

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

Reasonable Avoidance and Mitigation Measures

**Fields Farm,
Mearley,
Pendleton,
Clitheroe BB7 1PU**

09.05.2025



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Executive summary

In April 2025 Batworker consultancy was commissioned to undertake a survey of Fields Farm, Mearley, Pendleton, Clitheroe BB7 1PU to assess the potential for a proposed development to impact on protected species.

A preliminary bat roost assessment survey was carried out on 8th May 2025. The building, when assessed in combination with location and surrounding habitat was observed to have a low level of bat roost potential.

An emergence survey was carried out on 8th May 2025. A low level of Common Pipistrelle bat activity was recorded, with a single bat observed foraging along a treeline to the south west of the building. No bats were observed emerging from the building.

No evidence to suggest use by bats was recorded within the building at a time of year when such physical evidence would be expected.

Survey effort is considered appropriate to characterise the roost potential of the building and that the presence of a significant or low conservation value bat roost is unlikely.

“The presence of a significant bat roost (invariably a maternity roost) can normally be determined on a single visit at any time of year, provided that the entire structure is accessible and that any signs of bats have not been removed by others”. - Mitchell-Jones, A (2004) Bat mitigation guidelines. English Nature.

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’.

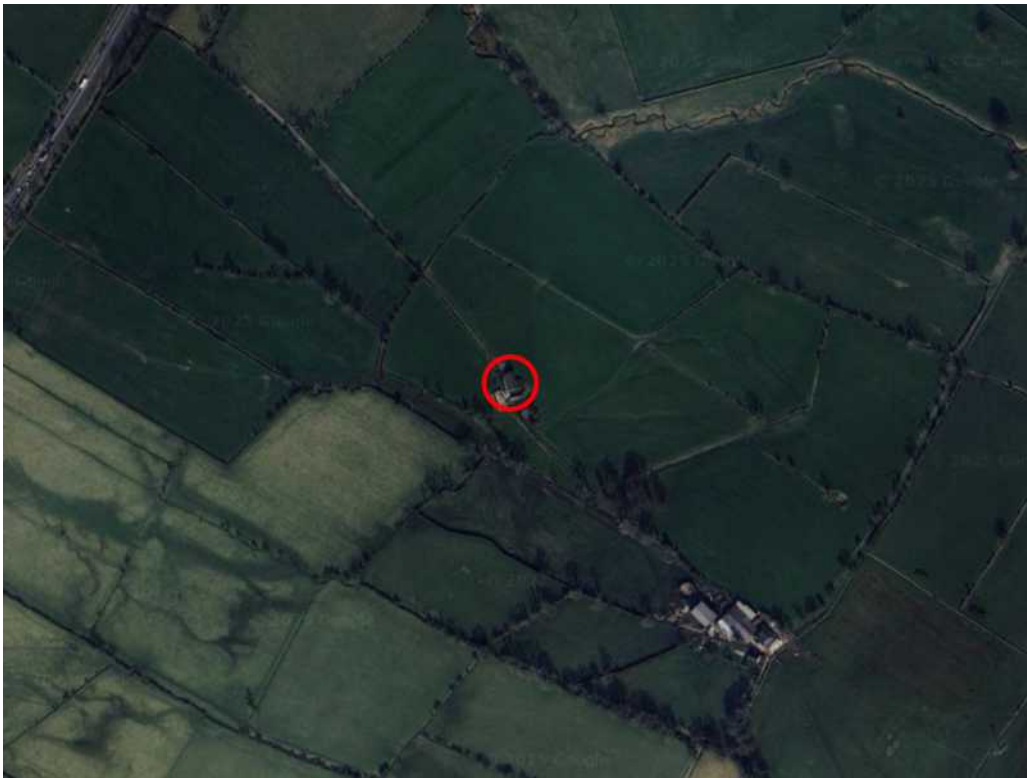
This method statement is designed to minimise or remove any potential disturbance to bats. By following the Reasonable Avoidance Measures and mitigation included in this document the work can take place, ensuring the Continued Ecological Functionality of the site.

Site Location

Fields Farm, Mearley, Pendleton, Clitheroe BB7 1PU
NGR: SD7671541499



Surrounding Habitat



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

Connectivity to the wider landscape is generally poor. Overall foraging potential for bats can be considered low.

Survey summary and site assessment

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

A search of the MAGIC website revealed no EPS licence applications within a 1km radius.

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). The emergence survey was assisted by Sarah Dunham, an experienced bat surveyor.

Survey Summary

Survey	Date	Timings
Preliminary Roost Assessment	8.05.2025	1 Hour
Emergence Survey	08.05.2025	2 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.

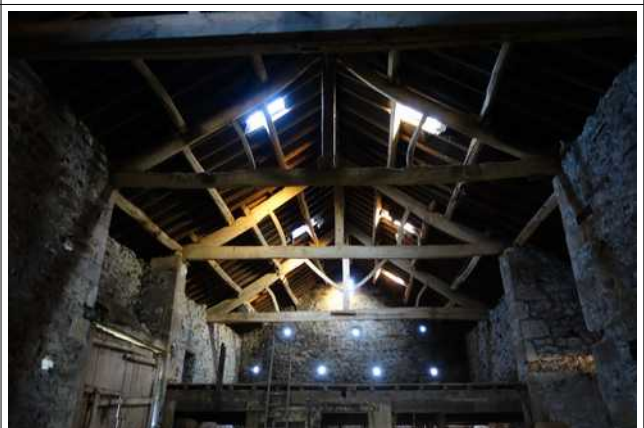
Preliminary Roost Assessment

The building consists of a detached two storey stone barn with a double pitched slate roof.

External walls are generally well pointed with some gaps on wall tops. Iopeninings are present on gable ends. Roof slates are generally close fitting with no obvious missing, lifted or slipped slates present. Ridge tiles are pointed and well sealed. Roof slates are partially lined with a bituminous roofing felt.

The building was assessed as offering low bat roost potential when surrounding habitat was taken into consideration.

Two outbuildings were assessed as offering negligible bat roost potential.



Visual Survey.

A visual survey of the barns was carried out focussing on potential roost features and physical evidence, such as droppings, feeding remains, or grease marking. Numerous undisturbed surfaces were present.

No physical evidence to suggest use by bats was recorded, despite the timing of the survey at a time of year when physical evidence could be expected.

Nesting Birds

No evidence to suggest the use of the building by nesting birds was recorded. No evidence to suggest use by nesting Barn Owls was observed.

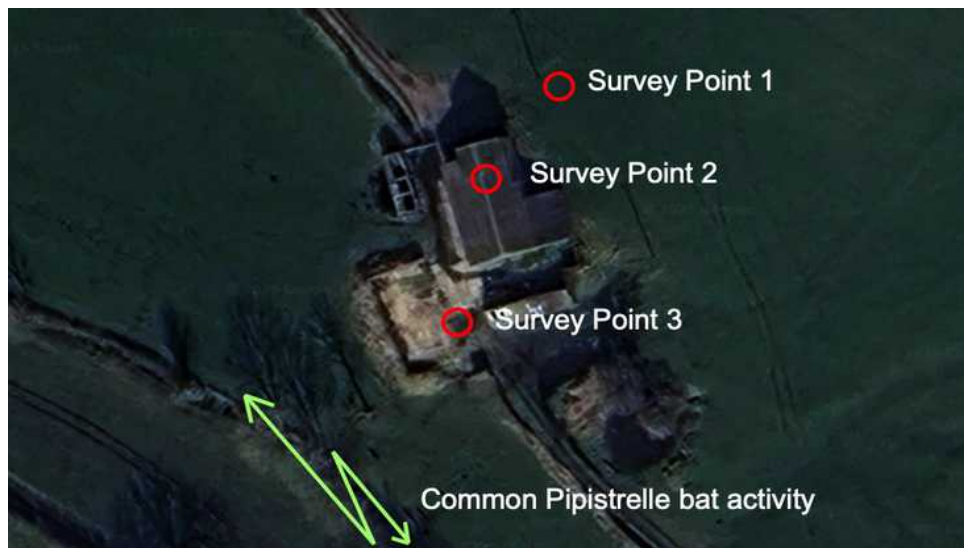
Emergence Survey 8th May 2025

Start Temp: 10.2c Finish Temp: 9.3c 90% Clear Sky. Wind: Bft 1 Easterly. Precipitation 0
Start: 20.35 Sunset: 20.52 Finish: 22.25

Surveyors equipped with Anabat Walkabout, Anabat Chorus, Anabat Swift, Anabat Scout, Echometer Pro full spectrum detectors aided with a Guide TK612 thermal camera and Nightfox Whisker HD video cameras with infrared flood and spot lights were positioned around the building to monitor for emerging bats.

Recorded bat calls were analysed post survey using Anabat Insight and Batsound 4.1 software. Video footage was reviewed on a 42" 4K monitor at realtime post survey.

At 22.17 a single Common Pipistrelle bat was recorded foraging along a treeline to the southwest of the building before dispersing into the wider landscape. Timing was consistent with bats emerging from a far roost. No bats were recorded emerging from the building.



Survey summary

Camera Coverage and illumination levels at survey end.



Interpretation of results

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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 and mitigation included in this document the work can take place, ensuring the *Continued Ecological Functionality of the site*.

Impact Assessment

Short-term impacts – Disturbance Low risk:

Roof stripping where necessary will be undertaken by hand and under supervision.

Long-term impacts - Roost loss: No impact on a local bat population.

Long-term impacts - Fragmentation and isolation:

Minimal risk, 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 and Reasonable Avoidance Measures

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.

Common and soprano pipistrelle bats are considered an opportunistic species and it is possible for individuals to be found during works, even where surveys have had negative results during preliminary and activity surveys.

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 where necessary.

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.

Timing of works

Roof work should only take place following an evening temperature of +5c.

Work to affected roof areas will take place under supervision, with the batworker 'on call'.

Roof slates should be removed by hand and under supervision where necessary.

The reverse of roof slates should be checked for dormant bats prior to moving.

In the unlikely event bats are found during works. The area should be carefully covered and work stop until the batworker can attend to assess the appropriate way forward.

A compensatory bat box (Greenwood Eco Habitats two crevice box) will be placed on site prior to work commencing. Bat boxes will remain on site as part of proposed biodiversity enhancement.

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.