

**Ecological Survey for
The Piggeries, Dusthouse Lane, Finstall,
Bromsgrove
B60 3AE
SO 98390 69443**



Survey completed by:

Chelmarsh RG

Dave Fulton

Background Data

Surveyor

Dave Fulton

Active Bird Ringer and Full Trainer for British Trust for Ornithology (permit A2889).
Voluntary warden of Chelmarsh Reservoir Wildlife Reserve, Shropshire, for Shropshire
Ornithological Society & South Staffs. Water PLC.

Member of Shropshire and Worcestershire Bat Groups.

Voluntary Bat Warden & Roost Visitor for Bat Conservation Trust/Natural England.

Bat Carer since 2010 (Bat rescues and home care until fit to release).

Bat Survey Class Licences 2015-15608-CLS-CLS / 2015-10726-CLS-CLS

Tel: 01746 861580 Mob: 07774734533
Email: davebirder1@aol.com

Survey Objectives

Planning permission is being applied for to convert an existing agricultural building to living accommodation. An ecological survey has been requested to ensure that no European Protected Species (EPS) are likely to be disturbed by this work.

The survey undertaken is a comprehensive search of the existing premises, inside and out, and also includes the immediate surrounding grounds.

Survey on premises and grounds.

5th. April 2023

Preliminary Desktop survey

From The National Biodiversity Network information, the following species have been recorded within a 5km radius of the property:

Bats: Barbastelle, Daubenton, Natterers, Noctule, Common & Soprano Pipistrelle, and Brown Long Eared.

Reptiles: Slow-worm (1), Grass Snake (9), Common Lizard (3). One Grass Snake in close proximity.

Badger: Many records (181). 3 records at 0.5km.

G.C.Newt: Just 4 records, all in excess of 4km.

Hedgehog: Many records (225) widespread, some within 1km.

Surrounding Area

The building lies to the east of Bromsgrove, on the south side of Dusthouse Lane in an area of predominantly pasture and arable fields. A small stream flows past close to the north side of the buildings but is separated from the Piggeries by another large agricultural building.

A large reservoir (Tardebigge) lies 1km. to the south, and, some small patches of mature woodland are spread through the area.



X marks building for conversion.

Building Search (bats and birds)

External.

The building was of a mostly tin construction with a corrugated fibre cement roof. Entry for bats or birds possible via open frontage. Most internal beams were concrete, although some wood. The construction offers little in the way of cosy roosting spaces for bats.

No birds nests were found on the outsides of the building although one section was sparsely covered with Ivy which if left to grow could provide nesting area for birds.



North west corner



Front aspect (south facing)



East side



south east corner

Internal.

A thorough internal search was made for signs of bat or bird use. No bats or bat droppings were found following a close search of the entire area. The construction has little in the way of dark roosting spots, it is not likely to be used by bats.

No evidence of nesting birds was found although there was a patch of dead ivy inside the front area.



Dead ivy inside

Surrounding Grounds

A search of the surrounding area was made, looking for places which could be used as a hibernaculum for reptiles, hedgehog, etc. No likely place was found. The area was also searched for signs of badger activity, nothing was present. The stream on the north side was viewed although this is separated from the building due for conversion by fencing and another existing barn structure which will remain. Nothing was found in this area.



Grass pasture fields to the south.



Barn on north side which will remain



Small stream on north side.

Recommendations/Mitigation.

This development is unlikely to affect any wildlife species, fauna or flora. However, there are some precautions which should be adhered to, to ensure this.

1. Bats do move roost sites often. It is very unlikely in this case, but should any bats be discovered during works, that work should be halted and advice sought from The Bat Conservation Trust, or Natural England, on how to proceed.
2. If any trenches are dug for new foundations, and left open overnight during the spring and summer months, an escape route should be provided for any creatures that may become trapped overnight. Hedgehog etc. This can be as simple as leaving an old scaffolding plank against the side to act as an escape ramp. Open trenches should always be checked each morning before work continues, and any creatures still trapped released to a place of safety.
3. Should any active bird nests be found, construction must be halted until young birds have fledged.
4. It is always good policy to try to increase the general biodiversity of a site to attract future wildlife. It is recommended that one bat box be erected in the area, preferably

on a mature tree near the stream area. One or two bird nesting boxes could also be erected.

Legislation - Bats

As population numbers have fallen, all bats and their roosts are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Conservation [Natural Habitats & c.] Regulations 1994 (as amended). You must not:

- deliberately capture (or take), injure or kill a bat
- intentionally or recklessly disturb a group of bats, where the disturbance is likely to either (a) impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or to hibernate or migrate, or (b) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species, in either case whether in a roost or not;
- damage or destroy the breeding or resting place (roost) of a bat;
- possess a bat (alive or dead), or any part of a bat
- intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost
- sell (or offer for sale) or exchange bats (alive or dead), or parts of bats.

Legislation - Birds

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is an offence to damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.

Signed as a true and accurate record

Dave Fulton

Report dated

7th. April 2023