



Sir Audley Arms, Audley Rd, Chippenham

Further Bat Survey

10th May 2024

INTRODUCTION

Following an initial Bat Scoping Survey undertaken on the 28th August 2023, Kingdom Ecology have completed further preliminary bat roost assessment and a single bat dusk emergence survey of an outbuilding located at the Sir Audley Arms Pub, Audley Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 0DY (Grid Reference ST 91317 73437). The additional bat surveys were undertaken on the 4th May 2024.

Development proposals are to convert the main pub building to provide three dwellings; and to demolish the existing outbuilding and to construct a fourth new detached dwelling. The 2023 bat roost scoping survey examined the interior and exterior of the main pub building however, no internal access was possible to the outbuilding. Potential bat roosting features associated with the main pub building would not be affected by development proposals, therefore the 2024 survey has focused on the outbuilding's suitability to support roosting bats. This assessment has included an internal and external inspection of the outbuilding with a follow-on bat emergence survey.

Surveys were led by Richard Roe (BSc, MSc, MIEEM, CEnv). Richard has extensive experience of undertaking bat surveys as a professional ecological consultant with over twenty years' experience. Richard is also a licensed bat worker (Level 4 Class License).

2024 BAT SCOPING SURVEY FINDINGS

In order to update the findings of the previous surveys a further bat roost assessment of the building was completed on the 4th May 2024.

The building was re-assessed as to its suitability to support bats following standard methodologies prescribed in English Nature's Bat Mitigation Guidelines (Mitchell-Jones 2004) and the Bat Conservation Trust's Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines 4th Edition (BCT 2023)¹.

¹ Bat Conservation Trust (2023) 'Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines 4th Edition'



Addendum

Survey comprising of an inspection of the interior and exterior of the building, was undertaken during daylight conditions using binoculars and a high-powered torch. Following the completion of the daytime inspection, a further bat emergence survey was completed.

The small outbuilding is located at the north-west corner of the site. The building is constructed of brick with a pitched roof clad tightly fitted ceramic tiles. The building has a door at its south face and does not have any windows.

Externally, the building supports potential crevice features at each gable where there are missing areas of verge mortar. The interior of the building is also accessible to bats and birds via large crevices located beneath buildings eaves. Otherwise, no other obvious potential bat roosting features or bat access points were identified at the building's exterior.

Internally, the outbuilding comprises of a single open room which is approximately 6 m in length x 5 m in width and 5 m in height. The interior is used for storage with stored furniture, refrigerators and lengths of wooden boarding. The roof of the building is supported on the original, narrow wooden trusses and the internal face of the roof is not lined with the underside of the ceramic tiles exposed. The roof trusses and ridge beam were observed to be relatively narrow offering limited roosting opportunities. The interior of the outbuilding is dark.

No bat droppings or other bat field signs were found within the building interior. It is considered to be likely that any roosting activity would have been evidenced by occasional bat droppings or urine splashing captured within dust on the stored materials within the building interior. No such field signs were observed.

The site is located within an urban setting to the west of Chippenham town centre. There is a streetlight located immediately adjacent to the outbuilding and so the west facing gable is illuminated of an evening. Surrounding habitats comprise predominantly of residential housing with small gardens. Surrounding habitats are considered to be of low value for foraging bats.

Taking account of the buildings urbanised setting and the limited suitable bat roosting features identified, the building was re-assessed as offering a 'low' bat roosting potential. It was considered to be unlikely that the building would support any roosting bats.

BAT DUSK ACTIVITY and TY SURVEY

METHODS

In order to further assess the outbuilding and to provide additional confidence that the site does not support any roosting bats, an additional bat dusk survey was undertaken on the 4th May 2024.

The building was assessed from two survey positions (the southwest and north-east corners of the outbuilding), allowing all potential bat roosting features to be simultaneously assessed.

The surveyors were equipped with heterodyne and time expansion bat detectors (Anabat Walkabout, Anabat Express, and Elekon Bat Scanner). Surveyors were supported by 2 x Canon XA infrared night vision cameras, supported with infrared flood lights. All night vision camera footage was reviewed following survey.

The dusk survey commenced 15 minutes before sunset and continued up to 90 minutes after sunset. All bat species and bat behaviour were recorded.

RESULTS

The survey was undertaken under suitable conditions on the 4th May 2024 with weather recorded as dry, clear and trying and with a temperature of 14°C. Sunset was recorded at 20.37.

In summary, no bats were recorded roosting at the site. Very low levels of bat activity were recorded during survey comprising of a single common pipistrelle passing to the west of the site at 21.10 plus a passing soprano pipistrelle recorded at 21.25 and a further passing common pipistrelle at 21.53. Noctule were recorded passing over the site at 21.03, 21.14 and 21.19. No other bat species or other bat activity was recorded.

The site was observed to be brightly lit by street lighting during survey, with street lighting illuminating the north facing roof pitch and west facing gable of the outbuilding. The street lights switched on at 21.00.

Surveyor locations and bat flight lines are shown on Figure 1 in the Appendix.

SUMMARY

Survey of the outbuilding has included a daytime inspection completed in September 2023 and May 2024. Nocturnal surveys have been completed at the site in May 2024.

No evidence of roosting bats has been found during any of the previous surveys. Levels of bat activity during nocturnal survey has been found to be very low, with survey comprising of only three pipistrelle passes plus noctule bats passing high over the site.

Taking the survey findings into account, it is considered to be very unlikely that the site supports any roosting bats.



Addendum

As previously recommended, the overall site should be enhanced for bats and breeding birds. This can be achieved through the installation of bat boxes and sparrow boxes to the exterior of the converted building and also within the structure of the proposed new dwelling.

Figure 1- Bat Survey Results



KEY

-  Planning boundary
-  Buildings
-  Suggested Bat Surveyor
-  Bat flight line

0 2 4 6 8 10 m



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