

**Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.**



MOOR ROYD BARN.

OS REF: SE 213 018.

BAT SURVEY.

Ref No:- 150640.

Date: 6th July 2015.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. There are plans to convert a barn at Moor Royd House into tourist accommodation. The barn is currently used as a garage, laundry room and for storage.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd was therefore commissioned to carry out a bat survey of the site to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works.

1.3. This survey was carried out on 6th July 2015 and this report outlines the findings of that survey and makes appropriate recommendations.

1.4. Appendix I of this report provides back ground information with respect to bats and the legal protection afforded to them.

2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. The structure was checked for potential bat roosting sites in line with L Hundt (2012). *Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines* by looking for the following signs:-

- * Holes, cracks or crevices.
- * Bat droppings.
- * Prey remains.

2.2. All survey work was carried out in line with the Bat Conservation Trust, Good Practice Guidelines

2.3. This was not followed by a dusk emergence survey .

2.4. This survey was carried out by Jenny Whitcher Roebuck MCIEEM. Since 2001 Jenny has had experience in a professional capacity as a Wildlife Consultant carrying out Ecology Surveys and Phase 1 Habitat surveys. Jenny holds Natural England Survey Licences in respect of bats, great crested newts, crayfish and barn owls, CCW and SNH Survey Licences in respect of bats and great crested newts. She has also successfully completed a number of courses run by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and the Field Studies Council (FSC) in the relative protected species, plant species and in carrying out Phase 1 Habitat Surveys. As a full member of CIEEM she is committed to continuous professional development, a continual process of learning and career development, a condition of CIEEM membership.

3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. Data Search Results.

3.1.1. A desktop data search was requested from South Yorkshire Bat Group for records of bats and bat roosts within 1km of the survey area.

3.1.2. Most of the records are approximately 1.4 km from the site either to the north in the village of Millhouse Green or to the south at Langsett Reservoir. There is one record of one bat 0.7km to the east at Hartcliffe Brow.

3.1.3. The full list of result is in the table below.

Recorder	Date	Grid Reference	Address line 1	Address line 2	Address line 3	Type	Notes	Species	Number
Natural England	29/06/2008	SE215004	Langsett	Langsett	Stocksbridge	Roost	Adult bat and baby found. Known roost. Visit required. GO visit. Gen info given. No further problem. No survey requested on nearby barn conversion	Pipistrelle sp.	2
Martin Derbyshire	19/07/2009	SE211004	Waters Edge	Langsett	Stocksbridge	Maternity roost	In roof of front porch	Common pipistrelle	120+
BCT/NE	19/07/2008	SE213005			South Yorkshire			Common Pipistrelle	64
House holder Unknown	13/02/1998	SE2202	Cross lane	Hartcliffe	Barnsley			Vespertili onidae	1
Eric Bennett	29/07/2004	SE220029	Birks Lane	Millhouse Green	Barnsley		P.pip single feeding round bridge, arrived from downstream.	Common pipistrelle	1
Eric Bennett	29/07/2004	SE220029	Birks Lane	Millhouse Green	Barnsley		Several M. sp. feeding round bridge, arrived from downstream.	Myotis sp.	Unknown
Eric Bennett	18/08/2004	SE220029	Birks Lane	Millhouse Green	Barnsley		P.pip single feeding round bridge, arrived from upstream.	Common pipistrelle	1
Eric Bennett	18/08/2004	SE220029	Birks Lane	Millhouse Green	Barnsley		Several M. sp. feeding round bridge, arrived from upstream.	Myotis sp.	Unknown

3.2. Site Description.

3.2.1. The building is a two storey barn within the grounds of Moor Royd House. The barn is currently used as a garage, a laundry room and for storage.

3.2.2. The aerial photograph below shows the location of the barn within the red line.



3.2.3. The barn is constructed with stone walls with a pitched stone tile roof. The building is two storeys with the ground floor used as a garage with two garage doors on the eastern side. The upper floor is used as storage. This is a large room open to the underside of the roof.

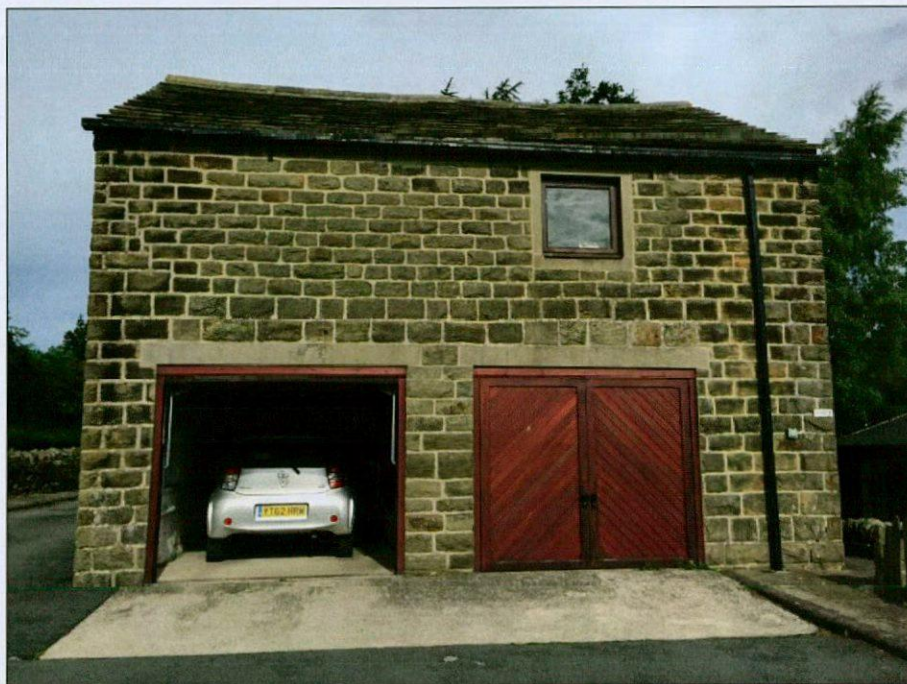
3.2.4. The walls of the building are all in good condition inside and out, are well pointed with all pointing in place and no gaps.

3.2.5. The roof of the building is in good condition with all stone tiles in place. The ridge tiles are all in place and are well pointed with no gaps. Inside the roof is lined with felt, which is in good condition, tight fitting with no gaps or tears. Inside the building is well-sealed and well pointed around the tops of the walls and the gable ends where the tiles meet the walls. Externally the gable ends are well pointed where the tiles meet the walls.

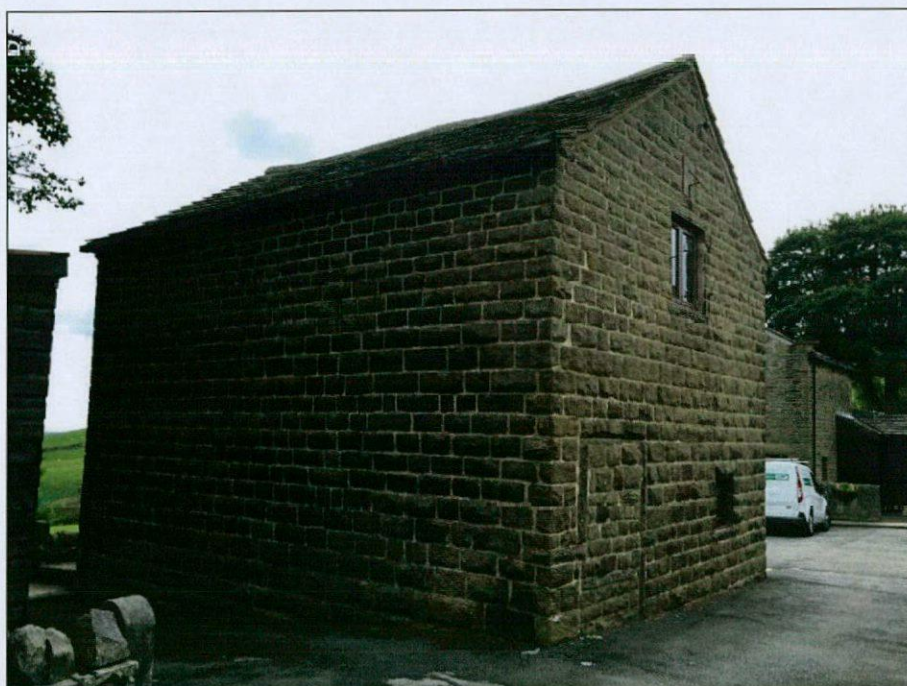
3.2.6. There are windows on both floors of the building and all are in place and well-sealed. The two garage doors and the door to the laundry room are well-sealed.

3.2.7. Under the eaves is well-sealed when examined with a bright torch with no gaps.

3.2.8. Photograph showing the eastern side of the building.



3.2.9. Photograph looking at the northwest corner of the building.



3.3. Survey Results.

3.3.1. No bats or bat field signs were identified around the interior or the exterior of the building during this survey.

3.3.2. The building is very well sealed and in good condition all round with no cracks or gaps and no access into the building.

3.3.3. The roof is covered with stone tiles, which are all in place and tight fitting. There are some small gaps under the edges of some of the roof tiles due to the uneven nature of the stone but when examined with a bright torch the gaps appear to be only at the edges of the tiles with the rest of the tiles tight fitting.

3.3.4. This building is assessed as having no bat roost potential.

3.3.5. No birds were seen around the building and no old nests or evidence of birds was identified around the interior or exterior of the building to suggest birds nest in the building.

4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1. This building is assessed as having no bat roost potential. The building is very well sealed and in good condition all round with no cracks or gaps and no access into the building.

4.2. No bats or bat field signs were identified around the interior or the exterior of the building during this survey.

4.3. The roof is covered with stone tiles, which are all in place and tight fitting. There are some small gaps under the edges of some of the roof tiles due to the uneven nature of the stone but when examined with a bright torch the gaps appear to be only at the edges of the tiles with the rest of the tiles tight fitting. This may offer limited opportunities for individual bats seeking temporary shelter but is not suitable for a roost.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. This building is assessed as having no bat roost potential as it is well-sealed and in good condition with no opportunities for roosting bats.

5.2. Therefore, there is no requirement for a Natural England EPS licence in connection with the proposed works.

5.3. Individual bats can seek temporary shelter almost anywhere and therefore it is recommended that, as a precaution, all personnel employed on the project are briefed with respect to bats and know where they could be found.

5.4. In the unlikely event a bat is found, the bat should be covered and protected and work should cease at that location until further advice has been sought from Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.

Prepared by:	
Jenny Whitcher Roebuck MCIEEM.	Date: 6 th July 2015.

Checked by:	
Derek Whitcher. BSc, MCIEEM, MCMI.	Date: 7 th July 2015.

Appendix I. BAT INFORMATION.

It is necessary to understand a little about bats, their basic nature, ecology and legal protection in order to evaluate the findings of this report.

18 species of bat currently reside in Britain, 17 of which are known to breed here. They are extremely difficult to identify in the hand and even more so in flight.

All appear to be diminishing in numbers, probably due to shortage of food, caused by pesticides, as insects are their sole diet, and habitat change.

As their diet consists solely of insects, bats hibernate during the winter when their food source is at its most scarce. They will spend the winter in hollow trees, caves, mines and the roofs of buildings.

Certain species, particularly the pipistrelle (the commonest and most widespread British bat) can quickly adapt to man-made structures and will readily use these to roost and to rear their young.

Bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Regulation 41 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, and the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000.

It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or capture or disturb bats or to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter or protection.

A breeding or resting site of any bat is known as a bat roost. A bat roost is therefore any structure a bat uses for shelter or protection. Because bats tend to use the same roosts each year, legal opinion is that the roost site is protected whether or not the bats are present at that time.

Bat roosts can be identified by looking for:-

- Suitable holes, cracks and crevices.
- Bat droppings.
- Prey remains.
- By carrying out night observations using a bat detector.

Where development proposals are likely to affect a bat roost site, a licence is required from Natural England.

The person applying for that licence has to be suitably qualified and experienced in bat matters. That person is then responsible for ensuring that the measures contained in the licence are carried out.