

320120579P



BAT AND OWL SURVEY & REPORT

Commissioned By:

Mr A Weare

Address:

Huckle-Ing Farm
Gisburn Road
Sawley
Clitheroe, BB7 4LH

Tel No:

07796 266573
01200 445467

Instruction Method:

Verbal

Bat Survey Address:

Barn attached to Huckle-Ing Farmhouse
Gisburn Road
Sawley
Clitheroe, BB7 4LH

Visit Date/Time:

20 July 2010 @ 20.00hrs

Weather Conditions:

Overcast and raining with no wind - temperature of 14°C

Document Reference:

1309



BAT SURVEY & REPORT

Survey Brief

1. To inspect buildings, assess the value of the site for bats, and compile a report prior to a Planning Application being submitted
2. The report will identify if bats have ever used the buildings at any time, or not as the case may be
3. If bats have used the buildings, assess the importance of the site for bats and bat conservation

Limitations of the report

1. The aim of the survey is to prove use by bats, but does not guarantee their absence
2. Surveys undertaken when bats are hibernating, may have to be re-assessed during summer months when bats are most active
3. External walls and internal rooms are inspected from ground level only. Roof voids, attics and lofts will only be inspected when safe access is possible. Buildings whose structure is unsafe in any way, will only be inspected from a safe distance with the use of a pair of binoculars
4. A bat detector will be used in all cases but daytime visits may only produce limited success. When buildings are inspected during winter months, a bat detector will have very limited results
5. Buildings with no signs of bats on the date of the survey, may be used by individuals or small numbers of bats, in subsequent weeks, months or years
6. Thorough inspection should reveal whether bats have been present during previous years. Small bats, e.g. pipistrelles, leave evidence of occupation in small inaccessible crevices which may be extremely difficult to detect if the bats are not present when the survey is being conducted

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BAT SURVEY & REPORT

Objectives of the report:

1. To thoroughly inspect all buildings, and record any findings indicating the presence or absence of bats.
2. To make recommendations when the presence of bats are found

Survey Guidelines

This survey follows guidelines recommended by the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines, 2007) and Natural England (Survey objectives, methods and standards- Bat Mitigation Guidelines, 2004) and JNCC Bat Workers Manual

Survey Methods

- The purpose of the survey is to look for evidence confirming that bats use, or have used the buildings for resting, feeding, roosting or winter hibernacula, or not as the case may be.

Evidence of use will include the following;

- 1 Presence of live or dead bats
- 2 Bat droppings
- 3 Moth and insect wings and remains
- 4 Faint scratch marks on roof timbers
- 5 Grease staining marks on roof timbers
- 6 Odour of bats

Evening Surveys

- For evening surveys, an ultra-sound receiver is used, tuned to different frequencies to pick up the noises emitted by flying bats. Bat emergence time may start half an hour before sunset, to one hour after. Fine tuning the 'bat detector' can be a very accurate way of identifying the presence of bats emerging from roof areas where human access is limited or impossible
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Time spent on suitable evenings, will confirm or not the presence of bats, and bat species identification should be possible if bats are present

Surveying Equipment

Re-chargeable torches, one at 1 million, the other at ½ million candlepower,
8 x 32 Opticron binoculars,
Bat box 'duet' bat detector,
Petzl headlamp torches
A variety of folding aluminium ladders
Telescopic inspection mirrors, large and small

BAT SURVEY & REPORT

Bat detection methods

The size of the site or the complexity of the buildings may make daytime searches for bats very difficult. Subsequently, the detection of the presence of bats is undertaken by night visits and relies on the use of a bat detector, an instrument that picks up the ultra-sound emitted by bats, converting it into a sound audible to the human ear. Species may be identified by the frequency on which they 'transmit' and by the sonar graph of their sounds.

Evening surveys

Any survey is reliant on the scope and depth of the information sourced. In an attempt to obtain more detail, an evening survey may be conducted around the site or buildings. To give greater coverage and scope, the survey is normally conducted by two persons. Ultra-sound bat detectors were used at varying frequencies throughout the duration of the survey, to pick up noises emitted by bats.

Analysis of results

Dependent on the results indicated by the bat detector, further inspection of the site may be required within the buildings to confirm any findings. Negative results from the bat detector will only indicate that bats are not present at the time of the survey.

Bat habits

Bats frequently use trees and buildings for feeding. Insects are found at all sites, and their presence attracts bats, which may travel up to five kilometres or more, to feast in insect rich habitat. The presence of feeding bats does not indicate that the roost is close by, and this survey is undertaken to establish whether bats use any of the structures on the site as a roost.

Adverse weather

Adverse weather conditions affect the ability to collect data on night visits. Cold nights, strong wind and heavy rain may prevent bats from flying, and numbers of insects may be likewise very limited. Subsequent visits should provide sufficient data and prove positive or negative results.

Risk Assessment

The level of probability that Bats are using the property is calculated on the evidence found.

Low risk:

No evidence of use by bats was found.

Medium risk:

Implies that the presence or use by Bats has been identified, and the building is probably used as a feeding site.

High risk:

Identifies that Bats use the property, droppings are found and a roost is confirmed or suspected, even if bats are not present at the time of the survey.

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Property

External Survey Results

Property type

Barn:
Extension:
Other:

YES	NO
☒	☐
☒	☐
☐	☒

Comments: There is a small single storey lean-to at the rear of the building.

Construction

Stone
Brick
Other:
Bat Access Places

☒	☐
☐	☒
☐	☒
☐	☒

Comments:

Roof

Slate
Tile:
Other: Box profile sheets
Bat Access Places

☐	☒
☐	☒
☒	☐
☐	☒

Comments: The barn has an apex roof type whilst the extension has no roof.

Bat Signs

Bats seen
Droppings
Bat Detector Results

☐	☒
☐	☒
☐	☒

Comments: The building is rendered and pointed with only a few bat access places

External Conclusions:

No signs of bats could be found

Risk Assessment: Low

BAT SURVEY & REPORT

Internal Survey Results

Is the building lived in? The building is used for storage

YES	NO
☒	☐
☐	☒
☐	☒
☒	☐

Construction

Stone
Brick
Other/plaster
Bat Access Places

Comments:

Roof space, attic or loft

Beams
Cracks in beams
Lined roof:
Bat Access Places

☒	☐
☐	☒
☐	☒
☒	☐

Comments: There are no doors on the building so bats have free access to fly in and out at all times.

Bat signs

Bats seen
Droppings
Bat Detector Results
Staining on beams
Moth + insect wings present
Suspect summer roost
Suspect winter hibernacula

☐	☒
☒	☐
☐	☒
☐	☒
☐	☒
☐	☒
☐	☒

Comments: Two bat droppings were found on the barn floor by the entrance. No other signs of bat occupation could be found

Internal Conclusions:

The droppings found on the floor were deposited by bats feeding inside the open doorway.

Risk Assessment: Low

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BAT SURVEY & REPORT

Bats and the Law

It may not be possible to determine whether the building is used as a maternity roost or just a resting place, but the fact that bat activity has been recorded, means that any work that disturbs or impacts on the colony within the buildings will require a license. Additional survey work may be necessary, especially in the evenings or early morning to determine the exact extent of use by bats and the access points that are used. Deliberate disturbance during the breeding season, the exclusion of bats and the destruction of a bat roost is now a criminal offence under the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007. The onus lies on the applicant to satisfy him/her that no offence will be committed if and when the development goes ahead.

Natural England now advises, "Operations to known breeding sites should be timed to avoid the months of June, July and August if possible, the best times for building or re-roofing operations are spring and autumn".

How to proceed when bats are found

Depending on the extent of the proposed works, a license may be required before any work can start. If the work does not impact on the bats in any way, ie, bats are not present and the habitat and access points are not being affected, then the work may probably be done without a licence. Each site has different requirements and Natural England have the final say.

When European Protected Species are present and the works cannot be done at a time when they are absent, as a licensed bat person, I can apply on your behalf for a licence to enable the works to proceed. The granting of a license is not guaranteed, but when the application is a matter of health and public safety and supporting mitigation enhances the habitat for continued use by bats, there is a good likelihood that the license will be approved. Natural England requires a minimum six weeks to process any licence application. Mitigation will include detailed information for the retention, enhancement and preservation of the population of European Protected Species in the locality.

General recommendations:

Being aware of how bats move from site to site, and the possibility that bats may occur in any building, the following points should help developers.

1. Bats may use buildings at any time of the year for feeding or refuge
2. Work to the roof should be undertaken when bats are free flying, generally early March to late November.
3. Care must be taken when removing existing roof beams and associated stonework
4. During completion of roof works, bat access points may be built into the new structure
5. Pointing of walls should not be carried out between mid-November to early March to avoid entombing bats, which may be hibernating within
6. If any timber treatment is carried out, only chemicals safe for bats should be used. Any new timber used should be treated using the CCA method (Copper, Chrome Arsenic), which is safe for bats

I shall be available to advise and oversee the above points at any time if requested.

Should bats be found, work must cease immediately in that area and then please contact: Denis Lambert on 01772 783322 or 07813 140682 for advice.

BAT SURVEY & REPORT

Evening Survey

Date: 20 July 2010

Start Time: 21.00 hours

End Time: 22.20 hours

Weather: Overcast and wet with temperature at 14°C

Survey Details:

A bat detector was used throughout the evening set at 45Khz. Though a damp evening, flying insects and moths were seen both outside and inside the building. The inside and outside of the building was continually monitored throughout.

Survey Findings:

The survey found no evidence of bats at any time during the evening.

Evaluation of the Survey Results:

The results concluded that bats do not use the building for roosting.

Risk Assessment:

Low

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SURVEY SUMMARY

Proposed Development

The proposal is to convert the building to a self catered holiday let.

Site Description

The building is one of the barns of a farm complex. It is surrounded by agricultural land as its location is on top of a hill and quite exposed.

Importance of the Site

The site is exposed and the building is rather open to the elements. Adjacent residential and more sheltered bat habitat can be found within the immediate locality.

Evaluation of Survey Results

The survey found that bats have used the building for feeding and two bat droppings were found. The building is not used for roosting.

Conclusions

Bats do not use the building for roosting purposes.

Mitigation and Enhancement

No special mitigation or wildlife enhancement is required.

Timing of works

Work may be undertaken at any time.

Author: Denis Lambert

Signed:



Dated:

22 July 2010

Denis Lambert is a registered and licensed Bat Warden for Natural England, since 1981. Dedicated to conservation and environmental issues, he has been a keen bird watcher and mammal specialist all his life and was involved with the formation of the Lancashire Badger Group and acted as its chairman for ten years. Working as a qualified arborist (tree surgeon) he has been actively involved in protecting many species of flora and fauna over the years.

BARN OWL SURVEY & REPORT

Survey Brief:

To inspect buildings, assess the value of the site for barn owls, and compile a report prior to a Planning Application being submitted.

The report will identify if barn owls have ever used the buildings at any time, or not as the case may be. Barn owls are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Habitats and Species Regulations 1994 and Countryside & Rights of Way Act, 2000

Objectives of the report:

To thoroughly inspect all buildings and record any findings indicating the presence or absence of barn owls.

To make recommendations when the presence of owls is found

Limitations of the report:

External walls and internal rooms are inspected from ground level only

Roof voids, attics and lofts will only be inspected when safe access is possible

Buildings whose structure is unsafe in any way, will only be inspected from a safe distance with the use of a pair of binoculars

Survey Details

The purpose of the survey is to look for evidence that barn owls use, or have used the buildings for resting, feeding or nesting, or not, as the case may be

Evidence of use by owls will include the following;

- White streaks down roof timbers and walls
- Barn owl pellets, new and old
- Barn owl feathers
- Signs of nest
- Access for barn owls

SURVEYING EQUIPMENT

- Re-chargeable torches, one at 1 million, the other at ½ million candlepower,
- 8 x 32 Opticron binoculars,
- Petzl headlamp torches
- A variety of folding aluminium ladders.

Survey Methods

The buildings were inspected, looking for signs of use by barn owls, as mentioned above, using ladders for access and torch and binoculars when required

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BARN OWL SURVEY & REPORT

Site description:

The barn is an open fronted large two storey building with exposed timber trusses It is surrounded by agricultural pasture and grazing land.

Importance of the site

The site is suitable for barn owls but it is probably too exposed on top of the hill, with insufficient good feeding habitat in the immediate area.

Survey results

External:

White streaks down roof timbers + walls

Internal:

Owl pellets

White streaks down walls

Owl pellets new

Owl pellets old

Owl feathers

Signs of nest

Access for owls

YES	NO
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	✓
	✓
	✓
	✓
	✓
	✓
	✓
	✓

Comments:

No evidence of barn owls could be found

Conclusion:

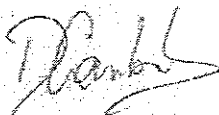
Barn owls do not use the building

Recommendations:

There are no recommendations necessary

Author: Denis Lambert

Signed:



Dated:

22 July 2010