

## **Guidance on Preliminary Protected Species Assessment**

This guidance should be provided to your appointed consultant. The main purpose of the preliminary assessment is to address the following 3 questions:

- 1. Is there any evidence to suggest that bats or other protected species are using (or have used) the respective building, structure, tree etc. at any time of the year? Yes/No**
- 2. Is there any reasonable likelihood that bats or other protected species are using (or have used) the respective building, structure, tree etc. at any time of the year? Yes/No.**
- 3. Is there any reasonable likelihood that bats or other protected species will be affected by the proposed development? Yes/No.**

*N.B. If the answer to question 1 is Yes, please provide details. A brief justification of your Yes/No answer to questions 2 & 3 should be provided here. A 'Yes' answer will usually trigger the requirement for The Authority to request a comprehensive bat survey or other protected species survey.*

The Preliminary Protected Species Assessment Report should be brief (i.e. one A4 sheet of text plus photograph(s)/sketch is sufficient) but it should include all the following information:

- Date of Assessment:
- Location of the Assessment (including 8 figure grid reference):
- Name of Consultant with details of relevant license(s)
- Photograph of building(s)/structure(s)/tree(s) etc. surveyed:
- Sketch map to clarify which building(s), structure(s), tree(s) surveyed (e.g. if building is part of a range of farm outbuildings)
- Brief description of the building/structure/tree e.g. traditional stone building with an intact slate roof etc.
- Condition of the building(s)/structure(s)/tree(s)
- Brief description of the surrounding habitat including connectivity in the landscape
- A brief description of the proposed works indicating where conversion/demolition etc is applicable. A sentence will usually be adequate
- Whether evidence of bats noted, together with brief description of findings including e.g. where droppings etc. were found and whether old or recent etc. and e.g. whether the evidence appears to be indicative of a maternity or summer night roost or hibernaculum.
- Likely species (if known).
- Whether any evidence noted of any other protected wildlife e.g. barn owls, swallows, otters, etc.
- If no evidence of bats or other protected species noted, the consultant should, using his/her professional judgement, make an assessment of the potential for the said building/structure/tree etc. to support bats or other protected wildlife.

N.B. Bats generally hibernate between October and April. Some bat species, such as pipistrelles, may be impossible to survey during the winter months as they crawl into crevices where they are unlikely to be detected. A preliminary assessment may be undertaken at any time of year, as it may still be possible to find recent or historic evidence of a summer roost or hibernaculum, and/or to assess the potential of the respective building, structure, tree etc. to support bats at any time of the year.