

# Church Road North, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 6TF

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## Bat Survey Report



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## Bat Survey Report

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**Report**

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**Cover Photo:** showing north-east corner of the former Abbey Cinema structure located in Wavertree L15 6TF.

# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Landscape Ecology Limited was instructed by Lidl GB Limited to undertake emergence and re-entry bat surveys on a structure at Church Road North, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 6TF.

Information from a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for Bats and Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) undertaken by Landscape Ecology Limited (Report No. LEL\_CRN\_L156TF\_PRA\_001\_REV A) indicated that a number of potential roosting features were identified during the external assessment.

Based on the information gained from the PRA, Landscape Ecology Limited considered that the potential suitability of the structure to support roosting bats is **moderate**.

The purpose of the surveys is to identify if any bats emerge or re-enter the structure, how many, what species and where required to inform any potential development licence requirements.

Two dusk emergence surveys and two dawn re-entry survey were undertaken in July and August 2020 as per Collins (2016).

Site plan and locations of surveyors during the surveys can be found in **Appendix B**.

No emergence or re-entry of the structure by bats was observed during the surveys undertaken between 20th July 2020 and 8th August 2020 (see **Table 1** and **Appendix C**).

Survey observations and analysis of the recordings concluded that there was a limited amount of activity during the majority of surveys. The only species recorded or observed during the surveys was common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* Either passing the structure or on occasion foraging adjacent gardens.

No further bat survey work is considered necessary.

This report shall remain valid until May 2021 at which point should the structure have not been demolished it is recommended that a pre-demolition emergence (dusk) survey is undertaken by a suitably qualified bat surveyor on all features previously identified to ensure no roosting bats have subsequently occupied the them.

Depending on the level of activity and the professional judgement of the bat surveyor, additional survey effort may be required. This report shall remain valid until May 2021 In the meantime, should demolition works proceed and in the unlikely event a bat is found roosting, works should cease and a licenced bat ecologist contacted to provide professional guidance.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background and Purpose of Survey

Landscape Ecology Limited was instructed by Lidl GB Limited to undertake emergence and re-entry bat surveys on a structure at Church Road North, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 6TF (hereafter referred to as “the site”).

Information from a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal for Bats and Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) undertaken by Landscape Ecology Limited (Report No. LEL\_CRN\_L156TF\_PRA\_001\_REV A) indicated that a number of potential roosting features were identified during the external assessment.

Based on the information gained from the PRA, Landscape Ecology Limited considered that the potential suitability of the structure to support roosting bats is **moderate** requiring a minimum of two bat surveys, one dusk emergence and a separate pre-dawn re-entry survey per feature.

The following report details the results of the emergence / re-entry surveys on the structure, the purpose being to identify if any bats are using the structure, and if so to subsequently inform any potential licence and mitigation requirements.

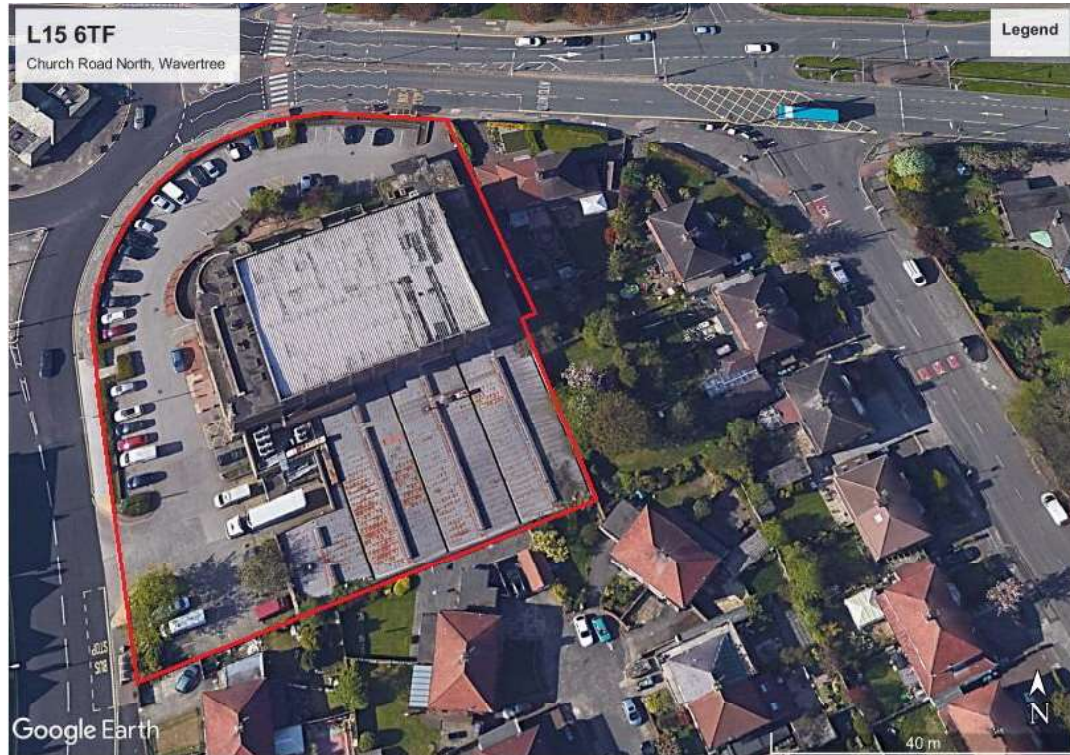
### 2.2 Legislation

British bat species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This makes it an offence to kill or injure bats or damage or destroy a place of shelter or protection. Deliberate or reckless disturbance of bats which could affect the ability to survive, breed, rear or nurture their young may also result in an offence (see **Appendix A** for more details).



## 2.3 Site Location

'The site' centre is located at Grid Ref: SJ3927 8937 (see Figure 1) lying at the junction of Church Road North and the B5178 Childwall Road, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 6TF.



**Figure 1:** shows location of 'the site' with indicative red line site boundary.

'The site' is located approximately 4.5km west of Liverpool City Centre in a predominantly suburban residential/commercial area. 'The site' comprises predominantly a large four-storey brick-built structure with associated parking and limited managed landscape planting. 'The site' was until recently occupied by the Cooperative Society supermarket with a closed snooker hall upstairs. Before that it was understood to have been a bingo club, Lennon's supermarket and originally the Abbey Cinema, constructed circa. 1939.

## 2.4 Proposed Works

From discussions with Lidl GB Limited it is understood there are proposals to demolish the structure and clear the site to develop a retail premises with associated parking and landscaping.

## 3 SURVEY METHODS

### 3.1 Dusk Emergence and Pre-Dawn Re-Entry Surveys

Criteria set out in Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists, Good Practice Guidelines (Collins 2016) recommends undertaking presence/absence surveys. Survey effort required is a minimum of two bat surveys, one dusk emergence and a separate pre-dawn re-entry survey. Survey visits should be spread out to sample as much of the recommended survey period as possible (May to September), with at least one survey undertaken between May and August. Surveys should be spaced at least two weeks apart, preferably more, where possible.

Surveys comprised of surveyors equipped with a Pettersson D100 and Pettersson D240 heterodyne bat detectors and an Anabat Express detector for zero-crossing recording of calls and subsequent analysis in Analook with reference to Russ (2012).

Emergence surveys commenced at least 15 minutes before sunset and continued for 1.5 to 2 hours after. Dawn surveys commenced from 1.5 hours before sunrise, continuing up to 15 minutes after sunrise. Surveyor locations can be seen at **Appendix B**.

Weather conditions and other data were also recorded on surveyor forms (see **Appendix C**).

Potential habitats suitable for foraging / commuting bats were noted and taken into account during the surveys.

Surveyors were Mr Donald Kernott (DK) BSc Hons MA MCIEEM and Mr Christopher Haimes (CH) BSc (Hons) GradCIEEM. Mr Kernott holds a Level 2 Class Licence to survey for bats (Licence Nos. 2015-16995).

### 3.2 Constraints

It is considered that there were no constraints that could have negatively influenced the surveys or the findings of the surveys.

## 4 SURVEY RESULTS

### 4.1 Dusk Emergence and Pre-Dawn Re-Entry Surveys

**Table 1:** Showing details of the dates, surveyor's initials and a summary of bat activity. Completed observation records with further detail on bat activity during the surveys can be found at **Appendix C**.

Date of Survey & scope	Surveyor & Location – see also Appendix B	Summary Results
20/07/20 Dusk	DK at north-west of structure	No activity recorded
20/07/20 Dusk	CH at north-east of structure	Single bat heard/not observed
21/07/20 Pre-dawn	DK at west of structure	No activity recorded
21/07/20 Pre-dawn	CH at south-west of structure	Single common pipistrelle observed commuting NE to SW
05/08/20 Dusk	DK at west of structure	Single common pipistrelle observed commuting E. Two separate bats heard/not observed
05/08/20 Dusk	CH at south-west of structure	Two separate common pipistrelle observed commuting W to E and S to N to E. One common pipistrelle observed foraging adjacent garden.
06/08/20 Pre-dawn	DK at north-east of structure	Single common pipistrelle observed commuting N. Four separate bats heard/not observed
06/08/20 Pre-dawn	CH at north-west structure	No activity recorded



## 5 EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No emergence or re-entry of the structure by bats was observed during the surveys undertaken between 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and 8<sup>th</sup> August 2020 (see **Table 1** and **Appendix C**).

Survey observations and analysis of the recordings concluded that there was a limited amount of activity during the majority of surveys. The only species recorded or observed during the surveys was common pipistrelle.

Although a number of recordings of bats 'not seen' remain 'inconclusive', it is considered that the calls were so faint or not present that the Anabat Express did not record them.

The little activity that was observed were either commuting common pipistrelle passing the structure or on occasion foraging adjacent gardens.

A number of streetlamps associated with the Church Road North and Childwall Road junction cast light on much of the north and west aspect of the structure during hours of darkness. A security light similarly cast light to the lower section of the east side of the structure. However, the lighting did not appear to affect the activity of bats who were observed flying in the vicinity of the streetlamps and over the security light. However, the casting of light onto the structure may be attributable, in part, to a lack of bats roosting in the structure – see **Appendix C**.

No further bat survey work is considered necessary.

This report shall remain valid until May 2021 at which point should the structure have not been demolished it is recommended that a pre-demolition emergence (dusk) survey is undertaken by a suitably qualified bat surveyor on all features previously identified to ensure no roosting bats have subsequently occupied the them. Depending on the level of activity and the professional judgement of the bat surveyor, additional survey effort may be required.

In the meantime, should demolition works proceed and in the unlikely event a bat is found roosting, works should cease and a licenced bat ecologist contacted to provide professional guidance.

## 6 REFERENCES

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

Russ, J. (2012). *British Bat Calls: A Guide to Species Identification*. Pelagic Publishing, Exeter.

## Appendix A

### Summary of Legislation

This includes a brief summary of legislation relevant to wildlife. The original texts of the relevant legislation or specific legal advice should be consulted in individual cases where appropriate. This section does not constitute legal advice.

#### European Protected Species

European Protected Species (EPS) include those species present on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 transpose Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora (Habitats Directive) into English Law. EPS referred to within the evaluation and recommendation section of this report include:

#### Bat species

All EPS also receive legal protection under the national legislation within the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). When these two pieces of legislation are considered together, it makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately capture (or take), injure or kill any wild animal of these species.
- Possess or control any live or dead specimens or any part, or anything derived from animals of these species.
- Deliberately disturb wild animals of such species, where the disturbance is likely to:
  - a) impair their ability to
    - i) survive, breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or
    - ii) in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate
  - b) affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species.
- Intentionally, deliberately or recklessly damage or destroy the breeding or resting place of such an animal, or obstruct access to such a place.
- Sell (or offer for sale) or exchange parts of these species (alive or dead).



## Appendix B

### Surveyor Location Plan



## Appendix C

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### Observation Records



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