Protected Species Survey:
Bats and Barn Owls

Survey conducted by:
John Temple
Cragg House Farm
Buttermere
Cockermouth
CA13 9XA

Bat Survey Class Licence CL18 Registration no. 12316-CLS

Survey commissioned by:
Stuart Woodall
Green Swallow North Limited
Swallow Barn
Blindcrake
Cumbria
CA13 0QP

Property Surveyed:
Buildings at Town Head Farm
Nethertown
Egremont
CA22 2UH

Grid Reference:
NX990075

Contents

A) BAT SURVEY

B) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO BAT SURVEY

C) BARN OWL SURVEY

A) Bat Survey

A1) Views of Site and Site plan:

Site plan

Front of sites 1 and 2

Rear of sites 1 and 2

Front of sites 3 and 4

Rear of site 3 and gable end of site 4

Rear of site 4 showing disused cottage

A2) Site Description:

The site consists of 4 sites:

- **Site 1:** This is a large sandstone-built barn measuring approximately 16 metres by 9 metres and 8 metres to the guttering. It has a tiled roof with a breathable membrane which was renewed in 2003. There is no loft area. It is well-pointed both inside and out. There is an area on the north-eastern aspect which has been repaired in 2014 using breeze-blocks and re-pointed externally. There is a tin-built lean-to built on the south-western aspect and a small, single-storey, stone-built lean-to on the north-western gable. This has a slate roof and daubing.
- **Site 2:** This is a large, sandstone-built bank barn, measuring 9 metres by 9 metres and from 4-6 metres to the guttering. It has a slate roof with daubing and has some small areas of disrepair. The building is well-pointed both inside and out. It has a single-storey calf shed adjoining the south-eastern gable.
- **Site 3:** This is a sandstone-built barn with a concrete-sheet roof. It measures 12 metres by 7.5 metres and 6 metres to the guttering. It is well-pointed inside and out. It has a loft area throughout which is used for storing hay.
- **Site 4:** This is a row of single-storey byres with a tile roof and felt which was renewed in 2003. These are well-pointed throughout. This adjoins a two-storey, small, derelict cottage on the north-western gable which itself adjoins site 3. It also has a tiled roof which was renewed in 2000.

A3) Habitat Description:

The site is in the village of Nethertown and forms three sides of a square courtyard. The fourth side is a farmhouse of similar age and construction. This area is surrounded by houses and agricultural buildings of various ages and construction as well as small gardens with semi-mature and mature garden trees and shrubs. The main part of the village lies to the north-west of the site. Beyond this is agricultural land, grazed by cattle and sheep, and arable land. The Irish sea borders the land approximately 350 metres to the west of the site with a narrow strip of coastal shrub.

A4) Details of proposed works:

It is understood that the buildings are to be developed

A5) Survey:

A5.1) Timing and Weather conditions:

The daytime survey and emergence survey were conducted on 18th September 2019 by Mr. John Temple, Mrs Vicki Temple and Miss Zeinab Weyers. A dawn survey was conducted on 19th September 2019 by Mr John Temple and Mrs Vicki Temple.

The weather for the emergence survey was fine with occasional light high cloud and no wind. The temperature was 15.6˚c falling to 13.9˚c.

The weather for the dawn survey was fine with no cloud and no wind. The temperature was 12.3˚c rising to 13.2˚c

A5.2) Constraints:

No plans were available to the consultant.

Although late in the season, bats were still active in this location at the time of surveying.

A5.3) Results:

No signs of bats were seen in or around the sites during the initial daytime survey. No bats were seen emerging from or returning to any of the sites during the dawn survey. Recording equipment left inside the sites overnight showed no evidence of bats using these sites.

During the emergence survey between 3 and 6 common pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) were detected flying over the site and hunting around the farmyard and just to the north of the site.

During the dawn survey, 7 common pipistrelle bats were detected hunting around the farmyard and to the north of the site before swarming and entering a residential building accross the road which lies approximately 15 metres to the north of site 1.

A6) Mitigation Strategy:

Although no signs of bats were found at the site, great care must be taken when work commences. If bats are seen or suspected then work must stop and further advice be sought from the acting consultant. If work does not commence before 1st April 2020 an additional survey should be conducted in case bats move in to the property.

A7) Summary:

Prior to an application for building works, a survey for bats was commissioned. No signs of bats were seen in or around the site and no bats were seen leaving the site during the emergence survey or returning to the site during the dawn survey.

Although late in the season, bats were active at the time of surveying and were identified entering a roost in a residential property to the north of the site.

B) Additional Information:

B1) Bats and their requirements

All British bats and their roosts are afforded protection under the 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act (as amended) and are listed under Annex IV of the Habitats Directive as in need of protection. PPS9 acts as a guide to local authorities in relation to wildlife issues where developments may affect protected species and how conservation and any appropriate mitigation measures should be implemented. Furthermore where the presence of a European protected species (all British bats) may be affected by development then a licence to derogate from the Habitats Directive, 1994 Regulations would be required from the Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Licences are processed by DEFRA and issued in consultation with English Nature, the statutory body for nature conservation.

A bat roost may be defined in several ways:

a) Summer breeding roost.
b) Hibernation roost.
c) Transitional or temporary roost.

As bats have a variety of roost sites that fulfil different requirements at different times of the year, and these sites are returned to regularly, then the roost is protected even if the bats are not present. Roost selection is often closely correlated to suitable foraging habitat within a reasonable commuting distance from the roost and different sites are used depending upon insect densities and abundance. Climatic conditions can also affect their ability to successfully forage. All British bats are insectivorous.

B2) Background to activity

Prior to an application for building works, a survey for bats was commissioned.

B3) Pre-existing information on species at site

None

B4) Status of species in the local/regional area

Pipistrellus pygmaeus (soprano pipistrelle), *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (common pipistrelle), *Plecotus auritus* (brown long-eared bat), *Myotis daubentonii* (Daubenton's bat), are common and widespread; *Myotis mystacinus* (whiskered bat), *Myotis brandtii* (Brant's bat), *Myotis nattereri* (Natterer's bat), are widespread and scarce; *Nyctalus noctula* (noctule) is widespread and frequent.

B5) Objective of survey

The objective of the survey was to ascertain whether there were any signs of use of the site by bats. Signs of bats include: droppings, insect remains, wear marks from egress points, or the presence of bats. Areas that have potential for bats to roost in but no actual signs of bats or are inaccessible to survey are also noted.

B6) Survey area

The survey area was the site as described above.

B7) Field Survey:

B7.1) Methods

The site was surveyed using a high-powered torch and ladders. Crevices were examined internally and externally for droppings, the presence of bats or potential for use by bats using an endoscope where needed. Emergence and dawn surveys were conducted assisted by the use of bat detectors, recording equipment, night vision equipment and night-time camera trapping equipment where appropriate.

B8) Interpretations and evaluation

B8.1) Presence/ Absence

No signs of bats were found

B8.2) Population size class assessment

N/a

B8.3) Site status assessment

Although the sites appeared suitable bat habitat, access points were limited due to the tight construction and pointing of the buildings. The single storey byres comprising part of Site 4 had minimal potential for use by bats due to the low height meaning that they would be accessible to predators.

B9) Impact Assessment

B9.1) Pre- and mid- activity impacts

N/a

B9.2) Post activity interference impacts

N/a

B9.3) Summary of impacts at the site level

No negative impacts are envisaged.

B9.5) Summary of impacts on a wider context

No negative impacts are envisaged.

B10) Mitigation

B10.1) Replacement roost site selection

N/a

B10.2) Existing species status

N/a

B11) Location, ownership and status

Town Head Farm is located in the village of Nethertown and is owned by Mr Pietro Baldotto.

B12) Capture and exclusion

B12.1) Timing, effort, methods, capture/exclusion methods

N/a

B13) Post development safeguard

B13.1) Habitat management and safeguard

N/a

B13.2) Population monitoring

N/a

B13.3) Mechanism for ensuring delivery

Condition of planning consent

C) Barn Owl Survey.

C1) Barn Owls and their Requirements

Barn owls and their roosts, nests and eggs are afforded protection under the 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act (as amended) and are listed under Annex IV of the Habitats Directive as in need of protection. PPG9 acts as a guide to local authorities in relation to wildlife issues where developments may affect protected species and how conservation and any appropriate mitigation measures should be implemented. Furthermore where the presence of a European protected species (all barn owls) may be affected by development then a licence to derogate from the Habitats Directive, 1994 Regulations would be required from the Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Licences are processed by DEFRA and issued in consultation with English Nature, the statutory body for nature conservation.

C2) Background to activity

Prior to an application for building works, a survey for owls was commissioned.

C3) Survey and Site assessment

C3.1) Objective of survey

The objective of the survey was to ascertain whether there were any signs of use of the site by Barn Owls. Signs of owls would include: pellets, faeces remains (whitewash), feathers, dead chicks, prey remains or the presence of Barn Owls.
The survey area was the site described above.

C3.2) Habitat description

See bat survey

C3.3) Site description

See bat survey.

C4) Field Survey

C4.1) Method

The survey was conducted using ladders and a high powered torch.

C4.2) Timing

As bat survey.

C4.3) Weather conditions:

See bat survey.

C4.4) Personnel

The survey was conducted by John Temple.

C5) Results

No signs of owls were seen on the site.

C6) Interpretation and evaluation

No signs of barn owls were found.