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**Dusk emergence survey at
Stables at Lane Foot Farm,
Ealees,
Littleborough,
OL15 0HJ**

OS grid reference:
SD 9450 1593

*Commissioned-by:
Jacqueline Taylor*

Survey Date: 15/8/22
Previous surveys: day-time - 10/8/22

Report Date: 16/8/22
Previous reports: day-time - 11/8/22

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Summary.

(This summary should be read in conjunction with the conclusions and recommendations.)

A dusk emergence survey of this detached, single-storey stables-block was commissioned further to my day-time assessment on **10/8/22**.

No evidence of roosting was discovered but some roosting potential was identified. The stables are in an area of high quality bat feeding-habitat. The potential for roosting in the warmer months was assessed as low, pending the dusk emergence survey, though the significance of the location was acknowledged. Potential for hibernation within the walls in winter was thought possible.

No bats were roosting at the time of the dusk survey, though much bat activity was recorded; including a *Myotis* species in the access lane. Otherwise all bats recorded were common pipistrelles.

The absence of roosting on this occasion does not confirm the absence of roosting at other times, including possibly in winter when hibernating.

Recommendations were given in the day report with respect to timing the start of the work outside the coldest months, and retaining bat access at the eaves. (If access will not be retained at the eaves, integrated bat boxes can be installed in the walls.) Advice was given regarding the appropriate shielding of potential roost sites from any new artificial lighting around the building. Guidance on pro-active provision for bats was also made.

Only contractors who are familiar with the law relating to bats should be used.

As this is such a high risk location, if the development is not underway/completed by May next year, the bat activity survey should be updated in the bat season (May to September inclusive) closest to the proposed start of the work.

Introduction.

I was engaged to undertake a dusk emergence survey of this building further to my day-time survey on **10/8/22**.

At that survey no evidence of roosting was found inside the building, but potential entry places associated with soffits, roof slates and ridge tiles were noted. The building is in an area of prime bat feeding habitat with a known pipistrelle roost in the nearby house.

This report should be read in conjunction with the report of the day-time survey.

Survey.

I returned on **15/8/22** to carry out the dusk emergence survey. I had 2 assistants with me.

We took up fixed positions to watch for bats leaving the building. See Fig 1 below. We all had the use of heterodyne “bat detectors” to help alert us to the presence of bats and to help us distinguish the species present, and synchronised watches to help us piece together the flight paths followed by bats.

Watches are checked as quickly as possible after sighting a bat and times are recorded to the second.

The usual aim of the survey is to position surveyors so that even if areas of roof cannot be seen directly, the building is covered well enough that, by a process of elimination, it can be worked-out whether or not bats emerged or arrived from off-site.

In addition I placed Anabat Swift (1), Anabat Express (2) and Anabat SD1 x 2 (3 and 4) detectors around the building - numbered as shown in Fig 1 below. These record bat calls for analysis on computer later. They are extra tools for helping to confirm the species present. As the Anabat SD1s are not weather-proof they were removed at 21.07 when rain was starting to increase. The Anabat Express was positioned facing into the stable yard. The Anabat Swift was positioned facing across the lane towards the stream and woodland.



Fig. 1.

Key: Stables outlined in red. Approximate locations of surveyors shown by red stars, numbered 1 to 3; approximate locations of recording devices shown by yellow crosses, numbered 1 to 4

Findings.

The main results are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Summary of surveys and significant findings

Date	Survey type	Sunset / sunrise time	Time of survey	Conditions °C/weather	Comments
15/8/22	dusk	20.37	20.20 to 22.25	19.2°C at start, cloudy, still. Hint of rain from 20.45, varying between that and light rain/dry. 17.2°C at end	No bats emerged. Common pipistrelles recorded from 20.45 with more than one bat present at times. See Appendix 1. Feeding activity taking place nearby. Single *Myotis species recorded at 21.03 on Anabat Swift (2). See Fig. 1.

Survey type key: **dusk** = dusk emergence survey, **dawn** = dawn re-entry survey

*'Myotis' bats – bats of the genus *Myotis*, which includes the Daubenton's (*Myotis daubentonii*), whiskered (*Myotis mystacinus*) Brandt's (*Myotis brandtii*) and Natterer's (*Myotis nattereri*).

Conclusions/Discussion

No bats were roosting at the time of the survey.

As might be expected in this location, much bat activity was recorded, including a *Myotis* species in the lane.

The absence of roosting on this occasion does not confirm the absence of roosting at other times, including possibly in winter when hibernating.

Recommendations were given in the day report with respect to the timing of the work and retaining bat access at the eaves. Advice was also given regarding any addition of artificial lighting around the building. Guidance on pro-active provision for bats was also made.

It should be checked before commissioning builders, that they are familiar with the law relating to bats and understand their legal obligation to stop work and seek specialist assistance immediately in the event a bat, or droppings that may have come from a bat, are encountered.

If access will not be retained at the eaves, integrated bat boxes can be installed in the walls - one in each of the south-west, south-east, north-east and north-west-facing elevations - see Appendix 2. (This is to give bats a range of temperature conditions as the seasons vary.)

As this is such a high risk location, if the development is not underway/completed by May next year, the bat activity survey work should be updated in the bat season (May to September inclusive) closest to the proposed start of the work.

Recommendations.

These recommendations should be read in conjunction with the conclusions above and the recommendations in the day survey report.

Use only contractors who are familiar with the law relating to bats and will abide by it willingly.

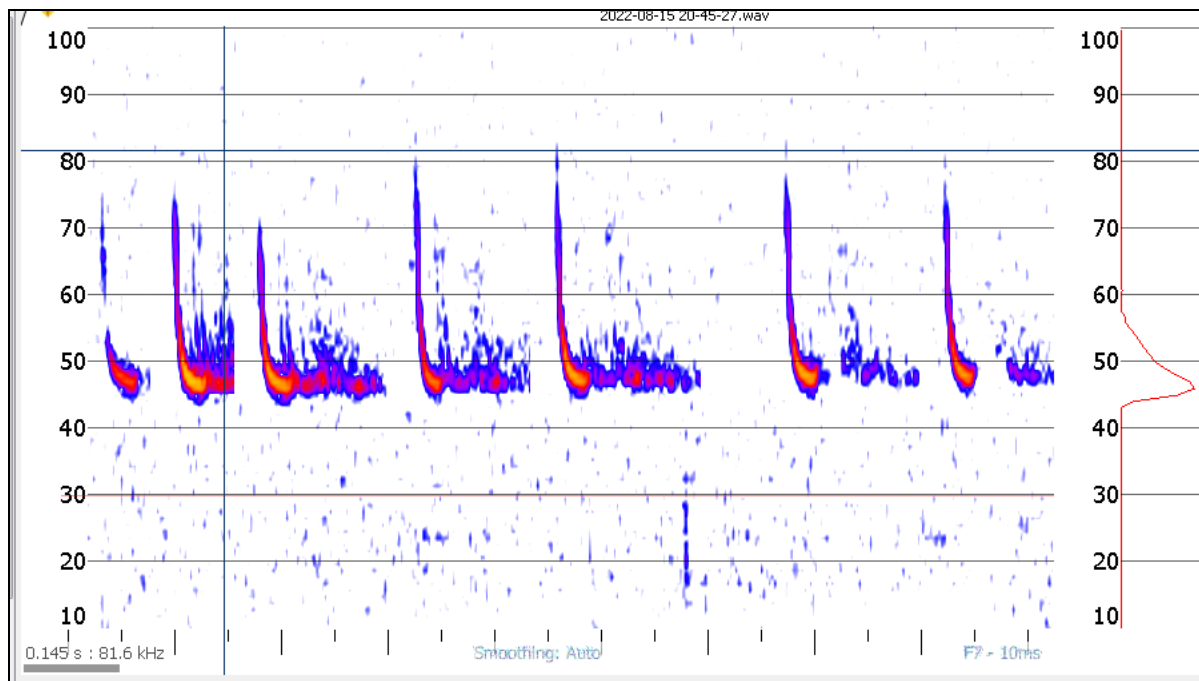
Take precautions with respect to the timing of the work as previously advised.

If bat access will not be retained at the eaves, bat provision should be made by means of integrated bat boxes in the walls. These could be supplemented pro-actively with bat boxes in the woodland.

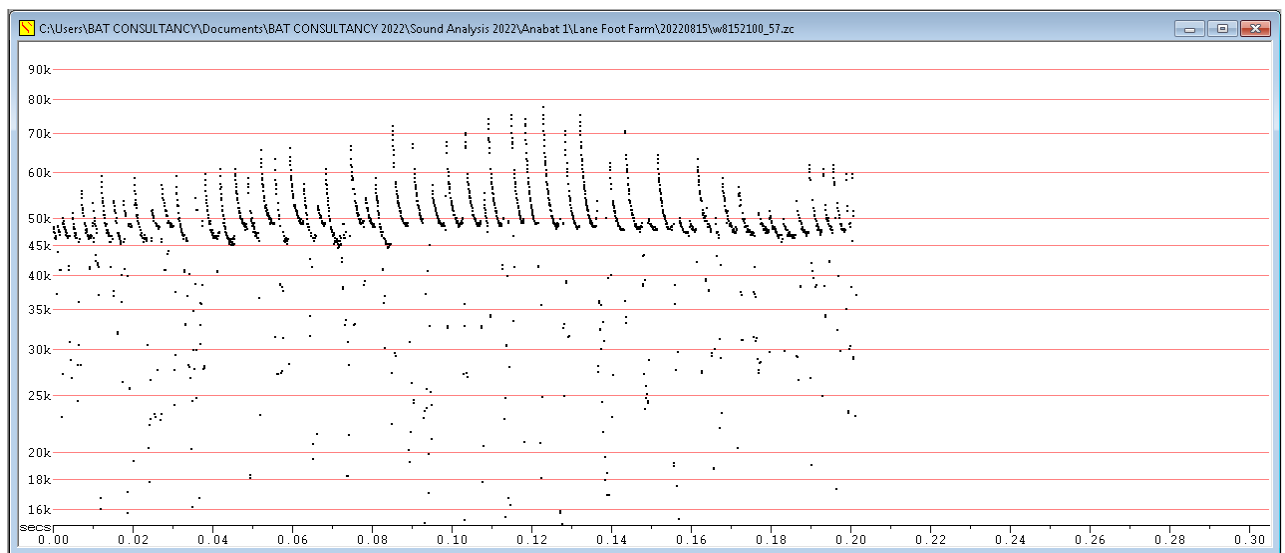
If the development is not underway/completed by May next year, update the bat activity survey work in the bat season (May to September inclusive) closest to the proposed start of the work.

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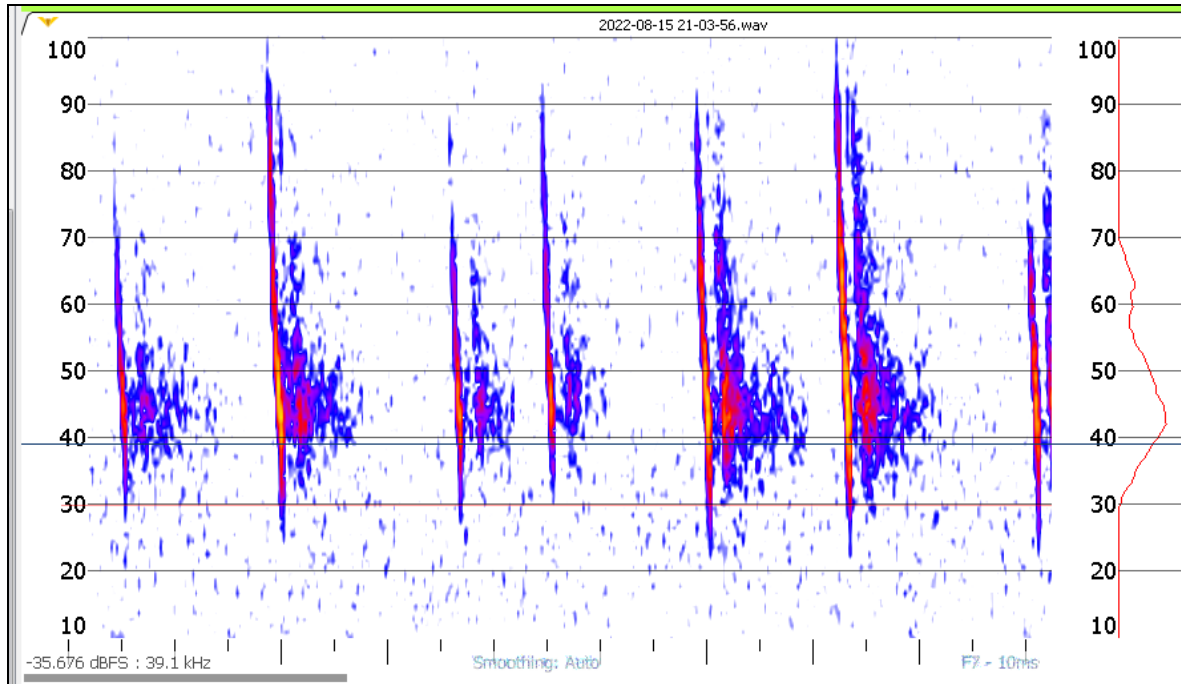
Appendix 1 - Example sonogram/s recorded at dusk/dawn survey



Common pipistrelle to front of stables at 21.45



Common pipistrelle x 2 to rear of stables at 21.00



Myotis bat to front of stables at 21.03

'Myotis' bats – bats of the genus *Myotis*, which includes the Daubenton's (*Myotis daubentonii*), whiskered (*Myotis mystacinus*) Brandt's (*Myotis brandtii*) and Natterer's (*Myotis nattereri*).

Appendix 4 – examples of available integrated bat boxes

N.b. An internet search for "integrated bat boxes" will bring up types and suppliers of these boxes but advice from the bat consultant should be sought before they are ordered.

EcoSurv Habitat

<http://www.habibat.co.uk/category/bat-boxes>

"Designed to be built into an exterior wall and is available in a variety of faces to match the building. Standard facings of red or blue brick - ideal for new builds - are normally available from stock, or boxes can be made to your specific requirements with a face of brick, stone, timber, or plain (for rendering). Supplied un-pointed."



Example of Habitat boxes Can also be faced with stone.

Ibstock Ecozone

<http://www.ibstock.com/sustainability-ecozone.asp>





Above: typical unit in situ. Photo © Angela Graham

Green and Blue Bat Block/Brick

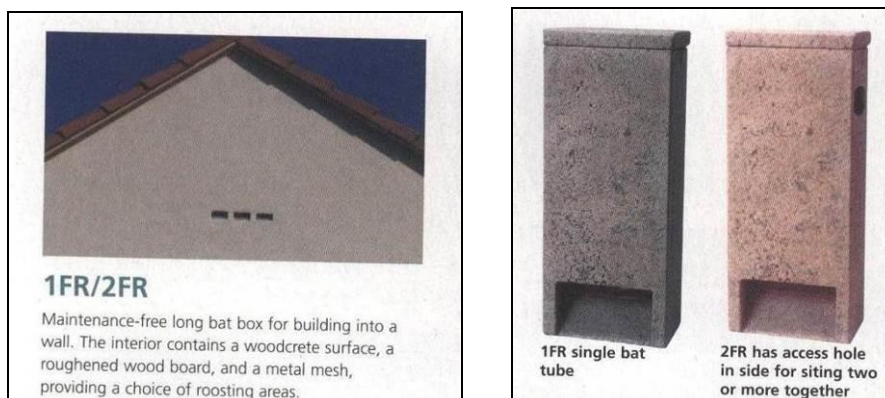
<https://www.greenandblue.co.uk/products/bat-block-bat-brick>



Green and Blue Bat Block/Brick in situ

Schwegler 1FR/2FR

An internet search for Schwegler bat boxes will readily bring up suppliers of these boxes



Schwegler 1FR/2FR

Forticrete

Available from building-supply merchants



Above and below - standard colours available. Others available to order



Example of Forticrete boxes in situ

A similar box is available from Habibat. See above listing.