

Checklist - Devon Householder / Building Applications with only bat roost / bird nesting issues (please note that the Devon Wildlife Trigger Table must also be filled in a submitted)

To speed up assessment by the LPA, this form should be completed by the Ecological Consultant and submitted at the beginning of the Ecology Report.

Ecological consultant: Amber Morgan MSci Qualifying Member CIEEM, Orbis Ecology

Date: 25/07/22

1. Impact assessment / survey effort		
Have all required impact assessments / surveys been done within the last 12 months, <u>and</u> does it meet national guidance requirements? If there have been any deviations from national guidance, please select No in the right-hand column.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dates: 18/07/22	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Ecological impacts		
2a. Proposal impacts on bats / birds and mitigation measures are specified.	Yes (conditions needed) <input type="checkbox"/> No (no conditions needed) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2b. Proposal has other ecological impacts which the LPA needs to consider (inc. potential impacts from internal or external lighting)	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
2c. Is the proposal likely to result in an offence under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations?	Yes (go to 2.d) <input type="checkbox"/> No (go to 2.e) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2d. If YES (an offence IS likely) Does the roost meet any of the following criteria*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three or fewer roosts are impacted by the proposals, and • The proposal will have a low or temporary impact, and • The proposal only effects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low conservation status roosts for low numbers of: common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared, whiskered, Brandt's, Daubenton's Natterer's and/or - Feeding, day, night and/or transitional roosts for low numbers of serotine and/or - Day and/or transitional roosts for low numbers of lesser horseshoe. <p>*note that these criteria are used by Natural England for the Low Impact Bat Class Licence CL21</p>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2e. If NO (an offence is NOT likely) Does the roost meet any of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maternity or hibernation roost • greater horseshoe bat roost • grey long-eared bat roost • more than three species of bat found in small numbers 	No (none are met) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes (one or more are met) <input type="checkbox"/>
2f. Does the proposal potentially impact on barn owls?	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Expertise		

Are you, the ecological consultant, registered under either the Level 1 or the Level 2 Bat Survey Class Licence? If 'Yes', please enter your licence number below	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2022-10559-CL17-BAT		
Are you a member of CIEEM or a Registered Consultant under Annex B of the Low Impact Class Licence for bats (or under Annex C or D for a serotine or lesser horseshoe roost where relevant)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>



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Mark Aldis

Date: 25 July 2022

Aldis Architecture

1 Church End

Castle Meadow

Buckland Brewer

Devon

EX39 5XB

Ref: ORB2531AM

Dear Mark Aldis,

Re: Bat and Bird Assessment – 10 Church Lane, Frithelstock Stone, North Devon, EX38 8JL

On the 18th of July 2022, Orbis Ecology Ltd assessed the property '10 Church Lane' on behalf of Peter Chapman for its suitability to support roosting bats and nesting birds. The findings are presented in this letter which can be submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) as part of the planning application. The Devon Wildlife Checklist is included at the end of this letter should it be required by the LPA.

The assessment was undertaken by Amber Morgan MSci of Orbis Ecology Ltd. Amber is a Qualifying Member of CIEEM and is experienced in conducting bat and bird surveys. She holds a level 1 bat survey licence number 2022-10559-CL17-BAT. The survey was completed in accordance with the '*Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists*' Guidance (2017) and the recommendations provided in this letter are in-line with British Standard 42020:2013.

Background to the legislation

All species of bat are protected under Schedules 5 and 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and as amended) and are also protected under Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. They are listed under Appendix III of the Bern Convention and Annex IV of the EC Habitats Directive. Bats and their habitats are also listed under Appendix II of the Bonn Convention and therefore the UK has an obligation to protect their habitat, including links to important feeding areas.

It is unlawful to kill, capture, injure or take a wild bat anywhere in the UK. It is unlawful to disturb bats anywhere (roost, flights or foraging areas) in particular if the level of disturbance can be shown to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce or to rear or nurture their young or hibernate. It is illegal to damage or destroy a place used by a bat for breeding or resting.

It is also an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act to intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any place used by a bat for shelter or protection.

All wild birds are protected under part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Therefore, in the UK it is an offence to:

- Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is being built or in use.
- Kill, injure or take any wild bird
- Take or destroy the eggs of any wild bird

To avoid committing an offence no works should be carried out on a structure/feature that is being used by nesting birds. Nesting is deemed to be over when the young have fully fledged.

Proposed Development

It is proposed to extend the garage to the north.

Survey Findings

The weather conditions were sunny and dry (26°C). The site comprises a detached property located within Frithelstock Stone, North Devon (Grid Reference SS 45415 18685). The building is constructed of concrete blocks and brick with a concrete tiled roof over bitumen underlay and concrete ridge tiles. A one-storey extension incorporating a garage lies to the north of the property. A conservatory lies to the south. The property and extension/garage contain roof voids, of which the latter is inaccessible.

The site was surveyed for evidence of bat use and nesting birds.



There were no bats or evidence of bats in the roof void of the property. Four gaps are present at the base of the roof on the north and south elevations, but no evidence of bats was found in these areas and these crevices are being used by nesting sparrows. One gap is present under a lifted tile on the east elevation of the extension, but no bats or evidence of bats was found in this location and this area is sub-optimal for roosting bats. All other features are well-sealed and do not provide bat roosting opportunities or access into the roof voids.

The site was assessed as having **negligible** suitability to support roosting bats due to the lack of features suitable for roosting bats and the lack of evidence of their presence. It is therefore considered the proposals will have a **negligible** impact on bats and/or bat roosts.

The areas used by nesting birds are not predicted to be impacted by proposals and works will be undertaken around 10m from the nesting locations on the north elevation. Therefore, there are no impacts predicted to nesting birds.

Recommendations

No further survey work is required. The works are not expected to impact bats. However, due to the small size of bats and their ability to roost in very small crevices, a precautionary approach to the work is advised. If a bat (or signs of bats, such as droppings) is found then works should stop and a licensed bat ecologist should be consulted. Bats should not be handled unless they are injured, in which case using gloves, the bat should be placed in a small breathable container and advice sought.

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Amber Morgan MSci Qualifying Member CIEEM

Assistant Ecologist

Orbis Ecology Ltd





Photo 1: North elevation of property and east elevation of garage showing bird nesting locations.



Photo 2: East and north elevations of garage.





Photo 3: East elevation of garage.



Photo 4: South elevation showing bird nesting locations.



Photo 5: West elevation.



Photo 6: Lifted tile on east elevation of extension.





Photo 7: Roof void interior.



Devon Wildlife Checklist (to be filled in by the ecological consultant and included in the front of the Wildlife Report)

A.1 Protected and priority species (relates to question 13a in the planning application form).

A tick or cross must be placed in all boxes in column two (shaded) and then, where there is a tick, all other boxes in that row. Where species are present please email this form to Devon Biodiversity Records Centre - DBRC@dbrc.org.uk.

Location: 10 Church Lane, Frithelstock Stone

Grid reference for centre of site (6 digit): SS 45415 18685

Planning Application reference:

Name of surveyor and consultancy: Amber Morgan, Orbis Ecology

Date that surveys carried out: 18/07/2022

Sent to DBRC: N

Species - terrestrial, intertidal, marine	Walkover shows that suitable habitat present and reasonably likely that the species will be found? <u>Tick or cross</u>	Detailed survey needed to clarify impacts and mitigation requirements?	Detailed survey carried out and included?	Species Present or Assumed to be present on site <u>Indicate with P or A and name the species</u>	Impact on species?	Detailed Conservation Action Statement included? Sets out actions needed in relation to avoidance / mitigation / compensation / enhancement	EPS offence committed? Three tests met?	Grid reference for specific location of species (if required for large sites)
Bats (roost)	X							
Bats (flight line / foraging habitat)	X							
Dormice	X							
Otters	X							
Great crested newts <i>(*check consultation zone)</i>	X							
Cirl buntings <i>(*check consultation zone)</i>	X							
Barn owls	X							
Other Schedule 1 birds	X							
Breeding birds	✓	Not required						
Reptiles	X							
Native crayfish	X							
Water voles	X							
Badgers	X							
Other protected species	X							
UK BAP priority species	X							
Devon BAP key species	X							
Invasive species	X							

- Devon consultation zones for cirl buntings and great crested newts - <http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/wildlife.htm>
- UK BAP priority species - <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5717>
- Devon BAP key species - http://www.devon.gov.uk/dbap-section_e.pdf (note that this list is currently being updated)

A.2 Designations / important habitats / sites of geological importance (relates to questions 13 b & c in the planning application form)

A tick or cross must be placed in all boxes in column two and then, where there is a tick, all other boxes in that row.

Designation	Within site or potential impact. <small>Tick or cross</small>	Name of site / habitat	Detailed Conservation Action Statement included in report?	Habitat balance sheet included (showing area of habitats lost, gained and overall net gain)	Relevant organisation consulted & response included in the application?
Terrestrial, intertidal, marine					
<i>Statutory designations</i>					
European designations - Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and RAMSAR site or within Greater Horseshoe consultation zone	X		Sufficient information included for the LPA to undertake an HRA?		
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	X				
Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)	X				
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	X				
<i>Non-statutory wildlife designations</i>					
County Wildlife Site (CWS)	x				
Ancient woodland	X				
Special Verge	X				
UK BAP Priority habitat	X				
Local Biodiversity Network (mapped by Devon Wildlife Trust / through Green Infrastructure work)	X				
<i>Non-statutory geological designation</i>					
County Geological Site (CGS or RIGS)	X				

- List of UK BAP priority habitats - <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5718>
Table headings last updated: 22nd September 2014