



**Big Shaffalong Farm,
Cheddleton,
Leek,
ST13 7LE.**

On Behalf of Wharfe Rural Planning.

Bat Activity Survey Report

Report number: WF/02/2022

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Introduction

Leigh Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Wharfe Rural Planning to undertake a single bat activity survey on a barn at Big Shaffalong Farm in Leek.

The subject site comprises a large cattle barn, situated within a small area of largely skimmed bare ground, and a small area of semi-improved grassland with little ecological value (see Fig 1). The site is located at Big Shaffalong Farm, Cheddleton, Leek, ST13 7LE.

The output of the initial bat scoping survey, undertaken on the 26th of January 2022, recommended a further single activity survey as the barn was classified as containing low bat roost potential.

Given the objectives, a single dusk emergence survey was undertaken in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust, Bat Surveys Good Practice Guidelines (2016).

The surveys were led by Roy Leigh ACIEEM, a licensed bat surveyor, number 2015-15883 –CLS. All surveyors comply to the knowledge, skills and experience identified within CIEEM's "Competencies for Species Survey: Bats" (2013) or were under the supervision of a surveyor with the required competencies.

For each survey, 4 surveyor points monitored the buildings to ensure complete coverage for any emerging bats. The dusk emergence survey began 25 minutes before the recorded dusk time and continued for 90 minutes after.

The surveyors used Wildlife Acoustics Echometer/IPAD 4 and EMT pro bat detectors to record the echolocations of active bats. The surveyors were positioned at each corner of the dwelling in order to view the elevation, and roof, and to gain full coverage simultaneously (see surveyor location plan below).

The surveys detected a number of bats commuting and foraging on the wider farm and garden; however, no bats were recorded accessing or exiting the target buildings.



Figure 1 Surveyor Locations

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Dusk Results

13th June 2022

Start time	End time	Dusk time	Starting temp °C	End temp °C	Wind	Rain	Cloud %
21.15	22.55	21.40	15	13	0	0	0

21.27	C Pip	Heard not seen
21.36	Noctule	Heard not seen
21.42	Noctule	Heard not seen
21.47	Noctule	Heard not seen
21.52	Noctule	Passing E to N
21.58	C Pip	Crossing Barn Front SW
22.28	Noctule	HNS
22.29	Sop Pip	HNS
22.30	C Pip	In Dutch Barn
22.31	C Pip	West of Barn
22.36	C Pip	Over farmyard
22.39 -42	C Pip	Over farmyard
22.44	Noctule	HNS

Conclusions and Recommendations

The results of the bat scoping and activity surveys indicate that the target building is not used by bats as a roost.

Therefore, given that the buildings are to be converted as part of the proposal, the works can commence without any bat related constraints. However, in order to promote biodiversity gain it is suggested that some bat bricks are installed in the buildings during the proposed works.

Enhancement for bats could be delivered within the development through the creation of new bat roost habitat. Bat roosting opportunities can be provided within the site by minor modifications to the building. Purpose built bat boxes could be incorporated into any brickwork, such as 1FR/2FR Schwegler Bat Tubes or Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box (see appendix 1 for proposed positions). Or bat boxes positioned on the exterior of the proposed storage building.



1FR/2FR Schwegler Bat Tubes



Woodstone Exterior Bat Box



The Enclosed Bat Box 'C' from Ibstock is designed for the pipistrelle bat. It is ideal for new builds as it can be integrated directly into the brickwork to produce a discrete but attractive home for bats.

It is also suggested that the landscape proposals and the development of the building compensate by providing a network of landscape features such as trees, water features and scrub areas and provision of bat roost opportunities within the building, designed for the species occurring within the immediate area.

Where lighting is absolutely necessary in areas of tree/shrub planting this will be low wattage, directional, low level and/or shaded to minimise light spill (<1Lux) onto potential flight lines and foraging habitat to ensure that the overall impact caused by lighting the site is negligible. The lighting scheme will be designed with regard to guidance such as the Bat Conservation Trust Statement on the impact and design of artificial light on bats, and the Institution of Lighting Professionals Guidance Notes, to minimise disturbance to bats and other wildlife due to artificial lighting.

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