

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

Survey conducted by:

John Temple
Cragg House Farm
Buttermere
Cockermouth
CA13 9XA
Tas

Bat Survey Class Licence CL18 Registration no. 12316-CLS

Survey commissioned by:

Stuart Woodall
Green Swallow North Limited
Swallow Barn
Blindcrake
Cumbria
CA13 0QP

On behalf of:

Mr. and Mrs. J Spedding
Salter Hall Farm
Kirkland
FRIZINGTON
CA26 3YD

Property Surveyed:

Hollowdyke Farm
Frizington Road
Frizington

Grid Reference:

NY033166

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.

Contents

A) BAT SURVEY

A1) VIEWS OF SITE	3
A2) SITE DESCRIPTION	4
A3) HABITAT DESCRIPTION	4
A4) DETAILS OF PROPOSED WORKS	4
A5) SURVEY	
A5.1) TIMING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS	4
A5.2) CONSTRAINTS	4
A5.3) RESULTS	4
A6) MITIGATION STRATEGY	5
A7) 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	
B7.1) METHODS	7
B8) INTERPRETATION AND EVALUATION	
B8.1) PRESENCE/ ABSENCE	7
B8.2) POPULATION SIZE CLASS ASSESSMENT	7
B8.3) SITE STATUS ASSESSMENT	7
B9) IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
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	
B10.1) REPLACEMENT ROOST SITE SELECTION	7
B10.2) EXISTING SPECIES STATUS	7
B11) LOCATION, OWNERSHIP AND STATUS	7
B12) CAPTURE AND EXCLUSION	
B12.1) TIMING, METHODS	7
B13) POST DEVELOPMENT SAFEGUARD	
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 REQUIRMENTS	8
C2) BACKGROUND TO ACTIVITY	8
C3) SURVEY AND SITE ASSESSMENT	
C3.1) OBJECTIVE OF SURVEY	8
C3.2) HABITAT DESCRIPTION	8
C3.3) SITE DESCRIPTION	8
C4) FIELD SURVEY	
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

A) Bat Survey

A1) Views of Site:

Northern gable of barn



Old house



Southern gable and front of byres



Southern gable and rear of byres



Rear of house and barn



A2) Site Description:

The site is a former farm measuring approximately 40 metres by 6 metres and averaging 4.2 metres to the guttering. The northern section is a sandstone-built, well-pointed, two storey barn with a concrete tile roof. This runs onto the old farmhouse which is also two storey but has been lowered in the past. It is sandstone-built and fully rendered. It has a concrete sheet roof at the front and local slate on the rear. There is a sandstone lean-to on the rear of the house which is also rendered and has a local slate roof. The byres at the southern end of the site are single storey, sandstone-built and rendered with a Welsh slate roof on the front and tin sheets to the rear. All the buildings have concrete floors and areas of the slated and tiled roof are collapsing.

A3) Habitat Description:

The site faces east onto the road. There are single rows houses of varying ages and construction to the north and south of the site. Lingla beck lies approximately 100 metres to the west of the site and is lined by mature deciduous trees. The area is surrounded by semi-improved pasture land with hedges and more improved pasture land beyond. The village of Frizington is approximately 350 metres to the north and Rheda Park lies approximately 350 metres to the west of the site.

A4) Details of proposed works:

It is understood that the site would be demolished and replaced with housing.

A5) Survey:

A5.1) Timing and Weather conditions:

The initial survey and emergence survey were conducted on 30th August 2021 by Mr. John Temple. The weather for the emergence survey was fine with no cloud and no wind.

The temperature was 23.2° c falling to 20.8° c.

A second emergence survey was conducted on 6th September by Mr. John Temple and Mrs. Vicki Temple.

The weather for the emergence survey was fine with high cloud with and a slight southerly breeze.

The temperature was 18.0° c falling to 16.9° c.

A dawn survey was conducted on 7th September by Mr. John Temple and Mrs. Vicki Temple.

The weather for the dawn survey was fine with high cloud and a slight south-easterly breeze.

A5.2) Constraints:

None.

A5.3) Results:

No signs of bats were seen in the site.

On the initial emergence survey on 30th August, two common pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) were seen and identified hunting in the area to the south of the site. No bats were seen to emerge from the site.

On the second emergence survey on 6th September, three common pipistrelle bats were seen and identified hunting to the north and west of the site. No bats were seen to emerge from the site.

On the dawn survey on 7th September, three common pipistrelle bats were seen hunting to the north of the site but were not seen to enter the site.

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.

A7) Summary:

Prior to an application for building works, a survey for bats was commissioned. It is the surveyor's opinion that bats are not using this 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

The Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website was accessed to identify any granted protected species mitigation licenses within 2 km of the site – No licenses have been granted in this area.

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. An emergence survey was 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

The potential for bat habitat was minimal due to the state of disrepair of the buildings allowing damp in to the walls.

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

Hollowdyke Farm is located on the outskirts of the village of Frizington and is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Spedding of Salter Hall Farm, Kirkland.

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

There were numerous barn owl pellets throughout the byres although none were recent, and were estimated to be over two months old. There were also scattered, adult moulted feathers and whitewash in this area.

There was a dead, decomposing adult barn owl on the floor in the middle section of the byres.

There were old pellets and some old, barn owl down feathers in the chimney of the house 4-5 years old which would indicate historic use of this area as a nest site for barn owls.

There was no evidence of recent (within the last 4-5 years) use of the site by barn owls as a nest site.

C6) Interpretation and evaluation

No signs of current nesting barn owls were found.