

Charlotte Peacock Associates



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY

Bat Surveys

| Type of Survey | Most Suitable Time of Year |
|----------------------------|--|
| Emergence/re-entry Surveys | 3 surveys undertaken between April and September |
| Activity Surveys | 3 surveys (or 6 in the case of some wind farms) undertaken between April and September |



Legislation

All species of bats and roost are protected under both UK and European law in the form of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Habitat Preference

There are 18 species of bat within the UK. Bats have suffered in recent years from loss of habitat, both foraging habitats and roosting. A number of structures can be used for roosting such as houses, barns, bridges, caves and trees. This varies depending upon the species and time of year. The type of survey required depends upon a number of factors such as the type of development and available habitat.

Emergence/Re-entry Surveys

All roosts usually involve an external and where possible an internal survey (in the case of buildings, caves etc.) to look for signs of usage such as droppings. These can be conducted throughout the year but adverse weather can wash away signs so the optimal time to conduct them is throughout the spring/summer. If the structure is a potential summer roost then this is followed by an emergence/re-entry survey using bat detectors. Three surveys are usually required and these are conducted over the active period from the end of April to the beginning of September.

Activity Surveys

If the site has the potential to support foraging bats then a transect survey is carried out. Surveyors will walk a pre-determined route around the site stopping at certain key features which bats tend to use such as hedgerows and ponds. These surveys are also conducted three times over the activity period and are weather dependant.

Licensing and Mitigation

Depending upon the species, the type of activity and the impact of the development then a European Protected Species licence may be required prior to works commencing. This is a detailed document which may take several months to obtain. Mitigation may include planting foraging habitat or providing new roosting opportunities.