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12.6.2015

Bat and Nesting Bird Survey of Riverside Mill, Glossop
30th April, 8th and 12th June 2015 – Interim Report
Surveyor- Martin Prescott (lic. no CLS001281)

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1.2 The Site

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1.3 The Buildings and Surrounds

The buildings consisted of:

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Building 2 2-storey, pitched slate roof, skylights

Building 3 Flat roofed section

Building 4 Two-storey pitched slate roof

Building 5 Single storey lean-to, tile roof

Building 6 Two-storey – sloping slate roof

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Building 8 Pre-fabricated building

A basement ran under buildings 1, 2, 3 and 4.

The immediate habitat included the river and areas of amenity grassland, mature plantation, semi-mature and young broadleaved trees and scrub.
There were other industrial buildings and houses nearby.

2. Method

2.1 Risk Assessment, Possible Hazards

The buildings were cluttered with rubbish and debris from the fire, otherwise there were no hazards other than those normally encountered when surveying basically sound buildings.

2.2 Daylight Survey

The initial daylight survey took place on 30th April 2015.
A daylight survey was carried out in order to assess the site and search for potential roosting sites and signs of bat occupation.

All accessible areas were searched for potential roosting sites, bats, their prey remains, droppings and urine stains.
The day of the survey the weather was showery and cool.

Areas searched were:

2.2.1 Outside, the walls (where accessible), eaves and roofs, the ground and surfaces such as windows and doors underneath the eaves around the perimeters of the buildings.

2.2.2 The inside walls, roof, basement and floor areas of the buildings, especially those open to the roof.

2.2.3 The immediate area for bat foraging potential.

Limitations

This survey was carried out at a time when bats had only been briefly active since last autumn, and any bat droppings, especially on the outside were unlikely to be evident.
The upper storey of building 2 was infested with pigeons making searching for bat droppings difficult.
The walls of buildings 2, 3, 4 and 7 immediately next to the river were not closely accessible.

2.3 Evening Emergence Survey, 8th June 2015

Four surveyors, experienced in the use and limitations of heterodyne bat detectors, were sited around the buildings such that any emerging bats would be in view.
The survey started about 15 minutes before sunset and ended when it was becoming too dark to see clearly (about an hour or so).
All observed bat activity and the weather conditions were recorded.

2.4 Dawn Survey, 12th June 2015

Two surveyors, experienced in the use and limitations of heterodyne bat detectors, were sited around the buildings such that any bats re-entering the building would be in view.
The survey started about 75 minutes before sunrise and ended at about sunrise when it was fully light.
All observed bat activity and the weather conditions were recorded.

3. Results

3.1 Possible Roost Sites, see plan and photos

The interiors of the buildings were generally slightly cluttered but searchable. All buildings were of brick except for building 8 which was prefabricated.

Building 1 2-storey, badly fire damaged, roof missing.

Easy bat access through missing roof area. (photo 7)
There were holes in the masonry suitable for roosting bats.

Building 2 2-storey, pitched slate roof, skylights

The first floor was open to the roof and infested with pigeons. The roof was of slate partially lined with boarding (photo 8). There were several skylights and many broken windows. There were gaps under roofing slates suitable for roosting bats. (photo 2)
There was a thick covering of Ivy at the SW corner (photo 5), of high potential for nesting birds, but of low suitability for roosting bats The Ivy could hide suitable crevices in the masonry.

Building 3 Flat-roofed section

Parts of roof missing. Many holes suitable for bat access.

Building 4 Two-storey pitched slate roof

Roof board-lined (photo 9) and relatively complete, with gaps suitable for bat access at missing slates.

Building 5 Single storey lean-to, tile roof

Many gaps suitable for roosting bats such as under barge boards (photos 1 and 3).

Building 6 Two-storey – sloping slate roof

Many broken windows; suitable bat access and gaps at end slates.

Building 7 Single storey lean-to, incomplete slate roof (photo 6)

Many gaps under partial slate roof and easy bat access into the interior.

Building 8 Pre-fabricated building

Panelled building of very low bat roosting potential.

There was a basement running under buildings 1, 2, 3 and 4 (photo10). Although there were crevices in the masonry it was considered too dry to be of more than very low suitability for hibernating bats.
There were holes in the masonry throughout the buildings (except building 8) suitable for roosting bats.

No signs of roosting bats were found anywhere on site.

Most of the buildings were considered suitable for nesting birds, especially the Ivy on building 2, but no signs of nesting were found except for the pigeons.

3.2 Bat Foraging Potential and Alternative Roosts

The site and immediate area was moderately well vegetated with mature plantation, young trees and amenity grassland, and was likely to be used by foraging bats, especially Common Pipistrelle *(Pipistrellus pipistrellus)*. The adjacent river has the potential to be used by foraging Daubenton's Bats *(Myotis daubentonii)*.

Nearby habitat included an area of plantation/woodland and a river connecting the immediate area to tree-lines, scrub, hedges and pasture within a few hundred metres.

There were many houses nearby which were likely to have higher bat roost potential than the factory buildings as they were occupied and therefore warmer and more suitable for Pipistrelle maternity roosts.
There were other industrial units nearby providing further roost potential.

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The weather conditions at sunset (about 21.34hrs) were 12c, 2/8 cloud, light breeze. The temperature had dropped to 10c and the cloud cover increased to 5/8 by the end of the survey. The survey started at 21.18 and ended at 21.37 by which time (due to a steep bank and large trees obscuring the bright part of the sky to the NW) it was becoming too dark to see clearly.

The first bat recorded was a Common Pipistrelle, heard only, probably under trees to the west of the buildings. Up to 4 *Myotis* bats were recorded feeding over the river at 21.30; a brief contact, probably commuting.
A high level of Common Pipistrelle foraging activity was recorded throughout the survey. One surveyors suspected an emergence of 2 Common Pipistrelles to the rear of the building at 22.15, but results from another nearby surveyor indicated that these bats had been flying close to the wall, giving the impression of emergence. It was very dark by this time.
Occasional Soprano Pipistrelles were recorded.

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This is a brief summary, full results will be available after the second dawn survey has been carried out.
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4. Conclusions

4.1 The buildings were situated in moderate quality bat foraging habitat.

4.2 Nearly all the buildings had features which could be used by roosting bats, and the buildings as a whole were considered to have moderate-high bat roosting potential.
The dry basement was considered to have very low potential for hibernation.

4.3 Most of these building were likely to be used by nesting birds. The Ivy on building 2 was considered particularly likely to be used.

5. Recommendations

5.1 A further dawn or evening survey will be required..
If roosting bats are found or suspected, further surveys may be required.
If a roost is confirmed a licence will be required to legalise it's destruction or disturbance of the bats. This will incur extra expense and significant delays.

5.2 Care must be taken to avoid disturbing nesting birds. Carrying out structural work/demolition avoiding the nesting season, March to August inclusive, will minimise any problems with nesting birds.
If active nests are found, they must be left undisturbed (5 metre exclusion zone recommended) until the young have fledged. If there is any doubt refer to a suitably qualified ecologist.

5.3 It should be remembered that bats are occasionally found in the most unexpected places. If any bats are found during the work, Natural England (01942 820364) or the consultant (see header) should be notified and work stopped immediately.

6. Photos

P1 NW aspect, gaps under barge boards

P2 SE aspect, many broken windows

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7. Plan

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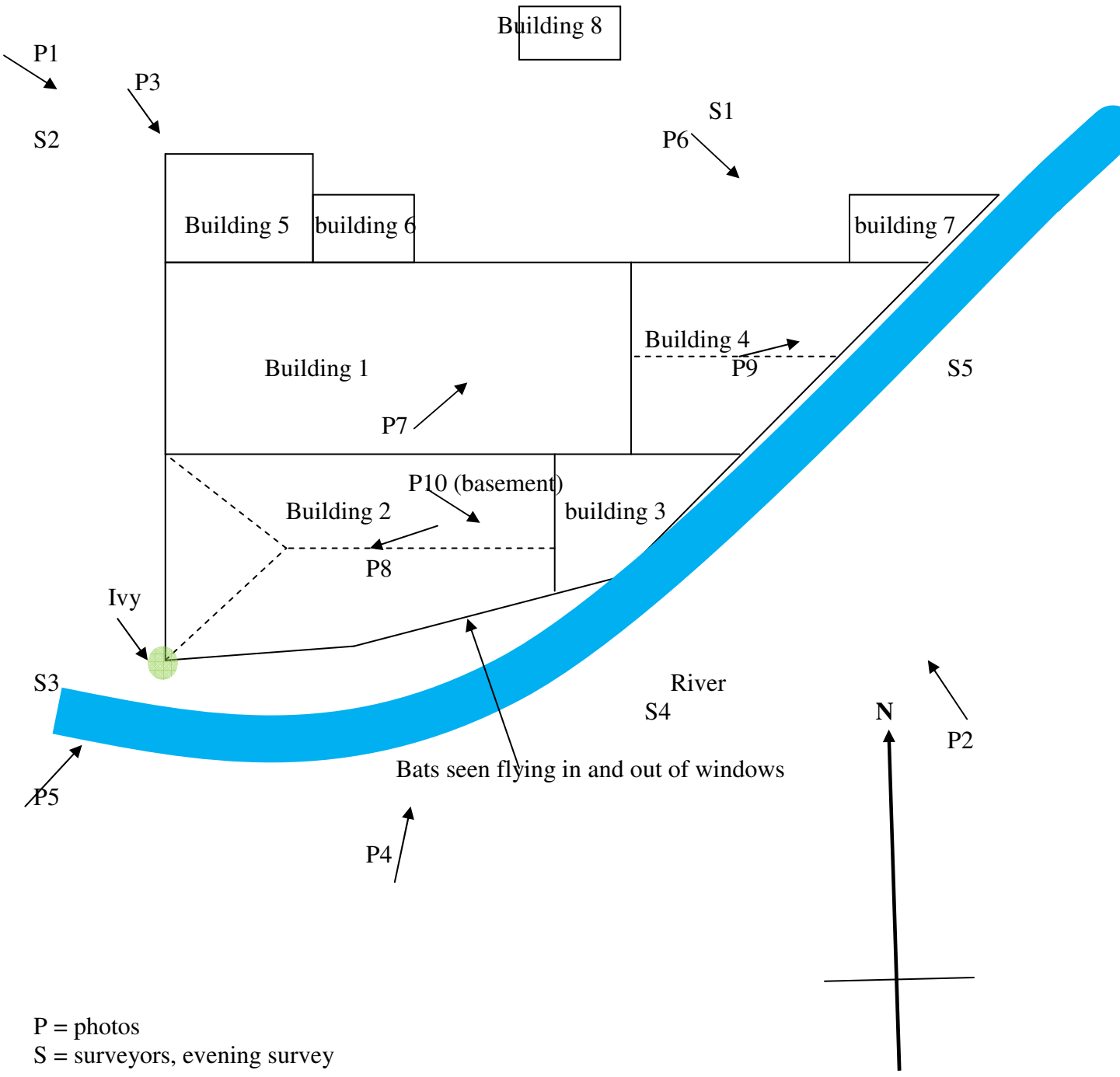

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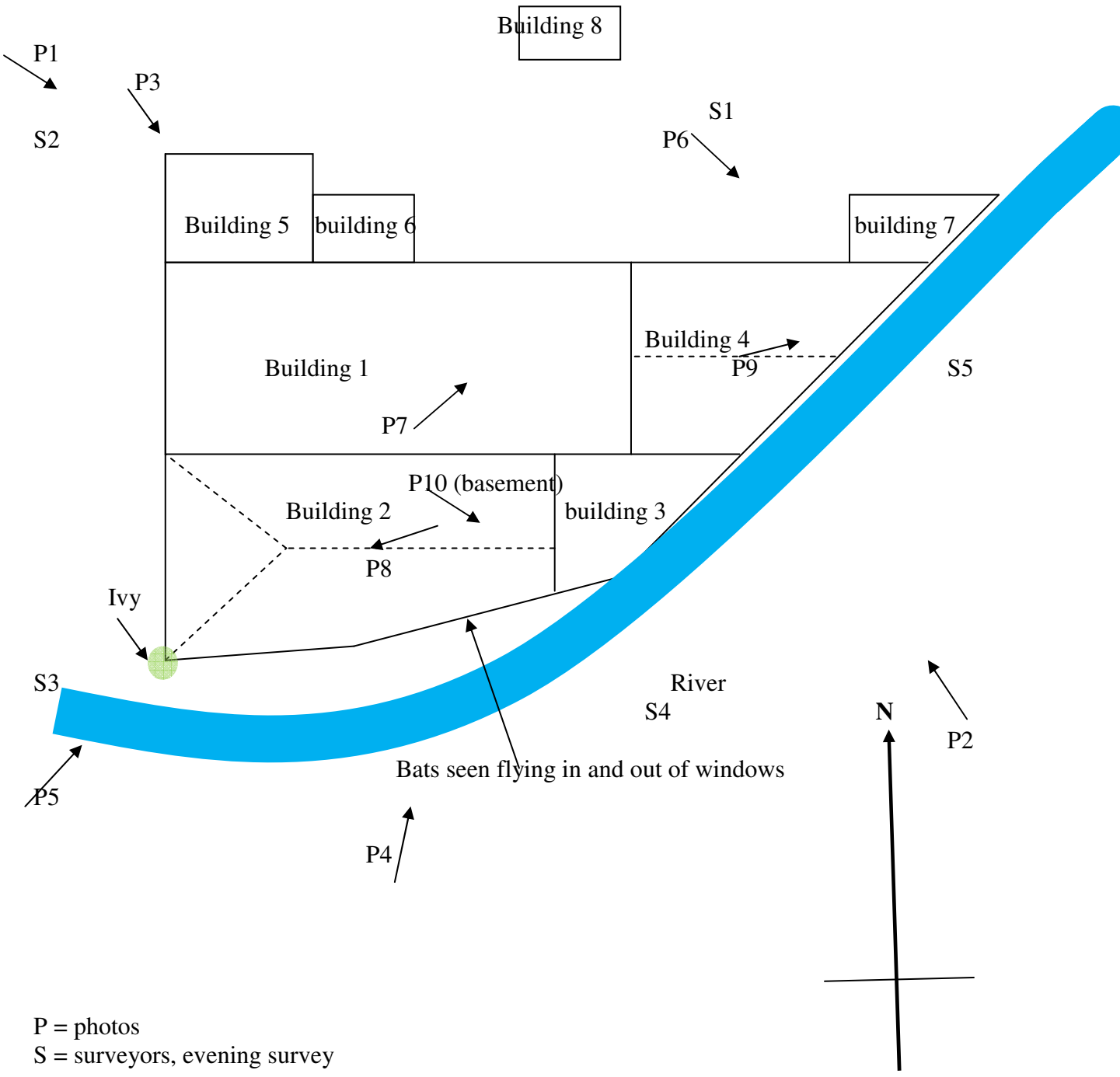

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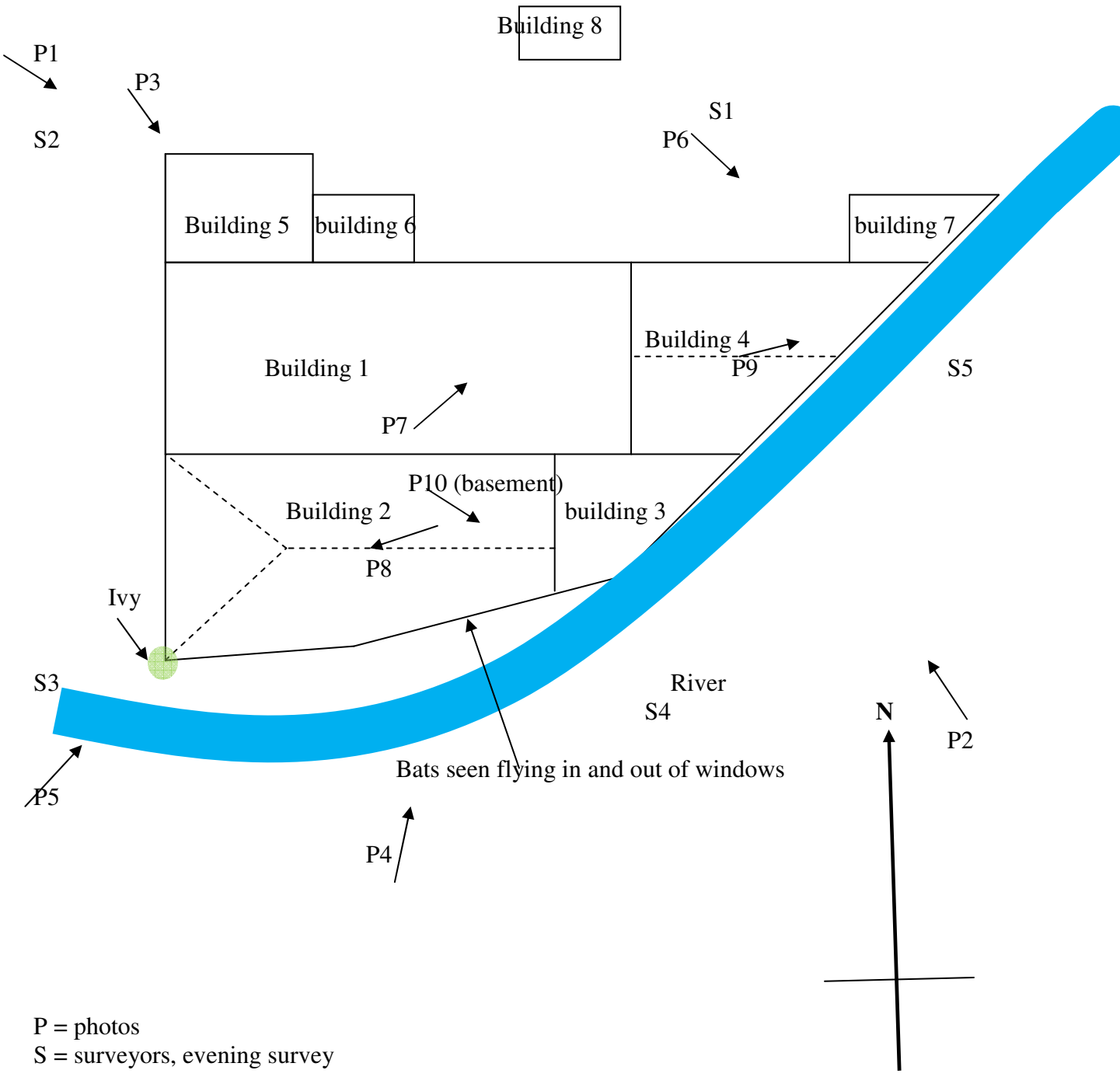

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