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2nd July 2025

For the attention of Cumberland Council in relation to a planning response regarding Petersburg Farm, Beckermest, Cumbria planning application reference 04/25/2169/0F1.

Dear Cumberland Council,

Natural Ecology was commissioned by Adams Planning and Development Ltd to undertake emergence surveys for bats during the 2024 survey season at Petersburg Farm, Beckermest (central Grid Reference: NY 02181 05947). The survey effort was based on the results of a preliminary roost assessment undertaken by EnviroTech in October 2023.

Additional information has been requested by TetraTech on behalf of Cumberland Council as follows:

"Please can the ecological consultant provide justification for the non-standard approach in 2024 in which Building 3 and 4 were subject to one nocturnal bat survey?" This deviates from best practice guidance (Collins, 2023) which recommends two nocturnal bat surveys for buildings with moderate roosting suitability (Building 3) or three surveys for buildings with evidence of roosting bats (Building 3)."

To address the comments raised by the planning team, neither Building 3 nor Building 4 were of moderate roosting suitability. The executive summary of EnviroTech's report did not match their results section, therefore the number of surveys required was taken directly from the results section and cross-referenced with the table they provided on page 13 of their report. It is likely that the executive summary wasn't updated.

As such, EnviroTech awarded Building 3 low potential, categorization 5 which states "single survey (dusk or dawn) between May and August" and Building 4 low potential, categorization 4 which states "single survey (dusk or dawn) at an appropriate time of year May to August. Therefore, both Buildings had single surveys undertaken, with the option to carry out additional surveys should this be required and be proportionate to findings during the initial surveys.

During the surveys, although cameras were pointed at the specific buildings being surveyed on that date, surveyors were able to have good vantage points of the other buildings which aided in determining whether bat roosts were present and if further surveys were required.

Also, a note must be added that at no point within EnviroTech's report was Building 3 mentioned as having evidence of roosting bats. It was highlighted that "some bat droppings were observed on the floor of this building but scattered indicating use for feeding and not roosting", which is confirmed within Section 5 (Field Survey) of their report.

Based on this request for further information, the following has also been included within the Natural Ecology bat report which should satisfy the request.

- An annotated plan from 2024 to confirm building references and locations are the same as in 2023;
- A screenshot of the darkest point of the survey for each location (cross-referenced with building reference); and
- Confirmation that the condition of the buildings hadn't changed between 2023 and 2024 and that the suitability for bats is the same as in 2023 (i.e. Building 3 and 4 were of moderate suitability)

If you have any questions or issues relating to this statement, then please do not hesitate to contact myself using the details above.

Yours Sincerely,

Luci Spencer
Natural Ecology