

BAT SURVEYS & ASSESSMENT 2020 - 2023

HIGH BARN, HOME FARM
BAGENDON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

CTM WILDLIFE

CTM Wildlife Ltd., Kings Stanley, Gloucestershire

Tel. 01453 827272 colin@ctmwildlife.co.uk

CTM WILDLIFE

BAT SURVEYS & ASSESSMENT 2020 - 2023

HIGH BARN, HOME FARM BAGENDON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Executive summary	4.2	Setting
1 Introduction	4.3	High Barn
	4.4	Bats
2 Objectives/Scope	4.5	Other observations
3 Methodology	5	Conclusions
3.1 Personnel	5.1	Outline project
3.2 Historical information	5.2	Use by bats
3.3 2020	5.3	Legal considerations
3.4 2021	5.4	Impact on bats
3.5 2022	5.5	Conservation significance
3.6 2023	5.6	Proportional mitigation
3.7 Constraints	5.7	Licensing
	5.8	Other
4 Results		Appendix 1: Bat legislation
4.1 Historic information		

<u>Version</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>
V1	Planning application	16 th January 2024

C T Menendez BSc (Hons) MCIEEM CEnv

This report assesses the ecological impact of the proposal based on wildlife legislation and planning policy. It is an independent assessment and not a statement of support or otherwise to the proposal for the site.

Disclaimer: While all reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the following information is correct and up to date it should not be relied upon as a definitive guide to wildlife and wildlife law. The exact requirements and habits of wildlife can vary and not be fully understood. Surveys and assessments can be restricted snapshots in time and space. Any conclusions and recommendations are made here in good faith. Also, the implementation of law can vary. Those needing to limit impacts and their risk should consult the original legislation and/or a lawyer conversant with wildlife law.

BAT SURVEYS & ASSESSMENT 2020 - 2023

HIGH BARN, HOME FARM
BAGENDON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Surveys

High Barn has undergone a series of day and night-time bat surveys through 2020 to 2023.

Bats

- Whiskered bat 'day roost' (2 bats)
- Natterer's bat 'day roost' (1 bat)
- Common pipistrelle 'day roost' (droppings only)
- Brown long-eared bat 'day roost' (2 bats).

The use of the barn by these bats is intermittent.

Implications

Bats and their roosts are protected by law and they are a material consideration for the conversion of the barn for residential use.

A strategy on measures to avoid harm to bats and to recreate roosting places for them during the conversion of the barn is given in Section 5.6.

The work will need to be carried out under the auspices of a bat mitigation licence issued by Natural England

Other considerations

Birds have nested in the barn in the past –guidance is given in Section 5.8.1.

The barn has been used by a visiting roosting barn owl –guidance & mitigation is given in Section 5.8.2.

Hedgehogs –these occur and guidance is given in Section 5.8.3.

1. INTRODUCTION

Home Farm is in the small rural Cotswolds village of Bagendon.

The setting is a pair of adjacent relatively small barns (High Barn & Low Barn) in a yard next to some paddocks.

Low Barn was converted for residential use in 2022 (21/02042/FUL) and the owner now proposes to:

Convert High Barn into a dwelling.

Low Barn was converted under a Natural England bat mitigation licence (2022-60622-EPS-MIT-1) due to the presence of bats.

This was under a phased mitigation strategy for the site with (1) the creation of a bat loft and bat boxes fitted for Low Barn & (2) bat bricks / tubes / boxes planned for High Barn.

This report provides updated survey information and mitigation for High Barn.

2. OBJECTIVES/ SCOPE

To assess the status of bats at the building

To determine implications to the proposal.

Figure 1. Location –grid reference SP 0070 0671



3. METHODOLOGY

High and Low Barn were initially surveyed together, then with a focus on the Low Barn for its impending conversion and then High Barn only in 2023.

3.1 Personnel

Colin Menendez BSc (Hons) MCIEEM CEnv who has 30+ years' experience as a professional ecologist, 20+ years' experience carrying out development-related bat surveys, his Natural England survey licences include a Class 2 survey licence for bats and he is a Registered Consultant with a Bat Low Impact Class Licence and a Bats in Churches Class Licence. He also holds a licence to survey barn owls.

He was assisted by (1) James Sweetman who holds a Class 2 bat survey licence & (2) Jeremy Doe BSc (Hons) MCIEEM who has 10+ years' experience undertaking bat surveys.

3.2 Historical information

A daytime survey of the barns was undertaken by Richard Tofts Ecology in 2003.

A data search for records of bats within 2 km was undertaken with the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records in 2022.

The Government's MAGIC website was re-checked for additional information.

3.3 2020

Preliminary survey 1 - a standard day-time survey was undertaken on 23rd August 2020. This was a systematic search, inside and outside the barns, for bats, potential roosts and for signs of bats, such as the presence of bat droppings, urine drops and feeding remains, and staining and droppings at any crevices. Equipment: high-powered torch, ladder & close-focusing binoculars. Conditions: dry, patchy cloud, light breeze & warm 17°C.

Night survey 2 –a standard dusk emergence survey following the daytime search on 23rd August 2020. The surveyor was positioned in the yard overlooking and into both barns. Equipment: BatBox Duet bat detector, and Anabat SD1 & Anabat Express x2 recorders with one set in each building & one outside. Conditions: dry, patchy cloud, light breeze & warm –mild 17 –14°C.

Night survey 3 –a standard dusk emergence survey on 26th August 2020. The surveyor was positioned to view both barns from another viewpoint on the edge of the yard. Equipment: BatBox Duet & BatBox IIID (set at 108 KHz) bat detectors, and Anabat SD1 & Anabat Express x2 recorders with one set in each building & one outside. Conditions: dry, patchy cloud & warm 17 - 15°C.

Night survey 4 –a standard dusk emergence survey on 9th September 2020. The surveyor was positioned back in the yard. Equipment: BatBox Duet bat detector, and Anabat SD1 & Anabat Express x2 recorders with one in each building & one outside. Conditions: dry, clear sky, calm & warm - mild 16 –14°C.

The barns were checked for fresh droppings before each night survey.

3.4 2021

Day & night update survey 1 on 17th September 2021 –(1) a check in the barns for signs of bats and any changes to conditions for bats & (2) followed by a standard dusk emergence survey on 17th September 2021. The surveyor was positioned in the yard overlooking the barns - the focus of this survey was the Low Barn with the adjacent High Barn visible. Equipment: BatBox Duet bat detector and Anabat SD1 & Anabat Express recorders. Conditions: dry, patchy cloud, becoming clear, calm & warm to mild 18 –14°C

3.5 2022

Day & night update survey 1 on 17th May 2022 –(1) a check in the barns for signs of bats & (2) followed by a standard dusk emergence survey. One surveyor was positioned in the yard overlooking the buildings - the focus of this night survey was the Low Barn with the adjacent High Barn visible. A second surveyor was positioned to the rear roadside of Low Barn. Equipment: torch with red filter, BatBox Duet, Wildlife Acoustics Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro & Elekon Batscanner Stereo detectors and Anabat Expresses x2 & Anabat SD1 recorders. Conditions: dry (drizzle earlier), patchy cloud, calm to light breeze & warm to mild 17 –13°C.

Night update survey 2 on 7th June 2022 –(1) a standard dawn re-entry survey & (2) followed by a check inside for bats in the barns afterwards. The surveyor was positioned in the yard overlooking the barns –moving to investigate any bats. Equipment: BatBox Duet BatBox Duet detector, Anabat Expresses x2 & Anabat SD1 recorders, torch and endoscope. Conditions: dry, full cloud, calm, & mild 13 –10°C

Day survey 3 on 24th October 2022 –a check for bats in both barns prior to the start of the works to convert the Low Barn. Equipment: torch & endoscope. Conditions: dry with a light shower, patchy cloud, light breeze & warm 16°C.

3.6 2023

Day survey 1 on 12th July 2023 –a mitigation licence bat monitoring visit. This was (1) to check for bats and signs of bats in the bat loft created in the Low Barn and in the bat boxes fitted on trees & (2) a search survey in the High Barn. Equipment: torch & ladders. Conditions: dry, full cloud, light breeze & warm 19°C.

Night survey 2 on 13th July 2023 - a standard dusk emergence survey. One surveyor was positioned in the yard angled overlooking the High Barn and a second surveyor on the opposite rear side. Equipment: BatBox Duet & BatBox IIID detectors and Anabat Expresses x2 & Anabat SD recorders. Conditions: dry, high full cloud, calm & mild 14°C.

Night survey 3 on 22nd August 2023 –a standard dusk emergence survey. Two surveyors, but repositioned in order to overlook the High Barn from different positions than the last survey. Equipment: BatBox Duet & BatBox IIID detectors and Anabat Expresses x2 & Anabat SD recorders. Conditions: dry, patchy cloud to clear sky, calm & warm –mild 18 –15°C.

Night survey 4 on 12th September 2023 –a standard dawn re-entry survey. One surveyor positioned in the yard overlooking the High Barn moving to investigate bats. Equipment: BatBox Duet detector and Anabat Expresses x2 & Anabat SD recorders. Conditions: dry, full cloud, calm & warm 16 –17 °C.

3.7 Constraints

The inspection of structures as bat roosts can be problematic. Roosting places can be unseen and bats can roost in crevices etc. with no or few outward signs of their presence. There are inherent constraints in night-time bat surveys due to the varied behaviour of bats between roosts and nights, and the difficulties in locating the source of bats in flight in the dark.

High Barn has been surveyed over a period of four years in combination with the Low Barn. Each survey visit reduces the impact of the above constraints.

Survey by experienced, licensed ecologists further reduces these constraints.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Historic information

The survey of the barns by Richard Tofts Ecology in 2003 concluded that there was limited potential for bat roosts and that a few individual long-eared bat droppings found inside the High Barn were from casual bat access.

The following EPS bat mitigation licences are shown on MAGIC within 2 km:

2016-22817-EPS-MIT - for work on the Farmhouse & Coach House at Home Farm 70 m away up the adjacent hillside paddock. It affected non-breeding roosts of Brown long-eared bats, Common pipistrelle & Soprano pipistrelle. A Lesser horseshoe bat feeding roost was not affected. Post-works monitoring by CTM Wildlife found continued use by Brown long-eared bats.

2018-34480-EPS-MIT - this was at a site at 480 m from the yard and affected a non-breeding roost of Common pipistrelle.

The data search in 2022 showed the following other roosts within 2 km:

Common pipistrelle –in flight –0.5 km
Noctule –in flight –0.5 km
Brown long-eared bat –roost –1.6 km
Brown long-eared bat –grounded - 1.6 km
Common pipistrelle –not known –1.7 km.

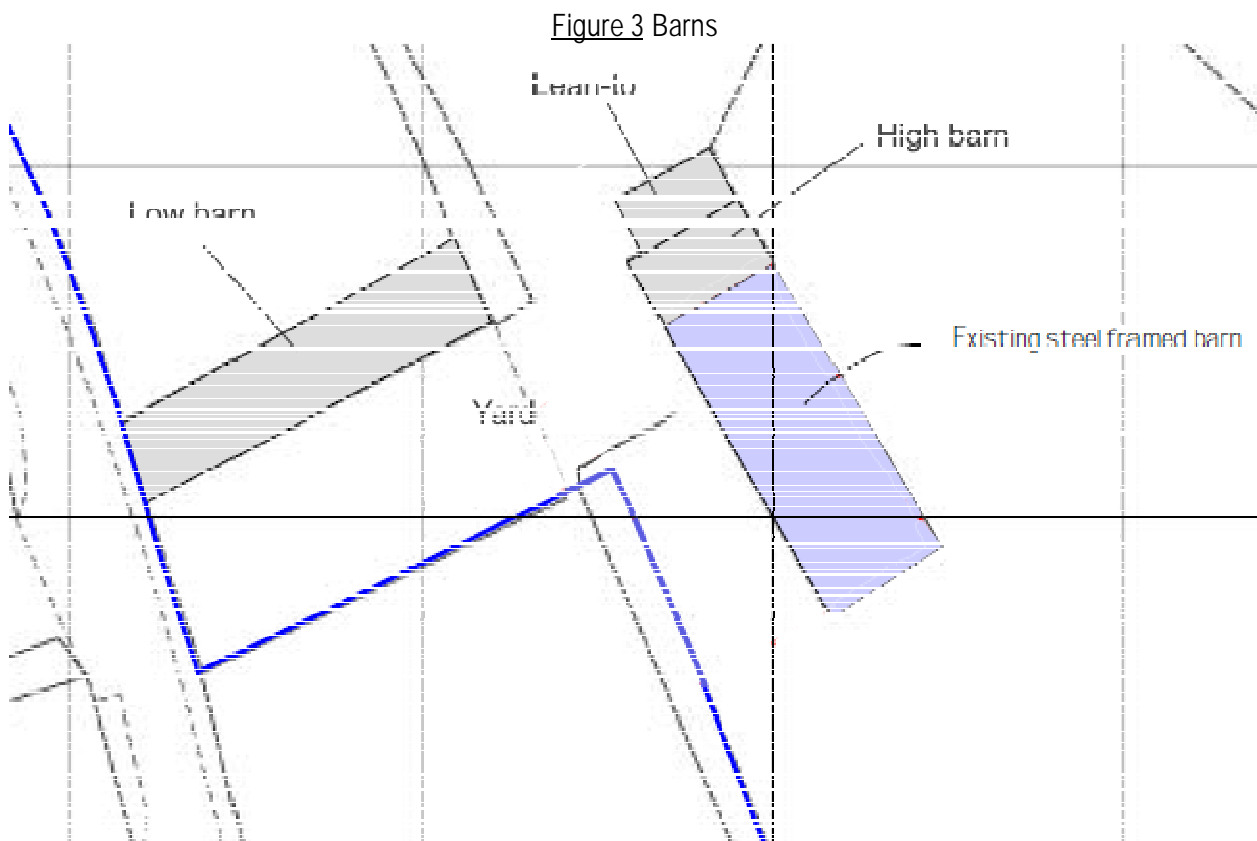
4.2 Setting

Bagendon consists of dispersed dwellings on the slopes and bottom of a small valley within the Cotswolds. The habitat is dominated by horse paddocks, parkland and a small stream along the valley bottom, and further afield arable farmland. There is woodland close-by on the valley top to the south. It is an unlit village. The surveyed outbuildings are on the valley bottom next to the stream.

Figure 2 Setting



4.3 High Barn



The existing steel-framed barn and lean-to are part of the scheme.

High Barn is an open-fronted Cotswolds stone building that looks to have been a former cart shed with a hay loft above. The loft floor is missing and the building is now a single open space inside from floor to roof.

The walls are mortared Cotswolds stone and in good condition. There is a cart entrance that initially was open and had a door fitted to it for security in 2022, with an open window above and open hay loft door on the side into the lean-to. There are timber lintels above these openings. It is relatively light and airy in the building.

The roof is corrugated sheets sitting on old sawn purlins on what looks to be older original main rafters. The roof frame joints were tight. The roof is loose-fitting at the verges and eaves. There is an exterior light above the front window.

To the northern side is a timber fully-open lean-to with a corrugated sheet roof.

To the southern side is a modern metal-framed stables structure. It is open-fronted with block walls with weather boards above and a corrugated roof. Light and airy inside.

Potential bat roosting places identified were (1) gaps at the roof underside between parallel timbers along the ridge & (2) gaps at the timber lintels in the stone High Barn

Photo 1 High Barn (2023; edited)



Photo 2 High Barn (2023)



Photo 2 High Barn (2020)



4.4 Bats

The findings of the surveys are summarised in the table below for ease of interpretation.

Table 1 High Barn bat surveys 2020 - 2023

<u>Date & type of survey</u>	<u>Bats</u>	<u>Notes</u>
23/08/2020 –day & dusk emergence	Common pipistrelle droppings (ID confirmed by DNA analysis) No emerging roosting bats Other bats heard/seen in flight: 1 Myotis (from Low Barn; DNA analysis of droppings confirmed Brandt's bat), Common pipistrelle, Noctule, Serotine & Lesser horseshoe bat	A few droppings below roof ridge at the rear of the barn where the parallel ridge timbers are close together forming a small cavity above. The droppings were swept away & checked for during subsequent visits in during the night-time surveys in 2020; no new droppings were found
26/08/2020 –dusk emergence	2 roosting Myotis bats emerged from within the barn –calls most characteristic of Whiskered bats Other bats seen/heard in flight: 1 Myotis (from Low Barn), Noctule, Common pipistrelle & Soprano pipistrelle	
09/10/2020 –dusk emergence	No emerging roosting bats Other bats seen/heard in flight: 2 Brown long-eared bats (from Low Barn), Common pipistrelle & Noctule	
17/09/2021 –day & dusk emergence	No emerging roosting bats seen (survey focus on Low Barn) Other bats seen/heard in flight: Common pipistrelle, Myotis & Noctule	A few moth wings on floor (likely bat-feeding remains) & 1 small bat dropping
17/05/2022 –day & dusk emergence	No emerging roosting bats seen (survey focus on Low Barn) Other bats seen/heard in flight: 1 Common pipistrelle (from Low Barn), Soprano pipistrelle & Brown long-eared bat	
07/06/2022 –dawn re-entry	No roosting bats seen to enter Other bats seen/in flight: Common pipistrelle & Myotis	
24/10/2022 –day	No signs of bats in barn	1 roosting Common pipistrelle rescued from Low Barn during licensed works
12/07/2023 - day	Aggregation of moth wings (likely bat-feeding remains), fresh urine drops & a few fresh droppings in barn	

13/07/2023 –dusk emergence	No emerging roosting bats Other bats seen/in flight: Common pipistrelle, Soprano pipistrelle, Brown long-eared bat, Noctule & Myotis	
22/08/2023 –dusk emergence	2 roosting Brown long-eared bats emerged. Other bats seen/in flight: Common pipistrelle & Noctule	The bats emerged from the exterior ridge of the barn roof
12/09/2023 –dawn re-entry	1 roosting Myotis bat entered –calls were characteristic of Natterer’s & Whiskered bats –more likely than not Natterer’s bat Other bats seen/in flight: Common pipistrelle & Noctule	The bat entered the barn via the open side window under the lean-to

4.5 Other observations

4.5.1 Trees

There were no obvious potential bat-roosting places were seen in the adjacent trees - except for bat boxes fitted on them as part of the licensed mitigation at Low Barn in 2022. No signs of bats were found in these boxes during a check in July 2023.

4.5.2 Nesting birds

During the surveys over the last three years no active nests have been noted, but a stock dove has been seen in the barn, an old twig nest (pigeon/dove?) and an old moss nest (tit?).

4.5.3 Barn owl

No evidence of was barn owls was reported by Richard Tofts in 2003 and none found by CTM Wildlife through 2020 to 2022. Then three barn owl pellets and some whitewash were present in High Barn in July 2023. The pellets looked to be the same age, were estimated to be about one month old and likely to be from a temporary roosting bird. A barn owl flew over during the dawn survey in September 2023. There is evidently a current barn owl territory in the locality.

4.5.4 Hedgehog

A hedgehog was seen in the yard and hedgehog dropping found in High Barn in 2020.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Outline project

It is understood that the owner plans to:

Convert the High barn into a dwelling

5.2 Use of High Barn by bats

Whiskered bat 'day roost' (2 bats)
Natterer's bat 'day roost' (1 bat)
Common pipistrelle 'day roost' (droppings)
Brown long-eared bat 'day roost' (2 bats).

Day roosts are where individual or small numbers of bats rest during the day.

The observed use of the barn by the bats has been occasional and sporadic. These species can exhibit regular roost switching behaviour especially when not breeding, concurring with the low level of intermittent use by bats found. This finding may be a reflection of the numerous surveys over three years.

The unlit tree-lined stream corridor and paddocks and parkland over the valley sides are well-used by foraging bats.

5.3 Legal considerations

All species of British bat and their roosts are protected by law (Appendix 1).

5.4 Impact on bats

The planned work will (without mitigation):

Destroy the bat roosting places and could harm bats.

5.5 Conservation significance

All four species of bat found to roost at the barn are relatively common and widespread species of bat in England and Gloucestershire. They are protected due to the rate of decline of populations. Day roosts used by these species, although of value in their own right, are at the lower end of conservation significance.

5.6 Proportional mitigation

Natural England's guidelines are that impacts on bats and their roosts should in the first instance be avoided if possible. The bats roost inside the barn and its roof, and avoidance is not possible here for the conversion of the building for residential use.

Based on Natural England's guidelines, the level of proportionate mitigation here is:

- Flexibility on the provision of new roosting places
- No timing constraints for the work or post-works monitoring.

Before being converted the adjacent Low Barn supported intermittent day roosts used by Brandt's and Brown long-eared bats. As stated in Section 1 above, the licensed mitigation for Low Barn was undertaken as a 'phased development' in combination with High Barn as required by Natural England. The mitigation for both barns was considered together with the option followed being (1) Phase 1 the creation of a bat loft in the Low Barn & fitting of bat boxes on trees & (2) Phase 2 to be the fitting of bat tubes in the external walls of High Barn.

5.6.1 Timing

There is no restriction on the time of year of the proposed works (subject to any restrictions imposed by Natural England as part of the licensing for the work - see below).

5.6.2 Lights

Limit external lighting to only that required for the safe, secure use of the site.

Position and design the external lights in a manner that avoids and minimises any illumination of the adjacent habitat including the stream corridor and trees.

The following guidance is based on good practice for bats and external lighting:

- o Direct the lighting downwards and/or into the site
- o Use fittings with cowls/hoods etc. to stop upwards or sideways light/glare
- o Use fittings that are PIR activated and set to turn-off after a maximum of three minutes inactivity where continuous lighting is not required when the site is in use
- o Use LED bulbs of maximum 2,700 kelvin
- o Do not illuminate the trees, stream corridor & surrounding habitat
- o Do not illuminate any bat mitigation (loft, tubes, boxes).

5.6.3 Avoidance of harm to bats

An ecologist will need to check for and if necessary rescue any bats during the works. When the roofs and lintels are stripped back for the works, for example. This will be a licensable activity (see below).

5.6.4 Roost provision

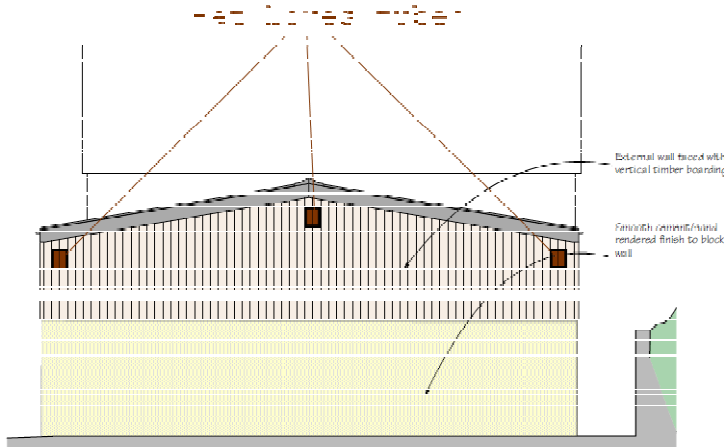
The original planning permission for the conversion of the barns was approved with the building-in of Schwegler N27 Bat Brick Boxes into the gable walls of the High Barn. This type of mitigation is still applicable for the bats using High Barn. The options have been discussed with the client and the best solution looks to be bat tubes/boxes on the south-eastern end of the buildings where any bats will be in a warm position, over countryside/a paddock with trees and away from people and lights. Bat mitigation on the front will be prone to disturbance by people/lights, there is no suitable place on the northern end and the rear side will be cool. Boxes can also be put on trees of which there are numerous.

The roof on the High Barn will be Cardinal Reproduction Cotswold Roof Slates, which is likely to provide some gaps for bats to crawl under.

A bat loft has been provided in the Low Barn.

Bitumen Type 1F felt or TLX Batsafe Breather Membrane over insulation is advised (subject to licensing by Natural England) in order to avoid entangling bats under the slates.

Three long-lasting bat tubes/boxes to be fitted to the south-eastern end wall & two boxes on trees (at least one for each species). For example:



For example:



Gabriella Bat Box



Elsa Bat Box



Isabella Bat Box (trees)



Build-in WoodStone Bat Box/Tube

5.7 Licensing

A bat mitigation licence will be required for the work.

As before, the licence can be applied for after consent has been granted and relevant conditions discharged. Survey information will need to be up-to-date. At the time of writing this site does not qualify for a low impact licence.

5.8 Other

5.8.1 Nesting birds

It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to damage or destroy the nests of breeding birds.

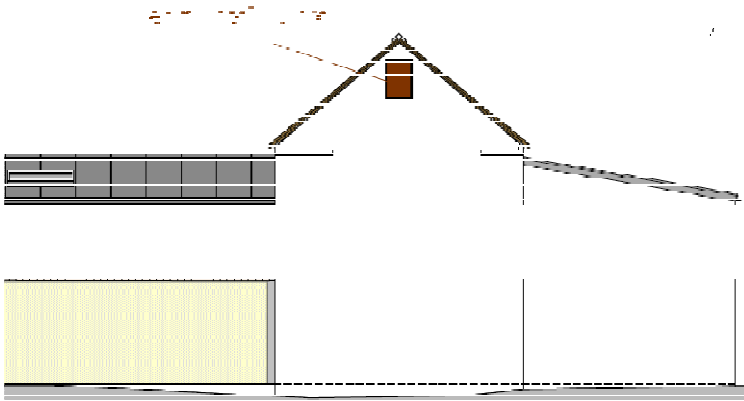
As a standard precaution –if possible time the start of the works to be within September to February outside the bird nesting season. If it is in the nesting season, check for nests first and change the work if an occupied nest is found in order to avoid it.

5.8.2 Barn owl

Barn owls are a Schedule 1 species. This gives them additional protection from ‘disturbance’ when breeding & nesting.

Keep a watching brief on the barn for nesting barn owls & strictly do not disturb any pair of barn owls showing signs of courtship/mating, nesting building & dependent young. Consult the Ecologist if necessary and time the work to avoid them.

Provide a barn owl box on the rear north-eastern apex of the High Barn.



For example:



Eco Barn owl Nest Box



Barn Owl Trust Exterior/Tree Box

5.8.3 Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are a Species of Principal Importance in England under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 due to a rapid decline. Hedgehogs are not explicitly legally protected except from trapping or intentional harm or cruelty.

As before, the main consideration is good practices to ensure that they are not harmed during the works and the continued safe dispersal and foraging of the local population of hedgehogs.

Check for any hedgehogs during the clearance of the building. Avoid or take great care during November to February, and freezing conditions, when hedgehogs hibernate. During this time leave any hedgehogs found where they are and covered –they will leave on their own accord when the conditions are suitable.

Do not leave deep holes or trenches open at night –cover or put ramps in them.

Avoid the building of high kerbs, steps, terracing, sunken patios, gullies, and drains etc. that might block and trap hedgehogs.

Leave gaps of 13+ cm at the bottom of any fences and gates and create tunnels through any garden walls; or use hedges instead. NB: hedgehogs are excellent swimmers so the stream will not be a barrier to them, but the yard is a pinch-point where they can cross the stream on dry land.

Retain/create areas of deep leaf litter, dead wood, log piles and dense scrub in out of the way places in order to provide shelter for the hedgehogs.

Appendix 1.

- Brief summary of relevant legislation in the UK -

Bats

There is considerable evidence that all species of bat in Britain have declined significantly this century, particularly since the 1960s. The reasons for the decline include: loss of suitable roost sites, loss of feeding habitat, reduced availability of insect prey through pesticide use and mortality resulting from the use of highly toxic timber treatment chemicals in house roosts.

All species of British bat are listed in Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (which consolidates the European Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994). As well as giving full protection from intentional and deliberate killing, injuring, disturbing and taking of bats, the cited legislation protects bat breeding and resting places (roosts) from damage, destruction and preventing access to such places. The legislation regarding roosts applies irrespective of whether the bats are present or not. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 added the word “reckless” to existing protection against “intentional and deliberate” actions.

The law requires that reasonable effort be made to ensure that any actions, plans or projects do not detrimentally affect bats or their roosts. Proposed developments that affect bats or bat roosts may require a licence from Natural England. Allow at least 30 days for a licence application to be determined.

Background

Producing biodiversity reports that meet required professional standards reduces the risks of delay with associated planning applications through the planning process.

In our experience the quality and adequacy of biodiversity reports submitted to local planning authorities to support planning applications is – across the whole of the UK - extremely varied and inconsistent. Where reports are inadequate, this can lead to failure to achieve desired outcomes for biodiversity conservation as well as running the risk of delays, increased costs and uncertainty for applicants over whether planning consent will be granted. In the worst case, a planning consent that is granted based upon inadequate information may be open to legal challenge.

Purpose

The purpose of this form is to ensure a competent review of the biodiversity information provided to support a planning application by the applicant has been undertaken. The form is designed to encourage those responsible for providing biodiversity reports to ensure they follow good professional practice and are fit for their intended purpose, i.e. is in accordance with Clauses 6 and 8.1 of BS42020:2013 and therefore adequate to enable determination by the relevant competent authority. This is based on the Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) Checklist available on the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) website <https://cieem.net/resource/ecological-impact-assessment-ecia-checklist/>

Use

This form shall be used for all full and outline applications where there are likely to be implications for biodiversity. Consequently, the form shall be used for all types of development, whether the proposed development is listed on Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations or not. In line with the Validation Checklist, biodiversity information would be submitted in the form of either a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal or an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) Report (in accordance with CIEEM guidelines; see Endnote vii).

The Local Planning Authority will only accept biodiversity information in the form of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEA) Report where all 3 of the following apply:

1. No further surveys* - beyond those that are complete and reported fully in the PEA Report - are required;

*A PEA Report will normally be based on a desk study and extended Phase 1 habitat survey (or equivalent), but may also include the results of Phase 2 surveys.

2. And either:

- a. The report provides an adequate assessment of biodiversity impacts; or
- b. The report is able to conclude robustly that there would be no significant residual biodiversity impacts.

3. And the report provides adequate information about the biodiversity mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures proposed; and these are capable of being secured through a planning condition, obligation and/or protected species licence.

Biodiversity Report Declaration of Adequacy

The terms 'Ecological Impact Assessment' (EIA), 'EIA Report', 'Preliminary Ecological Appraisal' (PEA), 'PEA Report', 'Extended Phase 1 habitat survey' and 'Phase 2 surveys' are defined by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) in the 'Guide to Ecological Surveys and Their Purpose' (December 2017), available at <https://cieem.net/resource/guide-to-ecological-surveys-and-their-purpose/>

How to complete this form

Part A of this form provides general background information and a signed declaration. It should be completed by the Ecologist representing the Applicant.

Part B of this form is a declaration that should be completed by the Applicant to demonstrate that they have read and understood the content of the biodiversity report and also agree to any recommendations that have implications for the proposed development, i.e. implementation of necessary biodiversity mitigation measures.

Part C should be completed by the Ecologist representing the Applicant (it is expected that, in most cases, this will be the lead author of the biodiversity report). Part C shall act as a checklist of the issues which should be addressed in the biodiversity report. The Ecologist should confirm that the information requested has been provided in the report and provide the appropriate paragraph reference numbers to allow the Local Planning Authority to quickly confirm that each criterion has been met.

Where the Ecologist finds that they cannot justifiably answer 'Yes' or 'Not applicable', or where they cannot cross-refer to a paragraph of the report which demonstrates that they have complied with a given criterion, they should revisit the work undertaken and revise the report accordingly, prior to its submission.

Part D of the form is to be completed by the Local Planning Authority's 'nominated person with biodiversity expertise' (i.e. a qualified ecologist or a planner with responsibility/expertise for biodiversity matters) during the Local Planning Authority's determination of the planning application.

Biodiversity Report Declaration of Adequacy

PART A – GENERAL INFORMATION AND ECOLOGIST’S DECLARATION

Name of Applicant: **Mr Jeremy Rigg**

Site Name: **High Barn Bagendon**

Site Location (Post Code/Grid Reference): **GL7 7DU / SP 0070 0671**

Brief Description of Proposed Development: **Conversion of small stone barn for residential use**

For instance: Conversion of stone built agricultural barn with slate tiles and exposed roof timbers greater than 20cm thick. Biodiversity features likely to be affected include bats, barn owls, and other breeding birds such as swallows.

Details of Biodiversity Report

Report title: **Bat Surveys & Assessment**

Name and Qualifications of Lead Author: **Colin Menendez BSc (Hons) MCIEEM CEnv**

Date: **16/01/2024**

Reference Number: **Version 1**

Type of Biodiversity Report Submitted with the Planning Application (see Sections 3 and 4 in Purpose above)

- **Full Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA)** Y N
- **A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR)** Y N

Summary and Recommendations:

Brief description of key biodiversity features likely to be affected and mitigation required.

Roosting bats – (1) safe working methods & (2) bat tubes / boxes. This is Phase 2 of phased mitigation licencing, which included the creation of a bat loft in Phase 1 (Low Barn) that was a separate previous planning application

Is a Protected Species Licence from Natural England required?

Y N

If so, what species and which type of licence?

Standard bat mitigation licence. Intermittent day-roosting Whiskered bat, Natterer’s bat, Common pipistrelle & Brown long-eared bat

Are planning conditions required to secure proposed mitigation?

Y N

If so, what for?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Ecologist’s Professional Declaration (lead author or person responsible for final QA of the report).

Are full details of professional memberships, qualifications and experience for all staff involved in the preparation of this biodiversity report, provided in the EclA / PEAR?


Y N

I hereby confirm that the information provided in this form is accurate and is a true record of the work undertaken.

Name of Ecologist:

Colin Menendez

Signed:



Date:

16/01/2024

Qualifications and Experience of the above Ecologist (if different from Lead Author identified above):

NA



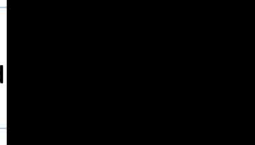
Biodiversity Report Declaration of Adequacy

PART B – APPLICANT’S DECLARATION

I hereby confirm that I have read and understand the findings, implications and recommendations for impact avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement set out in the report referred to in Part A above. I understand that the mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures set out in the report may be secured through a licence from the appropriate statutory conservation body and/or through condition(s) or obligations imposed by the Local Planning Authority, or other decision making authority.

Name of Applicant (or Agent):
Dan Boyle Grad Dip Arch.

Signed



Date: 17 January
2024

Biodiversity Report Declaration of Adequacy

PART C – BIODIVERSITY REPORT FORM (checklist)

	Checklist to ensure decisions are based on adequate information in accordance with Clauses 6.2 and 8.1 of BS42020:2013	Y, N, N/A?	Report Ref para no.(s)
Pre-app	1. Where pre-app advice has been received from the LPA and/or an NGO and/or statutory body (e.g. NE DAS), it has been fully accounted for in the report.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	Click or tap here to enter text.
	2. The scope, structure and content of the report is in accordance with published good practice and .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Contents
Surveys, Species & Habitats	3. Adequate and up-to-date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Desk study has been undertaken; b. Phase 1 habitat survey has been undertaken?; and c. Phase 2 surveys have been undertaken (where necessary). 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Sec2 on 3 - ongoing bat surveys 2020 to 2023 inc. desk study
	4. All statutory and non-statutory sites likely to be significantly affected are clearly and correctly identified.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	Click or tap here to enter text.
	5. All protected or priority species and priority habitats likely to be significantly affected are clearly and correctly identified, and adequate surveys have been undertaken to inform the baseline.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Sec2 on 3 & 4
	6. Any invasive non-native plant species present are clearly and correctly identified.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	Click or tap here to enter text.
	7. Where a separate preliminary ecological appraisal (phase 1) report states that Phase 2 surveys are required, these have been undertaken in full and results submitted with the application (or lack of such surveys is justified).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Bat surveys Sec2 on 3
Impacts & Effects	8. The assessment is based on clearly defined development proposals along with relevant drawings/plans (and any plans used are the same version number as those submitted with the application); OR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Drawings dated Nov 2023 referred to
	9. The biodiversity effects are considered to be not significant at any geographical scale irrespective of the detailed development proposals, and the assessment is based on a worst-case-scenario.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Click or tap here to enter text.
	10. The report describes and assesses all likely significant biodiversity effects (including cumulative effects) clearly stating the geographical scale of significance (where relevant).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Sec2 on 5.4 & 5.5
Mitigation, Compensation & Enhancement	11. The mitigation hierarchy has been clearly followed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Sec2 on 5.6
	12. The report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clearly identifies the proposed mitigation and compensation measures, and explains how these will adequately address all likely significant adverse effects; b. Includes, where necessary, proposals for post-construction monitoring; and c. Recommends how proposed measures may be secured through planning conditions/obligations and/or necessary licences. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Sec2 on 5.6 & 5.7
	13. A summary table of proposed mitigation and compensation measures has been provided.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Executive summary & Sec2 on 5.6

Biodiversity Report Declaration of Adequacy

	14. The need for any mitigation licences identified in relation to protected species is clearly identified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Section 5.7
	15. A Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment has been provided where required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	Click or tap here to enter text.
Competence / Good Practice	16. Limitations of the biodiversity surveys and assessments have been correctly identified and the implications explained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Section 3.7
	17. All relevant key timing issues (e.g. site vegetation clearance or roof removal) that may constrain or adversely affect the proposed timing of development have been identified.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Sections 5.6.1, 5.8.1 & 5.8.2
	18. All biodiversity surveys and mitigation measures accord with published good practice methods and guidelines OR deviation from such guidelines is made clear and fully justified, and the implications for subsequent conclusions and recommendations made explicit in the report.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Section 3
	19. All ecologists and surveyors hold appropriate species licences (where relevant) and/or have all necessary competencies to carry out the work undertaken.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Section 3.1
Conclusions	20. The report clearly identifies where the proposed development complies with relevant legislation and policy, highlighting any possible non-compliant issues, and highlighting circumstances where a conclusion cannot be drawn as it requires an assessment of non-biodiversity issues (such as socio-economic ones).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Sections 5.6, 5.7, 5.8.1, 5.8.2 & 5.8.3 and Appendix 1
	21. The report provides a clear summary of losses and gains for biodiversity and a justified conclusion of overall net gain for biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	Click or tap here to enter text.
	22. Justifiable conclusions based on sound professional judgement have been drawn as to the significance of effects on any designated site, protected or priority habitat/species or other biodiversity feature, and a justified scale of significance has been stated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Section 5

PART D – CONCLUSIONS OF THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY'S REVIEW OF THE BIODIVERSITY REPORT

The scope, structure and content of the biodiversity report submitted is fit and adequate to inform the determination of the planning application. Yes No

Use the table below to identify the implications for the grant or refusal of planning consent. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Planning Recommendation	Comments – including reference to any corresponding criteria from Section C Click or tap here to enter text. Where adequacy of information provided dictates what recommendation can be made below.
1. Approval (no biodiversity issues)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <input type="checkbox"/> No outstanding ecological issues – <input type="checkbox"/> And no requirement for any conditions/obligations or EPS licence



Biodiversity Report Declaration of Adequacy

ENDNOTES