

Mr Brian Evans
 Edith Cottage
 Victoria Road
 Dodford
 Worcestershire
 B61 9BZ

Dear Mr Evans,

Preliminary Roost Assessment – The Stables, Croppings Green Wood, Warbage Lane, Belbroughton, Worcestershire, DY9 0AN

I am writing to provide you with a short written report of my survey findings at the above site on 4 April 2019. The site is centered on Ordnance Survey grid reference SO 929 738. I am a licensed bat surveyor (Natural England license: 2016-25531-CLS-CLS). I used the following equipment during the survey: telescopic ladder, high-powered torch with red filter, flexible endoscope, binoculars and collecting pots for droppings. Access to the entire site was made available and no significant survey limitations were encountered. Weather conditions on the date of the survey were cool with heavy showers.

I understand the development proposals are to construct a new residential unit, in the place of the Stable Block at this site.

Results:

Area / Feature	Observations
Stable Block	<p><u>External Description:</u></p> <p>The Stable Block is a brick and breeze-block constructed building, with a pitched-roof overlain with cement tiles and corrugated metal sheeting. A sheltered canopy is present to the north-west. The Stable Block appears to be tightly sealed. A number of small gaps were identified beneath the wooden fascia-boards on the north-east, south-east and south-west elevations.</p>



Plate 1: Showing a typical view of the Stable Block. Photograph looking north-east.



Plate 2: Showing a typical view of the Stable Block. Photograph looking south.

Internal Description:

No roof-voids are present within the Stable Block. The block is divided into a number of separate compartments. The roof structure to the north is sealed with plasterboard and insulation present. A water leak was noted, but no obvious access points into the block were observed. Towards the south, the Stable Block is open to pitch, with exposed sheet-metal and wooden support beams. Several large mammal droppings were noted. However, no obvious signs of bat roosting activity (e.g. bat droppings) was observed.



Plate 3: Showing a typical internal view of the sealed Stable Block to the north.



Plate 4: Showing a typical internal view of the Stable Block to the south.

The Stable Block at Croppings Green Wood was considered to have negligible potential for roosting bats (with reference to Collins, 2016).

Foraging / Commuting Habitat Potential			
High quality semi-natural habitats	Within immediate vicinity (<250m)	Within wider landscape (<2km)	Comments
Broadleaved/mixed woodland Waterbodies Tree lines/stands Mature hedgerows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chaddesley Woods National Nature Reserve is located 200m to the south-west of the site. A number of waterbodies are located within 100m. The site is located within a largely rural setting with good connectivity to high-quality foraging habitat within the surrounding landscape.
General Landscape Character	Rural		
Negative Characters		Positive Characters	

Highly urbanised environment <input type="checkbox"/>	Rural environment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Night lighting (significant) <input type="checkbox"/>	Absence of night lighting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Isolated from high-value habitat <input type="checkbox"/>	Good connectivity to high-value habitat <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Modern building construction <input type="checkbox"/>	Building construction suitable for bats <input type="checkbox"/>
Human disturbance (significant) <input type="checkbox"/>	Absence/Minimal human disturbance <input type="checkbox"/>
High exposure (altitude, prevailing winds <i>etc.</i>) <input type="checkbox"/>	Low exposure (altitude, prevailing winds <i>etc.</i>) <input type="checkbox"/>
Nearby buildings modern or isolated <input type="checkbox"/>	Cluster of suitable old buildings <input type="checkbox"/>
Other <input type="checkbox"/> specify	Other <input type="checkbox"/> specify
Conclusion: (Collins 2016)	High - Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to wider landscape, that is likely to be used regularly by commuting/foraging bats.

Conclusion:

Conclusion – Building Suitability for Bats (see Collins 2016)	
Stable Block at Croppings Green Wood	Negligible - structure is unsuitable for bats.

After a detailed internal and external inspection of the Stable Block at Croppings Green Wood, there is no evidence to suggest that the structure is used by roosting bats. No signs of bat roosting activity (e.g. bat droppings, feeding remains, urine stains *etc.*) was observed during the survey, and the structure is largely tightly-sealed. Opportunities for roosting bats within the structure are limited to gaps beneath the wooden fascia boarding, which could be considered suitable for crevice dwelling bat species, such as the common and soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus* sp.). However, these gaps were densely cobwebbed, and no evidence associated with roosting bats (e.g. bat droppings) was observed around these features.

Taken collectively, the Stable Block at Croppings Green Wood is considered to have negligible potential for roosting bats (with reference to Collins, 2016). No further specialist survey work will be required, as the potential for bats to be present and impacted upon by the proposed development is considered to be **negligible**.

Recommendations:

The following recommendations are made to ensure compliance with wildlife legislation, government guidance and best practice.

1. No further presence / absence surveys are required to support the planning application for this site as the potential for bats to occur and significant impacts to arise during works is considered to be **negligible**.

2. As a precautionary approach, it is recommended that a licensed bat worker remains 'on call' during the development works. In the event that roosting bats are discovered, works must cease immediately and Natural England must be contacted to advise on any licensing requirements to allow lawful completion of the work.

3. In line with Government policy on biodiversity, a single bat box should be installed within the landownership of the client. The box should be integrated within an existing built structure (e.g. Ibstock enclosed bat box, Habibat bat box, Schwegler Wall-mounted Bat Shelter 2FE, Habi-Sabi Bat Box or Schwegler 2FR Bat Tube) or installed on a suitable mature tree (e.g. Schwegler 2F Bat Box). The box should be installed at least 4m above ground-level, and not placed above windows.

4. This report is deemed valid for 12 months. Should any development commence after this time has elapsed an update survey will be required to determine the status of the site during the intervening period.

I trust the above information is clear and satisfactory to requirements. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information or clarification.

Kind regards

Jessica Stuart-Smith
Ecologist

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QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

Focus Ecology has the expertise to provide sure-fire environmental solutions to a wide range of projects. The company ethos forges the highest standards of professional scientific practice with a best value approach for our clients. Our core area of expertise is in the production of specialist ecological and arboricultural reports and advice to support planning applications. We are also building an enviable reputation for innovative habitat creation and management solutions. Our flexible approach, range of skills and broad project experience from major infrastructure contracts to smaller projects allows us to adapt to your individual requirements. Focus Ecology is situated in Worcestershire, providing a convenient and central UK location.

Jessica Stuart-Smith BSc (Hons) GradCIEEM AMRSB

Jessica is an Ecologist who joined Focus Ecology in 2015. She holds a BSc (Hons) degree in Zoology from the University of Roehampton. Her ecological experience includes Preliminary Ecological Appraisals, breeding bird surveys and surveying for European Protected Species including great crested newts, bats and hazel dormice. Jessica is also a competent surveyor of badgers, reptiles and barn owls. Jessica holds Natural England survey licences for bats (Class 2), great crested newts and white-clawed crayfish as well as Natural Resources Wales survey licences for bats and great crested newts. Jessica has been the 'Named Ecologist' on Natural England (development) licences for bats and has experience of developing suitable mitigation strategies and overseeing licensable works. Jessica is a Graduate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and Associate member of the Royal Society of Biology.