

BAT SURVEY 2016 & 2022

**WELL HILL STABLES
DUNTISBOURNE ABBOTS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

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CTM WILDLIFE

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Appendix 1: Bat legislation

<u>Version</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>
V1.0		5 th January 2016
V2.0	Update of previous survey & mitigation strategy for new scheme	30 th August 2022

C T Menendez BSc (Hons) MCIEEM CEnv

This report assesses the ecological impact of the proposal based on wildlife legislation and planning policy. It is an independent assessment and not a statement of support or otherwise to the proposal for the site.

Disclaimer: While all reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the following information is correct and up to date it should not be relied upon as a definitive guide to wildlife and wildlife law. The exact requirements and habits of wildlife can vary and not be fully understood. Surveys and assessments can be restricted snap shots in time and space. Any conclusions and recommendations are made here in good faith. Also, the implementation of law can vary. Those needing to limit impacts and their risk should consult the original legislation and/or a lawyer conversant with wildlife law.

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WELL HILL STABLES DUNTISBOURNE ABBOTS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2016

The site is a stone building in the stables yard.

Day and night bat surveys were undertaken over the summer of 2016.

This was for a proposal to convert the building to domestic units.

The building supports the following roosts:

- Natterer's bat maternity roost (8+ bats)
- Common pipistrelle day roost (1 bat)
- Brown long-eared bat night roost.

The implications and bat mitigation are given in Section 5.4.

A licence from Natural England will be required for the proposal.

2022

The building has not been converted. A daytime and an evening update bat survey have confirmed that conditions for bats have not changed and that the bat roosts are still present (including a Natterer's bat maternity roost).

Guidance has been given for the retention of 80% of the existing Natterer's roost (loft) and the recreation of places for bats to rest-up in this roost in combination with the proposed conversion of the stables to a one-bedroom flat, office and for storage.

1. INTRODUCTION

The surveyed site is a stone stable building in the yard at Well Hill Stables in the Cotswolds village of Duntibourne Abbots.

It is understood that there is a proposal to convert the building to **two** domestic dwellings. This bat survey was undertaken **in 2016** at the request of the architect.

2022

The stone barn has not been converted since the survey in 2016. The owner plans to now convert the building as a one-bedroom flat, with an office and storage. The local planning authority has requested an ecological survey.

The report has been undated with the findings of an update daytime survey and an evening bat-emergence survey in relation to the current proposal.

2. OBJECTIVES/SCOPE

- *To determine the status of bats at the building*
- *To determine any implications to the proposal.*

This document provides an assessment and recommendations with regard to bats. It does not make commitments on behalf of the client and is not a tree or a landscape assessment.

Figure 1. Location (circled in red). Grid reference SO 9698 0783

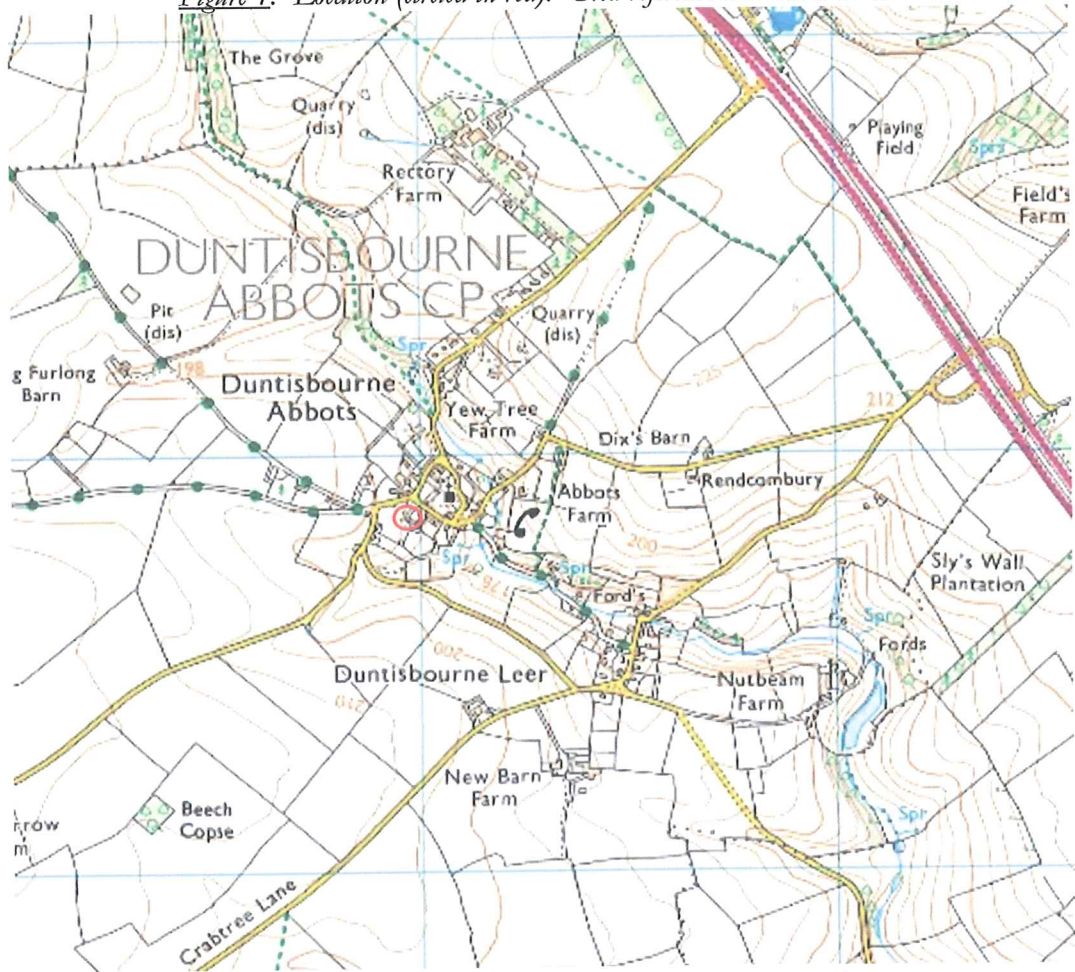
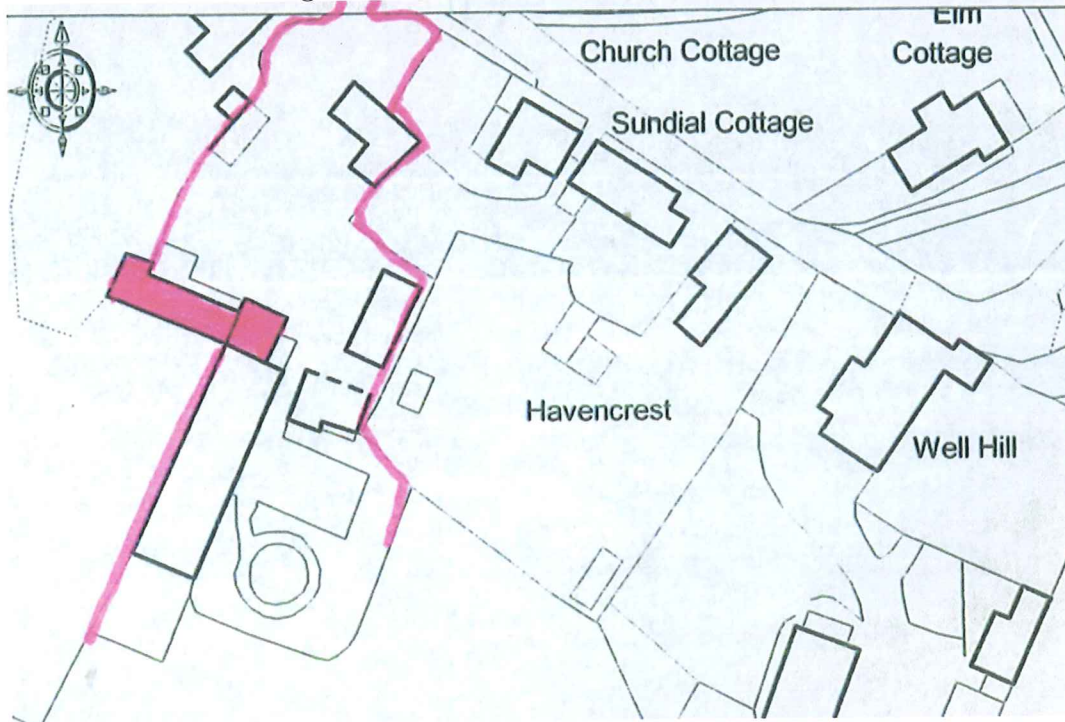


Figure 2: The surveyed building (architect's plan)



3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Personnel

The survey was carried out by 'CM' BSc (Hons) MCIEEM CEnv who has 25+ years' experience as a professional ecologist and 15+ years' experience carrying out development-related surveys. His Natural England survey licences include a Class 2 licence for bats and he is a Registered Consultant with a Bat low Impact Class Licence. He was assisted by 'JD' BSc (Hons) MCIEEM CEnv who is a similarly experienced ecologist.

2022

The survey work was undertaken by the same surveyors as before: Colin Menendez and Jeremy Doe.

3.2 Historical information

A check was undertaken on the Government's 'Magic' website for important sites designated for bats within 4 km and bat mitigation licences within 2 km. The Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership website was checked if the site is within a Strategic Nature Area. The Internet was searched for information on bats in Duntisbourne Abbots including public access information on the NBN Gateway. The cost of a data search for historic records of bats was not warranted at this time.

3.3 Day survey

The preliminary day-time survey was undertaken on 8th April 2016. This was a standard systematic search of the building, interior and exterior, metre-by-metre, for bats, potential roosts for bats and for any sign that bats had used it. Such as the presence of bat droppings, urine drops and feeding remains on surfaces, and staining and droppings at any crevices. The adjacent stable to the south-east was checked too. Any bat droppings were collected for DNA analysis. Equipment: torch & binoculars. The conditions were dry (rain earlier), full cloud, calm and cool 9°C.

2022

The update daytime survey was carried out on 7th July 2022. The survey was the same method and equipment as before. Conditions: dry, full cloud & warm 20°C.

3.4 Night survey

A programme of night-time bat surveys across the summer survey season was undertaken due to the finding of roosting bats, in order to be able to characterise the roost and have sufficient information for the planning application and a mitigation licence.

Night survey 1: A standard dusk emergence bat survey was undertaken on 14th July 2016. The two surveyors were positioned with one inside the hay loft and the other overlooking the building from the yard. A rapid search was undertaken beforehand for bats and fresh signs of bats.

Night survey 2: An automated bat call recorder was set all night in the hay loft on 14th July 2016.

Night survey 3: A standard dawn re-entry bat survey was undertaken on 8th September 2016. This was one surveyor was positioned inside the hay loft next to the open window and western wall.

Night survey 4: This was a repeat dusk emergence survey by two surveyors on 22nd September 2016. A rapid search was undertaken beforehand for bats and fresh signs of bats.

2022

Night survey 5: This was a dusk bat-emergence survey by two surveyors on 12th July 2022. This was with one surveyor inside the hay loft and the other overlooking the building from the yard.

3.5 Constraints

The assessment of structures as bat roosts can be problematic. A lack of signs of bats does not necessarily show that bats do not use a structure. Roosting places can be unseen and bats can roost in crevices *etc.* with no or few outward signs of their presence.

There are inherent constraints in night-time surveys due to the varied behaviour of bats between roosts and nights and the difficulties in locating the source of bats in flight in the dark.

The experienced judgment of the licensed surveyor and the undertaking of a suite of surveys across the summer helps reduce these constraints. A repeat resurvey several years later further reduces these constraints.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Day surveys

The surveyed building is a Victorian/early 1900s? stone stables with horse stalls, a hay loft along two thirds of the building above the stalls, and rooms on the ground and first floor at the eastern end. It is in a tarmac yard on its southern side. There is an open-sided, iron-frame & breeze block stables building abutting its south-eastern end. Paddocks to the south and village housing with gardens *etc.* in the other directions. The stalls were occasionally in use during the surveys and the hay loft disused. The rooms were locked (and light due to glazed windows).

The landscape surrounding the village is predominately arable fields of the gently sloping high wolds plateau of the Cotswolds. It is in a shallow valley with a tributary of the River Churn. There are tree-lines, wooded cover/wind breaks and small plantations in the local landscape - significant continuous woodland is approximately 1 & 2 km from the village.

2022

The stone stables are unchanged since 2016 – except the stalls on the ground floor are now used for storage. The hay loft remains disused and what few items that had originally been stored in it have gone. The open-sided stables to the rear have since been rebuilt as open stabling (19/01078/FUL) and no-longer abut the building.

Table 1. Description of the building with regard to bats and signs of bats.

Exterior	<p>Walls – mortared Cotswold stone & in good condition. Partly a single skin of timber panels at the front.</p> <p>Doors & windows – windows glazed & doors/windows in good condition. Except an open window with a wooden lintel in the hay loft at the western end.</p> <p>Roof – twin pitched with a skin of corrugated tin sheets & a tin ridge. Weather boards at the eastern gable end verge – with gaps between the boards & wall. A stone chimney in the eastern wall.</p>
Interior	<p>Stalls & locked room on the ground floor. 1st floor room locked.</p> <p>Hay loft accessed via a wall ladder & open hatch at the front exterior porch. Tin roof underside exposed in the loft with an irregular hollow along underside of the tin ridge above a ridge board. Tin sheets fitted to a timber close-coupled frame – frame joints tight. Mix of wide & tight gaps between roof sheets & the verge wall tops. Gaps into end walls where the ridge board enters it. Large open window in the western wall. Mortar partly missing in the western wall. Moderately dark & airy in the loft.</p>
Signs of bats:	<p>Ground floor: Nil.</p> <p>Hay loft: A few individual small-medium bat droppings randomly scattered on the floor & a small concentration under the ridge towards the western (darker) end. DNA analysis identified the latter concentration to be brown long-eared bat droppings.</p> <p>Two long-dead desiccated Natterer's bats on the loft floor more-or-less</p>

	<p>below the ridge. Age difficult to discern, but certainly not pups. Identification based on a characteristic fringe of stiff bristles along the trailing edge of the tail membrane.</p> <p>A few additional fresh individual bat droppings were found in the loft through the summer survey period and moth wings below the ridge (potential bat feeding remains).</p> <p><u>2022</u></p> <p>There were a few individual bat droppings in the hayloft, more towards the western darker end in the feed store room. DNA analysis confirmed these to be from Natterer’s bats.</p> <p>There were moth wings, characteristic of bat feeding-remains, in the most easterly of the stalls on the ground floor.</p>
<p>Potential for roosting bats</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use of the building by bats is conclusive. 2. Potential roost(s) in the hay loft.

Photo 1 The surveyed building



2016



2022

Photo 2 Hay loft



2016



2022

4.2 Night surveys

Table 2. Night survey 1 (evening)

Date & timings	Weather conditions & equipment	Bats
Evening 14/07/2016 Start 2105 Dusk 2123 End 2255	Dry, calm (Beaufort strength 0), full cloud and warm (16 – 15°C outside & 18 – 17°C in loft) BatBox Duet, BatBox IIID, Anabat SD1 & Anabat Express	<p><i>Common pipistrelle</i>: 1 bat flying in the yard 36 minutes after dusk & active in the vicinity for approx. 10 minutes. A couple of individual passes through the yard later on.</p> <p><i>Natterer's bat</i>: Myotis bats (calls most characteristic of Natterer's bat) flying inside the hay loft from 18 minutes after dusk. Approx. 8 Natterer's bats exited the hay loft via the western window 32 – 61 minutes after dusk. The bats dispersed southwards and with just a couple of passes through the yard.</p>

Table 3. Night survey 2 (all-night automated recording in the hay loft)

Summary	<p>Myotis (almost certainly Natterer's bats based on the recorded call characteristics) were active in the loft from 20 minutes after dusk to 02:18 in the night and thereafter two short periods of activity approx. 1 hour before dawn.</p> <p>A common pipistrelle briefly visited the loft in the middle of the night (or was flying close-by outside).</p>																																																												
Timing	Recorder started at 2105 & set to run to 1 hour after dawn.																																																												
Equipment	Anabat Express.																																																												
14 th July 2016 Night 18 – 12 °C in shed Dry	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Time</th> <th>Species</th> <th>No. times calls recorded every 30 minutes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0905¹</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>09:21</td> <td></td> <td>Dusk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>09:30</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>10:00</td> <td>Myotis</td> <td>26 (1st 09:41)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10:30</td> <td>Myotis</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11:00</td> <td>Myotis</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11:30</td> <td>Myotis</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12:00</td> <td>Myotis</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12:30</td> <td>Myotis</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13:00</td> <td>Myotis</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Common pipistrelle</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13:30</td> <td>Myotis</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14:00</td> <td>Myotis</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Common pipistrelle</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14:30</td> <td>Myotis</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15:00</td> <td>Common pipistrelle</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15:30</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>16:00</td> <td>Myotis</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16:30</td> <td>Myotis</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Time	Species	No. times calls recorded every 30 minutes	0905 ¹			09:21		Dusk	09:30			10:00	Myotis	26 (1 st 09:41)	10:30	Myotis	11	11:00	Myotis	2	11:30	Myotis	11	12:00	Myotis	11	12:30	Myotis	7	13:00	Myotis	7		Common pipistrelle	2	13:30	Myotis	6	14:00	Myotis	5		Common pipistrelle	2	14:30	Myotis	3	15:00	Common pipistrelle	1	15:30			16:00	Myotis	4	16:30	Myotis	3
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¹ The style of the stated timings given here is that produced by the Analook programme used to analyse the calls *i.e.* 09:00 = 9 PM or 2100 in the evening and 14:30 = 2.30 AM in the night.

	17:00	
	17:07	Dawn

Table 4. Night survey 3 (dawn)

Date & timings	Weather conditions & equipment	Bats
8/09/2016 Start 0505 Dawn 0635 End 0650	Dry, calm (Beaufort strength 0 - 1), clear sky & warm 16 - 15°C in loft BatBox Duet & Anabat Express	<p><u>Myotis</u>: Natterer's bat 1st heard flying inside the loft 75 minutes before dawn. 3 – 4 Natterer's bats entered the hay loft via the open window in the western wall 59 minutes before dawn.</p> <p><u>Common pipistrelle</u>: 1 bat circling in the garden to the western side of the stables 69 minutes before dusk. 1 common pipistrelle entered a crevice in the external western wall (three stone courses down from the top of the southern side of the window) 27 minutes before dawn.</p>

Table 5. Night survey 4 (evening survey)

Date & timings	Weather conditions & equipment	Bats
<u>22/09/2016</u> Start 1850 Dusk 1909 End 2040	Dry, calm (Beaufort strength 1), patchy cloud & mild 15°C in loft & 14 – 12°C outside BatBox Duet, BatBox IIID, Anabat SD1 & Anabat Express	<p><u>Common pipistrelle</u>: 1st bat flew through the yard east – west, fed in the garden west of the building & away 37 minutes after dusk. Thereafter occasionally seen in the garden & heard in the background.</p> <p><u>Myotis</u>: 2 – 4 Natterer's bats exited the loft via the western window 62 – 72 minutes after dusk.</p>

Table 6. Night survey 5 (evening) - 2022

Date & timings	Weather conditions & equipment	Bats
Evening <u>12/07/2022</u> Start 2105 Dusk 2124 End 2300	Dry (brief light drizzle at dusk), calm, full cloud, warm & humid 19°C BatBox Duet, BatBox IIID, Anabat SD1 & Anabat Express x2	<p><u>Common pipistrelle</u>: First seen flying to and through the yard 32 minutes after dusk. Thereafter one to two bats flew in the yard on-and-off feeding for much of the survey.</p> <p><u>Natterer's bat</u>: Myotis bats (calls most characteristic of Natterer's bat) flying inside the hay loft from 19 minutes after dusk. Approx. 13 Natterer's bats exited the hay loft via the western window 26 – 63 minutes after dusk. A bat was present in the yard just once – the bats dispersed directly to the adjacent countryside.</p> <p><u>Long-eared bat</u>: A bat flew into and around the lean-to in front of the most-easterly of the stalls on the ground floor 46 minutes after dusk – it looked to have come from a southerly direction. A bat was present in the yard eight minutes later and once more 20 minutes later.</p>

4.3 Historical information

The site is not in a Gloucestershire Strategic Nature Area. There are no sites designated for bats within 4 km and the nearest wildlife designated sites are Juniper Hill Edgeworth SSSI (at 4.4 km and important for its juniper scrub) and Daneway Banks SSSI (at 4.6 km and important for its unimproved species-rich grassland [& butterflies]). **Duntisbourne Abbots is in the SSSI Risk Impact Zone for any residential developments with a total net gain in residential units (i.e. it is applicable to the proposal).**

The client/owner was not aware of bats using the surveyed building. No EPS bat mitigation licences were shown on the Government's Magic website in Duntisbourne Abbots and the nearest were (1) a non-breeding roost for lesser horseshoe, common pipistrelle & brown long-eared bats at 1.6 km & (2) a breeding roost of common pipistrelle at 2.2 km. There are records on the NBN Gateway of bats (species not given) in two adjacent 1 km grid squares – none in the 1 km grid of the surveyed site.

5. CONCLUSIONS

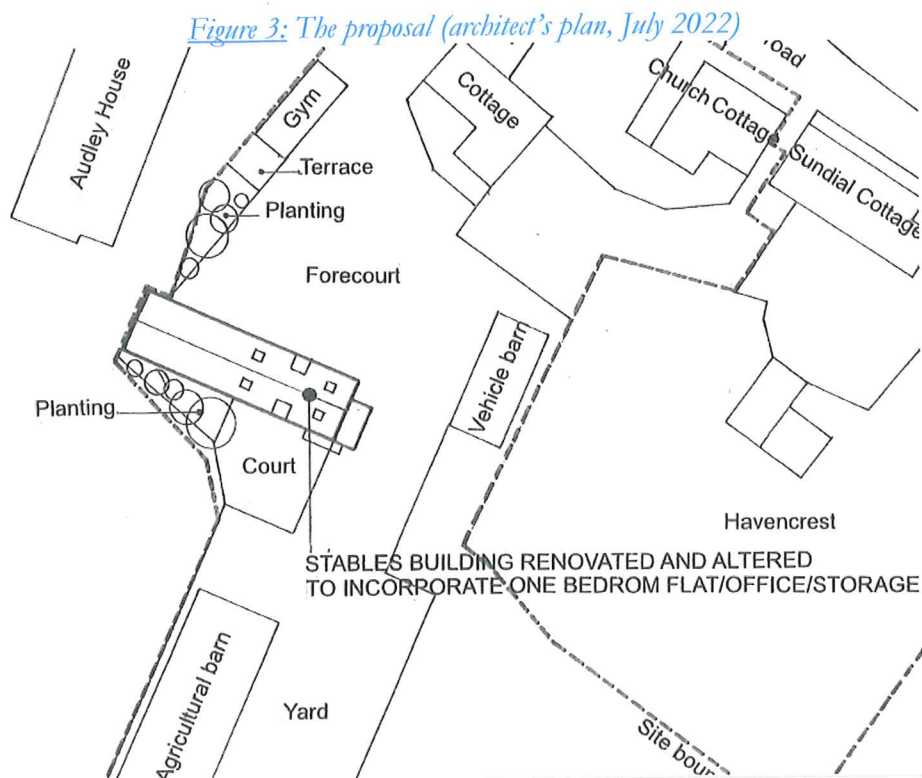
5.1 Outline development proposal

2022

It is understood that the proposal is to:

- Convert the building as a one-bedroom flat, office & storage.

The plan is to have the flat on the ground and first floor in the eastern half of the building. And an office and storage on the ground floor in the western half, with an internal staircase to storage on the first floor. The building to be reroofed with stone tiles.

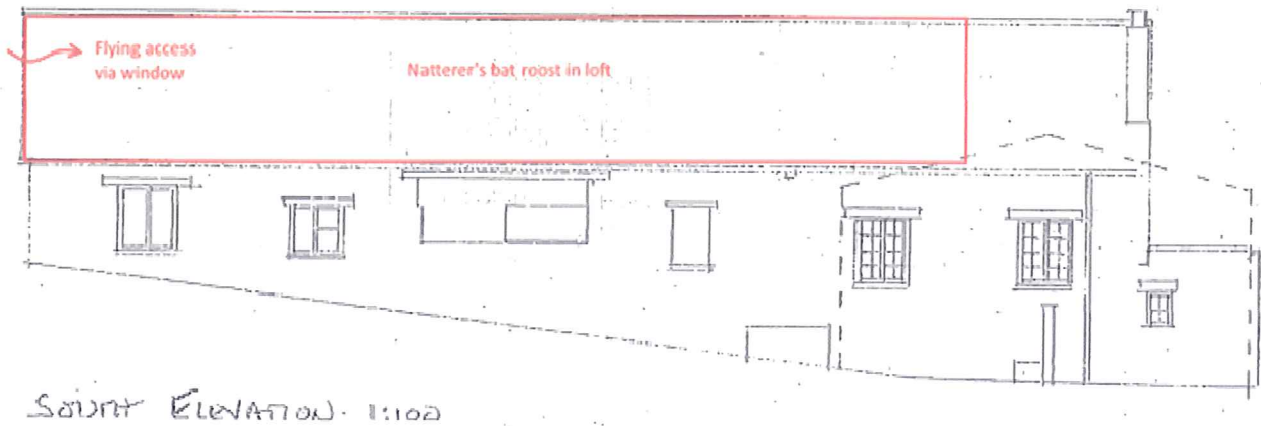


5.2 Use of site by bats

Roosts

- **Natterer’s bat – ‘maternity roost’ in the hay loft of the surveyed building (8+ bats).** The bats access the loft via the open 1st floor window in the western end wall. They are considered to be roosting in the hollow along the underside of the roof ridge and/or in the wall plate of the verges particularly where timbers enter the wall.

Maternity roosts are where bats give birth and raise their young to independence in the summer.



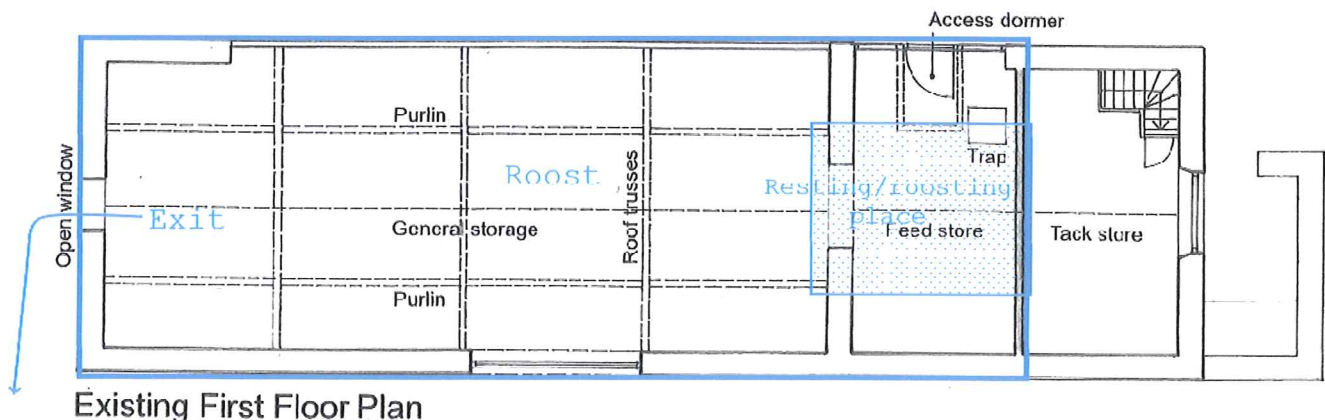
2022

The Natterer’s bat maternity roost is still present with a count of 13 bats.

Based on the location of the bat droppings, they look to be roosting in the roof ridge of the feed store in the loft and/or the stone wall plate in the feed store.

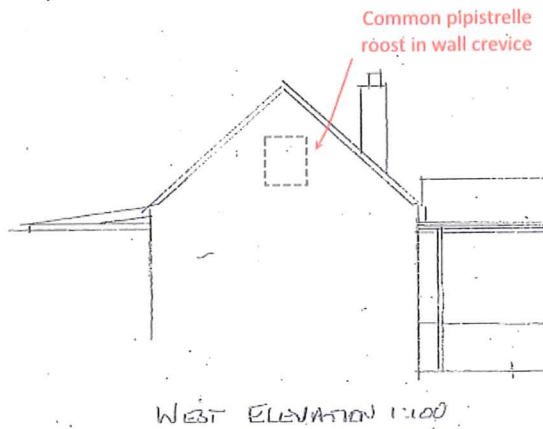
The bats use the loft as pre-emergence flight space, before exiting via the unglazed window at the western end and fly direct to the adjacent countryside to the south.

Exiting roost:



- **Common pipistrelle – ‘day roost’ in the western wall** of the building (1 bat). The bat uses a crevice in the external side of the wall at 1st floor level. The timing and direction of flight of common pipistrelle indicates that this or another bat also roosts in the local vicinity.

Day roosts are where individual bats, or small groups, rest or shelter in the day.



2022

No roosting common pipistrelle were seen, but they still occur locally and feed in the yard. The stables are almost certainly still occasionally used by individual day-roosting bats.

- **Brown long-eared bat – ‘feeding roost’ in the hay loft.** They will be entering via the open window and perching on the underside of the roof principally at the ridge board.

Feeding roosts are where individual bats or a few bats rest or feed during the night but are rarely present during the day.

2022

There was no sign of long-eared bats currently feeding in the loft, but they are using the most-westerly of the existing stall on the ground floor as a feeding perch/roost.

Foraging bats & flight lines

- The yard is used, but little-used, by foraging bats early in the evening (common pipistrelle).
- Bats forage over the garden on the western side of the building and the roosting Natterer’s bats disperse southwards to/from the paddocks on the southern side of the building.

2022

There is still some bat activity in the yard, but the Natterer’s look to be immediately dispersing southwards from the plot upon exit from the building.

5.3 Legal considerations

All species of British bat and their roosts are protected by law (Appendix 1).

Natural England's guidance is that although foraging areas and commuting routes are not legally protected, the effects of development proposals on these may be taken into consideration.

5.4 Impact & recommendations

5.4.1 Impact

The proposal (without mitigation) will:

- Destroy a maternity roost used by 13+ Natterer's bats
- Destroy a day roost used by 1 common pipistrelle
- Destroy a feeding roost use by brown long-eared bat(s).

The setting is likely to remain relatively unchanged including no change to the adjacent paddocks except for **some planting** on both sides of the building (which is currently tarmac & **concrete**). The level of disturbance and illumination is likely to moderately increase (it is currently a working stables/yard).

2022

The July scheme will convert 80% of the loft as storage, with stairwell access from a store room on the ground floor and the remaining 20% (the feed store where the bats rest-up/roost) converted as part of the flat. Following discussion with the architect, the current scheme can be adapted to retain (modified) the existing maternity roost. This is outlined in Section 5.4.3 – roost provision – below.

5.4.2 Conservation significant

Natterer's bats are relatively common throughout Britain more-so in the south. Though a comparatively low number of summer maternity roosts are known in the county compared to the commoner species of bat. Nursery roosts usually contain 30 - 200 bats and this roost with 13+ bats at Well Hill Stables is a small maternity roost. Maternity roosts are important to local populations. Based on Natural England's guidelines, the status and conservation significance of a Natterer's bat maternity roost is 'moderate'.

Common pipistrelle are a widespread commoner species of bat in Britain. They are legally protected (like all bat species in Britain) due to their rate of decline. A common pipistrelle day roost used by 1 bat is of 'low' conservation significance.

Brown long-eared bats are widespread commoner species of bat and feeding roosts are of 'low' conservation significance.

5.4.3 Proportional mitigation

Based on Natural England's guidelines, the level of proportionate mitigation for the identified impact on the Natterer's maternity bat roost is:

- Timing constraints
- More-or-less like-for-like replacement of the roost
- Bats not to be left without a roost and must be given time to find the replacement.
- Monitoring 2 years preferred.

Proportionate mitigation for the common pipistrelle and brown long-eared bat roosts is:

- Flexibility over provision with new roosting provision where possible
- The provision need not be exactly like-for-like, but it should be suitable for the species concerned
- Minimal timing constraints or monitoring for the work.

Mitigation to re-create roosting places will be required as well as measures to avoid harm to bats during the conversion work. The aim will be to maintain the favourable conservation of the local population of the bats.

Timing of works

- **The optimum period to undertake the work will be 1st October – 1st May outside the maternity season when the bats are least likely to be present or vulnerable.** In this instance, undertaking the proposed work affecting the loft roost in the summer is unlikely to be permitted by Natural England (when licencing of the work – see below).

Avoidance of harm to bats

- **An ecologist will need to check for and if necessary rescue or exclude any bats present at the start of work that affects the roosts.**

Roost provision

Natterer's bats at buildings typically roost in crevices/holes within the building where there is enough space for internal flight and the access point is suitable for light-sampling by the bats.

A recent study on the success of maternity roost compensation measures identified that success is more likely where roosts and access to them is retained compared to creating new roosts.

The following is recommended as suitable, proportionate mitigation for the Natterer's bat roost:

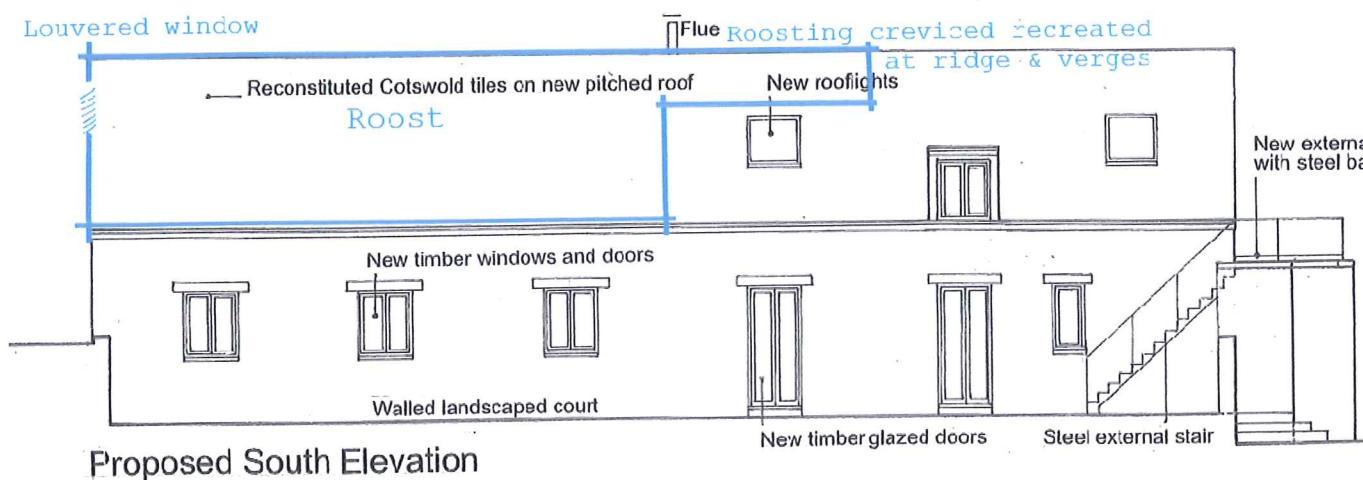
- **Retain/Recreate a roosting space on the first floor of **the stables** for use by the Natterer's bats.**

The key features will be:

- (1) Flying access via the existing open window in the western end wall. The proposed louvers to have a gap of minimum 20 mm between louvers to enable bats to crawl in and out via the louvers in combination with being weather proof and keeping down light and draughts in the loft room. The top louver to be 200 mm from the top of the window frame to enable bats to also readily find and continue to fly in and out of the window (cowled if necessary to improve weather-proofing and to help keep out birds).
- (2) Unrestricted dark flying space retained in the loft (80% of the current roost), which can still be used for long-term storage. In order to keep it undisturbed by people and lights, key features will be: (a) a closed doorway at the top of the stairs to the storage loft, (2) the removal/closing of the proposed open stairwell next to the staircase & (3) lighting in the loft to be time-limited (to avoid being left 'on') and fitted/of a type that avoids illuminating the roof ridge and wall verges. Bulbs maximum 2,700 lumens and hooded.

- (3) A ceiling to be fitted in the proposed living room (currently the feed store) in order to create a low loft open its western end into the storage loft and with flying access for bats from the storage loft to the roof ridge underside here and the internal wall plates. During the works, bat-roosting crevices will need to be identified and recreated (based on what is found during the dismantling of the roof) in the roof ridge and at the wall plates (including taking advantage of any warmth from the flue of a proposed fireplace below). No ceiling lights to be fitted in the living room (to avoid upwards light into the ceiling loft from the backsides of the lights).
- (4) Any insulation in the retained/recreated bat roost to be on the floor (i.e. not on the roof slope in order to allow the sun's warmth to increase the roost temperature in the summer).
- (5) Roof felt Type 1F (i.e. safe for bats) &/or capped with timber sarking.

Proposed roost (illustrative only):



- **Retain/Recreate the roosting crevice in the external western wall for the common pipistrelle.**
- **Retain/Replace the ridge board for brown long-eared bats in the roof roost.** Combined with the recommended access this will make it suitable as a night roost for this species.
- **It is recommended that (1) the design of the mitigation solution is discussed with the bat ecologist & (2) the mitigation is included in the plans of the proposal** due to the exacting requirements of bats and need to find a favourable solution for the bats, local planning authority and licensing of the work.

Lights

- **Only install outside lights on the western and southern aspects that are essential for people's safety.** Design and position outside lights to not illuminate above caves height, the bat mitigation, flight lines to it and adjacent habitat.

5.4.4 Licensing by Natural England

- **A licence will be required for the proposal where it affects the bat roost.**

There are two types of licence: (1) low impact and (2) a standard licence. **Based on the survey a standard licence will be applicable at this site.**

Licences are issued by Natural England and a standard licence includes a Method Statement detailing measures to be taken to avoid, mitigate or compensate for any potential impacts upon bats, which must be approved by Natural England before a licence is granted.

The licence holder is generally the site owner or developer with a named ecologist who usually prepares the licence and oversees it on behalf of the licensee due to the exacting requirements of the bats and licence.

Natural England requires at least 30 working days to process each licence application and amendments to it. Licenses are usually applied for after planning permission and other necessary consents have been granted and relevant conditions discharged. The application process can take at least two months. Survey information generally needs to be from the current or most recent survey season (1st May – 30th September).

Appendix 1.

- Brief summary of relevant legislation in the UK -

Bats

There is considerable evidence that all species of bat in Britain have declined significantly this century, particularly since the 1960s. The reasons for the decline include: loss of suitable roost sites, loss of feeding habitat, reduced availability of insect prey through pesticide use and mortality resulting from the use of highly toxic timber treatment chemicals in house roosts.

All species of British bat are listed in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (which consolidates the European Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994). As well as giving full protection from intentional and deliberate killing, injuring, disturbing and taking of bats, the cited legislation protects bat breeding and resting places (roosts) from damage, destruction and preventing access to such places. The legislation regarding roosts applies irrespective of whether the bats are present or not. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 added the word “reckless” to existing protection against “intentional and deliberate” actions.

The law requires that reasonable effort be made to ensure that any actions, plans or projects do not detrimentally affect bats or their roosts. Proposed developments that affect bats or bat roosts may require a licence from Natural England. Allow at least 30 days for a licence application to be determined.