

BRAEMAR AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

**BRAEMAR AVENUE
WOOD GREEN
LONDON N22**

BAT ACTIVITY SURVEY



2022

CLIVE HERBERT

Amphibian, Reptile & Mammal Conservation Limited
Species protection and habitat conservation specialists

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 A bat activity (dusk emergence) survey was undertaken at the Braemar Avenue Baptist Church, Braemar Avenue, London N22 7BY (see cover photograph) and situated at approximately National Grid Reference TQ 382 877.
- 1.2 This survey was commissioned in support of a forthcoming planning application for the refurbishment of the main Church building, the demolition of a modern rear extension, together with the demolition of the separate derelict Church Hall, and its replacement with a mixed use development comprising new community space with residential accommodation above.
- 1.3 A daytime Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) for bats was completed, on 7th July 2022, by the report's author. This identified 'potential roost features', due to several missing or raised tiles, on the main church roof. It categorised the building as having a 'low potential' to support a bat roost.
- 1.4 This follow-up bat activity survey was commissioned in order to implement the key recommendation of the PRA; namely, to conduct a standard dusk emergence survey during the bats' active season, between May and August inclusive, in order to confirm the presence/absence of an extant roost(s) in the main church building.
- 1.5 A full description of the building, together with site photographs, was provided in the PRA report and this information is not repeated here.

This bat activity report should, therefore, be read in conjunction with that earlier report for a complete understanding of the site.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 The dusk emergence survey was undertaken on 11th July 2022, commencing 15 minutes before sunset and concluding at approximately 120 minutes after sunset.

This emergence survey visit was carried out in weather conditions that were considered to be optimal for recording bat emergence and foraging activity (see section 4.1 below).

- 2.2 The survey visit was completed by the report's author working with two experienced field assistants to ensure that all sides of the building were visible at all times.
- 2.3 Standard time expansion ultrasonic detectors were utilised by all surveyors in order to facilitate the finding and identification of any bats present and 2-way radios were available to ensure effective communication when required.
- 2.4 As part of 'best practice' recording protocols, a note was also kept (see section 4.2 below) of any bats recorded commuting over, or feeding around, the

surveyed building in order to place the results into context within the immediate local area.

- 2.5 This work was carried out under *Natural England* Class Survey Licence WML CL18 (Bat Survey Level 2), registration number 2015-13348-CLS-CLS issued to the report's author, a bat ecologist with over 35 years' experience working in and around Greater London.
- 2.6 All survey work was conducted according to the latest 'best practice' standards as published in the 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists - Good Practice Guidelines' (Bat Conservation Trust, 3rd edition, 2016) and the Standing Advice to LPAs published by *Natural England* on 28th March 2015 and updated on 4th March 2019.

3. Constraints

- 3.1 It is considered that there are no specific constraints operating on the survey results presented in section 4 below.
- 3.2 The absence of a bat roost in any one season can, however, never completely prove the absence of a roost at another season, such as during the winter hibernation period, as bats regularly move their roost locations in response to both environmental conditions and the time of the year.
- 3.3 The results presented in section 4 below remain valid for a period of twelve months from the date of the survey, after which time they should not be relied upon and further advice should be sought regarding updating this bat activity report.

4. Results

The following survey results were obtained:

4.1 Dusk Emergence Survey

The weather during the course of the dusk survey visit was considered to be optimal for bat emergence, as follows:

Date	Sunset	Temp.	Cloud	Rain	Wind
11/07/22	21:15	26 °C	0/8	Nil	3

No bats were observed to emerge from the main church building during the course of the dusk emergence survey despite these optimal conditions for emergence and foraging activity.

4.2 Commuting and Foraging Activity

As part of a 'best practice' recording protocol, a summary note was also kept of any bats recorded commuting over, or foraging around, the proposed development footprint, as follows:

Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

First bat at 21:43; last at 21:58. Total: 3 passes recorded.

The three passes recorded were over the adjoining Nightingale Gardens parkland. No flight-line was apparent.

None of these individuals, however, emerged from a roost located within the building being surveyed.

5. Summary & Recommendations

- 5.1 The dusk emergence survey did not locate an extant bat roost in surveyed building.
- 5.2 It is therefore now recommended that a European Protected Species derogation/mitigation licence will **not** be required in respect of this proposed development and that the work can proceed as required subject to being within the time constraints noted in section 3.3 above.