

**Bat Survey Report and Method Statement
European Protected Species (Bats)**

Reasonable Avoidance and Mitigation Measures

**Betty Barn,
Slaidburn Road,
Waddington,
Clitheroe BB7 3JQ**

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Executive summary

This Method Statement supports proposed plans to carry out limited works to Betty Barn, Slaidburn Road, Waddington, Clitheroe BB7 3JQ as part of proposed plans for a residential development of the existing building.

Planning permission for the development of the barn has previously been granted: Application No: 3/2019/1036, Decision Date: 21 May 2020.

A preliminary roost assessment on the 15th November 2022 assessed the building as offering moderate bat roosting potential.

Previous surveys in 2018 (*Betty Barn, Slaidburn Road, Waddington BB7 3JQ Ecological Survey and Assessment Including a Licensed Bat and Bird Survey and Assessment April 2019. ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd ref: 2018-105b*) recorded two common pipistrelle bats roosting within 3 crevices on external walls and below roof slates.

Emergence surveys were carried out on 15th May and 19th June 2023, with a dawn survey on 4th June 2023. Surveys were carried out with full spectrum bat detectors and infrared video cameras to ensure full visibility throughout the survey period.

No bats were recorded roosting within the building, and no evidence to suggest use of previously identified roosting features was recorded. Only low levels of common pipistrelle bat foraging activity was recorded, typically with 3 – 5 bat passes recorded per survey.

It is considered that it is unlikely that bats are using the barn to roost.

The overall purpose of the Method Statement is to ensure that bats and their roosts are fully protected to ensure the 'favourable conservation status of the species'.

This method statement is designed to minimise or remove any potential disturbance to bats. By following the Reasonable Avoidance Measures included in this document the work can take place, ensuring the Continued Ecological Functionality of the site, supported by a Natural England EPS mitigation licence.

Site Location

Betty Barn, Slaidburn Road, Waddington, Clitheroe BB7 3JQ
NGR: SD7238444390



Surrounding Habitat



The property is located in a rural position with surrounding habitat a mosaic of ancient woodland, semi natural deciduous woodland, and improved and semi improved grassland with scattered deciduous tree cover present on field boundaries..

Connectivity to the wider landscape is good. Bat foraging potential is moderate.

Survey summary and site assessment

Pre-existing information on the bat species present at this site.

A search of the MAGIC website revealed one EPS licence applications within a 1km radius.

2016-26538-EPS-BDX SD72704391 Destruction of a common and soprano pipistrelle breeding place.

Previous surveys in 2018 ((*Betty Barn, Slaidburn Road, Waddington BB7 3JQ Ecological Survey and Assessment Including a Licensed Bat and Bird Survey and Assessment April 2019. ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd ref: 2018-105b*)) recorded two common pipistrelle bats roosting within 3 crevices on external walls and below roof slates.

From personal experience of surveying for and researching bats in Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumbria, 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.

Survey Personnel.

Personnel on surveys included: David Anderson, an experienced ecologist and bat researcher with 25 years experience of fieldwork and bat ecology, a founder member of the East Lancashire Bat Group and 'Batworker.com', formerly a Natural History Curator and manager of the East Lancashire Biological Records Centre. (Natural England licence No:2015-15784-CLS-CLS, Conservation, Science and Education). Sharon Anderson, an experienced bat surveyor.

Survey Summary

Survey	Date	Timings
Preliminary Roost Assessment	15.11.2022	1 Hour
Emergence Survey	15.05.2023	3 Hours
Dawn Survey	04.06.2023	3 Hours
Emergence Survey	19.06.2023	3 Hours

Survey constraints

Access to all areas of the interior and exterior of the building was possible and good visual inspection at ground level was possible. Evidence of bat activity such as bat droppings or staining on external walls and surfaces is frequently removed by the action of wind and rain; apparent absence of evidence is therefore evaluated with caution.

In many situations it is not possible to inspect every locations where bats are present therefore it should be assumed that an absence of bat evidence does not necessarily equate to evidence that bats are absent.

Some species such as pipistrelle sp bats are opportunistic and it is possible for individuals to be found during works, even where surveys have had negative results during preliminary and activity surveys.

Preliminary Roost Assessment

The property consists of a detached two storey stone built barn with a double pitched stone slate roof. The building has openings to the north, east and west.

External and internal walls are generally well pointed however crevices were observed on external walls. Wall tops are exposed to the interior. Roof slates are generally close fitting and the ridge is pointed and sealed.

Roof slates are unlined to the western half of the barn, a bituminous roofing felt is present in the eastern section of the barn, the roofing felt is in poor condition with areas of ripped felt present.

The building was assessed as offering moderate bat roosting potential when surrounding habitat was also considered.



Emergence Survey - 15th May 2023

Start Temp: 12.6c Finish Temp: 10.2c 100% Clear Sky Wind: Bfd1 Westerly
Start: 20.30 Sunset: 21.05 Finish: 22.35

Surveyors equipped with Anabat Walkabout and Anabat Scout full spectrum detectors were positioned around the barn to monitor for emerging bats. Survey effort was supported by use of Canon XA50 and Canon XA25 HD infrared video cameras, with twin 5w Nightfox XB5 torches.

Recorded bat calls were analysed post survey using Anabat Insight software.

No bats were recorded emerging from the property, a low level of common pipistrelle bat foraging (<5 bat passes) were recorded during the survey between 21.47 and 22.01. Bats were observed arriving from the east to forage around trees on the site boundary before dispersing into the wider landscape. Activity was typical of bats emerging from a distant roost.

Dawn Survey - 4th June 2023

Start Temp: 12.4c Finish Temp: 11.2c 100% Clear Sky Wind: Bfd 0 Precipitation 0
Start: 03.00 Sunrise: 04.41 Finish: 05.00

Surveyors equipped with Anabat Walkabout and Anabat Scout full spectrum detectors were positioned around the barn to monitor for bats returning to roost. Survey effort was supported by use of Canon XA50 HD infrared video cameras, with twin 5w Nightfox XB5 torches.

Recorded bat calls were analysed post survey using Anabat Insight software.

A low level of distant common pipistrelle bat foraging (<5 bat passes) was recorded between 03.10 and 03.41. No further bat activity was recorded.

Emergence Survey - 19th June 2023

Start Temp: 16.5c Finish Temp: 14.0c 100% Clear Sky Wind: Bfd 0 Precipitation 0
Start: 20.30 Sunset: 21.05 Finish: 22.35

Surveyors equipped with Anabat Walkabout and Anabat Scout full spectrum detectors were positioned around the barn to monitor for emerging bats. Survey effort was supported by use of Canon XA50 and Canon XA25 HD infrared video cameras, with twin 5w Nightfox XB5 torches.

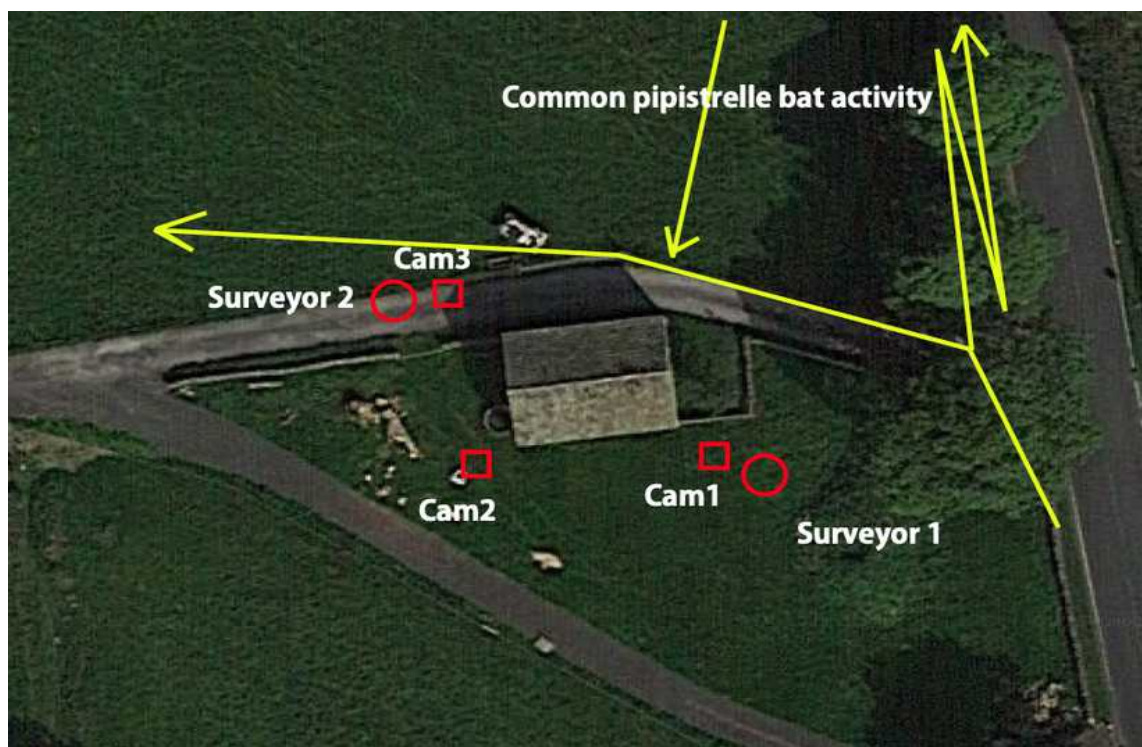
Recorded bat calls were analysed post survey using Anabat Insight software.

A low level of common pipistrelle bat foraging (3 bat passes) were recorded throughout the survey. At 22.25 a distant common pipistrelle was recorded followed by two foraging common pipistrelle bat arriving from the north and dispersing west.

No bats were recorded emerging from the barn.



Screenshots illustrating illumination levels at end of emergence surveys.



Emergence Surveys summary

Interpretation of results

A survey on 15th November 2022 assessed the building as offering moderate bat roost potential, although no evidence to suggest the use of the building by roosting bats was observed

Previous surveys in 2019 (*Betty Barn, Slaidburn Road, Waddington BB7 3JQ ECOLOGICAL SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT Including a Licensed Bat and Bird Survey and Assessment April 2019. ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd ref: 2018-105bJ*) recorded three common pipistrelle bats roosting within 3 crevices on external walls and below roof slates.

Emergence surveys were carried out on 15th May and 19th June 2023, with a dawn survey on 4th June 2023.

Surveys were carried out with full spectrum bat detectors and infrared video cameras to ensure full visibility throughout the survey period.

No bats were recorded roosting within the building, and no evidence to suggest use of previously identified roosting features was recorded.

Only low levels of common pipistrelle bat foraging activity was recorded, typically with 3 – 5 bat passes recorded per survey.

It is considered that it is unlikely that bats are using the barn to roost, and that a natural decline in roosting opportunities has occurred.

Mitigation in the form of timing of works, compensatory bat boxes during works and creation of new roost entrances (if needed) will form part of the proposed development.

This is considered an appropriate approach to roost compensation commensurate with that expected by Natural England for the purposes of licencing.

Impact Assessment

Short-term impacts: disturbance

Low risk: Roof stripping will be undertaken by hand and under supervision following installation of compensatory bat boxes.

Long-term impacts:

Roost loss: No impact on a local bat population.

Long-term impacts:

Fragmentation and isolation: minimal, the impact of the proposed development on local bat species will be insignificant.

Predicted scale of impact - No loss of roosting sites of a common and relatively widespread species.

Method Statement

The overall purpose of the Method Statement is to ensure that bats and their roosts are fully protected to ensure the 'favourable conservation status of the species'. The Method statement is designed to minimise or remove any potential disturbance to roosting bats.

A Method Statement is normally required by the local planning authority to ensure that procedures are in place before the development works are carried out and will form part of the EPS Licence application.

No work should commence without contractors receiving a toolbox talk.

All contractors will be made aware of the legal protection afforded all species of bats in the UK and procedures will be in place to mitigate for the potential impact on bats before any building work is undertaken.

Work to affected roof areas of the property will take place on days when the temperature is +5c.

Removal of roof tiles will be carried out by hand and under supervision.

A visit by the batworker prior to roof works commencing will confirm absence of bats in the affected areas.



Location of previously identified common pipistrelle bat roosts

Scaffolding must avoid previously identified bat roost locations unless an endoscope survey immediately prior to installation confirms continuing absence of bats..

Compensatory bat roosts will be provided via two Greenwoods Ecohabitats Two Crevice boxes being positioned on a tree to the east of the barn.

Boxes will be placed on south east and south west aspects of the main trunk at a minimum height of 4m prior to works commencing.

A copy of the Method Statement should be available to site / project managers in advance of any works being carried out.

The existence of a Method Statement helps to establish a defence against prosecution for intentional (WCA), deliberate (Habitat Regulations.) or reckless (WCA) disturbance of bats or

damage to roosts. **All work should take place under the supervision of the ecologist.**
Accidental exposure of bats - EMERGENCY ADVICE

In the unlikely event of bats or their roosts being exposed or vulnerable to harm, suspend further work in that area. Cover the exposed bats to reduce any further risk of harm and seek advice immediately.

Call Dave Anderson (Batworker) on 07894 338290 (mobile); a site visit will be arranged to assess the situation, recover any bats and liaise with Local Authority and Natural England.