

Your Ref:
Our Ref: 7968

J & E Thornber
Higher Greenhead Farm
Gisburn Road
Sawley
Clitheroe
BB7 4LQ

Wednesday, 27 April 2022

Dear Mr Thornber

**RE: SCOPING BAT AND BIRD SURVEY
LOCATION: HIGHER GREENHEAD FARM**

I would report that we have undertaken a scoping bat and nesting bird survey at the above site.

The methodology we used to inspect this site was as follows.

Desk and Field Study

- ⇒ Likely bat roosting and feeding sites adjacent to the site were identified from aerial photography. This allows us to determine likely commuting routes into and off the site.
- ⇒ A search was made of the Envirotech dataset. The purpose of the search is to establish the species of bat that have been recorded in the local area.
- ⇒ Assessment of adjacent bat feeding and roosting sites from aerial photography.
- ⇒ Visual assessment of the building from the ground and ladders where appropriate using binoculars, torch and endoscope by a licensed bat surveyor.
- ⇒ Assessment of the buildings potential for use by bats and need for additional survey to conclude the reasonable probable absence of bats.
- ⇒ Assessment of the site past and current potential for use by nesting birds including barn owls.

The site was assessed on 25th April 2022 it was found to be located in habitat which would provide a moderate level of foraging opportunities for bat species. It is in a rural setting and not subject to light spill from adjacent roads and properties but is somewhat exposed.

The immediate surroundings are dominated by woodland and pasture. This will have a moderate to high value to foraging bats.

There are no records for bats at the site, however recent surveys by Envirotech have located bats using the surrounding habitat. The potential presence of bats at the site is therefore dependent upon roost quality and availability. It is unlikely habitat quality will limit use of the site by bats.





The building is a steel clad pole barn with no wall cavities

	Well sealed fibre cement roof with roof lights and well sealed walls
	Ground floor open and light
	Numerous Swallow nests 20+ to ground floor area

The external walls of the building are fully sealed. There are no wall cavities, crevices or gaps suitable for use by roosting bats. No evidence of past or current use by bats was noted.

Overall the building has negligible potential for use by roosting bats.

As a consequence we consider that undertaking an emergence survey and full habitat assessment of the building and its surroundings is unwarranted. The areas affected by work are likely to have a negligible significance to bats.

We consider that although the risk to bats is negligible, as with all sites the following generic working guidelines should be followed.

General working guidelines

1. Be aware that bats may be present around the site, advise contractors accordingly.
2. Be observant during work for bats and or droppings in wall junctions. Bat droppings are black or brown and the size of grains of rice. Unlike mouse droppings which are hard, bat droppings will crumble between the fingers if squeezed.
3. Be observant during work for bats which may use the building if the new areas of the walls are exposed and left open overnight. Bats are opportunistic and may make use of gaps opened up during work overnight.
4. **If bats are found, stop all work and contact the ecological consultant for this project Andrew Gardner Tel: 07812 081320 for advice prior to work re-commencing.**
5. If it is necessary to remove a bat to avoid it being harmed, gloves should be worn. It should be carefully caught in a cardboard box and kept in the dark in a quiet place until it can be released at dusk near to where it was found, or moved to an undisturbed part of the site, with outside access, and placed in a location safe from predators.

20+ old swallow nests were found in the ground floor area. These were not active at the time of survey. There were no signs of use by barn owls.

Demolition of the building should not occur if swallow nests are active. This may require a delay to demolition until September and or a pre-start check to confirm the absence of nesting birds. Birds could also be excluded from the site before nesting commences.

If you have any queries or comments regarding our assessment of this building please do not hesitate to contact me in the first instance and I would be happy to clarify any issues with you.

Yours Sincerely



Andrew Gardner BSc (Hons), MSc, MRICS, Dip NDEA
Natural England Bat License (Level 2)
Director Envirotech NW Ltd