Emergence Survey Report – Bats

Site Location	161 Church Road, Reading, RG6 1HQ
Document reference	CE4410-01 *This document should be read in conjunction with the Preliminary Roost Assessment for bats completed on the 25th November 2023, document reference: CE4410*
Date of survey	Visit 1 – 2nd May 2024 Visit 2 – 23rd May 2024
Report by	Garry Smith – Senior Ecologist Signature: [redacted] Tel: 07792064673 Email: info@chaseecology.co.uk

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1.0 Introduction

Brief

This report will present the findings of an emergence survey of the named site on the below dates;

Visit 1 – 2nd May 2024

Visit 2 – 23rd May 2024

2.0 Executive Summary

Chase Ecology undertook an emergence survey at the named site to assess the building for bats following a preliminary roost assessment which deemed the structure to offer value for roosting.

Survey Methodology	All emergence surveys were conducted during the optimal recommended survey times following best practice guidelines. All surveys were carried out during optimal weather conditions. Each elevation of the structure which offers value to bats was viewed during the survey visit with no limitations.
Results of emergence surveys	Following the emergence survey of the structure, no bats were observed to have used features throughout for roosting or feeding and no further surveys or mitigation would be required. See Section 5: Results of Phase 2 Activity Surveys
Requirements for Additional Survey	No further survey requirements have been identified during the emergence surveys conducted to date. However, populations of bats were observed to be using both the site and surrounding habitats for commuting or feeding so a level of protection must be implemented during development to prevent disturbance. See Appendix 1: Mitigation, Protection & Enhancement.
Predicted Impacts of Development on Bats	No impacts will be offered to bats if all guidance & recommendations within appendix one are implemented during all stages of development. See Appendix 1: Mitigation, Protection & Enhancement.
Mitigation and Compensation of Proposed Impacts	None Required.
Licensing Requirements for Bats	None Required.
Required Actions	See Appendix 1: Mitigation, Protection & Enhancement.

3.0 Legislation

1.1.1 All British bats are classed as European Protected Species and therefore receive protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, making it an offence to:

- Deliberately kill, injure or capture a bat;
- Deliberately disturb bats;
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place

1.1.2 In addition, all British bats are also listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which contains further provisions making it an offence to intentionally or recklessly Obstruct access to any structure or place which any bat uses for shelter or protection; or Disturb any bat while occupying a structure or place which it uses

1.1.3 If proposed development work is likely to destroy or disturb bats or their roosts, then a licence will need to be obtained from Natural England, which would be subject to appropriate measures to safeguard bats.

1.1.4 In the UK, the provisions of the Birds Directive are implemented through the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected it an offence to: • kill, injure, or take any wild bird; • take, damage or destroy the nest of any such bird whilst it is in use or being built; or • take or destroying an egg of any such wild bird.

1.1.5 Special protection against disturbance during the breeding season is also afforded to those species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 All reporting undertaken by Mr Garry Smith who is an experienced licensed bat ecologist in England [Class 2 registration 2017-28032-CLS-CLS] with over 9 years' experience practical of professional ecological surveys.

4.2 It is recommended that emergence surveys should be carried out within the optimal survey season from May to August, April & September are also useful times if weather conditions remain optimal, in line with the Good Practice Guidelines, 3rd edition, Bat Conservation Trust

4.3 Surveys were conducted following "The Bat Workers Manual "(JNCC 2004), "The Bat Mitigation Guidelines" (EN 2004) and the Bat Conservation Trust 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines' (2016) recommendations.

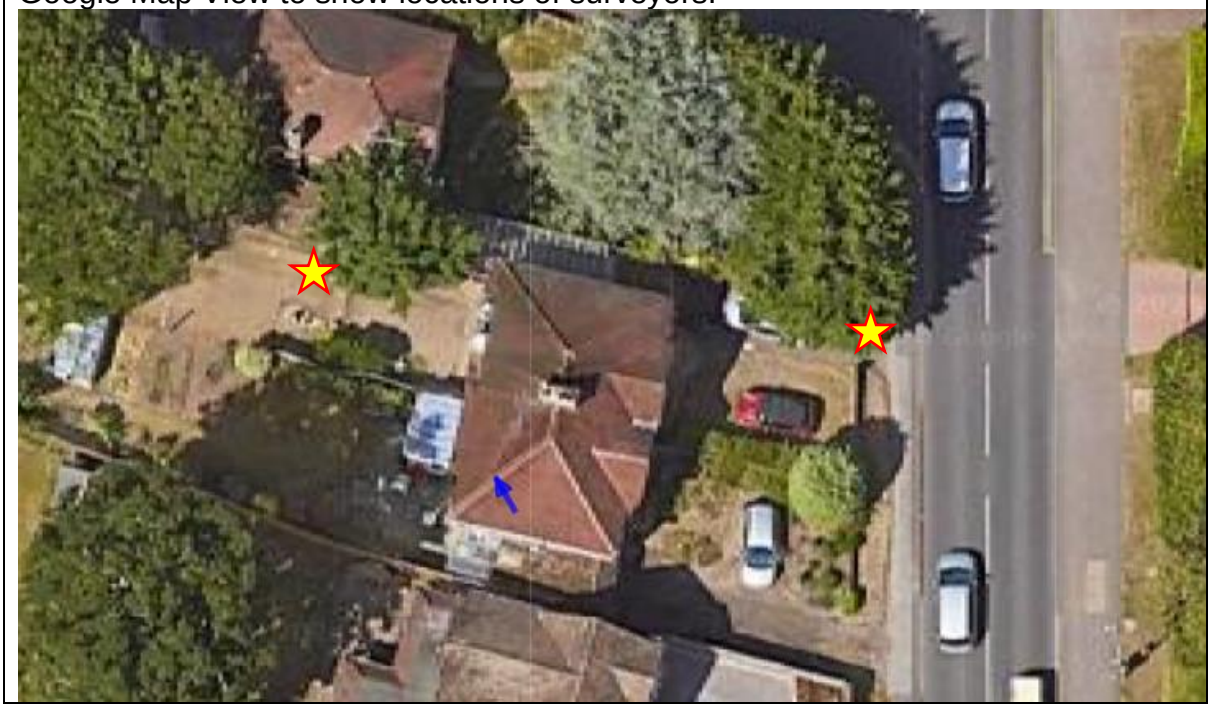
4.4 All elevations of the structure were visible throughout the survey to capture any bats emerging from within or into the structure throughout the duration of the survey.

5.0 Results of Phase 2 Activity Surveys

Date	2nd May 2024					
Sunset/ Sunrise	Start Time	Finish Time	Temperature Start	End	Wind Beaufort Scale	Cloud Cover
20:29	20:12	22:30	14	11	2	75%

	Name	Position	Detector
Lead Surveyor	Naomi Turner	Front Right	EMT 2 Pro/Nightfox IR
Assistant Surveyor	Kim Burt	Rear	EMT 2 Pro/Nightfox IR

Google Map View to show locations of surveyors.



Emergence/Re-Entry Data

No roosting activity recorded during the survey times noted.

Activity from Bats during survey

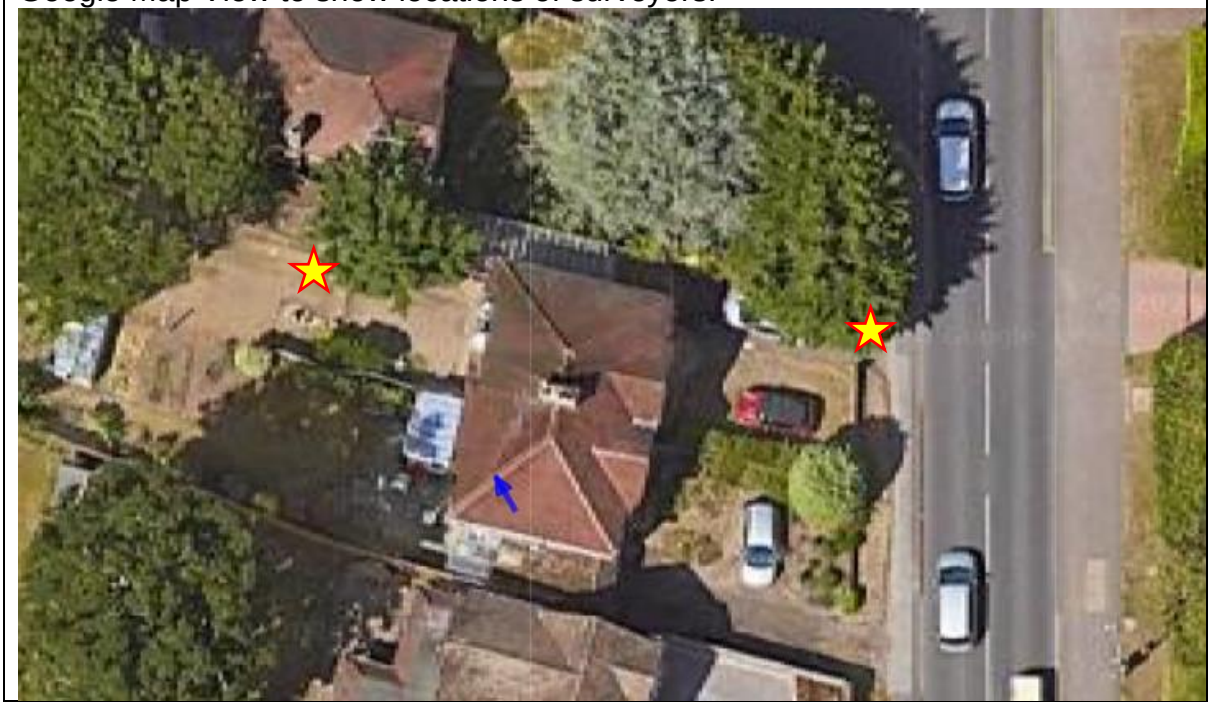
Species	Activity	
Common Pipistrelle	Early	1 x faint pass, no visual
	Mid	1 x commuting pass South to North across rear of site.
	Late	-

Soprano Pipistrelle	Early	-
	Mid	-
	Late	2 x brief foraging, no visual

Date	23rd May 2024					
Sunset/ Sunrise	Start Time	Finish Time	Temperature Start	End	Wind Beaufort Scale	Cloud Cover
21:00	20:45	22:50	13	12	2	90%

	Name	Position	Detector
Lead Surveyor	Elena Vasileva	Front Right	EMT 2 Pro/Nightfox IR
Assistant Surveyor	Carlota de Sousa	Rear	EMT 2 Pro/Nightfox IR

Google Map View to show locations of surveyors.



Emergence/Re-Entry Data

No roosting activity recorded during the survey times noted.

Activity from Bats during survey

Species	Activity	
Common Pipistrelle	Early	2 x commuting pass from the East and across the North elevation of property.
	Mid	1 x brief foraging, no visual. 1 x commuting pass East to West across North section of site
	Late	-

Soprano Pipistrelle	Early	-
	Mid	1 x brief foraging across North section of site. 2 x commuting pass South to North across rear areas of the site.
	Late	-
Noctule	Early	-
	Mid	-
	Late	1 x commuting pass, no visual

6.0 Surveyor Experience

Carla Maria Ferreira de Sousa - Carla has worked as a seasonal survey assistant since 2017 and holds Class Licence level 2 for Bats registration number: 2020-46427-CLS-CLS.

She has worked on both residential and large commercial sites and has the ability to lead and manage others during the surveys on site.

She holds a clear understanding of UK protected species and legislation & guidance for both survey and mitigation.

Elena Vasileva - Elena has supported Chase Ecology since 2022 as a component survey team leader and competently delivers supervision to survey assistance at all levels on site.

She has demonstrated a clear understanding of survey methodology and offers a good knowledge of best practice survey guidelines.

She has been supporting on both residential and commercial sites including emergence surveys for bats.

Previously she has supported other ecology organisations with protected species surveys from 2017.

Qualifications
2008 - Environmental protection and sea preservation technologies, Master-engineer - Technical University-Varna, Varna
2013 - Environmental protection and sea preservation technologies, Bachelor-engineer - Technical university-Varna, Varna

Volunteer
2012 - Mapping and identification of conservation status of natural habitats and species" Lot Bats (DIR- 59318-1-2) Mapping habitats on the territory of Bulgaria, handling and counting bats to determine the species, using mist nets to catch bats, using bat detectors and recording devices to gather data.

2017 - Waterway surveys for BCT UK and London Bat Group - Performing annual waterway survey for Daubenton's bat on a transects given from Bat Conservation Trust. Participating in hibernation surveys and other group activities and workshops with London bat group.

Naomi Turner – Naomi has worked within the ecology sector since 2021 and offers a firm knowledge for UK Bats and best practice guidelines.

She has been involved with both large commercial and residential surveys from Preliminary Bat Roost Assessments, Emergence Surveys and Mitigation Works for bats.

Naomi has supported Chase Ecology since 2021 as a component survey team leader and competently delivers supervision to survey assistance at all levels on site.

Kim Burt - Kim has worked within the ecology sector since 2022 as a seasonal survey assistant.

She has worked on both private and commercial developments and holds a clear understanding of bat survey best practice guidelines and correct use of technologies whilst conducting emergence surveys.

7.0 References

Bat Conservation Trust. 2012. Bats and Buildings. Bats and the Built Environment Series. London. Bat Conservation Trust. 2018.

http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/bat_boxes.html (Accessed July 2021).

Bat Conservation Trust. 2018.

Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK.

Bats and the Built Environment Series. London. Collins, J. (ed). 2016.

Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 3rd Edition.

Bat Conservation Trust. Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside web http://magic.defra.gov.uk Mitchell-Jones, A.J. 2004 Bat mitigation guidelines.

English Nature, Peterborough. Mitchell-Jones, A.J. and McLeish, A.P. 1999 (revised 2004).

The Bat Workers Manual. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. Stone, E.L. 2013. Bats and Lighting: Overview of Current Evidence and Mitigation Guidance.

Appendix 1: Mitigation, Enhancement & Protection

This document must be available to all involved in the planned development. All contractors must aware of the potential of protected & priority species being found on site and care should be taken during works to avoid harm (including during any tree works), if protected species are found then all work should cease and an ecologist should be consulted immediately.

Mitigation

None-identified during the additional emergence survey.

Protection measures to be implemented during development

Lighting

It is recommended that during the development process the levels of lighting such as security floodlighting and lighting around working platforms if any should be limited to reduce the level of disturbance caused to bats which have been recorded locally.

Disturbance caused by high power lighting can cause disturbance to common commuting and foraging areas currently used by bats.

It is advised that all works should be carried out during the hours of daylight to further reduce the levels of disturbance caused to bats and other nocturnal wildlife in the surrounding environment.

Protection of Wildlife During the development

All excavations if any should be closed where possible during the hours of darkness to prevent entrapment of wildlife such as mammals which may use the site during the hours of darkness for commuting & foraging.

For excavations which require to be left open a shallow slope should be in place to aid escape.

All external pipe's & services must be capped during development/overnight to prevent animals entering/entrapment.

The site should remain is a tidy fashion with waste materials removed daily to prevent any use from wildlife as an au natural refugia.