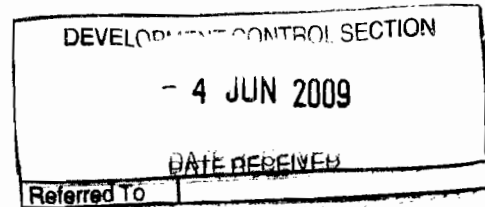


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20 High Street, Burton upon Stather, North Lincolnshire

Bat Survey Report May 2009

Surveying ecologist: Natasha Estrada BSc (hons), MRes, Estrada Ecology Ltd, Natural England Bat licence number 20091694.

Introduction & background to the site

1.0 A second bat survey is required at the request of Natural England to satisfy a planning application to renovate a red brick barn to the rear of 20 High Street, Burton upon Stather, North Lincolnshire. The second survey was recommended by Estrada Ecology and substantiated by Natural England after a previous survey confirmed the presence of a solitary Natterers bat, *Myotis nattereri* within the dwelling in November 2008.

1.1 The site is located on land off the High street, Burton upon Stather, North Lincolnshire.

GPS: N 53° 38' 57", W001° 41.3" (+/- 13ft).

Protected species legislation

2.0 Bats and their roosts are fully protected at all times (whether the bats are currently present or not). This protection is afforded under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007. This legislation has amended the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (The Habitats Regulations).

As a result it is an offence to: Intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, capture or disturb bats

Or to: damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter or protection.

2.1 Under this legislation, where bats maybe affected by development proposals a licence is required from Natural England.

SURVEY AND SITE ASSESSMENT

3.0 Pre – existing information on bats, (all species) at the survey site

Prior to the first survey Protective Species Projects Ltd were contacted to see if any records are held for the site. The Lincolnshire bat group was not contacted due to their lack of records for the North of the county. No specific records were held for this site however records for the surrounding area exist and are as follows:

Tee lane, Burton upon Stather, Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* roost.

Normandy Hall and Park, Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and Brown long eared bat, *Plecotus auritus* roosts.

Manton Church, Manton, Natterer's bat, *Myotis nattereri* summer roost.

Historical records of occupancy by Pipistrelle bats, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* exist for number 19 High Street, Burton upon Stather however this has not been confirmed by a suitably qualified bat ecologist and until done so should not be taken as fact.

3.1 Status of bats in the local / regional area

Consultation would suggest that some bat species are generally common and widespread in the local / regional area. Natters bat are deemed to be locally scarce in the county.

3.2 Objectives of the survey

The objective of this survey was to establish the present or absence of bats and whether bats (all species) were using the building surveyed for roosting or as a place of shelter and if present to determine the population size and nature of the roost.

3.3 Survey area

3.3.1 The barn, 20 High Street

The structure surveyed is a red brick barn with a pan tiled roof. Currently used as a storage area the lower floor brickwork is partially rendered with some gaps present between the brickwork. The brickwork on the upper level is also rendered with the majority of gaps in the brick work covered by heavy cob webbing. A small door on the upper floor opens up to the outside allowing the elements to enter the structure. The roof is in not under felted and has numerous loose tiles again exposing the interior to the elements.

The glass in the windows is complete but the door to the ground floor is absent. The external pointing is largely intact to the front of the property but absent in places to the side walls of the property.

4.0 Survey methodology

4.1 Daytime survey (all structures)

Where accessible all cracks and fissures in the buildings were examined using a provision 300 endoscope. An external examination was conducted to identify potential roost sites and access points and any signs of actual occupation such as droppings, smudge marks, discarded moth wings and urine staining etc. Internally the roof space and internal structures were inspected for field signs and the presence of bats and birds.

4.2 Assessment of site and surrounding habitats.

4.3 Search of existing bat roost records

4.4 Emergence survey:

An emergence survey was conducted on the 14th May 2009. This involved suitably qualified ecologists positioned outside the building with bat box three bat detectors to record any bats exiting or entering the building.

4.5 Timing

The survey was conducted on the 14th May 2009. This is a viable period to survey buildings (Natural England bat mitigation guidelines 2004).

4.6 Weather conditions

All surveys were carried out in suitable weather conditions as outlined by Natural England guidelines.

Survey type	Temperature ° C	Weather conditions
Daytime	11.0	Dry, Still
Emergence	8.5	Dry, slight wind

4.7 Personnel

The surveys were carried out by Natasha Estrada (Natural England bat licence no. 20091694) and one other protected species ecologist.

5.0

Results

5.1: Barn: interior

Description: Internally the roof tiles are loose and gaps exist in places. The roof is not under felted. The nature of the roof space means that there is a lack of a constant temperature which bats require and that it is open to the elements. Few places within the roof exist for bats to roost.

The internal brickwork is largely rendered with some gaps missing between the pointing. The majority of these gaps are covered with heavy cob webbing indicating a lack of recent activity by bats. All suitable entrance points for bats were surveyed using a provision 300 endoscope. No bats of any species were found. The hole that had previously contained a solitary Natterer's bat was observed to have heavy cob webbing over the entrance indicating no recent bat activity. When examined with an endoscopic camera no bats were found within.

The floor, walls and objects within the roof space were examined for bat field signs. No urine staining or smudge marks were observed and no field signs such as droppings were found. There is no evidence to suggest long term and or recent use of the structure by bats.

On the ground floor a number of gaps exist near the joists that are suitable for bats to utilise. All were checked using an endoscope and no bats of any species were found. Due to the absence of a door on the ground level water damage can be seen to the interior of the property making occupation by bats particularly in these areas unlikely. All windows, window sills, floor and the items stored on the ground level were checked for signs of bat activity. No field signs such as droppings, urine staining, smudge marks or discarded feeding remains were found.

5.2. Barn. Exterior

Description: The pointing between the brick work to the front of the property is largely intact. To the rear and sides of the property are some cracks and fissures suitable for bats to utilise. These were examined using a provision 300 endoscope. No bats of any species were found. The external brick work was examined for signs of occupancy such as droppings, urine staining and smudge marks. No field signs were observed.

6.0 Interpretation and evaluation

6.1 The survey produced no information to suggest long term or casual use of the building by any bat species.

6.2 The area surveyed is somewhat open to the elements with the loose roof tiles and gaps between the tiles apparent. As such this provides fluctuating temperatures unsuitable for bats. The roof provides very little potential for bats to roost as there are few suitable places for bats of any species to tuck away and roost.

6.3 The Natterer's bat that was present on the first survey was no longer present. As suggested in the first report the presence of a known Natterer's bat roost locally suggests that this single bat observed was transitory. Long term or historical occupation would have produced more field signs internally and signs of activity would be present in the property particularly during the active summer months.

6.4 Internally there were no bat field signs present.

6.5 The emergence survey showed no bats exiting or entering the property.

7.0 Site status assessment

7.1 There is no evidence to suggest casual or long term use by bats.

7.2 No signs were found internally of other European protected species such as Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*. There were no signs of casual or nesting use.

7.3 There is no evidence to suggest nesting use by birds in the structure surveyed.

8.0 Ecological constraints

No ecological constraints prevented a full survey of the structure and the report contents are deemed to be an accurate account of the current status.

9.0 Assessment of impacts and conclusions

9.1 No evidence was found to suggest the use of the property by any bat species and as such the proposed development will have no negative impact on any European protected species.