

Our Ref: JSL2082-L-01

Your Ref:

E-mail: murphys@rpsgroup.com

Date: 22nd November 2012

Denise Neveu
Hampshire County Council
Three Minsters House
76 High Street
Winchester
SO23 8UL

Dear Denise,

Re: Oakridge House, Jefferson Road, Basingstoke – Daytime Bat Survey

Introduction

RPS was commissioned by Hampshire County Council (HCC) to undertake a daytime bat survey of a single storey extension at Oakridge House Nursing Home, Basingstoke, to inform the proposed extension to the nursing home.

The single storey extension is used as a lounge for the nursing home residents. It measures approximately 36 metres squared and has a pitched roof that is clad in non-traditional concrete tiles. The north-eastern elevation of the building is shown in Photograph 1.

A HCC Ecologist conducted an ecological assessment of the site and considered that there was potential for bats to roost beneath some cracked end-tiles on the single storey building (i.e. the lounge). Therefore, it was recommended by HCC that a licenced bat ecologist conduct an external examination of the building with an endoscope to establish whether the features identified (such as the cracked end tiles) have evidence of roosting bats.

This report details the results of the assessment.

Legislation

All species of bat in the UK are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. The Regulations implements the European Habitats and Species Directive (EC Directive 92/43/EEC). Bats are therefore European protected species.

The Act and Regulations give full protection to bats from intentional/deliberate killing, injuring, taking and reckless or intentional disturbance. In addition bat breeding and resting places (i.e. bat roosts) are also protected from damage, destruction and reckless or intentional obstruction of access to such places.

Survey Methodology

The daytime inspection of the building was conducted by two experienced ecologists, Dr Nicolas Betson MIEEM CEnv and Dr Stephanie Murphy MIEEM (bat roost visitor's and scientific licence, licence number 20121691) on the 21st November 2012.

The survey involved a visual inspection of the single storey building to look for potential bat roosting cavities and a subsequent examination of those cavities with an endoscope (Model – ProVision PV2100).

The features of potential value to bats were surveyed not only for the presence of bats but also for signs that could indicate use by bats, such as:

- bat droppings that are dry and do not putrefy, but can crumble away to dust;
- staining of access points used by bats to enter the structure; and
- feeding remains such as moth and butterfly wings.

Results and Recommendations

The building was visually inspected from ground level using binoculars and a high powered torch and a total of two suitable cavities, where bats may be able to gain access, were identified.

These cavities, shown in Photograph 2 and Photograph 3 were examined with the endoscope and no evidence of bats was found to be present.

Cavity 1, shown in Photograph 2, on the north-eastern elevation comprised of a large gap in the soffit board that had cobwebs present at the entrance to the cavity, implying a lack of bat activity. No evidence of bats or bat droppings was observed internally.

Cavity 2, shown in Photograph 3, on the south-eastern corner of the building comprised of a gap between the soffit board and the roof tiles. This gap did not lead into a space suitable to support roosting bats.

The cracked tiles identified in the initial HCC assessment had mortar present behind the cracks and did not lead into a space suitable to support roosting bats.

Conclusions

No evidence of bats was found during the daytime bat survey of single-storey extension at Oakridge House.

Although no evidence of roosting bats was found, as a precautionary measure, it is recommended that the cracked tiles and the soffit boards are removed by hand prior to the demolition of the building. In the unlikely event that a bat is found during this, all works must stop and the bat left undisturbed and Natural England consulted for advice on further action.

No further bat surveys/mitigation are considered necessary.

If you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely
for RPS

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Stephanie Murphy
Senior Consultant Ecologist

Photograph 1: Single storey extension north-eastern elevation.



Photograph 2: Potential roosting cavity 1 (indicated by red arrow).



Photograph 3: Potential roosting cavity 2 (indicated by red arrow).

