



SHEPHERDS DENE



CLIENT: SHEPHERDS DENE RETREAT HOUSE
LOCATION: RIDING MILL, NORTHUMBERLAND
PROJECT VALUE: £10,000

Shepherds Dene is a large Edwardian country house, set in 20 acres, including mature woodland and formal gardens.

Total Ecology was commissioned in 2010 to carry out a bat risk assessment of the house. The survey was required because a variety of works were proposed for inside the building including asbestos removal and refurbishment works. The survey resulted in the discovery of a maternity roost of brown long-eared bats within the loft void. A series of nocturnal surveys were then carried out in 2010 and 2011 and two hibernation surveys were also carried out in the winter of 2011.

Three species of bat were found to be roosting in the property over the spring and summer; these were common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and brown long-eared. A single brown long-eared bat was also discovered to be using the loft void in winter.

In 2011 Total Ecology were also commissioned to carry out an extended phase I survey of part of the grounds including a bat risk assessment of the trees to support a planning application for creation of a new access road.

A European Protected Species Licence was obtained from Natural England because of disturbance issues associated with removal of asbestos and installation of loft insulation within the loft void used by the brown long-eared maternity roost. During the works a temporary partition was erected and each morning the loft was checked for bats and any found were posted through a one way access point into a receptor area away from the work.

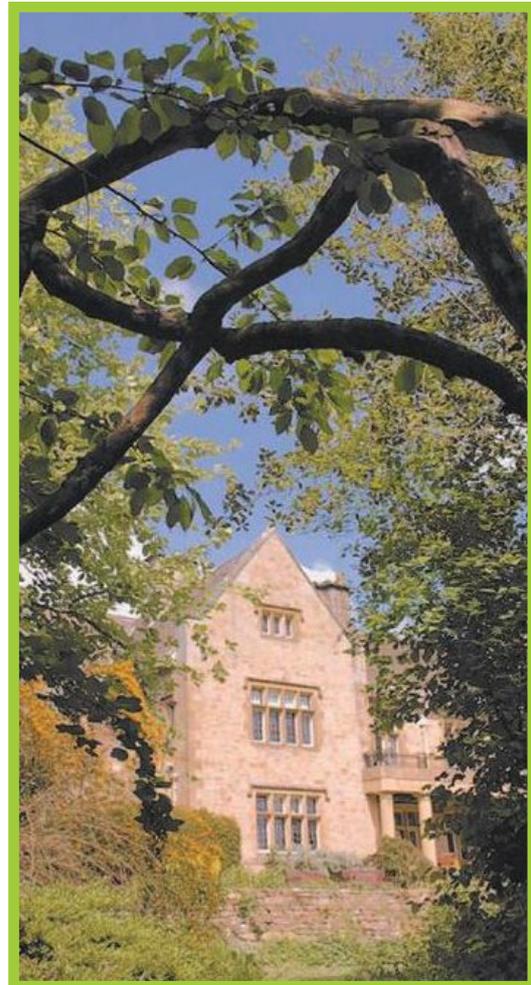
Two years of monitoring surveys in 2012 and 2013 followed the works, during these surveys bat numbers in excess of those found in 2011 were counted, thus the works had no long term impact on the bat populations using the property.



TOTAL
ECOLOGY

OUR CONTRIBUTION

- Bat Surveys
- European Protected Species Licence
- Extended Phase I
- Ecological Clerk of Works
- Two years of Bat Roost Monitoring



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