



# COUNCIL OF THE ISLES OF SCILLY

Planning & Development Department  
Town Hall, The Parade, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0LW  
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✉[planning@scilly.gov.uk](mailto:planning@scilly.gov.uk)

Mrs C Stevens  
Colossus  
2 Pilots Retreat  
Hugh Town  
St Mary's  
Isles of Scilly  
TR21 0PB

12th September 2018

Dear Mrs Stevens

**PLANNING REFERENCE  
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED:**

P/18/052/FUL

Extension of first floor area over existing ground floor flat roof by means of altering the pitch of the east elevation of the roof and adding dormer. West elevation of roof to remain same pitch with the addition of 2 no. rooflights.  
(Amended Plans)

**LOCATION:**

2 Matthews Field, Church Road, Hugh Town, St Mary's, Isles Of Scilly, TR21 0NA

Further to the outcome of last night's Full Council meeting at which Members voted to approve your application. Before we are able to issue your decision you are advised to provide a bat survey to ascertain the likely presence of bats or other protected species at this site. I have attached a list of companies who carry out this work on Scilly. As the works proposed includes the alteration of a roof there is a potential for bats to be disturbed during the course of the works. We therefore require a survey to demonstrate the likely impact of the works.

As this is not something you can produce yourselves and will require suitably qualified persons to do this I would request that you agree a further extension of time to enable time for this piece of work to be carried out.

Please can you confirm that you are intending to submit a bat survey and that you agree to an extension of time of your application. Whilst I do not know the timescales of the survey work I would like to initially extend your application until the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Should the additional information be submitted before this date then we will endeavour to process the decision notice as quickly as possible. Should you be unable to submit this additional information by the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018 then we can agree a further extension.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Walton  
Senior Officer: Planning and Development Management

*This is a list of 4 of the Bat Consultants available closest to Scilly; an entry on this list does not constitute a recommendation*

1. **Cornwall Environmental Consultants**

Five Acres, Allet Common, Truro, Cornwall TR4 9DJ

Tel: 01872 245 510

e-mail: [enquiries@cecenvironment.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cecenvironment.co.uk)

web: [www.cecenvironment.co.uk](http://www.cecenvironment.co.uk)

Contact: Steve Marshall

2. **Samantha Smith, Independent Bat Ecologist**

Tel: 07919 923 468

e-mail: [batsurveys\\_cornwall@outlook.com](mailto:batsurveys_cornwall@outlook.com)

3. **Bright Environment**

Meadow Barn, Tregoney Hill, Mevagissey, Cornwall PL 26 6RH

Tel: 07974 204 078 Contact: Janine Bright

e-mail: [mail@brightenvironment.net](mailto:mail@brightenvironment.net)

web: [www.brightenvironment.net](http://www.brightenvironment.net)

4. **Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust**

Trenoweth, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0NS

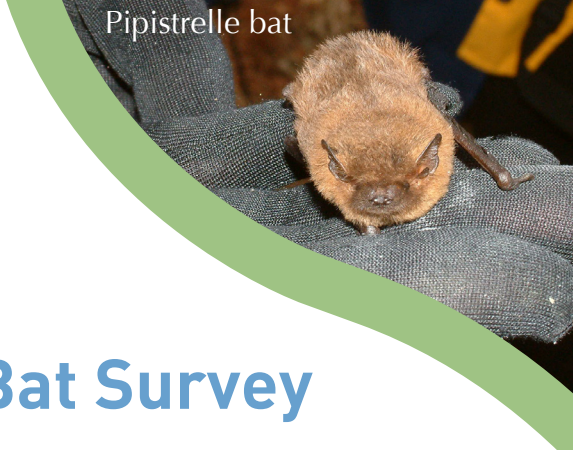
e-mail: [darrenmason@ios-wildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:darrenmason@ios-wildlifetrust.org.uk)

Contact: Darren Mason



Chartered  
Institute of  
Ecology and  
Environmental  
Management

Pipistrelle bat



# What to Expect From a Bat Survey

## *A Guide for UK Homeowners*

### Introduction

This document sets out broadly what is involved when a 'bat survey and report' is required in relation to small-scale development (householder planning applications) in the UK. This guidance may be provided to homeowners by those commissioned to undertake surveys, in order to provide some background to bat surveys and assessment. This document is not a guide to undertaking bat surveys. Further advice about bats is available from the Bat Conservation Trust or through the National Bat Help Line (0345 1300 228).

**If you disturb bats or interfere with their resting places you may be breaking the law. The presence of bats rarely stops development taking place. Development may need to be adapted or carried out in a certain way to ensure the bats are safeguarded.**

### Why is a Survey Needed?

Numbers of bats in the UK have declined considerably over the years and now all species of bats found in the UK and Ireland and their resting places (roosts) are protected by law. Therefore where a project or development is considered likely to affect bats or their roosts a survey and assessment of impacts will be required. The survey will need to establish the species and number of bats likely to be affected together with an assessment of the likely impacts on bats arising from the development proposal. A survey is needed if your local planning authority, or your architect, planning agent or ecologist consider that there is a reasonable likelihood of bats being present and affected by the development proposal. In coming to their conclusion they may have considered factors such as the nature and scale of the development, the suitability of existing structures (e.g. the age and style of the building), and the suitability of the surrounding landscape for bats and/or whether there are existing records of bats using the area.

**FACT** - There are 18 species of bats in the UK and Ireland. Pipistrelle bats are the smallest weighing around 5 grams (the same as a £1 coin). The largest is the Noctule with a wingspan of 33-45cm.

### Who Carries Out and is Responsible for a Survey?

It is the responsibility of the homeowner or planning applicant to organise and pay for the survey. If the applicant has an agent they may be able to arrange for the survey to be undertaken on their behalf. The survey will need to be carried out by an ecologist who is experienced in carrying out surveys and assessment for bats. The Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) provides a searchable directory of professional ecologists in the UK and Ireland ([www.cieem.net/members-directory](http://www.cieem.net/members-directory)). The ecologist may need to approach a local records centre on your behalf to obtain records of bats in the area. You will be expected to pay for the costs charged by the record centre for this.

# What's Involved in a Survey?

Surveys can be divided into two distinct stages:

## Daytime Surveys

A daytime survey will need to be undertaken by an ecologist looking for:

- ***Signs that bats have or are using the buildings, structures or trees;***
- ***Features in buildings/structures and trees which could potentially provide a roosting place; and***
- ***The surrounding area's suitability for bats.***

The ecologist will want to look at the inside and outside of all the buildings including lofts, outbuilding or cellars etc. They may use ladders to examine the roof and eaves and an endoscope (a small camera the thickness of a pen) will enable a closer look at small spaces which bats could utilise but are not ordinarily easy to see into. This first stage can be carried out at any time of year.

In some cases the ecologist may be able to conclude at this stage that there is negligible potential for bats to utilise the building, structures or trees affected by the development proposal, in which case no further surveys are likely to be required.

## Emergence and Re-entry Surveys

The second stage is to carry out 'emergence and re-entry' survey. These surveys will be necessary where:

- ***Evidence of bats was found during the daytime survey; or***
- ***It was not possible to conclude that there was negligible potential for bats to utilise the building(s), structure(s) or tree(s) affected by the development proposal (field signs of bats are not always visible, dependent on the structure of the building or tree, and therefore further surveys may be needed to confidently confirm their presence or likely absence).***

These surveys are designed to see if any bats emerge or re-enter a structure, how many, what species and where. These surveys involve the ecologist(s) standing outside of the building looking for bats and listening for them using a bat detector when bats are most likely to be found using roost sites, around dawn and dusk. Depending on the size and layout of the building (or other structure), several surveyors might be required in order to observe all of the likely emergence and re-entry points. These surveys can only be undertaken when bats are active, usually in the summer months and during 'good' weather conditions for bats (dry, mild, not windy). These surveys may also need to be undertaken on more than one occasion; the ecologist will be able to advise further on the likely requirements following the daytime survey and the best practice guidelines they intend to follow.

It may be possible to carry out the daytime survey followed by a first emergent survey in the same visit; provided the conditions and time of year are right.

Noctule bat



Greater Horseshoe bats

## What Happens When the Survey is Completed?

Following the survey the ecologist will need to write a report setting out how and when they carried out the survey, what they found, the impact of the development on bats and their recommendations. If it is concluded that bats are present a 'mitigation strategy' will need to be developed, which may require development taking place at certain times of the year, the use of certain materials and/or specific provision to allow bats to continue to use the original or replacement roost.

## Enhancement

National planning policy looks for development to enhance biodiversity. Whether your bat report concludes bats are affected by the development or not, you should consider incorporating enhancement features into buildings for bats. These can be as simple as 'bat bricks' and ridge tile roosts, and cost very little to buy and install (see sources of further information below).

**FACT** - Bats use high frequency calls normally beyond the range of human hearing. A bat detector makes these echolocation calls audible to humans - and because different species of bat make different calls these can help identify them.

## What Happens Following Planning Permission?



Long Eared bat

If the development cannot avoid disturbance or other impact to bats, even for a temporary period, a 'licence' to carry out the proposed works must be obtained from the appropriate licensing body\* before development can take place. This will need to be done following the granting of planning permission. The licence application can be submitted by the ecologist on your behalf. Your ecologist will be able to advise you on the process further.

You may also find planning conditions are attached to your planning permission, requiring your development to be carried out in a certain way or in

accordance with the parts of the bat report submitted with your application

\*Licensing authorities: Natural England; Natural Resources Wales; Scottish Natural Heritage; National Parks and Wildlife Service Ireland; Northern Ireland Environment Agency

## Sources of Further Information

Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management: [www.cieem.net](http://www.cieem.net)

Bat Conservation Trust: [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk) ([click here](#) for BCT Bat Box List)

National Bat Helpline: 0345 1300 228

Natural England: [www.gov.uk/bats-protection-surveys-and-licences](http://www.gov.uk/bats-protection-surveys-and-licences)

Natural Resources Wales: [www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](http://www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

Scottish Natural Heritage : [www.snh.gov.uk](http://www.snh.gov.uk)

Northern Ireland Environment Agency: [www.doeni.gov.uk/niea](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea)

National Parks Wildlife Service Ireland: [www.npws.ie/licences](http://www.npws.ie/licences)

CIEEM is the leading professional membership body representing and supporting ecologists and environmental managers in the UK, Ireland and abroad.