

The Old Forge Chillenden CT3 1PS
TR 26865 53706

Day-time Assessment

The site and its immediate surroundings were considered in terms of potential habitat for bats during a day-time walkover survey undertaken on 30th August 2023 by Katia Bresso CEnv MCIEEM, a qualified professional consultant ecologist with over 20 years of experience, licensed bat surveyor (Class Licence CL19, Level 3, Registration Number: 2016-27133-CLS-CLS) and Registered Consultant of the Bat Low Impact Class Licence WML-CL21 with Natural England (Registered Consultant Reference Number RC056, since May 2015).

A visual examination of the external and internal areas of the building was undertaken. This consisted of a visual inspection using a bright torch (Cluson CB1 Clubman Standard High Power, 500,000 candle power). Cracks and holes were inspected using an endoscope¹, if needed. The purpose of the survey was to look for signs of bats such as droppings, urine staining, marking around entrance/exit holes, and any animals; and to note any potential roosting locations and access points. The latter is important because signs of bats are frequently not present; for example, they can be washed off external surfaces by wind and rain and are often not visible where bats roost in crevices such as gaps between tiles and boarding or felt, behind weatherboarding, holes in brickwork, timbers and similar.

Bat roosting potential was classified according to the following criteria set out in the Table below, taken from the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines (2016).

Suitability	Criteria
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions, and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by a larger number of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation). A tree of sufficient size and age to contain PRFs but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential.
Moderate	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions, and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to

¹ RIDGID CA-350x Inspection Camera System 63888

	roost type only - the assessments in this table are made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).
High	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protections, conditions and surrounding habitats.

Night-time Survey

The Bat Conservation Trust's guidelines provide a table stating the 'minimum number of presence/absence survey visits required to provide confidence in negative preliminary roost assessment from buildings, built structures and trees in summer.

Table 7.3 Recommended minimum number of survey visits for presence/absence surveys to give confidence in a negative result for structures (also recommended for trees but unlikely to give confidence in a negative result).

Low roost suitability	Moderate roost suitability	High roost suitability
One survey visit. One dusk emergence or dawn re-entry survey ^a (structures). No further surveys required (trees).	Two separate survey visits. One dusk emergence and a separate dawn re-entry survey. ^b	Three separate survey visits. At least one dusk emergence and a separate dawn re-entry survey. The third visit could be either dusk or dawn. ^b

^a Structures that have been categorised as low potential can be problematic and the number of surveys required should be judged on a case-by-case basis (see Section 5.2.9). If there is a possibility that quiet calling, late-emerging species are present then a dawn survey may be more appropriate, providing weather conditions are suitable. In some cases, more than one survey may be needed, particularly where there are several buildings in this category.

^b Multiple survey visits should be spread out to sample as much of the recommended survey period (see Table 7.1) as possible; it is recommended that surveys are spaced at least two weeks apart, preferably more. A dawn survey immediately after a dusk one is considered only one visit.

Table 7.1 Recommended timings for presence/absence surveys to give confidence in a negative result for structures (also recommended for trees but unlikely to give confidence in a negative result).

Low roost suitability	Moderate roost suitability	High roost suitability
May to August (structures) No further surveys required (trees)	May to September ^a with at least one of surveys between May and August ^b	May to September ^a with at least two of surveys between May and August ^b

Due to late date of appointment, a single emergence survey was undertaken in early September 2023 by S Stanley² and L Carter-Lilley³, using Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro / Batlogger M2 bat detectors⁴. A Canon XA11 video recorder on tripod was used to record the survey (with infrared illuminators).

² 12 years' experience in bat surveys

³ second survey season

⁴ All surveyors were able to take recordings of bat species in either frequency division or full spectrum formats and were equipped with a bat detector that could produce audible bat calls during the survey. Also, at least one experienced surveyor was present on all of the surveys.

Results

No bats nor signs of bats were found during the internal/external inspection of the building. The barn is a brick building with single skin corrugated fibre cement roofing sheets. The eastern brick elevation is open, making the internal conditions draughty and light. But some of the internal brick work had crevices, which are Potential Roosting Features (which could be used by a single crevice-dwelling bat, such as pipistrelle bats). The building is therefore judged to offer low suitability for roosting bats.

No bats were seen emerging from the building during the night-time survey. Only a low number of common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, noctule and brown long-eared⁵ bats were seen and heard commuting and foraging.

The barn is thus not considered as being used as a bat roost and no mitigation or licence is expected to be needed prior to its conversion⁶.

⁵ it is expected that it is brown long-eared bat (rather than grey long-eared bat) as the site is not coastal (being in-land in the middle of Kent) and there hasn't been any records of grey long-eared bats since the 1960's in Kent.

⁶ Updated surveys should be carried out every two years, to check that usage hasn't changed, prior to works taking place.

Detailed Results:


Site Name and Building Number	The Old Forge, Chillenden	Surveyor Name / Equipment	Steve Stanley / Batlogger M2, Canon XA11
Weather Conditions	0% Cloud, Wind 0, Rain 0	Date	7th September 2023
Start Time	19:13	Finish Time	20:58
Air Temperature (°C) at Start of Survey	21	Air Temperature (°C) at End of Survey	19
Sunset	19:28	Sunrise	

Position: North East corner

Time	Species	Activity*	Comments
20:07	Pip 55	C	Distant pass, not seen.
20:13	Pip 45	F	F around building for 4 mins.
20:15	Pip 45 x2	F	Second pip joins in F with above briefly.
20:25	Pip 45	F	Brief and distant F, not seen.
20:31	Pip 45	F	Brief F around building.
20:40	Pip 45	F	F around building for 2 mins.
20:51	Pip 45	F	Brief F nearby, not seen.

*Activity - 'E' = emergence; 'R' = return; 'F' = foraging; 'C' = commuting *'S' = seen; 'NS' = not seen

Site Name and Building Number	The Old Forge, Chillenden CT3 1PS	Surveyor Name / Equipment	Lewis Carter-Lilley / EM touch
Weather Conditions	Clear sky, no wind	Date	07/09/23
Start Time	19:13	Finish Time	20:58
Air Temperature (°C) at Start of Survey	21°C	Air Temperature (°C) at End of Survey	19°C
Sunset	19:28	Sunrise	

position around building: South west corner

Time	Species*	Activity**	Comments
19:56-20:16	45pip	F	S - by road to west of property
20:26	Noc	C	NS
20:31	55pip	F	NS
20:32-36	45pip	F	NS
20:41-47	45pip	S	NS
20:42-43	BLE	F	along vegetation to north



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IMG_0711



IMG_0712



IMG_0714



IMG_0715



IMG_0716



IMG_0718



IMG_0719



IMG_0720



IMG_0721



IMG_0722



IMG_0723



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