

Update Bat Emergence Survey Report

1 Littleworth Lane

Partridge Green

West Sussex



22nd July 2026

Sylvatica Ecology Ltd

Company Registration Number: 07705793

<https://se-planning.com>

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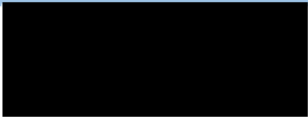
It should be borne in mind that the behaviour of animals can be unpredictable and may not conform to standard patterns recorded in scientific literature. Therefore, this report cannot predict with absolute certainty that animal species will occur in apparently suitable locations or habitats, or that they will not occur in locations or habitats that appear unsuitable.

In order to minimise the likelihood of adverse effects on protected animal species over time, it is accepted good practice, in accordance with Natural England (NE) (formerly English Nature) guidance for ecological surveys to be repeated should works be deferred for over 12 months from the date of initial survey.

It is the duty of the landowner, developer and operations managers to act responsibly and to comply with current environmental legislation if protected species are suspected or found prior to, or during works.

The recommendations and information contained within this report are based on the information provided on the development works prior to the surveys being carried out. Should the development proposals change then the findings and recommendations contained within would potentially require revision.

The findings within this report do not constitute legal advice. Should this be required, then a suitably qualified professional practitioner should be contacted.

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1.0 SUMMARY

Purpose

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of a single update bat emergence survey carried out on the main residential building (Building B1) at 1 Littleworth Lane, Partridge Green, West Sussex, undertaken to support planning application ref. DC/26/0741. The survey follows three previous bat emergence surveys (Arun Ecology, 2023 & 2024) which identified three bat roosts within the building, and was carried out to clarify the roost type and species numbers currently present.

Survey Details

- 1.2 A single bat emergence survey was undertaken on 21st July 2026 (sunset 21:02), from 20:35 to 22:35, in conditions suitable for bat survey (18°C, no rain, light SW wind, Beaufort force 1), in line with BCT Good Practice Guidelines (BCT, 2023a).

Key Findings

- 1.3 A single common pipistrelle emergence was recorded at 21:13 from under the hanging tile at Roost 2 on the western elevation. No emergences were recorded from Roost 1 or Roost 3. Foraging and commuting activity of common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and noctule was recorded around the site, totalling 18 bat passes across the three species. No evidence of a maternity roost or of any additional species was found.

Recommendations

- 1.4 The mitigation measures and licensing recommendations set out in the previous bat survey report (Arun Ecology, 2024) remain appropriate and should be implemented in full, including registration of the site under Natural England's Bat Mitigation Class Licence (BMCL) prior to works affecting the roosts.

Conclusion

- 1.5 This update survey confirms that the previous roost classifications remain valid: Roost 1 and Roost 2 as common pipistrelle day roosts, and Roost 3 as a brown long-eared bat day roost. No indication of a maternity colony or additional species was identified, and the development can proceed lawfully subject to implementation of the recommended mitigation and licensing measures.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aims and Objectives of this Study

- 2.1 This report presents the findings of a single update bat emergence survey carried out on the main residential building at 1 Littleworth Lane, Partridge Green, West Sussex. This was carried out to support planning application reference DC/26/0741.
- 2.2 Three previous bat emergence surveys had been conducted at this location (Arun Ecology 2023 & 2024), with three roosts identified. Survey 1 was carried out on the 20th August 2023. Two common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) were observed emerging from under hanging tiles on the western corner of the building (Roost 1). Survey 2 was carried out on the 25th September 2023 and six common pipistrelle were observed emerging from under the hanging tiles on the western corner of the building. additionally, a single common pipistrelle emerged from under a vertical hanging tile on the western aspect of the building, but from a different location to the other six common pipistrelle. This was then categorised as a separate roost (Roost 2). Bat dropping were also found in the western half of the roof void, which were analysed as being brown long eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*). Fewer numbers of common pipistrelle were observed emerging from both Roost 1 & Roost 2 on the subsequent emergence survey on the 24th June 2024.
- 2.3 The maximum roost count for Roost 1 was six common pipistrelle, one for Roost 2 and unknown for Roost 3. All of these roosts were categorised as day transitional roosts. The time of year that the six common pipistrelle were recorded in Roost 1 was outside of the time that was considered as the maternity season for this species, therefore this categorisation is likely to be accurate.
- 2.4 The purpose of this survey and report is to clarify the roost type and species numbers present at this location. Therefore, a single emergence update survey was carried out on the 21st July 2026.

Legal Status of Bats

- 2.5 The potential presence of bat roosts within a proposed development site has to be considered as all eighteen of the UK's bat species are protected under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended). The WCA states that '*a person is guilty of an offence if intentionally or recklessly they disturb [a bat] while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection; or he obstructs access to any structure or place which [a bat] uses for shelter or protection*'.
- 2.6 Bats are also protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Bats are listed as European protected species under which it is an offence if;
- *a person deliberately captures, injures or kills any wild animal of a European protected species;*

- *deliberately disturbs wild animals of any such species;*
- *damages or destroys a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.*

2.7 Disturbances of animals include in particular any disturbance which is likely to impair their ability to;

- *survive, breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young;*
- *in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or*
- *to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.*

2.8 **Figure 1: Site Location in Wider Landscape (Red Line Area Surveyed)**



3.0 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The survey work used the guidance detailed within Bat Surveys Guidelines for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines (BCT 2023a) and the Interim Guidance Note on Surveys and Night Vision Equipment (BCT 2022) as the basis to the survey methodology.

Lead Surveyor

- 3.2 The survey work and reporting has been led by Richard Law BSc MRes CEnv MCIEEM FLS. Richard has been undertaking ecological survey work within the last 20 years on many different locations throughout the United Kingdom, for a variety of protected species, including bats (2025-85394-CL18-BAT), reptiles, amphibians including great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* (2025-85909-SCI-CL08) and terrestrial mammals including dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius* (2026-88947-CL10a-DOR) and birds including barn owl *Tyto alba* licence (2026-88948-CL29-OWL). Richard is also qualified in track and sign and trailing *via* an international system of assessment (www.trackercertification.com).

Equipment Used During Emergence Surveys

- 3.3 Echometer Pro 2 bat detector with iPad processor unit and Bat Box Duet detectors were used to detect bat echolocation. Night vision equipment was also used. These were Sionyx Aurora IR camera using IR lamps to provide additional illumination and Pixfra thermal imaging cameras. Calls were analysed, when required, identifying species following Russ (2021).
- 3.4 The night vision observation equipment gave a view of the features of the building surveyed that was not possible with the naked eye, enabling effective observation to continue in the dark. The cameras were installed on tripods, which enabled the surveyor to work normally without having to hold the camera steady. The Sionyx Aurora IR camera provide a wide angled view, with Pixfra cameras providing a more narrow focus which is also recorded and fixed throughout the survey.

Survey Type

- 3.5 Emergence survey is undertaken to observe bats emerging from roost. In addition to observation, night vision and thermal imaging equipment was used to ensure that features can be effectively viewed in the dark and that any footage can be reviewed following the survey.

3.6 **Figure 2: Surveyor and Camera Positions**



4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 This section provides an account of the results from the surveys carried out. These findings will inform any further recommendations outlined within this report, if necessary.

Survey Meta Data

- 4.2 **Table 1: Timings and Weather Conditions**

Date	Sunset	Survey Start and End	Temp	Rain	Wind Speed (Beaufort Scale) and Direction
21 st July 2026	21:02	20:35 to 22:35	18°C	None	SW (1)

- 4.3 Weather conditions on 21st July 2026 were suitable for bat survey, with a sunset temperature of 18°C, no rain, and light SW winds (Beaufort force 1), meeting BCT Good Practice Guidelines for close-to-optimal survey conditions.

Bat Survey Results

- 4.4 **Table 2: 21st July 2026 – Bat Emergence Survey**

Time	Species	Passes	Activity and Location
21:13	C.pip	1	Emergence from under hanging tile on western elevation at the location of Roost 2
21:20	Noc	1	Commuting overhead from the east to the west.
21:20	C.pip	1	Commuting from the south across the north of the site.
21:22	C.pip	1	Foraging along the southern boundary.
21:23	C.pip	4	Foraging along the southern boundary.
21:25	C.pip	1	Foraging along the southern boundary.
21:26	Noc	1	Commuting from the south across the north of the site.
21:35	C.pip	1	Foraging along the southern boundary.
21:37	S.pip	1	Foraging along the southern boundary.
21:45	C.pip	1	Foraging along the southern boundary.
21:45	S.pip	1	Brief pass. Heard not seen.
21:47	C.pip	1	Brief pass. Heard not seen.
21:58	S.pip	1	Brief pass. Heard not seen.
21:59	S.pip	1	Brief pass. Heard not seen.
22:12	Noc	1	Brief pass. Heard not seen.

Noc = Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*)

C.pip = Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)

S.pip = Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)

- 4.5 One common pipistrelle emergence was recorded at 21:13 (11 minutes after sunset) from under the hanging tile at Roost 2 on the western elevation. Bat activity was otherwise dominated by foraging and

commuting along the southern boundary, with common pipistrelle recorded most frequently (11 passes, including a peak of 4 simultaneous foragers at 21:23), soprano pipistrelle recorded foraging and on brief passes later in the survey (4 passes from 21:37 to 21:59), and noctule bats commuting east–west across the site on three occasions (21:20, 21:26 and 22:12). In total, 18 bat passes across three species were logged during the visit

5.0 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 A single common pipistrelle was observed emerging from under the hanging tile on the western aspect of the roof within the location of the previously located Roost 2. No other bats were observed emerging from the building. Common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle activity (foraging and commuting) was observed and recorded around the site, as were occasional passes of noctule.
- 5.2 The previous survey conclusions of the 2023/ 2024 survey can be considered as remaining pertinent. This update survey did not find any indication of a maternity colony or any other species presence within this building. Roost 1 remains as a day roost for common pipistrelle, Roost 2 remains as a day roost for common pipistrelle and Roost 3 as a day roost for brown long eared bat.

Conclusion

- 5.3 As a result of the findings of this update survey, the mitigation measures and licencing recommendations outlined in the previous report would still be appropriate and should therefore be implemented in full.

6.0 REFERENCES

Arun Ecology Ltd (2024) *Preliminary Ecological Appraisal: 1 Littleworth Lane, Partridge Green, West Sussex*. Report ref. B-VBD-001-001-001. Slinfold: Arun Ecology Ltd.

Arun Ecology Ltd (2024) *Bat Survey Report: 1 Littleworth Lane, Partridge Green, West Sussex*. Report ref. B-VBD-001-002-001. Slinfold: Arun Ecology Ltd.

BCT (2022) Interim Guidance: Use of night vision aids for bat emergence surveys and further comment on dawn surveys

BCT (2023a) Bat Survey Guidelines for Professional Ecologist 4th Edition – Good Practice Guidelines

BCT (2023b) Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK – Bats and the Built Environment Series.

English Nature (2004) Bat Mitigation Guidelines IN13.6

HMSO (1981) The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) HMSO, London.

HMSO (2017). The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c). (As amended) Regulations 2017

Mitchell-Jones, T & McLeish, A.P (2004) Bat Workers Manual, Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Russ, J (2021) Bat Calls of Britain and Europe – A Guide to Species Identification. Pelagic Publishing

7.0 CAMERA VIEWS

Plate 1: Thermal 1



Plate 2: Thermal 2



Plate 3: Thermal 2 View (Surveyor 3)



Plate 4: IR Camera Start View and Surveyor 1 View



Plate 5: IR Camera End View



Plate 6: Building Surveyed and Surveyor 2 View



8.0 SUMMARY MAP OF BAT ACTIVITY

