



Planning & Environmental Consultants



Bat Surveys

What is a Bat Survey?

A number of different types of bat survey exist. These include surveys for roost sites (resting places), commuting or feeding routes (i.e. where bats travel in order to find food or feed). Surveys include night-time surveys of a site, concentrated around areas with best habitat potential for bats, or buildings, which might be roost sites. In addition, daytime surveys of potential roost sites such as attic spaces and large trees or stone buildings are completed to look for signs of bat usage such as droppings and stains.

When can Bat Surveys be completed? How long does a bat survey take?

Night-time bat surveys are optimal during summer months (May – August) when bats are most active. Surveys must be completed in fine, dry weather conditions. For many sites, a one night (dawn and dusk) survey is completed, but this is dependant on the size of the site, the habitats present and the number of surveyors. If you have a site, which requires a bat survey, contact our office for more details or a specific quotation.

How is a bat survey conducted?

Trained bat professionals walking pre-determined transects or routes using hand held bat detectors usually conduct a night-time bat survey. The bat detector translates the high-pitched sounds that bats make at different frequencies into identifiable sounds for the surveyor who records the time, location and number of bats as they survey. Direct searching for bats, including use of endoscopes and torches to look into cracks and crevices where bats may have located themselves, completes daytime surveys.

McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan also own equipment to monitor the levels of bat activity automatically. An Anabat bat detector is used on some sites to record the ultrasonic calls of bats. This method has advantages over surveys carried out using hand-held heterodyne bat detectors in some circumstances, particularly where large areas are to be covered, or where there may be safety issues concerning workers covering difficult ground in darkness. The recording device is placed in a waterproof container and is powered by a battery capable of powering the detector for at least one month.

Why would I be asked for a bat survey?

You may be asked to conduct a bat survey if your site contains ruined buildings or large old trees, which provide suitable roosting habitat. In addition it may be necessary to complete a bat survey if your site is adjacent to an area known or protected for it's bat population or along a potential bat commuting route, e.g. significant woodland, hedgerow system or river.

For more information on bat surveys visit our website or contact us on the details provided below.