



BAT, BARN OWL AND NESTING BIRD SURVEY

on

**THE GARAGE AT AURIGNY, TREWARTHA,
VERYAN, CORNWALL**

May 2023



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**BAT, BARN OWL AND NESTING BIRD SURVEY ON THE GARAGE
AT AURIGNY, TREWARTHA, VERYAN, CORNWALL**

O.S. Grid Ref: SW 9254 3963

Survey date: 11th May 2023

Surveyor: Simon Barnard BSc (Hons) MSc CEcol MCIEEM
Class Survey Licence Reg. Nos. 2017-32208-CLS-CLS
(Level 3) & 2015-13541-CLS-CLS (Level 4)
Barn Owl Class Survey Licence CL29/00170

Time spent on site: ½ hour

Taxonomic groups covered: Bats, Barn Owls and Nesting Birds

Report author: Simon Barnard BSc (Hons) MSc CEcol MCIEEM

Filename & issue number: BBONB_Garage at Aurigny, Trewartha, Veryan_Final 1

Report for: Mr Leyton Lark

Report No: 22-154/PC/Garage at Aurigny, Trewartha, Veryan_BBONB

Report completed: 14th May 2023

Report Sign off**Document checked and
approved for issue by:**

Debra Barnard MBCh Director

Signature:**Date:**14th May 2023

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Wheal Grey Ecology Ltd were instructed by Mr Leyton Lark to carry out a visual inspection on a garage at Aurigny, Trewartha, Veryan, Cornwall looking for evidence of use of the building by Bats, Barn Owls and Nesting Birds. The proposal is to demolish the existing building and build a new garage in its place.

The survey was carried out in the afternoon on 11th May 2023 and the weather was sunny with a light breeze, 60% cloud cover and the temperature was 15°C.

2. DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE

2.1. Description of Building

The garage is a single skin blockwork structure which has a shallow pitched roof covered in corrugated cement fibre sheeting, with one of the pitches over the front part of the building and another over the rear section which has a roof light. Internally it is divided into two rooms with a small low passage down one side. It has a garage door to the east, a pedestrian door in the side and has three windows, two in the rear section and one in the front section, see photos 1 and 2. There is a small low log store attached to the rear of the building.



Photo 1. Showing the garage
from the east



Photo 2. Showing the garage
from the west

Internally both rooms and the passage are open from the floors to the undersides of the roofs, which are unlined, and are also open to one another, see photos 3, 4 and 5. The building is used for storage, is fairly light internally, is full of cobwebs indicating it is not used by roosting bats and does not support any significant enclosed void or cavities. All the gaps at the eaves around the outside of the building have been sealed up with expanding foam.



Photo 3. Showing the interior of the front room



Photo 4. Showing the interior of the rear room



Photo 5. Showing the interior of the passage

Externally there are no significant enclosed voids or cavities with the potential to be used by roosting bats.

2.2. Surrounding landscape

Aurigny is located in a small collection of houses known as Trewartha which is surrounded by the open countryside to the east of the village of Veryan. It is surrounded by small fields used for arable crop production or laid to pasture bounded by vegetated Cornish hedgebanks and is a short way from the South Cornish Coast. To the south is a shallow stream channel which is lined with trees and there is an area of woodland to the west associated with the churchyard at Veryan to the west, see figure 1.

The habitats directly surrounding the property represent good potential bat foraging habitat. The surrounding area is known to be well used by a number of species of bat including Common Pipistrelles, Brown Long-eared bats, Whiskered bats, and Lesser and Greater Horseshoes with a number of roosts belonging to these species known to occur nearby.



Figure 1. Google Earth image showing the location of the property (red arrow) and surrounding landscape

3. METHODS

3.1. Bats

The building was carefully inspected internally and externally, where access allowed, for evidence of the use of the building by roosting bats using a high-power torch, ladders, binoculars and an endoscope (where needed). This included looking for individual or groups of roosting bats and signs that the building is currently, recently or has been historically used for roosting by bats such as droppings or staining around potential access points. It involves searching between any roof timbers, walls and wall tops, any cavities, openings or gaps behind hanging slates or fascia's, window ledges and other protruding features. Additionally, any potential entry points are inspected thoroughly for signs of their use, i.e., staining, polishing or scratching of woodwork (indicating use by bats).

As bats can leave little evidence of their occupation, this survey included an assessment of the potential of the buildings and features of the building to support roosting bats. This involved identifying potential roosting features including but not limited to cracks, crevices and voids, cavities created by spaced off fascia, hanging slates or split render and any other features capable of providing suitable roosting space for bats.

3.2. Barn Owls

Where suitable access points into the buildings were present the interior was carefully searched, with the aid of a torch, looking for evidence that the building is used by Barn Owls, for either nesting or roosting. This includes searching for owl pellets, feathers and nest debris, with particular attention being paid to the ground below crossing timbers, below any artificial nest boxes which may have been installed or ledges which could be used by nesting Barn Owls. If any nest boxes or ledges are present and it is safe to do so they will also be inspected for signs of use.

3.3. Swallows and other birds

Suitable ledges, voids and the underside of any floors or timberwork which could provide nesting space for Swallows and other birds were inspected for evidence of previous or current nest building attempts.

3.4. Surveyors' experience and licences held

Simon Barnard is an experienced bat surveyor with 15 years' experience of carrying out all aspects of professional bat survey work including activity surveys, call analysis and emergence surveys. He has held a Natural England survey licence for more than 12 years, currently being registered on the Level 3 (CL19) and level 4 (CL20) Class Survey Licence. He has been involved in designing numerous mitigation schemes and obtaining European Protected Species development licences for the majority of the species of bats found in Devon and Cornwall and is a registered consultant on Annex's B, C and D on the Natural England's Bat Mitigation Class Licence. He also holds a valid Barn Owl Class Survey Licence CL29/00170.

4. RESULTS

4.1. Bats

No evidence of the use or occupation of this building by roosting bats was found during this survey and it does not support any significant enclosed voids or cavities.

4.2. Barn Owls

No evidence of the use of this building by Barn Owls was found.

4.3. Swallows and other bird species

No evidence of the use of this building by nesting birds was found.

4.4. Limitations

There were no significant limitations as all areas of the building were fully accessible and were carefully inspected.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Bats

As no evidence of the use of this building by roosting bats was found, no further survey work is necessary, and the proposed works can proceed with a very low to negligible risk of disturbing/harming roosting bats or damaging or destroying a bat roost.

It should be noted that in any building individual bats could occasionally roost, although in this instance this is very unlikely. If a bat was to be found unexpectedly whilst the works are being carried out, work should stop immediately and Wheal Grey Ecology Ltd contacted and further advice sort. If a bat were to be found it should be protected from the elements and predators and work activity in the immediate vicinity should stop until further advice is received.

5.2. Barn Owls

No recommendations necessary.

5.3. Swallows and other bird species

No recommendations necessary.

6. MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENTS

6.1. Bats

No evidence of the use of the building by roosting bats was found and therefore no mitigation is required.

However, new roosting opportunities for bats could be incorporated into the new building should the owners wish to do so. This could be done fairly simply by installing/building in purpose-built bat boxes onto the exterior of the building or creating access into the interior at the eaves or into the roof void. This would help to potentially enhance the biodiversity value of the site.

Please contact us at Wheal Grey Ecology for further information if this is something you would like to consider.

6.2. Barn Owls

No mitigation needed.

6.3. Swallows and other bird species

New nesting opportunities for birds could be incorporated into the new building by building in or mounting prefabricated nest boxes onto the exterior of the building. This would help to potentially enhance the biodiversity value of the site.

7. LEGISLATION

7.1. Bats

Bats in England have been protected under a number of regulations and amendments but the most up-to-date and relevant are:

- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Section 9)

The result of Regulations and Acts is that all species of bat and their breeding sites or resting places (roosts) are protected under law. 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 significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of the species
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat at a roost
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a roost whether bats are present or not
- Damage or destroy a roost whether bats are present or not
- Possess, control, transport, sell, exchange or offer for sale/exchange any live or dead bat or any part of a bat

Through the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (this has been updated and consolidated with subsequent amendments by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 mentioned above) bats were designated a European protected species as part of a Europe wide effort to conserve certain plant and animal species.

Any development which is likely to result in the disturbance of a European protected species, or damage to its habitat usually requires a European protected species licence from Natural England. 'Development' is interpreted broadly to include projects involving demolition of buildings, rebuilding, structural alterations and additions to buildings.

7.2. Birds

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is an offence, with certain exceptions, to intentionally:

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

The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2017 require public bodies to help “*preserve, maintain and re-establish habitat for wild birds.*”

Barn Owls and other birds listed in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 are given a further level of protection against disturbance whilst breeding.

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