



Appendix 7.6
Barn Owl Survey Report - 2021 Update

July 2021



THE
ENVIRONMENT
PARTNERSHIP



THE LANES PENWORTHAM BARN OWL SURVEY REPORT - 2021 UPDATE

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Document Title	The Lanes Barn Owl Survey Report - 2021 Update
Prepared for	Taylor Wimpey North West / Homes England
Prepared by	TEP - Warrington
Document Ref	6900.03.007

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Approved	Anne Pritchard

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DRAWINGS

G6900.03.006 Bat Tree Potential 2021 Survey

G6900.03.007 Bat Building Location Plan

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Taylor Wimpey and Homes England are seeking to obtain planning permission for residential-led mixed-use development on land to the east of Penwortham Way known as 'The Lanes, Penwortham' (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). Within this report "the site" refers to land that falls within the application boundaries A and B as illustrated in Figure 1 below.
- 1.2 TEP was originally commissioned, in March 2018, to assess the suitability of buildings and trees within the site for barn owl *Tyto alba*. TEP were subsequently commissioned in 2021 to provide an updated survey of buildings and trees set out at Drawings G6900.03.006 and G6900.03.007.

Description of Site

- 1.3 The central grid reference of the site is SD 53329 25884 and the location of the site is shown in Figure 1 below.

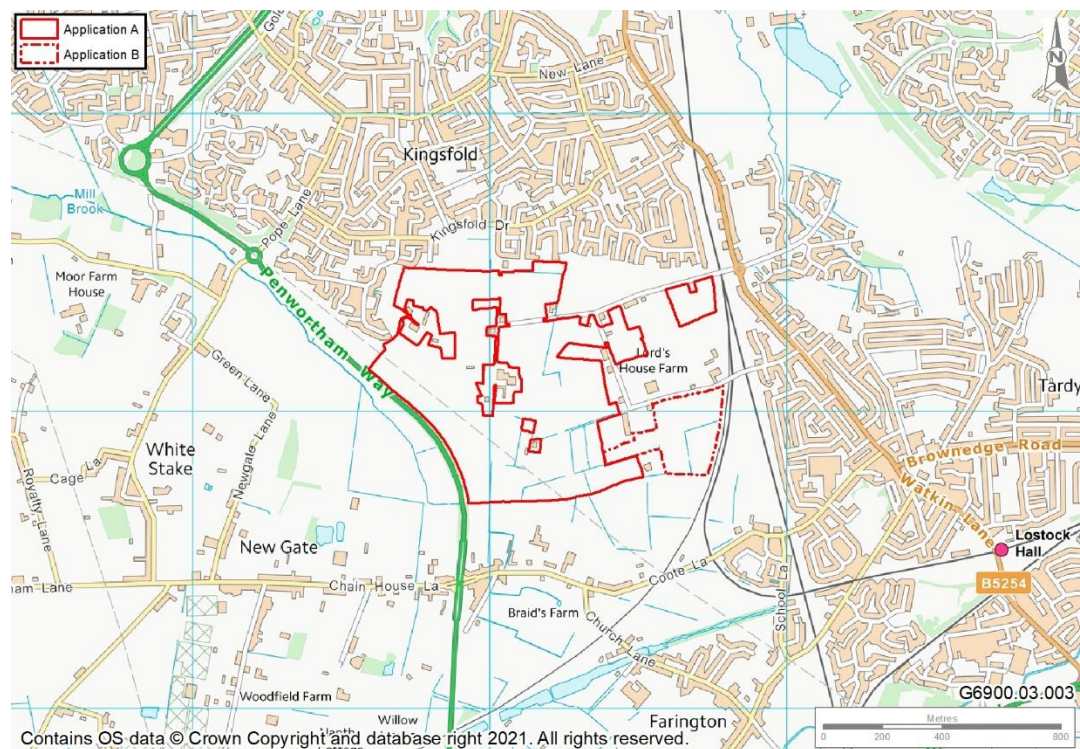


Figure 1 Site Location Plan

- 1.4 The site is irregular in shape and occupies approximately 51.86ha on land to the east of Penwortham Way to the south of the settlement of Penwortham.
- 1.5 The site is bound by Penwortham Way to the west, existing residential development south of Kingsfold Drive to the north, agricultural fields and the West Coast mainline railway to the east and agricultural fields to the south.
- 1.6 The site comprises a mix of land uses including:

- Agricultural land separated into a number of fields by fences, hedgerows and trees;
- Pylon accommodation land;
- Pylon corridor; and
- Roads.

1.7 The site surrounds a number of residential dwellings and light industrial buildings which do not lie within the application boundary.

Site Suitability for Barn Owl

- 1.8 The site contains a large number of mature trees, particularly within field boundary hedgerows, and several buildings, largely associated with residential or agricultural use, which could be suitable for barn owl.
- 1.9 In terms of foraging, habitat is very limited due to the heavy grazing and management regimes across the site.

2.0 Method

- 2.1 An assessment of trees for roosting barn owl was undertaken simultaneously with the bat surveys by TEP barn owl surveyor (license number CL29/00225), using the same methodology (TEP report ref: 6900.03.003). The location of the trees is set out at Drawing G6900.03.006.
- 2.2 The ten buildings shown on Drawing G6900.03.007 are to be demolished under the proposed development. Two further buildings B3 and B4 are outside of the site boundary and are not anticipated that these will be impacted under the proposals.
- 2.3 The buildings and trees were assessed for suitability as a nesting site for barn owl. Field signs for barn owl, if present, were recorded including:
- Droppings - white vertical streaks on roof beams and large white splashes on floors or tree trunk.
 - Pellets - Barn owls generally swallow their prey whole and regurgitate the indigestible parts (bones, fur etc.) as pellets. The colour and condition of pellets can give an indication as to when a site was last used by barn owls.
 - Feathers - Barn owl nestlings begin their initial moult at 11 months. Adult barn owls tend to shed their primary and secondary wing feathers before and after breeding.
 - Nest debris - barn owls do not build nests but nesting areas may contain nestling fluff and pellet debris.
 - Potential entrance points - the minimum entrance hole size required for barn owls to gain access to a building or tree is 12 cm x 25 cm.
 - Suitable nesting platforms - Barn owls need a level area to lay eggs usually over 3 m in length and over 3 m off the ground. Typical nesting places include tops of walls, between bales and on attic floors or holes in tree trunks.

Limitations

- 2.4 No internal access was possible to buildings B1, B2, B5, and B7.1, B7.2, B7.3. However these buildings were unsuitable to support barn owl, they suitable access features for barn owls to access internal of buildings. Buildings B7.1, B7.2 and B7.3 are single storey wooden horse stables and while viewed at a distance they do not provide suitability for nesting or roosting barn owl.

3.0 Results

- 3.1 Records of barn owl were returned within 1km of the site in the desk based assessment produced by TEP in June 2018 (Report Ref: 6900.007). Incidental sightings of barn owl were noted during the bat surveys undertaken at the site.
- 3.2 None of the trees in the site were found to have suitability for barn owls. No evidence of barn owl was identified in the trees on site during the bat surveys.
- 3.3 The results of the barn owl survey of the buildings are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Results of Barn Owl Survey of Buildings to be Demolished

Building Ref	Grid Ref	Description	Suitability for Barn Owl
1	SD 52935 26147	Red brick shed with curved corrugated metal roof.	No access points which could be used by barn owl. Negligible suitability.
2	SD 53122 25861	Corrugated metal shed.	No access points which could be used by barn owl. Negligible suitability.
3	SD 53465 25956	Red brick barn with pitched tile roof which has recently been repaired. Windows and door are securely boarded up but there is a large hole in the brick work on the west elevation. Scaffolding was erected internally and the underside of the roof tiles was lined with wooden sarking.	Large hole in the wall on the west elevation provides internal access. No potential nesting features were noted and no evidence of barn owl nesting was observed during 2019 surveys. A single roosting barn owl was observed emerging from the building on a nocturnal bat survey on the 10th June 2021.
4	SD 53473 25930	Dilapidated corrugated metal barn that has partially collapsed.	No potential roosting or nesting features. Negligible suitability.

Building Ref	Grid Ref	Description	Suitability for Barn Owl
5	SD 53401 26261	Barn with concrete block walls and a pitched corrugated metal roof and metal cladding on the west elevation. Metal sliding doors and corrugated plastic skylights.	No access points which could be used by barn owl. Negligible suitability.
6 a - c	SD 53318 26283	Three metal sheds with metal roofs, two sheds is single storey and one shed is double storey.	No access points for any of these buildings which could be used by barn owl. Negligible suitability.
6d	SD 53318 26283	One single storey brick building with wooden framed windows, none smashed or boarded. Building has flat corrugated asbestos roof. Part of this building is constructed from metal and has no windows.	No access points for any of these buildings which could be used by barn owl. Negligible suitability.
7 a - c	SD 53062 26334	Collection of wooden horse stables access was not allowed by third party	A collection of three single storey wooden horse stables and while viewed at a distance they do not provide suitability for nesting or roosting barn owl. Negligible suitability

4.0 Conclusions

- 4.1 None of the trees are considered suitable for nesting or roosting barn owl. A single building B3 had a roosting barn owl emerge during the first bat nocturnal roost survey on the 10th June 2021. No barn owl nesting was confirmed in this building. Building B3 is outside of the development proposals, however indirect impacts are likely to occur both and post development. Mitigation measures will be required to avoid or reduce these impacts.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 Measures should be taken where feasible within the development layout to retain foraging and commuting habitats around building B3 to enable barn owl nesting or roosting in B3 to continue and for individuals to be able to disperse from here to the wider locality. If this is not possible it is likely this roosting site will no longer be functional.
- 5.2 A lighting strategy should be put in place to prevent lighting causing an impact on nesting or roosting barn owl.
- 5.3 Up to five barn owl boxes to be installed in locations on the edge of the new development and facing open countryside to provide barn owl with nesting and roosting sites that are in close association with foraging habitat.

DRAWINGS

G6900.03.006 Bat Tree Potential 2021 Survey

G6900.03.007 Bat Building Location Plan



KEY

- Page and page number
- Application A
- Application B
- Broad-leaved tree with low bat suitability
- Broad-leaved tree with moderate bat suitability
- Broad-leaved tree with high bat suitability

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Site Map

Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

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Project

The Lanes

Title

Bat Tree Potential - 2021 Survey

Drawing Number G6900.03.006.1				Sheet 1 of 3
Drawn CW	Checked MK	Approved JC	Scale 1:4,500 @ A3	Date 23/07/2021



KEY

- Application A
- Application B
- Broad-leaved tree with high bat suitability

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Site Map

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Project

The Lanes

Title

Bat Tree Potential - 2021 Survey

Drawing Number				Sheet 2 of 3
G6900.03.006.2				
Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	MK	JC	1:2,300 @ A3	23/07/2021



KEY

- Application A
- Broad-leaved tree with low bat suitability
- Broad-leaved tree with moderate bat suitability
- Broad-leaved tree with high bat suitability

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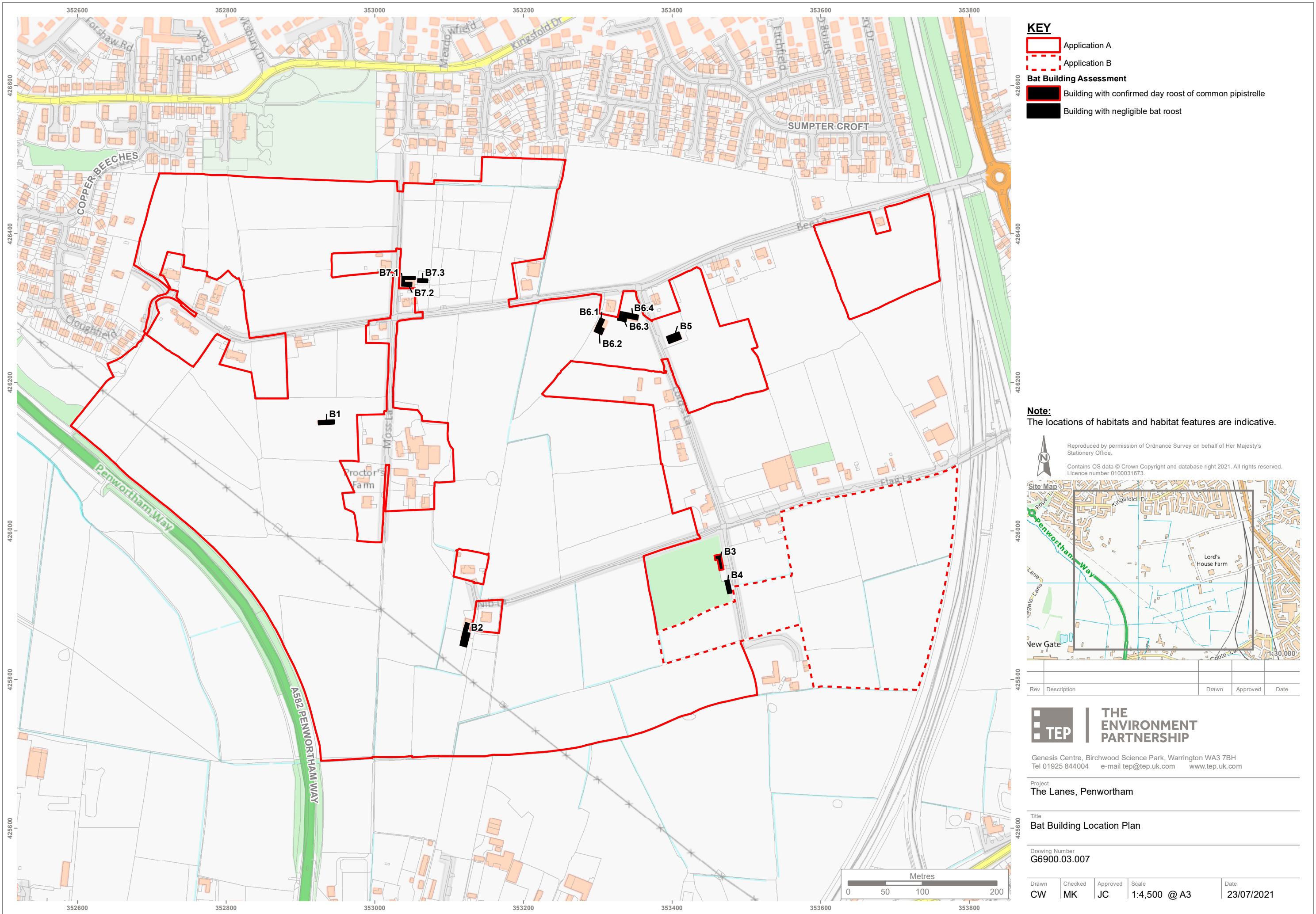
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Project
The Lanes

Title
Bat Tree Potential - 2021 Survey

Drawing Number G6900.03.006.3	Sheet 3 of 3
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Drawn CW	Checked MK	Approved JC	Scale 1:2,300 @ A3	Date 23/07/2021
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