

## St Peter's Church, Salisbury

### Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment

*St Peter's Church Parish Council*



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**Contents**

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Abbreviations</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	<b>7</b>
1.1. Scope.....	7
1.2. Site Description .....	7
1.3. Relevant Legislation.....	7
1.4. Relevant Local Bat Records .....	8
1.4.1. Bat surveys .....	8
1.4.2. Anecdotal evidence of bat presence/absence .....	9
1.4.3. Other bat records .....	9
<b>2. Methods</b> .....	<b>10</b>
2.1. Preliminary Roost Assessment .....	10
2.1.1. Survey aims .....	10
2.1.2. Survey method .....	11
2.1.3. Assessing potential suitability for bats .....	11
2.1.4. Survey limitations .....	12
<b>3. Preliminary Roost Assessment Survey Results</b> .....	<b>14</b>
3.1. North Wall of Church: External Structures .....	14
3.2. Other External Walls and Structures.....	14
3.3. Cellar and Undercroft.....	15
3.3.1. Boiler room .....	15
3.3.2. Other cellar rooms .....	15
3.3.3. Undercroft .....	15
3.4. Church Interior .....	15
3.5. Habitat Suitability and Connectivity.....	16
<b>4. Conclusions and Recommendations</b> .....	<b>18</b>
4.1. Conclusions .....	18
4.2. Recommendations .....	18
<b>5. References</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Figures</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>Appendix 2: Survey Data – Photographs</b> .....	<b>26</b>
PRFs on north wall of church and associated outer structures.....	26
Examples of PRFs from other outer walls of main church buildings .....	34

Cellar and undercroft .....	35
Main church interior .....	39
Examples of some surrounding habitats .....	43
<b>Appendix 3: Bat Survey Report 2011 .....</b>	<b>45</b>

## Executive Summary

Harding Ecology was contracted by St Peter's Parish Church Council (the Client) to carry out a bat survey to support a planning application for a proposed extension to St Peter's Church, Salesbury. Based on the time of year, a preliminary roost assessment method was used, to search for potential roost features (PRFs) and assess the suitability of the church structure to support roosting bats. The survey was carried out on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

A previous survey, carried out in 2011, found no evidence of bat activity, and considered the potential of the building to support roosting bats as negligible/low (Fisher, 2011). Some historic reports of bats, notably Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) exist in the wider area (Fisher, 2011; National Biodiversity Network Atlas online, accessed 2018).

The 2018 survey identified frequent PRFs in the external walls of the church, notably along the north wall, where the proposed development will be joined to the existing building. Suitable roost features were also identified in the interior of the church, within the cellars and undercroft; the boiler room, part of the cellar complex, contained several PRFs and potential bat access points. The main church interior was well maintained and had negligible bat roost potential.

The surrounding habitats were considered suitable for foraging and commuting bats, and provided potential connectivity to high-value bat habitat (broadleaved woodland around Ashes Farm) in the wider landscape.

Overall, St Peter's Church was assessed as having moderate suitability for roosting bats. It is recommended that a presence/absence survey is carried out by an experienced bat ecologist during the higher activity period of May-August, to confirm the presence or absence of bats in the building. These surveys should follow current guidance (Collins, 2016) and be informed by the preliminary roost assessment.

## Abbreviations

AONB:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CIEEM:	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
EPS:	European Protected Species
NBN:	National Biodiversity Network
OS:	Ordnance Survey
PCC:	Parish Church Council
PRF:	Potential Roost Feature
SAC:	Special Area of Conservation
SNCO:	Statutory Nature Conservation Organisation

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Scope

Harding Ecology was contracted by St Peter's Parish Church Council (the Client) to carry out a bat survey to support a planning application for a proposed extension to St Peter's Church, Salesbury. The proposed extension is located along the north wall of the church, and is shown in the technical drawing provided by Byrom Clark Roberts, which is included in this report as Figure 1 in Appendix 1.

A preliminary roost assessment survey method was followed, in accordance with the most recent bat survey guidance (Collins, 2016) and taking into account limitations such as time of year. A more general ecological appraisal of the suitability of the site and surrounding habitats for bats was also carried out. The preliminary roost assessment survey was carried out on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

The survey was carried out by Matt Harding, a professional ecological surveyor with relevant skills and experience, and a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM). This report describes the methods followed and the survey results, and assesses any further survey requirements.

## 1.2. Site Description

St Peter's Church is located on the east side of Lovely Hall Lane in the village of Salesbury, Lancashire (grid reference SD68133287). The main church building dates from 1887, with several more modern structures, including a choir vestry and cellar access, along the northern side. The church layout is shown in Figures 2, 3 and 4 in Appendix 1. The church has a three-roomed cellar, and an undercroft extending under much of the building.

The main church building is located on an approximate east-west axis, with a Lady Chapel on the south side and vicar's vestry, kitchen and toilet on the north side forming the north-south axis of the classic church cross shape. The building is made of local sandstone, with the window traceries made of York stone.

The main church roof is duo-pitched, clad in slate, with timber beams, fascias and soffit. A spire and belfry are located towards the east end of the building; the belfry has slats allowing access, and has often been used by Jackdaws (*Corvus monedula*) for nesting. The church building is floodlit at night, with floodlights located on the ground forming a ring around the building.

The church is sited in the south of a sizeable graveyard and grounds, which include over 50 semi-mature, mostly broadleaved, trees and other vegetation such as Garden Privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*) hedges. At the north-west corner, an area of continuous scrub runs along the east side of Lovely Hall Lane, linking the graveyard with an area of broadleaved woodland next to Ashes Farm. A small wildlife garden with a pond, managed by Salesbury Primary School, is also located at this north-west corner.

To the north of the graveyard, pastureland is broken by a small stream and row of broadleaved trees running north to Ashes Farm. To the north-east, the ground of Salesbury Cricket Club forms an open grassland area edged by broadleaved trees, and to the east Salesbury Common, an area of marshy grassland and rush-pasture, is present. To the south and west, residential areas (including some terraced housing pre-dating the church) are located. Figure 5 in Appendix 1 shows the location of the church and its grounds, with the habitat features discussed above numbered and labelled.

## 1.3. Relevant Legislation

All bat species are European Protected Species (EPS) afforded a high level of legislative protection through inclusion on Annex IV of Council Directive 92/43/EEC 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (hereafter the 'EC Habitats Directive')<sup>1</sup>. Annex IV lists animal and plant species of Community interest in need of strict protection. Some bat species are also included on Annex II of the EC Habitats Directive, which lists animal and plant species of Community interest, the conservation of which requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A31992L0043>

In England and Wales, the EC Habitats Directive has been transposed into national law by means of a series of laws and/or regulations, the most recent being the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)<sup>2</sup>, hereafter referred to as the Habitats Regulations. Additional protections are also provided to bat species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)<sup>3</sup>. A summary of the legal protections afforded to bat species in England under these laws, and considered of relevance to this report, follows:

- It is unlawful to deliberately kill, capture, injure or take a wild bat (Habitats Regulations);
- It is unlawful to deliberately disturb bats anywhere (roosts, flight lines or foraging areas), in particular if the level of disturbance can be shown to impair their ability to survive, breed or reproduce, rear or nurture young, hibernate or migrate, or affect significantly their local distribution or abundance (Habitats Regulations);
- It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat whilst it is occupying a place of shelter or protection (Wildlife and Countryside Act);
- It is illegal to damage or destroy a place used by a bat for breeding or resting, including accidental destruction of such a place – no element of intentional, reckless or deliberate action need be evidenced (Habitats Regulations); and
- It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly obstruct any place used by a bat for shelter or protection (Wildlife and Countryside Act).

Actions that would otherwise be illegal can be made lawful if licensed by the appropriate Statutory Nature Conservation Organisation (SNCO). In England the relevant body is Natural England.

## 1.4. Relevant Local Bat Records

The results of a previous bat survey, carried out in 2011 by Earthworks Environmental Design, and information from informal interviews with church staff carried out by Harding Ecology, are discussed in this section.

### 1.4.1. Bat surveys

A bat survey was carried out by David Fisher of Earthworks Environmental Design in 2011, and a copy of the accompanying report is provided in Appendix 3.

This survey consisted of a 'daylight scoping survey' to determine the likely presence of protected species (bats) at the property. It incorporated a desk study and a non-intrusive survey of the property to identify any evidence of the presence of bats.

The desk study identified eight bat species as known to be present within the Ribble Valley and Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), located approximately 5 km to the north of the site (see report in Appendix 3).

No bat records were identified from the site itself. The nearest bat record identified was of a foraging Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) at Ashes Farm (SD680333), less than 0.5 km to the north of the site.

The inspection found no evidence of bat activity at the site, and the report states that there were no obvious cavities or gaps where roosting bats were likely to be present. The potential of the property to support roosting, resting or perching bats was consequently considered negligible or low, and it was considered unlikely that bats have ever been present within any part of the building that will be affected by building operations.

The surrounding habitats were considered to offer sub-optimal feeding, foraging and commuting habitat for bats, and connectivity to high-value habitat was considered poor.

The report concluded that it was highly unlikely that bats would be disturbed, and that there would be no risk to protected species, during the proposed building operations.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents>

#### 1.4.2. Anecdotal evidence of bat presence/absence

Members of the church maintenance and Parish Church Council (PCC) were interviewed by Harding Ecology, regarding bat occurrence at St Peter's Church. No bat sightings were reported, or evidence of bats found, in recent times.

The following recent maintenance activities were described, with no evidence of bats noted during works:

- Spire re-painted and rubbish (debris from Jackdaws etc.) cleared – July 1997;
- Nave insulation, involving access into main church roof space – July 2006;
- Minor maintenance work to spire – June 2001 and July 2009;
- Maintenance work to spire, including clearance of Jackdaw debris and installation of wire mesh – July 2011;
- Clearance of Jackdaw debris from spire – 2016;
- Installation of new bathroom in north-east of church – late 2017; and
- Electric lights in main church rewired – late 2017.

Other roofing maintenance, including repointing and refelting, has also been carried out on the additional structures on the north side of the church (e.g. the choir vestry) in recent years, with no sightings of bats, or evidence of bats observed.

#### 1.4.3. Other bat records

A full desk study and consultation was not undertaken as part of this preliminary roost assessment survey process.

However, the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas<sup>4</sup> holds several historic records for Common Pipistrelle within a 2 km radius of the church (from 1986-1990).

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<sup>4</sup> <https://nbnatlas.org/> accessed 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## 2. Methods

### 2.1. Preliminary Roost Assessment

#### 2.1.1. Survey aims

The survey aimed to identify the following:

- The suitability of the church for use by roosting bats, including the presence of Potential Roost Features (PRFs) that could be used by roosting bats;
- The actual or potential presence of bats, based on direct evidence of activity; and
- The need for any additional survey work to assess the presence/absence of bats, in support of a planning application.

The survey was carried out on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018, which falls within the typical hibernation period for bats. Emergence surveys to determine presence/absence of bats were therefore not feasible at this time.

Bats also use different roost sites at different periods in their life cycle, and at different times of year. This is summarised in Table 1, below, taken from *Bat Surveys for Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition; Collins, 2016).

**Table 1: A summary of bat roost types, taken from Collins (2016)**

Table 3.1 Bat roost types (from NE EPS licence application form available at the time of writing). <sup>a</sup>	
Roost type	NE definition
Day roost	A place where individual bats, or small groups of males, rest or shelter in the day but are rarely found by night in the summer.
Night roost	A place where bats rest or shelter in the night but are rarely found in the day. May be used by a single individual on occasion or it could be used regularly by the whole colony.
Feeding roost	A place where individual bats or a few individuals rest or feed during the night but are rarely present by day.
Transitional/occasional roost	Used by a few individuals or occasionally small groups for generally short periods of time on waking from hibernation or in the period prior to hibernation.
Swarming site <sup>b</sup>	Where large numbers of males and females gather during late summer to autumn. Appear to be important mating sites.
Mating sites <sup>c</sup>	Where mating takes place from late summer and can continue through winter.
Maternity roost <sup>d</sup>	Where female bats give birth and raise their young to independence.
Hibernation roost	Where bats may be found individually or together during winter. They have a constant cool temperature and high humidity.
Satellite roost	An alternative roost found in close proximity to the main nursery colony used by a few individual breeding females to small groups of breeding females throughout the breeding season.

<sup>a</sup> The table defines roost types for the purposes of consistency but it should be noted that not all of these sites are also breeding sites, resting places or places used for shelter or protection as described in the legislation. Judgements as to what is protected under law should be undertaken on a case-by-case basis (the term roost is not used in the legislation). The EU has provided guidance on this point in: *Guidance on the strict protection of animal species of community interest* (2007). Please also see Sections 1.2.1 and 1.2.2.

<sup>b</sup> Roosting may occur alongside the swarming activity and it is the structures used for rest and shelter within the swarming site that are the roost.

<sup>c</sup> Mating sites can include those where bats call for mates on the wing; however, these are also associated with a place that the mating takes place, which is the mating or harem roost.

<sup>d</sup> In some species, males may also be present in the maternity roost.

A preliminary roost assessment survey was considered appropriate for the time of year and likely level of bat activity, based on the relevant guidance (Collins, 2016; Mitchell-Jones & McLeish, 2004). This survey is the typical first step in a roost survey of a built structure, and should provide information on whether the structure has the potential to support roosting bats, and what additional surveys (if any) may be required to establish and characterise the presence of roosting bats.

The suitability of the surrounding habitat for use by bats, e.g. for foraging or commuting, was also considered, although an in depth appraisal was not carried out.

### 2.1.2. Survey method

The preliminary roost assessment survey involved an external and internal inspection of the church, to compile information on potential bat entry/exit points, potential bat roosting locations, and search for any evidence of bats (e.g. droppings, feeding signs) using the church.

The survey was carried out during daylight hours, and consisted of the following:

- An external survey, involving:
  - A systematic check of the north wall of the church (where the proposed development will be located), to identify potential or actual bat access points and roosting places, and to locate any evidence of bats (e.g. droppings, staining or feeding signs);
  - A walkover of the other faces of the church, noting the presence or absence of PRFs but not cataloguing or examining them in detail;
- An internal survey, involving:
  - An inspection of the interior of the church, including all ground level spaces (main church interior, choir and vicar's vestries etc.), to identify potential or actual bat access points and roosting places, and to locate any evidence of bats (e.g. droppings, staining or feeding signs);
  - An inspection of the underground church structures, namely the cellars and boiler room, and the undercroft; and
- PRFs and potential access points were photographed and notes taken describing them.

As part of the external search along the north side of the church, all walls, windowsills and panes, eaves, fascias, soffit, lead flashing and felting were inspected. A ladder was used to gain access to structures above the ground (with a second person present to secure its base), and Swarovski 8x30 binoculars used to search for PRFs from the ground. The roof slates were inspected for potential access points into the roof space or other PRFs where it was safe to do so, at the lower edge of the roof, but the roof itself was not accessed by ladder. The ground underneath any potential access points or PRFs was also checked for evidence of bats.

As part of the internal survey, a ladder was used to inspect the second window from the north-west corner of the main church building, where access from the main church to the proposed development is planned. Most other internal structures were examined using binoculars.

The undercroft was accessed from the cellar, and assessed for its potential to support roosting bats. An exhaustive search for evidence of bats was not undertaken. To inspect the undercroft, a handheld torch and a Petzl headtorch were used in combination. An endoscope was not used during the survey (see Section 2.1.4.).

A detailed assessment of the surrounding habitats and their suitability for roosting, foraging and commuting bats was not undertaken. However, a walkover of the church grounds and surroundings was carried out, and records of the tree species and number present in the church grounds were obtained from the Client.

### 2.1.3. Assessing potential suitability for bats

Based on the results of a preliminary ecological appraisal or preliminary roost assessment for bats, the overall potential suitability of a structure can be assessed. Collins (2016) provides the following guidance on assessing potential suitability, shown in Table 2, below.

An assessment of overall potential suitability for bats of the proposed development is provided in Section 4 of this report.

**Table 2: Guidance on assessing potential suitability of a proposed development site for bats, taken from Collins (2016)**

Table 4.1 Guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats, based on the presence of habitat features within the landscape, to be applied using professional judgement.		
Suitability	Description Roosting habitats	Commuting and foraging habitats
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions <sup>a</sup> and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation <sup>b</sup> ).  A tree of sufficient size and age to contain PRFs but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential. <sup>c</sup>	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat.  Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions <sup>a</sup> and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only – the assessments in this table are made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens.  Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
High	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions <sup>a</sup> and surrounding habitat.	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge.  High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland.  Site is close to and connected to known roosts.

<sup>a</sup> For example, in terms of temperature, humidity, height above ground level, light levels or levels of disturbance.

<sup>b</sup> Evidence from the Netherlands shows mass swarming events of common pipistrelle bats in the autumn followed by mass hibernation in a diverse range of building types in urban environments (Korsten *et al.*, 2015). This phenomenon requires some research in the UK but ecologists should be aware of the potential for larger numbers of this species to be present during the autumn and winter in large buildings in highly urbanised environments.

<sup>c</sup> This system of categorisation aligns with BS 8596:2015 Surveying for bats in trees and woodland (BSI, 2015).

#### 2.1.4. Survey limitations

Several survey limitations are acknowledged. The surveyor was not a licensed bat worker, therefore more intrusive survey methods such as endoscopy were avoided, due to the potential risk of disturbance to hibernating bats. It is possible that some evidence of bats (droppings, feeding signs or specimens) within PRFs was not recorded as a result of this limitation. In the event that signs of roosting bats were identified, the surveyor would immediately withdraw and contract a licensed bat ecologist to complete the survey.

The survey was carried out in February during damp, drizzly conditions, after a prolonged period of wintry weather. It is therefore possible that evidence of bats such as droppings, urine staining or feeding signs may have been washed away from roost sites or access points prior to the survey. It is also noted that any roosts used in the spring alone would have been inactive for nearly a year, making retention of evidence of use less likely.

The main church roof, and its internal roof space, was not accessed as part of the survey, due to the need for specialist scaffolding and ladder systems to enable access. As roof spaces are often used by roosting bats, this is acknowledged as a survey limitation. Other difficult-to-access areas, notably the undercroft, were surveyed.

The church interior is cleaned on a weekly basis, meaning that evidence of bat use may be removed regularly. However, during the survey it was noted that there was a dust and debris build up at the base of walls with radiator pipes and other obstacles, suggesting that bat droppings would likely still be visible in these areas.

## 3. Preliminary Roost Assessment Survey Results

### 3.1. North Wall of Church: External Structures

Frequent PRFs or potential access points for bats were recorded along the north wall of the church, contra the 2011 bat survey report (see Appendix 3). PRFs were identified on the main church building, the choir vestry, kitchen area and vicar's vestry.

These consisted of a range of features, including gaps between the stone wall and timber soffit and rafters, access points into the spaces behind the soffit, holes in fascia boards due to rot, lifting roofing felt and lead flashing, and gaps under roofing slates.

A description of the PRFs recorded along the north wall of the church is provided in Table 3, below, and photographs of the majority of the PRFs are provided in Appendix 2.

**Table 3: Potential Roost Features (PRFs) and access points located on the north wall of the church, described from west to east**

Reference no.	Structure containing PRF	Description of PRF
1	Main church building	Two gaps above barge boards at north-west gable end
2	Main church building	Frequent gaps at join between vertical wall and soffit, and around protruding ends of rafters, where mortar has fallen out giving access to a cavity. Includes gaps above second window (counting from north-west corner)
3	Main church building	3.5 cm gap at join between vertical wall and soffit, opposite choir vestry. Evidence of use by roosting birds (droppings). Other smaller gaps were noted along this section
4	Choir vestry	Several cavities behind lifting roofing felt along the southern edge of the vestry roof
5	Flat roof between choir vestry and main church building	Lead flashing lifting from base in several places around the small flat-roofed area between the choir vestry and the main church
6	Junction between kitchen area and main church building	Access points under soffit and under roofing tiles, above the south-east corner of the flat roof between the choir vestry and the main church building
7	Choir vestry	Hole in fascia board at north-west corner of choir vestry roof
8	Choir vestry	Hole in rotten fascia board at north-east corner of choir vestry roof, accessing cavity beneath roof tiles along the north side of the choir vestry
9	Kitchen area	Potential cavity at north-west corner of kitchen, accessed via gap by fascia board
10	Kitchen area	Probable gap behind soffit along north side of kitchen roof, where soffit abuts guttering rather than fascia boards. Other small potential crevices noted where soffit meets stone wall along this section
11	Vicar's vestry	Sizeable gap underneath roof tiles at west end of vicar's vestry, providing potential roost feature
12	Main church building	Main church roof at north-east corner of church, with loose-fitting soffit creating gap between guttering and soffit boards

No evidence of bats was recorded along the north wall of the church. Based on field signs, some PRFs had been used by roosting birds, and the remains of a small passerine nest was also recorded on one window tracery.

### 3.2. Other External Walls and Structures

The east, south and west facing walls of the church building were inspected using binoculars to check for the presence of PRFs. As these walls are not likely to be directly impacted by the proposed development, this was not an exhaustive survey, and any PRFs identified were not investigated further.

The following examples of PRFs were noted along these walls:

- Lifting slates on the roof, for example on the main church roof east of the Lady Chapel (see Photographs 13a and 13b, Appendix 2);
- Crevices on the east and south facing gables;
- Potential gaps under lead flashing; and
- A large gap behind the soffit on the entry porch (see Photographs 14a and 14b, Appendix 2).

### 3.3. Cellar and Undercroft

The cellar consisted of a complex of three rooms – the boiler room, the main cellar, and a side cellar through which access is gained to the undercroft.

#### 3.3.1. Boiler room

The boiler room contained two air vents with bat access potential (leaf build up was noted under these). The wall under these vents consisted of stones with little mortar and many cavities, offering PRFs for bats. A crevice in the stones forming the lintel over the air vents was also considered a PRF.

The other walls of the boiler room also contained PRFs, including holes between stones leading into the wall space. Where piping led through the walls between rooms, it was noted that the insulation used in the gaps around the pipes consisted of polystyrene chunks rather than expanding foam insulation, allowing potential access for bats into the walls.

Photographs 15-18 in Appendix 2 show these features. With a warm, dry climate, external access and numerous PRFs, the boiler room was considered highly suitable for roosting bats.

#### 3.3.2. Other cellar rooms

PRFs were also noted in the walls of the main cellar and side cellar, consisting of cavities between stones leading into the wall space, and entry points where pipes pass through the walls. Photograph 19 in Appendix 2 shows an example of these.

From the side cellar, a small door provided entry into the undercroft. At the time of survey, this was ajar, allowing potential bat access between the cellars and the undercroft. This is shown in Photograph 20 in Appendix 2.

#### 3.3.3. Undercroft

The undercroft was entered and surveyed along the north wall, as far as accessible. Other areas of the undercroft were also checked for signs of bats, but a complete survey was not carried out.

Access from the outside was limited to terracotta grates, situated close to floor level when viewed externally. These may provide limited potential access to bats. Access was also possible from the side cellar (discussed above).

Within the undercroft, no evidence of bats was noted. Some of the walls within the undercroft were not well pointed, and provided PRFs for bats between the stones. In some places, cavities allowed wall spaces to be accessed. Photograph 21 in Appendix 2 shows an example of a wall with bat roost suitability in the undercroft.

### 3.4. Church Interior

The main interior of the church offered few opportunities for roosting bats. Internal walls were well finished and maintained, and the window panes and traceries were well fitting, with no opportunity for bat access noted. Photographs 22 and 23 in Appendix 2 show the main interior of the church.

The roof of the nave, choir stalls and altar was inspected with binoculars. Access to the roof space itself was not possible, as scaffolding would be required (see Photograph 24, Appendix 2). Few PRFs were identified, the exception being the junction between the choir stalls and the nave, where it was noted that the timbers on the roof above the choir stalls were not sat flush with the stone arch, creating a possible roost space (see Photograph 25, Appendix 2).

Two hatches in the ceiling of the main church interior, providing entry to the upper roof space and the church spire, were not accessed during the bat roost suitability survey, as scaffolding would be required.

Access points from the main church interior into the undercroft were noted at two locations where cables and pipes passed through: by the Churchwardens' pew in the south-west corner of the main church building, and at the base of the west wall of the Lady Chapel. Potential access into a roof space was also noted in a cupboard adjacent to the toilet, at the north-east of the church building. These features are shown in Photographs 26-28 in Appendix 2.

The enclosed area encasing the organ pipes, behind the northern choir stall, was also examined for evidence of bats. No signs were found, and as the organ is used several times a week bats are unlikely to roost in this area due to disturbance.

Overall, no evidence of bats was identified within the church interior, and there was little potential for roosting bats. Access points to the undercroft do provide a potential access route to the church interior for bats.

### 3.5. Habitat Suitability and Connectivity

As discussed in Section 1.2, the church is situated in sizeable grounds, and is surrounded by various habitats including scrub, pasture, marshy grassland, residential housing and a small pond and stream. These are shown on Figure 5 in Appendix 1.

The church grounds contain over 50 semi-mature trees, mostly broadleaved, some of which have PRFs such as knotholes, splits and epicormic growth. These were not specifically surveyed, but were noted during a walkover of the grounds. The following data on tree species present was provided by members of the PCC, shown in Table 4.

**Table 4: Trees present within St Peter's churchyard**

Scientific name	Common name	Number
<i>Tilia x europea</i>	Lime	20
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	12
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	Oak sp.	13
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	9
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	6
<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>	London Plane	5
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut	4 (2 felled)
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	3
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	3
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	2
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved Lime	2
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	2
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	2
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> f. <i>purpurea</i>	Copper Beech	2
<i>Ulmus</i> sp.	Elm sp.	2
<i>Prunus</i> sp.	Cherry sp. (ornamental)	2
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	1
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak	1
<i>Pinus nigra</i> ssp. <i>nigra</i>	Austrian Pine	1
<i>Picea</i> sp.	Spruce sp.	1
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	1

To the north, the churchyard is connected to the broadleaved woodland at Ashes Farm by a corridor of dense scrub, shown in Photograph 29 in Appendix 2. A small wildlife pond (Photograph 30, Appendix 2) is also present (and a drain is shown running along the scrub corridor on the 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey (OS) map for the area; this was not checked on the walkover). A second wooded corridor, consisting of

a row of semi-mature broadleaves running along the line of a small stream, also links the churchyard to Ashes Farm to the north. These habitats provide suitable foraging and commuting habitat for bat species, particularly Common Pipistrelle (Collins, 2016), which has been recorded around Ashes Farm in the past.

Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) are known to use buildings for maternity colonies, usually roosting out of site in crevices. Males roost singly or in small groups in the summer, using buildings or trees. Pipistrelle species also sometimes use the cracks and crevices of buildings for winter hibernation roosts (Collins, 2016).

The adjacent residential buildings include some buildings pre-dating the church itself, as well as more modern buildings, and these may also offer potential roosting sites for Pipistrelle species. These buildings were not inspected for PRFs, but it was noted that the row of terraces on the west of Lovely Hall Lane, opposite the church, had walls covered in dense shrubbery, which may provide suitable bat roosting habitat (particularly for single males or small groups in the summer). This row is shown in Photograph 31 in Appendix 2.

In summary, it was considered that the habitats surrounding St Peter's Church and the church grounds themselves offered suitable foraging and commuting habitat for bats, particularly for Common Pipistrelle, and the habitat corridors to the north of the churchyard offered reasonable connectivity to the high-value broadleaved woodland at Ashes Farm.

## 4. Conclusions and Recommendations

### 4.1. Conclusions

Based on the results of the preliminary roost assessment, it is considered that the church building contains frequent PRFs or potential access points for bats, notably along the north wall of the church where the proposed development is planned. Other PRFs were noted elsewhere around the external church walls. However, it was noted that the church building is surrounded by floodlights, which illuminate it at night. This may negatively impact on the use of suitable roost structures by bats.

Within the church, there was negligible bat roost potential in the main interior space of the church. However, the church cellars and undercroft were considered suitable for roosting bats, with the boiler room containing frequent PRFs and suitable conditions for roosting bats.

It is noted that no evidence of bat presence was recorded during the preliminary roost assessment, and none reported by a 2011 bat survey report or by members of the PCC. Various survey limitations are noted (see Section 2.1.4.), which may have impacted on the likelihood of evidence of bats being recorded during the survey.

The habitats surrounding the church provided suitable foraging and commuting habitat for bats, particularly Pipistrelle species. Habitat connectivity exists between the churchyard and high-value bat habitat (broadleaved woodland) at Ashes Farm, to the north.

**Overall, the potential suitability for use of St Peter's Church by roosting bats was assessed as moderate, based on the presence of multiple potential roost sites in the building, and the presence of surrounding habitat suitable for foraging and commuting bats, providing connectivity to high-value bat habitat in the wider landscape.**

### 4.2. Recommendations

Due to the moderate potential for St Peter's Church to support roosting bats, and limited scope of the survey carried out – a preliminary roost assessment, carried out in February – it is recommended that a follow-up survey be carried out to establish presence/absence of bats in the building prior to the proposed development.

Presence/absence surveys are required where:

- The preliminary roost assessment has not ruled out the reasonable likelihood of a roost being present, but no definitive evidence of the presence of bat roosts has been recorded;
- A comprehensive inspection survey is not possible because of restricted access, but there are features with a reasonable likelihood of supporting bats; and
- There is a risk that evidence of bat use may have been removed by weather or human activities.

Presence/absence surveys typically consist of dusk and/or dawn visits to watch, listen for and record bats exiting or entering bat roosts. The PRFs identified along the north wall of the church should be the focus of follow-up presence/absence surveys.

For structures with moderate roost suitability, it is recommended that presence/absence surveys are carried out between May and September, with at least one of the surveys between May and August, to give confidence in a negative survey result (i.e. bats are absent from the structure). Two separate survey visits are also recommended to give confidence in a negative result. These should consist of a dusk emergence and a separate dawn re-entry survey, spaced at least two weeks apart (Collins, 2016).

## 5. References

Collins, J. ed. (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London

Fisher, D. (2011) Protected Species Survey: St Peter's Church, Ribchester Road, Salesbury, Lancashire, BB1 9HT. Earthworks Environmental Design, Slaidburn

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. & McLeigh, A. P. eds. (2004) Bat Worker's Manual (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough

## Appendix 1: Figures

Figure 1: Plan of proposed development at St Peter's Church, Salisbury. The join between the existing church buildings and the proposed new development is marked with a red box

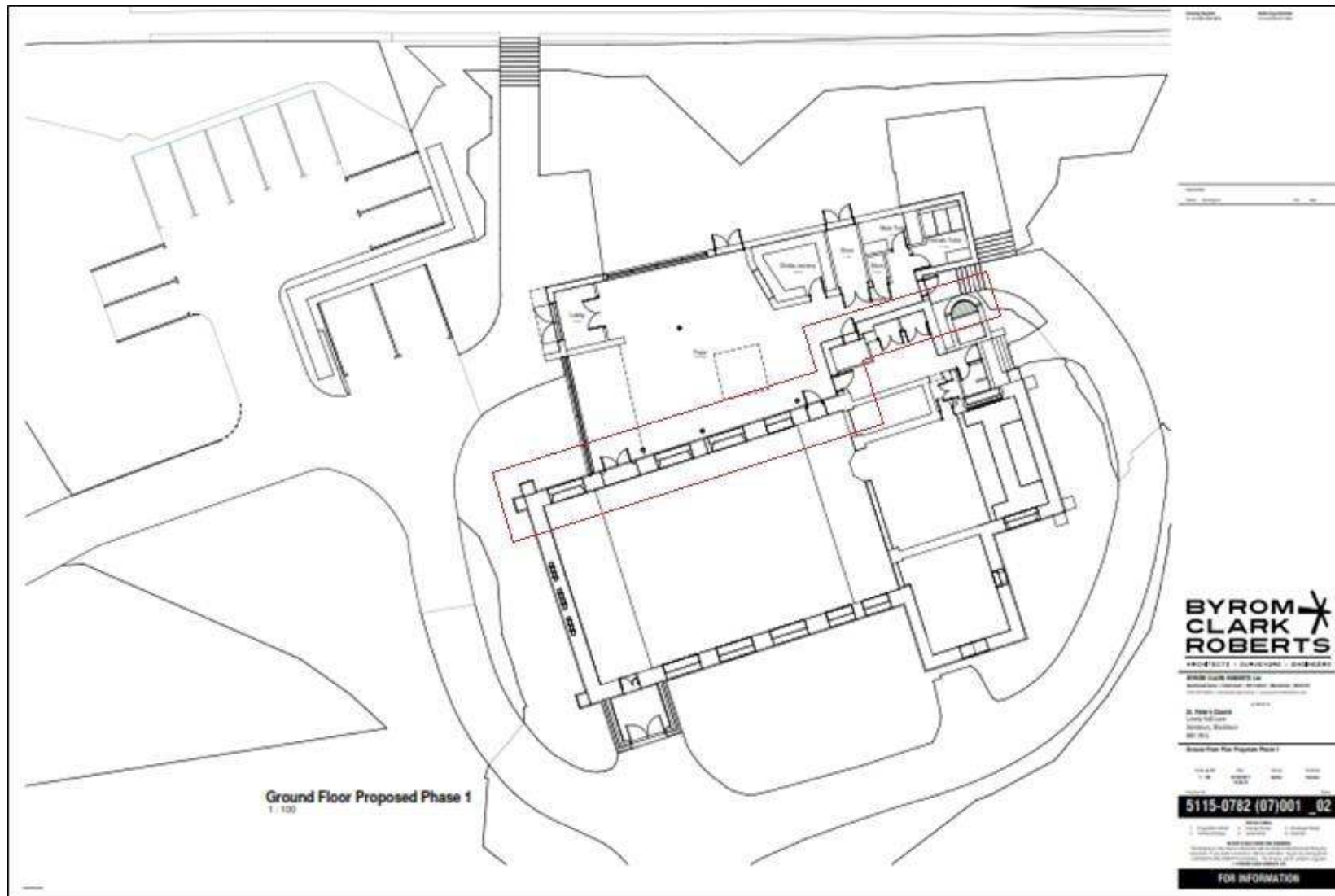


Figure 2: St Peter's Church, viewed from the north-west (© Clare Harding)



**Key**

- 1** – Second window on north side of church, where doorway from main body of church to the planned development will go
- 2** – Choir vestry building, which will be replaced as part of planned development
- 3** – Main church building

Figure 3: St Peter's Church, viewed from the north (© Clare Harding)

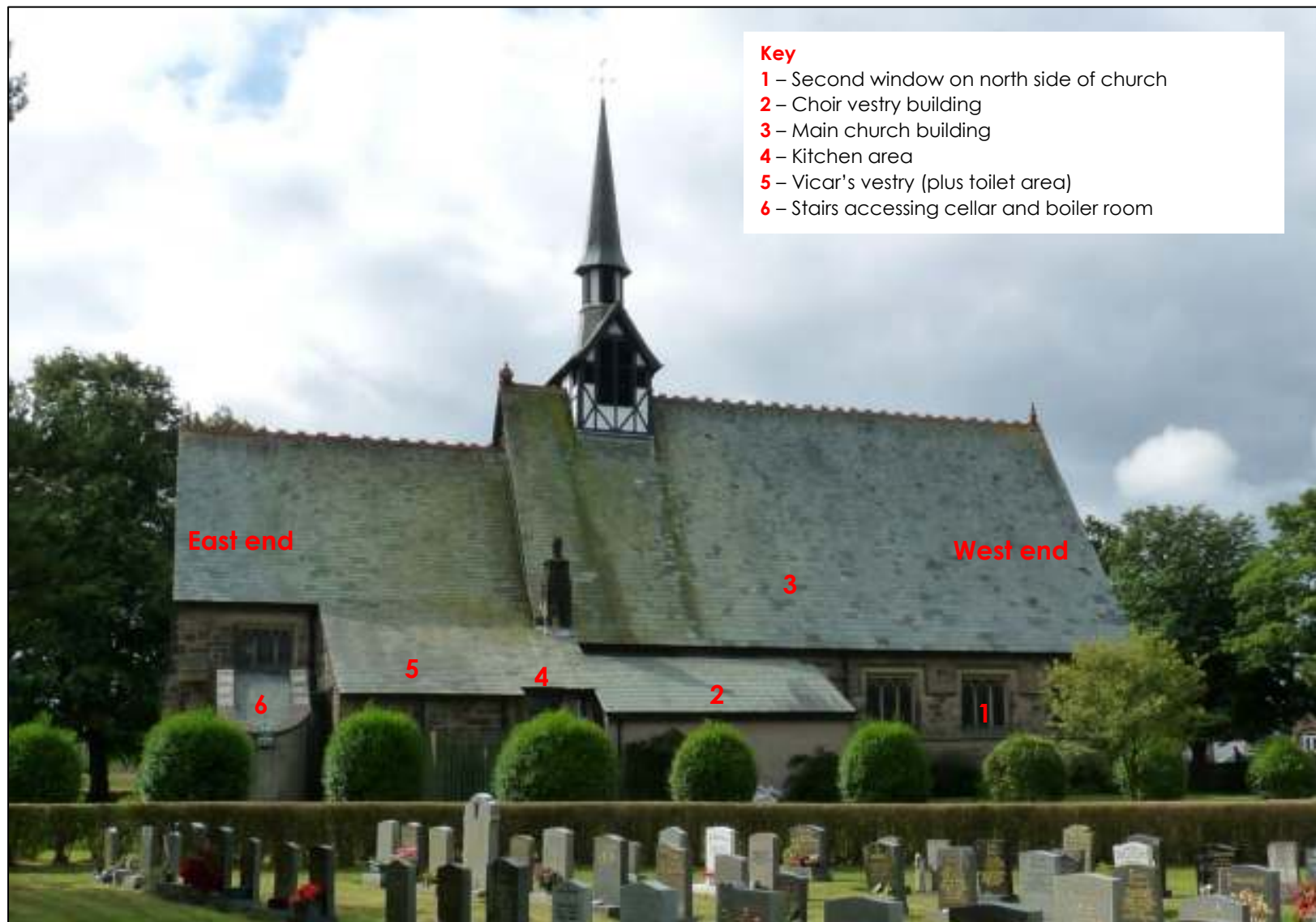
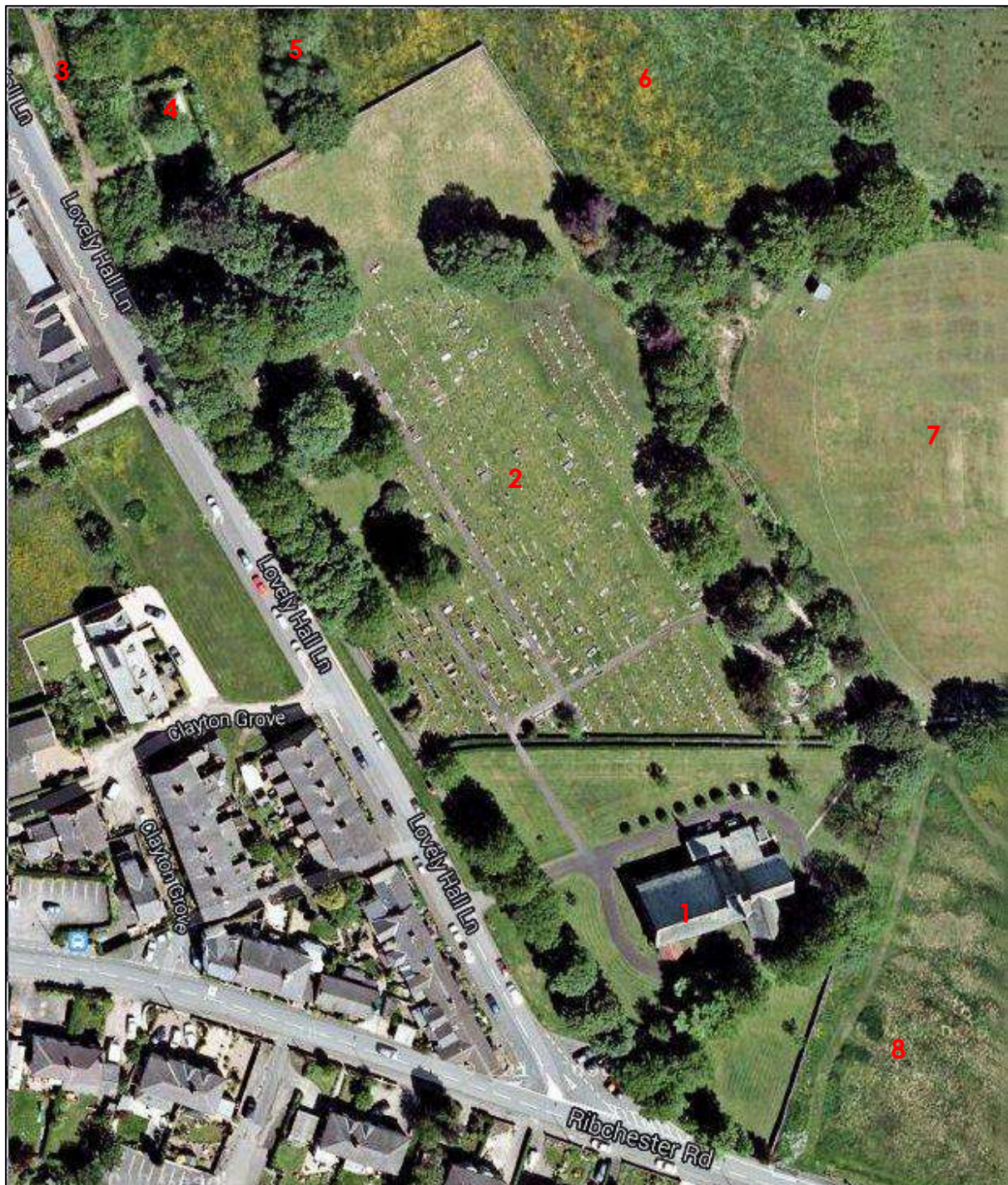


Figure 4: St Peter's Church, viewed from the south showing the west window, entrance porch and Lady Chapel ((© Clare Harding)



Figure 5: Aerial view of St Peter's Church and graveyard (© Google Earth)



**Key**

- 1 – St Peter's Church
- 2 – Graveyard, including various semi-mature broadleaved trees
- 3 – South end of an area of scrub and broadleaved woodland leading north to Ashes Farm
- 4 – Salesbury Primary School wildlife garden, including a small pond
- 5 – Line of a small burn leading north to Ashes Farm, shaded by a row of broadleaved trees
- 6 – Pastureland associated with Ashes Farm, with broadleaved tree forming rows along field boundaries
- 7 – Salesbury Cricket Club pitch
- 8 – Salesbury Common, consisting of rush-pasture and marshy grassland

## Appendix 2: Survey Data – Photographs

### PRFs on north wall of church and associated outer structures

Photograph numbers in this section of Appendix 2 match the PRF reference numbers in Table 3 of the main report. Note that no photographs are provided for PRFs 7 and 9.



**1a:** Two gaps above bargeboards at the north-west corner of the western gable end



**1b and 1c:** Close up view of the two gaps above bargeboards at the north-west corner of the western gable end



**2a:** North wall above second window (counting from the north-west corner of the church), showing the protruding rafter ends abutting the guttering



**2b and 2c:** Examples of gaps at top of north wall around second window, where mortar between the upper stones and the soffit and protruding ends of rafters has fallen out, giving access to a cavity



**3a:** 3.5 cm wide gap at join between wall and soffit, under main roof opposite choir vestry. Evidence of use by roosting birds (droppings visible in photograph)



**3b:** looking along the gap between the main church roof (on the right) and the choir vestry roof (on the left). PRF 3 is located under the guttering/soffit of the main roof on the right; PRF 4 is located under the roof felt on the choir vestry roof on the left



**4a:** Flat roof on choir vestry with roofing felt lifting, providing cavities in several places along this face



**4b:** Looking along the edge of the flat roof, showing the entry point into one of the cavities behind the roofing felt



**5:** Lead flashing lifting in several places above the small flat roof between the choir vestry and the main church building



**6a and 6b:** Access point into roof underneath soffit at join between main church building and kitchen area, above the south-east corner of the flat roof behind the choir vestry



**6c and 6d:** Access point into roof underneath tiles, at join between main church building and kitchen area, above the south-east corner of the flat roof behind the choir vestry



**8:** Hole in rotten fascia board at north-east corner of choir vestry roof, accessing cavity under roof tiles running along the north side of the choir vestry



**10a and 10b:** Probable gap behind soffit along north side of kitchen roof, where soffit abuts guttering rather than fascia boards. 10a taken looking east, 10b taken looking west



**11:** Sizeable gap under roof tiles at west end of the kitchen, creating potential roost space



**12a and 12b:** Main church roof at north-east corner of church, with loose-fitting soffit creating gap between guttering and soffit boards. The gap can be seen against the sky in photograph 12b (marked by arrow)



**12c:** Gap between soffit boards on right and guttering on left, marked by arrow, potentially leading into roof space

## Examples of PRFs from other outer walls of main church buildings

Photograph numbers in this and subsequent sections of Appendix 2 are referred to in the main report



**13a and 13b:** Example of lifting roof slate on the main church roof, to the east of the Lady Chapel



**14a and 14b:** Example of a large gap behind soffit, providing a potential access point into the roof space, at the south-west corner of porch on south side of main church building

## Cellar and undercroft



**15:** North wall of the boiler room, part of the cellar complex. The two metal tubes are vents to the outside, potentially passable by bats. The wall underneath the vents has very little mortar between stones and many cavities. With a warm, dry climate, external access and numerous PRFs, this room was considered highly suitable for roosting bats



**16:** Lintel above the air vents in the north wall of the boiler room, with a crevice forming a PRF



**17:** Pipework entering the west wall of the boiler room. Insulation in the pipework cavities consisted of pieces of polystyrene rather than expanding foam type insulation, allowing potential bat access into the walls



**18a and 18b:** Examples of cavities in the east wall of the boiler room, giving access into the wall space



**19:** Wall in the side cellar, with cavities between stones providing potential bat access into the wall



**20:** Door leading from the side cellar into the undercroft. This door was ajar at the time of the survey, and other cavities around the pipework etc. suggest that bats could move between the undercroft and the cellars



**21:** Looking along a section of the undercroft. The wall on the right, without extensive pointing, was typical of some areas and provided PRFs for bats and, in places, cavities accessing the wall spaces

## Main church interior



**22:** View of the interior of church, looking along the north wall. Internal walls were well finished and maintained, with little opportunity for bat access



**23:** The second window in the north wall, counting from the west. This window will be removed to enable access from the main church building to the proposed development. The panes and their surroundings were well fitting, with no opportunity for bat access noted



**24:** Two hatches leading into the upper roof space and providing access to the church spire. These were not accessed during the bat roost suitability survey, as scaffolding would be required



**25:** At the junction between the choir stalls and the nave, it was noted that the timbers on the roof above the choir stalls were not sat flush with the stone arch, creating a possible roost space. This was too high to examine, but based on the condition of the church interior, access into the roof space is unlikely



**26:** Access point into the undercroft where electric cables pass through floor, by the Churchwardens' pew in the south-west corner of the main church building



**27a and 27b:** West wall of the Lady Chapel, with an access point into the undercroft at the base of the radiator (shown on the right-hand photograph)



**28:** Access into the roof space at the north-east corner of a cupboard adjacent to the toilet, at the north-east of the church building

## Examples of some surrounding habitats



**29:** Area of continuous scrub running north from the north-west corner of the graveyard to join an area of broadleaved woodland next to Ashes Farm. This scrubby corridor provides a potential bat foraging and commuting route to and from the church and its surroundings



**30:** The Salesbury School wildlife garden, located at the northern boundary of the graveyard. This includes a pond (behind the wooden fence in the photograph), which offers additional foraging habitat for bats



**31:** Part of the row of terraced houses on the west side of Lovely Hall Lane, opposite the church. No checks for PRFs were carried out here, but it was noted that the dense shrubbery on the walls offered shelter and potential roosting habitat for bats

## Appendix 3: Bat Survey Report 2011

**FAO: Mr Steve Burke**

SBCA Ltd  
6 Claremont Avenue  
Clitheroe  
Lancashire  
BB7 1NJ

23 September 2011

Job reference: B 910

Dear Mr Burke

Re: Protected Species Survey: St. Peter's Church, Ribchester Road, Salesbury, Lancashire, BB1 9HT .

**Introduction**

You have requested a protected species survey at the above property on behalf of your client (St. Peter's PPC, Diocese of Blackburn) as a condition of a planning application for a proposed building alterations.

The existing property is shown in figures 1 to 6 of this report (locations of the proposed building alterations are outlined by red broken line).

Prior to determination of the application, the local authority requires an appraisal of the impact of the proposed development on all protected species in accordance with PPS9 and may refuse applications on the grounds of adverse effects on these species or if an assessment of the impact of the development on protected species is inadequate. Protected species legislation applies independently of any planning permission that is given.

Mitigation procedures may also be required to protect bats and their roosts and to ensure there are 'no adverse effects on the favourable conservation status of a bat population' – mitigation guidelines are provided.

A daylight scoping survey was undertaken on Tuesday 13 September 2011 to determine the likely presence of protected species at this property. The inspection has found no evidence of bat activity at the site, therefore it is highly unlikely that bats will be disturbed and there will be no risk to protected species during the proposed building operations.

**Survey methodology**

The protected species survey provides a daylight-only assessment of the areas of the property that are likely to be affected by the proposed building operations.

The aim of the survey is to make an assessment of the potential value of the site for European Protected Species (EPS) and to establish whether bats or other protected species have ever been active within the building.

The survey methodology follows the recommended monitoring guidelines published by the Bat Conservation Trust (*BCT – Bat Surveys, Good Practice Guidelines, 2007*), Natural England (*Survey Objectives, Methods and Standards as outlined in the Bat Mitigation Guidelines, 2004*) and Survey and Monitoring Methods, (*Bat Worker's Manual, JNCC, 2004*).

Non-intrusive survey methods were used to assess the use of the property by bats. The search was made using a high-powered lamp (Clu-lite CB2 1,000,000 candle power), close-focussing binoculars (Leica Trinovid), a digital camera (Kodak MD41) and 900mm endoscope (ProVision 300) to view all likely areas of the building for the presence of bats, ie. droppings and urine and grease staining, feeding remains such as discarded moth and butterfly wings and other insects fragments typically found in a feeding and resting area.

A desk study including a published data search was undertaken to identify protected species within 1 km of the property. Additional local, district and regional data were obtained from a variety of sources including North Lancashire Bat Group (NLBG), East Lancashire Bat Group (ELBG) and National Biodiversity Network (NBN).

## Personnel

The survey was carried out by David Fisher (Earthworks Environmental Design) - an experienced ecological consultant with more than 25 years experience of bat ecology and field survey work and a Natural England licence holder since 1989; current NE licence No: 20113901, (Conservation, Science and Education).

## Constraints

The survey is designed to determine the likely presence of bats within the building and does not necessarily prove absence.

National Biodiversity Network (NBN Gateway) database records, whilst indicative of the bat species that are likely to occur within a 10km square, do not confirm presence or absence of a species or habitat.

Absence of records does not imply that a particular bat species is not present within the recording area.

Previous surveys have not been carried out at this property and currently there are no published records of protected species at this site.

The survey was restricted to the areas of the building most likely to be affected by the proposed operations.

## Data search

A local data search was carried to identify records of bat activity within 1km of the site.

The following bat species are known to be present within the Ribble Valley and Forest of Bowland AONB.

- Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*)\*
- Whiskered bat (*M. mystacinus*)\*
- Brandt's bat (*M. brandtii*)\*
- Daubenton's bat (*M. daubentonii*)\*
- Common long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*)\*
- Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)\*
- Soprano pipistrelle (*P. pygmaeus*)\*
- Noctule bat (*Nyctalus noctula*)\*

(source - \*NBN 10km squares SD63 and SD73; additional data from ELBG, NLBG and EED)

There are no published records of bats or barn owls at this particular site (SD 682328). The nearest bat records are within 0.5km north of the site at nearby Ashes Farm (SD 680333) – ie. common pipistrelle foraging activity - 19 May 2011. (reference: EED report B863)

## Description of the property

St Peter's Church was completed in 1887 and was designed with a 'late 14th-century Gothic' style by the architects Stones & Gradwell. The building stone is a local sandstone material and the window traceries are of York stone. The main roof of the church has a duo-pitch roof clad in slate. More recent additions include the single storey extensions to the north elevation (figures 2 and 6).

The property is very well-maintained and all external features are well-sealed and secure. Similarly, the internal fabric of the building is maintained to a very high standard and is extremely secure (figure 5).

## Proposed development

The proposed works include an extension to the rear of building requiring some local modifications to the roof and soffit. The proposed development may also include the single storey structure as shown in figs. 3 and 4.

## Existing property (images)



Figure 1: west and south elevations



Figure 2: north elevation



Figure 3:



Figure 4: north elevation



Figure 5:



Figure 6: north and west elevations

## Location of the property

NGR: SD 682328. Elevation: 140m.

The church is situated at the junction of Lovely Hall Lane with Ribchester Road, Salisbury at the southern end of the common. The building stands within extensive grounds and there is a burial ground adjacent to the churchyard; the site is close to open countryside to the north of the site and there is broadleaved woodland and permanent pasture within 300m.

To the south and east of the site is a well-established residential development. There are no extensive areas of woodland or plantation within 1km and there are no significant water courses or areas of open standing water nearby. Although several species of bats are known to be present within the wider district, the location of the church provides sub-optimal feeding, foraging and commuting habitat for bats.

There are no designated nature conservation sites immediately adjacent to the property – ie. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Biological Heritage Sites (BHS), National Nature Reserves (NNR's), Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) or Regionally Important Geological and Geo-morphological Sites (RIGS).

## Survey results (daylight scoping survey)

There is no evidence of bat activity at this property and it is unlikely that bats have ever been present within any part of the building that will be affected by building operations.

All external features of the building, including the south porch, windows, soffits and the single storey additions to the property were inspected for signs of bat roosting, perching or feeding activity; none were found.

There are no published records or there is no anecdotal information to indicate bat activity at this site.

The fabric of the building is extremely well-maintained and there are no obvious cavities or gaps where roosting bats are likely to be present; additionally, the building is not adjacent to woodland edge, continuous tree canopy, mature hedgrows or standing open water and connectivity to other habitats is relatively poor.

## Evaluation of results

- The conservation significance of building is currently negligible / low.
- The potential of this property to support roosting, resting or perching bats is considered negligible or low.
- The potential of the existing building to support a maternity roost, hibernation roost or transitory / mating roost is low.
- The surrounding land / habitats provide sub-optimal feeding, foraging and commuting habitat for bats; the site is not adjacent to high-value feeding and foraging habitat and there are no extensive areas of broadleaved woodland, plantation, riparian habitat, open water or river channel adjacent to the site or within 0.5km of the property.
- The site is relatively isolated from high-value habitat and connectivity to feeding / foraging habitats is poor.
- There are no records of maternity roosts, swarming sites or hibernacula within 1km and recorded bat activity within the area is low.

## Scale of impact of the development

The scale of impact of the proposed development at site level on local bat populations is negligible or low.

## Summary and recommendations

The proposed building alterations are **unlikely to cause disturbance to bats** or result in the loss of a bat roost or cause injury or death of a European Protected Species – (Bats) or result in any significant impact on a local bat population.

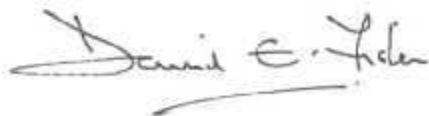
In the unlikely event of bats being exposed or vulnerable to harm during the proposed works you should follow the outline mitigation procedures outlined below and seek further advice. (Appendix A).

The works should proceed with reasonable caution and vigilance for the unexpected presence of solitary roosting bats. In the unlikely event that bats are exposed or vulnerable to harm, you must stop work immediately in that particular part of the building and seek advice.

Further survey effort at this site is not recommended.

Please note: I do not provide a copy of this report to the local planning authority, therefore it is your responsibility to forward the report to Ribble Valley Borough Council.

Yours sincerely



David Fisher

## Impacts and mitigation

Mitigation refers to the practices adopted to reduce or remove the risk of disturbance, injury or death of a protected species or damage to a roost. The Bat Mitigation Guidelines define mitigation as "...measures to protect the bat population from damaging activities and reduce or remove the impact of development".

### MITIGATION GUIDANCE:

ACTION:	METHOD:
1. Timing constraints	None.
2. Risk of disturbance	Although it is unlikely that roosting bats will be disturbed during the proposed development, there remains a <b>low risk</b> of exposing solitary bats during building and roofing operations.
3. Removal of roofing materials	There remains a <b>low risk</b> of accidentally exposing roosting bats at this property; you should be aware that isolated bats are 'very occasionally' found roosting beneath roofing materials such as slates, roof verges and coping stones, ridge tiles and lead flashings, most frequently between the spring (March / April / May) and late summer or autumn period (Late August / September / October).
3. Accidental exposure of bats	<p>Stop work immediately if bats are exposed and are likely to be disturbed; eg. if you find live or dead bats or expose obvious accumulations of bat droppings under roofing materials.</p> <p>In the unlikely event of bats being exposed or vulnerable to harm at this property, all work in that area must stop immediately. Cover the exposed bats to reduce further risk of harm and seek further advice by calling the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) helpline on 0845 1300 228.</p>
4. Avoid handling bats	Contractors should avoid handling bats but where there is no alternative, use gloves or a small container to move them to a dark and quiet area, preferably without causing them to fly in daylight.
5. Legal protection	<p>All contractors and project managers should be made aware of the legal protection afforded all species of bat in the UK and procedures should be in place to mitigate for the potential impact on bats before any building or demolition work is undertaken.</p> <p>The onus lies with the applicant to satisfy herself that no offence will be committed if the development goes ahead, regardless of whether planning permission has been granted.</p>
6. Further advice	If you require further advice on bats during the proposed building operations or if you find an injured or resting bat, call BCT immediately; they will normally contact a qualified bat worker in the local area who will visit the site and provide further advice free of charge.
7. Further survey effort	Not required.

## References

The following websites, organisations and datasets were consulted during the preparation of this report:

1. National Biodiversity Network (NBN) database, (terrestrial mammals - chiroptera)
2. Bat Conservation Trust (BCT)
3. North Lancashire Bat Group
4. East Lancashire Bat Group
5. Lancashire and Cheshire Fauna Society (Lancashire Bird Atlas)
6. EED dataset (Lancashire bat records 2000 - 2011)
7. Magicmap interactive map
8. Natureonthemap (Natural England)
9. Multimap
10. Google Maps
11. MARIO - Maps and related information online (Lancashire County Council).
12. Natural England Specially protected Birds - Standing Advice (Breeding birds)

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## Wildlife legislation – Bats and the law

All bat species in the UK receive full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (amended by the Environment Protection Act 1990). The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 amends the Wildlife and Countryside Act to also make it an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct a place that bats use for shelter or protection. All species of bats are listed on Schedule 5 of the 1981 Act, which makes it an offence to:

- *intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bat.*
- *intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place that a wild bat uses for shelter or protection. This is taken to mean all bat roosts whether bats are present or not.*
- *intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bat while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection.*

## Protected species (Bats) and the planning process<sup>1</sup>

For development proposals requiring planning permission, the presence of bats, and therefore the need for a bat survey, is an important 'material planning consideration'. Adequate surveys are therefore required to establish the presence or absence of bats, to enable a prediction of the likely impact of the proposed development on them and their breeding sites or resting places and, if necessary, to design mitigation and compensation. Similarly, adequate survey information must accompany an application for a Habitats Regulations licence (also known as a Mitigation Licence) required to ensure that a proposed development is able to proceed lawfully.

The term 'development' [used in these guidelines] includes all activities requiring consent under relevant planning legislation and / or demolition operations requiring building control approval under the Building Act 1984.

Natural England (Formerly English Nature) states that development in relation to bats "covers a wide range of operations that have the potential to impact negatively on bats and bat populations. Typical examples would be the construction, modification, restoration or conversion of buildings and structures, as well as infrastructure, landfill or mineral extraction projects and demolition operations".

(Mitchell-Jones, 2004)

<sup>1</sup> 2.2.3 - Planning for development, p10, Bat Surveys, Good Practice Guidelines, BCT (2007).

## Contacts:

Bat Conservation Trust: 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Quadrant House, 250 Kennington Lane, London, SE11 5RD.  
Bat helpline number: 0845 1300 228

Natural England, Cheshire to Lancashire Team, Electra Way, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 6GJ Tel: 01270 754227