



BiOME
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Barn at Limetree Farm
Long Stratton
Norfolk

Nocturnal Bat Survey Report

Daniel Barwick

Final

VERSION 2

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BiOME Consulting Limited, Horseshoe Barn, Norfolk, NR13 3AJ
info@biomeconsulting.com
www.BiOMEconsulting.com

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Author	Richard Moores
Project Manager	Richard Moores
Client	Daniel Barwick
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Contents

Executive Summary	1
1. Introduction	2
1.1. Background	2
1.2. Development Proposal	3
2. Legislative Background	4
3. Methodologies	5
3.1. Nocturnal Bat Surveys	Error! Bookmark not defined.
3.2. Limitations	5
4. Results	6
4.1. Nocturnal Bat Surveys	6
5. Conclusions and Required Actions	7

Executive Summary

BiOME Consulting Ltd was commissioned by Daniel Barwick in June 2021 to undertake nocturnal bat surveys of a barn located at Limetree Farm, Long Stratton, Norfolk.

The two nocturnal surveys completed recorded a single day-roosting Common Pipistrelle. Given the findings the nocturnal surveys, in combination with the PRA results, no further survey work in relation to bats is considered necessary.

The confirmation of a roosting bat within the barn means that a licence from Natural England will be required to enable the works to proceed lawfully. Given the roost is of low conservation status, the site can be registered under the Bat Mitigation Class Licence scheme through a Registered Consultant. Following submission of appropriate forms, the application takes up to ten working days to be assessed by Natural England. Under this scheme there is no requirement for any compensatory roosting features to be incorporated into the project, however, appropriate mitigation to ensure that no bats are harmed or killed during the works will need to be undertaken. In practice, this will involve excluding the bat from the roost site (and other potential roost sites) prior to works commencing.

Sites can be registered a maximum of four months prior to works to the roost commencing and the 'window' in which works to the roost can be completed, last a maximum of six months.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

BiOME Consulting Ltd was commissioned by Daniel Barwick in June 2021 to undertake nocturnal bat surveys of a barn located at Limetree Farm, Long Stratton, Norfolk ('the site') (**Figure 1**).



Figure 1. Site location (barn to be renovated outlined in red)

A Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) completed in May 2021¹ identified a day roosting pipistrelle bat (unidentified to species level) within a mortise joint at a cross beam, with several other features at the barn suitable to support roosting

¹ Torc Ecology (June 2021). Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment – Limetree Farm Barn, Long Stratton, Norfolk

bats. A minimum of two nocturnal surveys were recommended. These surveys have now been completed, the results of which form the basis of this report.

The site is centred on National Grid Reference TM 193901.

1.2. Development Proposal

Proposals comprise extensive renovation works to convert the barn to a dwelling.

2. Legislative Background

All British bat species are fully protected at national and European levels, through their inclusion in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)² and in Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations 2010³. Under this legislation, it is an offence to deliberately kill, injure or take a bat as well as intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or resting place used for shelter or protection by a bat or disturb an animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose.

Four species of bat, Greater Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, Lesser Horseshoe Bat *R. hipposideros*, Bechstein's Bat *Myotis bechsteinii* and Western Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*, are included on Annex II of the Habitats Directive⁴, which requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation to ensure the maintenance of favourable conservation status (and these are therefore generally considered as perhaps the most important UK species). Seven bat species are listed as Section 41⁵ priority species; Barbastelle, Bechstein's Bat, Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, Brown Long-eared Bat *Plecotus auritus*, Greater Horseshoe Bat and Lesser Horseshoe Bat.

2 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

3 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

4 Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

5 Of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

3. Methodology

In line with good practice survey guidance⁶, two nocturnal bat surveys of the building were completed to assess the presence/likely absence of roosting bats in areas to be impacted. The surveys were managed by Richard Moores MCIEEM (Natural England Levels 3 & 4 licence holder) and completed by Richard Moores/William Moores (15 July 2021) and Will Soar/Sarah Morrison (5 August 2021), all of which are experienced nocturnal bat surveyors.

To ensure coverage of all potential bat access points/roost features, surveys were completed by two surveyors. Surveyors were equipped with electronic bat detectors (EchoMeter Touch Pros) and sound files were analysed with appropriate bat analysis software (Kaleidoscope) once the surveys were completed, if required. Infra-red cameras (Saance) were also used by surveyors during the dusk survey.

The nocturnal bat surveys were undertaken in weather conditions considered appropriate for surveys of this kind (Table 1).

Table 1. Nocturnal bat activity survey information

Date	Sunset/Sunrise	Time		Cloud	Wind (Beaufort/ Direction)	Temp (°C)	Precip.
		Start	Finish				
15/07/2021	21.11	20.55	22.40	8/8	3/N	15	Nil
05/08/2021	05.21	03.50	05.28	1/8	1/SSE	11	Nil

3.1. Limitations

The findings presented in this study represent those at the time of survey and reporting, and data collected from available sources. Ecological surveys are limited by factors which affect the presence of plants and animals, such as the time of year, migration patterns and behaviour.

⁶ Bat Conservation Trust (2016). Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines

4. Results

4.1. Nocturnal Bat Surveys

15 July 2021 (Dusk)

No bats were recorded during the survey. A single Common Pipistrelle was recorded foraging in the area from 21.48 until 22.09, having entered the area from the west.

5 August 2021 (Dawn)

A single Common Pipistrelle returned to a day roost in the same mortice joint as identified during the PRA. No other bats were recorded roosting with four passes of Soprano Pipistrelle and five passes of up to two individual Common Pipistrelles recorded.

5. Conclusions and Required Actions

The two nocturnal surveys completed recorded a single day-roosting Common Pipistrelle. Given the findings of the two nocturnal surveys, in combination with the PRA results, no further survey work in relation to bats is considered necessary.

The confirmation of a roosting bat within the barn means that a licence from Natural England will be required to enable the works to proceed lawfully. Given the roost is of low conservation status, the site can be registered under the Bat Mitigation Class Licence scheme through a Registered Consultant (RC). Following submission of appropriate forms, the application takes up to ten working days to be assessed by Natural England. Under this scheme there is no requirement for any compensatory roosting features to be incorporated into the project, however, appropriate mitigation to ensure that no bats are harmed or killed during the works will need to be undertaken. In practice, this will involve excluding the bat from the roost site (and other potential roost sites) prior to works commencing.

Sites can be registered a maximum of four months prior to works to the roost commencing and the 'window' during which works to the roost can be completed, last a maximum of six months.

The findings of this survey/report are considered valid for a period of 18 months from the date of this report. If works are delayed beyond this date then consideration should be given to undertaking an update survey.