



STUD FARM, CARLTON, BARNSELEY.

OS REF: SE 36641 10078.

BAT SURVEY.

Ref No: 200633.

Date: 29th June 2020.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page Number
1. INTRODUCTION.	3
2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.	4
3. SURVEY RESULTS.	6
4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.	11
5. RECOMMENDATIONS.	12
6. REFERENCES.	13
Appendix I. BAT INFORMATION.	14
Appendix II. DEVELOPMENT PLAN.	16

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. Planning consent has been granted for the development of the Stud Farm Carlton for residential housing. A Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment has been written by others and that recommends a further dusk emergence survey be undertaken. That survey has been conditioned in the planning consent.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd was therefore commissioned to carry out a dusk emergence bat survey of the site to establish whether there are any issues that may affect the proposed works. This survey was carried out on 24th June 2020.

1.3. This report outlines the findings of that survey and makes appropriate recommendations.

1.4. Appendix I of this report provides additional information on bats and the protection afforded to them and is designed to assist the reader in understanding the contents of this report.

2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. The buildings were thoroughly checked internally and externally for potential bat roosting sites by looking for the following signs: -

- * Holes, cracks or crevices.
- * Bat droppings.
- * Prey remains.
- * Staining on external walls.

2.2. Unless otherwise stated, all lofts were accessed and inspected using a high-powered torch and where necessary an endoscope.

2.3. A thorough external inspection was carried out from ground level for any gaps or openings in the roof and ridge tiles, behind soffits and fascia's and in the walls of the structure for suitable roost access points and field signs to indicate possible use by bats.

2.4. All window cills, walls and the ground around the structure were checked for signs of bat droppings or staining to indicate possible use by bats. Where necessary, ladders were utilised to gain access within the limits of health and safety. Any access constraints encountered are outlined within the following report.

2.5. All survey work was carried out in line with Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition)*, with an assessment of the buildings suitability for roosting bats made in accordance with these guidelines.

2.6. The subsequent dusk emergence survey was also conducted in accordance with Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition)*. It was conducted by a sufficient number of surveyors to cover all areas of roosting potential, in suitable weather conditions from fifteen minutes before sunset to at least an hour and half after.

2.7. All surveyors were equipped with Batbox Duet bat detectors, or similar. The use of static recording devices such as Anabat SD2's and video cameras with infrared lights were also utilised where appropriate.

2.8. These surveys were carried out by a team of Whitcher Wildlife Ltd surveyors lead by Derek Whitcher who has over twenty years' experience of surveying for wildlife and has run his own wildlife consultancy since 1998. He has extensive experience of a wide variety of survey techniques for a variety of species of protected wildlife supplemented by attendance on a wide range of training courses through CIEEM, FSC and BCT. As a member of CIEEM he is committed to continuous professional development, a continual process of learning and career development, a condition of CIEEM membership. He holds current Natural England, CCW and NRW survey licences for, bat, great crested newt and white clawed crayfish.

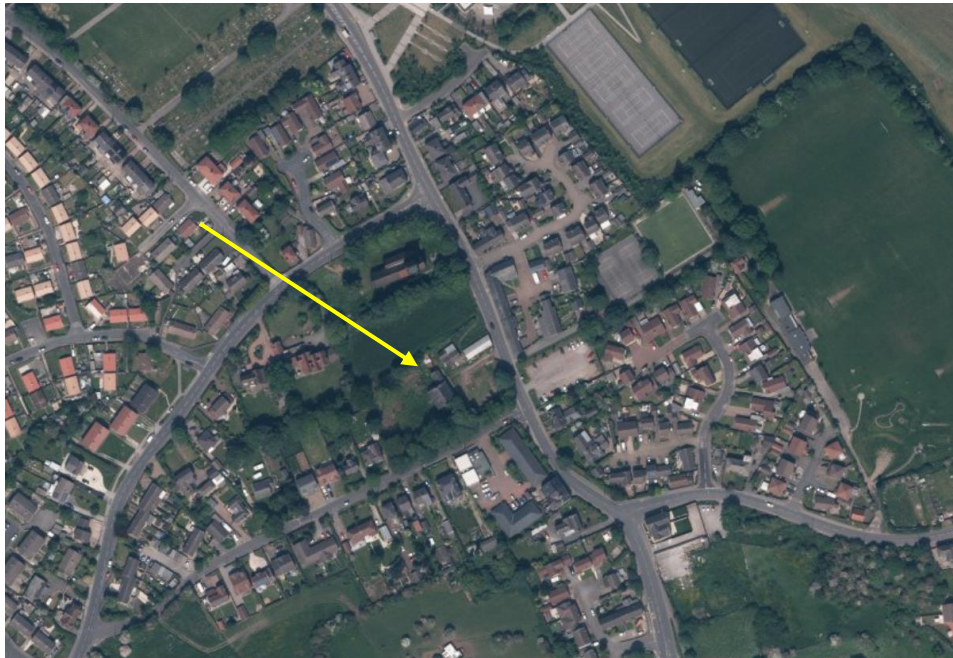
3. SURVEY RESULTS.

3.1. Data Search Results.

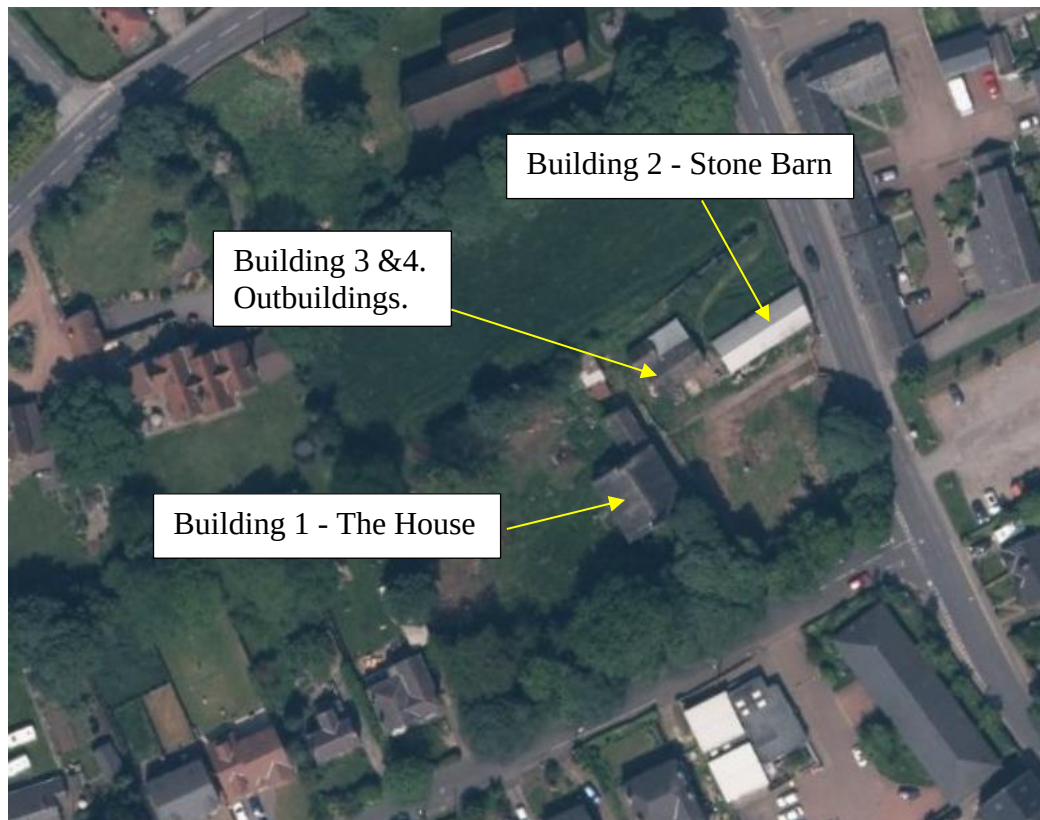
A data search was undertaken during the initial Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment. Eighty-eight records were returned, the closest of which was 0.2km west of the application boundary. Most records were located at Carlton Marsh, approximately 0.9km east of the site.

3.2. Site Description.

3.2.1. The survey area is a group of farm buildings located within the village of Carlton, shown below by the yellow arrow.



3.2.2. There are a number of buildings on the site including the main farmhouse and a series of outbuildings as shown below.



3.3. Daytime Survey Results.

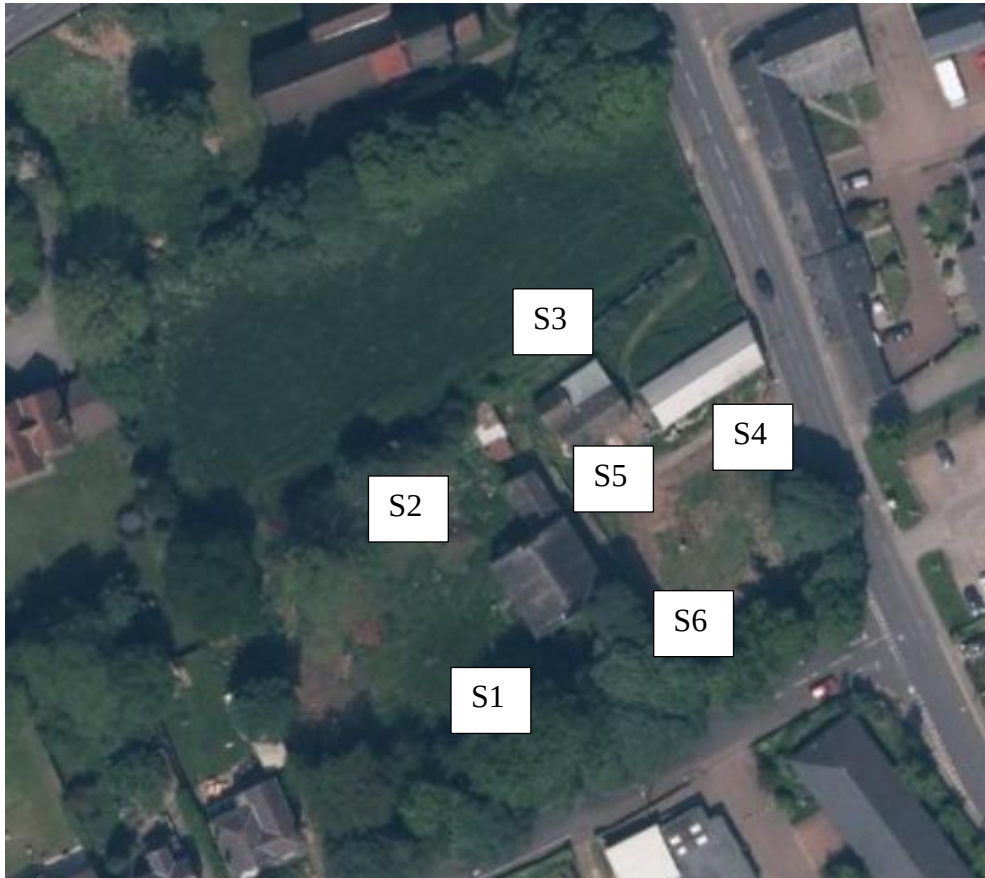
No daytime survey was undertaken. This had been done previously by others.

3.4. Dusk Emergence Survey Results.

3.5.1. Six surveyors carried out a dusk emergence survey on the evening of 24th June 2020. Three of the surveyors hold a current Natural England survey licence and the others are experienced assistants.

3.5.2. The evening was fine, clear and still with a temperature of 23°C at 21:15. There was a very light breeze, 1BWS. Sunset was at 21:39 and the survey commenced at 21:15.

3.5.3. The surveyors were positioned so that they could see all relevant aspects of the building simultaneously. The position of each surveyor was as shown on the aerial photograph below.



3.5.4. Each surveyor was equipped with a Batbox Duet detector and a two-way radio. Six static Anabat recorders were placed near each surveyor to record bat activity for subsequent computer analysis using Analook software.

3.5.5. The following bat activities were recorded by the surveyors:

3.5.5.1. Surveyor 1.

- 22:03. Common Pipistrelle passed east to west.
- 22:06. Common Pipistrelle passed east to west, south of the house.
- 22:08. Common Pipistrelle passed east to west foraging west of the building.
- 22:10. Common Pipistrelle passed east to west foraging west of the building.
- 22:14. Common Pipistrelle foraging southwest of the building near ash tree.
- 22:19. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen near ash tree.
- 22:22. Common Pipistrelle passed west to east.
- 22:27. Common Pipistrelle passed east to west then north to south round the building.
- 22:30. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.

22:35. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.

22:36. Common Pipistrelle passed east to west over the building.

22:42. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.

Anabat 1 with Surveyor 1 recorded twenty-four Common Pipistrelle bat calls between 22:02 and 22:42. No other species of bat were recorded.

3.5.5.2. Surveyor 2.

22:28. Common Pipistrelle passed from the east to the northwest and back.

Anabat 2 with Surveyor 2 recorded two Common Pipistrelle bat calls at 22:28. No other species of bat were recorded.

3.5.5.3. Surveyor 3.

22:28. Common Pipistrelle flew from the west, circled and returned.

Anabat 3 with Surveyor 3 recorded two Common Pipistrelle bat calls at 22:28 and 22:47. No other species of bat were recorded.

3.5.5.4. Surveyor 4.

22:08. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.

22:10. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.

22:19. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.

22:39. Common Pipistrelle passed west to east.

22:42. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.

Anabat 4 with Surveyor 4 recorded one Common Pipistrelle bat calls at 22:39. No other species of bat were recorded.

3.5.5.5. Surveyor 5.

22:20. Faint Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.

22:39. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.

Anabat 5 with Surveyor 5 recorded no bat activity.

3.5.5.6. Surveyor 6.

22:02. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.
22:04. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.
22:06. Common Pipistrelle passed east to west along tree line.
22:08. Common Pipistrelle foraging under trees to the south.
22:09. Common Pipistrelle passed east to west along the trees.
22:10. Two Common Pipistrelles heard not seen.
22:13. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.
22:16. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.
22:19. Common Pipistrelle foraging under trees to the south.
22:22. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.
22:31. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.
22:36. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.
22:39. Common Pipistrelle passed west to east.
22:42. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.
22:45. Common Pipistrelle heard not seen.

Anabat 6 with Surveyor 6 recorded five Common Pipistrelle bat calls between 22:06 and 22:47. No other species of bat were recorded.

3.5.6. The bat activity recorded during the survey was all Common Pipistrelle bats and no bats emerged from any of the buildings.

3.5.7. No bird nesting activity was seen anywhere in or around any of the buildings.

4. EVALUATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1. No bats emerged from any of the buildings on the site during the dusk emergence survey. Therefore, the proposed works will have no impact on roosting bats.

4.2. No nesting bird activity was identified in any of the buildings and therefore the proposed work to the building will have no negative impact on nesting birds.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1. As no bats emerged from any of the buildings during the dusk emergence survey, no further surveys are recommended and there is no requirement for a mitigation strategy or a Natural England licence in connection with the proposed works.

5.2. No old nests or nesting bird activity was identified in the buildings. Nevertheless, care is recommended when working on the buildings between March and September, during the nesting bird season. If any active nests are identified, these must be left undisturbed until the young have fledged.

5.3. In line with the National Planning Policy Framework, it is recommended that biodiversity enhancements are provided on the site. It is recommended that four bat bricks be installed in the outer walls of the new dwellings to provide opportunities for roosting bat.

Prepared by:	
Derek Whitcher. BSc, MCIEEM, MCMI	Date: 29 th June 2020.

Checked by:	
Jenny Whitcher Roebuck MCIEEM.	Date: 30 th June 2020.

6. REFERENCES.

- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. 2017. ***Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Second Edition***. CIEEM, Hampshire.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. 2017. ***Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing, Second Edition***. CIEEM, Hampshire.
1981. ***Wildlife and Countryside Act***. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69> (accessed 18/02/16)
2000. ***Countryside and Rights of Way Act***.
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents>.
2017. ***The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations***.
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>.
2012. ***National Planning Policy Statement***.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>
- Anon. 1995. ***Biodiversity: the UK Steering Group report. Vol 2: Action Plans***. HMSO, London.
- Collins J. (ed.) 2016. ***Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist: Good Practice Guidelines***. 3rd ed. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.
- English Nature. 2004. ***Bat Mitigation Guidelines***. English Nature, Peterborough, UK.
- BTHK 2018. ***Bat Roosts in Trees – A Guide to Identification and Assessment for Tree-Care and Ecology Professionals***. Exeter: Pelagic Publishing.

Appendix I. BAT INFORMATION.

Ecology

There are currently 18 species of bat residing 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 habitat change and shortage of food, caused by pesticides, as insects are their sole diet.

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.

Surveys

During walkover surveys, bat roosts can be identified by looking for:

- Suitable holes, cracks and crevices within any building, tree or other structure.
- Bat droppings along walls, window cills, or on the ground.
- Prey remains, such as insect wings.

Further investigations can be made using endoscopes, by carrying out aerial inspections of trees or by conducting bat activity surveys during dusk and dawn over summer months.

Legislation

Bats are protected under Appendix II and III of the Bern Convention (1982), Schedule 5 and 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), Annex IV of the Habitats Directive (some species under Annex II), Annex II of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) and EUROBATs agreement. Numerous species are

also listed under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) making them species of principal importance.

All bats and their roosts are therefore protected in the UK. This makes it an offence to kill, injure or take any bat, to interfere with any place used for shelter or protection, or to intentionally disturb any animal occupying such a place.

The UK has designated maternity and hibernacula areas as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) under the Habitats Directive. Implementation of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan also includes action for a number bat species and the habitats which support them.

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

Appendix II. DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

