

Date: April 2025
Our ref: GNG/16042025ABA

Supporting Risk Analysis for the Presence of Bats and Nesting Birds

Site: GNG Foam, Littleborough, OL15.
Proposal: Removal and replacement of the existing corrugated curved roof structure, with an increase in ridge height to allow for expanded warehouse capacity.
Date: 16th April 2025

1. Introduction

This assessment has been undertaken to evaluate the likelihood of roosting bats or nesting birds being present in the existing roof structure of the GNG Foam warehouse located in Littleborough. The building is subject to a proposed alteration involving the removal and raising of the single-skin curved corrugated roof structure.

The purpose of this report is to identify any ecological constraints associated with protected species (namely bats and nesting birds), provide an evaluation of potential habitat suitability, and outline prudent ecological enhancements, in accordance with current guidance under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, and Natural England standing advice.

Bat Presence Risk.

The buildings are in a relatively high-risk location for bats, with a few green corridors associated with the canal, railway line and River Roch. However, the buildings are not a type likely to be utilised by bats. This additional information identifies the buildings structure and in particular the roof area which is single skin corrugates sheeting with no voids or crevices for bats to habitat, noise levels and frequency of large vehicles and fork lift movements, through the daylight, early mornings and well into the evening, would most likely deter any wildlife, in particular bats from habitation in the building.

2. Building Description and Context

- The structure is a single-storey industrial warehouse with a curved corrugated metal sheet roof, fixed securely along steel purlins and rafters, without internal insulation, ceiling voids, or secondary layers.
 - The building is bounded by a fully sealed 300mm cavity wall of solid brick and blockwork, terminating directly below the roof eaves, with no visible soffits, gaps, or crevices for ingress.
 - There is no roof void or potential loft space that could serve as a bat roost or nesting cavity.
 - The internal operational environment is a high-noise industrial workspace, regularly exceeding 100dB, with an ambient minimum average of approximately 58dB, due to machinery, foam-cutting processes, compressors, and handling equipment.
 - The site is directly adjacent to a frequently trafficked HGV and forklift circulation road, with an average of 3–4 HGV movements per hour, which further reduces the potential for wildlife to tolerate the area for nesting or roosting.
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3. Assessment of Bat Roost Suitability

Bats, as nocturnal and light-averse mammals, typically roost in quiet, undisturbed locations such as roof voids, lofts, barns, eaves, or crevices in brickwork or timber frames.

- No features associated with bat roosting (such as lifted tiles, soffit gaps, or weathered cladding) were observed during the inspection.
- The single-skin curved roof provides no thermal buffering or crevice-type habitat and is unsuitable for day roosting or maternity use.
- The constant high internal and external noise levels (approaching 100dB) and regular heavy vehicle movement would act as significant deterrents to any potential bat activity in or around the structure.

Conclusion on bats: The risk of the building supporting bat roosts is negligible, and no further bat emergence survey work is considered necessary prior to the proposed works.

4. Assessment of Nesting Bird Suitability

Nesting birds require sheltered, quiet, and often elevated locations free from high human or industrial disturbance.

- The entire roof is sealed, with no nesting points such as soffits, vents, or gaps.
- The building experiences constant disturbance, both visual and auditory, including machinery movement and vehicle operations.
- There was no evidence of nesting material, guano, or bird activity either on the roof or the surrounding brick elevations.

Conclusion on birds: The likelihood of nesting birds using the structure is very low, and no disturbance to active nests is expected during the proposed works.

5. Recommendations and Ecological Enhancements

Although the building itself offers minimal ecological value, as a best practice measure and in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 174(d), minor biodiversity enhancements should be included:

- Install 1 high-level integrated bat box and 1 bird box on the new gable end of the raised warehouse structure.
 - Install 2 bat boxes and 2 bird boxes along the long side gable elevation, mounted at least 4 metres above ground and facing away from strong artificial lighting.
 - Ensure that construction activities avoid the core breeding bird season (March to August) or are preceded by a pre-works nesting bird check by a qualified ecologist if works are scheduled during this window.
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6. Conclusion

Based on the physical characteristics of the building, the high internal noise levels, and the operational context, it is concluded that:

- The building does not support suitable habitat for bats or nesting birds.
- The ecological risk of harm to protected species is negligible.
- No further surveys are recommended.
- Modest biodiversity enhancements as outlined will provide net ecological benefit and demonstrate compliance with national and local planning policies.

APPENDIX 1

PHOTOGRAPHS













































































