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## Nocturnal Bat Assessment

Hearn Head House Farm,  
Troutdale  
North Yorkshire

Mr and Mrs S Barrett

Report Reference: CL611/005/002

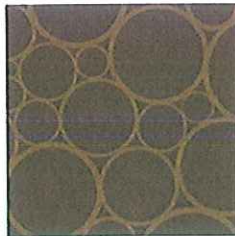
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Clear Environmental Consultants Limited  
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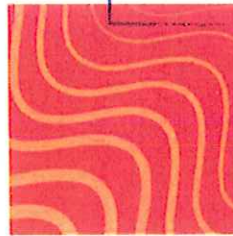
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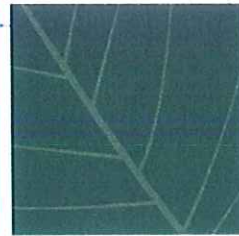
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DRAINAGE



FLOOD RISK



ECOLOGY

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# 1 Summary

This report was commissioned by Mr and Mrs S Barrett to assess potential constraints from the presence of bat species to re-development on buildings at Hearn Head House Farm, Troutsdale, North Yorkshire.

The development footprint comprised nine buildings, a mixture of residential, out buildings, stables and hardstanding.

Current development proposals include the removal of a portal framed building, and conversion of a number of redundant farm buildings.

Bat building assessments were undertaken on the site during June 2010 by Clear Environmental Consultants Ltd. As recommended in the Bat Building Assessment (Clear Environmental Consultants Ltd. 2010) two emergence surveys and one dawn re-entry survey were carried out.

Neither of the emergence surveys recorded bat species leaving the buildings, although two common pipistrelle bats were recorded entering building 5 during the roost survey. Bat activity surrounding the buildings on site was moderate.

It is recommended that the existing roofs of buildings 2, 5 and 9 are removed by hand with a licensed bat worker present. Bat access points should be re-instated to allow continued bat usage of the building on completion on the renovation. As a small roost was recorded on site, it may be possible to undertake the works under a method statement approved by Natural England, although a full European Protected Species License may be required.

Best practice recommends that as a precautionary measure, the work on the buildings should be undertaken at a time of year to avoid disturbance to bats during their breeding and hibernation season (e.g. September). If this is not possible then a European Protected Species license will be required if works are to affect an active bat roost.

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## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 Background

Clear Environmental Consultants Ltd. were commissioned by Mr and Mrs S Barrett to undertake two evening emergence surveys and one dawn re-entry survey on buildings at Hearn Head House Farm, Troutdale, North Yorkshire as recommended in the Bat Building Assessment (Clear Environmental Consultants Ltd. 2010).

The survey findings are presented in this report, together with any required mitigation to minimise impacts of the development on protected species.

### 2.2 Scope of this report

This report is based on survey methodologies set out by the Bat Conservation Trust within the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines (2007).

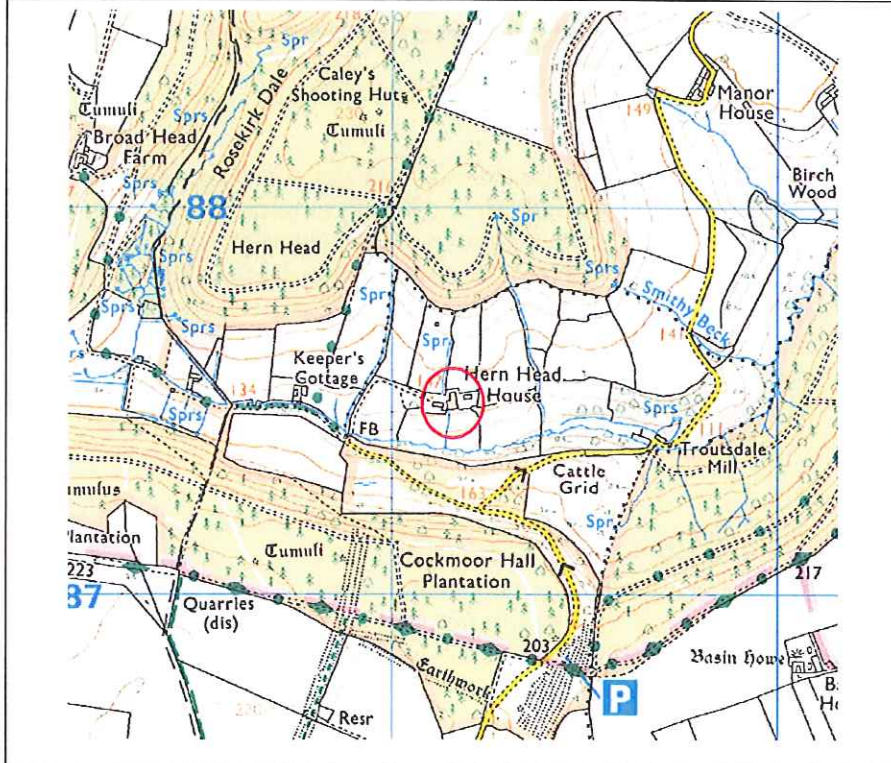
### 2.3 Site context and status

The site was situated in Troutdale, North Yorkshire (Central Grid reference SE 911 874).

The location of the site is shown in Figure 2.1 overleaf, with the site highlighted by a red line.

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Figure 2.1: OS map view of Hearn Head House Farm, North Yorkshire



As shown in Figure 2.1, the site was surrounded by agricultural farmland and woodland plantations.

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### 3 Regulatory and Policy Framework

All species of bat are fully protected under The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 2010. This prohibits;

- the deliberate killing, injuring or taking of animals
- the deliberate disturbance of any species in such a way as to be likely significantly to affect:
  - (i) the ability of any significant group of animals of that species to survive, breed, or rear or nurture their young; or
  - (ii) the local distribution or abundance of that species
- damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place
- The possession or transport of these species or any other part of.

Bats are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) through their inclusion in Schedule 5. Under the Act, they are protected from;

- intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level)
- obstruction of access to any place of shelter, breeding or rest
- selling, bartering or exchange of these species, or parts of.

If a bat roost is to be affected by development activities, a licence from Natural England will need to be obtained to mitigate any detrimental effects.

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## 4 Methodology

### 4.1 Bat Building Assessment

An assessment of the buildings on site was undertaken in June 2010 by Clear Environmental Consultants Ltd. to determine the potential for bats to use the site for roosting, foraging, commuting.

Internal and external assessments of the buildings were conducted and various access points were highlighted. Evidence of bat use in the form of butterfly wings were observed in building 2a. Droppings were also recorded within building 9. As a result it was recommended that further surveys be carried out.

### 4.2 Nocturnal Bat Surveys

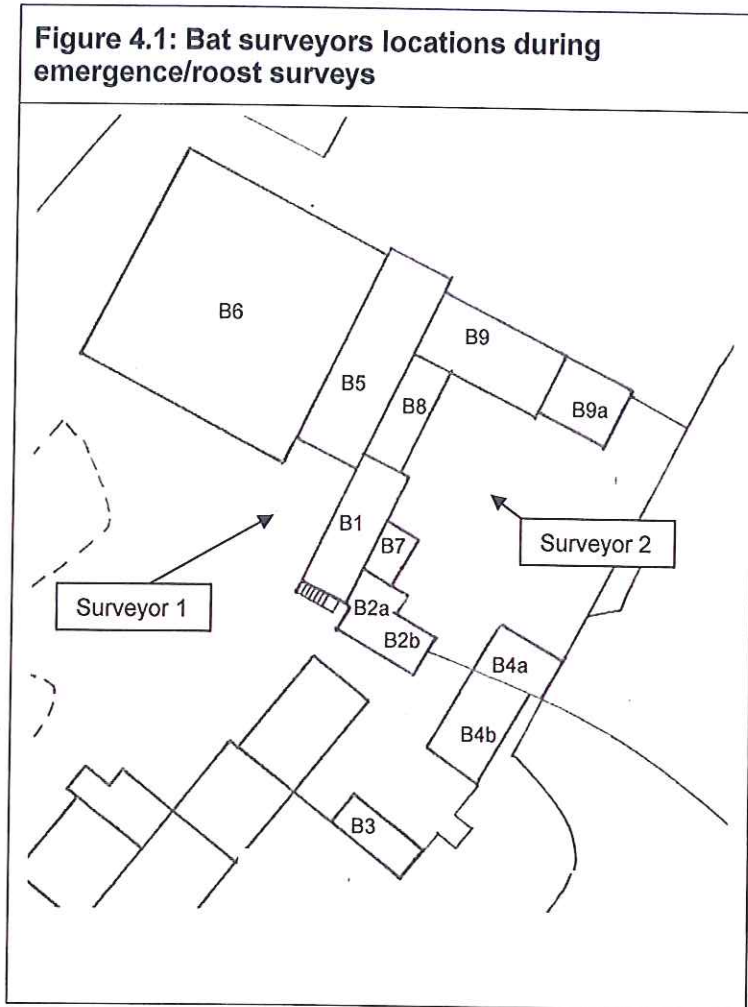
An evening emergence survey was carried out on 1<sup>st</sup> June and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010. An additional dawn re-entry survey was undertaken on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010. Two surveyors were employed for the surveys and each surveyor was equipped with a Duet Bat Detector. Each surveyor surveyed from a fixed location on the site allowing for full coverage of the buildings.

The evening surveys commenced approximately 15 minutes before sunset and lasted for at least 1.5 hours after sunset. The dawn surveys commenced 1.5 hours before dawn and lasted for 15 minutes after sunrise.

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**Figure 4.1: Bat surveyors locations during emergence/roost surveys**



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## 5 Results

### 5.1 Nocturnal Bat Surveys

Details of the date, time and weather conditions for the surveys can be seen in the table below. As shown in figure 4.1 above, the surveys comprised two surveyors, positioned at key points around the buildings.

Survey date & Time	Weather Conditions
01.06.10 21.15 – 23.00	13°C, no wind, no rain, broken cloud
02.06.10 3.30 – 4.45	11°C, no wind, no rain (although misty), no cloud cover.
24.06.10 21.00 – 23.15	19°C, no wind, no rain, 95% cloud cover

A series of plans showing results from the above surveys can be found in Appendix 1.

No bats were seen emerging from the buildings at any time during the emergence surveys on 1<sup>st</sup> June and 24<sup>th</sup> June.

On all of the survey visits, a number of bats were recorded commuting and foraging in close proximity to the buildings. The bats were identified as common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*. Common pipistrelle bats were also observed foraging around the mature trees off site to the east.

During the roost survey on 2<sup>nd</sup> June two common pipistrelle bats were recorded entering building 5 between a gap in the stone wall above the slit window and a gap between the mortar and roof tile (see photo 1 overleaf). No evidence of previous bat occupation within building 5 was recorded during the bat building assessment undertaken during June 2010 (Clear Ltd. 2010).

During the bat building assessment evidence of a long-eared bat species *Plecotus* sp., mostly likely to be brown long eared, was found within building 2a in the form of butterfly wings and droppings. No brown long eared bats were recorded during either the emergence surveys or dawn survey. Dropping were also recorded within building 9, however, no bats were recorded entering or exiting this building during any of the surveys.

Detailed results tables can be found in Appendix 2.

Photo 1: Access points in building 5



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## 6 Conclusions and Recommendations

### 6.1 Conclusions

Detailed assessments of the buildings on site, using various recognised methods of assessment, indicate they are being used by common pipistrelle bats for roosting and foraging. Two common pipistrelle bats were recorded roosting in building 5, with a number of bats foraging around the barns.

The roost identified is likely to be an occasional summer roost as only two bats were confirmed entering the building.

Previous internal/external building surveys (Clear Ltd. June 2010) identified evidence of long-eared bat (brown) within building 2a and droppings within building 9, although no bats were recorded entering or exiting these buildings during the nocturnal surveys. It is assumed that these buildings were used as an occasional roosting and/or feeding site.

### 6.2 Recommendations

The proposed works include buildings 1 – 5 and 7 – 9a being converted to housing or holiday lets comprising three cottages and the removal of building 6.

It is recommended that the removal of the roofs on buildings 2, 5 and 9 is undertaken by hand, outside the summer breeding and winter hibernation periods (e.g. September), with a licensed bat worker present. Should bats be uncovered during the removal of the roof, the licensed ecologist will remove the bats and retain them in a suitable container until the evening when the bats will be released.

Bat access points identified during the roost survey should be re-instated as part of the mitigation measures provided to enable the continued use of the buildings by roosting bats.

Bat access points should also be created in buildings 2 and 9 to enable the continued use of the buildings for foraging and to provide additional roosting places where feasible.

Due to the small size of the roost identified in building 5, it may be possible to undertake the works described above following a separate detailed method statement approved by Natural England, although a full European Protected Species License may be necessary. The method statement should be conditioned as part of the planning approval.

## 7 References

Bat Conservation Trust (2007). *Bat surveys – Good Practice Guidelines*.  
Bat Conservation Trust, London.

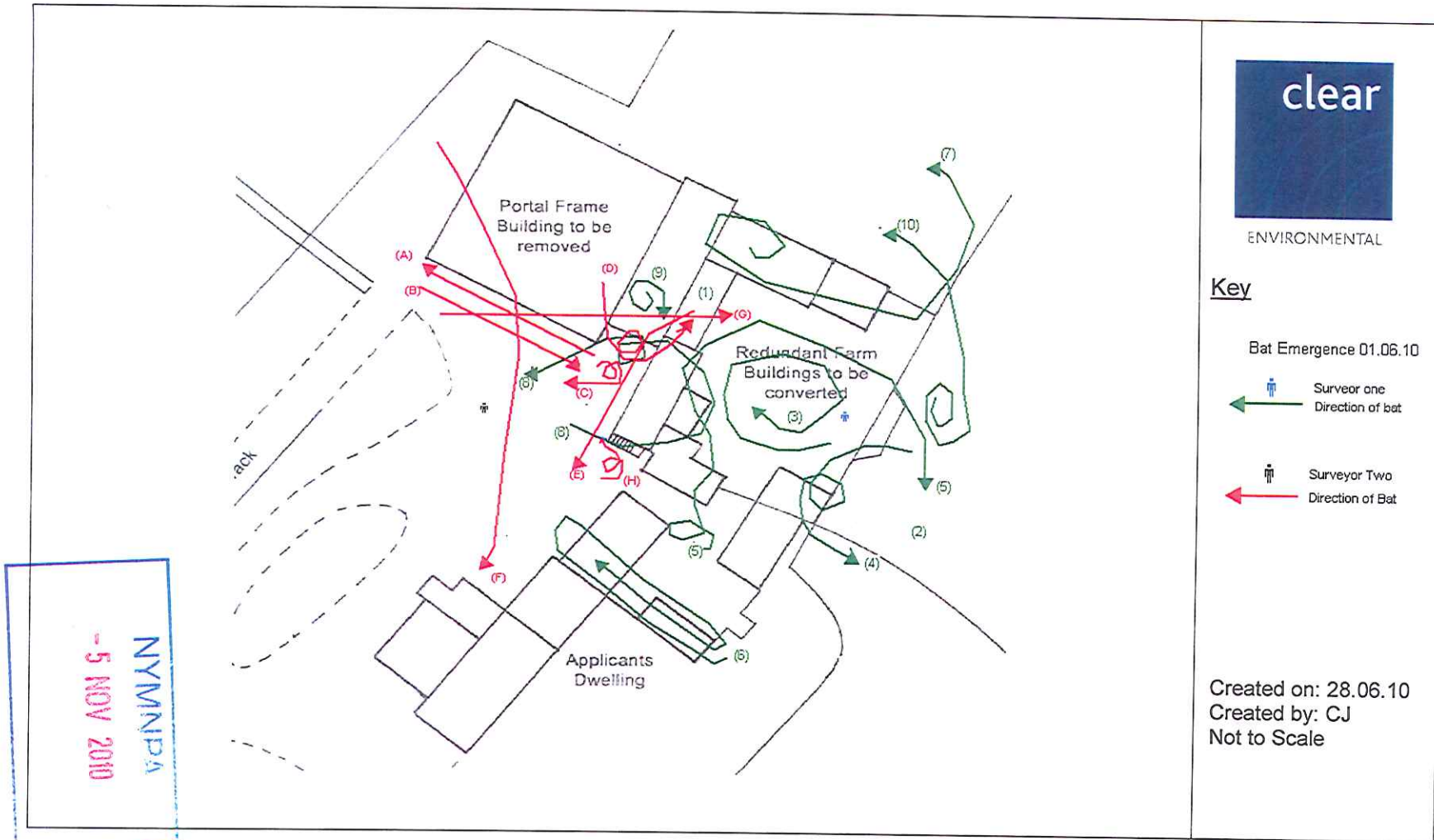


# Appendix 1

## Bat Activity Plans

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**Key**

Bat Emergence 01.06.10

Surveyor one  
 Direction of bat

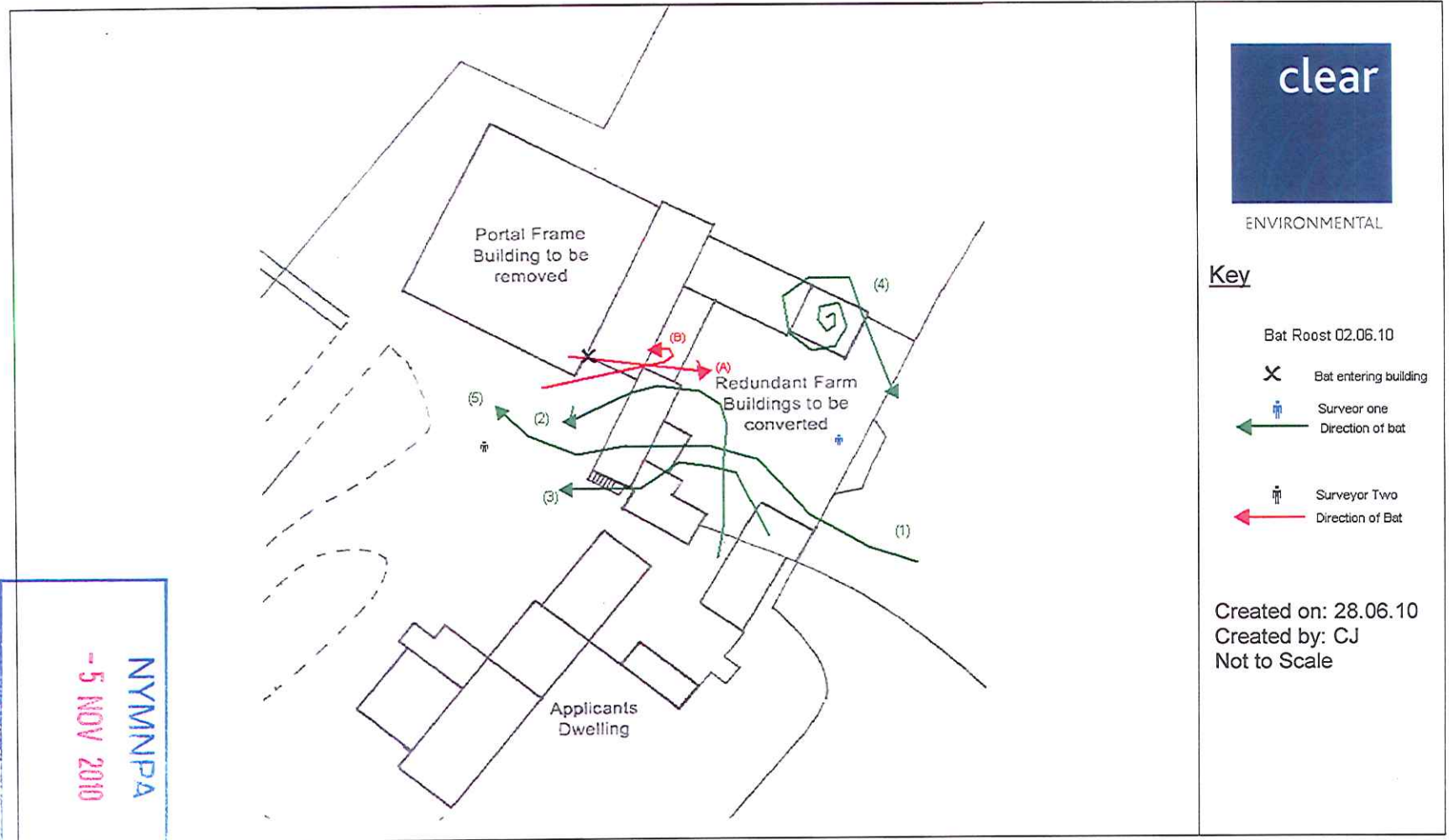
Surveyor Two  
 Direction of Bat

Created on: 28.06.10  
 Created by: CJ  
 Not to Scale



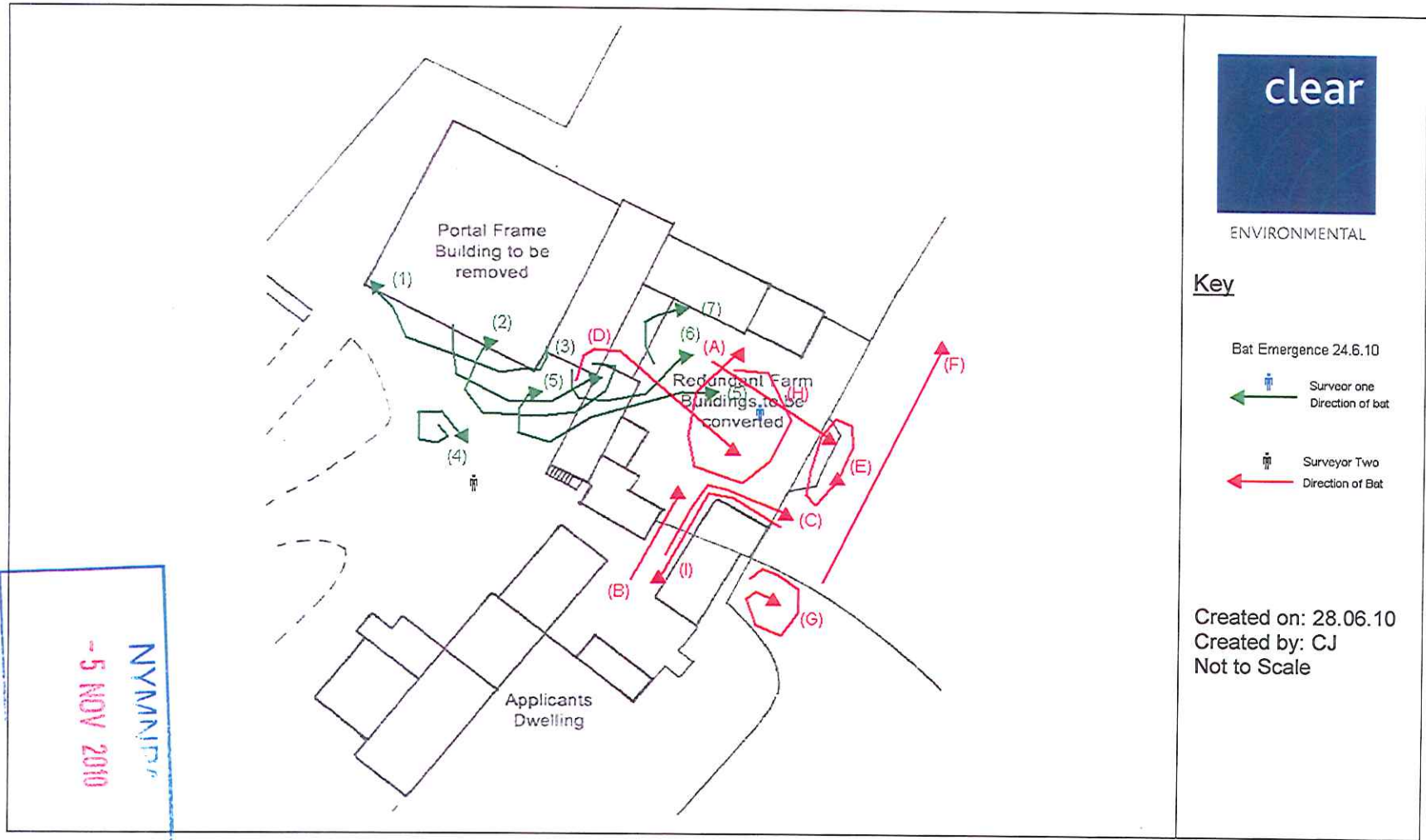
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**Key**

- Bat Emergence 24.6.10
- Surveyor one Direction of bat
- Surveyor Two Direction of Bat

Created on: 28.06.10  
 Created by: CJ  
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## Appendix 2

Results Tables.

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