

## **Bat Emergence Survey**

**Westwood Mills, Linthwaite**

Westwood Wilson Ltd.

Report reference: R-3976-02

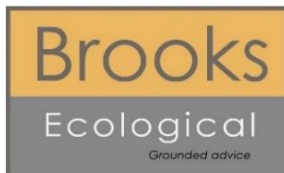
November 2019

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Report Title:	Bat Emergence Survey Westwood Mills, Linthwaite
Report Reference:	R-3976-02
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## Summary Statement

Survey has demonstrated a likely absence of roosting bats from all on-site buildings, and the proposed works therefore present little risk of impacting bats or their roosts.

## Introduction

1. Subsequent to the recommendations made in Brooks Ecological's Updating Ecological Appraisal (report reference P-3976-01, August 2019), detailed bat survey was commissioned on all buildings within the Site known as Westwood Mills, Westwood Lane, Linthwaite (SE 094 145). The extent of survey is show in the figure below:



**Figure 1**

Buildings surveyed

2. Information relating to local and legal status of bats is provided in report P-3976-01 and R-2506-01 (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal) and is not repeated here. These three reports should be read together.

## Method

3. Survey and assessment was directed by Christopher Shaw BSc (Hons) MCIEEM. Chris has over 9 years' experience of carrying out bat surveys in a professional capacity and is registered to use the new Class Survey Licence WML CL18 (Bat Survey Level 2). He is an active member of the West Yorkshire Bat Group and West Yorkshire Bat Care Scheme.
4. Brooks Ecological specialise in bat surveys ranging from individual buildings through to complex sites requiring numerous visits with large teams. In terms of the survey effort, number of personnel required, and number of visits required to be able to properly evaluate the building(s) use by bats, we refer to the Bat Conservation Trust Survey Good Practice Guidelines (2016). However, these guidelines are not

prescriptive, and we approach each site individually as required using our professional judgement and significant experience base.

5. In this case, two visits with a team of eight surveyors was deemed necessary to fully evaluate the potential use of the site for roosting. Surveys were carried out with surveyors positioned around the buildings to cover all aspects where bats could potentially emerge, and to establish activity levels around the site.
6. The surveyors, using heterodyne detectors, were in place at least half an hour before dusk and left once all species of bat would be expected to have left a roost and patterns of activity within the site had been appraised. Conditions and dates are summarised in table 1 below:

**Table 1** Survey summary.

Date	Survey Type	Temp. Start/End	Weather	Invertebrate Activity
07.08.19	Emergence Sunset: 20:53	18°C - 15°C	Clear skies, dry, light breeze (B1)	High
19.09.19	Emergence Sunset: 19:14	16°C - 14°C	Clear skies, light breeze (B1-B2), dry.	Moderate

## Results

### Survey 1 - 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019

7. The first bat contact was made to the west of the buildings at 21:11, 18 minutes after sunset. Here, two common pipistrelles were recorded arriving from the west before they continued to forage over the developing woodland and south-western extent of the buildings (N1 on figure 2).
8. From this point on, bat activity remained consistent throughout the duration of the survey. Common pipistrelle were observed arriving from the north and east to forage around the buildings and the scrub vegetation to their east- up to 4 bats were recorded foraging in this area (N2). At least 2 remained until the end of the survey.
9. Surveyors positioned around the north of the building recorded commuting and foraging along the Canal, with some briefly entering the Site (N3).
10. For all other surveyors, low level foraging by 1-2 common pipistrelle was recorded intermittently throughout the survey.

11. The majority of bats were common pipistrelle, with the occasional noctule, soprano pipistrelle and a myotis species also recorded.
12. At no point were any bats seen or suspected to have emerged from the buildings.

**Figure 2** Survey 1 summary

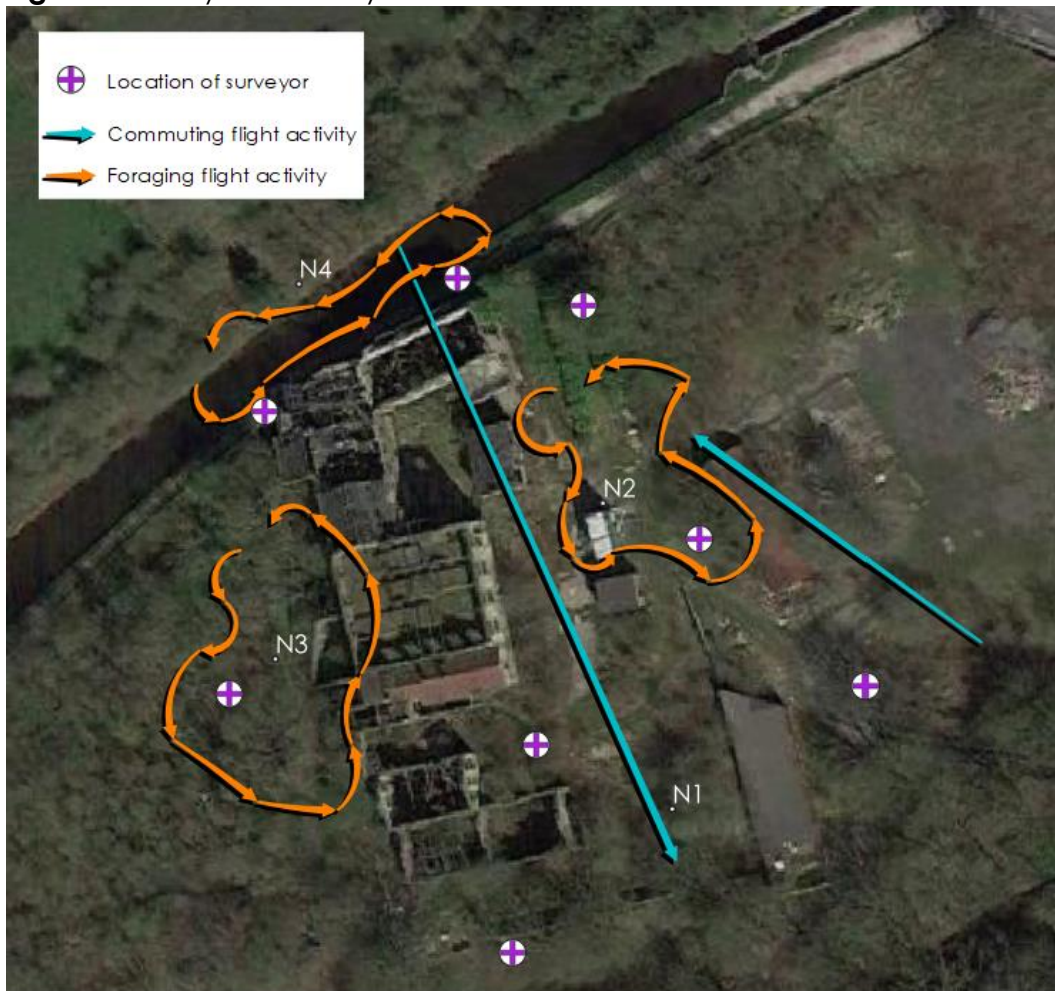


Survey 2 - 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019

13. Activity was very similar to that of the first survey, with no bats seen or suspected to have emerged from the buildings.
14. The first bat of the survey was recorded at 19:26, 11 minutes after sunset when a common pipistrelle was observed commuting north – south over the Site. Over the following 5 minutes, 4 further common pipistrelle followed this route, some of which briefly foraged around the buildings before leaving the Site (N1).

15. Common pipistrelle were also recorded entering the Site from the south-east to forage around scrub to the east of the buildings. Foraging here by two bats was recorded for the majority of the survey (N2).
16. As before, low level foraging occurred for most of the survey above the developing woodland to the west, with bats having entered this area from the north or west (N3).
17. The majority of activity was attributed to common pipistrelle- with three recorded at any one time, although occasional contact with individual soprano pipistrelle and noctule were also made. For those surveyors along the canal, occasional Daubentons were recorded towards the end of the survey foraging along the watercourse (N4).
18. Again, all other surveyors experience low level regular foraging by 1 or 2 bats throughout the survey.

**Figure 3** Survey 2 summary



## Evaluation & Recommendations

19. Survey has demonstrated a likely absence of roosting within all on-Site buildings and as such, the proposed works present little risk of impacting upon bats or their roosts.
20. The surveys identified moderate levels of bat activity, and recommendations in terms of mitigation for developing the Site are detailed in the Bat Activity Survey (R-3976-03).

### *General advice*

21. Even where surveys have been carried out which demonstrate absence of roosting, site workers should always be aware that bats can move into buildings previously found not to support them. On this basis work should proceed with care and if a bat is found during the proposed demolition, works should stop immediately and a professional ecologist be contacted to seek advice.

### *Enhancement*

22. The NPPF puts emphasis on development delivering biodiversity enhancement, above and beyond mitigating or compensating for any impacts. To this end, new homes in this area should include integral bat roost features to offer suitable habitat in the long term.

## References

Bat Conservation Trust (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>

English Nature (2004) Bat Mitigation Guidelines. English Nature, Peterborough.

Institute of Lighting Professionals (2018) Bats and artificial lighting in the UK. Bat Conservation Trust Guidance Note 08/18.  
<https://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/>

JNCC (2004) The Bat Workers Manual. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.

ODPM circular 06/05 (2005) Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/circularbiodiversity>