

LINKSIDE, MIDDLETON

Nocturnal Bat Survey Report

September 2022



Report Control Sheet

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1 INTRODUCTION

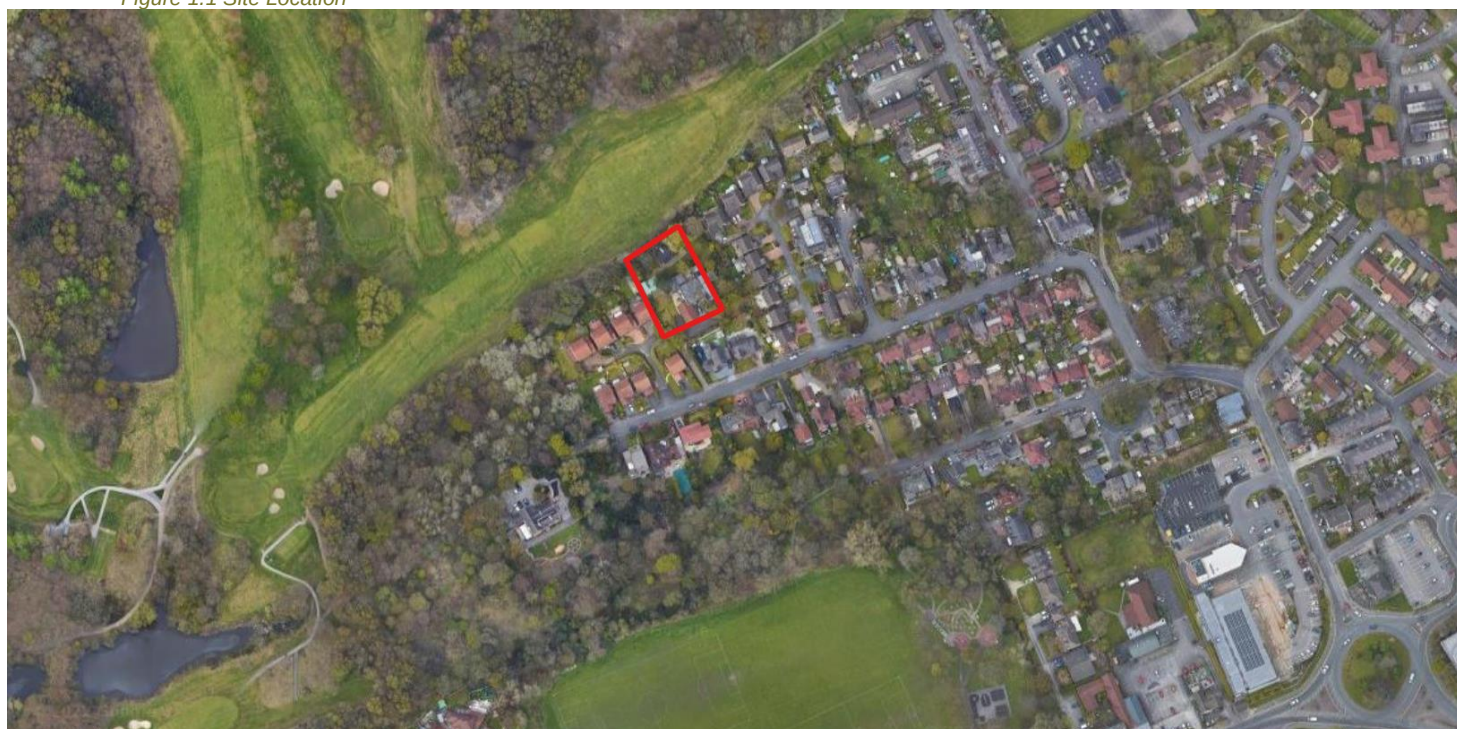
1.1. SCOPE & PURPOSE

- 1.1.1. Collington Winter Environmental Ltd was commissioned by Mr Michael Leary to undertake Nocturnal Bat Surveys at the site at Linkside, Sunny Brow Road, Middleton. This report has been produced to inform a planning application at the site for proposed demolition and new build.
- 1.1.2. The author of this report is Caitlin O'Connor, Apprentice Ecologist at Collington Winter Environmental Ltd. The project has been managed and overseen by Olivia Collington BSc (Hons), MEnvSc, CEnv. Director and Principal Ecologist at Collington Winter Environmental. Olivia is highly experienced managing schemes and has produced many ecological reports to inform planning permission. Olivia holds a Class 1 Natural England Bat Licence and is experienced assessing sites for bat roosting potential.
- 1.1.3. A Preliminary Roost Assessment was undertaken of the site in 2022 which found Buildings 1 and 2 to provide moderate bat roosting potential. Therefore, two nocturnal emergence surveys were recommended, the results of which are detailed in this report.

1.2. LOCATION

- 1.2.1. Please refer to Figure 1.1 for the approximate site location. The site is a detached residence located in Middleton, a town in the Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale, Greater Manchester. It is directly adjacent to North Manchester Gold Club consisting of extensive grassland and ponds. Grid reference: SD 86222 05911.

Figure 1.1 Site Location



1.3. OBJECTIVES

- 1.3.1. The objectives of the Nocturnal Bat Survey are as follows:
- Identify any bats roosting within the buildings.
 - Assess the value of the buildings for roosting bats.
 - Identify the species assemblage of bats using the site.
 - Provide recommendations on any further surveys or mitigation required for bats.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1. NOCTURNAL BAT SURVEY

2.1.1. The nocturnal surveys were undertaken as a dusk survey on 15th September 2022 and on 29th September 2022 by three qualified surveyors. Please refer to Figure 2.1 for locations of vantage points used during both surveys, which were positioned on areas with bat roosting potential.

Figure 2.1 Surveyor Locations



2.1.2. The surveys were undertaken in line with guidance as set out in Collins (2016). Surveyors used heterodyne handheld bat detectors. All surveyors were suitably experienced undertaking bat emergence surveys. Please refer to Table 2.1 for details of surveys.

Table 2.1 Survey Details

Date	Sunset/ Sunrise Time	Start	Finish	Surveyors	Weather Conditions
15/09/2022	19:25	19:10	20:55	VP1 – Darnell Shaw VP2 – Caitlin O'Connor VP3 – Will Higgins	Temp at start/end: 14 Celsius Cloud cover: 3/8 Octas Wind: 0 max (Beaufort scale)
28/09/22	18:51	18:36	20:21	VP1 – Allegra Lindsay VP2 – Andrew Taylor VP3 – Darnell Shaw	Temp at start/end: 14 Celsius Cloud cover: 0/8 Octas Wind: 0 max (Beaufort scale)

2.2. SURVEY LIMITATIONS

- 2.2.1. Both surveys were completed in September, which is considered a sub-optimum survey period. It is possible that roosts are present within the buildings but were not possible to identify due to the surveys being completed in September. The constraint has been considered within the assessment.

3 SURVEY RESULTS

3.1. DUSK SURVEY (15/09/22)

- 3.1.1. Bat activity was recorded throughout the survey, with common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) observed foraging or commuting in proximity of all vantage points.
- 3.1.2. The first bat was recorded at 19:41 (approximately sixteen minutes after sunset) by VP3 and was an unidentified bat foraging above the north-western corner of Building 2. Foraging activity by unidentified pipistrelle species was recorded continuously within the proximity of VP3 for the duration of the survey. Commuting activity was briefly recorded by VP1 with soprano pipistrelle observed travelling northeast. Minimal activity was recorded by VP2 with only common pipistrelle observed foraging at 19:53.
- 3.1.3. No roost locations were observed throughout the survey.

3.2. DUSK SURVEY (29/09/22)

- 3.2.1. Bat activity was recorded throughout the survey with foraging and commuting observed by all vantage points. Species observed included common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, and brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*).
- 3.2.2. The first bat was a common pipistrelle recorded at 19:04 (approximately 13 minutes after sunset) and was observed commuting over Building 1 and in a north-westerly direction. This was observed by both VP1 and VP2. Commuting common pipistrelles were recorded a further two times by VP1 and VP2. Foraging activity also remained constant throughout the survey especially in the proximity of VP3 predominantly over the garden area and surrounding treelines.
- 3.2.3. No roost locations were observed throughout the survey.

3.3. ASSESSMENT

- 3.3.1. Bat activity was recorded throughout the surveys with only common and widespread species being identified within the local area. Foraging and commuting activity was recorded consistently throughout the survey. The garden space was utilised for foraging purposes.
- 3.3.2. No bat roosts were located on site during the survey. However, due as bats were observed approximately 15 minutes after sunset during both surveys, it is possible a bat roost is located within the proximity to the site. In addition, as both surveys were completed in September it is possible a roost may have not been identified.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS AND MITIGATION

4.1. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 4.1.1. The proposed development works will include the full demolition of the building and reconstruction of a new build. Based on the survey data obtained, there are no roosts within the buildings, though as stated the surveys were completed during September, which is a sub-optimal time of the year.

4.2. LIGHTING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.2.1. All bats have some degree of sensitivity to artificial, night-time lighting. Introducing artificial lighting to areas that are not currently illuminated may sever important bat flight lines and discourage bats from using roost provisions. It is recommended external lighting is not to be provided on the building to ensure roosting bats are not impacted by introduced lighting.
- 4.2.2. It is advised that a light mitigation plan is produced to assess the pre- and post-development changes in lighting and to advise on an appropriately sensitive lighting scheme as part of the development.
- 4.2.3. Due to the nature of the species on site and their utilisation of the building and wider habitat for foraging and commuting purposes, crevice dwelling bat boxes could be installed as an ecological enhancement for the site.

5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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