

# Bat Scoping Survey Report

Cherry Tree Farm  
Chipping Road  
Chaigley  
Clitheroe  
BB7 3LX

18.05.2017



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## **Summary**

In May 2017 Batworker consultancy was commissioned to undertake a survey of a barn and outbuilding at Cherry Tree Farm, Chipping Road, Chaigley, Clitheroe BB7 3LX to assess the potential for use its use by bats.

A daytime survey was carried out on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017, in order to support plans to develop the property, this was supplemented by 11 nights of monitoring using a static bat detector.

**No evidence was recorded to suggest bats were roosting within the buildings.**

**No bats were observed or recorded using the buildings for roosting.**

**Roost potential is considered to be low.**

**No evidence of use by barn owls was recorded.**

**The surveyor considers survey effort to be reasonable to assess the roost potential of the building and no further survey work is deemed appropriate.**

**The surveyor does not consider the proposed development and change of use is likely to result in a breach of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) therefore the proposed development does not require an EPS Licence (EPSL) to proceed lawfully.**

## Introduction

In May 2017 Batworker consultancy was commissioned to undertake a survey of a barn and outbuilding at Cherry Tree Farm, Chipping Road, Chaigley, Clitheroe BB7 3LX to assess the potential for use its use by bats.

A daytime survey was carried out on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017, in order to support plans to develop the property, this was supplemented by 11 nights of monitoring using a static bat detector.

## Survey and Site Assessment

### Objectives of the survey

The survey was carried out to determine current usage by bats of the site and to establish status of the bat species using the site prior to development work being carried out.

### Survey site location



A central grid reference for the site is SD6545542466

## Site/Habitat description



The property is a stone built semi detached barn with a double pitched fibreboard/asbestos roof. Pointing has some cracks or crevices present.





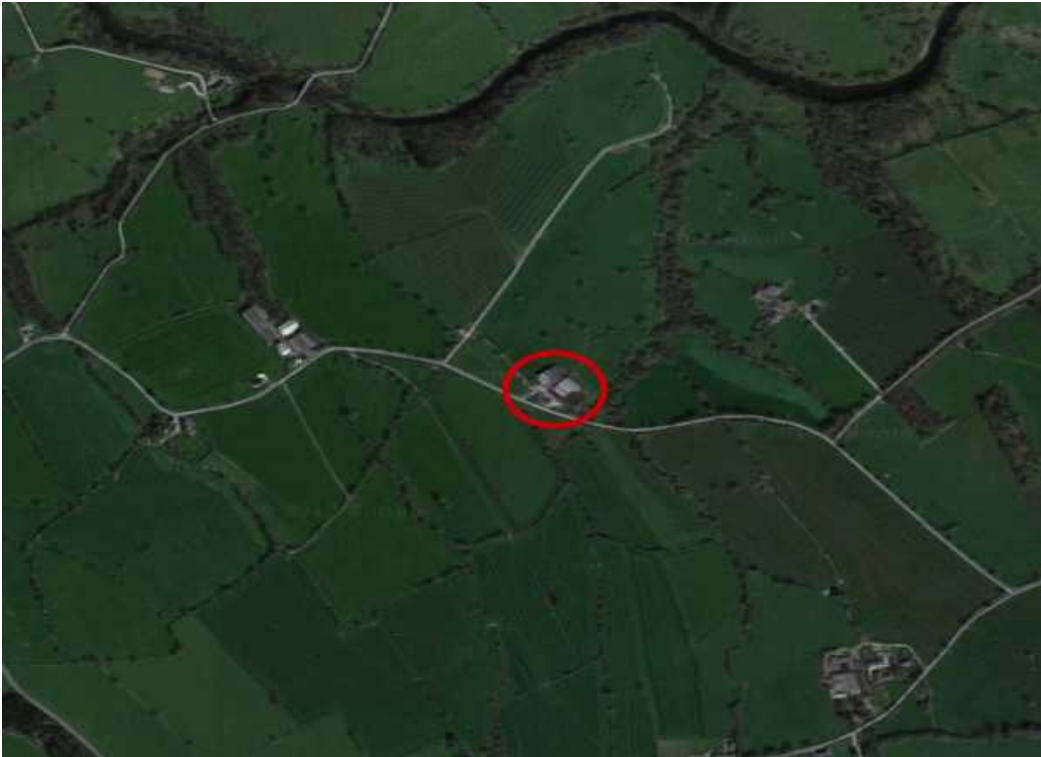
The outbuilding is a single storey stone built construction with double pitched stone slate roof. Roofing slates are in good condition.



Gaps are present behind barge boards and cracks and crevices are present on external walls.

Overall the buildings can be considered of low to moderate potential for roosting bats.

### **Surrounding habitat.**



The property is located in a rural position with surrounding habitat dominated by semi improved and improved grassland. Remnant hedgerow is present on field boundaries. Woodland to the east of the site provides connectivity to the River Hodder.

Overall foraging potential for bats can be considered moderate to high.

## **Pre Existing data on local bat species**

A search of the MAGIC website revealed no EPS licences applied for within a 1km radius. A search of East Lancashire Bat Group revealed no roost records within 1km.

A previous survey of the property (Envirotech 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015) recorded no bats roosts on site.

From personal experience of surveying for and researching bats in Lancashire and Yorkshire the following species were considered.

Common Pipistrelle – known to roost on sites where suitable foraging habitat is available.

Soprano Pipistrelle – known to roost on sites where suitable foraging habitat is available.

Whiskered/Brandt's – species often found roosting in buildings close to woodland.

Natterer's – a typical upland bat with foraging bats being recorded high on heather moorland. Often roosting in barns.

Daubenton's – a species commonly associated with aquatic habitats.

Long Eared bat – a woodland species which has been recorded foraging over in bye meadows and rough grassland sites. Often roosting in barns.

## **Field Survey Methodology**

### **Visual inspection**

An inspection was carried out to search for and identify potential feeding perches, roosting opportunities and signs of bat use both internally and externally.

The visual inspection focussed on searching for feeding remains and bat droppings within the building. Crevices and other potential roost sites were investigated for smear/grease marks, lack of cobwebs, urine staining.

Equipment used included:

- ! Lupine Pico LED torch
- ! SeeSnake CA 300 video endoscope
- ! Opticron close focusing binoculars

### **Static Survey**

An Anabat Express detector programmed to record from dusk to dawn.

### **Personnel**

All surveys were conducted by:

Dave Anderson MSc, Natural England Science, Education and Conservation bat licence holder (2015-15784-CLS-CLS) a bat surveyor and ecologist with 20 years experience.

### **Survey Summary**

<b>Survey</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Timings</b>
Visual	09.05.2017	1 Hour
Static detector	04/05 – 16/05	Dusk to dawn.

### **Survey constraints**

Access to all areas of the exterior of the building was possible, weather conditions favourable and good visual inspection at ground level was possible.



## **Results**

### **Visual Inspection**

Suitable crevices, gaps or access points were observed on the exterior of the building.

No feeding remains or signs consistent with roosting bats were observed either within either building or on external walls and windows.

No grease marks/ staining or urine staining were observed.

A low number gaps were recorded under ridge tiles.

### **Static Detector Survey**

A low level of common pipistrelle activity was recorded starting at +45 minutes after sunset through to midnight +/-1 hour over the eleven days surveyed. No activity was recorded in the hours prior to dawn.

### **Barn Owl**

No signs of barn owls were recorded.

### **Evaluation of the results**

No evidence of bat activity was recorded either within or outside the building.

Patterns of activity recorded are typical of bats commuting onto site to forage, no activity was recorded which would suggest bats roosting on site.

Given the results of this survey it is considered that the building is unlikely to support roosting bats.

## **Conclusion**

**No evidence was recorded to suggest bats were roosting within the building.**

**No bats were observed or recorded using the building for roosting.**

**Roost potential is considered to be low.**

**The surveyor considers survey effort to be reasonable to assess the roost potential of the building and no further survey work is deemed appropriate.**

**The surveyor does not consider the proposed development and change of use is likely to result in a breach of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) therefore the proposed development does not require an EPS Licence (EPSL) to proceed lawfully.**

## **Further Recommendations**

In the unlikely event bats are discovered or disturbed during building renovation and development, work must be halted until the bat licence holder can attend the site and give further advice as necessary.

## **E Bibliography**

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Barn Owls and Rural Planning Applications                                    | Barn Owl Trust 2009         |
| Barn Owl Survey Methodology and Techniques for use in Ecological Assessments | Shawyer, C. August 2011     |
| Bat Mitigation Guidelines  | Natural England 2006        |
| Bat Survey Guidelines 3rd Edition  | Bat Conservation Trust 2016 |
| Bat Workers Manual 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition                                   | JNCC 2004                   |

## **Bats and the Law**

**Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981**, principally those relating to powers and penalties, have been amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act). The CRoW Act only applies to England and Wales.

### Section 9(1)

It is an offence for any person to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bat.

### Section 9(4)(a)

It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly\* damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place that a wild bat uses for shelter or protection.

(\*Added by the CRoW Act in England and Wales only)

This is taken to mean all bat roosts whether bats are present or not.

### Section 9(4)(b)

It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly\* disturb any wild bat while it is occupying a structure or place that it uses for shelter or protection.

(\*Added by the CRoW Act in England and Wales only)

## **The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994**

### Section 39(1)

It is an offence

(a) deliberately to capture or kill any bat

(b) deliberately to disturb any bat

(d) to damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of any bat.

The difference between this legislation and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 is the use of the word 'deliberately' rather than 'intentionally'. Also disturbance of bats can be anywhere, not just at a roost. Damage or destruction of a bat roost does not require the offence to be intentional or deliberate.

## **Barn Owls and the Law**

### **Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)**

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Part, if any person intentionally (or recklessly as amended by the CRoW Act, 2000) (a) kills, injures or takes any wild bird; (b) takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while

that nest is in use or being built; or (c) takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird.

he shall be guilty of an offence.

(5) Subject to the provisions of this Part, if any person intentionally- (a) disturbs any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is at, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or (b) disturbs dependent young of such a bird, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a special penalty.

## **Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000)**

### **Part III Nature conservation and wildlife protection**

#### **74 Conservation of biological diversity**

(1) It is the duty of (a) any Minister of the Crown (within the meaning of the Ministers of the [1975 c. 26.] Crown Act 1975), (b) any Government department, and (c) the National Assembly for Wales, in carrying out his or its functions, to have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in accordance with the Convention.

#### **SCHEDULE 12 AMENDMENTS RELATING TO PART I OF WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981**

1. In section 1(5) of the 1981 Act (offence of intentional disturbance of wild birds) after "intentionally" there is inserted "or recklessly".

## **The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)**

### **PART 3, (40): Duty to conserve biodiversity**

(1) Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

(3) Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.