

Bat Emergence and Re-Entry Surveys (BERS)

Survey site:

Canal Side Works, Fletcher Street, Rochdale, OL11 1AE

Client:

Chloe Brearley

Report date:

8th July 2024

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application for the proposal described as:
“The erection of a new workshop”.

This report is supplementary to the Preliminary Roost Assessment report completed by Arbtech Consulting Ltd (2023).

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 Roost Assessment completed by Arbtech Consulting Limited (2023) for the same site address. 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	
Background The PRA concluded the site has low value for roosting bats. A small number of crevices internally are present with B1 which may be utilised by small numbers of roosting bats, though they are likely to be shallow and suboptimal.	
BERS Results No bat roosts were identified at the site. No bats were observed emerging from the buildings during the emergence survey and no evidence of bats was found during the preliminary roost assessment. Consequently, no impacts on bats or their roosts are foreseen. A low impact lighting strategy should be adopted for the site especially along the eastern elevation, where bat activity was at its highest, following guidance from the Bat Conservation Trust: Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK' Guidance Note GN 08 / 23 https://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/	
The site surveys were designed and managed by David Hill-Chambers MSc, BSc (Hons) Assistant Ecologist, Accredited agent under bat licence 2018-33540-CLS-CLS	
See surveyor locations in the BERS plan in Appendix 1.	
<i>Limitations</i>	Street lighting obscured the view of the surveyor and IR camera along the eastern elevation. Additionally, cars were parked alongside the road, with pedestrians constantly using the pavement to access the adjacent commercial building. Therefore, it was deemed impractical and unsafe to position a surveyor along this elevation. To mitigate this limitation, greater attention was given to the southern elevation, where the majority of suitable roosting features were located.

Field Survey	
Dusk Emergence Survey 1	
Building B1	
<i>Building inspection prior to survey</i>	The interior of B1 was inspected prior to the survey by David Hill-Chambers MSc, BSc (Hons) Assistant Ecologist, Accredited agent on Natural England Bat Licence Number: 2018-33540-CLS-CLS. The building was assessed to be in materially the same condition as during the preliminary roost assessment conducted in 2023 by Arbtech Consult Ltd. No bat evidence, such as droppings, or bats themselves, was observed. Internal readings on the day of the survey were assessed to be 18°C and the relative humidity at 57.6%. Images 1&2: Interior space prior to the commencement of the survey.
<i>Surveyor and position</i>	David Hill-Chambers (Lead) – 2 years of bat survey experience – Position 1 – Observing a section of the southern elevation and roof structure of B1.

	Nicola Baxter – 1 year of bat survey experience – Position 2 – Observing a section of the southern elevation and roof structure of B1.						
Weather (start/end)	Temperature (°C): 12 Relative humidity (%): 81 Cloud cover (%): 100 Wind (mph): 7 Rain: 0mm			Temperature (°C): 11 Relative humidity (%): 78 Cloud cover (%): 100 Wind (mph): 6 Rain: 0mm			
Equipment used	Echometer Touch, 2 x IR camera (Nightfox Whisker), 2 x IR torches (Nightfox XB5 Pro IR torch) and 2 x hand-held radios.						
Results							
Date of survey	Sunset Start - End	Species and numbers	Roost type	Structure reference	Roost location	Access points	Dimensions and explanation of roost location
02/07/2024	Sunset 21:41 21:25– 23:10	None	N/A	B1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Surveyor observations							
David Hill-Chambers Position 1	No Emergences: No bat activity of any kind was observed during the survey period.						

IR position 1	No Emergences Recorded: IR footage recorded the view of position 1. IR confirms no bats emerged from the building during the survey period. No bat activity was recorded.	
Nicola Baxter Position 2	No Emergences: No bats were observed emerging from B1 during the survey period. No bat activity was observed within the surrounding around.	

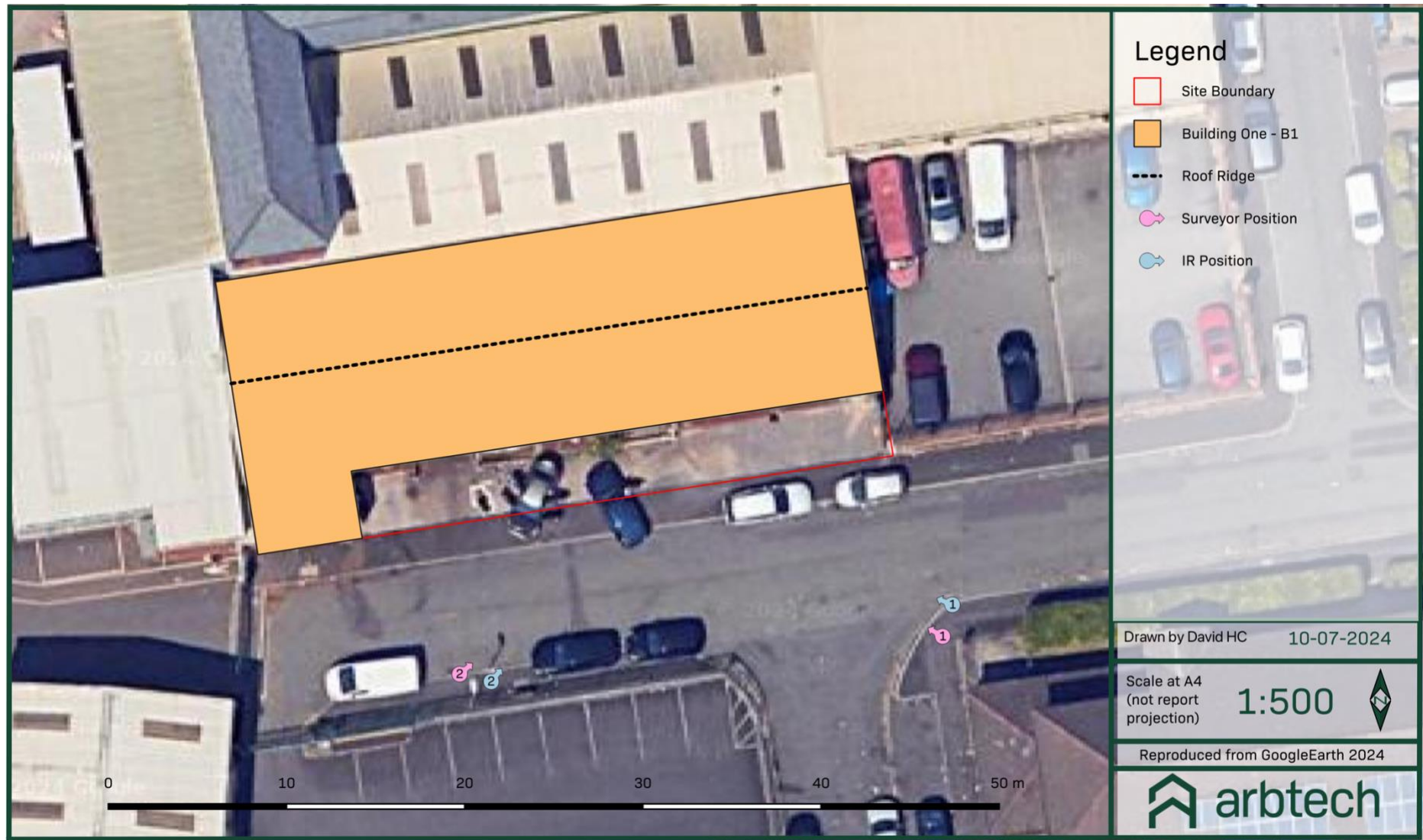
IR position 2	No Emergences Recorded: IR footage recorded the view of position 2. IR confirms no bats emerged from the building during the survey period. No bat activity was recorded.	
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Conclusions, Impacts and Recommendations	
<i>Survey Results Summary</i>	The surveys conducted to date confirm the absence of roosting bats. No bats were observed emerging from the building during the emergence survey, and the preliminary assessment found no evidence of bats. There is no vegetation on site to support foraging bats. The nearby canal is likely an important corridor for local bats; however, no commuting or foraging activity by bats was recorded within the vicinity during the survey.
<i>Impact Assessment</i>	It is highly unlikely that bats are roosting in Building B1, and the proposed development is not expected to impact roosting bats.
<i>Recommendations</i>	If a bat or evidence of bats is unexpectedly found during the development, all work must stop, and a licensed bat ecologist should be contacted for further advice. Due to the proximity of the canal, which is likely a dark corridor for commuting and foraging bats, a low impact lighting strategy should be adopted for the site. This could include the following measures to comply with current guidelines with regards to the impacts of artificial lighting on bats (Bat Conservation Trust and the Institute of Lighting Professionals 2018): • Use of narrow spectrum light sources to lower the range of species affected by lighting. • Use of light sources that emit minimal ultra-violet light. • Avoidance of white and blue wavelengths of the light spectrum to reduce insect attraction and where white light sources are required to manage the blue shortwave length content they should be of a warm / neutral colour temperature <4,200 kelvin. • Absence of bare bulbs and any light pointing upwards. The spread of light will be kept in line with or below the horizontal.

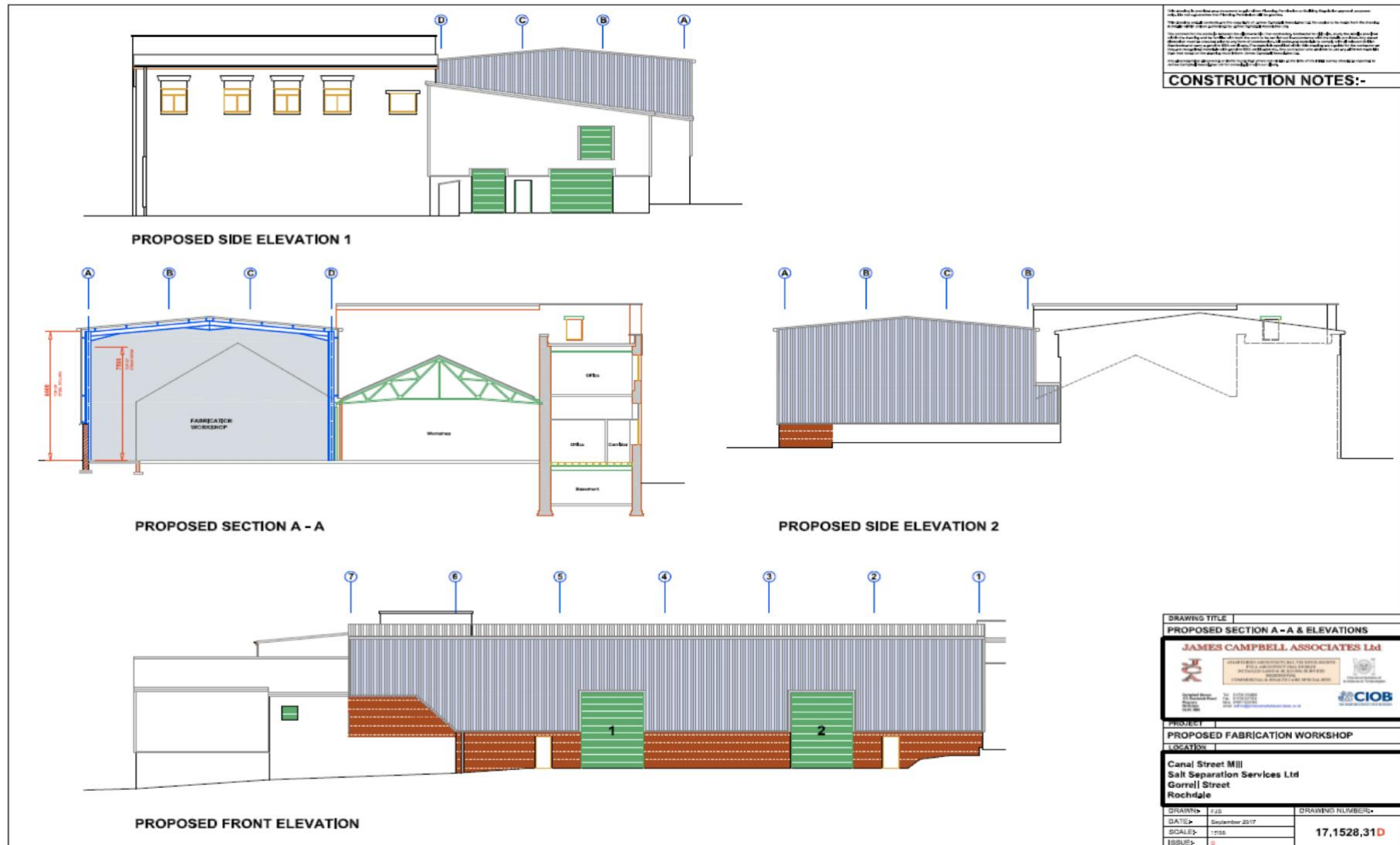
<i>Enhancements</i>	The installation of a single bat box or integrated bat brick should be incorporated into the proposed development. Recommended bat box bricks include: • 2F Schwegler Bat Box • 1FF Schwegler Bat Box • 2FN Schwegler Bat Box • Beaumaris Bat Box • Vivara Pro Woodstone Bat Box • Schwegler 1FR Bat Tubes Bat boxes can be installed retrospectively and attached to the outside of buildings. Bat bricks require material consideration and are integrated into the fabric of the building. Bat boxes/ bricks should be positioned 3-5m above ground level facing in a south, south-easterly or south-westerly direction with a clear flight path to and from the entrance, away from artificial light.

Version control			
Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft	0.1	David Hill-Chambers MSc, BSc (Hons) Assistant Ecologist, Accredited agent under bat licence 2018-33540-CLS-CLS	08/07/2024
Review	0.2	Josephine McCarthy, Consultant Ecologist, [Natural England Bat Licence Number: 2019-41480-CLS-CLS (CL18 Level 2)]	16/07/2024
Final	1.0	David Hill-Chambers MSc, BSc (Hons) Assistant Ecologist, Accredited agent under bat licence 2018-33540-CLS-CLS	16/x07/2024

Appendix 1: BERS plan



Appendix 2: Proposed Development Plans



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