

**UPDATE BAT SURVEYS REPORT**  
**OF**  
**CHURCH FARM BARN, FARM LANE, EASTER COMPTON**



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The material and data in this report were prepared under the supervision and direction of the undersigned.

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## VALIDITY

Due to the dynamic nature of ecological conditions the results of the survey(s) and related conclusions and recommendations as contained within this report should only be considered valid for up to 12 months from the date the last survey was undertaken.

Any alterations to the site proposals may invalidate the recommendations contained within this report.

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## Non-Technical Summary

Abricon Ltd. was commissioned by Robins Homes Limited to undertake update preliminary roost assessment in respect of bats and nesting birds at Barn's 1 and 2, Church Farm, Farm Lane, Easter Compton, BS35 5RZ, which was then followed by 2 bat emergence surveys and a remote monitoring (static detector) survey.

It is understood that the proposed works are for the removal of the existing concrete roof tiles and installation of replacement clay tiles on the Barn 2 (all existing felt will be retained in situ, only tiles replaced). Works affecting Barn 1 (conversion to annexe) were carried out under auspices of BMCL obtained in 2023 following the update bat surveys as detailed in this report (planning permission P20/05825/F, P20//05826/LB).

The bat emergence surveys identified that currently there is a confirmed day roost for low numbers of brown long eared bats present in Barn 2. The remote monitoring survey and the confirmation of droppings revealed that Barn 1 is a day and night roost for low numbers of brown long eared bats.

Works to Barn 1 were registered under BMCL in October 2023 (works to be completed by end of March 2024).

As roosting bats have been confirmed within Barn 2 but the works will result in retention of bat roosts/features, either a sensitive timing of works or a Bat Mitigation Licence (BML) will be required from Natural England to allow works that would otherwise be illegal.

The results of the Preliminary Roost Assessment and the emergence surveys have highlighted the requirement for further actions, which are summarised in the table below:

Species/Groups	Phase	Action(s) Required
Bats	After planning permission has been granted, but prior to works starting on-site	Sensitive timing of works or Bat Mitigation Licence (BML) will be required from Natural England, in order to allow works affecting Barn 2 which would otherwise be illegal.
Birds	During Construction	Timing of roof strip works are recommended to take place outside of the nesting bird season (March – August inclusive). If this is not possible, then further works are considered necessary, as outlined in 5.3.

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Survey Aims & Objectives

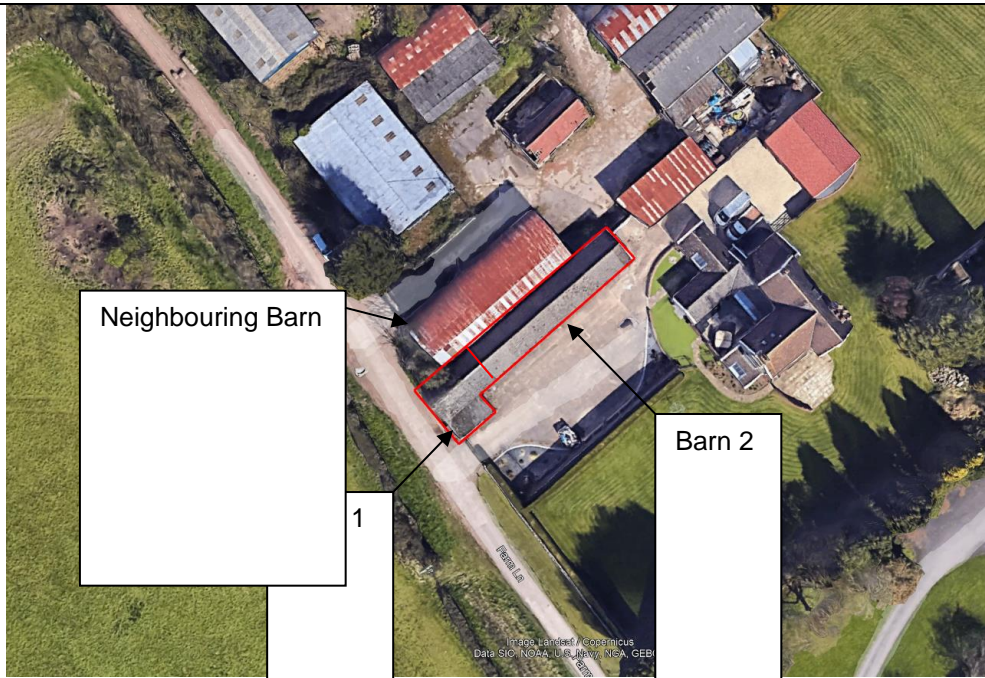
- 1.1.1 Abricon Ltd. was commissioned by Robins Homes Ltd. to undertake update ecological surveys in respect of bats and nesting birds of Barn's 1 and 2 at Church Farm, Farm Lane, Easter Compton, BS35 5RZ.
- 1.1.2 These surveys comprised;
- a building inspection and
  - following the results of this inspection 3 further emergence surveys and
  - a remote monitoring (static detector) survey.
- 1.1.3 The aim of the further surveys was to identify whether bats are still using the buildings, for what purpose, and in what numbers. This allows for an accurate assessment of the likely impacts of the proposed development on bats and/or nesting birds and to make recommendations for any further actions which may be required, including mitigation and/or licensing as appropriate.

### 1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 The barn structure (both Barn 1 and Barn 2) was subject to bat surveys in 2020 to inform planning application P20/05825/F and P20//05826/LB for conversion of Barn 1 into annexe. No works were planned for Barn 2 then.
- 1.2.2 Update bat surveys were commissioned in 2023 to inform BMCL for Barn 1 conversion as the 2020 survey were deemed out of date. BMCL was granted and the conversion works of Barn 1 commenced in October 2023 (planned to be completed by end of March 2024).
- 1.2.3 Re-roofing works for Barn 2 are now proposed.

### 1.3 Site Location & Description

- 1.3.1 The site is located 10 kilometres northeast of Bristol City Centre. The house is located on Church Farm off Farm Lane, to the southwest of Easter Compton village at National Grid Reference: ST 57011 82221.
- 1.3.2 Barns 1 and 2 are northerly bordered by the buildings of Church Farm and the neighbouring farm, areas of hardstanding and amenity grassland, scattered trees and hedgerows. To the south can be found grazing pasture and Farm Lane, which acts as access to the site.
- 1.3.3 All Saints Compton Greenfield church and its associated graveyard is present immediately to the east of the house. Within the wider landscape, Church Farm is surrounded by agricultural fields in all directions.



**Figure 1 – Building** (highlighted in red) – accessed on 03/08/2023

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## 1.4 Proposed Development

- 1.4.1 It is understood that the proposed works are for the removal of the existing concrete roof tiles and installation of replacement clay tiles on the Barn 2 (all existing felt will be retained in situ, only tiles replaced).

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 Building Inspections

2.1.1 Barns 1 and 2 on the site were inspected internally and externally on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 by Jana Prapotnikova (NE Class 2 licence holder) and Max Alwyn in order to identify any evidence of use by bats and nesting birds.

2.1.2 To assist in a thorough search for bats the following equipment was used:

- Binoculars
- Million candle power spotlight (Clulight CB2)
- Head torch
- Digital camera

#### Bats

2.1.3 Signs of bats searched for include:

- Bats (alive or dead)
- Droppings
- Staining
- Feeding signs
- Smell
- Social calling

2.1.4 The buildings were also inspected for its suitability to be used by roosting bats, with any potential features which could be used by roosting bats being recorded.

#### Birds

2.1.5 Signs of nesting birds searched for include:

- Birds (alive or dead)
- Nests (current or disused)
- Droppings
- Feeding signs
- Eggs

### 2.2 Bats – Emergence Surveys

2.2.1 Emergence surveys can aid a building inspection by positive confirmation of access and egress points into and out of a structure. This method also allows recordings of bat echolocation calls for species identification to help determine the use and importance of a roost. Emergence surveys may also identify new roost areas where no evidence of bats was found during the inspection.

2.2.2 A total of two dusk bat emergence surveys were undertaken by surveyors observing/recording bats and their activity in the field using non-invasive and non-disturbing techniques. Emergence surveys were based on the Bat Conservation Trust's (BCT) survey guidelines 'Bat Survey for Professional Ecologists - Good Practice Guidelines' (Collins, 2016). The emergence surveys took place prior to the release of the updated Good Practise Guidelines 4.0 and therefore the latest guidance on emergence surveys could not be followed.

2.2.3 A total of three surveyors were present during the first emergence survey of the building, two surveyors plus an infra-red camera were present during the second emergence survey. During both surveys, the surveyors were situated at key locations to ensure that all aspects of the building to be impacted by the proposed works were observed at all times, particularly those areas that had the highest potential to be used by bats and/or where evidence of bat use was found – see Figure 2 below.

- 2.2.4 Night Vision Aids (NVAs) Infra-red cameras can be used as a complementary method to increase precision during emergence surveys, particularly where there is potential for late-emerging species and/or in dark conditions (Collins, 2016).
- 2.2.5 Any bats observed were recorded. Information included;
- Time;
  - If the bat(s) were observed emerging from or re-entering the buildings.
  - Access and/or egress points;
  - Direction of flight;
  - Use of landscape;
  - Flight characteristics;
  - Size;
  - Height above ground and;
  - Behaviour.
- 2.2.6 The bat detectors used were Anabat Walkabout, Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro (Wildlife Acoustics) with iPad/Samsung Galaxy Tablet, Anabat Express paired with Elekon Batscanner. All three types of detectors automatically record time-stamped data suitable for later analysis. Analysis of calls was undertaken using AnalookW and Anabat Insight software along with Kaleidoscope.
- 2.2.7 The IR Camera used was Nightfox Whisker optical zoom HD night vision binoculars. Placed on a tripod with additional infra-red floodlight.
- 2.2.8 The surveys were undertaken during suitable weather conditions.

**Table 1 – Weather Conditions for Emergence Surveys**

Structure	Date	Sunset/Sunrise	Survey Time		Weather
			Start	Finish	
Church Farm Barn	17/07/23 Dusk	21:20	Start	21:05	17°C, Dry, Cloud 60%, Wind 2
			Finish	22:50	15°C, Dry, Cloud 40%, Wind 2
	03/08/23 Dusk	20:56	Start	20:41	17°C, Dry, Cloud 80%, Wind 2
			Finish	22:56	17°C, Dry, Cloud 80%, Wind 2

## 2.3 Remote Monitoring

- 2.3.1 A single static detector was deployed to complement the above emergence surveys. Remote monitoring can aid emergence surveys by recording bat echolocation calls throughout the night. This helps to determine the use and importance of a roost as remote monitoring will record calls at time periods that would not be included within an emergence survey.
- 2.3.2 An Anabat Express detector was deployed on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 for 7 consecutive nights. The detector is programmed to begin recording 30 minutes before sunset, and to continue recording until 30 minutes after sunrise. The Anabat Express detectors use omni-directional microphones, with their recordings analysed using Analook software.
- 2.3.3 One static detector location was selected: within the darkest part of Barn 1 (where most bat droppings were found). See Figure 2 for a plan of droppings.



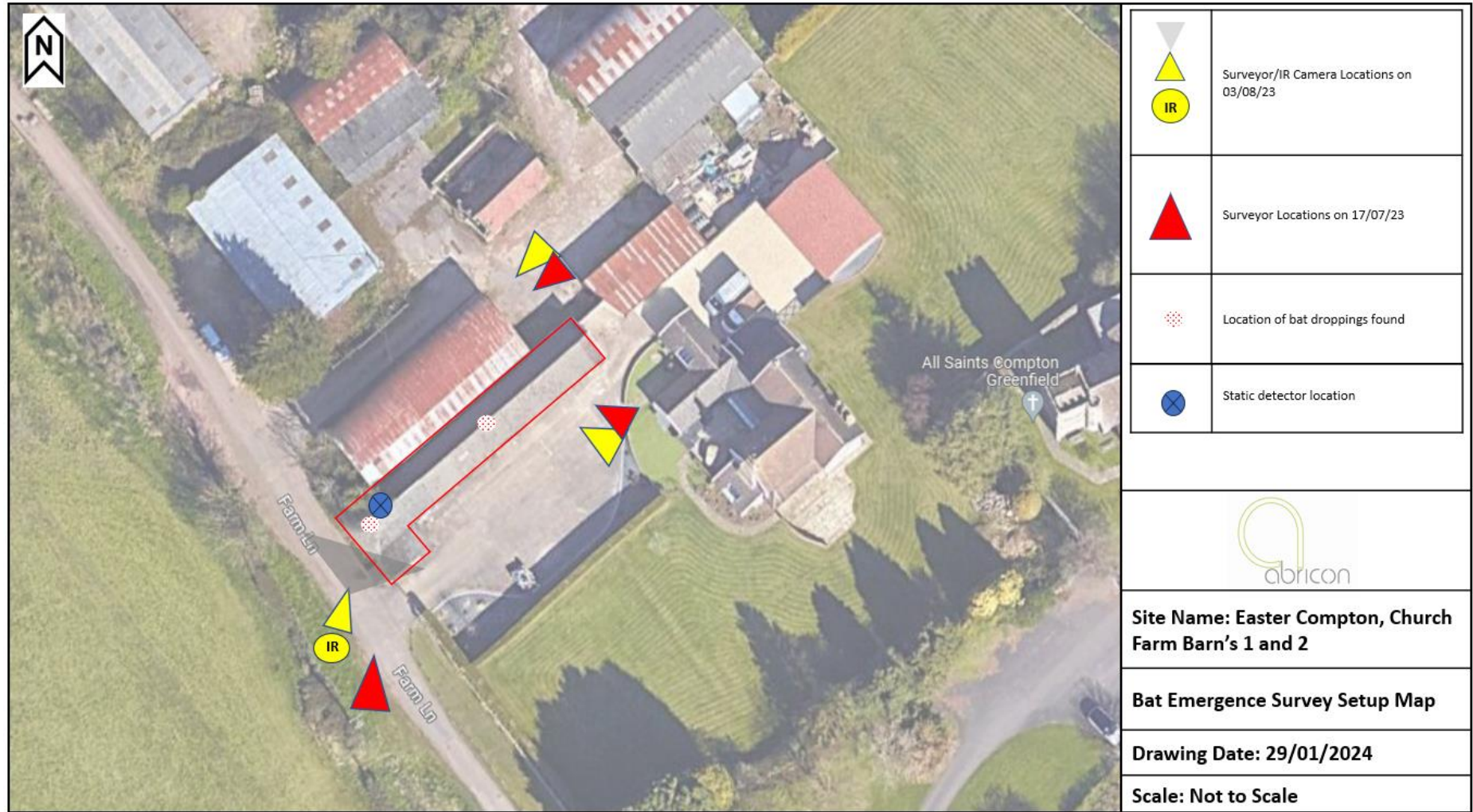


Figure 2 - Bat Emergence Survey Plan

## 2.4 Personnel

- 2.4.1 Jana Prapotnikova BSc has worked in consultancy sector since 2006 with a focus on mammalian ecology, particularly bats and badgers. Jana runs Abricon's Ecology Department as well as being involved in project delivery. She has managed various ecological projects and has expertise in a range of ecological survey techniques including Phase 1 habitat assessments and a variety of protected species surveys (e.g. the aforementioned mammal species as well as reptiles and great crested newts). Jana also devises ecological mitigation schemes for a variety of protected species. She is well versed in producing preliminary ecological appraisals, BREEAM/CSH Ecology Assessments, protected species licences, Ecological Impact Assessments (EclA), Construction Environmental Management plans, Biodiversity Enhancement Schemes and Ecological Design Strategies. Jana holds Natural England and Natural Resources Wales Class 2 licence for bats as well as Natural England Class and Natural Resources Wales Class 1 licence for great crested newts. She is also a Registered Consultant of the Bat Low Impact Class Licence (BLIC) and holds a CSCS card. Jana is a full member of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM).
- 2.4.2 Benjamin Sear BSc (Hons) has been working in environmental consultancy since 2020. He holds a BSc in a related field with honours. His primary experience comprises 'extended' Phase 1 habitat surveys for Preliminary Ecological Appraisals, Preliminary Roost inspections, report writing including EclA, BNG and CEMPs, protected species surveys and habitat mapping for Biodiversity Net Gain calculations. He is a qualifying member of CIEEM and has been trained in Arboriculture for detailed tree surveys with associated report writing and figure creation.
- 2.4.3 Max Alwyn BSc (*Hons*) began working in consultancy in 2022 as a seasonal field surveyor for Abricon primarily assisting with bat surveys and analysis of bat sound files.
- 2.4.4 Yasmine Garland BSc, MSc, has been working in environmental consultancy since 2021. She holds a BSc and MSc in related subjects. Her primary experience comprises Preliminary Ecological Appraisals, Preliminary Roost inspections, report writing, protected species surveys and analysis of data collection.
- 2.4.5 Lainey Wilkinson BSc, MSc, has been working in environmental consultancy since 2020. She holds a BSc and MSc in related subjects. Her primary experience comprises Preliminary Roost Assessments and subsequent report writing, completion of bat emergence/re-entry and activity surveys and analysis of bat sound files.
- 2.4.6 Helen Saunders BSc (Hons), PGDip, MCIEEM has worked in ecological consultancy since 2012 and is an experienced project manager and environmental survey coordinator, including for major infrastructure projects. She is a full member of CIEEM and skilled in undertaking various ecological surveys including Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, protected species surveys and habitat condition assessment for Biodiversity Net Gain. Helen has also provided advice on wildlife legislation and planning policy including commenting on ecological matters regarding planning applications on behalf of local planning authorities.
- 2.4.7 Sunshine Nash, and Angel Plumb work as Field Surveyors for Abricon Ltd., primarily as assistants on bat emergence/re-entry and activity surveys.

## 2.5 Limitations

### General Ecological Constraints

- 2.5.1 This survey only offers a "snapshot" of the site conditions and takes no account of seasonal differences, or of any species which may take up residence subsequently.

### Site Specific Constraints

- 2.5.2 As with all lined roofs, it wasn't possible to inspect the space between the tiles and underlay.

## 3 Results

### 3.1 Building Inspection

#### Barn 1 Description

- 3.1.1 Barn 1 is a single-storey, stone-built barn that has a pitched roof comprising of predominantly corrugated asbestos sheets. Corrugated plastic sheets are also present but are covered in ivy (*Hedera helix*) and vegetation debris, which therefore restricts the amount of light that enters the barn.
- 3.1.2 Sliding metal double doors are present on the eastern end of the southeastern elevation. On the western end of the southeastern elevation, a single-storey, block and brick-built extension is present, which has a mono-pitched roof consisting of corrugated asbestos sheeting. This roof overhangs approximately 1.5m from the northeastern elevation of the extension and is supported with steel beams. A sliding metal door is present on the eastern end of the southeastern elevation of the extension.
- 3.1.3 Ivy grows up the southwestern elevation of the barn and covers the western side of both pitches of the roof.
- 3.1.4 No barge or fascia boarding is present on any elevation of the barn. Barn 1 is connected to Barn 2 via its northeastern elevation.
- 3.1.5 Internally, the barn and its extension are openly connected to one another. A roof void is present, which is also openly accessible as half of the ground floor does not have a ceiling. There is no internal lining and the void measures approximately 1.5m from floor to ridgeline.
- 3.1.6 During the time of the building inspection Barn 1 was being utilised for storage purposes.

#### Barn 2 Description

- 3.1.7 Barn 2 is a single-storey, brick and stone built barn that measures approximately 25m x 5m. It has a pitched roof consisting of concrete interlocking tiles, which fit tightly to one another and do not display any lifting. Barn 2 is connected to Barn 1 via its southwestern elevation.
- 3.1.8 Three large wooden garage doors are present on the southwestern elevation. To the right of these doors is a large open entrance, which provides open access to the barn's roof void via an access hole in the ceiling of the ground floor. Wooden barge boarding is present on the northeastern elevation of the barn. Two rows of semi-translucent tiles that encompass a length of approximately 1m are present on the southeastern pitch.
- 3.1.9 Approximately two thirds of the barn is currently used as garage space. The remaining third of the barn on its western side has been converted into office space. This internal office space measures approximately 8m x 5m and was not internally accessed during the survey.
- 3.1.10 A roof void is present, which covers the entirety of Barn 2's footprint. The majority of the void measures approximately 2m from floor to ridgeline, with the exception of the void space above the final 4m of the office (near the gable end), which measures approximately 1.5m. Approximately 50% of the void is internally lined with breathable roof membrane (BRM), the rest is unlined. During the time of the building inspection, the roof void was being utilised for storage purposes.

#### Bats

##### Barn 1

- 3.1.11 The internal building inspection identified approximately 30 bat droppings scattered throughout the accessible areas of the barn near the western gable. While some of the droppings were old, some appeared fresh with the size and texture of the droppings were indicative of a long-eared (*Plecotus sp.*) bat species. Droppings from this section were sent off for DNA analysis back in 2020, which confirmed these were derived from brown long-eared bats *Plecotus auritus*.
- 3.1.12 Features were present on the exterior and interior of the building that were considered to be suitable for use by bats for roosting. These included:

- Interior space
- Gaps between stonework

3.1.13 Access points to these features included:

- Missing block work and mortar on the northeastern elevation of the extension at the top of the wall plate
- Gaps left in the stonework from missing mortar.

### Barn 2

3.1.14 During the building inspection, approximately 5 droppings were scattered throughout Barn 2's roof void. The size, texture and shape of these droppings were indicative of a long-eared (*Plecotus sp.*) bat species.

3.1.15 Potential bat feeding remains were also identified in the form of a butterfly wing.

3.1.16 Features were present on the exterior and interior of the building that were considered to be suitable for use by bats for roosting. These included:

- Roof void
- Space beneath barge boarding

3.1.17 Access points to these features included:

- Large open entrance to the barn and open access hole in the ground floor ceiling
- Gaps beneath the barge boarding

### **Birds**

3.1.18 Barns 1 and 2 provide potential habitat for nesting birds due to its open character. The ivy and a semi-mature ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) tree that is present beside the western corner of Barn 1 also provide suitable habitat for nesting birds. There was however no evidence of nesting birds identified on site during the inspection.

## **3.2 Bat Emergence Survey Results**

### **Summary**

3.2.1 The barn (both Barn 1 and Barn 2 sections) at Church Farm were subject to two separate surveys and additional static detector deployment within Barn 1.

3.2.2 Over the course of the surveys, a peak count of one brown long eared *Plecotus auritus* bat was recorded emerging from Barn 2 during one survey.

3.2.3 The static deployed within Barn 1 concluded that Barn 1 is utilised as a night and day roost by brown long eared bats.

3.2.4 Over the course of these surveys, a total of four bat species were incidentally recorded near to the barn structure's and within the site, comprising: common pipistrelle, noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, myotis *myotis sp.*, brown long eared and Leisler's *Nyctalus leisleri*.

### **Dusk Emergence Survey – 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

3.2.5 No bats were recorded entering or emerging from either Barns 1 or 2 during survey.

3.2.6 Noctule, Leisler's, *Myotis sp.* and common pipistrelle bats were observed and recorded foraging and commuting over and close to the Barns and within the bounds of the site.

### **Dusk Emergence Survey – 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023**

3.2.7 At 21:54, one brown long eared bat was observed to emerge from underneath barge boarding from the northern aspect of Barn 2, and then proceeded to commute southeast (EM1, Appendix B).

3.2.8 Noctule, Leisler's and common pipistrelle bats were observed and recorded foraging and commuting over and close to the barn structure's and within the bounds of the site.

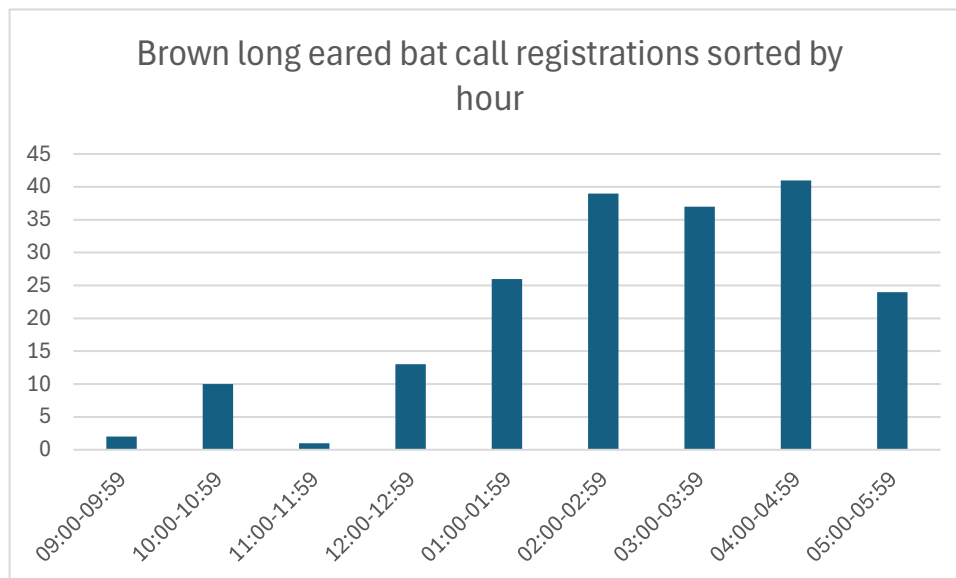
### 3.3 Bat Remote Monitoring Results–3<sup>rd</sup> August until 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023

- 3.3.1 Table 2 below provides a summary of the bat activity levels recorded at the static detector placed in Barn 1 from 3<sup>rd</sup> August to 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023 during the remote monitoring survey.
- 3.3.2 A total of 193 brown long eared calls were recorded within the interior of Barn 1. Of the total calls for this species, 41% are found within 2 hours of either sunset or sunrise (81 calls).

**Table 2 – Total Number and Time of First and Last Calls Derived from Brown long-eared bats within Barn 2**

Date	Approximate Time of Sunset / Sunrise	Brown long eared		
		Time of First Call	Time of Last Call	Total No. of Calls
03/08/2023	20:59 / 05:36	00:15	05:14	8
04/08/2023	20:54 / 05:38	00:38	05:01	82
05/08/2023	20:52 / 05:39	21:33	05:41	34
06/08/2023	20:50 / 05:41	22:52	05:25	33
07/08/2023	20:48/ 05:42	00:10	05:20	36

Red times highlight call registrations that were within 2 hours of either sunset or sunrise.



**Figure 3 – Brown long eared call registrations sorted by hour**

- 3.3.3 Four other species were also recorded on the static detector including Leisler (1 call in total), Serotine (1 call in total), common pipistrelle (2 calls total) and soprano pipistrelle bat (3 calls total). The Leisler and Serotine calls were recorded on just 1 night (06/08/2023). The 2 common pipistrelle calls were sparse and were recorded on two separate nights, 06/08/23 and 07/08/23, indicating investigative behaviour. All 3 soprano pipistrelle calls were recorded on one night (08/08/23) in the space of 2 minutes – also indicative of investigative behaviour rather than roosting.

## 4 Evaluation and Impacts

### 4.1 Bats

4.1.1 All bat species are protected by UK and EU legislation.

#### Barn 1

4.1.2 Evidence of bats in the form of droppings (30 droppings of brown long-eared bats as confirmed by DNA analysis) was identified in the barn during the building inspection. Additionally, roosting features and access points were identified on and in the barn which have the potential to support roosting bats. Although no bats were seen emerging from Barn 1, the static detector deployment indicates that Barn 1 is being used as a day and night roost by brown long eared bats as brown long-eared bat calls were recorded inside the barn within two hours of sunset/sunrise, but also in the middle of the night.

4.1.3 Barn 1 was registered under BMCL in October 2023 as a result of the update surveys. Works affecting these roosts were carried out under auspices of BMCL in October 2023.

4.1.4 As works affecting Barn 1 were already carried out, this section of the barn will not be considered further in this report.

4.1.5 Please note, plans to re-roof Barn 2 were not known at the time of registration of Barn 1 under BMCL.

#### Barn 2

4.1.6 During the building inspection, approximately 5 long-eared bat droppings were found scattered throughout Barn 2's loft space.

4.1.7 During the course of the bat emergence surveys, it was confirmed that Barn 2 is used as a day roost for low numbers of brown long eared bat.

4.1.8 Taking into account the species present, and the low number of bats observed emerging, it is considered that Barn 2 is of 'site' level value for bats (Reason and Wray, 2023) or low conservation importance for bats (Mitchell-Jones, 2004).

4.1.9 The proposed works are for re-roofing of Barn 2 (like for like, although different type of tiles are proposed – interlocking concreted tiles swapped for Wienerberger double pantile). The lining is not proposed to be replaced. The currently unlined areas will remain unlined.

4.1.10 In the absence of mitigation, it is considered that the proposed works will result in the loss of a bat roost, and potentially the disturbance and accidental killing and/or injury of bats during the construction phase. This would be considered a **significant adverse impact** at a site/local level.

4.1.11 With mitigation, it is considered that after an initial short-term adverse impact, a **long-term, positive impact** could be achieved by securing and enhancing bat roosting features and spaces available on site.

### 4.2 Nesting Birds

4.2.1 All birds within the UK are protected whilst nesting.

4.2.2 While no evidence of nesting birds was identified during the building inspection, it is considered that the barns have potential to support nesting birds.

4.2.3 As no evidence of nesting was observed, it is considered that the site is unlikely to be of more than a low local value to birds (if present).

4.2.4 Without mitigation, the development may result in the destruction of nests and possible killing, injury, and disturbance of birds and/or dependent young. This would therefore constitute a certain long-term adverse impact. With mitigation, it is anticipated that there can be a negligible impact on these species.

## 5 Recommendations

### 5.1 Further Actions

- 5.1.1 The results from the emergence surveys of both Barns 1 and 2 indicate that roosting bats are present, and an outline mitigation strategy is included in Appendix C of this report.
- 5.1.2 Bat Mitigation Licence (BML) will be required from Natural England, in order to allow works which would otherwise be illegal.

**Table of Further Actions**

Species/Groups	Phase	Action(s) Required
Bats	After planning permission has been granted, but prior to works starting on-site	Sensitive timing of works or Bat Mitigation Licence (BML) will be required from Natural England, in order to allow works affecting Barn 2 which would otherwise be illegal.
Birds	During Construction	Timing of roof strip works are recommended to take place outside of the nesting bird season (March – August inclusive). If this is not possible, then further works are considered necessary, as outlined in 5.3.

### 5.2 Bats

- 5.2.1 The surveys identified that Barn 2 is a day roost for low numbers of brown long eared bats.
- 5.2.2 As the planned works involve like for like re-roofing which will retain all roosting places present in the loft and the fascia board on the northern gable end and all existing access points, it is considered that the works can proceed without the need for BML if they're carried out outside of bat active season (so between October and March) when bats are likely absent from the structure.
- 5.2.3 Alternatively, as bats might be encountered during the roof strip during active season, a Bat Mitigation Licence (BML) will be required from Natural England (as BMCL registration used on Barn 1, the works affecting Barn 2 are outside of the scope for BMCL until after April 2027) should works be planned to be carried out between April and September, in order to allow works which would otherwise be illegal. The licence must be in place prior to any works being undertaken which could impact bat roosts, and where consents are required (planning, listed building etc), these must be in place prior to applying.
- 5.2.4 Natural England takes a minimum of 30 working days to assess an application.

### 5.3 Nesting Birds

- 5.3.1 Due to the size of the site and the scale of the development, further surveys for birds are not considered necessary.
- 5.3.2 However, the roof strip works should be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season. The breeding season is influenced by a given year's climactic conditions but is generally between March and August.
- 5.3.3 If roof strip works are required between March and August (inclusive), affected areas should be checked by an ecologist before removal, and if birds are found to be nesting, works would have to be delayed until nesting has ceased.

## 6 References

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## Appendix A – Wildlife Legislation & Policy

### Bats

- 7.1.1 In the UK, all bat species are fully protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (Amendment) (EU Exit) 2019 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is illegal to kill, injure, disturb, capture, possess or trade bats (or parts thereof); disturb bats whilst in a place of shelter or rest; or damage, destroy or obstruct access to a breeding site or resting place whether bats are present or not.
- 7.1.2 Operations which may affect bats may require a development licence from Natural England, which provides derogation for an otherwise unlawful activity.

### Birds

- 7.1.3 In the UK, birds and their nests are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (Amendment) (EU Exit) 2019 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 7.1.4 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) makes it a criminal offence to:
  - Kill, injure, or take any wild bird (with exceptions to species listed in Schedule 2);
  - Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while in use or being built;
  - Take or destroy an egg of any wild bird;

### The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)

- 7.1.5 Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) sets out a list of habitats and species that are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The list (including 56 habitats and 943 species) drawn up in consultation with Natural England, provides a guide to local and regional authorities when implementing their duty as defined in Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006;
  1. “Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.” - Section 40(1).
  2. “Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat”. - Section 40(3).
- 7.1.6 Several species of bats and birds are listed as Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act, 2006.

### National Planning Policy Framework (2023)

- 7.1.7 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023) sets out Government Policy on Biodiversity and Nature Conservation and places a duty on planners to make material consideration to the effect of a development on legally protected species when considering planning applications. NPPF also promotes sustainable development by ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity and that it is conserved and enhanced within the development.

### South Gloucestershire Local Plan policy

#### Core Strategy 2006 -2027 (Adopted 2013)

- 7.1.8 The South Gloucestershire Core Strategy 2006 - 2027 sets out policies for development and land use in South Gloucestershire. Local planning policies relevant to ecology, biodiversity, and nature conservation have been set out in the table below. Refer to the original document for the full wording.

**Table 3 - Joint Core Strategy Policies**

Policy	Summary

<b>CS9: Managing the Environment and Heritage</b>	<p>The natural and historic environment is a finite and irreplaceable resource. In order to protect and manage South Gloucestershire's environment and its resources in a sustainable way, new development will be expected to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. conserve and enhance the natural environment, avoiding or minimising impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity</li><li>6. protect the quality and quantity of the water environment and its margins</li><li>7. avoid the undeveloped coastal area</li><li>9. maximise opportunities for local food cultivation by (a) avoiding the best and most versatile agricultural land and; (b) safeguarding allotment sites</li><li>10. promote the re-use of contaminated land with appropriate remediation</li><li>11. protect land, air and aqueous environments, buildings and people from pollution and</li><li>12. avoid unstable land unless appropriate mitigation or remediation measures can be taken.</li></ol>
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# Appendix B – Bat Emergence Survey Results Plan



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