
Stable Cottage, Ampney Park

Bat Survey

August 2021

Client: Simon Murray-Jones
Architects Ltd
Report Ref: SEB2429_01a
Author: Kate Hayward
MCIEEM
www.seasonsecology.co.uk



Non-Technical Summary

Site name and location	Stable Cottage, Ampney Park, London Road, Ampney Crucis, Cirencester, GL7 5RY (central grid reference: SP 06456 01943).
Scope of works	Bat survey undertaken on 17 th August 2021: one dusk emergence survey.
Assessment and survey methods	Methods refer to BCT (2016) <i>Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines</i> Bat Conservation Trust. Collins. Third Edition.
Personnel	Kate Hayward MCIEEM and Callum Pearson Qualifying CIEEM.
Purpose of works	The purpose of the survey is to determine any use of the building by roosting bats. The building was assessed as <i>Low</i> suitability to roosting bats owing to a low number of features, namely gaps under stone tiles on the western section. The bat survey is required to inform a planning proposal for conversion to a wedding apartment. The survey will inform the approach to works and licensing requirements.
Summary of survey results	<p>Based on the results of the bat survey, no bats were recorded emerging from the building. Therefore, it is considered that the building does not currently support roosting bats.</p> <p>General bat activity was high and by at least six species; common pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>, soprano pipistrelle <i>P. pygmaeus</i>, noctule <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>/Leisler's <i>N. leisleri</i>, serotine <i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>, brown long-eared <i>Plectous auritus</i> and <i>Myotis</i> species. The first recordings for common and soprano pipistrelle, noctule/Leisler's, brown long-eared and <i>Myotis</i> species were close to their usual emergence times, indicating roost close by, but not within the Stable Cottage.</p> <p>The Stone Cottage is surrounded by the buildings and grounds of Ampney Park and wider arable and improved fields divided by mature hedgerows with occasional trees and patches of woodland. The estate, supporting grassland, woodland and water bodies, offers high-quality foraging and commuting habitats for bats, and is well-connected to the surrounding high-quality habitats.</p>
Recommendations	<p>Due to the assessed <i>Low</i> suitability of the Stable Cottage to roosting bats and its proximity to high quality foraging and commuting habitats, should works be delayed for 12 months after the date of this survey, then an update bat survey is recommended.</p> <p>Pre-works check of the internal spaces of the Stable Cottage and supervision during any re-roofing works by a suitably licensed ecologist is recommended.</p> <p>For any new external lighting required, recommendations are made for a sensitive lighting scheme.</p> <p>To enhance bat roosting opportunities, one bat box attached to the west elevation of the building is recommended.</p>



Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Survey Method	4
2.2 Dusk Emergence Survey	4
2.3 Constraints to Survey	5
2.4 Personnel	5
3. Survey Results	6
3.2 Dusk Emergence Survey	6
3.3 Survey Summary	7
4. Interpretation and Evaluation	7
5. Legislation	7
6. Recommendations	8
6.1 Protection Measures	8
6.2 Lighting	8
6.3 Biodiversity Enhancement	8
7. Annexes	9
Annex 1: Surveyor Locations and Survey Results (August 2021)	9



1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 In June 2021, Seasons Ecology was instructed by Simon Murray-Jones Architects Ltd, on behalf of the client, to undertake a bat survey of the Stable Cottage at Ampney Park, London Road, Ampney Crucis, Cirencester, GL7 5RY (central grid reference: SP 06456 01943). The survey was recommended following a *Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment and Survey* of the building in April 2021 by Seasons Ecology¹. The purpose of the survey is to determine any use of the Stable Cottage by bats, to inform a planning proposal for its conversion to a wedding apartment. The survey will inform the approach to works and licensing requirements.
- 1.1.2 The *Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment and Survey* assessed the Stable Cottage as *Low* suitability to roosting bats, owing to a low number of potential bat roosting features provided by gaps under the stone tiles on the western section. The eastern section has a slate-tiled roof with no gaps under tiles and there are no gaps or cracks in the stone walls.
- 1.1.3 Internally, the western section is open to the roof with no enclosed roof space. The eastern section contains a small roof space, approximately 1.5m in height, 2m width and 6m length. There is a traditional Bitumen-type liner, which is in good condition. No daylight enters the roof space to indicate potential access points. No evidence of bats was found within this building during the *Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment and Survey*.
- 1.1.4 This report details the results of the bat survey and should be read in conjunction with the *Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment and Survey* report produced by Seasons Ecology (April 2021).

2. Survey Method

- 2.1.1 The survey method is provided below and refers to survey guidelines in BCT (2016)².

2.2 Dusk Emergence Survey

- 2.2.1 One dusk emergence survey was carried out on 17th August 2021. The survey commenced 15 minutes before sunset and continued for an hour-and-a-half after sunset.
- 2.2.2 Two surveyors attended the survey. The surveyors were located to the north-west and south-east of the building so that all elevations and all suitable features identified were in view.
- 2.2.3 Each surveyor was equipped with an Echo Meter Touch bat detector supported by an Apple iPad Mini 4 interface, on which all bat activity was recorded.
- 2.2.4 Two passive acoustic recording devices (*Titley AnaBat Express*) were also deployed. These were positioned in the same locations as the surveyors and were set on 'continuous' recording mode for the duration of the survey. Recordings were later analysed using AnalookW 4.2.24. software to aid the identification of species with reference to Russ (2012³).

¹ Seasons Ecology (April 2021) *Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment and Survey*. Ampney Park. Report reference: SEB2429_01a. Seasons Ecology.

² Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists. Good Practice Guidelines*. Bat Conservation Trust. Collins. Third Edition.

³ Russ, J. (2012) *British Bat Calls. A Guide to Species Identification*. Pelagic Publishing.



2.3 Constraints to Survey

2.3.1 There were no constraints to the survey; all aspects of the building were in view; the weather conditions were suitable, and the survey was undertaken during the optimal survey period.

2.4 Personnel

2.4.1 The survey was led by Callum Pearson. Callum is an experienced bat surveyor and ecological consultant, and qualifying member of CIEEM.

2.4.2 The survey was overseen by Kate Hayward who has produced this report. Kate is a licensed bat ecologist registered to use Class Licence CL18 (Bat Survey Level 2) (class licence registration number 2015-15106-CLS-CLS) and full member of CIEEM.



3. Survey Results

3.1.1 The results of the bat survey are provided below. The locations of the surveyors and the key results are shown at Annex 1.

3.2 Dusk Emergence Survey

17th August 2021

3.2.1 The survey commenced at 20:12 and finished at 21:57. Sunset was at 20:27. Weather conditions were suitable, with a start temperature of 17°C and end temperature of 13°C, wind was at Beaufort 0⁴, with 90% cloud cover.

3.2.2 No bats were observed emerging from the Stable Cottage during the survey.

3.2.3 General bat activity was high and by at least six species; common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *P. pygmaeus*, noctule *Nyctalus noctula*/Leisler's *N. lesleri*, serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*, brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus* and *Myotis* species.

3.2.4 Common pipistrelle was the most frequently recorded species with 26 passes recorded/observed. Common pipistrelle bats were mostly seen commuting over the building from the west and foraging around nearby trees. The first pass was at 20:29 and the last pass was at 21:47 (2 minutes and 80 minutes after sunset).

3.2.5 Five soprano pipistrelle passes were recorded, all were heard but not seen between 20:46 and 21:42 (19 minutes and 75 minutes after sunset).

3.2.6 Noctule/Leisler's passes were recorded six times during the survey, all individuals were heard but not seen. The first pass was recorded at 20:48 and the last pass recorded at 21:48 (21 minutes and 81 minutes after sunset).

3.2.7 One serotine bat was recorded during the survey, at 21:40 (73 minutes after sunset) and was heard but not seen.

3.2.8 Brown long-eared passes were recorded six times during the survey. One individual was seen commuting from the south of the building towards the nearby tree canopy at 21:02 (35 minutes after sunset). The other five passes were unseen recordings, between 21:04 and 21:42 (37 minutes and 75 minutes after sunset).

3.2.9 Seven *Myotis* passes were recorded during the survey. Two individuals were seen commuting/socialising over the building and towards the tree canopy nearby. The other five recordings were unseen passes. Activity was recorded between 20:51 and 21:48 (24 minutes and 81 minutes after sunset).

⁴ The Beaufort scale of wind velocity: 0 = Calm, 1 = Light Air, 2 = Light Breeze, 3 = Gentle Breeze, 4 = Moderate Breeze, 5 = Fresh Breeze, 6 = Strong Breeze, 7 = Near Gale, 8 = Gale, 9 = Strong Gale, 10 = Storm, 11 = Violent Storm, = 12 Hurricane (<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk>).



3.3 Survey Summary

3.3.1 Table 1 below summarises the results of the survey.

Table 1: Survey Summary – Bat Emergence Survey, 17th August 2021

Survey	Summary
1	<p><u>17th August 2021</u></p> <p>No bats were observed emerging from the Stable Cottage during the survey.</p> <p>General bat activity was high and by at least six species; common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, noctule/Leisler's, serotine, brown long-eared and <i>Myotis</i> species.</p>

4. Interpretation and Evaluation

- 4.1.1 Referring to the results of the bat survey, no bats were recorded emerging from the Stable Cottage during the survey. The *Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment and Survey* in April 2021 found no evidence of bats roosting within the building and assessed the building as *Low* suitability owing to a low number of features evident on the building (gaps under stone tiles on the western section).
- 4.1.2 General bat activity was by at least six species; common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, noctule/Leisler's, serotine, brown long-eared and *Myotis* species. The first recordings for common and soprano pipistrelle, noctule/Leisler's, brown long-eared and *Myotis* species were close to their usual emergence times, indicating roost close by, but not within the Stable Cottage.
- 4.1.3 The Stone Cottage is surrounded by the buildings and grounds of Ampney Park and wider arable and improved fields divided by mature hedgerows with occasional trees and patches of woodland. The estate, supporting grassland, woodland and water bodies, offers high-quality foraging and commuting habitats for bats, and is well-connected to the surrounding high-quality habitats.

5. Legislation

- 5.1.1 Bat species in England and Wales are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:
- Deliberately capture, injure or kill bats;
 - Intentionally or recklessly disturb bats;
 - Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which bats use for shelter or protection; and,
 - Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place.



- 5.1.2 With the exception of disturbance, this legislation applies throughout the year whether bats are present or not at the time of works being carried out and irrespective of planning permission being obtained or being required.

6. Recommendations

6.1 Protection Measures

- 6.1.1 Based on the survey results, the Stable Cottage does not currently support roosting bats, and the works are not likely to injure or kill bats or damage or destroy a resting place or its access. However, due to the assessed *Low* suitability of the Stable Cottage to roosting bats and its proximity to high quality foraging and commuting habitats, should works be delayed for 12 months after the date of this survey, then an update bat survey is recommended.
- 6.1.2 A precautionary approach to works is recommended, as follows:
- Pre-works check of the internal spaces of the Stable Cottage undertaken by a suitably licenced ecologist.
 - For any re-roofing works, particularly the stone-tiled western section, this should be carried out under the supervision of the suitably licensed ecologist.
 - Should any evidence of bats be found during the works, then works should stop immediately and advice sought from the licenced ecologist.

6.2 Lighting

- 6.2.1 For any new external lighting required, lighting should be low-level and preferably operated by motion sensors with timers to minimise times of illumination. Lighting should avoid illuminating the surrounding vegetation, to maintain opportunities for foraging and commuting bats.

6.3 Biodiversity Enhancement

- 6.3.1 To offer roosting opportunities for bats which is currently limited on the building, it is recommended that one bat box (Vivara Pro Woodstone bat box, or similar) is installed on the west facing external wall of the converted building, which is adjacent to nearby trees and the least disturbed elevation of the building. The bat box should be positioned between 3m and 5m off the ground.



7. Annexes

Annex 1: Surveyor Locations and Survey Results (August 2021)

