

VICTORIA AVENUE EAST, MANCHESTER

Nocturnal Bat Survey Report

August 2020



Report Control Sheet

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CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	4
1.0	SCOPE & PURPOSE	4
1.2.	LOCATION	4
1.3.	OBJECTIVES	5
2	METHODOLOGY	6
2.1.	NOCTURNAL BAT SURVEY	6
2.2.	SURVEY LIMITATIONS	7
3	SURVEY RESULTS.....	8
3.1.	DUSK SURVEY 20 TH AUGUST 2020	8
3.2.	DUSK SURVEY 26 TH AUGUST	8
3.3.	INTERPRETATION	8
4	RECOMMENDATIONS AND MITIGATION	9
5	BIBLIOGRAPHY	10
6	SURVEY SHEETS.....	11

1 INTRODUCTION

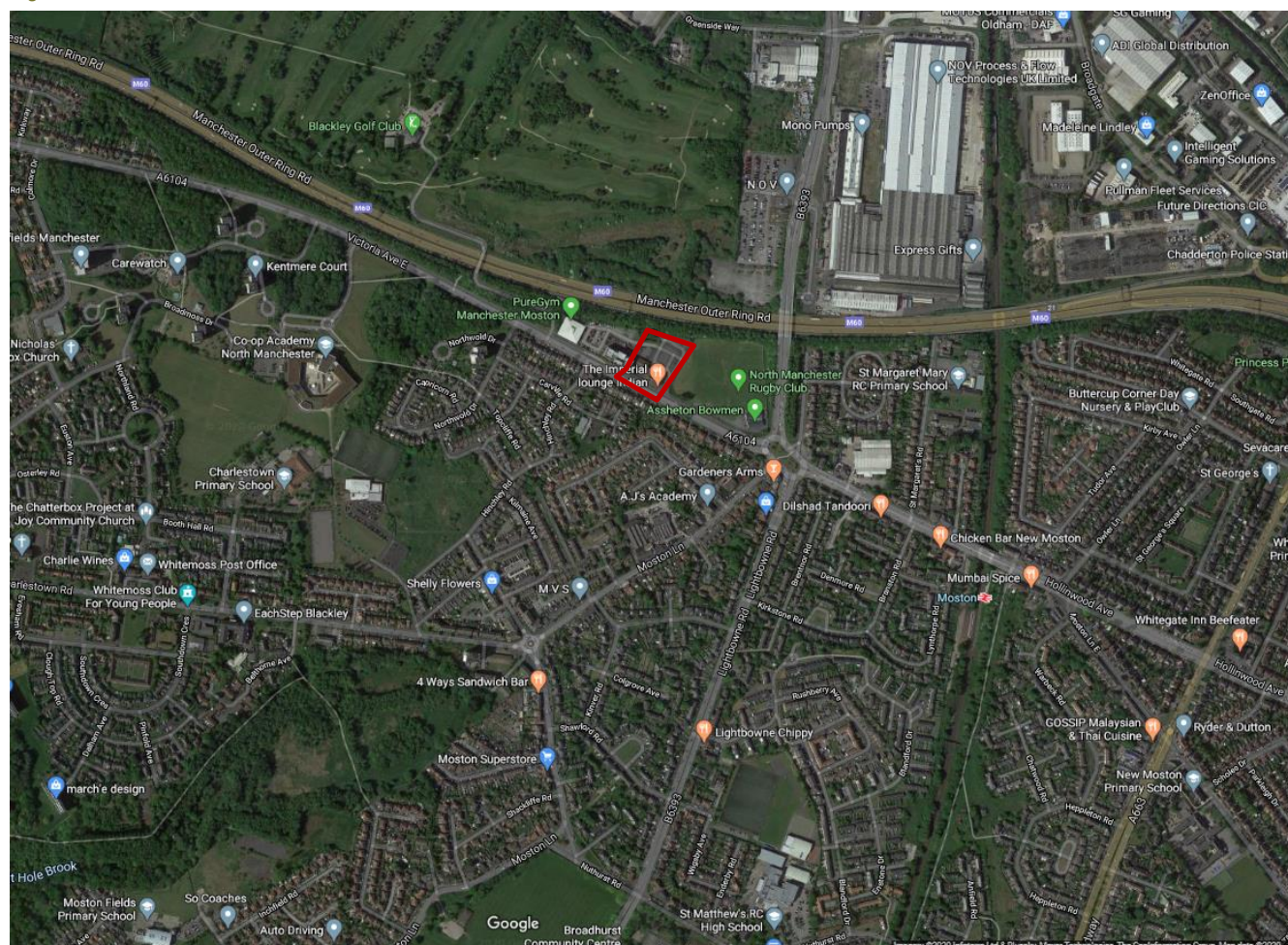
1.0 SCOPE & PURPOSE

- 1.1.1. Collington Winter Environmental Ltd was commissioned by Aldi Stores Ltd to undertake a Nocturnal Bat Survey of the site at Victoria Avenue East, Manchester. This report has been produced to inform a planning application at the site.
- 1.1.2. The author of this report is Olivia Collington BSc (Hons), ACIEEM, MEnvSc, CEnv, Director and Principal Ecologist at Collington Winter Environmental Ltd. Olivia is highly experienced managing schemes and has produced many ecological reports to inform planning permission. Olivia holds a Class 1 Natural England Bat Licence and is experienced assessing sites for bat roosting potential.
- 1.1.3. A Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) was undertaken by Collington Winter Environmental Ltd in August 2020 (CW20-030 R2). During the assessment, a small number of external features were present on the building which could allow roosting bats to be present. Features included crevices and slipped roofing slates. No internal opportunities were located. The building was assessed as having low bat roosting potential, and a minimum of one dusk emergence or dawn re-entry survey was recommended to be undertaken between May – September.

1.2. LOCATION

- 1.2.1. Please refer to Figure 1.1 for the site location. The site is located to the north west of Moston and is accessed from Victoria Avenue East. The Manchester Outer Ring Road (M60) is located adjacent north of the site, and Pure Gym Moston is located adjacent west.

Figure 1.1 Site Location



1.3. OBJECTIVES

1.3.1. The objectives of the Nocturnal Bat Survey are as follows:

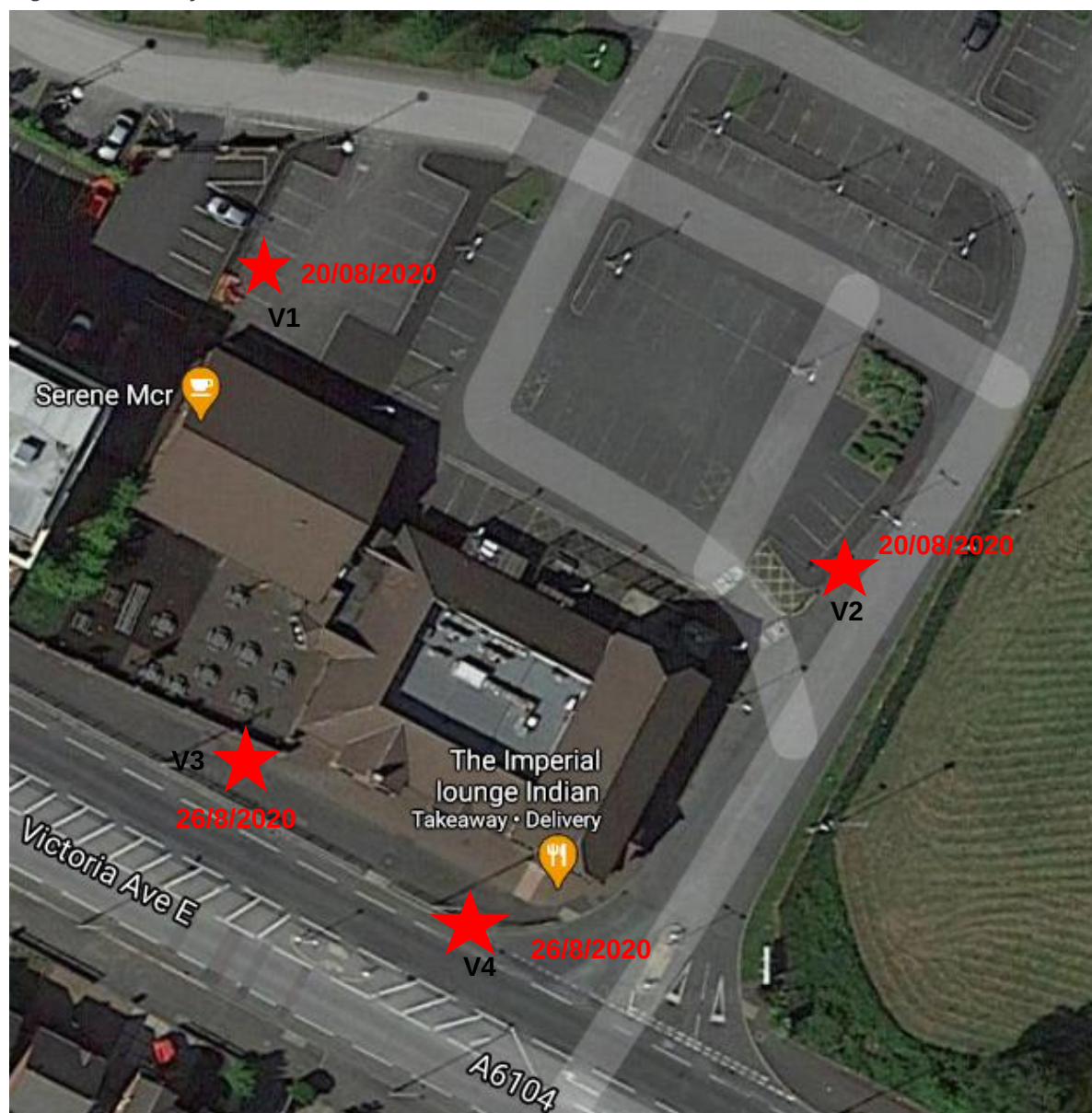
- Identify any bats roosting within the building.
- Assess the value of the building for roosting bats.
- Identify the species assemblage of bats using the site.
- Provide recommendations on any further surveys or mitigation required for bats.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1. NOCTURNAL BAT SURVEY

2.1.1. A dusk emergence survey was undertaken on Thursday 20th August 2020, and Wednesday 26th August 2020. Four vantage points were covered over the two surveys. Please refer to Figure 2.1 for locations of vantage points and dates of survey.

Figure 2.1 Surveyor Locations and Dates



2.1.2. The dusk surveys were undertaken in line with guidance as set out in Collins (2016). Surveys commenced a minimum of 15 minutes prior to sunset and finished 1.5 hours after sunset.

2.1.3. Surveyors used heterodyne hand held bat detectors. All surveyors were suitably experienced undertaking bat emergence surveys.

2.1.4. The surveys were undertaken during suitable weather conditions.

2.2. SURVEY LIMITATIONS

- 2.2.1. The survey was undertaken on two separate nights due to surveyor availability. However, this is not seen as a constraint to assessment as greater survey was collated over the two nights on the use of the site by bats.
- 2.2.2. The surveys were undertaken towards the end of August, and therefore would have missed the optimal survey season for maternity roosts. However, the features and opportunities present within the building were not suitable for a maternity roost, and therefore this was not seen as a constraint to the survey. The surveys follow guidance set out in Collins (2016) which states that structures of low bat roosting potential should have a survey undertaken between May – August.

3 SURVEY RESULTS

3.1. Dusk Survey 20th August 2020

- 3.1.1. The dusk survey undertaken on 20th August 2020 focussed on the vantage points to the north of the site.
- 3.1.2. Low levels of bat activity were recorded during the survey. Four bat passes were recorded during the survey. Bats displayed foraging behaviour.
- 3.1.3. No emergencies were observed during the survey.
- 3.1.4. Please refer to survey sheets located in the Appendix for full details.

3.2. Dusk Survey 26th August

- 3.2.1. The dusk survey undertaken on 26th August 2020 focussed on the vantage points to the south of the site.
- 3.2.2. Low levels of bat activity were also recorded during this survey, with a total of two bat passes. Bats displayed foraging behaviour during the survey.
- 3.2.3. No emergencies were observed during the survey.
- 3.2.4. Please refer to survey sheets located in Appendix for full details.

3.3. Interpretation

- 3.3.1. The surveys concluded that bats are not currently roosting within the buildings on site. A small number of bats were observed using the site for foraging.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS AND MITIGATION

- 4.1.1. No roosting bats were identified during the survey. Therefore, no further surveys are required at this site to inform development.
- 4.1.2. It is recommended a Sensitive Lighting Strategy be provided which details lighting levels within the proposed development and provision of "Dark Zones". Proposed "Dark Zones" would be located along the northern boundary of the site to ensure this treeline can continue to be used by commuting and foraging bats. Lighting within the car park and externals of the proposed store should be limited and sensitive wavelengths for bats used if possible:
- Warm white tones are preferable to blue toned lights (3000k)
 - LED light will be used where applicable as they produce less UV.
 - Lights will be downward facing and positioned to avoid light spill skywards.
- 4.1.3. Proposed construction lighting is to follow the protocols outlined in the Institute for Lighting Engineers document "Guidance for the Reduction of Obtrusive Lighting" (2005) and BCT's "Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK" (2018) to minimise disturbance and sky-glow off site.
- 4.1.4. It is recommended that post development, multipurpose bat boxes be installed within the site to provide opportunities for roosting bats. It is anticipated four boxes would be appropriate for the size of the site.

5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bat Conservation Trust (2018). Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK: Bats and the Built Environment Series.
- Collins, J. (ed.) (2016). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, 3rd edition. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.
- Institute of Lighting Engineers (2005). Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light.
- Mitchell-Jones (2004). Bat Mitigation Guidelines: Working Today for Natura Tomorrow. English Nature.
- Mitchell-Jones and McLeish (2004). Third Edition Bat Workers' Manual.

6 Survey Sheets

Date: 20th August 2020

Surveyor: Chris Marston

Survey time: 20:10 – 21:50

Sunset: 20:25

Location: Imperial Lounge, Victoria Ave E, Moston, Manchester. M9 7GH

Weather (start): dry, breezy, temp 19°C, cloud cover = 90%.

Weather (end): dry, breezy, temp 18°C, cloud cover = 100%

Observation location: V1

Records

Time	Species	Observations
20:43	Common Pipistrelle	Foraging flight, 1 individual.
20:47	Common Pipistrelle	Foraging flight, 1 individual.
20:48	Common Pipistrelle	Foraging flight, 1 individual.
20:53	Common Pipistrelle	Foraging flight, 1 individual.

There were no observations of emergence from the building monitored during this survey.

Date: 20th August 2020

Surveyor: Katherine Judson

Survey time: 20:10 – 21:50

Sunset: 20:25

Location: Imperial Lounge, Victoria Ave E, Moston, Manchester. M9 7GH

Weather (start): dry, breezy, temp 19°C, cloud cover = 90%.

Weather (end): dry, breezy, temp 18°C, cloud cover = 100%

Observation location: V2

Records

Time	Species	Observations
20:35	Soprano Pipistrelle	Heard not seen.
21:27	Soprano Pipistrelle	Heard not seen - distant
21:41	Soprano Pipistrelle	Heard not seen - distant

Date: 26th August 2020

Surveyor: Chris Marston

Survey time: 20:00 – 21:30

Sunset: 20:15

Location: Imperial Lounge, Victoria Ave E, Moston, Manchester. M9 7GH

Weather (start): dry, light breeze, temp 15°C, cloud cover = 30%.

Weather (end): dry, light breeze, temp 14°C, cloud cover = 10%

Observation location: V3

Records

Time	Species	Observations
20:35	Common Pipistrelle	Foraging flight, 1 individual.
20:41	Common Pipistrelle	Foraging flight, 1 individual.

There were no observations of emergence from this viewing location during the survey.

Date: 26th August 2020

Surveyor: Katherine Judson

Survey time: 20:00 – 21:30

Sunset: 20:15

Location: Imperial Lounge, Victoria Ave E, Moston, Manchester. M9 7GH

Weather (start): dry, light breeze, temp 15°C, cloud cover = 30%.

Weather (end): dry, light breeze, temp 14°C, cloud cover = 10%

Observation location: V4

