

BAT SURVEY

Date of Survey: 14th June 2011

Sunset Time: 21:19 hours

Location: Hollickwood Park → Pinkham Way → Hollickwood Park

Survey Started: 20.36

Survey ended: 22:13

Temperature Records (using alcohol in glass thermometer)

20:36 hours	21 °C,
21:10 hours,	18 °C
21:57 hours	21 °C
22:13 when we left the site	18 °C

Wind speed was assessed by observing movement of branches:

Beaufort scale Force 2 (lower end), perhaps 3–4 mph at 20:36

slowly decreasing in speed throughout the evening, reaching

Beaufort scale 1 at about 21:51 hours

Weather: ca. 90% cloud over, dry

Bat detector set at 45KHZ

Time Event

At 20.41 – At Hollickwood Park pond – No bat activity detected

We walked slowly along the southern pavement of the NCR with bat detector pointing over the steel boundary fence of the former Sewage Works site.

We walked from Hollickwood Park boundary to the Railway bridge some 15 minutes later.

We then returned the same way and repeated this return walk a further two times.

At 21:47 we entered Hollickwood park and reached the pond at 21:49. We terminated our Survey at 22:13 hours

Summary of Observations

- (1) At 21:34 hours, at the eastern end of the site, bats were seen flying over the southern area of the Former Sewage Works site.

They were seen from the south pavement along the NCR and identified as two Noctules. They were out of range of the bat detector

- (2) Pipistrelles seen and detected with bat detector flying and feeding over the pond in Hollickwood Park

There were several bats seen together as a group when we arrived (at 21:48)

They were feeding on insects flying above the pond. Their numbers increased so that there was an almost continuous and overlapping calling with very little if any breaks between their calls.

Bats remained feeding there after we left (at 22:13 hours)

Discussion

The group of bats seen in Hollickwood Park could not roost in the park itself – as all trees are

too small and insufficiently mature to host bat roosts.

It is felt that these bats are more likely to have emerged from their roosts on this (the southern) side of the A406 North Circular Road. This is because there are large feeding sites for bats on the northern side of the A406 where bats are known to roost, commute and feed – the large area of grassland and trees between Poplar Grove and the railway line. There is also the large area of The Glebelands and Coppetts Wood Local Nature Reserve. So there would be a negative energy impact on bats flying the distance across the NCR.

Moreover, bats – especially Pipistrelles are most unlikely to fly across the inhospitable North Circular Road.

It is considered more likely that these bats would roost somewhere on the southern side of the A406 North Circular Road – possibly in the former Sewage Works site.

Conclusion

(1) At least two species of bats were recorded on the evening of 7th June 2011

(a) Noctules were sighted over the former sewage works site

(b) A considerable number of Pipistrelles were seen and detected with a bat detector feeding over the pond in the adjacent site called Hollickwood Park.

(2) These bats would have emerged from their roosts outside Hollickwood Park and probably on the south side of the A406 North Circular Road, possibly from a nearby location.