

**Survey for Bats, Barn Owls & Breeding Birds,
Flosk Farm, Cleator, Cumbria, CA23 3DT.
Supplementary Report nine years after original report**



West barn B from the south

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Report commissioned by:
Mr A Butler

Introduction

A Baseline Ecological Survey & Impact Assessment including a Bat and Bird building survey was carried out on this property on 6th February 2007 by Envirotech, there were no signs of bats or birds within or around the property, signs of barn owls were in the derelict property G to the west attached and owned by the Ennerdale Country House Hotel, it being outside the bats active period an emergence survey was not carried out but was recommended.

Site description

The group of derelict farm buildings include west(B) and east(A) full storey barns with a former milking

parlour link to the south © and lean-to store link to the north (D), there is also a derelict milking parlour to the south of the west barn (E) and derelict stores to the south of the east barn (F). Building A & E have stone walls, B, C, D & F have brick walls, D has a slate roof on rafters, A & B have corrugated asbestos cement roofs on purlin & truss, C has only truss remaining, E & F have no roof structure, floors are a mixture of slab and concrete. All buildings are in an overgrown state with ivy, tree saplings and giant hogweed.

Field survey

Methods: A building survey was carried out on 22nd April 2016 and 8th June 2016 followed by an emergence survey on the evening of 13th July 2016, with a torch and a Magenta Bat3 & duet detectors.
Timing- Sunset was approx. 21:45, survey commenced 15 minutes before and was completed 1.25 hours after sunset.

Weather conditions- temperature was 16degC conditions were 20% cloud, dry and calm.

Personnel- survey was conducted by Steve Wake & Liz Greenway.

Results:-

There were no signs Barn Owls or bats in the buildings, signs of Tawny Owls and pigeons were seen with a young owl seen to the east on 8th June and pellets and feathers visible in barns A & B.

21:40 a Common Pipistrelle (CP) approached barn A from the south then headed east.

21:41 a CP approached barn A from the southwest and headed east.

21:42 a Soprano Pipistrelle (SP) approached barn A from the south and headed east, also at 21:44.

21:45 two SP flew feeding east of barn A continuous until 22:12.

22:09 a CP flew feeding west over trees to the south of barn B at 10m height.

22:12 two SP chased each other over the buildings one heading northwest the other east at 8m height

22:16 a distant Pipistrelle was heard feeding to the south.

23:00 survey ended.

The interior of barns A & B were monitored throughout the night for bat activity but none was detected.

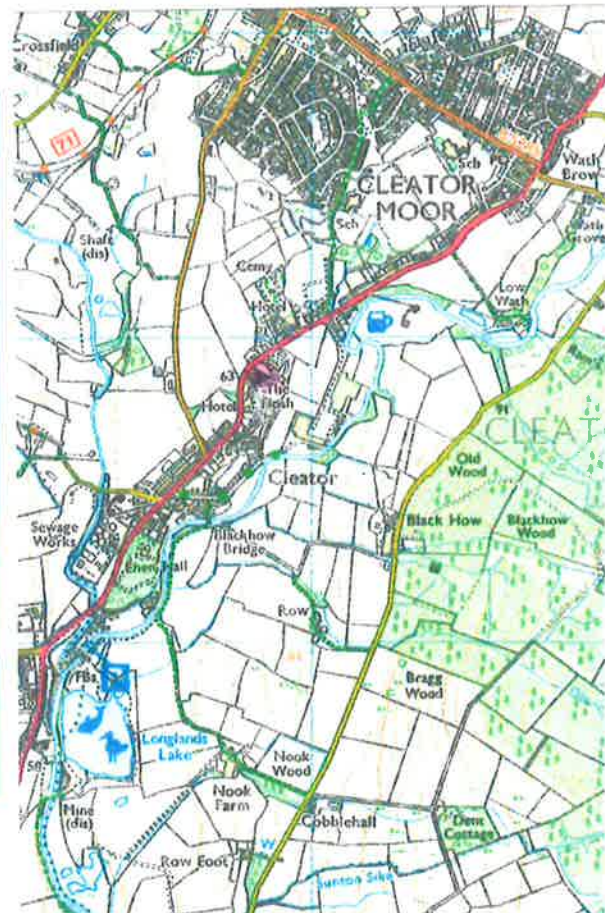
Initial bat activity was seen just before sunset approaching from the south and east suggests a small bat roost either in the large trees to the southeast or the new estate to the east, after initial, wing warming chasing in the tree/barn area feeding progressed into the wooded river valley.

Bat Flight Plan

Common  & Soprano Pipistrelle 



Location Plan Scale 1:25000



Potential

There is potential for bats to roost as mentioned in the first survey, bats appear to be not using the building for roosting at present, The building has a medium status site assessment for bat roost use, the adjoining garden with its trees are being used by feeding bats.

Impact assessment

The demolition of the buildings (within the winter months) will have only a minor detrimental impact on the bats and many of the trees with roost potential are being retained. The developer should provide six woodcrete bat boxes and two Owl boxes on trees being retained as previously recommended..

It is also mended that external lighting on the new development should be kept low level and intensity to protect bats feeding and wing warming areas.

Mitigation

Mitigation is not required for bats, Barn Owls as none are present in the buildings.

Bat & Owl roosting enhancement will be created as described in the previous report.

Summary of development and mitigation:

The interior and exterior of the buildings had no field signs of bat or Barn Owls, Tawny Owls and pigeon were roosting in the buildings.

Although no roosting signs of bats were found there is potential for them to be present in the areas that were inaccessible to the survey, these were, in any openings in roof and walls and joints in the beams.

Extreme care must be taken when working on these areas. Crevices should be checked with a torch or endoscope prior to pointing to ensure no bats are entombed, if pointing needs to be done then bats should be allowed to egress through built in sloping tubes.

Bat boxes will be placed on the trees being retained with one used as a temporary roost for any bats found during construction.

Bats can be encouraged on site by allowing them access to the new buildings post-works.

Two Owl nesting/roosting boxes will be placed in retained trees.

If all the elements of the report are adhered to a European Protected Species Licence should not be necessary.

!If at any point during the works bats are seen or suspected within the building, work must stop and further advice sought!

The Bat Year, indicated below, shows work on trees and roofs is best done in spring or autumn (red) while work on roosting sites are best avoided from June-August and hibernation sites from December- February, this avoids periods when they are particularly vulnerable to disturbance.

January, February	Bats Hibernate, Individually or in small groups.
March, April, May	Occasionally wake. Bats hungry and active, torpid in bad weather. Move roost sites
June, July, August	Females in large maternity groups. Young born, suckle for 6 weeks. Mothers leave roost first, young later.

September, October, November	Mating takes place. Bats put on fat. Look for good wintering sites. Gradually become torpid for longer periods.
December	Hibernate

Table from the Bat Conservation Trust

The Barn Owl Year

Barn Owls have been recorded as breeding in every month although the usual breeding season is March to August. Ideally any work should be carried out between September and February, always ensure that a suitable roosting place is available close to site, establish this well before the commencement of work.

January to March	Courtship and choosing nesting sites. Mate for life, traditional nest sites can be occupied for 100 years, in wet areas (western Britain & uplands) nest in barns, dry areas in tree holes.
April to June	Eggs laid and incubated. 4-6 white eggs, no nest structure, laid at 2-3 day intervals, female incubates for 33 days, male may stand off in a separate roost.
July to September	Feeding and fledging. Food short tailed field voles, shrews, bank voles, wood mice & young rats, fledge at 50days, fly at 55 days, fully fledged 67days. (normally produce 2 pellets a day)
October to December	Territory dispersal and winter survival. Owlets driven out of birth territory, only 30% survive 1 st winter, some starve or perish in bad weather, 50% are road casualties.

Photographs

Barn A. 5

- A. Barn A from the north.
- C. Barn A from the south.

Barn B. 6

- A. Interior looking east.
- C. Barn A,D&B from northeast.

Other buildings. 7

- A. Building G looking east.
- C. Interior of building E looking south.

- B. Interior looking southwest.
- D. Interior looking northeast.

- B. Interior looking west.
- D. Barn B from the southwest.

- B. Building C& A looking northeast.
- D. Interior of building C looking northwest.



C



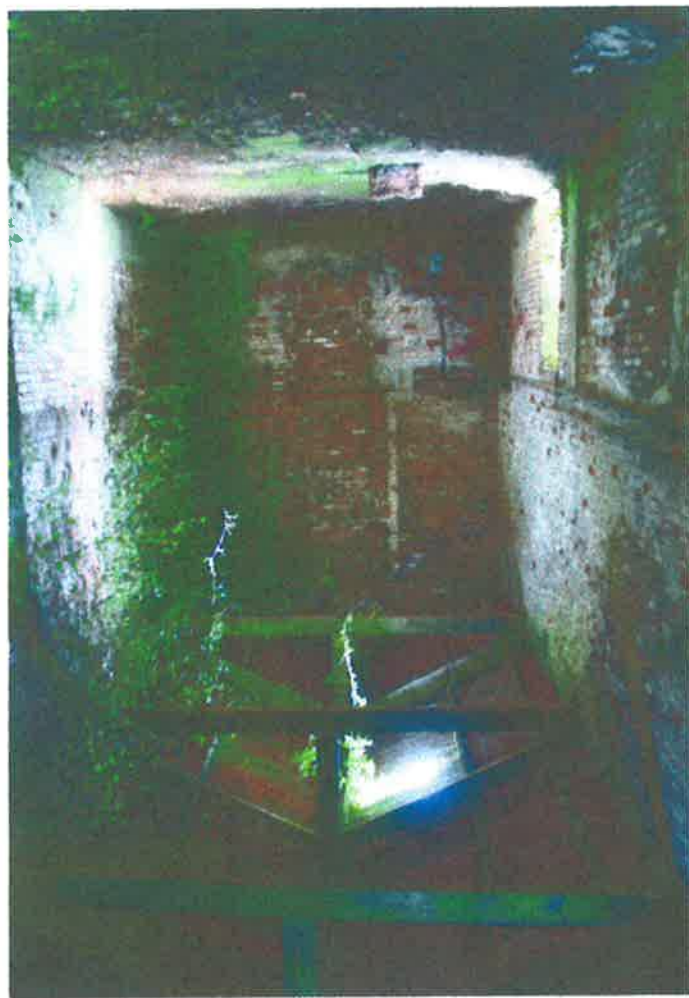
B



A



B





D



C



B



A