

Racecourse Road, East Ayton, North Yorkshire

**BAT ASSESSMENT**



SF 2697 | November 2017 | For Planning

**SMEEDEN  
FOREMAN**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Smeeden Foreman Limited has been commissioned by KCS Developments Ltd to undertake bat transect surveys of their site to the north of Racecourse Road, East Ayton, North Yorkshire (central grid reference SE 99857 85583), hereafter referred to as the 'site'.

This report will include the following information gathered by desk study, and site survey work:

- Proximity to existing records of bats;
- Site habitat appraisal to assess potential to support bats; and
- Bat transect surveys.

A review of the above information will be made to identify any features of ecological interest in regards to bats which may be affected by the proposed works. Where potential impacts to bats are identified the need for mitigation measures and recommendations for environmental enhancements will be made.

The report has been commissioned to inform the application to develop the site for housing, comprising 105 residential units (See *Figure 01: Proposed Layout appended*).

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located on the outskirts of the village of East Ayton. It occupies an area of approximately 3.2 hectares and comprises arable cropland, rough grassland, dense scrub, hedgerows and trees; refer to *Figure 02* below.



**Figure 02:** Aerial view / site location

The site is bound to the north partly by a fence beyond which lies arable cropland; to the south by a hedgerow and Racecourse Road, beyond which lie arable cropland; to the west by a hedgerow and fence, beyond which lie a built up residential area; and, to the east there is no landscape feature which defines the boundary of the site, a hedgerow and track, and arable cropland lie beyond it.

### 3.0 LEGAL PROTECTION

All British bats are afforded full protection under both UK and European legislation.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) transpose the Habitats Directive into UK law, making it an offence to:

- deliberately disturb a bat
- deliberately kill or capture a bat
- damage, destroy or obstruct access to a breeding site or resting place (note this applies to both deliberate and reckless actions).

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (Schedule 5) made it an offence to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take a bat
- damage, destroy or obstruct a resting place \*
- disturb the species in a resting place \*
- possess or control a bat or any part thereof
- sell, offer for sale, possess or transport for sale any bat or part thereof
- set traps for catching, killing or injuring bats
- possess articles for the purposes of committing offences against bats

[\*= intentional and reckless offences covered]

Legal protection under the Habitats Directive applies to the animals and their breeding sites and resting places. This means that bat roosts are fully protected, whether they are in use at the time or not. Where roosts or resting/breeding sites are identified, any works which may contravene the protection afforded to them require derogation from the provisions of the legislation in the form of a licence from Natural England.