

Bat Emergence Surveys (BERS)

Survey site:

11 Old Bath Road, Sonning, Reading, Berkshire, RG4 6SZ

Client:

Paul Odell

Report date:

27th May 2024

Project:

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

“The construction of a side and front extension with the roof being raised on the existing building, and the construction of a new build in the garden”

This report is supplementary to the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Roost Assessment report completed by Arbtech Consulting Ltd (2024).

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 Ecological Appraisal and Roost Assessment completed by Arbtech Consulting Limited (2024) for the same site address and client (2024) 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	
As a result of the PRA, B1 was assessed as having low value for roosting bats. No bat roosts were identified at the site. Therefore, no further surveys or mitigation are necessary. Requirements for a sensitive lighting strategy and opportunities for enhancement are also outlined in the conclusions section.	
The site surveys were designed and managed by Beth Ellison-Perrett BSc (Hons) MSc, MRSB, 2023-11066-CL17-BAT	
See surveyor locations in the BERS plan in Appendix 1, site location map in Appendix 2.	
<i>Limitations</i>	No limitations.

Field Survey							
Dusk Emergence Survey 1							
Building B1							
<i>Surveyor and position</i>		Surveyor 1 - Phillip Wooding – 1 year of bat survey experience – observing the north-west elevation Surveyor 2 – John-Henry Munday - 1 year of bat survey experience – observing the north-west elevation Surveyor 3 – Dan Crispin – 1 year of bat survey experience – observing the south-east and south-west elevations Lead Surveyor 4 – Sarah Cooke – 4 years of bat survey experience – observing the north-east and south-east elevations					
<i>Weather (start/end)</i>		Temperature (°C): 15.9 Relative humidity (%): 67 Cloud cover (%): 25 Wind (m/s): 0.09 Rain: 0			Temperature (°C): 12.4 Relative humidity (%): 72.5 Cloud cover (%): 0 Wind (m/s): 0.09 Rain: 0		
<i>Equipment used</i>		Echometer Touch 2, Batbox Duet, Nightfox Red IR camera, Nightfox Whisker IR camera, Nightfox XB5 Pro IR torch					
Results							
Date of survey	Start, end and sunset time	Species and numbers	Roost type	Structure reference	Roost location	Access points	Dimensions and explanation of roost location
27/05/2024	21:05 20:50- 22:35	No emergences seen	N/A	B1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Surveyor observations							
<i>Surveyor 1</i>		First activity at 21.15 a soprano pipistrelle (SP) was heard not seen. At 21.21 an SP passed across the east elevation towards the north. At 21.22 an SP flew from the rear garden around the South				N/A	

	elevation towards the front of the property. At 21.22 an SP came from the front of the property around the side of the building and went East. At 21.23 what is thought might be a re-entry was a pass by an SP. There was foraging activity in the back garden by a CP at 21.32/33. Last bat heard was a Noctule at 22.10	
<i>IR position</i>	The footage reflected the view of surveyor 1.	
<i>Surveyor 2</i>	First bat activity noted was a common pipistrelle at 21:22 that was seen foraging around the south-east elevation of the house. from 21:23 to 22:14, noctules, soprano pipistrelles, and common pipistrelles could be heard and not seen, and at 21:28 and 21:33, common pipistrelles were seen around the south-east elevation commuting and foraging. the last bat activity noted was an unseen noctule at 22:14.	N/A

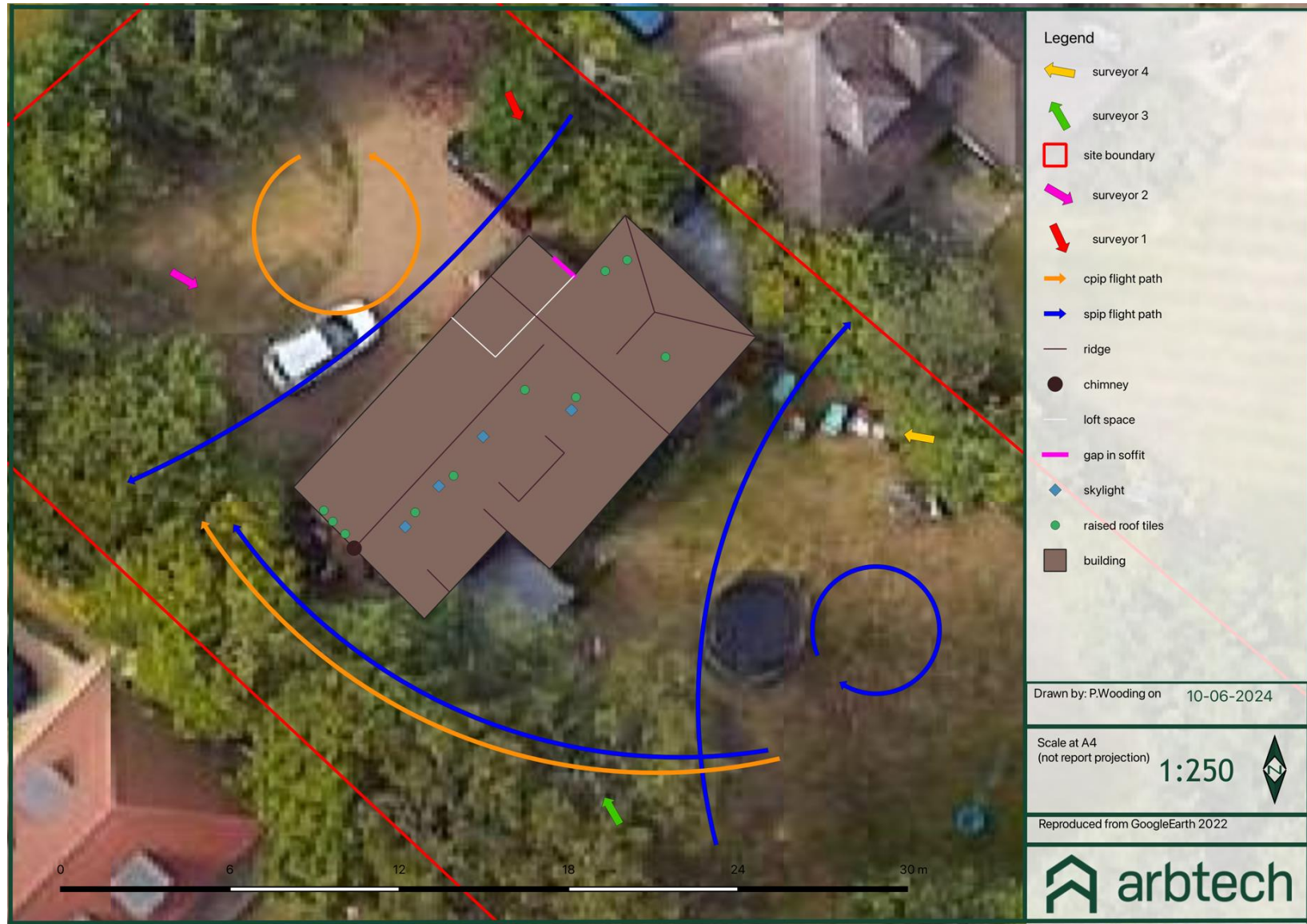
<i>IR position</i>	The footage reflected the view of surveyor 2.	
<i>Surveyor 3</i>	From 21:23 to 21:47, soprano & common pipistrelles could be seen foraging in the front garden, with one BLE passing in front of the IR and at 21:27. Last bat activity noted was an unseen noctule at 22:10.	N/A
<i>IR position</i>	The footage reflected the view of surveyor 3.	

<i>Surveyor 4</i>	First activity was a soprano pipistrelle heard not seen at 21:14. There was constant soprano pipistrelle activity between 21:14 and 21:46, either heard not seen or commuting and feeding around the garden and passed the house to the east. Common pipistrelles were seen at 21:32, feeding over the garden and passed the house to the east. A noctules was seen commuting high above the property at 21:23 and 21:28. They were also heard not seen between 21:58 and 22:13 which was the final activity noted.	N/A
<i>IR position</i>	The footage reflected the view of surveyor 4.	

Conclusions, Impacts and Recommendations	
<i>Survey Results Summary</i>	A likely absence of roosting bats is concluded from B1.
<i>Impact Assessment</i>	Bats are very unlikely to be roosting within this building and as such, there are not anticipated to be any impacts on bats in this location as a result of the proposed development. The proposed development will include the use of lighting which could spill on to bat roosting, foraging or commuting habitat and deter bats from using these areas.
<i>Recommendations</i>	A low impact lighting strategy will be adopted for the site during and post-development, which will include the following measures: • Use narrow spectrum light sources to lower the range of species affected by lighting. • Use light sources that emit minimal ultra-violet light. • Avoid white and blue wavelengths of the light spectrum to reduce insect attraction and where white light sources are required in order to manage the blue shortwave length content they should be of a warm / neutral colour temperature <4,200 kelvin. • Not use bare bulbs and any light pointing upwards. The spread of light will be kept in line with or below the horizontal. • Light spill will be reduced via the use of low-level lighting used in conjunction with hoods, cowls, louvers and shields. Lights will also be directional to ensure that light is directed to the intended areas only. • External lighting will be on PIR sensors that are sensitive to large objects only (so that they are not triggered by passing bats) and will be set to the shortest time duration to reduce the amount of time the lights are on. • Wall lights and security lights will be 'dimmable' and set to the lowest light intensity settings. There are several products on the market that allow the control of the light intensity and the duration that the lights are on. All lighting on the developed site will make use of the most up to date technology available.
<i>Enhancements</i>	<u>Roosting Enhancements</u> The installation of two bat boxes at the site will provide additional roosting habitat for bats. The bat boxes will be integrated within the new build. Bat boxes should be positioned 3-5m above ground level (at the eaves of buildings), facing in a south or south-westerly direction, with a clear flight path to and from the entrance, away from and unlit by artificial light, and not above any windows.

	The bat boxes will be a specification suitable for crevice dwelling species such as Vivara Pro Build-In Woodstone Bat Tube (integrated), Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box 'C' (integrated), or a similar alternative brand. <u>Habitat Enhancements</u> The following habitat creation could be considered to enhance opportunities at the site for foraging and commuting bats post development: • Native tree, hedgerow, or flowering shrub planting. • Creation of wildflower grassland or replacing a few square metres of amenity grass with wildflower meadow mat, in a sunny spot requiring low maintenance. • Planting of pale blue and white flowers, or night scented flowers such as honeysuckle and evening primrose.
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Appendix 1: BERS plan



Appendix 2: Site Location Map



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