

GEOSPHERE ENVIRONMENTAL

REPORT TYPE: Bat Roost Emergence Survey

REPORT NUMBER: 9266,EC/BAT/SJ,KL/22-05-25/V1

SITE: NHDC Decarb - North Herts Leisure Centre, Baldock
Road, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 2ER

DATE: 22/05/2025



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Please note that the reported surveys were conducted on the date(s) stated in the report and that it represents site conditions at the time of the visit. The findings and recommended mitigation are based upon these conditions. If site conditions change materially after the site survey, the original report cannot be relied upon and will need to be updated. Bat Activity reports can typically be relied on for 12 to 24 months from the date of survey.

VERSION RECORD

Version:	Date:	Details:	Author(s):	Reviewed By:	Authorised By:
1	22-05-25	Original version	Sarah Jarrett Ecological and Arboricultural Consultant	Katie Linehan Technical Director of Ecology	Katie Linehan Technical Director of Ecology

Non-Technical Executive Summary

Report Description	This report has been prepared by Geosphere Environmental Limited for Wilmott Dixon Construction Ltd and relates to the proposed refurbishment development of the site at NHDC Decarb - North Herts Leisure Centre, Baldock Road, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 2ER. The purpose of the survey is to assess the bat presence / likely absence of roosting bats within buildings considered suitable for roosting bats, determine species and numbers of bats using any identified roosts and make recommendations for any mitigation and compensation, if required. This report does not include a full foraging survey but does provide comment on bat activity noted during the surveys. Recommendations for any avoidance measures, mitigation, compensation and enhancement are included.
Summary of Main Findings	No bats were noted entering or egressing from the building. Low numbers of common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>) and Noctule (<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>) were recorded foraging and commuting through the site during the survey. The earliest bats were noted around 14 mins (noctule) and 25 mins (common pipistrelle) after sunset, which could be seen foraging and not emerging from the surveyed Building (B1). The species assemblage and numbers observed are considered most likely to be of less than local importance. However, it should be noted that surveys undertaken were designed to determine the presence / likely absence of roosting bats within the survey area, therefore, the full value of the site for foraging and commuting bats cannot be reliably assessed.
Ecological Constraints	Although no roosts were confirmed within the Building, bats were recorded using the site close to emergence times, suggesting roosts are located nearby. If any bats are encountered during works, then works must cease until a Natural England (NE) European Protected Species (EPS) Mitigation Licence has been obtained for the site.
Recommendations	It is best practice to avoid overnight working (between sunset and sunrise), to avoid disturbance to foraging and commuting bats. During the construction phase, lighting should be directed away from boundary vegetation and areas of suitable foraging habitat (hedgerows and trees), to ensure light does not obstruct bat flight paths or disrupt bat foraging activities. If the development is to increase the lighting levels in a way that may increase the baseline lux level of offsite habitats, then a lighting strategy should be designed by a lighting engineer and a suitably qualified ecologist, according to current best practice guidelines.
Enhancement Opportunities	There are opportunities to enhance the site for bats through provision of long-term roosting opportunities such as integrated bat boxes or tree mounted boxes within the proposed development.
Conclusions	The recommendations within section 5 of this report should be adhered to reduce the impact on protected species.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared by Geosphere Environmental Limited for Wilmott Dixon Construction Ltd and relates to the proposed refurbishment works of the site at NHDC Decarb - North Herts Leisure Centre, Baldock Road, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 2ER.

This report includes details of a roost emergence survey of the building onsite. The site is 0.6 hectares (ha) located around National Grid Reference TL23363254.

Any limitations and conditions pertaining to the report are stated within Appendix 1 with a full list of technical references provided within Appendix 2.

The development boundary is shown on Figure 1 below:

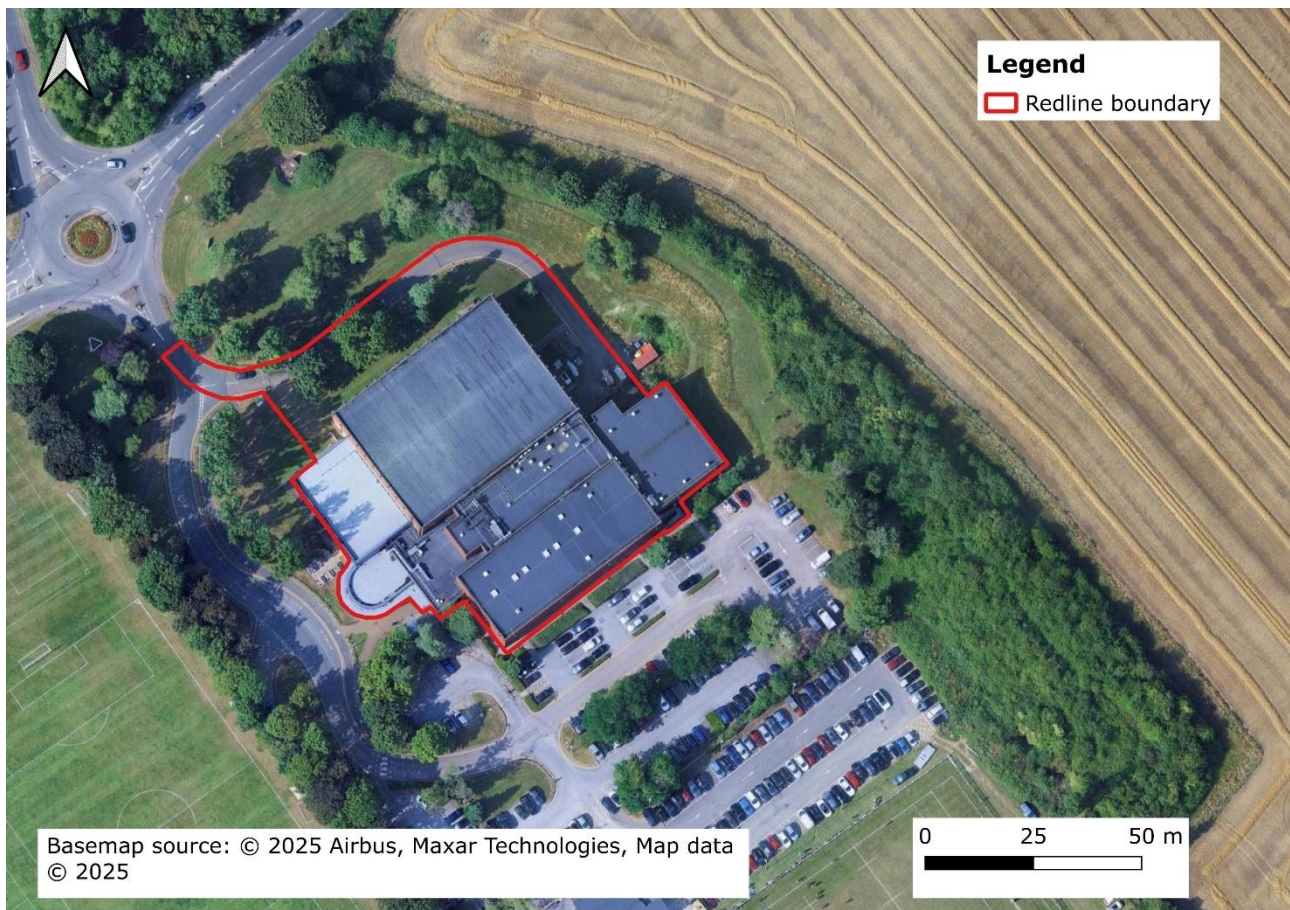


Figure 1 – Indicative Site Boundary

1.1 Background Information

The North Herts Leisure Centre within the site boundary was considered to have low suitability to support roosting bats within a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) undertaken by RPS Group (ref. **R.1**).

The development proposals include replacing the flat roof with a new roof, and increasing insulation in the new roof, sports hall, and cavity wall with a new external insulating render. The development also includes the addition of an External Air Source Heat Pump, new windows and solar panelling on the roof.

The report found a number of external PRFs including space behind metal lips on the edges of the roof and a single storey shed area associated with wooden doors and wooden beam rafters.

1.2 Aims

The purpose of the survey is to assess the bat presence / likely absence of roosting bats within buildings considered suitable for roosting bats, determine species and numbers of bats using any identified roosts and make recommendations for any mitigation and compensation, if required.

This report does not include a full foraging survey but does provide comment on bat activity noted during the surveys, if any.

2. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

2.1 Current UK Legislation

Within England and Wales, bats are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Under the regulations, public bodies have a duty in exercising their functions to provide for the protection of 'European Sites' and 'European Protected Species' (EPS). This legislation makes it illegal to kill or disturb any bats, or to damage, destroy or block access to a place of shelter.

Seven species of bat are listed as species of principle importance under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. All public bodies, including local authorities, are obligated to consider whether their activities can contribute to the protection of wildlife, with reference to species of principle importance.

The reader is referred to the original legislation for definitive interpretation.

2.2 Planning Policy

The recommendations of this report are in line with the key principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (ref. **R.2**) and Government Circular 05/06: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – (ref. **R.3**).

Local planning policies relating to ecology are invariably based upon the conservation of species protected under the above legislation, including species and habitats of principal importance listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006, and the protection of designated sites.

All of these features are considered within the scope of this report and therefore any recommendations made herein are likely to be in line with this policy.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Technical Approach

The emergence surveys have been undertaken in accordance with Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), JNCC and Natural England guidelines (refs. **R.4**, **R.5**, **R.6**, and **R.7** respectively).

3.2 Reporting Personnel

This report was produced by Sarah Jarrett BSc (Hons) MSc TechArborA (Ecological and Arboricultural Consultant), who is experienced in ecological consultancy including surveys and mitigation for a range of protected species and impact assessments. This report was reviewed and approved by Katie Linehan BSc (Hons) MSc PIEMA MCIEEM (Technical Director), who is experienced in ecological consultancy including the production of bat roost and activity reports, as well as ecological impact assessments.

All surveyors used to establish baseline information are suitably qualified and experienced; surveyors' names and qualifications are stated relevant survey headings below.

3.3 Survey Personnel

Surveyors utilised to cover all aspects for roost surveys included Sarah Jarrett BSc (Hons) MSc (Ecologist), Katie Linehan BSc (Hons) MSc PIEMA MCIEEM (Technical Director), Eleanor Baker BSc (Hons) MSc (Ecologist), Loren Holgate BSc (Hons) QCIEEM (Graduate Ecologist), Fletcher Telling BSc (Hons), Sam Bellamy BSc (Hons) MSc QCIEEM (Graduate Ecologist) and Matthew Lawrence BSc (Hons) MSc (Seasonal Ecologist). All surveyors are suitably qualified and experienced to carry out bat emergence surveys.

3.4 Emergence Survey

GEL staff undertook a brief walkover of site prior to sunset to assess external PRF's in accordance with the findings of the previous report. To ensure all aspects that were highlighted as having roost potential were observed during the survey by a total of 7 surveyors.

The viewpoints used deviated from those suggested in the PRA report to account for more comprehensive cover of the building, as many of the features highlighted were present throughout the build and to account for blind spots on the lower central elevation (southwest to northeast as shown in Figure 2).

The locations of the surveyors during building emergence surveys are shown in Figure 2 below:

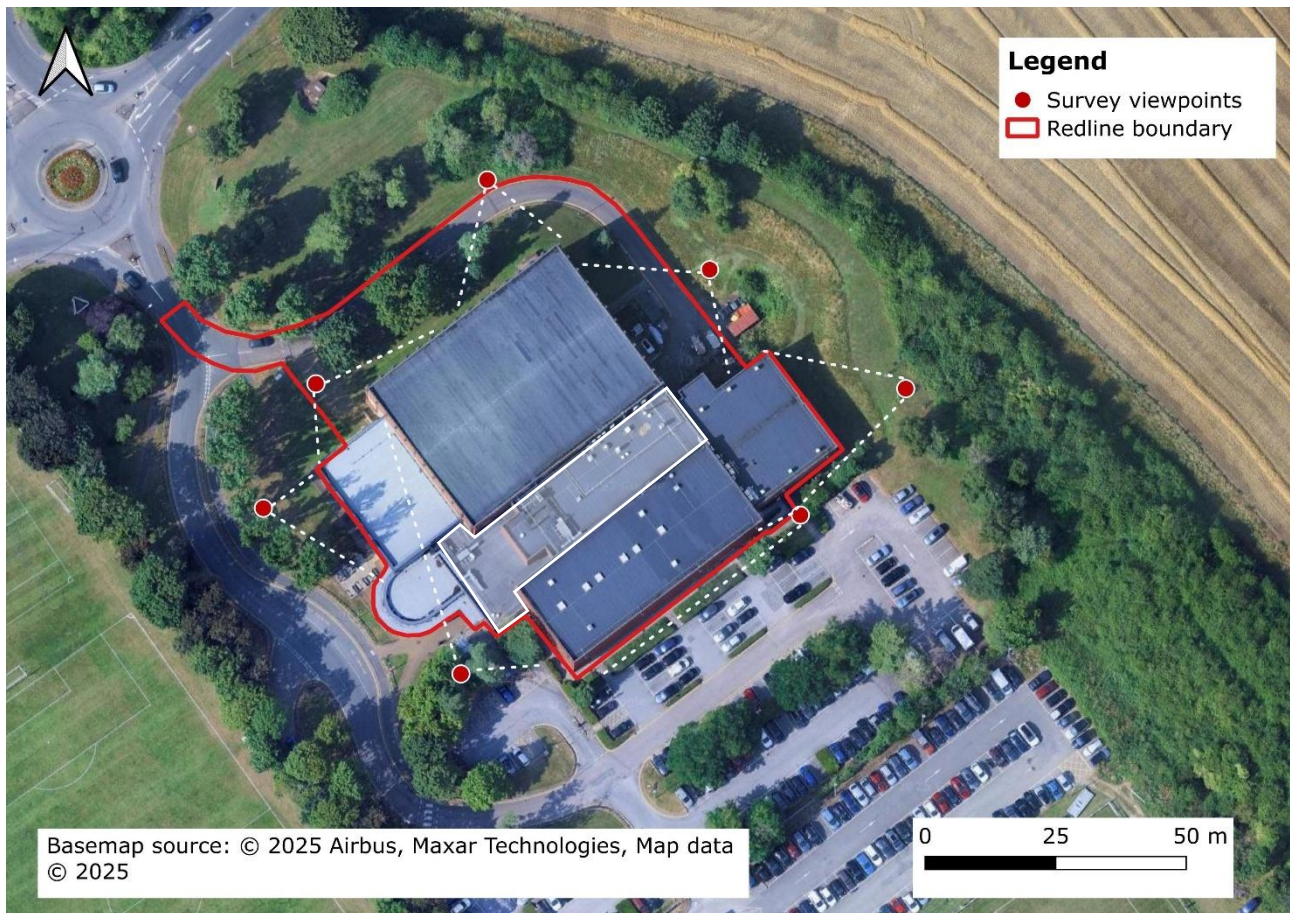


Figure 2 – Surveyor viewpoints

Emergence surveys commenced 15 minutes before sunset and concluded between 90 and 120 minutes after sunset, depending upon the potential for late emerging species, to ensure that all species of bats were afforded time to egress from the roost.

The building onsite was deemed to have low potential; therefore 1, emergence survey was undertaken.

The survey was undertaken on 19 May 2025 and commenced at 20:39 for a sunset time of 20:54, the survey concluded 22:24. The start temperature was 16°C and the end temperature was 10°C with occasional light breeze and 30% cloud cover at the beginning of the survey.

3.5 Equipment

Each surveyor used a Wildlife Acoustics Echo Meter Touch (EMT) Pro with Amazon Fire 8 HD tablet. Recordings were analysed using Kaleidoscope where necessary to aid accurate species identification.

Night Vision Aids (NVAs) were used during each survey. Two Guide TrackIR 19 thermal imaging monoculars, one Guide TrackIR TK612 thermal imaging monocular, and three Canon (Models XA75, XA60 and XA15)

infrared (IR) camcorders, supported 850nm Infrared Floodlights. Three Nightfox Whisker night vision binoculars (infra-red) were used on one position to cover one position.

NVAs were viewed in real time once light levels became too low for human eye observation of the survey structures. External monitors connected to the IR camcorders and a wireless tablets connected to the thermal scopes were also used.

All NVAs were set to record for the duration of the survey, with video footage played back to determine numbers, locations and species of bats emerging from roost, (if any). Screenshots from NVA's can be found in Appendix 3.

3.6 Ecological Evaluation of Bats

The ecological evaluation and preliminary impact assessment detailed below is based upon the 2023 UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines (ref. **R.7**) and CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom, (ref. **R.8**).

The value of the site is considered along with a review of any factors that may affect the assignment of geographical importance of features, including but not limited to:

- Landscape context.
- Likelihood of roosts being present nearby.
- Known local / regional species distributions.

To evaluate the bat activity present onsite, the behaviour, frequency of passes and variety of species present will be the key factors. These will be assessed using professional judgement as per CIEEM's guidance, with specific important ecological features being highlighted as and when deemed appropriate.

The value of bat roosts varies based upon the numbers and species using it, in addition to the characterisation of the roost. Table 1 below shows hierarchy of roost valuation as adapted from CIEEMs guidance:

Table 1 – Assessing the Importance of Roosts

Roost category*:	Conservation status / distribution			
	Widespread all geographies	Widespread in many geographies, but not as abundant in all	Rarer or restricted distribution	Rarest Annex II species and very rare
Feeding perches; night-roosts. Individual or very small occasional/transitional/opportunistic roosts.	Site importance.	Site importance.	Site importance (very well-used night roosts may be of Local/District importance for some species).	Site importance (very well-used night roosts may be of Local/District importance for some species).
Non-breeding day roosts.	Site importance.	Site importance.	Site/Local/District importance, dependent on local distribution.	Site/Local/District importance, dependent on local distribution.
Mating sites (excluding individual trees and larger swarming sites). Small numbers of hibernating bats.	Site importance.	Site importance, dependent on local distribution (For Myotis, see swarming site column in guidance document).	Site/Local/District importance, dependent on local distribution.	Site/Local/District importance, dependent on local distribution.
Larger transitional roosts.	Site/Local importance.	District importance.	District importance.	District importance.
Hibernation sites (for tree-roosting bats individual hibernation sites are difficult to detect, the importance of the roost resource (i.e., the collection of PRFs which are available to bats) rather than individual confirmed roosts, should be assessed.).	District/County importance (Larger hibernation sites rare in the UK).	District/County importance dependent on size** and number of species.	District/County importance dependent on size** and local distribution; increased value for assemblages.	County/Regional importance dependent on size** and local distribution; increased value for assemblages.
Autumn swarming sites (largely, vesper species which hibernate underground (Myotis, long-eared bats and barbastelle).	District/County importance (Very large pipistrelle swarming sites as yet unknown in the UK).	County/Regional importance dependent on size**; importance increased for larger sites that serve larger numbers/species.	County/Regional importance dependent on size** and local distribution; increased value for assemblages.	County/Regional importance dependent on size** and local distribution; increased value for assemblages.
Maternity sites (Satellite roosts (i.e., alternative roosts found in close proximity to the main nursery colony) should be considered with the associated main colony).	Unlikely to exceed District importance unless colonies are atypically large; importance increased for assemblages.	Unlikely to exceed County importance unless colonies are atypically large; importance increased for assemblages.	County/Regional importance dependent on size** and local distribution; increased value for assemblages.	County/Regional importance dependent on size** and local distribution; increased value for assemblages.

* Note this table relates to VALUATION and does not mean that all such sites are 'places of shelter' as referenced in the W&CA or Habitats Regulations. Inclusion in this table does not indicate that a licence would be required; this would be driven by roost status, any impacts, and the likelihood of an offence.

** In all cases, 'size' needs to be interpreted as 'relative to typical sizes for the species'.

Sites within or functionally linked to SACs are of international importance for Qualifying Species. Sites meeting SSSI guidelines are of National importance (though note that many SSSI citations do not reflect the 'bat' importance of the sites they describe, and not all sites of National importance are designated).

4. FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

4.1 Site Specific Limitations

Brown Long-eared (*Plecotus auratus*) bats echolocate quietly and often undetectably. For this reason, this common and widespread species is likely to have been under recorded at the site. A precautionary approach is taken, with recommendations designed to take this unknown into account.

Members of the public were present throughout the survey, any instances where a surveyor considered public interference a limitation were subject to footage review to ensure that nothing had been missed.

External lighting was present on the majority of the build; infrared cameras were adjusted throughout the night to facilitate best view of the features.

4.2 Summer Bat Roost

No bats were noted entering or egressing from the building onsite.

Low numbers of Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and Noctule were recorded foraging and commuting through the site during all surveys. The earliest noctule was noted 16 minutes after sunset and pipistrelles were noted around 25 mins after sunset, which could be seen foraging and had not emerged from the surveyed Building (B1).

4.2.1 Value of Habitats for Bats

Areas of habitat noted being used by foraging and commuting bats during the roost survey has been shown in Figure 3 below. Recommendations are made in Section 5 to ensure that potential impacts to habitats onsite, of potential value to foraging and commuting bats, are minimised and avoided wherever possible.



Figure 3 – Nearby suitable habitats

The majority of foraging and commuting bats recorded during surveys were common pipistrelle and noctule. However, it should be noted that surveys undertaken were designed to determine the presence / likely absence of roosting bats within the survey area; therefore, the full value of the site for foraging and commuting bats cannot be reliably assessed.

The early commuting passes are attributed to the nearby availability of woodland and woody arable field margins. The trees noted around the building specifically to the east and west are considered good foraging resources and good commuting features for bats in the local area. It is considered likely that bats emerged from habitats offsite nearby.

5. ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

5.1 Roosting Bats – Buildings

No roosts were recorded within the building. Early passes by bats suggest were present; however, due to the level of lighting onsite and material quality of the buildings and the lack of obvious roost features well connected to commuting pathways, it is considered unlikely that the bats would use the buildings for roosting. Therefore, no constraints exist with regard to these structures and no impacts to roosting bats are anticipated as a result of the proposals.

While undertaken according to accepted Best Practice Guidelines (ref. **R.4**), these surveys provide only a 'snapshot' of overall use of a survey area by bats. The surveys reported herein conclude that roosting bats are 'likely absent' from the survey area. However, in the unlikely event that bats are encountered during works, all works should cease while advice is sought from a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist.

5.2 Lighting during Construction

It is best practice to avoid overnight working (between sunset and sunrise), to avoid disturbance to foraging and commuting bats.

During the construction phase, lighting should be directed away from boundary vegetation and areas of suitable foraging habitat (hedgerows and trees), to ensure light does not obstruct bat flight paths or disrupt bat foraging activities.

5.3 Lighting within Final Development

If the development is to increase the lighting levels in a way that may increase the baseline lux level of offsite habitats, then a lighting strategy should be designed by a lighting engineer and a suitably qualified ecologist, according to current best practice guidelines (ref. **R.9**). This should ensure that foraging or commuting habitat remains as unlit as possible to allow continued and future use by bats.

Lighting can act as a barrier to bats, potentially restricting their movement between habitats. Any lighting to be included within the proposed development, should ideally be UV free LEDs emitting warm white light (<2700 Kelvin) with peak wavelength >550nm.

Below are broad examples of what could be considered regarding lighting for the scheme to reduce impact:

- With the aid of a lighting professional, all outdoor light fittings should be designed to reduce glare from adjacent surfaces, including the ground.

- Lighting columns throughout the development should be carefully designed to minimise light spill.
- Luminaires should be restricted to those with good optical control and no upward spill and mounted horizontally.
- Where appropriate all lighting should be set on motion-sensors and 1 minute timers.
- Where necessary, to achieve additional lighting control, control accessories such as baffles, hoods and cowls can be used to direct lighting.

6. BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENTS

There are opportunities to enhance the site for bats through provision of long-term roosting opportunities such as apex bat boxes within the proposed development, specification of which can be found in Appendix 4.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Results of the bat roost survey suggest that it is unlikely that roosting bats are currently present within B1. Therefore, no constraints to the development exist with regards to bats within this build.

It is advised that development occurs as soon as possible as potential roost features which are not in use at present, could become utilised in future. The results of this survey will remain valid for 12 - 18 months, after which a re-appraisal will be required should development works have not been undertaken.

While these surveys were undertaken according to Best Practice Guidelines, they provide a snapshot of bat activity at the site and a very low risk remains of roosting bats being encountered during works. If any bats are encountered during works, works should cease until advice has been sought from a suitably experienced ecologist.

Although surveys undertaken do not constitute a full foraging assessment of the site, initial indications suggest the site is used by common species of bat including common pipistrelle and noctule, an assemblage of less than local importance.

There are opportunities to enhance the site for bats through provision of long-term roosting opportunities within the proposed development. Appendix 4 provides examples which would be suitable for the site.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Report Limitations and Conditions

General Limitations and Exceptions

This report was prepared solely for our Client for the stated purposes only and is not intended to be relied on by any other party or for any other use. No extended duty of care to any third party is implied or offered.

Geosphere Environmental Ltd does not purport to provide specialist legal advice.

The Executive Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations sections of the report provide an overview and guidance only and should not be specifically relied upon until considered within the context of the whole report.

Interpretations and recommendations contained within the report represent our professional opinions, which were arrived at in accordance with currently accepted industry practices at the time of reporting and based upon current legislation in force at that time.

Ecology Limitations and Exceptions

Any limitations associated with the report will be stated. The consequences of any limitations, findings and/or recommendations in the report are made clear in line with CIEEM (2013) 'Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal' (GPEA) and BSI (2013) BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity – 'Code of practice for planning and development'.

This report is prepared and written in the context of the proposals stated within the introduction to this report and should not be used in a differing context.

The wildlife and habitats present on any site are subject to change over time. Surveys of this kind can have limited validity, with the possibility of behaviour patterns and territory boundaries varying over time due to the dynamics of adjacent populations.

New information, improved practices and legislation may necessitate an alteration to the report in whole or in part after its submission. Therefore, with any change in circumstances or after the expiry of one year from the date of the report, the report should be referred to us for re-assessment and, if necessary, re-appraisal.

It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the site, no investigation can ensure the complete characterisation of the natural environment.

The scoping survey does not assess the presence or absence of a species but is used to assess the potential for habitat to support them. Additional surveys may be recommended if, on the basis of the preliminary

assessment or during subsequent surveys, it is considered reasonably likely that protected species may be present.

This survey does not constitute an invasive species survey and should not be treated as such.

Owing to seasonal variances and prevailing weather, conditions may sometimes be sub-optimal for surveying, and this may delay or disrupt planned survey programmes. If applicable, full details are given in the report.

Geosphere Environmental Ltd may not be aware of information that could be held by other organisations or individuals, and it is always possible for features of nature conservation interest to be unrecorded during surveys.

Scientific survey data will be shared with local biological records centre in accordance with the CIEEM professional code of conduct.

Appendix 2 – References

- R.1.** RPS group (2024) Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment NHDC Decarbonisation Project: North Herts Leisure Centre, 794-ENV-ECO-21554 B.
- R.2.** Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2025) National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>
- R.3.** ODPM (2005) Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system.
- R.4.** Collins, J (ed) (2023). 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines 4th Edition.' Bat Conservation Trust, London.
- R.5.** Neil Middleton (08/10/2019). Assessing Sites for Hibernation Potential. A Practical Approach including a Proposed Method and Supporting Notes. Draft/V2.2019
- R.6.** JNCC (2004). 'Bat Workers Manual' 3rd edition. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.
- R.7.** Reason, P. and Wray, S. (2023). UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines: a guide to impact assessment, mitigation and compensation for developments affecting bats. Version 1.1. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental management, Amphfield.
- R.8.** CIEEM (April 2022) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.2. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- R.9.** Institution of Lighting Professionals (2023) Bats and artificial lighting at night – Guidance Note 08/23

Appendix 3 – NVA Screenshots

Screenshot 1



Screenshot 2



Screenshot 3



Screenshot 4



DESCRIPTION

Screenshot 1

Canon on the north west, view facing east.

Screenshot 2

Nightfox on the northern elevation, view facing south.

Screenshot 3

Nightfox on the northern elevation view facing east.

Screenshot 4

Canon on the northern elevation view facing south.

PROJECT

North Herts Leisure Centre. Baldock Road, Letchworth, SG6 2ER

PROJECT NUMBER

9266, EC

TITLE

NVA Darkest Point Screenshots

DATE

19/05/2025

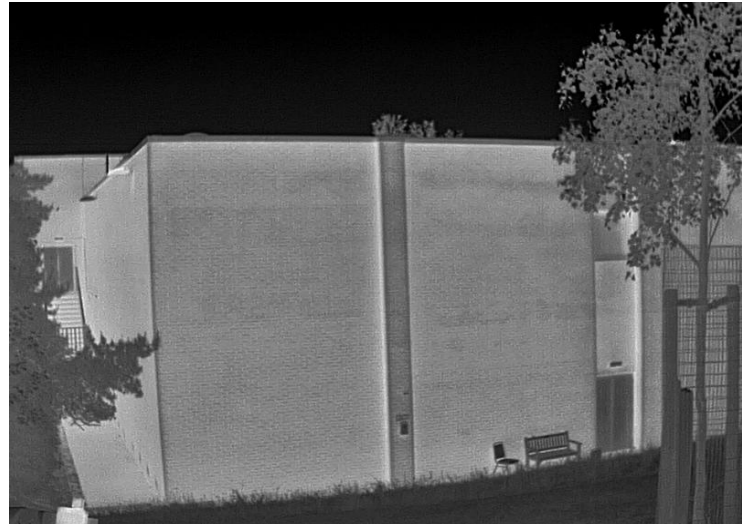
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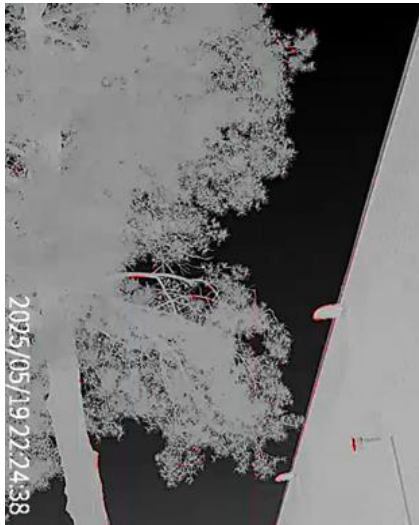
Screenshot 5



Screenshot 6



Screenshot 7



Screenshot 8



DESCRIPTION

Screenshot 5

Canon on the eastern elevation, view facing southwest.

Screenshot 6

Thermal on the eastern elevation, view facing southwest.

Screenshot 7

View of the thermal along the southern face of the build, viewpoints limited due to active carpark.

Screenshot 8

Thermal positioned near the builds reception facing north. Surveyor visually monitored remaining surroundings sufficiently due to abundance of lighting.

PROJECT

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Appendix 4 – Example Bat Boxes

EXAMPLE BAT BOXES

External Bat Box: 1FF Schwegler Bat Box with Built-in Wooden Rear Panel



The Schwegler 1FF bat box is spacious enough for bats to use as a summer roost or nursery site and is open at the bottom, allowing droppings to fall out so it does not need cleaning. The 1FF is, therefore, especially suitable for hanging in inaccessible places such as high in trees, or on steep slopes and house walls.

The 1FF is manufactured from long-lasting Woodcrete, which is a blend of wood, concrete and clay which will not rot, leak, crack or warp, and will last for at least 20 - 25 years, making it suitable for long-term mitigation projects.

The inner dimensions of the 1FF have a reducing width making it ideal for bat species which inhabit crevices such as pipistrelle and noctule bats. For conservation projects and studies, the entire front of the box can be easily swung open for inspection purposes.

The 1FF bat box can be sited in trees or on buildings and is best positioned at a height of between 4 to 6 metres.

SOURCE

<https://www.nhbs.com/1ff-schwegler-bat-box-with-built-in-wooden-rear-panel>

External Bat Box: Manthorpe Bat Ridge Roost



This bat ridge roost from Manthorpe is an innovative solution to increasing bat roosting opportunities on existing buildings and new buildings alike, replacing the ridge end caps with an occupiable space on the gable end. The roost is suitable for both half-round and segmental ridge tiles and can be mounted on roofs with a maximum pitch of 55 degrees and a minimum of 15 degrees. It is also designed for both round concrete and clay ridge tiles. Made from UV stabilised Polypropylene, this box is designed to last the test of time and is maintenance-free. Water is drained away from the wall due to the clever design to prevent gable end staining.

SOURCE

<https://www.nhbs.com/manthorpe-bat-ridge-roost>

TITLE

Example Bat Boxes

External Bat Box: Eco Kent Bat Box



The Eco Kent Bat Box is based on the popular and proven Kent Bat Box design. However, this box has an added weatherproof outer shell, making it more secure and long-lasting. The additional plastic layer also reduces draughts inside the box, providing a more attractive roosting environment for bats.

The Eco Kent Bat Box is suitable for crevice-dwelling species. The two crevices inside the box are approximately 18mm wide, ideal for common and soprano pipistrelles. The FSC-certified spruce wood is rough on the inside providing good grip for bats once inside the box. This box is self-cleaning and does not require any maintenance, as the droppings fall straight down out of the bottom entrance.

These bat boxes can be mounted on either a tree or building using the 3 concealed keyhole fixings located at the top of the box. If possible, site the box at a height of between 4m and 6m in a sheltered sunny place, away from artificial light sources. The box should not be positioned in direct sunlight. Ideally, several boxes should be placed facing different directions, as this provides a choice for roosting bats. A clear path to the entrance of the box is essential.



SOURCE
<https://www.nhbs.com/eco-kent-bat-box>

External Bat Box: Woodstone Bat Box



These low profile Woodstone Bat Boxes have been designed to complement any building and can accommodate up to 15 common pipistrelle bats which are very sociable mammals and prefer to live in colonies. They are manufactured from Woodstone, a breathable and insulating material made from concrete and FSC Certified wood fibres. Woodstone is designed to be robust and hard-wearing, providing a warm and stable temperature for summer bat roosts.

There is a landing ramp and rough interior surface to enable easy movement around the box, and the front panel is removable for inspection and cleaning.

Hang the bat box with the supplied screws. In the back of the box there is a "keyhole" where the mounted screw can be hooked. The pre-drilled hole in the landing board allows you to secure the bat box.

The Low Profile Woodstone Bat Box is designed to be attached to the external wall of a building but could also be attached to a tree. The box should be sited at least 3m above the ground to encourage bat residence.

SOURCE
<https://www.nhbs.com/low-profile-woodstone-bat-box>

TITLE
Example Bat Boxes

Please note that once bats have inhabited a roost (integrated or external box) they may only be disturbed by licensed bat workers.

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