

## Harlow Grange Ecology Assessment

### What we did

- ▲ Delta-Simons undertook an initial ecological assessment of the Site in spring 2013 to identify habitats present, their suitability to support protected and notable species of flora and fauna, and to determine the requirement for further specific protected species surveys.
- ▲ We completed dusk and dawn bat activity transect surveys in June, August and September of 2014, and surveyed both the on-Site habitats and Crag Lane, in order to determine how bats are using the Site and surrounding area through their active season, and the requirement for any mitigation for bats.
- ▲ We also compiled detailed survey reports that assessed the likely impacts of the proposals on any protected species that may use the Site, recommended mitigation measures to negate any negative impacts, and enhancement measures to ensure that the proposals result in a biodiversity gain at the Site.

### Bats at the Site

- ▲ A total of six species were recorded foraging and commuting at the Site:

- Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*;
- Soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*;
- Nathusius pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii*;
- Brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus*;
- An unidentified *Myotis* species; and
- Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*.

- ▲ Common pipistrelle was the most frequently recorded species during the Transect Surveys, with the highest levels of activity; and

- ▲ Overall bat activity was assessed to be 'Moderate' to 'High' – peaking in summer, and was predominately associated with the edge of Pinewoods Woodland along the northern boundary of the Site, within which roost sites are known to occur, and to a lesser extent along Carr Lane.

- ▲ There are currently no roosting opportunities at the Site and, there will be no direct impact upon the adjacent Pinewoods Woodland and, therefore, without mitigation in place, any impacts upon bats are considered to be low. However, mitigation and enhancements are recommended which will increase the suitability of the on-Site habitats to support foraging and commuting bats, and provide roosting opportunities for them, following completion of the proposed development.



*Brown long-eared bat*