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# Stables and Grooms Flat, Ampney Park

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Bat Survey

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August 2021

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Client: Simon Murray-Jones  
Architects Ltd  
Report Ref: SEB2429\_01b  
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## Non-Technical Summary

Site name and location	Stables and Grooms Flat, Ampney Park, London Road, Ampney Crucis, Cirencester, GL7 5RY (central grid reference: SP 06451 01968).
Scope of works	Bat survey undertaken on 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 ridge tiles. The bat survey is required to inform a planning proposal for conversion to guest accommodation. 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 Stables and Grooms Flat.</p> <p>The Stables and Grooms Flat 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 Stables and Grooms Flat 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 and Grooms Flat 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, two bat boxes attached to the west elevation of the building is recommended.</p>



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# 1. Introduction

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- 1.1.1 In June 2021, Seasons Ecology was instructed by Simon Morray-Jones Architects Ltd, on behalf of the client, to undertake a bat survey of the Stables and Grooms Flat at Ampney Park, London Road, Ampney Crucis, Cirencester, GL7 5RY (central grid reference: SP 06451 01968). The survey was recommended following a *Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment and Survey* of the building in April 2021 by Seasons Ecology<sup>1</sup>. The purpose of the survey is to determine any use of the Stables and Grooms Flat by bats, to inform a planning proposal for conversion to guest accommodation. The survey will inform the approach to works and licensing requirements.
- 1.1.2 The *Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment and Survey* assessed the Stables and Grooms Flat as *Low* suitability to roosting bats, owing to a low number of potential bat roosting features provided by gaps under the ridge tiles.
- 1.1.3 Internally, there are no enclosed roof spaces within the Stables or Grooms Flat. Several of the stable doors and windows were open at the time of the *Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment and Survey*, providing access internally, but the stable compartments are well-lit from the windows and doors. 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

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

### 2.2 Dusk Emergence Survey

- 2.2.1 One dusk emergence survey was carried out on 2<sup>nd</sup> 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-east and south-west of the building so that 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 (2012<sup>3</sup>).

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<sup>1</sup> Seasons Ecology (April 2021) *Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment and Survey*. Ampney Park. Report reference: SEB2429\_01b. Seasons Ecology.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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 suitable identified features 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

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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

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021

3.2.1 The survey commenced at 20:39 and finished at 22:24. Sunset was at 20:54. Weather conditions were suitable, with a start temperature of 15°C and end temperature of 13°C, wind was at Beaufort 0<sup>4</sup>, with 100% cloud cover.

#### 3.2.2 No bats were observed emerging from the Stables and Grooms Flat 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 *Nyctalus leisleri*, serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*, brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus* and *Myotis* species.

3.2.4 Common pipistrelle was the most frequently recorded species with 17 passes recorded/observed. Common pipistrelle bats were mostly seen commuting over the building from the courtyard and foraging around nearby trees. The first pass was at 21:06 and the last pass was at 22:08 (12 minutes and 74 minutes after sunset).

3.2.5 Three soprano pipistrelle passes were recorded, two were seen at 21:01 and 21:16 both commuting over the building from south-west to north-east (7 minutes and 20 minutes after sunset). The other individual was heard but not seen at 21:16.

3.2.6 Noctule/Leisler's passes were recorded 11 times over the survey. Only one individual was seen foraging around nearby trees and high overhead at 21:10 (16 minutes after sunset). The other passes were heard but not seen, the first one was recorded at 21:03 and the last one recorded at 22:16 (9 minutes and 73 minutes after sunset).

3.2.7 One serotine bat was recorded during the survey, this individual was recorded at 21:46 (52 minutes after sunset) and was heard but not seen.

3.2.8 Brown long-eared bat was recorded six times during the survey. The first individual was recorded at 21:37 (43 minutes after sunset) and the last individual was recorded at 22:00 (66 minutes after sunset). Only two individuals were seen, one foraging around the nearby trees and the other commuting over the building.

3.2.9 Nine *Myotis* passes were recorded during the survey. Bats were mostly seen commuting over the building, two of these individuals were observed socialising. The *Myotis* passes were recorded between 21:21 and 21:58 (27 minutes and 54 minutes after sunset).

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<sup>4</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021

Survey	Summary
1	<p><u>2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021</u></p> <p><b>No bats were observed emerging from the Stables and Grooms Flat during the survey.</b></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 Stables and Grooms Flat 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 ridge tiles).
- 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 Stables and Grooms Flat.
- 4.1.3 The Stables and Grooms Flat 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

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### 6.1 Protection Measures

6.1.1 Based on the survey results, the Stables and Grooms Flat 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 Stables and Grooms Flat 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 Stables and Grooms Flat undertaken by a suitably licenced ecologist.
- For any re-roofing works, particularly works affecting the ridge tiles, 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 additional external lighting required, lighting should be low-level and preferably operated by motion sensor 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 two bat boxes (Vivara Pro Woodstone bat boxes, or similar) are 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 boxes should be positioned between 3m and 5m off the ground.





## 7. Annexes

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

