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# Stone Barn, Ampney Park

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## Update Bat Survey

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May 2023

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Architects  
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# 1. Introduction

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- 1.1.1 In March 2023, Seasons Ecology was instructed by Simon Morray-Jones Architects, on behalf of Ampney Park Ltd, to undertake an Update Bat Survey of the Stone Barn, Ampney Park, London Road, Ampney Crucis, Cirencester, GL7 5RY (central grid reference: SP 06477 01916). The update survey is required to inform a European Protected Species Licence application for the renovation of the barn following Listed Building consent to carry out the works.
- 1.1.2 Bat surveys were undertaken in 2021 by Seasons Ecology, which recorded a common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* maternity roost located in the northern-most dormer window on the west elevation of the Stone Barn. A total of 66 bats were recorded using the roost. A soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* day roost was also recorded in the same location.

## 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>1</sup>.

### 2.2 Dusk Emergence Survey

- 2.2.1 One dusk emergence survey of the Stone Barn was carried out on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023. 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. One surveyor was located to the west of the barn and one surveyor was located to the north-east of the barn. One infrared camera (*Sony FDR-AX53*) was positioned to focus on the northern-most dormer window on the west elevation, the known access point for the roosts. This was set to record for the duration of the survey.
- 2.2.3 The surveyors were equipped with an Echo Meter Touch Pro 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 (*Titely 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>2</sup>).

### 2.3 Constraints to Survey

- 2.3.1 There were no constraints to the survey; all identified features on the barn were in full view, the weather conditions were suitable, and the survey was undertaken during the recommended survey period.

### 2.4 Personnel

- 2.4.1 The survey was overseen by Principal Ecologist, Kate Hayward, who has produced this report. Kate is a licensed bat ecologist registered to use Class Licence CL18 (Bat Survey Level 2) (class

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<sup>1</sup> Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists. Good Practice Guidelines*. Bat Conservation Trust. Third Edition. Collins.

<sup>2</sup> Russ, J. (2012) *British Bat Calls. A Guide to Species Identification*. Pelagic Publishing.



licence registration number 2015-15106-CLS-CLS) and is a full member of the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

- 2.4.2 The survey was led by Emma Shaw, Consultant Ecologist and Qualifying Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Emma has over two years' experience in undertaking surveys for bats.
- 2.4.3 The survey was assisted by Hayley Evenett, Assistant Ecologist.

## 3. Survey Results

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

### 3.2 Dusk Emergence Survey

16<sup>th</sup> May 2023

- 3.2.1 The survey commenced at 20:40 and finished at 22:25. Sunset was at 20:55. Weather conditions were suitable, with a start temperature of 13°C and end temperature of 11°C, wind was at Beaufort 1<sup>3</sup> (calm), with no cloud cover and no rain.
- 3.2.2 **A total of 72 common pipistrelle bats were counted emerging from a gap in the mortar on the northern-most dormer window on the west elevation of the Stone Barn between 21:10 (15 minutes after sunset) and 21:25 (30 minutes after sunset).**
- 3.2.3 **No other bats were observed emerging from the Stone Barn.**
- 3.2.4 General bat activity was by at least three species: common pipistrelle, serotine *Eptesicus serotinus* and Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*.
- 3.2.5 Common pipistrelle was most frequently recorded, mainly emerging from the northern-most dormer window of the Stone Barn, and then commuting northwards to nearby mature trees bordering the rear driveway to the estate.
- 3.2.6 Serotine was recorded four times during the survey foraging around trees to the north of the Stone Barn.
- 3.2.7 One Daubenton's bat was observed foraging in the courtyard to the west of the Stone Barn during the survey.

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<sup>3</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, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Survey	Summary
1	<u>16<sup>th</sup> May 2023</u> <b>72 common pipistrelle bats emerged from a gap in the mortar on the northern-most dormer window on the west elevation of the Stone Barn.</b> General bat activity was by at least three species: common pipistrelle, serotine and Daubenton’s bat.

## 4. Interpretation and Evaluation

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- 4.1.1 The Stone Barn continues to support a common pipistrelle maternity roost, which is located within the northern-most dormer on the west elevation of the Stone Barn with access provided via a gap in the mortar. Numbers forming the maternity colony have increased from 66 individuals recorded in 2021 to 72 individuals recorded during this update bat survey. Soprano pipistrelle was not recorded, but the 2021 surveys recorded one individual roosting in the same location as the common pipistrelle maternity roost.
- 4.1.2 Referring to the Bat Mitigation Guidelines (2004), a maternity roost for common pipistrelle has medium conservation significance, being a maternity roost of a common species.

## 5. Legislation

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- 5.1.1 Bat species in England and Wales are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (as amended) (EU Exit) 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. Bat Method Statement and Mitigation Strategy

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- 6.1.1 The Stone Barn has Listed Building consent for renovation works. A Bat Method Statement and Mitigation Strategy was written in March 2023 to inform the Listed Building application (subsequently approved) providing the method statement and mitigation strategy prior to and during works to the Stone Barn (report reference SEB2429\_02c (i)).



## 7. Annexes

### Annex 1: Survey Results (May 2023)

