

Protected Species Survey: **Bats and Barn Owls**

Survey conducted by:

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Survey commissioned by:

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On behalf of:

Mr H Tyson
2, Lowmill House
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CA22 2UE

Property Surveyed:

Barwickstead
Beckermot
CA21 2YA

Grid Reference:

NY017068

<p>This survey remains the property of Mr. John Temple and can not be submitted as part of a planning application until all payments have been received.</p>

John Temple Licensed Bat surveyor
Bat Survey Class Licence CL18
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Contents

A) BAT SURVEY

A1) PLAN OF SITE	3
A2) VIEWS OF SITE	3
A3) SITE DESCRIPTION	4
A4) HABITAT DESCRIPTION	5
A5) DETAILS OF PROPOSED WORKS	5
A6) SURVEY	5
A6.1) TIMING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS	5
A6.2) CONSTRAINTS	5
A6.3) RESULTS	5
A7) MITIGATION STRATEGY	5
A8) SUMMARY	5

B) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO BAT SURVEY

B1) BATS AND THEIR REQUIREMENTS	6
B2) BACKGROUND TO ACTIVITY	6
B3) PRE-EXISTING INFORMATION ON SPECIES AT SITE	6
B4) STATUS OF SPECIES IN THE LOCAL/ REGIONAL AREA	6
B5) OBJECTIVE OF SURVEY	6
B6) SURVEY AREA	6
B7) FIELD SURVEY	7
B7.1) METHODS	7
B8) INTERPRETATION AND EVALUATION	7
B8.1) PRESENCE/ ABSENCE	7
B8.2) POPULATION SIZE CLASS ASSESSMENT	7
B8.3) SITE STATUS ASSESSMENT	7
B9) IMPACT ASSESSMENT	7
B9.1) PRE- AND MID- ACTIVITY IMPACTS	7
B9.2) POST ACTIVITY INTERFERENCE IMPACTS	7
B9.3) SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AT A SITE LEVEL	7
B9.4) SUMMARY OF IMPACTS ON A WIDER CONTEXT	7
B10) MITIGATION	7
B10.1) REPLACEMENT ROOST SITE SELECTION	7
B10.2) EXISTING SPECIES STATUS	7
B11) LOCATION, OWNERSHIP AND STATUS	7
B12) CAPTURE AND EXCLUSION	7
B12.1) TIMING, METHODS	7
B13) POST DEVELOPMENT SAFEGUARD	7
B13.1) HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND SAFEGUARD	7
B13.2) POPULATION MONITORING	7
B13.3) MECHANISM FOR ENSURING DELIVERY	7

C) BARN OWL SURVEY

C1) BARN OWLS AND THEIR REQUIREMENTS	8
C2) BACKGROUND TO ACTIVITY	8
C3) SURVEY AND SITE ASSESSMENT	8
C3.1) OBJECTIVE OF SURVEY	8
C3.2) HABITAT DESCRIPTION	8
C3.3) SITE DESCRIPTION	8
C4) FIELD SURVEY	8
C4.1) METHOD	8
C4.2) TIMING	8
C4.3) WEATHER CONDITIONS	8
C4.4) PERSONNEL	8
C5) RESULTS	8
C6) INTERPRETATION AND EVALUATION	8

Lean-to on Rear of Barn



The Piggery – Front



Gable



A3) Site Description:

The site consists of: a large bank barn, a more modern lean-to and a piggery.

The Bank Barn:

This is a two-storey sandstone-built bank barn. It is well pointed with a slate roof and daubing. The barn faces north-east towards the road. There is a large pigeon loft incorporated into the southern end of the roof space. The lower storey consists of byers, stables and a washhouse.

The More Modern Lean-To:

This building faces north-west and has three aspects which are the original sandstone walls. The front aspect is breezeblock and tin-sheeting. It has a slate roof with daubing.

The Piggery:

This is a small, sandstone-built building which faces south-east in to the yard. It is rendered on the north-eastern gable and well pointed on all other aspects. It has a slate roof with daubing which is in a state of disrepair.

A4) Habitat Description:

The sites are within a farm complex in the village of Beckermeth. The buildings to the south and east are predominantly sandstone-built. To the immediate north and west of the farm is a field grazed by sheep. This field has semi-mature deciduous trees within a mature hedge running along the northern edge. Also along the border of the field are some mature deciduous trees immediately to the west of the site and some further trees to the south-west of the site. Beyond this there are more modern houses to the west and south-west. The village itself is in a rural location surrounded by pasture land grazed by cattle and sheep. Kirk Beck and Black Beck run approximately 200 metres to the south-east of the site.

A5) Details of proposed works:

It is understood that the sites are to be developed. No plans were available to the consultant at the time of surveying.

A6) Survey:

A6.1) Timing and Weather conditions:

The daytime survey was conducted on 24th June by Mr John Temple.

Emergence surveys were conducted on:

25th June 2019 by Mr. John Temple.

The weather for the emergence survey was fine with no cloud and a light easterly wind. The temperature was 15.2°C falling to 13.3°C.

5th July 2019 by Mr. John Temple and Mrs Vicki Temple.

The weather for the emergence survey was fine with intermittent light drizzle and no wind. The temperature was 14.8°C falling to 13.2°C.

6th July 2019 by Mr. John Temple and Mrs Vicki Temple.

The weather for the emergence survey was fine with high broken cloud and a light northerly breeze. The temperature was 16.1°C falling to 14.4°C.

A6.2) Constraints:

No plans were available to the consultant at the time of surveying.

A6.3) Results:

No signs of bats were seen in any of the sites during the daytime survey.

No bats were seen to emerge from any of the sites during the three emergence surveys. No bats were detected flying or hunting around the immediate vicinity of the sites to be developed.

During all three surveys between six and nine common pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) detected hunting in the field to the north and west of the site.

A7) 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.

A8) Summary:

Prior to an application for building works, a survey for bats was commissioned. No signs of bats were seen in any of the sites during the daytime survey.

No bats were seen to emerge from any of the sites during the three emergence surveys. No bats were detected flying or hunting around the immediate vicinity of the sites to be developed.

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

No existing information on site.

The surveyor has surveyed the buildings immediately opposite the sites in August 2015, December 2016 and January 2018. No roosts were detected in the locality in 2015. The other two surveys were not within the active season for bats.

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. The emergence 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 bats were present in the area to be developed.

B8.2) Population size class assessment

N/a

B8.3) Site status assessment

Due to the pointing of the stonework in all 3 buildings, there were limited access points available for use by bats.

Although the roof of the large bank barn appeared to be suitable habitat, no signs of bat use was found. The roofs of the other two buildings had less areas of suitable habitat.

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

Barwickstead is located in the village of Beckermet and is owned by Mr H Tyson.

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

Although the large bank barn appeared suitable habitat for owls, no signs of owls were seen and no signs were seen in the other two sites.

C6) Interpretation and evaluation

No signs of barn owls were found in any of the sites.