

URGENT - OBJECTION TO LEA CASTLE FARM QUARRY

From: lynne reeves (lynne3070@yahoo.co.uk)

To: helen.skinner@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Cc: reevo1961@gmail.com

Date: Thursday, 23 February 2023 at 20:28 GMT

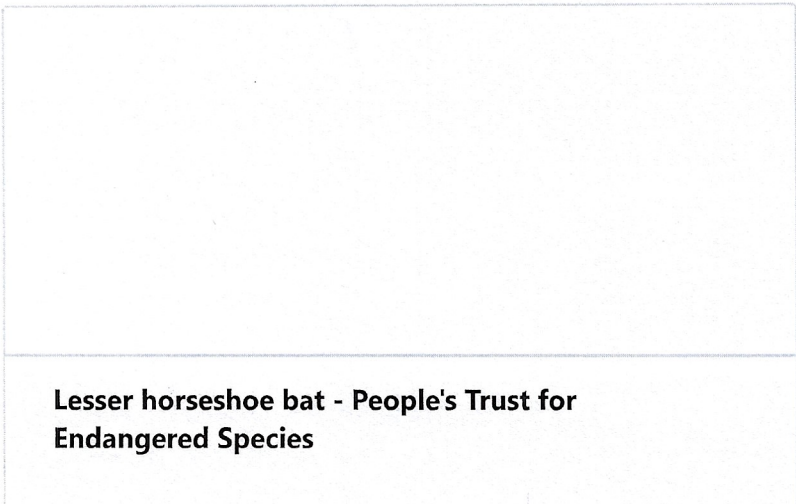
Dear Mr S Normington,

I would like to object to the **Planning Application, number 19/000053/CM - APP/E1855/W/22/3310099**. We have recently moved into the new Lindens Homes located off Park Gate road. Park Gate road is already a very narrow heavily congested link road between the main Wolverhampton A449 and Stourbridge A451 Road. The roads are extremely fast and busy throughout the working day. It is used by all types of vehicles and is also a link road B4189, leading to Woverley which is already an extremely congested route. The entrance to the proposed Quarry is very close to the Heathfield Knoll School and Nursery entrance and a Residential Home. The road is already particularly dangerous for children and families and staff. The extra congestion created by the above proposed Quarry works along with the access for the new occupants of the proposed new houses would make access to the already congested highways extremely dangerous. The health risks for air pollution and dust blowing from the quarry would impact on peoples quality of life. It would make it extremely difficult for people to sell their properties in the surrounding area.

The area off Park Gate road has had planning permission granted for the below new development
Description: outline application to include 800 dwellings (C3), AROUND 7ha for employment use (mix of use E(g) uses), a 2 form entry primary school/education uses (F1), retail floor space (E), community uses (F1/F2, three vehicular accesses from Wolverhampton Road, two vehicular access from Stourbridge Road, one vehicular access from Lea Castle Drive, public open space including play provision, outdoor sport/recreational, orchard, additional green and works. Detailed approval is sought for the six means of access, with all other matters reserved for future determination.

The infrastructure of the roads is insufficient for access of the current phase of newly built houses. The council are extremely slow in upgrading the roads and pathways for the new housing. There have been numerous major road traffic accidents in a matter of two months and another today 23/02/23.

The impact to the environment including air pollution will be devastating. The Lea Castle new housing site, the area has Lesser Horseshoe bats. We cannot have any street lighting only the special ClearField LED Lighting has been proven not to disturb the habitat of light-shy bat species at night. The lighting from the proposed Quarry would not preserve the environment for the bats. Pollution and disturbance from light and noise are two of the main drivers for bat declines. Other evidence can be found at [Drivers of bat declines - News - Bat Conservation Trust \(bats.org.uk\)](#). The bats are protected under "**Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. European Protected Species under Annex IV of the European Habitats Directive**" [Lesser horseshoe bat | The Wildlife Trusts](#) they "**are native, rare and endangered. It is a priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and classified as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List**" [Lesser horseshoe bat - People's Trust for Endangered Species \(ptes.org\)](#).



Lesser horseshoe bat - People's Trust for Endangered Species

Lesser horseshoe bats are one of the smallest British mammal species, weighing about a third as much as a greate...

Search Search

The National Bat Helpline can answer your questions and concerns about bats and give you advice.

0345 1300 228

9:30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday

You can also email enquiries@bats.org.uk

There is also an Out of Hours Helpline which is run by volunteers during the summer months and is for emergency calls only.

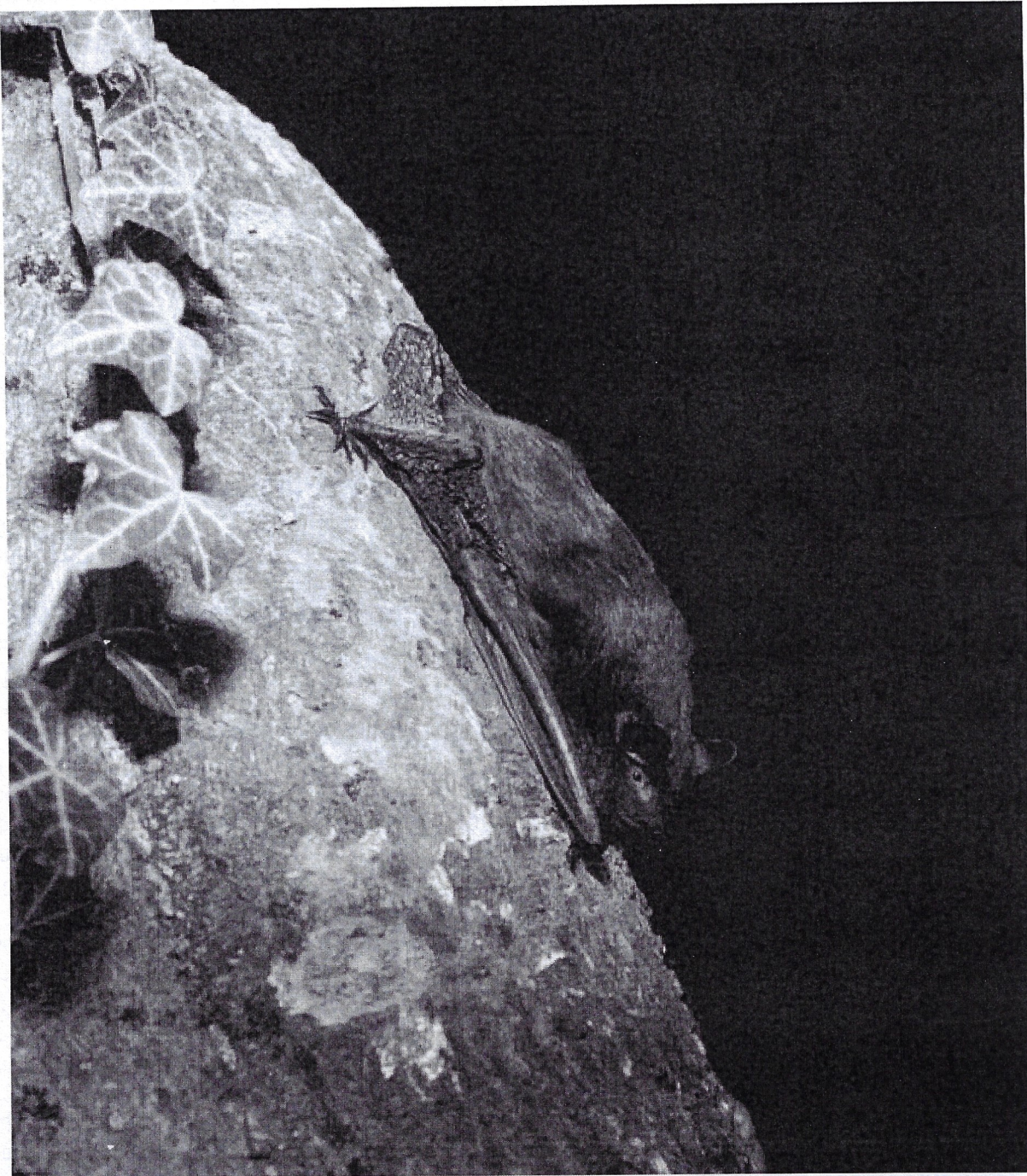
Weekdays 6pm to 10pm

Weekends and bank holidays 10am to 10pm

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Hugh Clark

What are the main reasons for bat population losses and recent recoveries? New research says we still don't know enough to answer these important questions, but a range of major threats has been flagged. The evidence calls for more efforts to understand bat population losses and identifies what works in helping populations to recover.

Five of the 11 species of bat monitored in Britain are now seeing population increases, but the drivers of past losses and continuing changes remain unclear. Significant historic bat declines over the last century were blamed on agricultural intensification, loss of habitat and roosts through development and exclusion from buildings.

Today's main threats include land use practices, climate change, pollution, development and infrastructure, and human disturbance. The new paper, published in the Mammal Society journal, *Mammal Review*, says evidence gaps or conflicts present barriers to successful conservation. The authors call for more focus on the impacts of climate change, urbanisation, offshore wind turbines, water pollution and their combined effects.

Agricultural management and climate change are having big impacts on populations of many mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects and vascular plants. However, the impacts on bats appear to differ from

The monitoring of 'bioindicator' species such as bats is a means of assessing the wider health of the habitats and species they rely on. The researchers focused on European bat population trends, but say many of the drivers are relevant to bats in tropical and sub-tropical regions too, including urbanisation, agricultural intensification and deforestation.

The evidence review was carried out by Ella Browning, Kate Barlow, Fiona Burns, Charlotte Hawkins and Katherine Boughey. The report was dedicated to the memory of bat researcher Dr Kate Barlow, whose earlier work informed this review.

FULL PAPER: "Drivers of European bat population change: a review reveals evidence gaps" by Ella Browning, Kate E. Barlow, Fiona Burns, Charlotte Hawkins Katherine Boughey *Mammal Review* (2021)
<https://doi.org/10.1111/mam.12...>

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Guidance

Bats: protection and licences

What you must do to avoid harming bats and when you'll need a licence.

From:

[Natural England \(/government/organisations/natural-england\)](#) and [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs \(/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs\)](#)

Published

8 October 2014

Last updated

29 March 2015 —

Applies to England

[Guidance for Wales \(https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/protected-species-licensing/european-protected-species-licensing/bat-licensing/?lang=en\)](https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/protected-species-licensing/european-protected-species-licensing/bat-licensing/?lang=en)

[Guidance for Scotland \(http://www.snh.gov.uk/about-scotlands-nature/wildlife-and-you/bats/needng-help/\)](http://www.snh.gov.uk/about-scotlands-nature/wildlife-and-you/bats/needng-help/)

[Guidance for Northern Ireland \(http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/land-home/plan/whencon/when-protspecies.htm\)](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/land-home/plan/whencon/when-protspecies.htm)

Contents

- — What you must not do
- — Activities that can harm bats
- — Bat licences
- — Bat roosts

All bat species, their breeding sites and resting places are fully protected by law - they're European protected species.

You may be able to get a licence from Natural England if you cannot avoid disturbing them or damaging their habitats, or if you want to survey or conserve them.

What you must not do

You're breaking the law if you do certain things including:

- deliberately capture, injure or kill bats
- damage or destroy a breeding or resting place
- obstruct access to their resting or sheltering places
- possess, sell, control or transport live or dead bats, or parts of them
- intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat while it's in a structure or place of shelter or protection

Either or both of the following could happen if you're found guilty of any offences:

- you could be sent to prison for up to 6 months
- you could get an unlimited fine

Activities that can harm bats

Activities that can affect bats include:

- renovating, converting or demolishing a building
- cutting down or removing branches from a mature tree
- repairing or replacing a roof
- repointing brickwork
- insulating or converting a loft
- installing lighting in a roost, or outside if it lights up the entrance to the roost
- removing 'commuting habitats' like hedgerows, watercourses or woodland
- changing or removing bats' foraging areas
- [using insecticides or treating timber \(https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bat-roosts-use-of-chemical-pest-control-products-and-timber-treatments-in-or-near-them\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bat-roosts-use-of-chemical-pest-control-products-and-timber-treatments-in-or-near-them)

In many cases you should be able to avoid harming the bats or damaging or blocking access to their habitats. You'll need an expert to do a bat survey. You can find one using the:

- [Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environment Management directory \(http://events.cieem.net/ProfessionalDirectory/Professional-Directory.aspx\)](http://events.cieem.net/ProfessionalDirectory/Professional-Directory.aspx)
- [Environmental Data Services directory \(https://www.endsdirectory.com/\)](https://www.endsdirectory.com/)

The survey will show what type, how many and how the bats are using the building or area so you can plan to avoid harming them.

Bat licences

If you cannot avoid harming bats or their habitats, you can [apply for a mitigation licence](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bats-apply-for-a-mitigation-licence) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bats-apply-for-a-mitigation-licence>) from Natural England.

You need a [licence from Natural England for other activities](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/bat-licences) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/bat-licences>), including:

- surveying
- research
- possessing bats
- some conservation activities

Find out what's involved for [construction that affects protected species](https://www.gov.uk/construction-near-protected-areas-and-wildlife) (<https://www.gov.uk/construction-near-protected-areas-and-wildlife>).

Ecological consultants can register to use a [class licence](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bats-licence-to-interfere-with-bat-roosts-cl21) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bats-licence-to-interfere-with-bat-roosts-cl21>) that may avoid the need for an individual licence for certain low impact activities.

Bat roosts

Contact the [bat helpline](https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/national-bat-helpline) (<https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/national-bat-helpline>) if you:

- think you have a bat roost in or near your house or place of worship and you want to do small scale works or pest control
- have any concerns about the bats

They will give you advice and where appropriate can arrange for one of Natural England's volunteer bat roost visitors to inspect your property.

This is a free service for small-scale building works that do not need planning permission.

Published 8 October 2014

Last updated 29 March 2015 + [show all updates](#)

Related content

[Bats: mitigation class licence to allow low impact work on bat roosts \(CL21\)](/government/publications/bats-licence-to-interfere-with-bat-roosts-cl21)
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[Hazel dormice: protection and licences](/guidance/hazel-dormice-protection-surveys-and-licences) (</guidance/hazel-dormice-protection-surveys-and-licences>)

[Great crested newts: district level licensing for local planning authorities](#)
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[Little whirlpool ramshorn snails: licence to do ditch maintenance \(CL14\)](#)
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[Bats: advice for making planning decisions](#) ([/guidance/bats-advice-for-making-planning-decisions](#))

Detailed guidance

[**Bat roosts: use of chemical pest control products and timber treatments in or near them**](#) ([/guidance/bat-roosts-use-of-chemical-pest-control-products-and-timber-treatments-in-or-near-them](#))

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