

**Ecological Survey for Buildings at  
Chesterton Mill, Pattingham (2023)  
WV15 5NX**

**SO 79144 97867**



Survey completed by:

**Chelmarsh RG**

**Dave Fulton**

**25/09/2023**

## **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 is being requested to renovate old buildings at Chesterton Mill. A survey has been requested to ensure no European Protected Species are adversely affected by this development.



Red indicates buildings requiring planning permission.

## **Previous Surveys**

Many previous surveys have been conducted at this site, in 2005, 2010, 2017, and 2018 which included all buildings on the site. This building is next in line to be refurbished and converted to living accommodation. The barn directly to the north west has now been completed.

All previous surveys on this particular building were negative in terms of European Protected Species being present.

Again, because of the time gap it has been necessary to resurvey in case any current EPS are now using the building or the immediate surrounding area.

## **Desktop survey**

This was to identify any protected species which have historically been recorded within the area. From The National Biodiversity Network information, the following species have been recorded within a 5km radius of the property:

### **Bats**

Common & Soprano Pipistrelle, Brown Long Eared, Noctule, Natterers, and Whiskered.

### **Reptiles**

Grass Snake (2), Adder (2), and Common Lizard (1) record, nearest being 2km.. All above 2km.

### **Amphibians**

Great Crested Newt, 8 records, closest being 3km.

### **Other Mammals**

Badger, (25) records ranging from 2km to 5km. Hedgehog (23) widespread.

## **Surrounding Area**



### **Site Description**

These buildings are situated next to the barn which was refurbished in 2022 which is now completed. The immediate surrounding area is predominantly pasture and arable fields. The buildings are of brick construction with an unlined corrugated asbestos roof with metal girders for support.

Immediately below this building are some high stone walls in a dangerous state, held up by wooden buttresses. These walls are to be retained but reduced in height which will form part of a walled garden.

### **Building Searches**

The premises were searched externally and internally, including the close surrounding area for signs of any European Protected Species, bats, birds, reptiles, amphibians etc. This type of construction with unlined asbestos roofing on metal girders is very unlikely to be used by bats.

### **External Searches**

The exterior of the building was searched for signs of bats entering the premises. Bats tend to defecate when entering, leaving bat droppings adhered to walls beneath roost entrances. 'Grease marks' from the bats fur constantly coming in contact with roost entrances are another tell-tale sign that bats are roosting.





No signs of bats or birds was found on the exterior. The only parts where bats would be likely to roost would be in cracks and gaps in the walls at the bottom part of the grounds. A search was made using a powerful flashlight but no bats or bat droppings could be found.

### **Internal Search**

A search was made on the ground floor level and the upper floor, looking for bat droppings. There were no bat droppings on any stored items at either level. There was no sign of use by nesting birds. Two old wasp nests were found in the upper section.





### **Adjacent Shropshire Wildlife Site (Walls and Warren House)**

Shropshire Wildlife Trust was consulted on previous planning applications which included conversions of all buildings on the site. They were happy that no protected species are likely to be affected by this development.

### **Bat Emergence Survey**

Had the work just involved refurbishment of the buildings, no bat survey would have been necessary as these buildings are not really suitable for roosting bats. However, the stone walls at the south end had lots of cracks and gaps which could have concealed a roosting bat. For this reason, a bat emergence survey was conducted to be sure nothing was missed.

A bat emergence survey was undertaken by 2 experienced observers on 25<sup>th</sup>. September 2023. Although this is a little past the optimum period for emergence surveys, the weather was still mild and bats were still active.

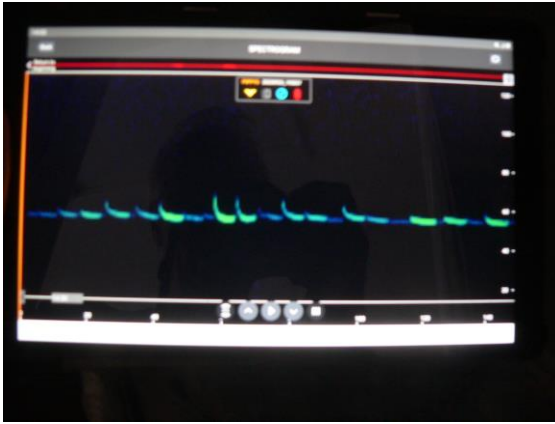
Bat detectors used were two Echo Meter Touch 2 linked to ipads capable of displaying and recording bat calls.

Temperature was 18C all evening. There was no wind or rain.

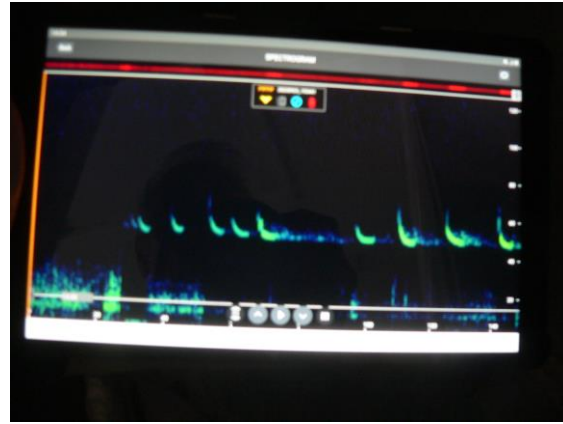
### **Conclusion to Bat Survey**

No bats emerged from any part of the buildings destined for conversion, or from any part of the walls at the south end. Three species of bat were observed and recorded. None of these emerged from any part of the barn.

Soprano Pipistrelle and Common Pipistrelle were seen and recorded foraging in the lane to the south of the buildings. A distant recording of a Brown Long Eared Bat was also made although this bat was too far away for a visual.



Soprano Pipistrelle (55kHz)



Common Pipistrelle (45kHz)

### **Conclusions**

No evidence was found in this latest survey to suggest any EPS will be affected by this development. No further surveys are considered necessary on this particular building.

### **Recommendations/Mitigation**

1. No time constraints are recommended with respect to any species.
2. As with all building works, it is advisable to include a precautionary note. Bats do move roosts frequently, so in the very 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.
3. Any trenches dug for foundations and left open overnight should be provided with some means of escape in case hedgehogs, or other small creatures fall in overnight. This can be as simple as leaving an old scaffold plank along one inside edge to act as an escape ramp. All trenches should be checked each morning before work commences in case any creatures have become trapped overnight. Any trapped creatures should be released to a place of safety.  
As existing walls are to be retained, deep foundations are unlikely in this case, with the exception of utility services.
4. Usually, any work like this gives us the opportunity to enhance the general biodiversity for wildlife by adding bird and bat boxes. It is recommended that at least one of each be erected in suitable positions within the grounds.

Signed as a true and accurate record

Dave Fulton

Report dated

28<sup>th</sup>. September 2023