

NYM / 2011 / 0685 / FEL 1

## Bat Survey Report

Hillside Farm,  
Sleights,  
Near Whitby,  
North Yorkshire.



Date of Survey: 20 September 2011.

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## Introduction

At the request of Mr. R. Hodgson of 4 Manor Close, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO21 1HR, a bat survey was carried out on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at Hillside Farm, Sleights. A previous report was made after a visit on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011. The outcome of this report was that a Common Pipistrelle roost was found on the main roof of the farmhouse. This survey would establish whether or not further use of the buildings was being had by bats outside of the breeding season. This is necessary as he proposes to alter the existing buildings into habitable properties.

All photos reproduced within this report have been taken by Mr. R. Hodgson and are reproduced with permission, for which the author's thanks.

All 17 species of bats in England and their breeding sites or resting places (roosts) are protected by law. It is illegal to kill, injure, or disturb bats, obstruct access to bat roosts, or damage or disturb bat roosts. For the precise wording of the legislation please see section 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and regulation 41 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.







Survey

Site description:

Address: Hillside Farm, Eskdaleside, Sleights, Near Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO22 5ES.  
 OS grid reference: NZ 855 064.  
 Altitude: 80 meters.

Local planning authority: North York Moors National Park Authority.

The site is on the northern side of Eskdaleside, this is the road running from Sleights to Grosmont, and approximately 1.25 Km from the junction with the A 169 (the main Whitby to Pickering road).

Appendix 1 shows a sketch of the various buildings inspected. Building A is the farmhouse, building B is an old cattle shed and building C has a couple of pigsties attached. The surrounding area is open fields (grassland with hedges) and pockets of woodland close by and moorland at the top of the hill to the South towards the A 169 at about 280 meters altitude. The Esk is at the bottom of the valley (about 0.25 Km away) and runs North East to the sea..

Limitations:

The survey was carried out in September 2011 this means that bats are likely to be present and should be visible if present. All of the walls (inside and out) and the roof voids were accessible. The main roof of the farmhouse was inspected from the two lofts. The western loft roof was underdrawn, insulated and boarded and the eastern loft roof was underdrawn but not boarded or insulated. Building C on appendix 1 was not inspected from inside the building. Although the roof voids were accessible they were not inspected as they had already been inspected previously and this survey was really to determine whether or not bats were using the buildings outside of the breeding season and if so to what extent.

At dawn bats tend to cluster before entering the roost which means that the roost entrance is easier to see as there are more bats around the roost entrance and for longer than on emergence surveys. This means that a dawn survey can cover more ground than a emergence survey. The eastern side of the farmhouse and the old cattle shed were not looked at specifically as should bats be using this side of the building then the swarming should mean that there presence would be picked up from the other side of the building. The remaining shed was not surveyed directly as it has already been established that it is not likely to be used as a roost.

Desk Study:

A bat records search of 2 Km around the site was commissioned from the North Yorkshire Bat Group (NYBG) (Mr. John Drewett). This is a reproduction of the bat records search carried out for the survey carried out on the 19 July 2011. This revealed the following information:

Species	Site	Grid ref.	Date	Comment
Unknown	6 Esk Valley Cottages, Grosmont	NZ8305	28/01/86	Roost
Unknown	6 Esk Valley, Grosmont	NZ8406	03/09/85	Summer roost
Unknown	Woodlands Nursing	NZ861080	18/02/88	

	Home, Sleights			
Unknown	65/67 Birch Avenue, Sleights	NZ870073	23/09/86	Possible roost
Pipistrelle species	5 Orchard Road, Sleights, Whitby	NZ868077	13/07/97	Roost
Common Pipistrelle	Newbiggin High Farm, Aislaby	NZ8307	01/07/08	Emerged from large barn
Brown Long-eared Bat	Newbiggin High Farm, Aislaby	NZ8307	01/07/08	Roosting in large barn
Unknown	Low Newbiggin House, Aislaby, Whitby	NZ8407	17/06/02	Maternity roost
Brown Long-eared Bat	The Intake, Aislaby, Whitby	NZ8508	06/07/02	Summer roost
Pipistrelle species	The Intake, Aislaby, Whitby	NZ8508	06/07/02	Summer roost
Unknown	Sleights	NZ8606	04/09/04	2 dead bats found under bed.
Brown Long-eared Bat	Woodlands Nursing Home	NZ8608	13/07/00	
Unknown	Toft House, Aislaby	NZ863089	12/05/05	Roost
Brown Long-eared Bat	117 Coach Road, Sleights, Whitby	NZ866074	15/08/01	Bat seen in loft
Common Pipistrelle	Sleights new bridge	NZ867081	17/09/05	Foraging
Unknown	2 Carr Hill Lane, Briggswath, Whitby	NZ869083	02-Sep-02	Bats inside house
Unknown	13 Carr Hill Lane, Briggswath, Whitby	NZ869086	16-Aug-02	Bat inside house
Unknown	45 Iburndale Lane, Sleights, Whitby	NZ870072	02-Aug-01	Summer roost
Unknown	10 The Cliffe, Iburndale, Whitby	NZ873071	02-Aug-08	Bat found in bath
Unknown	Cherry Tree House, 5 Ridge La, Briggswath	NZ873088	15-Sep-08	Bat in house
Unknown	Well Close, Littlebeck, Whitby	NZ877048	21-Oct-04	Grounded bat

Please be aware that this information has largely been assembled as a result of responding to enquiries from the public about bats and so does not represent a comprehensive assessment of the local bat fauna.

Methodology:

A dawn survey was carried out to establish what building(s) was (were) being used as a roost.

The survey was carried out at 06.00 on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011. Sunrise was at 06.43. A North wind was blowing at about 11 kph. The cloud cover was about 87.5% and the temperature was 13 degrees Celsius.





Results:

Dawn survey results:

The survey was carried out on the western side of the farmhouse so that the North and South side of the farm house could be seen as well as the western side of the old cattle shed. At 06.10 a single Common Pipestrelle (the species was identified using a Batbox IID detector) was seen at the northern end of the old cattle shed and finally disappeared under the ridge stone at the north western side of the building (see appendix 2 for a photo of the entrance, this being under the left hand ridge stone as seen from the West. No other bats were seen using any of the buildings surveyed. Other bats were seen flying along the hedges at either side of the main road species unknown as they were out of range of the bat detector.

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### Impact Assessment

As a bat was found on the North West side of the old cattle shed roof and the roof is being repaired it is considered that the proposed development may have an adverse impact on local bats. As such mitigation measures need to be in place in order to conserve the roost before any work can be carried out

It is suggested that should planning consent be given one of the conditions of the consent should be that a mitigation plan needs to be in place and agreed before any work is carried out which is likely to impact the bats or their roost.

Even if a survey does not find any signs of bat activity, it is always possible that individuals may be found during building works. Should any bats be found then all work must stop and further advice must be sought.



### Summary

Evidence was found of Pipistrelles using the ridge on the West facing side of the old cattle shed as a roost. Mitigation measures (as mentioned under impact assessment above) need to be in place before any work is carried out which may affect this roost.

No evidence was found of bats using, or having used the other buildings as a roost at the time of this survey. A previous survey found that mitigation measures need to be in place regarding the farmhouse as it is considered that the proposed development may have an adverse impact on local bats.

Unless agreed otherwise a copy of appendix 1 and 3 will be forwarded to the North Yorkshire Bat Group so that a better picture of which bats occur in the area can be had.

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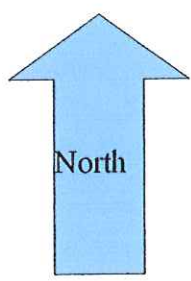
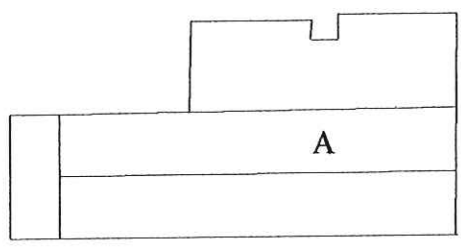
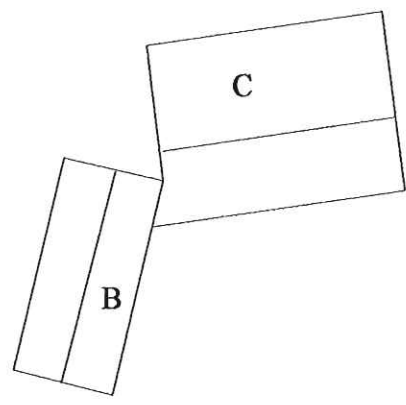
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## Appendices

- Appendix 1: Sketch of the various buildings inspected.
- Appendix 2: Photo taken looking East at northern end of the old cattle shed.
- Appendix 3: Information to be passed on to North Yorkshire Bat Group.
- Appendix 4: Details of surveyor(s) working on this project.



Appendix 1: Sketch of the various buildings inspected.



- A Farmhouse.
- B Old cattle shed.
- C Remaining shed.

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Appendix 2: Photo taken looking East at northern end of the old cattle shed.



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Appendix 3: Information to be passed on to North Yorkshire Bat Group.

Address: Hillside Farm, Eskdaleside, Sleights, Near Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO22 5ES.

OS grid reference: NZ 855 064.

Altitude: 80 meters.

The survey was conducted by Mr. Miles Worrton on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

Dawn survey results:

The survey was carried out on the western side of the farmhouse so that the North and South side of the farm house could be seen as well as the western side of the old cattle shed. At 06.10 a single Common Pipistrelle (the species was identified using a Batbox IID detector) was seen at the northern end of the old cattle shed and finally disappeared under the ridge stone at the north western side of the building. No other bats were seen using any of the buildings surveyed. Other bats were seen flying along the hedges at either side of the main road species unknown as they were out of range of the bat detector.

Contact details for Miles Worrton: Flat 4,  
19 Hudson Street  
Whitby  
North Yorkshire  
YO21 3EP



Appendix 4: Details of surveyor(s) working on this project.

This survey was carried out by Mr. Miles Worrton CBIol MIBiol licence number 20083025 trained by North Yorkshire Bat Group. Although I have only held a bat licence since September 2008 I have been involved with bat training since 2005. Prior to this as a pest controller who is also involved in woodworm treatment I have always been aware of what to look for, as far as bats are concerned, and have done this work since 1989.

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