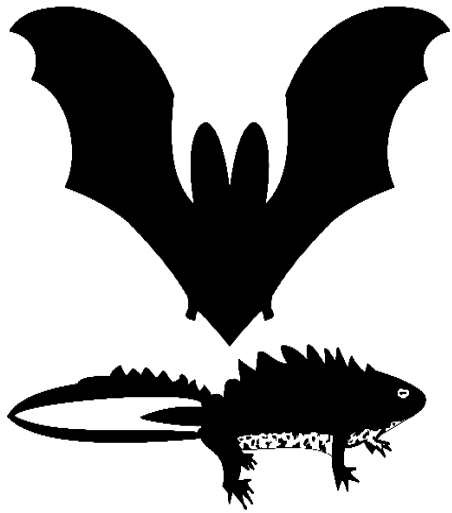




AEWC^{Ltd}

Animal Ecology & Wildlife Consultants

20-061
7th August 2021

Ref: 20-061 Land by Byfields AL/40/21/PL PO20 3US

To whom it may concern;

AEWC Ltd were commissioned by Elizabeth Halton to undertake an update bat activity survey for the land by Byfields, Nyton Road, Westergate, PO20 3US at grid reference SU 93730 05604 following a condition of the planning permission for the site.

This letter details the results of the survey, which was carried out between the 30th July and 2nd August 2021 by Annika Binet, Natural England Bat Licenced ecologist.

As no bat roosts, or potential roosting sites are present within the development plot an emergence survey could not be carried out, therefore a Wildlife Acoustics SM4 BAT FS static detector was positioned on a tree on the northern boundary of the site within the microphone facing into the site. The detector was set to begin recording 45 minutes before sunset and stop 45 minutes after sunrise with trigger parameters set to ensure that all bat calls made within range of the microphone between these times were recorded. Following collection of the detector the calls were analysed manually using Kaleidoscope viewer software designed to work with the SM4 detector.

During the deployment period a total of 3661 files were recorded. Of these 1675 were classified as noise files (predominantly birds and crickets in addition to some electrical noise). All the remaining files contained calls from a minimum of one bat species, some files contained more than one species. Due to the high level of overlap in *Myotis* species calls these were classified to genus only.

A total of 2071 call files were obtained from eight different species;

- common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* 1766 files,

AEWC Ltd Birch Walk, Lower Street, Fittleworth, West Sussex, RH20 1JE

Tel:08452 505585, info@aecwc.co.uk , www.aecwc.co.uk

Registered in England and Wales No. 06527840

- brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus* 100 files,
- Nathusius' pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii* 71 files,
- *Myotis* species 51 files,
- soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* 32 files,
- serotine *Eptesicus serotinus* 29 file,
- barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus* 17 files
- noctule *Nyctalus noctula* 4 files.

The majority of calls recorded were commuting calls, with little foraging behaviour recorded for any species other than common pipistrelle bats.

An analysis of the calls in relation of sunset and sunrise time was carried out as this can be indicative of proximity of a roost which showed that 230 files were recorded within one hour of sunset or sunrise across the survey period.

- Of these files 173 were common pipistrelle, which is to be expected as there is a known common pipistrelle roost within the neighbouring property of Byfields.
- Four soprano pipistrelle files were recorded at, or very close to, sunset on the 30th July, sunrise and sunset on the 1st August and sunrise on the 2nd August indicating close proximity of an individual roost for this species.
- 13 brown long-eared bat files were recorded within this timeframe, with two files within one hour of sunset on both the 30th and 31st July, seven within an hour of sunset on the 1st August and one within an hour of sunrise on the 2nd August. As brown long-eared bats are a late emerging species it is likely that there is a small roost present within the surrounding area.
- 13 serotine calls were recorded within an hour of sunset on the 31st July. This is an early emerging species, and the calls were recorded close to 1 hour after sunset therefore it is likely that these calls are from a commuting bat.
- 26 *Myotis* species calls were recorded approximately one hour from sunset or sunrise across the date range. Emergence times of *myotis* species vary significantly therefore no conclusions as to the likely proximity of a roost can be made from the data gathered.
- A single barbastelle call was recorded 56 minutes after sunset on the 1st August. As this species usually emerges earlier than this it is likely that this was a commuting individual.

The results of the activity survey are found to be consistent with the data already known for this area, the road adjacent to the proposed development site is a known commuting corridor and houses within the area are known to contain bat roosts.

The road is currently unlit and tree-lined and is relatively quiet, therefore providing a suitable commuting route for bats.

The proposed construction of a dwelling house on the land adjacent to Byfields is not considered to pose a significant risk to the favourable conservation status of any species recorded within the area provided a suitable lighting strategy is implemented. Installation of integrated bat roosting features and sympathetic lighting have been proposed as part of the construction of the dwelling, in line within the recommendations within the reports

Ref: 20-061 Land by Byfields

previously produced for the site and neighbouring plot by AEWCLtd and the Ecology Cooperation.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,

Annika Binet

AEWCLtd
Consultant Ecologist