



Mouchel Property

Liverpool Playing Fields

Bat Survey Report

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RSK



RSK GENERAL NOTES

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Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work.

This work has been undertaken in accordance with the quality management system of RSK ENVIRONMENT.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 This report presents the results of surveys for bats undertaken at Jericho Lane Playing Fields, Aigburth, Liverpool and Simpson's Ground, Woolton, Liverpool. Surveys were undertaken in connection with a proposed redevelopment of both sites for recreational purposes which include the demolition of a single building at each site.
- 2 A preliminary ecological appraisal and initial bat inspection was completed in October 2015. This survey identified moderate potential for roosting bats in both of the buildings which are described as old changing room facilities.
- 3 This report presents the findings of one bat emergence (dusk) survey and one re-entry (dawn) survey completed at each site in July and August 2016.
- 4 No bat roosts were identified during the surveys. Low numbers of foraging bats were recorded around both of the sites including Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), and Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*).
- 5 No further bat surveys are required on the buildings prior to their demolition.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this Report

This report presents the results of bat surveys carried out by RSK Environment Ltd at Jericho Lane Playing Fields, Aigburth, Liverpool and Simpson's Ground, Woolton, Liverpool. The surveys were undertaken in connection with the proposed re-development of both sites for recreational purposes which will require the demolition of a single building at each site. The Jericho Lane site is centred at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference (SJ 377 860). *Figure 1* shows the location of the site including the site boundary (red line). The Simpson's Ground site is centred at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference (SJ420 857). *Figure 2* shows the location of the site including the site boundary (red line).

An initial bat inspection (October 2015) at each of the sites concluded that both buildings (old changing room facilities) provide moderate potential for roosting bats due to existence of numerous features present on each building's exterior (*i.e.* raised lead flashing, raised or broken tiles, damage and gaps in wooden cladding).

The remainder of the report is structured as follows:

- *Section 2* describes the survey methods;
- *Section 3* contains the results;
- *Section 4* details the ecological evaluation and conclusions for the site;
- *Section 5* lists the documents referred to in this report;
- *Appendix A* contains the legislation protecting bats and their places of rest.

1.2 Ecological Context

Jericho Lane

The site is a recreation ground in the south of Liverpool. It is predominantly amenity grassland used as playing fields but also includes changing room facilities and - on the boundary - a hedgerow, areas of rough grassland, ruderal vegetation and dense scrub. The site is bordered to the north by a railway line and embankment with a playing field beyond, to the east by an area of woodland a scrub, to the south by Otterspool Drive and to the west by Jericho Lane.

The surrounding area is made up of a mixture of green open space including public open land and playing fields and small commercial and residential properties within the Aigburth area of south Liverpool.

Simpsons Ground

The site is a recreation ground in the south of Liverpool. It is predominantly amenity grassland used as playing fields but also includes car parking, changing room facilities

and – on the boundary - tall ruderal vegetation and trees. It is bordered to the north by an area of rough grassland, to the east by Hillfoot Road, to the south by a cemetery, and to the west by woodland.

The surrounding area is predominantly made up of green open space including woodland, park land and cemeteries. Beyond are small commercial and residential properties in the Woolton area of south Liverpool.

2 METHODS

The Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) provides guidance for bat survey work in *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (Collins, 2016). It contains a methodology for undertaking bat emergence/re-entry surveys. The field surveys carried out as part of this assessment were undertaken according to these guidelines.

RSK Environment Ltd undertook the bat surveys in July and August 2016, led by Lizi Langston and assisted by Will Holden, Thomas Fawley and Jason Ashworth. Lizi holds a Class 2 Natural England licence allowing the disturbance of bats for the purposes of survey in all counties of England (Licence Reference Number 2016-22843-CLS-CLS) and has over four years' experience of undertaking bat surveys of buildings.

2.1.1 Emergence/Re-entry Surveys

One emergence survey (*i.e.* a survey for bats leaving a roost) and a single re-entry survey (*i.e.* a survey for bats entering a roost) were undertaken at each site. The surveyors were positioned in locations with a good view of likely roost access points. The emergence surveys commenced 15 minutes before sunset and lasted for 90 minutes by which time it was too dark to see the buildings properly. The re-entry surveys commenced 90 minutes before sunrise and lasted until 15 minutes after sunrise.

Batbox Duets and Batons, coupled with Edirol recorders were used to record bat activity during all of the surveys. The recordings were analysed using BatSound Standard Sound Analysis v.3.31. Species were identified from the characteristics of their calls (including peak frequency, minimum and maximum frequency, call duration, and inter-pulse interval).

The surveys were carried out in weather conditions suitable for bats to emerge *i.e.* no rain, no strong wind and air temperature 8°C or above. See *Table 1* for survey weather conditions.

Table 1: Survey Dates/Times and Weather Conditions

Date	Survey Type	Sunset /Sunrise Time	Start/End Temperature	Start/End Wind	Precipitation	Start/End Cloud Cover
11/07/16	Dusk emergence	Sunset: 21:36	17 °C - 14 °C	No wind (F0)	None	6 - 8
03/08/16	Dawn Re-entry	Sunrise: 05:32	10 °C – 13 °C	Slight breeze (F1)	Short shower	2 - 1

2.2 Survey Constraints

The survey data is valid for a maximum of two years (*i.e.* until August 2018). If more than two years elapses prior to commencement of the development it would be advisable to conduct further bat surveys to ensure up-to-date information.

3 RESULTS

No bat roosts were identified during the surveys of the building at either site. Low levels of foraging activity were recorded, including Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), and a single Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*). All bats recorded originated from or returned to locations off the site to the south-east or west at Jericho Lane, and to the south or west at Simpson's Ground.

4 EVALUATION AND CONCLUSIONS

No further bat surveys are required on the buildings prior to their demolition.

Consideration should be given to bats within the design and construction phases of the project. Lighting overnight should be kept to a minimum and light spill on to the trees adjacent to the sites should be avoided to reduce the impact on bat foraging activity.

5 REFERENCES

Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

RSK (2015) Jericho Lane Playing Fields – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (856405).

RSK (2015) Simpsons Ground – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (856405).

FIGURES

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Figure 1 | Site Location Plan – Jericho Lane |
| Figure 2 | Site Location Plan – Simpson's Ground |



Site boundary

Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
00	08.08.18	856405	RG	SP	LL

Liverpool Playing Fields

Figure 1
Site Location Plan - Jericho Lane

Scale = 1:5,000 @ A3

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Site boundary

Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
00	08.08.16	856405	RG	SP	LL

Liverpool Playing Fields

Figure 2

Site Location Plan - Simpson's Ground

Scale = 1:5,000 @ A3

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APPENDIX A - LEGISLATION

Bats

All species of British bat are protected by *The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) extended by the *Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000*. This legislation makes it an offence to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take a bat;
- possess or control a bat;
- intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a bat roost; and
- intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat whilst it occupies a bat roost.

Bats are also European Protected Species listed on *The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012*. This legislation makes it an offence to:

- deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat;
- deliberately disturb bats, including in particular any disturbance which is likely (a) to impair their ability - (i) to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young; or (ii) hibernate or migrate, where relevant; or (b) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.
- damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a bat; and
- possess, control, transport, sell, exchange a bat, or offer a bat for sale or exchange.

All bat roosts are legally protected even when bats are not present.