

BAT SURVEY REPORT

September 2021

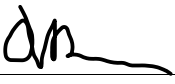
Unit 4

Brown Street
Littleborough
OL15 8BW

U R B A N
G R E E N



QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Project No.:	UG1240			
Project:	Unit 4, Brown Street			
Location:	Brown Street, Littleborough OL15 8BW			
Title:	Bat Survey Report			
Document Type:	BSR	Issue No.:	01	
Date:	22/09/21			
Prepared By:	James Robinson	Signature:		Qualifications: Assistant Ecologist, MSc,
Checked By:	Maisie McKenzie	Signature:		Qualifications: Ecologist, MSc, ACIEEM
Checked By:	Mark Backer	Signature:		Qualifications: Senior Ecologist MSc, ACIEEM
Revision Status:				
Rev:	Date:	Issue/Purpose/Comment:	Prepared:	Checked:

NON-TECHNICAL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Casèy Group are proposing to develop land at Unit 4, Brown Street in Littleborough (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). The proposals include the demolition of existing buildings to facilitate the erection of a residential apartment block with associated car park and landscaping.

Urban Green have been appointed to complete Bat Surveys and a Report of the site. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and a Preliminary Roost Assessment was conducted at the site in August 2021 . Further surveys, in the form of nocturnal emergence and re-entry bat surveys were recommended to further assess the buildings suitability for roosting bats

No bat roosts were identified during the nocturnal bat survey's. As such, no further surveys or mitigation relating to bats is deemed necessary for the demolition works to proceed.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the Scheme

Casèy Group are proposing to develop land at Unit 4, Brown Street in Littleborough (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). The proposals include the demolition of existing buildings to facilitate the erection of a residential apartment block with associated car park and landscaping.

Urban Green have been appointed to undertake further Nocturnal Bat Surveys following recommendations outlined within a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA), undertaken at the site by Urban Green in August 2021.

The author of the report is James Robinson, MSc, Assistant Ecologist at Urban Green. James has experience providing ecological consulting services for a range of development schemes across the UK, including residential and commercial schemes.

1.2 Site Context

The site is located at National Grid Reference SD 93517 16412 and comprises a total area of approximately 0.43ha

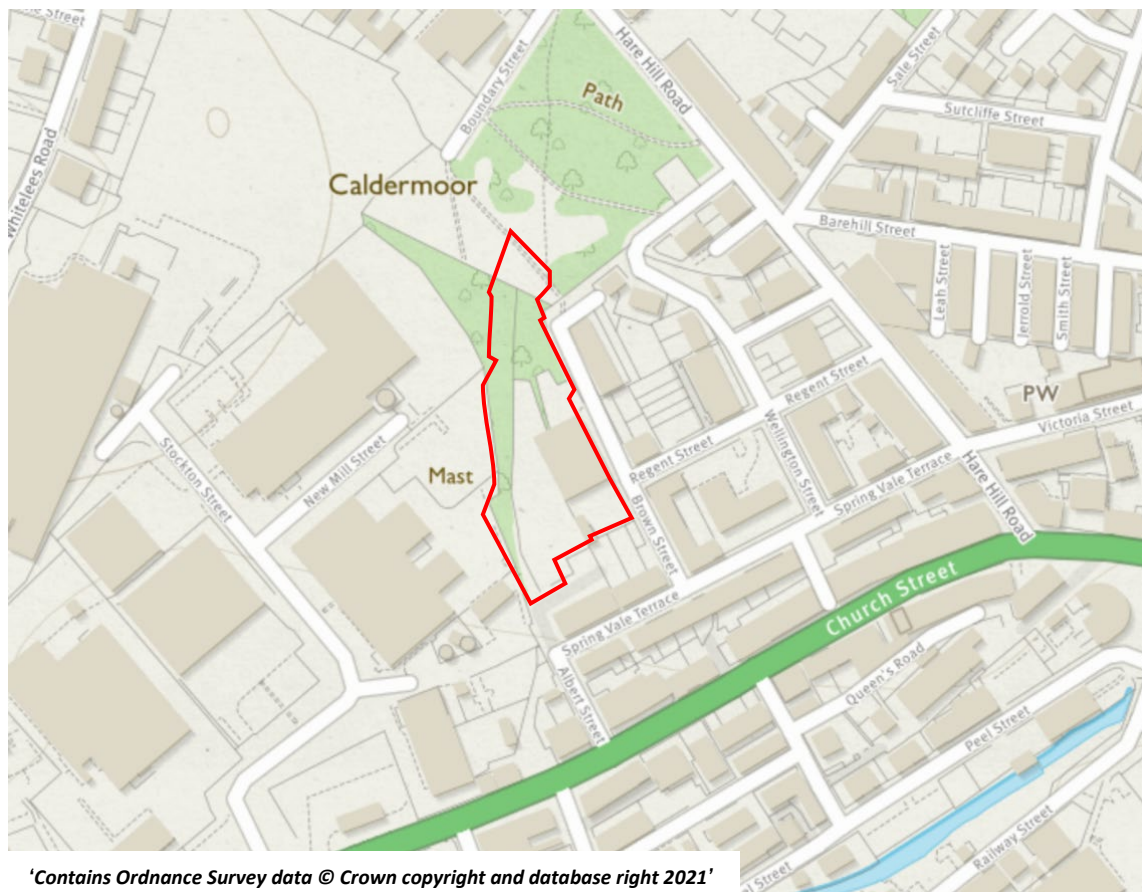


Figure 1 – Site Extent

The site is located in a predominantly urban area of Littleborough, approximately 5km north-east from Rochdale town centre. Residential properties are present to the south and east of the site, in accordance with Figure 1 above, the site edges into Park land to the North East.

1.3 Purpose of this Report

This report has been produced to demonstrate the results of nocturnal bat surveys which were completed at the site. The surveys were conducted to confirm presence or likely absence of roosting bats. Appropriate mitigation and suitable roost replacement (compensation) is detailed (if required). The report has been produced in support of the proposed planning application.

Relevant UK legislation of the protection of all UK bats are detailed in Appendix 1.

2 Previous Surveys

2.1 PEA / PRA

A PEA and PRA was completed at the site by Urban Green in August 2021 and is detailed within Report UG_1240_ECO_PEA_01 (Urban Green, 2020). Three buildings (B1A – B1C) were located within the site boundary and were subject to a PRA. Please refer to Table 1, which was extracted from Appendix 1 of the PEA report, summarising the assessment.

Table 1 - PRA Summary (UG_1240_ECO_PEA_01, 2021).

Building Reference	Description and evidence	Category of Suitability
Building (B) 1 A	Constructed of bare red brick on the northern and western aspect, connected to B1b on its southern section. The eastern and southern upper aspect comprised metal sheeting which was well-sealed with no suitable crevices or access points present. Many windows were glass, though a number were either covered in wooden boarding, or bricked up. A gap between the wooden boards and brick was present and may provide a suitable Potential Roost Features (PRF) for crevice dwelling species. A number of crevices were present within the external brickwork and in relation to the window and door arches, where mortar was missing. The roof was constructed of slate tiles and ridge tiles. Numerous slipped and missing slate tiles were present on all aspects of the roof, whilst mortar was missing on a number of ridge tiles. These gaps may provide suitable access to the building and/or suitable PRF. Wooden fascia was present on the northern aspect, where gaps were also present, providing suitable a crevice for bats. The previous PRA (Urban Green, 2020a) did not identify any obvious PRFs internally, though it could not be fully inspected due to being used for storage. Due to the number of PRFs the building was assessed as having moderate bat roosting potential.	Moderate

Building Reference	Description and evidence	Category of Suitability
B1B	Situated between B1a and B1c, consisting of metal cladding walls on its eastern and western aspect. It was well-sealed with no crevices observed within the metal sheeting. The roof was constructed of single panelled asbestos with asbestos trim. Minor crevices between the trim and panels were present and may provide a PRF. A metal roller door was present on the eastern aspect, leading to the internal aspect of the building. It was in used for commercial purposes. Internally, the building consisted of breeze block walls with a metal frame supporting the asbestos panels. From the internal aspect, no PRFs were found. The previous PRA (Urban Green, 2020a) did not identify any obvious PRFs internally, though it could not be fully inspected due to being used for storage. As such, the building was assessed as having low bat roosting potential.	Low
B1C	It was of similar construction as B1b, with the southern aspect of similar construction as the eastern and western aspects. As such, the building was assessed as having low bat roosting potential.	Low

B1A was assessed as having moderate bat roosting potential, therefore a minimum of two nocturnal emergence surveys were recommended and are to follow guidance set out in Collins (2016).

B1B was assessed as having low bat roosting potential, a minimum of one nocturnal emergence survey is recommended and is to follow guidance as set out in Collins (2016).

B1C was assessed as having low bat roosting potential, a minimum of one Nocturnal emergence survey is recommended and is to follow guidance as set out in Collins (2016).

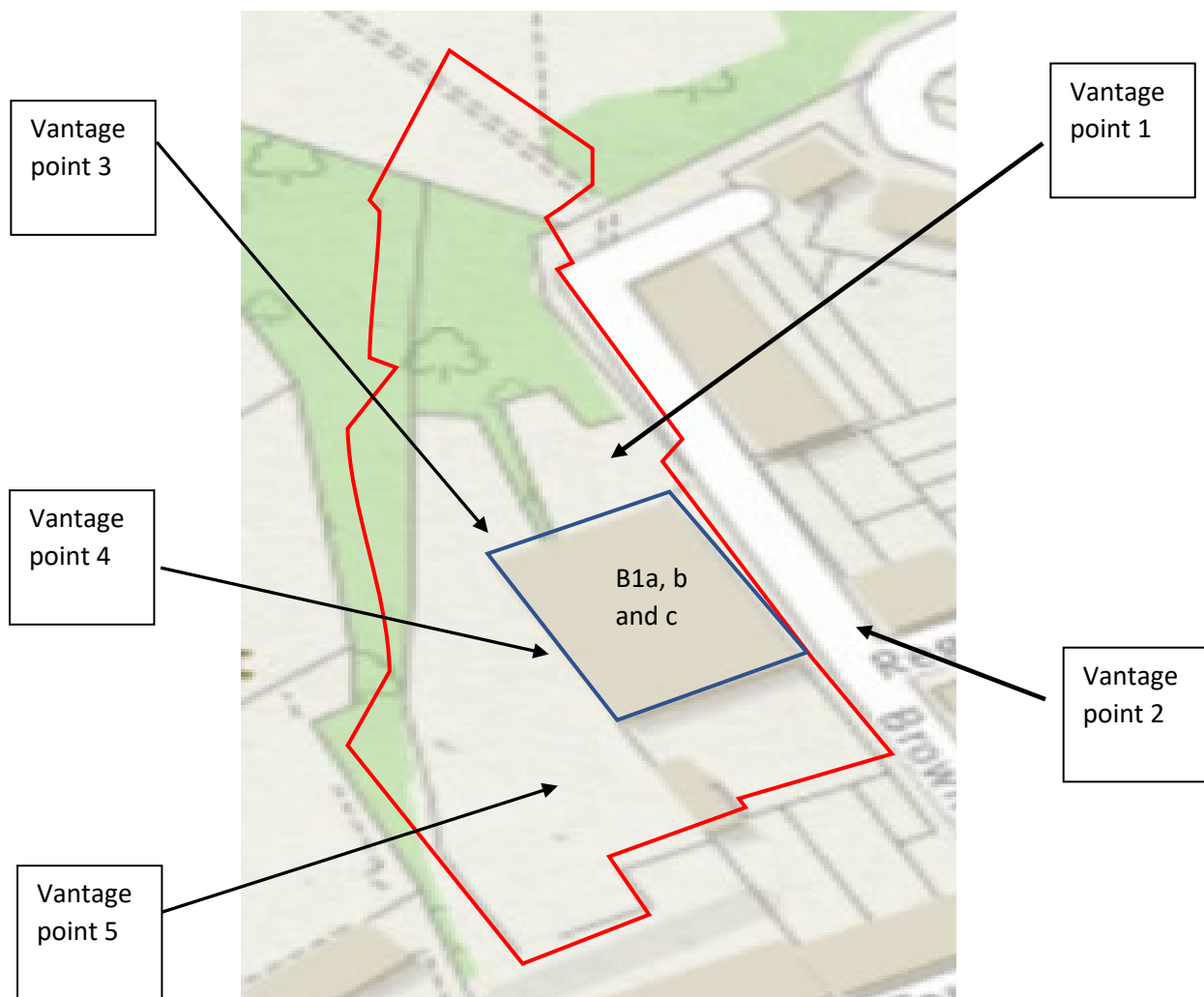
3 Methods

3.1 Nocturnal Bat Surveys

Two dusk emergence surveys were undertaken at the site, following guidance set out in Collins (2016). All surveys were conducted by at least four suitability qualified Ecologists, and under the guidance of Katie Bird, Senior Ecologist at Urban Green who holds a Level 2 Class Licence for bats (2020-48950-CLS-CLS).

The surveys were conducted using handheld Batbox Duet and Echo Meter Touch bat detectors. Surveyors were positioned around the features to observe the PRFs identified during the PRA. The emergence survey started at least 15 minutes before sunset and continued until approximately 1.5 to 2 hours after sunset. The re-entry survey started approximately 1.5 to 2 hours before sunrise and continued until 15 minutes after sunrise.

A summary of the survey details is provided in Table 2. Surveyor survey results sheets are located within Appendix 2. Figure 2 provides a plan illustrating surveyor positions.



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Figure 2 – Surveyor vantage points for B1A, B1B and B1C

Table 2 - Emergence/Re-entry Survey Details.

Date	Building Ref	Sunset/sunrise time	Survey time	Surveyors	Weather conditions at sunset
02/09/21	B1a, b and c	19:57	19:42 – 21:27	S1 – Andrew Bridge S2 – Brooklyn Bell S3 – Katy Ellen S4 – Bronwyn Dennis S5 – Aisling Bennett	Temp: 16°C Cloud cover: 5/8 oktas Wind: 2 Beaufort Precipitation (Ppt): None during survey.
21/09/21	B1a	19:10	18:55 – 20:40	S1 – Bronwyn Dennis S2 – James Robinson S3 – Paige Hickey S4 – Chris Marston	Temp: 13°C Cloud cover: 4/8 oktas Wind: 2 Beaufort Precipitation (Ppt): None

Andrew Bridge – an Assistant ecologist with two years bat survey experience.

Chris Marston – an seasonal ecologist with several years bat survey experience

James Robinson– an Assistant ecologist with one year’s bat survey experience

Bronwyn Dennis – an Assistant ecologist with one year’s bat survey experience

Paige Hickey – an Assistant ecologist with one year’s bat survey experience

3.2 Constraints to the Survey

No constraints relating to the survey were encountered.

3.3 Lifespan of Reports

In accordance with the BCT guidance (Collins, 2016)), the details of this report will remain valid for a period of **24 months** from the date of the first survey (i.e. until 2nd March 2023). After this date, this assessment should be reviewed to determine whether any update surveys are required. Unless there is changes to the proposed work.

4 Results

4.1 Nocturnal Surveys

4.1.1 Dusk Emergence

No bats were identified emerging from the B1A, B1B, or B1C during the surveys.

The first bat was recorded on the First survey of the site which focused on buildings B1A B1B B1C at 21:05, it was observed as a Common Pipistrelle foraging in the surrounding woodland and scrub to the North East of the site. Limited other bat activity was noticed throughout the site on this survey.

Recorded bat activity was attributed to Common pipistrelle only. It is anticipated that the site is used regularly by bats as an area of foraging predominantly using the site for commuting and foraging to and from the adjacent woodland.

4.1.2 Dusk Emergence

A second Dusk Survey was carried out predominantly focusing on building B1A, no bat activity was recorded in relation to the building or any of the potential roosting features surveyed and noted within the PRA.

The first bat recorded was at 19:29 and was observed as a common pipistrelle foraging between the woodland to the south west and north west of the site, foraging was continued to be observed throughout the survey, as concluded in the first survey, it can be concluded that the site, is used for foraging and commuting by bats, in particular common pipistrelle.

Assessment

There was medium bat activity recorded around the site but the surveys indicated no direct impact towards the buildings surveyed, with only common and widespread species being identified within the local area, attributed to Common pipistrelle and Noctule only. Foraging activity was mainly recorded in relation to the wider environment such as the woodland immediately adjacent to the north-east of the site. As such after the two forementioned Emergence / Dusk Surveys, it was not deemed necessary to conduct Re-entry / Dawn surveys.

No bat roosts were identified during the survey, as such it is deemed unlikely that a bat roost is present within the buildings. As such, no further surveys or mitigation relating to roosting bats are deemed necessary for the proposed works to proceed.

5 Conclusion

The Surveys indicated that the site was predominantly used by bats as an area for foraging and commuting between adjacent habitats. The two dusk emergence survey's carried out on the 02/09/21 and the 23/09/21, provided no evidence that roost were present within buildings B1A, B1B and B1C. As stated, no further surveys or mitigation relating to roosting bats are deemed necessary for the proposed works to proceed. In the unlikely chance a bat or multiple bats are discovered during the works, all works must cease immediately, and an ecologist/Natural England is to be contacted. If safe to do so, the bat(s) should be recovered gently with the original material.

6 References

Bat Conservation Trust (2016). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (Third Edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

CIEEM (2019). Advice Note on the Lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys. CIEEM.

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

Hutson A. M. (1993). Action Plan for Conservation of Bats in the United Kingdom. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2004). Bat Workers Manual. JNCC, Peterborough.

Urban Green (2020). Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of Unit 4 Brown Street, Littleborough. Ref: UG_124O_ECO_PEA_01.

Appendix 1 – Relevant Legislation

Legislation relating to European Protected Species (e.g. bats)

European Protected Species and their resting places (e.g. bat roosts) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 transpose the European Union's 'Habitats Directive' (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (EC Habitats Directive) into UK law. The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European Sites', the protection of 'European Protected Species' (EPS), and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites. EPS are listed on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Appendix 2 – Survey Sheets

First Survey – Emergence/dusk survey – 02/09/21

Bat Passes			
Surveyor	Time	Species	Activity
S1	21:05	Noctule	Commuting – passing through site
	21:12	Common pipistrelle	Heard not seen – passing
S2	No data recorded.		
S3	No data recorded.		
S4	No data recorded.		
S5	No data recorded.		

Second survey – Dusk Emergence– 21/09/21

Bat Passes			
Surveyor	Time	Species	Activity
S1	19:28	Common pipistrelle	Seen not Heard – foraging
	19:33	Common pipistrelle	Foraging
	19:35	Common pipistrelle	Multiple passes – foraging
	19:40 - EoS	Common pipistrelle	Multiple passes / foraging through site until End of Survey.
S2	19:29	Common pipistrelle	Foraging
	19:36	Common pipistrelle	Commuting
	19:41	Common pipistrelle	Foraging
	19:45 - EoS	Common pipistrelle	Multiple passes / foraging through site until End of Survey.
S3	19:36	Common Pipistrelle	Heard not Seen
	19:50	Common Pipistrelle	Commuting
	20:05 – 20:26	Common Pipistrelle	Multiple foraging / commuting passes Through site.
S4	No data recorded.		