

Bat Survey Report

at

**Barn at The Granary, Bradfield Road, Swafield,
North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 0RH**

for

Mr Phillip Slack

Iceni Ecology Ltd.



September 2021

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Drusilla Hall is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and is a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv). The code of professional conduct is subscribed to for all work.

Project	Author	Status	Date
The Granary Ref: 21 0026	Drusilla Hall BSc (Hons) MCIEEM CEnv Bat Licence: 2015-10742-CLS-CLS (Level 2). Dormouse Licence: 2016- 20740-CLS-CLS. Great Crested Newt Licence: 2015-18908-CLS- CLS (Level 2).	Final v1.0	September 2021

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INTRODUCTION

Instruction and background

Iceni Ecology Ltd. was instructed by Mr Philip Slack 'the Client', to undertake bat surveys of a barn at The Granary, Swafield, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 0RH.

The barn is currently used as storage, with proposals for a change of use to residential.

A Preliminary Bat Roost and Nesting Bird Assessment was undertaken of the site by Iceni Ecology Ltd. in February 2021 (reporting in March 2021¹). The Assessment identified the barn as having 'Moderate' to 'High' potential to support a bat roost due to conducive features in the structure of the building and evidence of bat droppings in the main section of the barn. As such, further bat surveys were recommended; two emergence (dusk) surveys, followed by a re-entry (dawn) survey if a bat roost was suspected. All three surveys were subsequently undertaken during 2021.

This report details the findings of the bat surveys undertaken at the barn.

The objectives of the survey were to:

- Undertake further surveys recommended to establish presence / likely absence of a bat roost.
- Provide an early indication for the need of a European Protected Species Mitigation Licence (EPSML) from Natural England.

Location and description of site

The site is located off the Bradfield Road, north-west of the village of Swafield, Norfolk, centred on Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid Reference TG 28096 33182 (Figure 1).

The barn is located within a horse livery yard and residential setting, amongst other outbuildings. It is in a rural location surrounded by arable, pasture and low numbers of similar building. The position of barn is shown as Figure 2.

Photographs are shown as Plates 1 to 4.

¹ Iceni Ecology Ltd. (March, 2021) Preliminary Bat Roost and Nesting Bird Assessment at Barn at The Granary, Bradfield Road, Swafield, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 0RH for Mr Phillip Slack.

Figure 1: Location of site, centred on red marker

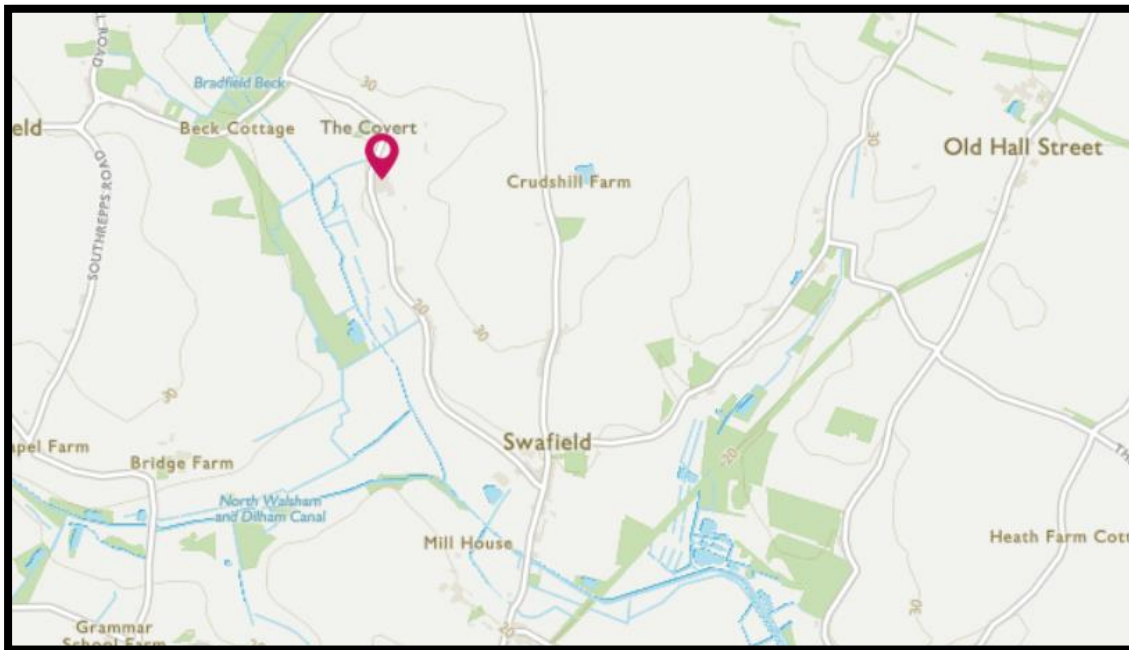


Figure 2: Position of the barn (red marker)



Plate 1a: Southern elevation (east)



Plate 2: Southern elevation (west)



Plate 3: Northern elevation



Plate 4: Inside main section of barn (bat droppings found) [facing north]



Relevant wildlife legislation and planning policy

Certain habitats and species are protected under legislation. The principal legislation relevant to the proposed development is as follows:

- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)² ['The Habitats Regulations']. The Habitats Regulations implement The Habitats Directive 1992 [92/43/EEC] into English Law.
- European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2018 (as amended).
- Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)³ (WCA).
- The Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC).

With respect to bats, under The Habitats Regulations it is an offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat.
- Deliberately disturb a bat in a way that would affect its ability to survive, breed or rear young (or hibernate or migrate) or significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of the species.
- Damage or destroy a roost. This is an 'absolute' offence and need not be deliberate or intentional.
- Possess, control, transport, sell, exchange or offer for sale/exchange any live or dead bat or any part of a bat.

With respect to bats under the WCA, it is an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat at a roost.
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a roost.
- Sell and advertise.

² Amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012 S.I. 2012/1927.

³ Amended by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act (2000).

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Emergence and re-entry surveys

Two emergence (dusk) surveys and a single re-entry (dawn) survey were undertaken at the barn in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust's (BCT) Good Practice Guidelines⁴. For emergence and re-entry surveys, this method involves ecologist(s) visiting at dusk/dawn to observe, listen and record bats in terms of general activity and whether a structure supports a bat roost by observing bats either emerging around dusk or re-entering a roost around sunrise.

Information on species, numbers, exit/access points and roosting locations is also noted, together with general bat activity and weather conditions. Sufficient surveyor coverage is required of a structure.

The optimal time for emergence and re-entry surveys is from May to August, which can run into September if surveying has already commenced between May to August. Multiple surveys are recommended to be spaced out at least two weeks apart.

Different species vary in the time they tend to emerge (and return to roost) according to their flight and predator avoidance capabilities.

Emergence surveys commence 15 minutes prior to sunset time and finish 1.5 to 2.0 hours after sunset time. Re-entry surveys commence approximately two hours prior to sunrise and finish at sunrise.

A night vision infra-red camera was also deployed inside the main section of the barn during the re-entry survey.

The surveys were carried out as detailed in Table 1 below. The main positions of the surveyors are shown in Figure 5, although movement was made around the building.

Limitations

There were no limitations to the surveys.

⁴ Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Table 1: Bat survey details – 2021.

Date and survey parameters	Survey	Scope	Surveyors and positions (dots refer to Figure 5)
Date: 19/05/21 Sunset: 20:52 Start: 20:37 13°C End: 22:22 10°C	Emergence (dusk)	To establish if the barn supports a bat roost and to make any other incidental observations of general bat activity.	Drusilla Hall* (southern elevation and inside barn) ●
Date: 20/05/21 Sunset: 20:52 Start: 20:37 13°C End: 22:22 12°C	Emergence (dusk)		Drusilla Hall (northern elevation in yard & west) also a check inside the barn ●
Date: 22/06/21 Sunset: 21:23 Start: 21:08 13°C End: 22:53 11°C	Emergence (dusk)		Drusilla Hall (southern elevation and inside barn) ● Carolyn Smith** (northern elevation in yard & west) ●
Date: 09/08/21 Sunrise: 05:25 Start: 03:26 10°C End: 05:25 9°C	Re-entry (dawn)		Christine Hipperson-Jervis+ (southern elevation and inside barn) ● Ben Jervis++ (northern elevation in yard & west) ● Camera set up inside the barn ●

*Bat licence Level 2: 2015-10742-CLS-CLS

**Bat licence: details available for licence application

+Bat licence Level 2: 2015-16077-CLS-CLS

++Bat licence Level 2: 2016-25752-CLS-CLS

Figure 3: Position of bat surveyors.



RESULTS

The full results are presented as Appendix A, a summary is given below:

Emergence surveys – 19&20/05/21 and 22/06/21

The emergence surveys showed no bats emerging from the northern elevation of the barn and no foraging activity within the yard area to the north or west of the barn.

During the first survey at the southern elevation (19/05/21), emergences were observed from two common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* bats and two brown long-eared bats *Plecotus auritus* from inside the woodstore area (Plate 5).

Plate 5: Emergence point (southern elevation) where main external wall meets shelter



The second emergence survey (southern elevation) (22/06/21) had no emergence observations, with two single passes from common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*.

A short period of time was spent inside the barn on 20/05/21 and a single brown long-eared bat was observed flying around the roof space in the main section at 21:30, shortly after sunset at 20:52.

Re-entry survey – 09/08/21

The re-entry (dawn) survey did not show any bats returning to roost.

At the northern elevation location / and west, there was relatively high foraging activity from common pipistrelle over the yard area and west of the barn during the during of the survey, with soprano pipistrelle recorded foraging for two minutes.

At the southern elevation, three passes from common pipistrelle were recorded, including commuting along the barn (east to west), including social calls. Three passes from brown long-eared bat were also observed, including the area close to the woodstore.

The camera placed inside the barn did not record any bats.

SUMMARY AND EVALUTION

A Preliminary Bat Roost and Nesting Bird Assessment was undertaken of a barn at The Granary, Swafield, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 0RH to accompany a planning application for conversion to residential.

The Assessment identified the barn as having 'Moderate' to 'High' potential to support a bat roost due to conducive features in the structure of the building and evidence of bat droppings in the main section of the barn. As such two emergence (dusk) surveys and a single re-entry (dawn) bat survey were undertaken at the barn during 2021.

The surveys confirmed a bat roost in the barn of two common pipistrelles and two brown long-eared bats, with exit / re-entry points from an open wood store to the southern elevation at the top of the main exterior wall.

Due to the low number of bats observed and recorded using the roost, a Low Impact Class Licence (LiCL) for bats will be required to proceed with the proposals.

An application would be required to Natural England for a LiCL following grant of full planning permission with all ecology conditions cleared. Note that Natural England requires survey data to be no more than a year old from the most recent survey season to support the LiCL application. If this time lapses, reassessment of the status of the barn would be required and potentially updated bat surveys.

APPENDIX A – Bat Survey Results – 2021

BAT SURVEY RESULTS - EMERGENCE



Project name:	Barn at The Granary, Bradfield Road, Swafield, Norfolk NR28 0RH		
Date:	19th May 2021	Sunset [24hr]:	20:52
Type of survey:	Emergence	Surveyor(s):	D Hall
Start time:	20:37	End time:	22:22
Start temperature °C:	13	End temperature °C:	10
OS Grid Ref:	TG 28099 33176	Wind: (N)one, (L)ight, (M)od, (S)trong:	N
Bat Detector(s):	Batlogger M	Rain: (N)one, (L)ight, (M)od, (H)eavy:	N

Position of surveyor: Front of barn (southern elevation) and inside barn.

Time(s):	Species:	No.	Activity: (E)mergence, (R)e-entry, (P)ass/Commuting, (F)oraging, (S)warming; Heard Not Seen (HNS) & Target Notes such as flight direction.
21:12	Common pipistrelle	1	E from front of building under roof area near wood store.
21:22	Common pipistrelle	1	E from front of building under roof area near wood store.
21:26	Brown long-eared	1	E from front of building under roof area near wood store and forage around 'porch'.
21:29	Brown long-eared	1	E from front of building under roof area near wood store.
21:33	Brown long-eared	1	F under porch area.
22:20	Common pipistrelle	1	P front of building (car park area) HNS.

Notes:	Emergences observed: 2 x common pipistrelles, 2 x brown long-eared bats
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BAT SURVEY RESULTS - EMERGENCE



Project name:	Barn at The Granary, Bradfield Road, Swafield, Norfolk NR28 0RH		
Date:	20th May 2021	Sunset [24hr]:	20:52
Type of survey:	Emergence	Surveyor(s):	D Hall
Start time:	20:37	End time:	22:22
Start temperature °C:	13	End temperature °C:	12
OS Grid Ref:	TG 28099 33192	Wind: (N)one, (L)ight, (M)od, (S)trong:	M
Bat Detector(s):	Batlogger M	Rain: (N)one, (L)ight, (M)od, (H)eavy:	N

Position of surveyor: Rear of barn, northern elevation and west

Time(s):	Species:	No.	Activity: (E)mergence, (R)e-entry, (P)ass/Commuting, (F)oraging, (S)warming; Heard Not Seen (HNS) & Target Notes such as flight direction.
			NO BATS OBSERVED FROM THIS LOCATION

Notes: The barn was checked on the inside. A single brown long-eared bat was observed flying inside the barn at 21:30 in the main area.

BAT SURVEY RESULTS - EMERGENCE



Project name:	Barn at The Granary, Bradfield Road, Swafield, Norfolk NR28 0RH		
Date:	22nd June 2021	Sunset [24hr]:	21:23
Type of survey:	Emergence	Surveyor(s):	D Hall
Start time:	21:08	End time:	22:53
Start temperature °C:	13	End temperature °C:	11
OS Grid Ref:	TG 28099 33176	Wind: (N)one, (L)ight, (M)od, (S)trong:	L
Bat Detector(s):	Batlogger M	Rain: (N)one, (L)ight, (M)od, (H)eavy:	N
Position of surveyor: Front of barn, southern elevation / inside barn			
Time(s):	Species:	No.	Activity: (E)mergence, (R)e-entry, (P)ass/Commuting, (F)oraging, (S)warming; Heard Not Seen (HNS) & Target Notes such as flight direction.
22:31	Common pipistrelle	1	P HNS
22:53	Soprano pipistrelle	1	P HNS
Notes:	No bats observed emerging or inside barn.		

BAT SURVEY RESULTS - EMERGENCE



Project name:		Barn at The Granary, Bradfield Road, Swafield, Norfolk NR28 0RH	
Date:	22nd June 2021	Sunset [24hr]:	21:23
Type of survey:	Emergence	Surveyor(s):	C Smith
Start time:	21:08	End time:	22:53
Start temperature °C:	13	End temperature °C:	11
OS Grid Ref:	TG 28099 33192	Wind: (N)one, (L)ight, (M)od, (S)trong:	L
Bat Detector(s):	EMT2	Rain: (N)one, (L)ight, (M)od, (H)eavy:	N
<i>Position of surveyor: Rear of barn, northern elevation</i>			
Time(s):	Species:	No.	Activity: (E)mergence, (R)e-entry, (P)ass/Commuting, (F)oraging, (S)warming; Heard Not Seen (HNS) & Target Notes such as flight direction.
			NO BATS OBSERVED FROM THIS LOCATION
Notes:			
No bats observed or HNS.			

BAT SURVEY RESULTS - EMERGENCE / RE-ENTRY



Project name:	Barn at The Granary, Bradfield Road, Swafield, Norfolk NR28 0RH		
Date:	9th August 2021	Sunset / Sunrise [24hr]:	05:25
Type of survey:	Re-entry (Dawn)	Surveyor(s):	B Jervis
Start time:	03:26	End Time:	05:25
Start temperature °C:	10	End temperature °C:	9
OS Grid Ref:	TG 28099 33192	Wind: (N)one, (L)ight, (M)od, (S)trong:	L
Bat Detector(s):	Anabat Scout	Rain: (N)one, (L)ight, (M)od, (H)eavy:	N

Position of surveyor: Northern elevation of barn / checking west

Time(s):	Species:	No.	Activity: (E)mergence, (R)e-entry, (P)ass/Commuting, (F)oraging, (S)warming; Heard Not Seen (HNS) & Target Notes such as flight direction.
03:26 to 03:55	Common pipistrelle	1	Constant F over yard
04:10 to 04:11	Common pipistrelle	1	Constant F over yard
04:16 to 04:18	Common pipistrelle	1	Constant F over yard
04:24	Common pipistrelle	1	Brief forage over yard
04:40 to 04:42	Soprano pipistrelle	1	F over yard
04:42 to 04:43	Common pipistrelle	2	F over yard
04:44	Common pipistrelle	1	F over yard
04:52 to 04:56	Common pipistrelle	1	F over west of barn
Notes:	No bats observed re-entering barn.		

BAT SURVEY RESULTS - EMERGENCE / RE-ENTRY



Project name:	Barn at The Granary, Bradfield Road, Swaffield, Norfolk NR28 0RH		
Date:	9th August 2021	Sunset / Sunrise [24hr]:	05:25
Type of survey:	Re-entry (Dawn)	Surveyor(s):	C H-Jervis
Start time:	03:26	End Time:	05:25
Start temperature °C:	10	End temperature °C:	9
OS Grid Ref:	TG 28099 33176	Wind: (N)one, (L)ight, (M)od, (S)trong:	L
Bat Detector(s):	Anabat Scout	Rain: (N)one, (L)ight, (M)od, (H)eavy:	N

Position of surveyor: South of barn

Time(s):	Species:	No.	Activity: (E)mergence, (R)e-entry, (P)ass/Commuting, (F)oraging, (S)warming; Heard Not Seen (HNS) & Target Notes such as flight direction.
03:27	Common pipistrelle	1	Commuting east to west along southern elevation of barn
03:35	Common pipistrelle	1	Faint P HNS
03:39	Common pipistrelle	1	Faint P HNS / social calls
03:53	Brown long-eared	1	P from east along southern elevation of barn close to woodstore.
04:33	Brown long-eared	1	P from east to west south of barn, not observed re-entering
04:54	Brown long-eared	1	P east to west along southern elevation of barn

Notes: No bats observed re-entering barn. NB: camera set up inside the barn did not record any bats flying inside.