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Bat Emergence and Re-Entry Surveys (BERS)

Survey site:

19a Hamlet Road, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 8EH

Client:

Mr Robert Blackman

Report date:

30th July 2025

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with West Suffolk Council for the proposal described as:
“The construction of a building to accommodate two residential units”

This report is supplementary to the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Roost Assessment report completed by Arbtech Consulting Ltd (2025).

BERS survey methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: [**BERS Methodology and Legislation - 2024.**](#)

This report is an addendum to and must be read in conjunction with the Preliminary Roost Assessment completed by Arbtech Consulting Limited (2025) for the same site address. This table may include further work you will need to commission (if any) to obtain planning permission or comply with legislation for other consent. All clients are expected to read and understand this section, or to contact the consultant for advice.

Executive Summary

Report Validity: This report is valid for up to 18 months for the purposes of planning/LBC applications. For the purposes of bat licencing, the report is considered 'up to date' and suitable for licence application until the start of the following bat activity season. After those timeframes, some level of updated surveys will be required. The level of survey effort will depend on the specific circumstances of the site.

Results

The surveys undertaken to date have indicated that there is a sufficiently low risk of bat roosts being present on site, and works can proceed without any further survey or licence requirements.

Background

PRA – The PRA completed by Arbtech Consulting Limited in June 2025 surveyed B1 and B2 on site. B1 is a semi-detached residential dwelling and was assessed to have low habitat value for crevice dwelling bats due to minor gaps under a low number of roof tiles. B2 is a detached single storey garage and was assessed to have negligible habitat value for bats due to lack of external roosting features.

Number of buildings on site – 2 buildings.

Number of buildings surveyed – 2 buildings.

Scope of works

The following buildings were subject to emergence/re-entry surveys:

B1 – Low Value– 1 survey

Proposed development

Current use of building – Residential

Proposed use of building –No change

Structural changes to building – Construction of a new residential dwelling adjoined directly onto the northwestern elevation of B1, with extension from the existing roof space. Partial removal of the single storey porch on the southern elevation.	
Cosmetic/repair work – N/A	
Type of permission required – Full planning permission	
The site surveys were designed and managed by Ceri Archer BSc (Hons). George Collier-Smith Msci (Hons), Consultant Ecologist provided technical advisory oversight and ensured compliance with ecological standards	
See surveyor locations in the BERS plan in Appendix 1	
Limitations	No specific limitations to the survey.

Field Survey					
Dusk Emergence Survey 1					
Building B1					
<i>Building inspection prior to survey</i>	N/A- The PRA carried out on the 25 th June 2025 found no evidence of bats within the loft void of B1, and the loft void was well sealed, meaning there was low habitat value for void dwelling bats.				
Surveyor and position	Surveyor Position	Name	BERS Experience / Bat Licence	BCT Competency	Elevation
	1 - Lead	Ceri Archer	1 st season	Level 2	Observing northeast and northwest elevations
	2	Emma Cantu	5 th season	Level 2	Observing southwest elevation
<i>Weather (start/end)</i>	Temperature (°C): 21.5 Relative humidity (%): 49			Temperature (°C): 18.7 Relative humidity (%): 57	

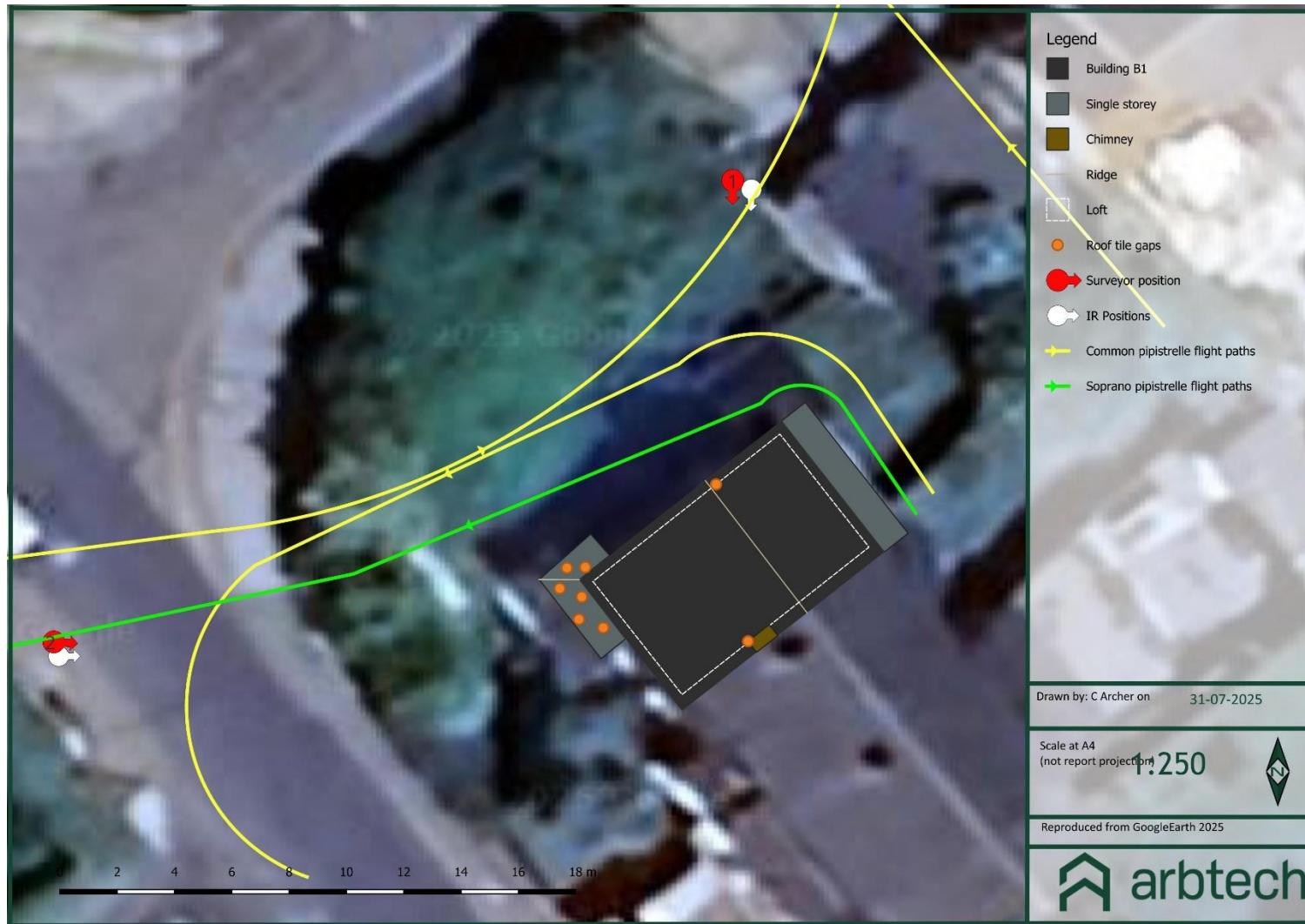
	Cloud cover (%): 70 Wind (m/s): 0 Rain: None		Cloud cover (%): 10 Wind (m/s): 0 Rain: None				
Equipment used	Equipment	Make	Model	Count			
	NVAs	Nightfox	Whisker	2			
	Additional Illumination	Nightfox	XB5 PRO	2			
	Bat Detector	Wildlife Acoustics	Echo Meter Touch 2	2			
		Magenta Electronics	Magenta Bat4	1			
	Two Way Radio	BAOFENG	FV-88E	2			
Results							
Date of survey		Sunset; Start - End					
28/07/2025		Sunset 20:54; 20:39 – 22:24					
Surveyor observations							
Surveyor 1	<p>No emergences observed</p> <p>The first activity of the survey was a soprano pipistrelle commuting northeast to west, north of B1 at 21:15. Two common pipistrelles commuted along this corridor at 21:20 and 21:22.</p> <p>A common pipistrelle commuted west to east, across the green space north of B1 at 21:40, with a second common pipistrelle following this route at 22:04.</p> <p>At 21:50, a common pipistrelle was observed commuting south to northwest, adjacent to the houses northeast of B1. Two further common pipistrelles commuted in the opposite direction along the same corridor at 22:00.</p> <p>A further 16 common pipistrelle passes, and foraging were heard between 21:36 and 22:14.</p> <p>No further activity.</p>						
							
	Full elevation photo showing surveyor 1's view.						

<p><i>IR position 1</i> <i>IR nightfox whisker</i> <i>and XB5 Pro torch</i></p>	<p>Camera position: observing northwest elevation of B1 Emergences observed: No</p> <p>No emergences were observed and the footage was in line with the observations of surveyor 1 with no additional activity.</p>	 <p>Darkest point of survey from IR position 1</p>
<p>Surveyor 2</p>	<p>No emergences observed.</p> <p>The first activity of the survey was a soprano pipistrelle commuting from south-west to northeast over the surveyor, and the adjacent wall at 21:15.</p> <p>The second bat was a common pipistrelle commuting south to north at towards the vegetation north of B1 and turning west away from the property at 21:19.</p> <p>The final bat seen was a common pipistrelle which travelled across the vegetation north of B1 heading south towards the surveyor and following the road south at 21:22.</p> <p>One further soprano pipistrelle and eight further common pipistrelle passes were heard, not seen, between 21:30 and 22:25.</p> <p>No further activity.</p>	 <p>Full elevation photo showing surveyor 2's view.</p>

<i>IR position 2</i>	<p>Camera position: observing southwest elevation of B1 Emergences observed: No</p> <p>No emergences were observed and the footage was in line with the observations of surveyor 2 with no additional activity.</p>	 <p>Darkest point of survey from IR position 2</p>
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Conclusions, Impacts and Recommendations	
<i>Survey Results Summary</i>	<p>No roosts were identified.</p> <p>General bat activity on site:</p> <p>Key foraging areas – No key foraging areas were identified.</p> <p>Key flight lines – No significant commuting routes were identified. A soprano pipistrelle and two common pipistrelles were observed travelling a southeast-west corridor northeast of B1. Common pipistrelles were also observed travelling a west-east corridor north of B1 on two occasions.</p> <p>Species observed – Common and soprano pipistrelles.</p>
<i>Impact Assessment</i>	No impacts foreseen to roosting, foraging or commuting bats
<i>Recommendations</i>	Works can proceed without the need for any further requirements. In the unlikely even bats are found, work must stop and a suitably qualified ecologist will be contacted for further advice.
<i>Enhancements</i>	<p>An integrated bat box could be installed in the new building to provide additional roosting habitat for bats. This would be placed high up at eaves level, face south/south-west if possible, and be unlit by artificial light.</p> <p>The bat box should be a specification suitable for crevice dwelling species such as Vivara Pro Build-In Woodstone Bat Tube (integrated), Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box 'C' (integrated), or a similar alternative brand.</p>

Appendix 1: BERS plan



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Version control			
Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft	0.1	Ceri Archer Bsc(Hons), Assistant Ecologist	31/07/2025
Proof	0.2	George Collier-Smith Msci (Hons), Consultant Ecologist	01/08/2025
Proof	0.3	Maddy Carter BSc (Hons), Consultant Ecologist	06/08/2025
Final	1.0	Ceri Archer Bsc(Hons), Assistant Ecologist	06/08/2025