

**Ecological Survey for dwelling near Catsley
Farm, Kinlet, Shropshire
DY12 3AR
SO 72411 79491**



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

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Survey Objectives

Planning permission was granted to demolish this property following an ecological report in 2020. Since then, only part of it has been demolished. The remainder is now to be demolished. Owing to the time delay a second ecological survey is now necessary to ensure no European Protected Species (primarily bats) will be adversely affected by this development.

First Survey on premises.

21st. January 2020

Current survey

19th. March 2024

Preliminary Desktop survey

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

Bats: Common & Soprano Pipistrelle, Brown Long Eared, Noctule, Whiskered, Daubentons, Brandts, Barbastelle, and Lesser Horseshoe. The rarer LHS were 2 records from 2007 and 2015 from Highley, 4km away, both recorded by D.Fulton (the surveyor completing this report)

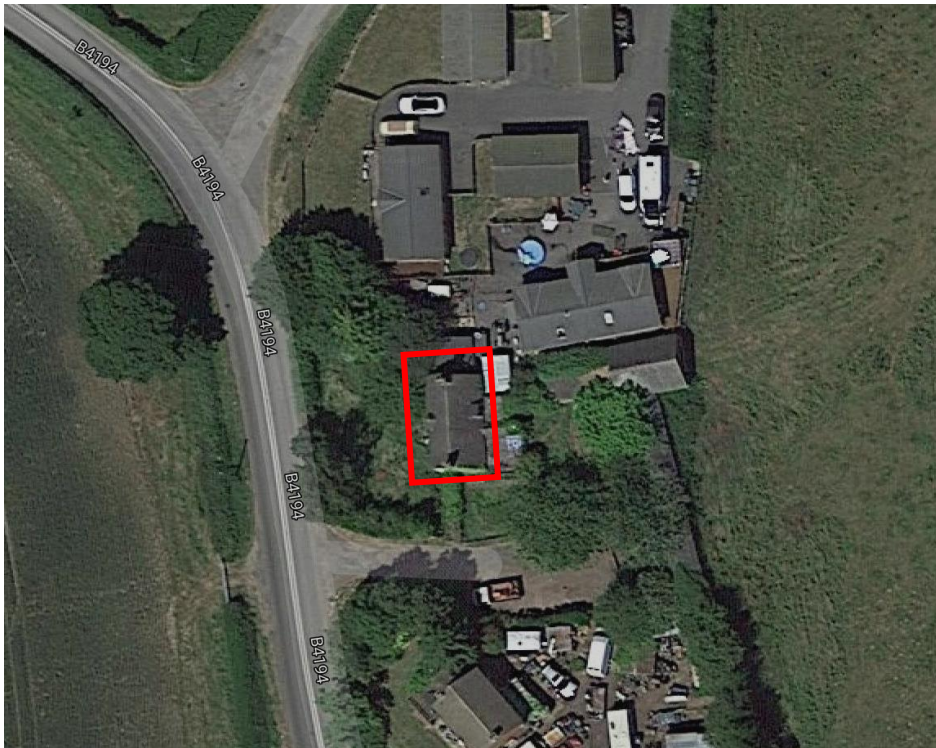
Amphibians: 7 records of Great Crested Newt were recorded, one within a few hundred metres from 2017 found in a water meter chamber. All others at 4km.

Reptiles: Records, Slow-worm, Grass Snake, Adder, and Common Lizard, mostly from Wyre Forest National Nature Reserve in excess of 4km distant.

Others: No other species records (Dormouse, Badger, etc.) gave rise for concern, none being recorded in the near vicinity.

Surrounding Area

The property is situated alongside the busy B4194 Kinlet to Bewdley Road, in a rural area of mainly arable fields. Some 2km to the East are the western extremes of Wyre Forest National Nature Reserve.



Building Searches

External

The walls, roof area and eaves were scanned with high power binoculars, looking for access holes where bats or birds could gain entry. Bats usually leave 'grease marks' on brickwork or tiles, caused by the natural oils in their fur constantly rubbing against surfaces as they enter and exit roost spaces. These would still likely be visible if bats were using the premises as a roost, even at this time of the year. Droppings can also be deposited on walls and roof tiles beneath roost sites as bats have a habit of defecating as they enter a roost.

Despite the age of the building, the roof was in a reasonable state of repair. There were no gaps at roof edges, or at eaves level. There was access into the bedroom areas via an open window. No external signs of bats were seen.

Some vegetation (Ivy) was present on north and east walls, this could attract nesting birds between April and September so is best removed before this period.



Rear view (east facing)



South facing end.



Front view (west facing)

No signs of bat activity or nesting birds was found.

Internal Searches

There was no loft area, bedroom ceilings were to the ridge. Access into the bedrooms for bats and birds was however possible via broken windows.

Internal searches were made for hanging bats, bat droppings on floors, tops of beams and tops of stored items. Searches also took place looking for signs of nesting birds. A search through all upstairs rooms did not reveal any sign of bat or bird activity.



Bedroom

A double room cellar was present, this was also searched for signs of roosting bats, droppings etc. No signs of roosting bats could be found.



Copious amount of cobwebs found on cellar wall.

Normally we would follow up building searches with an evening bat emergence survey. This was not possible due to the time of year, bats being in hibernation. However, the lack of access to likely roosts was nil, therefore the surveyor is satisfied that no bats are roosting in these premises. Further surveys are considered unnecessary as long as certain precautions are followed. (see recommendations below)

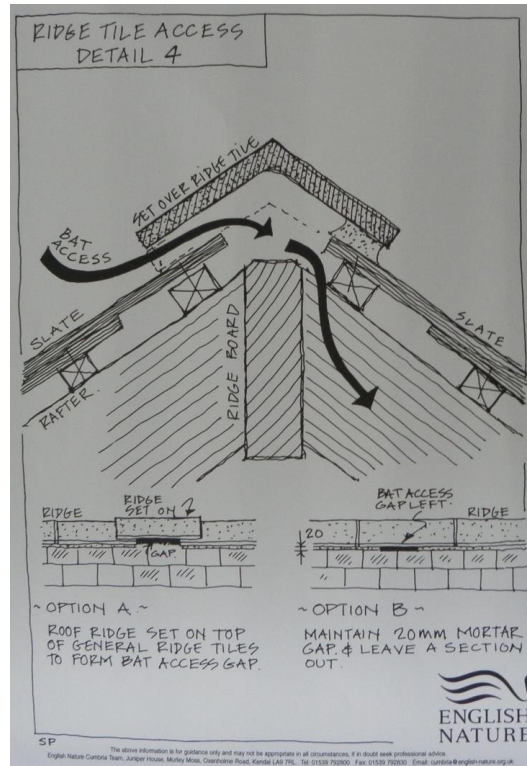
There was also no indication of any bird activity.

Immediate Surrounding Ground.

The immediate surrounding area was also searched for signs of other protected species, Badger, Reptiles, Invertebrates, etc. Several piles of material were inspected but nothing was using these as a refugia.

Recommendations/Mitigation.

1. As with all building works, it is advisable to include a precautionary note. Bats do move roosts frequently, so in the unlikely event that a bat should be discovered during works, work should stop immediately, and The Bat Conservation Trust or Natural England should be contacted for advice on how to proceed.
2. During demolition, the roof tiles should be removed by hand, and lifted carefully to check for bats before removal.
3. Ideally any vegetation clearance work should be carried out as soon as possible. If this is not possible, a check should be made before work commences. If any nest is found with eggs or young, that area should be avoided until young have fledged.
4. Should any trenches be excavated for footings, these should ideally be filled the same day, or else covered to prevent any nocturnal species, hedgehog, toads, etc. becoming trapped within. Escape ramps can be provided by using an old scaffold plank. Trenches should always be inspected each morning before work commences and any wildlife which may be trapped should be carefully released to a place of safety.
5. Any development such as this, gives an opportunity to increase the general biodiversity of an area by providing additional opportunity for wildlife to use the area. It is recommended that one bat box, suitable for crevice dwelling bats, be installed high on the sheltered east side of the finished dwelling, or, a bat roost ridge tile can be added when the new roof is laid. Access into the roof space is not essential, crevice dwelling bats will roost under the tile.



6. The provision of a bird box, and a hedgehog nesting box would also be welcome.

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

20th. March 2024