

Bat Conservation Trust



3rd March 2014

**Haringey's Site Allocations DPD Reg 18 Consultation Document (January 2014): site HG3
Former Highgate Rail Station.**

Dear sir/madam,

In reference to the proposed development of the disused tunnels and station at Highgate, I would like to make a statement on the importance of this site for bats.

Annual winter bat counts from Highgate Tunnels have been shared with the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) since 2002. The NBMP is run by the Bat Conservation Trust and collects data for the purpose of producing annual population trends for the UK's bat species.

The data from Highgate Tunnels show that this site is an important refuge for Natterer's bat and Daubenton's bat, with brown long-eared bat occasionally recorded as well. Hibernation sites are vitally important for the survival of bats during the winter months. Bats need sites that are safe from disturbance, with a stable cool temperature and high humidity. Due to these requirements being quite complex, suitable sites are rare and need to be protected. Very few hibernation sites are known in Greater London, making Highgate Tunnels an important site in a regional context. Based on data included in the NBMP, this site is important in terms of location, as no other large hibernation sites are known within a 20km radius, and in terms of bat numbers, with the highest counts of Natterer's bat and Daubenton's bat recorded from any site in Greater London.

Yours faithfully,

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