



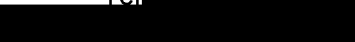
**Report
of
Preliminary Ecological Bat Survey
Agricultural buildings
Sack Lane
Lidsey**

7th August 2015

Survey undertaken by:-

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Natural England Bat Survey Class Licence 2015-11919-CLS-CLS

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2 Executive Summary

- It is proposed to remove two agricultural barns and a silo in Sack Lane, Lidsey. A preliminary ecological bat survey was undertaken during the daytime on 7th August 2015
- The two pitched roofed buildings and silo lay in open ground surrounded by farmland
- There was no evidence that bats were roosting in the two large agricultural buildings and there was no potential identified for bats to roost in two agricultural buildings which lay amongst farmland in a flat, open area. There was no potential for bats to roost in an adjacent silo
- There was no evidence to suggest that removing the two agricultural buildings and a silo would destroy bat roosts. There was no evidence that any further investigations would be required or that their removal would affect the local bat ecology
- There was no evidence of barn owls accessing the buildings. There was no indication that any further investigations would be required with regard this species.
- There were old birds nests in the northern building. Wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and it is an offence to damage or destroy an active nest or prevent parent bird access to their nests. This must be considered during building work
- There was no evidence of Barn owls accessing the buildings. No pellets, feathers or droppings indicative of this species were seen in the buildings.

This report has been completed for the building as seen during the survey and discussed in this report. The survey is only valid for the building as seen during this survey

3 Background

It is proposed to remove two agricultural barns and a silo in Sack Lane, Lidsey. A preliminary ecological bat survey was undertaken on the buildings during the daytime on 7th August 2015 by Sue Harris, consultant ecologist, to support the planning application.

The Bat Conservation 'Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines 2nd edition' have been taken into account to determine the extent of the investigative work required on this site.

4 Experience of Ecologist

Sue Harris holds a Natural England Bat Survey Class Licence CL18 (Bat Survey Level 2) registration number CLSO2801 and has considerable experience surveying buildings and land for bats and monitoring bat activity on a consultancy basis and has been the named ecologist in many Natural England European Protected Species Licences.

Sue is also is a Natural England roost visitor and holds a Natural England Class Survey Licence WML CL15 (Volunteer Bat Roost Visitor Level 1) rescues and rehabilitates bats in West Sussex and takes part in the Bat Conservation Trusts National Bat Monitoring Program during the summer and winter hibernation counts.

5 Address

Agricultural barns at Sack Lane
Lidsey
West Sussex

6 General Description of buildings

The buildings consisted of two large, open, pitched roofed agricultural buildings with a silo beside them.

7 Surrounding Habitat

The buildings lay on flat, open ground surrounded by farmland. A small group of houses lay to the east with a railway line approximately 200m to the east.

There is no woodland in the vicinity.

There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the area (SSSI).

8 Legislation related to bats

All species of bats and their roosts are legally protected in England. All bats in England are listed as a European Protected Species. The following provides a guide to the legislation.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") consolidate and update the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 1 ("the 1994 Regulations").

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 fully protect bats and their roosts, making it an offence to:-

- Deliberately kill, injure or capture a bat
- Deliberately disturb bats
- Damage or destroy a breeding or resting place of bats (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time)

- Possess or advertise/sell/ exchange a bat (dead or alive) or any parts of bats or transport a bat or any part of a bat
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost

Disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely:-

- (a) to impair their ability—
 - (i) to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or
 - (ii) in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or
- (b) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong

In addition, the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) makes it an offence to: Intentionally or recklessly

- disturb any bat whilst it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection;
- obstruct access to any structure or place which any bat uses for shelter or protection.

Natural England, European Protected Species Licence would be required if an individual wishes to undertake works/activities that would affect bats and would involve one or more of the following: capture, kill, disturbance, transport and/or damage/destroy the roosts or resting places of bats.

Under Regulation 53(2)(e-g) & 53(9)(a-b) of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 Natural England, under powers conferred by the Secretary of State, has authority to issue licences. In determining whether or not to grant a licence Natural England must apply the requirements of Regulation 53 of the Regulations and, in particular, the three tests set out in subparagraphs (2)(e), (9)(a) and (9)(b).

- (1) **Regulation 53(2)(e)** states: a licence can be granted for the purposes of “preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment”.
- (2) **Regulation 53(9)(a)** states: the appropriate authority shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied “that there is no satisfactory alternative”.
- (3) **Regulation 53(9)(b)** states: the appropriate authority shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied “that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.”

Evidence of the proposed provisions to accommodate the bats in the future would be required for a licence to be granted where needed—for example, an alternative roost may need to be provided. Details of the conduct of the proposed activities would be required in detail.

9 Objectives of the preliminary Survey

- To establish if there is any evidence of bats roosting in the buildings and silo
- To establish if there are potential opportunities for bats to roost within the buildings and silo
- To investigate the species of bat using roosting if relevant
- To consider the type of bat roost if relevant
- To consider access points used by bats if relevant
- To consider the implications of the proposed removal of the buildings and silo to any bat roosts identified or to potential roosting opportunities
- To provide recommendations, information and mitigation if evidence of bats roosting or evidence of potential bat roosting is identified in the buildings

10 Methodology of preliminary survey

- A detailed inspection of the buildings and silo was undertaken for evidence of bat activity and for bats
- The buildings and silo were surveyed carefully and thoroughly from the ground by eye and with a torch and binoculars where appropriate
- Consideration was given to any possible access points open to bats
- The surveyor checked for any evidence of bats including oil stains formed during entry and exit of possible roost sites, urine stains, droppings and for bats
- Equipment used included torches (Exposure single joystick and spotlight), Sony RX100 camera, Opticron Oregon LE WP,
- The surrounding habitat was considered during the survey to consider its suitability for bats to forage and commute to foraging
- A desk top study of the surrounding habitat was undertaken accessing appropriate websites such as DEFRA MAGIC, Google maps, ordinance survey maps etc. for suitable habitat for bats in the area

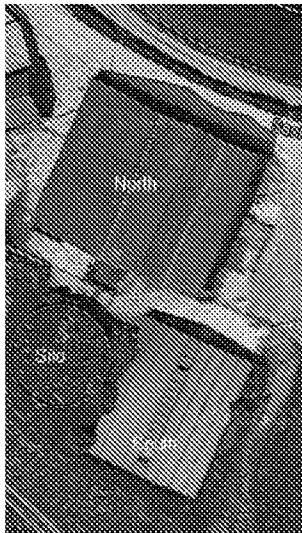
11 Constraints during the survey

There were no specific constraints.

12 Weather during preliminary survey

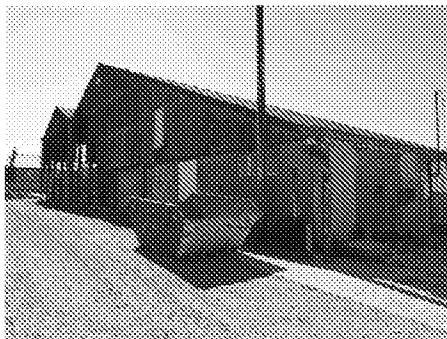
24C, calm, clear skies, dry

13 Outcome of preliminary survey



Aerial view of buildings from Google maps

13.1 North building



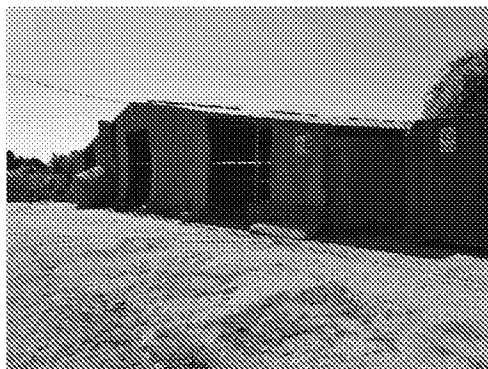
The building had a concrete structure with a double pitched roof. The building was open internally to the corrugated composite roof. There was good access into the building through the large open areas in the walls. The north west corner had been partitioned off to provide a milking area with associated facilities.



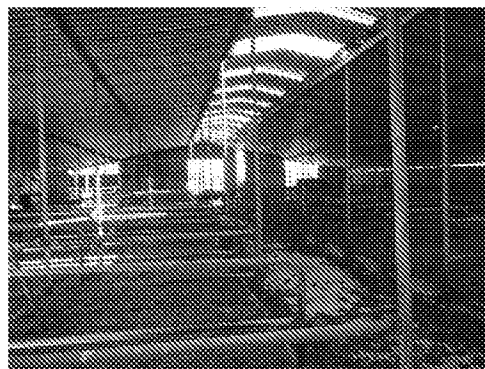
Milking area

There was no evidence of bats roosting in the building and no roosting potential identified in the building.

13.2 South building



Northern frontage



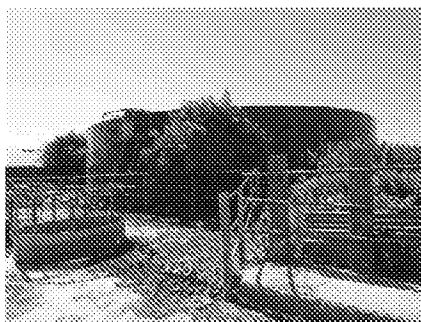
Internally

The pitched roof building was constructed of corrugated metal. The building was open internally to the ventilated ridge.

There was good access to animals through the large open doorways.

There was no potential for bats to roost in the building which offered no crevices for bats to roost.

13.3 Silo



There was no potential for bats to roost in the round metal silo.

13.4 Other

There were some elder flower trees that were growing up amongst nettles and brambles around the silo and south building. These did not offer roosting to bats.

13.5 Birds

Sparrows were very active around the buildings. There were some old birds nests built in the north building some of which appeared to be pigeons..

13.6 Barn owls

There was no evidence of Barn owls accessing the buildings. No pellets, feathers or droppings indicative of this species were seen in the buildings.

14 Summary of preliminary survey

There was no evidence that bats were roosting in the two large agricultural buildings and there was no potential identified for bats to roost in two agricultural buildings which lay amongst farmland in an open area. There was no potential for bats to roost in an adjacent silo.

There was evidence of old birds nests in the northern building.

15 Conclusions and recommendations

There was no evidence to suggest that removing the two agricultural buildings and a silo surveyed would destroy a bat roost. There was no evidence that any further investigations would be required or that the removal would affect the local bat ecology.

There was no evidence of barn owls accessing the buildings. There was no indication that any further investigations would be required with regard this species.

There were old birds nests in the northern building. Wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and it is an offence to damage or destroy an active nest or prevent parent bird access to their nests. This must be considered during building work.

16 Bibliography

- *Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines – Bat Conservation Trust*
- *Bat Workers Manual – Joint Nature Conservation Committee*
- *Bat Mitigation Guidelines – English Nature (now Natural England)*
- *A Field Guide to British Bats – Frank Greenaway & A. M. Hutson*
- *British Bats – John Altringham*
- *Long-Eared Bats – Susan M Swift*
- *Bats of Britain, Europe and Northwest Africa – Christian Dietz, Otto von Helverson, Dietmar Nill*