEYOR POSITION	TIME	SEEN	HEARD	SPECIES	COMMENT
25/5/25	1 NICHOLAS POWELL	20.45-23.15	Y	Y	BLE	9 passes by BLE recorded along the western boundary hedge line throughout the survey, each approximately 6 minutes apart, first pass at 21.37. Last call recorded but not seen at 22.58.
25/5/25	2. REMOTE, NO DETECTOR	20.45-23.15	N	N/A		No emergencies/re-entry recorded
25/5/25	3 REMOTE, NO DETECTOR	20.45-23.15	N	N/A		No emergencies/re-entry recorded
25/5/25	4 REMOTE PLUS DETECTOR	20.45-23.15	N	N		No emergencies/re-entry recorded, 5 feint BLE calls, the times would suggest these are the same calls as recorded by surveyor 1.
25/5/25	5 ADAM CARROLL	20.45-23.15	N	Y	BLE	No emergencies/re-entry recorded. 4 identified calls were recorded, these were feint and short.
25/5/25	6 REMOTE, NO DETECTOR	20.45-23.15	N	N		No emergencies/re-entry recorded

HOME FARM, SHAW HILL, SHAW, WILTSHIRE SN12 8EW

DATE	SURVEYOR POSITION	TIME	SEEN	HEARD	SPECIES	COMMENT
15/6/25	1 NICHOLAS POWELL	21.00-23.30	Y	Y	BLE	At 22. 27 a BLE was seen and heard. 5 passes at 3–4-minute intervals. There was a period of inactivity followed by the final call where the bat was heard but not seen at 23.11
15/6/25	2. REMOTE, NO DETECTOR	21.00-23.30	N	N/A		No emergencies/re-entry recorded
15/6/25	3 REMOTE, NO DETECTOR	21.00-23.30	N	N/A		No emergencies/re-entry recorded
15/6/25	4 REMOTE PLUS DETECTOR	21.00-23.30	N	Y	BLE	No emergencies/re-entry recorded, 11 feint BLE calls, the times would suggest these are the same calls as recorded by surveyor 1.
15/6/25	5 ADAM CARROLL	21.00-23.30	N	Y		2 BLE calls were recorded throughout the survey. No bats were seen by either survey or infrared.
15/6/25	6 REMOTE, NO DETECTOR	21.00-23.30	N	N	BLE	No emergencies/re-entry recorded

HOME FARM, SHAW HILL, SHAW, WILTSHIRE SN12 8EW.

4. Conclusions/Interpretation

4.1 The DNA evidence confirmed the droppings observed during the preliminary survey are those of the Brown long eared bat (and inconclusive), a common (widespread in the UK and Wiltshire) species and there was no evidence to indicate maternity use or hibernation. The evidence indicates that the roost has been used opportunistically as a feeding perch and/or a summer roost, no bats emerged or re-entered the property to roost. The roost is of low conservation significance, important only at the site level, so no EPSL from Natural England is needed.

4.2 The surrounding countryside which adjoins the proposed development site should provide reasonable foraging opportunities, and good roosting, the frequent foraging passes by the brown long eared bat/s and the times of first calls indicates that they are foraging in the immediate area.

4.3 The buildings still have the potential to be used, and bats may return to roost at the building following the surveys, an ecological method statement must be conditioned with any planning consent. This will provide suitable ecological safeguards should bats be discovered and enable the Local Planning Authority to have regards to the requirements of the Habitats Directive... in the exercise of their functions in considering the planning application.

4.4 The calls detected and recorded from the surveys provided identification of Brown long eared, *Plecotus auritus* foraging and/or transiting along the western boundary of the site. The findings from the surveyor's observations and bat call identification were cross referenced against the species logged in Wiltshire bat group record search, providing a match for the species identified on this site.

4.5 Brown long eared bats are known to emerge 1 hour after sunset with the median time being 54 minutes after sunset. The earliest bat heard during the surveys was a Brown Long Eared 25 minutes after sunset on the 25th unusually early, on the subsequent surveys the times were closer to what would be expected therefore we would conclude the bat/s are roosting close by but did not emerge from the buildings.

4.6 All bats and their roosts are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The provisions set out in the ecological method statement must be implemented in order for the works to be legally undertaken and must form part of any planning conditions.

4.7 To ensure the planned development is in full compliance with European and national legislation, and national and local biodiversity planning policy an appropriate and proportionate program of mitigation and enhancement must be agreed to ensure protection and enhancements for bats.

5. References

Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition).
Bat Workers Manual – Mitchell-Jones & McLeish 2004.
Bat Mitigation Guidelines – Natural England 2006.
The Conservation and Habitat Regulations – 2017.

6. Queries

Any queries regarding this report should be addressed in the first instance to **BatCraft**.

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APPENDIX 1

In summary, the legislation combined makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a structure or place used for shelter by a bat.
- 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.
- Intentionally or deliberately kill, injure or take any bat.

Planning Considerations:

Government guidance to Local Planning Authorities stipulates the need to consider biodiversity and protected species during the consideration of planning applications. The NPPF makes clear that the planning system should help minimise the impacts that development can have on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible. In addition, the ODPM Circular 04/2005 states “It is essential that the presence or otherwise of protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development, is established before the planning permission is granted, otherwise all relevant material considerations may not have been addressed in making the decision”.

Developments that compromise the protection afforded to bats or roosts under the provisions of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 will require a European Protected Species (EPS) licence from Natural England (NE).

NE, the government’s statutory conservation advisory organisation, is responsible for issuing EPS licences that would permit activities that would otherwise lead to an infringement of the Habitat Regulations.

Three tests must be satisfied before this licence (to permit otherwise prohibited acts) can be issued:

- Reg 44(2)(e) – the derogation is “in the interests of public health and public safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment”.
- Reg 44(3)(a) – there is “no satisfactory alternative” to the derogation.
- Reg 44(3)(b) – the derogation is “not detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range”.

Tests (a) and (e) can be met with the issue of planning permission for the proposed works. Test (b) is determined by NE’s ecology department that requires the development of a suitable mitigation strategy that would ensure that any bats present on site, are retained at the same population level or better.