



**Daytime Building Inspection and Site Walkover
Outbuildings off Blackamoor Road, Blackburn**

November 2017

Control sheet

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Signed (Author)	Signed (QA)	
		

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Bowland Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council to complete a daytime building inspection for bats and walkover survey of a site off Blackamoor Road, Blackburn (NGR: SD 69941 25579). The Site is subject to proposals to demolish five small outbuildings and re-develop the Site. Detailed Site proposal are not available at the time of writing.
- 1.2 The Site is located to the south of Blackburn and is surrounded by large industrial premises. Fishmoor and Guide Reservoirs are located north and east of the Site, respectively. The surrounding habitats comprise scattered scrub and open grassland. The Site boundary is shown on the Building and Invasive Species Plan in Appendix D.
- 1.3 The purpose of the survey was to 1) make an assessment of the value of the Site for bats, with particular reference to legal requirements (Appendix A) and 2) identify potential impacts and provide recommendations pertaining to the proposed works. This report includes a description of survey methods, survey results and outlines recommendations to provide protection and enhancements.

2. Methodology

Desk Study

- 2.1 The aim of the desk study was to identify the presence of statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites that are designated for bats, as well as any records for bats or bat roosting sites within the locality of the survey area.
- 2.2 The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (<http://magic.gov.uk>) was reviewed for information on locally, nationally and internationally designated sites of nature conservation importance (statutory sites only) and Habitats of Principal Importance (Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act, Section 41, 2006) on or within 1 km of the site boundary.
- 2.3 Bat species records on and within 1 km of the Site were obtained following a data search with Lancashire Environmental Records Network (LERN).
- 2.4 Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and aerial photographs (<http://maps.google.co.uk/maps>) were reviewed to help identify any continuous habitat and any other notable habitats within the surrounding area, including bat foraging and commuting habitat.

Building Inspection Survey

- 2.5 A daytime external and internal inspection of the buildings on Site was undertaken on the 30th October 2017. The weather was cold (approximately 8°C) with scattered cloud and no breeze (Beaufort Scale 0). The survey was completed by Claire Wilson MSc, BSc (Hons), MCIEEM (Natural England Bat Licence No. 2015-16761-CLS-CLS) and Mark Breaks BSc (Hons), (Natural England Bat Licence No. 2016-26712-CLS-CLS).
- 2.6 The external inspection involved checking for field signs of bats on external features of the buildings with particular attention being paid to ledges, walls, doors and the surrounding ground. An assessment of the potential of the buildings to support bats was also made during the survey i.e. searching for suitable roosting crevices.
- 2.7 The internal inspection involved a search of the buildings for field signs such as: bats, bat droppings, urine stains, bat feeding remains (moth wings, insect cases), bat staining, a distinctive smell of bats, scratch marks and smoothing of surfaces, which would indicate a roosting site. High power torches (LED LENSER T7.2 - 320 lumens) were used to aid the survey.
- 2.8 Natural England's Bat Mitigation Guidelines (2004) states that a significant bat roost can normally be determined on a single visit at any time of the year, provided that the entire structure is accessible and that signs of bats have not been removed by others. Using the information collected during the internal and external assessment, a 'roost potential' score was given to the buildings according to the criteria shown in Appendix B (Collins, 2016).
- 2.9 An assessment of the suitability of the surrounding habitats for bats was also undertaken, including the identification of potential foraging and roosting areas, potential flight lines and important commuting corridors.

- 2.10 A walkover of the Site also undertaken during the survey. This included an assessment of the suitability of habitats for nesting birds (including any active or disused nests), and a check for the most common invasive plant species subject to strict legal control including; Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), giant knotweed (*F. sachalinensis*), hybrid knotweed (*F. x bohemica*), giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), rhododendron (*R. ponticum*, *R. ponticum* x *R. maximum* and *R. luteum*) and Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*).

3. Results

Desk Study

- 3.1 The Site is located within an Impact Risk Zone for statutory designated sites. However, the proposed development does not fall into any of the categories which require consideration. As such, no further consideration towards the Impact Risk Zone is required.
- 3.2 There are no statutory designated wildlife sites within 1 km of the Site.
- 3.3 The data search with LERN identified two Biological Heritage Sites (BHS) within 1 km of the Site.
 - Davyfield Pasture BHS located 0.9 km south of the Site. The BHS is a field of species-rich, neutral grassland with scattered scrub. This type of grassland is now scarce in Lancashire; and
 - Grimshaw Brook Valley BHS located 0.95 m south of the site. The BHS comprises a mosaic of semi-natural habitats in Grimshaw Brook Valley. These habitats consist of neutral and acid grassland, scrub, clough woodland, wet woodland, flushes and streamside cliffs.
- 3.4 The aforementioned designated sites provide foraging and commuting habitat for a variety of bat species. Further details of habitats and their suitability as bat foraging and commuting habitat is provided in Paragraphs 3.5 – 3.7 below.
- 3.5 The search of the Multi Agency Geographical Information Centre (www.magic.gov.uk) identified the following HPis within 1 km of the Site; good quality semi-improved grassland, lowland meadows, lowland fens and deciduous woodland. The closest of the aforementioned habitats is a small area of deciduous woodland located 0.37 km south of the Site. The woodland provides suitable foraging and commuting habitat for bat species which show a preference for utilising 'edge' habitats. Such species include common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and whiskered (*Myotis mystacinus*) bats, which are flexible in their foraging habitats.
- 3.6 Based on a review of aerial photographs and OS maps, suitable bat foraging habitat is present directly north of the Site in the area of open grassland which is considered to provide favourable foraging habitat for noctule bats (*Nyctalus noctula*), which prefer to feed in 'open' habitats.
- 3.7 Fishmoor and Guide Reservoirs located north and east of the Site, respectively provide suitable foraging habitats for a variety of species including soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), Nathusius' pipistrelle (*P. nathusii*), Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*), Daubenton's bat (*M. daubentonii*) and Brandt's bat (*M. brandti*) all of which show a preference to feed in 'open water' and 'edge' habitats.
- 3.8 The data search returned no records for bats within 1 km of the Site¹. The closest roost record is located 2.6 km north west of the Site, The record is a common pipistrelle roost recorded in 2014, located in the centre of Blackburn.

¹ Only records from 2000 onwards are detailed within this report.

Bats

- 3.9 Five buildings were noted on site. Detailed descriptions of each building are described below. Photographs of each building can be viewed in Appendix E.
- 3.10 **Building 1** is a very small, single storey, timber shed, measuring 2 m x 1 m x 2 m. The building has a sloping, metal corrugated roof which was found to be in good condition. Gaps of approximately 3 cm x 15 cm are present beneath the corrugated roofing material. These gaps are considered too large and exposed to provide suitable bat roosting habitat. Many of the timber wall panels were found to be in relatively poor condition, showing signs of damp and rot. On the western elevation of the building, dense ivy (*Hedera helix*) cladding is present which has the potential to provide habitat for small numbers of roosting bats.
- 3.11 Internally, the roof of the building is lined with timber panels, potentially creating a very small cavity that could be used by individual crevice dwelling bats. Some of the ivy cladding has also grown through the timbers, and may provide bat roosting habitat. The door to the shed is slightly ajar and there are missing timber panels on the southern elevation which would make the internal space cold and draughty, thus unsuitable for roosting bats. No evidence of roosting bats was noted during the survey. The building is considered to provide **low** potential to support roosting bats.
- 3.12 **Building 2** is a small, single storey outbuilding, with two separate sections (2a & 2b) both of which were found to be in a poor state of repair with rotting timbers. The roof is gently sloping and is covered with roofing felt which was found to be intact to the south but rotten at the northern section of the building (2b), with large gaps allowing access into the internal space. The external sides of the building are covered with felt, beneath which is a timber frame. The room to the north is in poor condition, the window is missing and there are gaps in the roof. Timber fascias are present along the western elevation. These are showing signs of water damage with several gaps along the elevation. The gaps potentially provide internal access for bats to the space between the felt roofing material and timber lining.
- 3.13 Internally, the building to the south (2a) is clad with timber, providing potential bat roosting habitat between the timber lining and felt outer covering. The building is used for storage, as such, it is relatively cluttered and was found to be heavily cobwebbed. The absence of the window and missing roof on the northern section renders the internal space unsuitable for roosting bats as it is cold, wet and draughty. No evidence of roosting bats was noted during the survey. As such, the building is considered to provide **low** potential to support roosting bats.
- 3.14 **Building 3** is a small, timber shed, approximately 3 m x 5 m x 3 m with a sloping, corrugated metal roof. The timbers are in poor condition showing signs of damp, and the window on the northern elevation is broken. Timber fascia boards are present on the north, south and western elevations. A section of the fascia is missing on the northern elevation leaving a 5 cm gap between the corrugated roofing material and the timber roof lining. This gap potentially provides roosting habitat for very small number of crevice dwelling bats. The section of roof on the western elevation overhangs the walls, with small gaps suitable for individual crevice dwelling bats present beneath the corrugated roofing material and the timber lining, also present along this section.

- 3.15 Internally, the building is used for storage and was found to be cluttered and the roof densely covered with cobwebs. Timber plywood lining is present on the walls and the roof. No evidence of roosting bats was noted during the survey. The building is considered to have **low** potential to support roosting bats.
- 3.16 **Building 4** is a single storey garage with a flat, corrugated metal roof and chip board type material covering the walls. Small gaps (approximately 3 cm x 5 cm) are present beneath the corrugated roofing material that may potentially provide habitat for small numbers of crevice dwelling bats. The building is connected to garage buildings to the south, on the adjoining land.
- 3.17 Internally, the building is used for storage and is cluttered. The walls and ceiling are clad with timber. No features suitable for roosting bats were noted during the internal inspection and evidence of water ingress was noted on the timber roof lining. No evidence of roosting bats was noted during the survey. The building is considered to have **low** potential to support roosting bats.
- 3.18 **Building 5** is a small glasshouse with a metal frame. Two of the glass panes on the eastern side are broken. No habitat suitable for roosting bats was noted during the survey. The building is considered to have **negligible** potential to support roosting bats.

Birds

- 3.19 The dense ivy cladding on the western elevation of Building 1 provides suitable nesting habitat for small birds. Furthermore, an entrance to a birds nest was noted where there are gaps in the fascia on Building 2. Numerous bird droppings were located at the gap in the fascia.

Invasive Species

- 3.20 Japanese knotweed is located along the western side of the access track leading down to the Site. The plant is located within 5 m of Building 4. There are also several stands of the plant located in rank grassland to the east of the Site, outside of the Site boundary.
- 3.21 Himalayan balsam is present at the bottom of the access track leading to the Site. The closest stand is located approximately 9 m north west of Building 1. The locations of the aforementioned plants are detailed on the Building and Invasive Species Survey Plan in Appendix D.

4. Evaluation and Assessment of Potential Impacts

4.1 An assessment of effects on ecological features has been made using the available design and survey information and the professional judgement of the ecologist. This includes a consideration of the relevant legislation (see Appendix A). The current proposals involve the demolition of the outbuildings. If there are changes to the proposals, such as a change to the proposed design the assessment would need to be reviewed.

Bats

4.2 Following the initial daytime inspection, Buildings 1 - 4 were considered to offer **low** potential to support roosting bats. Building 5 was considered to have **negligible** potential to support roosting bats, therefore it is not considered further within this report.

4.3 Roosting opportunities provided by the buildings comprised:

- Gaps between the corrugated roofing material and timber cladding;
- Gaps in and along timber fascias; and
- Dense ivy cladding on Building 1.

4.4 Small gaps, crevices and ivy cladding, such as those detailed in Paragraph 4.3 have **low** potential to be used by small numbers of crevice dwelling bats including pipistrelle, whiskered and Brandt's bats.

4.5 Although suitable roosting habitat is present within Buildings 1 - 4, it is limited in extent and lacks evidence of the presence of roosting bats. In addition, the dense cobwebbing, indicates that the majority of potential roosting opportunities are not used by bats. The likelihood of the use of the potential roosting features being used by bats is further reduced due to the damp nature of the buildings. In addition, the metal roofing material on Buildings 1, 3 and 4 is considered to be unsuitable for roosting bats as they prefer to roost against a rough surface, and the metal roofing material will likely make the internal space susceptible to frequent changes in temperature due to its poor insulating properties, thus making it cold in winter and hot in the summer. This again reduces the potential of the buildings as suitable bat roosting habitat, as bats favour stable environments with high humidity levels.

4.6 Due to the absence of roof voids and general cluttered nature of the buildings they are considered to provide **negligible** roosting habitat for void dwelling species including brown long-eared bats (*Plecotus auritus*).

4.7 The buildings are considered unlikely to support a roost of conservation significance such as a maternity roost due to the limited availability of suitable roosting features. The buildings are also considered to provide **negligible** potential for hibernating bats, which require low stable temperatures in order to maintain torpor.

4.8 As the potential for bats to be roosting within the buildings is **low** it is considered that works to demolish the buildings will not impact the Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) of bats in the area. Furthermore, no records for bats, or bat roosts within 1 km of the Site were returned with the data search. The closest roost record (2.6 km north west) is for common pipistrelle bats; this

species is widespread throughout the country and will roost in a variety of structures, therefore the loss of the buildings is not considered to represent a significant impact to pipistrelle roosting habitat.

- 4.9 Whilst it is considered that a European Protected Species (EPS) licence is not required for this scheme due to the low risk of encountering bats on site the following recent policies described below corroborate our recommended approach with regards to demolition of the buildings.
- 4.10 The recent consultation by Natural England on ‘Proposed New Policies for European Protected Species Licensing’ (2016) highlights the following in Section 4:

“Natural England will be expected to ensure that licensing decisions are properly supported by survey information, taking into account industry standards and guidelines. It may, however, accept a lower than standard survey effort where: the costs or delays associated with carrying out standard survey requirements would be disproportionate to the additional certainty that it would bring; the ecological impacts of development can be predicted with sufficient certainty; and mitigation or compensation will ensure that the licensed activity does not detrimentally affect the conservation status of the local population of any EPS.”

- 4.11 Furthermore, the The ODPM Circular (2005) paragraph 99 states that:

“bearing in mind the delay and costs that may be involved, developers should not be required to undertake surveys for a protected species unless there is reasonable likelihood of the species being present and affected by the development”.

- 4.12 Therefore, it is considered in this case that additional dusk/dawn emergence surveys would not return any additional information on the level of use of the buildings by roosting bats. If the aforementioned surveys were required it would substantiate a disproportionate level of survey for what is considered to be low value habitat for individual pipistrelle bats and also delay the demolition of buildings posing a public health and safety risk.

Birds

- 4.13 The removal of the ivy cladding on Building 1 and timber fascias on Building 2 will result in the loss of suitable bird nesting habitat.
- 4.14 Where the aforementioned habitats and structures are removed/affected as a result of the proposed works, impacts to nesting birds could occur if works are undertaken within the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive) and/or without due care and attention, which would constitute an offence (see Appendix A).

Invasive Species

- 4.15 Non-native invasive species Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed are located within 10 m of the Site boundary. These species are listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981, as amended). This makes it illegal

to plant or otherwise cause the species to grow in the wild. Therefore, works undertaken without due care and attention in respect of the aforementioned species could therefore lead to an offence (see Appendix A).

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 This section provides the required measures to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development. A key element of the National Planning Policy Framework is to minimise impacts to biodiversity and provide enhancements. Paragraph 109 states that *'The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible'*. It also states in Paragraph 118 that *'when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by encouraging opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments'*. The following recommendations are designed to comply with legal requirements and national and local planning policy.

Bats

5.2 Bats are highly mobile and given the limited number of potential roosting features within the buildings there is **low** potential for small numbers of crevice dwelling bats to utilise the buildings occasionally, at any time. Therefore it is considered that the implementation of Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs, as described below) in relation to works to demolish the buildings will minimise impacts to roosting bats to a negligible level.

- Before any works proceed all contractors should be made aware of the possible presence of bats, bat field signs to look for and procedure if bats are found or discovered (see Appendix C);
- Hand removal of corrugated roofing material, timber fascias and ivy cladding;
- A suitably qualified ecologist should be on call during the works and if a bat is found, the ecologist will attend Site, remove the bat, check the health of the bat and then place it in a suitable bat box;
- Work to cease immediately if bats are encountered at any stage, works can only resume once advice from a suitably qualified ecologist has been sought; and
- If a bat is in immediate danger it should only be picked up with **gloved hands** and placed in a secure container with air holes and placed in a dark, quiet place until the ecologist arrives at Site.

Birds

5.3 Works to remove the ivy cladding and timber fascias will take place outside the breeding bird season which runs from March until August inclusive, in order to prevent any impacts upon breeding birds.

5.4 Any clearance works, including removal of ivy cladding and timber fascias that must be carried out within the bird breeding season will be subject to a pre-clearance bird survey carried out by a suitably experienced ecologist. No clearance will be carried out within 5 m of an identified nest until the young have fledged and are no longer returning to the nest site. The area will only be cleared once a scheme ecologist has declared the nest to be no longer in use.

Invasive Species

5.5 The following control measures should be undertaken to prevent the spread of Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed during the proposed works (see

Appendix F & G for further details on identification and management of the species):

- Contractors to be aware of the location of Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed;
- Marking off all stands of Himalayan balsam/Japanese knotweed with hi-visibility netlon fencing; and
- Biosecurity measures to be implemented whilst on site to prevent cross contamination. This involves the cleaning of footwear and machinery, prior to, and on completion of each working window to ensure that invasive species are not taken off site.

5.6 Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sections 33 and 34, Japanese knotweed must be treated as controlled waste, as such all arisings and potentially contaminated soil from the plant must be disposed of in an appropriate manner to ensure that the waste does not cause pollution of the environment.

Re-survey of the Site

5.7 If no works are undertaken on site within 12 months of this survey or if any changes to the proposals are made, a further ecological survey may be necessary (because of the mobility of animals and the potential for colonisation of the site).

References

A.J. Mitchell-Jones. (2004) *Bat Mitigation Guidelines*, Natural England

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

ODPM Circular (06/2005) *Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory obligations and their Impact within the Planning System*. Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU.

Natural England (2016) Proposed new policies for European Protected Species licensing

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575709/eps-consultation-outcome.pdf

Stone, E.L. (2013) *Bats and lighting: Overview of current evidence and mitigation guidance*.

Appendix A – Legal Information

This report provides guidance of potential offences as part of the impact assessment. This report does not provide detailed legal advice and for full details of potential offences against protected species the relevant acts should be consulted in their original forms i.e. The Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, as amended, The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006 and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

Species	Legislation	Offences	Notes on licensing procedures and further advice
Species that are protected by European and national legislation			
Bats <i>European protected species</i>	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 Reg 41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliberately¹ capture, injure or kill a bat; Deliberate disturbance² of bats; Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by a bat. The protection of bat roosts is considered to apply regardless of whether bats are present.	An NE licence in respect of development is required in England. <i>European Protected Species: Mitigation Licensing- How to get a licence</i> (NE 2010) <i>Bat Mitigation Guidelines</i> (English Nature 2004) <i>Bat Workers Manual</i> (JNCC 2004) <i>BS8596:2015 Surveying for bats in trees and woodland</i> (BSI, 2015)
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) ⁴ S.9	Intentionally or recklessly ³ obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb a bat in such a place.	Licence from NE is required for surveys (scientific purposes) that would involve disturbance of bats or entering a known or suspected roost site.
Birds	Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	Authorities are required to take steps to ensure the preservation, maintenance and re-establishment of a sufficient diversity and area of habitat for wild birds in the United Kingdom, including by means of the upkeep, management and creation of such habitat. This includes activities in relation to town and country planning functions.
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) ⁴ S.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird; Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; Intentionally take or destroy the nest or eggs of any wild bird. Schedule 1 species Special penalties are liable for these offences involving birds on Schedule 1 (e.g. most birds of prey, kingfisher, barn owl, black redstart, little ringed plover). Intentionally or recklessly ³ disturb a Schedule 1 species while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; intentionally or recklessly disturb dependent young of such a species.	No licences are available to disturb any birds in regard to development. Licences are available in certain circumstances to damage or destroy nests, but these only apply to the list of licensable activities in the Act and do not cover development. General licences are available in respect of 'pest species' but only for certain very specific purposes e.g. public health, public safety, air safety. https://www.gov.uk/wild-birds-protection-surveys-and-licences https://www.gov.uk/prevent-wild-birds-damaging-your-land-farm-or-business

¹Deliberate capture or killing is taken to include "accepting the possibility" of such capture or killing

²Deliberate disturbance of animals includes 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) in the case of animals of hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or b) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

Lower levels of disturbance not covered by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 remain an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 although a defence is available where such actions are the incidental result of a lawful activity that could not reasonably be avoided. Thus deliberate disturbance that does not result in either (a) or (b) above would be classed as a lower level of disturbance.

³The term 'reckless' is defined by the case of Regina versus Caldwell 1982. The prosecution has to show that a person deliberately took an unacceptable risk, or failed to notice or consider an obvious risk.

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⁴The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) has been updated by various amendments, including the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. A full list of amendments can be found at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1377>.

Habitats & Species	Legislation	Guidance
Japanese knotweed Himalayan balsam	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) S.14	It is illegal to plant these species or otherwise cause them to grow or spread in the wild. Any contaminated soil or plant material containing Japanese knotweed is classified as controlled waste and should be disposed of in a suitably licensed landfill site, accompanied by appropriate Waste Transfer documentation, and must comply with section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. <i>The Knotweed Code of Practice</i> (Environment Agency, 2013) <i>Guidance on Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981</i> (Defra, 2010)

Appendix B – Bat Roost Potential and Habitat Suitability Categories

Guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats, based on the presence of habitat features within the landscape (Collins, 2016).

Suitability	Description of Roosting Habitat	Commuting & Foraging Habitats
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats.
Low	<p>A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitats to be used on a regular basis or by a larger number of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable maternity or hibernation).</p> <p>A tree of sufficient size and age to contain potential roosting features but with none seen from the ground, or feature seen with only very limited roosting potential.</p>	<p>Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat.</p> <p>Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.</p>
Moderate	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions, and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status.	<p>Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting, such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens.</p> <p>Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging, such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.</p>
High	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis, and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.	<p>Continuous high quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge.</p> <p>High quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats, such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland.</p> <p>Site is close and connected to known roosts.</p>

Appendix C – Information Sheet for Contractors on Bats

BATS



Information, legal responsibilities and best practice for the construction industry

Legal Protection

All UK Bat species are protected by European and UK law, in practical terms this means it is an offence to:

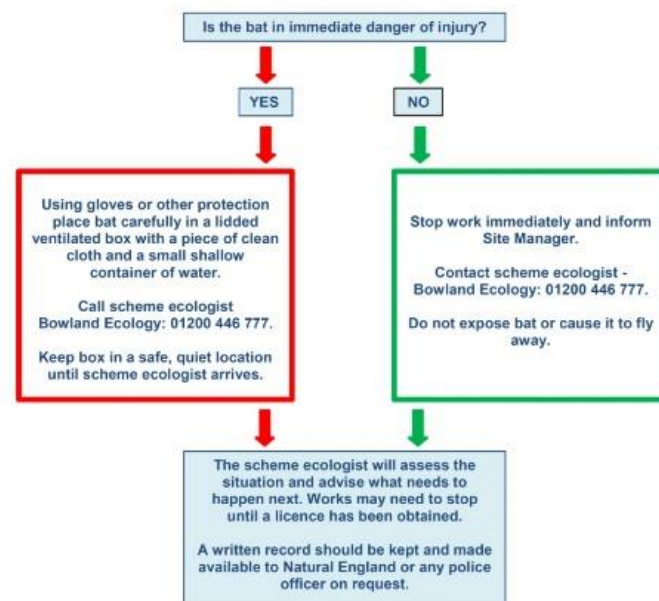
- Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat;
- Deliberately disturb bats;
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time);
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb a bat in such a place;
- Possess or advertise/sell/exchange a bat (dead or alive) or any part of a bat.

Penalties on conviction: the maximum fine is £5,000 per incident or per bat (some roosts contain several hundred bats), up to six months in prison, and forfeiture of items used to commit the offence, e.g. vehicles, plant, machinery.

Defences include:

1. Tending/caring for a bat solely for the purpose of restoring it to health and subsequent release.
2. Mercy killing where there is no reasonable hope of recovery (provided that person did not cause the injury in the first place – in which case the illegal act has already taken place).

Found a bat during unsupervised works?

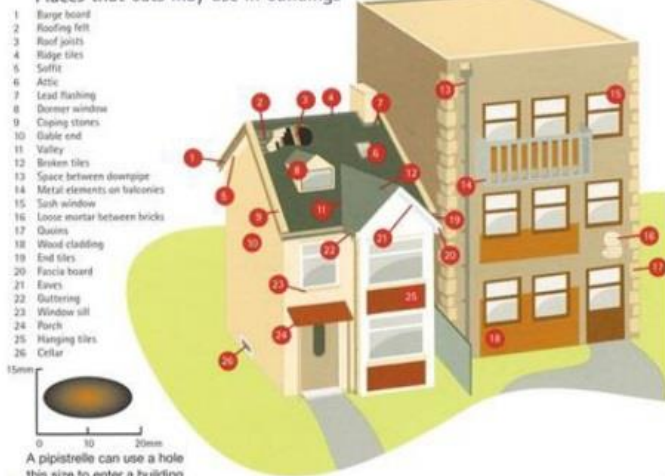


Field signs of bat presence:

- Live or dead bats: the smallest UK bat species, the pipistrelle is only 3.5-4.5cm long.
- Droppings: bat droppings look like mouse droppings but will crumble between your fingers (they are dry and made entirely of insects).
- Feeding remains: piles of butterfly/moth wings are often left below bat feeding perches.



Places that bats may use in buildings



Schematic from www.bats.org.uk

Bats can roost in the following places:

- The top of gable end or dividing wall;
- The top of chimney breasts;
- Ridge and hip beams and other roof beams;
- Mortise and tension joints;
- All beams/ceilings/pipework (free hanging bats);
- The junction of roof timbers, especially where ridge and hip beams meet;
- Behind purlins;
- Between tiles and the roof lining;
- Under flat felt roofs;
- In trees (cracks/holes/ivy cladding) ;
- Under barge boards;
- In cavity walls;
- In cracks in stone or concrete;
- Behind peeling paint/wall coverings;
- Gaps behind window and door frames;
- Between window panes and timber boarding.

Why wear gloves?

There is a small risk that some bats carry a rabies virus – European Bat Lyssavirus. The purpose of wearing gloves is to reduce the chance of being bitten, as the virus is transmitted via bat saliva. Thick leather gloves are appropriate for removing a bat from imminent danger but these should be clean.



In the event that you are bitten, wash the wound, gently but thoroughly, with soap and water. Speak to a health professional immediately, advising them that you have been bitten by a bat.

References:

- Bat Conservation Trust. August 2016. Why wear gloves when handling bats?
 BCT Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists, Good Practice Guidelines, 3rd Edition, 2016

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Appendix D – Building and Invasive Species Plan



Appendix E – Site Photographs



Building 1 – Externally



Building 1 – Internally



Building 2 - Externally



Building 2 - Internally



Building 3 - Externally



Building 3 - Internally



Building 4 - Externally



Building 4 - Internally



Building 5



Stand of Japanese knotweed along access track



Stand of Himalayan balsam along access track

Appendix F – Information Sheet for Contractors on Himalayan Balsam

Himalayan Balsam



Information, legal responsibilities and best practice for the construction industry

Legal Information

In England it is illegal to plant or cause the spread of Himalayan balsam in the wild. If Himalayan balsam is taken away from the site of origin, the plant and its associated materials, e.g. soil, become classed as controlled waste and must be disposed of at an authorised landfill site. Furthermore, powers are given to environmental authorities to enter into control agreements and orders with landowners, in order to ensure action is taken to control non-native invasive species on their land.

Legislation governing the movement and spread of Himalayan balsam in England includes the following;

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Section 14;
- Environmental Protection Act 1990 S33 & 44; and
- Infrastructure Act 2015 Sections 23 to 25.

Impacts

Himalayan balsam is a non-native, rapidly colonising plant. It negatively impacts the growth and success of native plants, as dense stands grow quickly and prevent other plants from successively germinating and producing flowers. The species rapidly dominates an area, creating dense monoculture stands, commonly observed on river banks, but also within woodland and other habitats with damp ground.

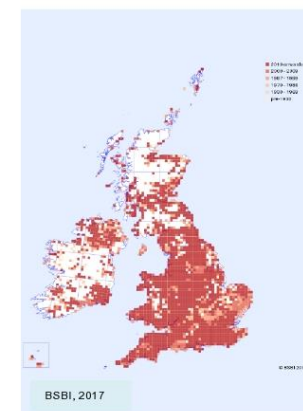
Management of Himalayan balsam

- Prior to commencement of any works on site all staff on site should be made aware of the presence and location of Himalayan balsam on site and all stands of Himalayan balsam, including a 7 m buffer zone should be marked out with hi-visibility fencing;
- Prior to the plant setting seed in June it should be strimmed to the ground to prevent the dispersal of seeds;
- The use of mechanical plant over infected areas should be kept to a minimum;
- Biosecurity measures should be implemented whilst on site to prevent cross contamination. This includes the cleaning of footwear and machinery, prior to, and on completion of each working window to ensure that Himalayan balsam is not taken off or spread around the site.
- Himalayan balsam is classed as controlled waste. As such, all arisings and potentially contaminated soil from the plant must be disposed of in an appropriate manner to ensure that the waste does not cause pollution of the environment.

Distribution & Spread

Himalayan balsam is widely distributed across most of lowland England and Wales and many parts of Scotland and Ireland.

Each plant produces approximately 2,500 seeds and when mature the seeds open 'explosively if disturbed' and can project several meters from the parent plant. Furthermore, the seeds also float, making watercourses a perfect vector for their dispersal.



Useful references & guides:

GB non-native species secretariat
<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm>
 Prevent harmful weeds and invasive non-native plants spreading
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-the-spread-of-harmful-invasive-and-non-native-plants>

Key ID Features



Young seedling



Reddish leaves



Single stem



Flower heads/seed pods



Flower head



Reddish stem



Short roots



Dense stand



Dead stand

Identifying Himalayan balsam

Himalayan balsam, also referred to as Indian balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) is a tall, annual plant. As a mature plant it can grow up to 3 m in height and is easily recognisable with pink/purple flowers, a fleshy stem, turning more pink/red in the summer, with lanceolate shaped, long, green leaves tinged with pink. In summer, the plant forms dense stands, commonly along watercourses and other damp habitats.

In late July/August exploding seed pods appear. The pods enable the plant to disperse seeds up to distance of 7 m from the mature plant, enabling the effective spread of the plant in the wild.

As an immature plant it is more difficult to identify. Seedlings begin to appear in March, and in winter, when the plant dies back it can resemble the remains of hay.

References: Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland, 2017, GB non-native species secretariat, RPS group Plc. Bowland Ecology Ltd. 2 York Street, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 2DL

Version 1 November 2017

Japanese knotweed



Information, legal responsibilities and best practice for the construction industry

Legal Information

In England it is illegal to plant or cause the spread of Japanese knotweed in the wild. If Japanese knotweed is taken away from the site of origin, the plant and its associated materials, e.g. soil, become classed as controlled waste and must be disposed of at an authorised landfill site. Furthermore, powers are given to environmental authorities to enter into control agreements and orders with landowners, in order to ensure action is taken to control non-native invasive species on their land.

Legislation governing the movement and spread of Japanese knotweed in England includes the following;

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Section 14;
- Environmental Protection Act 1990 S33 & 44; and
- Infrastructure Act 2015 Sections 23 to 25.

Impacts

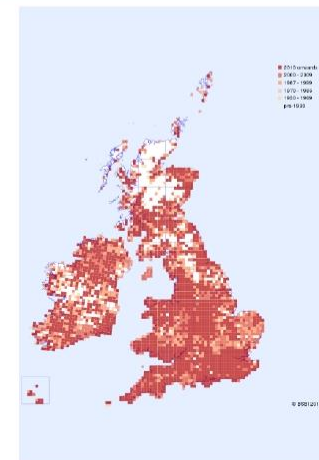
Japanese knotweed is a non-native species that when established forms dense stands, commonly found in riparian habitats. However, the plant can establish in other habitats where the ground has become disturbed. The dense, monoculture stands reduce biodiversity and dominate the landscape, outcompeting native species. The plant can also grow through tarmac and concrete causing damage to buildings and roads.

Management of Japanese knotweed

- Prior to commencement of any works on site all staff on site should be made aware of the presence and location of Japanese knotweed and all stands of the plant, including a 7 m buffer zone should be marked out with hi-visibility fencing;
- The use of mechanical plant over infected areas should be kept to a minimum, and biosecurity measures should be implemented whilst on site to prevent cross contamination. This includes the cleaning of footwear and machinery, prior to, and on completion of each working window to ensure that the plant is not taken off or spread around the site;
- Japanese knotweed is classed as controlled waste. As such, all arisings and potentially contaminated soil from the plant must be disposed of in an appropriate manner to ensure that the waste does not cause pollution of the environment;
- The plant can be managed several ways;
 - Spraying with approved herbicides, over a three year period to ensure rhizomes become dormant;
 - Burying, further guidance should be sought beforehand from the EA; and
 - Burning, guidance should be sought beforehand from the EA and LPA.

Distribution & spread

Japanese knotweed is widely distributed across most of lowland England and Wales and many parts of Scotland and Ireland. All Japanese knotweed plants in the UK are clones, as such, their seeds are sterile. The plant contains rhizomes (underground root system) which enable the effective spread of the plant. Soil can be contaminated up to 3 m deep and within a 7m radius of the parent plant.



Useful references & guides:

GB non-native species secretariat
<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm>
 Preventing Japanese knotweed from spreading
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-japanese-knotweed-from-spreading>

Key ID Features



Young shoots (approx. 2 cm)



Arrow shaped leaves



Young stem



Flowers



Dead, hollow stems



Stand in winter



Branches in winter



Dense stand along watercourse



Large stand to building

Identifying Japanese knotweed

There are three species of Japanese knotweed in England; Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) the most widespread species; giant knotweed (*Fallopia sachalinensis*); and a hybrid Knotweed (*Fallopia x bohemica*).

Japanese knotweed is a herbaceous perennial that produces green/reddish shoots in early spring. The plant can reach to heights of 3 m before dying back in autumn. The stem, is green with red and/or purple specks and forms dense cane-like clumps. The plant's shoots and leaves, which can be up to 120 mm long, densely cover the ground and are arrow shaped.

The plant spreads underground by means of rhizomes which can extend 7 metres outwards and reach up to 2 metres deep. Rhizome fragments as small as 10 mm can produce new plants, seeds produced by the plant are sterile.