

Vivien Emery
Development Management Planner
Loch Lomond & Trossach National Park Authority
National Park Headquarters,
Carrochan,
Carrochan Road,
Balloch
G83 8EG

Our ref 168659/DB/003
Telephone 01330 826 596
E-mail dblease@envirocentre.co.uk

7 December 2018

Dear Vivien

West Riverside and Woodbank House Bat Surveys - Additional Information

With reference to the correspondence from Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTNPA) dated 8 August 2018, we provide additional information on bats as requested.

An assessment was undertaken in accordance with the criteria set out by the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) (Collins, 2016) to search for Potential Roost Features (PRF). This aimed to categorise features, such as those found in trees and buildings in terms of their potential to host roosting bats.

A ground based visual assessment was undertaken of trees and buildings within and adjacent to the site boundary to identify features that bats could use for roosting.

Bat Roost Potential

As noted within the Bat Survey Report (dated February 2018), Section, 3.2.1 Preliminary Roost Assessment, the majority of trees on site were observed to be semi-mature and in good condition with few features suitable to support roosting bats. They were therefore assessed as having **negligible** bat roost suitability. The woodlands do contain a number of mature trees, and no potential features were observed from ground level. However these trees may display some features at height (not visible from ground level) which could be exploited by bats.

It must be noted that the principles of design have been to retain the woodland (in particular the native trees), contribute to its management and restoration/function and utilise the spaces provided naturally, through past human management, and those spaces that could be created following removal of invasive plant species, or small exotic/domiciled tree species (such as young sycamore).

Area 10

With reference to “Area 10” a visual assessment for roost potential was undertaken from ground level. This woodland is composed of mixed aged classes, ranging from sapling to young/mature. Species in this woodland group are high in density in terms of spatial distribution. There is evidence of regeneration occurring within the woodland as saplings of canopy species at various growth stages are present in the understory.

Six Anabat SD2 and Express recorders were positioned at six locations across the site each month from May to September 2017 for a total of 25 nights, and therefore covered spring, summer and autumn seasons. Each detector recorded bats from dusk to dawn. The detectors were positioned at the edges of linear habitat features positioned to record echolocation of bat species foraging or commuting near to such features

The static recorders were positioned at the same locations each month to provide coverage of bat activity across the site and to account for the habitat features present on site (e.g. tree lines, watercourses, hedgerow and open habitat).

Detection distances vary with frequency and loudness (amplitude) of the bat calls and atmospheric attenuation. An anabat static recorder (L2) was positioned in the west aspect of Drumkinnon Wood, which has a recording radius of up to 100m which provides representative coverage of part of Area 10.



Thus bat activity and species was recorded by the anabat, and diversity for Area 10 is incorporated within the Bat Report (3.3.3 Static Recorder Surveys). Should there be a requirement to fell trees, a pre-felling check will be undertaken on any trees due to be felled for any potential bat roost features. This may include elevated surveys where required. In addition, it is expected that further bat surveys will be required during the detailed design stage.

Yours sincerely
for EnviroCentre Ltd

(issued electronically)

Doug Blease
Principal Consultant: Ecology and Arboriculture

Ian Buchan
Principal Consultant