

APPENDIX FIVE

BAT SURVEY OF PLATT FIELDS PARK, LEVENSHULME, MANCHESTER

June 2009



1 Introduction

A bat survey was required as part of a larger Biodiversity Assessment being carried out at Platt Fields Park to establish which species were using the site.

The Greater Manchester Ecology Unit were commissioned to carry out the bat survey.

Derek Richardson Principal Ecologist, Mandy Elford Associate Ecologist and Lucy Lush Biodiversity Project Officer from GMEU, Dave Barlow, Environmental Engagement Manager from Manchester City Council and Steve and Fiona Parker from the South Lancashire Bat Group along with seven other SLBG members took part in the survey.

2 General Background

The brief for this survey was to carry out a dusk bat survey of the site including an external inspection of the boat house.

Objectives – dusk survey

- To identify whether bats were present on the site at the time of the survey
- To identify which species of bat was using the site
- To identify the important foraging habitat within the site
- To identify if bats were using the boat house as a roost site

3 Desk Based study

- A desk based study was carried out using the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit's database
- The South Lancashire Bat Group also carried out a desk based study of their database

4 Methodology of the Survey

- The dusk survey took place on 1st June 2009.
- The survey started at 2130 hours and continued until 2300 hours. The timings were chosen to provide the best opportunity for observing all species of bat.
- Both Duet and Bat Box III detectors were used, along with more sophisticated recording equipment used by SLBG members. Heterodyne techniques were employed on this occasion
- Surveyors were split into three groups of three and two groups of two. The two groups of two were positioned at either side of the lake, to enable the whole of the lake and island to be surveyed. Whilst the three groups of three took three transient sections of the park in order to cover the entire site.

- A note was made of weather conditions, including temperature, humidity, wind, Lux and cloud cover. Weather conditions are known to be a key influence on bat activity
- The boat house was checked externally for signs of bat usage, including droppings, urine stains, grease marks, feeding remains and areas free of cobwebs.
- Observations were made from ground level using a powerful torch and close-focussing binoculars to aid visibility.

5 Results of the Survey

The weather during the survey was as follows:

Temperature	=	22.8°C
Cloud Cover	=	none
Wind	=	none
Humidity	=	40%
Lux	=	140

5.1.1 Field Based Surveys

5.1.2 Dusk Survey

The first recorded record of a Common pipistrelle bat was at 21.40 hours next to the boat house flying south over the lake. Common Pipistrelle were recorded in abundance using the Park. The highest densities were recorded over the lake and in the woodland edges. No other bat species were recorded during the survey. (see map plotting survey results). This could be an indication that the Pipistrelles are roosting in the properties surrounding the park and using the park for feeding.

5.1.3 Building Survey

No bat signs were found associated with the boat house; however the building has recently been furnished with a new roof and bat bricks have been added. This building has a high potential to support roosting bats in the future.

5.1.4 Desk Based Surveys

5.1.5 Greater Manchester Ecology Unit Results

The desk based study involved searching the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit's data set to establish what bat records were already held for the Park. The Records show three records of Common pipistrelle bat along the Platt Brook corridor and the adjacent woodland (see Map 5).

5.2.2 South Lancashire Bat Group Results

The South Lancashire Bat Group were contacted for the records they hold for the site. Their records show two records of Common pipistrelle at (SJ852946) and one record for a Daubenton bat at (SJ851943).

5.1.6 Assessment of the Importance of the survey site

5.1 Use of the site by roosting bats

No roost sites were identified within the site itself.

5.2 Potential for use by roosting/hibernating bats

No roost sites were identified at the time of survey. The buildings on site have potential to support roosting bats as both have slated pitched roofs. The boat house also has bat bricks strategically placed near the eaves of the building.

There are mature trees throughout the site many of which have potential roosting features.

The culverted Platt Brook has a high potential to support roosting bats particularly for hibernation.

The large houses that surround the park also provide high roosting potential.

5.3 Assessment of the Park for use by roosting/hibernating bats

The lake, Platt Brook and its surrounding woodland provide high value for bat foraging activity. The lines of trees around and through the site provide high value for commuting routes, confirmed by the numbers of bats recorded during the survey.

The Park itself is important for bat conservation

6. Recommendations

We would recommend that more bat boxes be put up throughout the site, particularly along the Platt Brook corridor, on the Island in the centre of the lake and in area 5 as shown on Map 4 of the Biodiversity Report. We would also recommend that a number of hibernation boxes be placed in these areas.

We would also suggest that a number of night scented plants be introduced into the formal planting beds. Planting night scented species attracts insects and moths which bats feed on at night. Plant night scented plants such as honeysuckle, sweet briar, white jasmine and evening primrose.



GREATER MANCHESTER ECOLOGY UNIT
 PLATT FIELDS BAT SURVEY 01-06-2009
 MAP 1



KEY

■ COMMON PIPISTRELLE RECORD


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<p>KEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① STATIC GROUP 1 ② STATIC GROUP 2 ③ TRANSECT GROUP 3 → ROUTE ④ TRANSECT GROUP 4 → ROUTE ⑤ TRANSECT GROUP 5 → ROUTE 	<p>GREATER MANCHESTER ECOLOGY UNIT BAT SURVEY 01/06/2009 - TRANSECT ROUTES MAP 2</p> <p>THE MAP IS BASED UPON ORDNANCE SURVEY MATERIAL WITH THE PERMISSION OF ORDNANCE SURVEY ON BEHALF OF THE CONTROLLER OF HMSO ©CROWN COPYRIGHT UNAUTHORISED REPRODUCTION INFRINGES CROWN COPYRIGHT AND MAY LEAD TO PROSECUTION OR CIVIL PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>TAMESIDE MBC LICENCE NO LA100022697, 2009</p>	 <p>Greater Manchester Ecology Unit</p> <p>Telephone 0161 371 9171 Email: gmeu@tameside.gov.uk Date Produced: 29th June 2009</p>
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