



4 Upavon Avenue, Greasby, Wirral, CH49 3PL
TEL: 07725 488648 - Web: www.ebsols.co.uk – email: admin@ebsols.co.uk

Bat Roost & Breeding Bird Survey

**Banksfields Farm, Boggard Lane,
Charlesworth, SK13 5HI**



Client: Ms Melanie Maloney

ORIGINAL ISSUE:

27th July 2015

Executive Summary

This report has been prepared at the request of Ms Melanie Maloney in relation to the identification and location of protected bat and bird species at Banksfields Farm, Boggard Lane, Charlesworth, Glossop, SK13 5HI, regarding possible demolition of the barn.

An initial report issued in 2011 by Environmental Business Solutions (EBS) stated that no bat roosts were present at time of surveying. However these surveys are now out of date and therefore the Local Authority have requested a new survey and report.

Two subsequent dawn / dusk bat surveys (including Batbox Griffin being left in situ for 2 nights on unattended mode) were conducted between the 22nd July and the 25th July 2015 by EBS and showed no sign of bat habitation in the buildings but activity over the site. During this period physical searches were made of the building (where accessible) for signs of bat presence and previous habitation along with evidence of nesting birds, no signs of bat or breeding bird presence was noted.

Since the survey in 2011 the barn have suffered more damage.

It is the opinion of EBS that at present it is unlikely that bats are roosting in the buildings ear-marked for possible demolition but a cautionary approach should be taken and that further surveys should be undertaken if the proposals are substantially delayed. As the current buildings are suitable for bat habitation compensation by way of bat boxes being positioned on retained buildings and sensitive design of future building to attract bats is also recommended.

Overall it was concluded that if the above mitigation and compensation measures are followed then the proposed demolition will not have a negative impact on the local bat population within the surrounding environment as the buildings do not appear to contain roosts at present.

**Bill Gaudie,
BSc hons (Wildlife Conservation), MCIEEM
ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANT**

1. Introduction.

1.1 Site Overview.

- 1.1.1 The Site is located in a rural area in Glossop and is bordered entirely by open countryside and agricultural land. The Site comprises of an old brick built barn (building B in a very poor state of repair with open aspects caused by missing walls and roofs, since the survey of 2011 the building has suffered much damage due to winter storms and is almost fully open to the elements.
- 1.1.2 For site location and see original EBS report 2011.
- 1.1.3 For full buildings condition and layout see Appendix 1, Site photos.

1.2 Proposed Works. Demolition.

1.3 Aims of survey. The identification and location of protected bat and bird species at Banksfields Farm, Boggard Lane, Charlesworth, Glossop, SK13 5HI.

1.4 Legislation Considerations. All species of bat are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the European Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994, and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This legislation makes it illegal to possess or control any live or dead specimens, to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter, protection or breeding, and to intentionally disturb a bat while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose. Most resident nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which protects birds, nests, eggs and nestlings. Some rarer species, such as barn owls, are afforded extra protection. If bat species are present at the proposed redevelopment site, the purpose of this report will only summarise the potential requirements for a bat mitigation package or project. A separate mitigation report or project will be required which will include the necessary compensation measures to maintain the conservation status of a European Protected Species.

2. Methodology

2.1 Initial physical searches conducted by EBS in 2011 suggested the possibility of buildings on site supporting bat roosts. EBS therefore conducted surveys to assess the suitability of structures affected by the demolition to support bat roosts. These were conducted as per; Bat Conservation Trust (2012). *Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines*. **Bat Conservation Trust, London**. ISBN 9781872745985. No physical evidence was noted; however, a dawn / dusk survey was recommended. Dawn / dusk surveys conducted as per; Bat Conservation Trust (2012). *Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines*. **Bat Conservation Trust, London**. ISBN 9781872745985.) as a precautionary measure.

As these surveys are now 4 years old, the Local Authority requested a new survey and report. Three subsequent dawn / dusk bat surveys (including Batbox Griffin being left in situ for 2 nights on unattended mode) were conducted between the 22nd and 26th July 2015 by EBS and showed no sign of bat habitation in the buildings but activity over the site. During this period physical searches were made of the buildings (where accessible) for signs of bat presence and previous habitation along with evidence of nesting birds, no signs of bat or breeding bird presence was noted.

2.2 Pre-survey data search.

2.2.1 EBS original report 2011. Google earth, Ordnance Survey and Magic on the Map (<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/>), where consulted for information on immediate surrounding habitats and Designated Sites.

2.3 Surveyor Information. Mr W Gaudie, BSc hon (Wildlife Conservation), MCIEEM. Natural England Licence No CLS001191, Ms K Hamer, BSc hon (Wildlife Conservation).

2.4 Day time building survey.

2.4.1 Dates. 23rd July 2015.

2.4.2 Conditions. Dry. Good visibility.

2.4.3 Surveyors. Mr W Gaudie, BSc hon (Wildlife Conservation), MCIEEM, Natural England Licence No CLS001191, Ms K Hamer, BSc hon (Wildlife Conservation).

2.4.4 Bat roost survey. Internal and external physical search of building. As per; Bat Conservation Trust (2012). *Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines*. **Bat Conservation Trust, London**. ISBN 9781872745985. All roof spacings, voids, cracks (internal and external, where accessible) were searched for signs of bat habitation.

2.4.5 Equipment. Visual Optics VO18-10ww endoscope, Petzl Ticker LED head torch, Cluson Smartlite 1,000,000 candlepower torch

2.5 2 x Bat dusk and dawn surveys.

2.5.1 Dates. 22/07/15 – 25/07/15.

2.5.2 Conditions. See Table 1.

2.5.3 Timings. Dusk Surveys 45 mins prior to sunset – 3hrs after sunset. Dawn Surveys 3hrs prior to sunrise – 30 minutes after sunrise.

- 2.5.4 Surveyors. Mr W Gaudie, BSc hon's wildlife conservation, MCIEEM. Natural England Licence No CLS001191, Ms K Hamer, BSc hon's (Wildlife Conservation).
- 2.5.5 Area surveyed. Outside of building, see Fig for positions of surveyors
- 2.5.6 Method. As per; Bat Conservation Trust (2012). *Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines*. Bat Conservation Trust, London. ISBN 9781872745985.
- 2.5.7 Equipment. 2 x Batbox Duet bat detector, 1x Batbox Griffin (unattended mode)*, Garmin etrex GPS, Meteos Skywatch weather station, Yukon NVMT.2.3x42 night vision.

Table 1. Dawn / dusk weather conditions

Survey	Date	Min Temperature	Wind	Cloud Cover	Rain
Dusk	220715	10.0°C	5	100%	Small shower
Dawn	230715	8.5°C	6	20%	Nil
Dusk	250715	7.5°C	8	50%	Nil
Dawn	260715	8.0°C	8	80%	Slight drizzle

* 1x Batbox Griffin left in unattended mode

3. Results

3.1 Pre-Survey Data

3.1.1 No bats recorded in previous survey 2011.

3.2 Day time buildings survey

The following features of all structures on site were assessed

- Type of building
- Age of building
- Aspect of building
- Wall construction, focussing what brick type was used and presence of cavity or rubble filled walls.
- Roof form and structure
- Nature of eaves
- Presence and condition of lead flashing
- Gaps under eaves, around windows, lead flashing etc
- Presence of roof insulation
- Roof structure.

Particular attention was paid to:

- Beams for hanging bats
- Droppings beneath beams
- Droppings and urine stains on walls
- Droppings or urine stains on any materials left stored
- Corpses
- Bat fly (*Nycteribiid*) cases

3.2.1 No signs of bat presence found during physical search of buildings

3.2.2 Floors and surfaces of sills, beams and brickwork all had aged dirt and dust, suggesting that the buildings had not been disturbed recently. No signs of droppings, insect cases or scratch-marks.

3.2.3 No sign of any bat activity was noted.

3.2.4 No signs of breeding birds noted.

3.3 3 x Bat dusk and dawn surveys.

3.3.1 No bats were recorded entering or leaving the building at dawn or dusk.

3.3.2 No bats were noted foraging within the site.

3.3.4 Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), were noted crossing south approx. 60 minutes after sunset on each evening (peak count of 4 bats noted). This would suggest a roost approx 30mins flight away.

3.3.5 No bats were noted returning at dawn or foraging within the site.

3.3.6 No bats were noted foraging in the immediate area.

3.3.7 No records of bat activity recorded in Griffin Batbox.

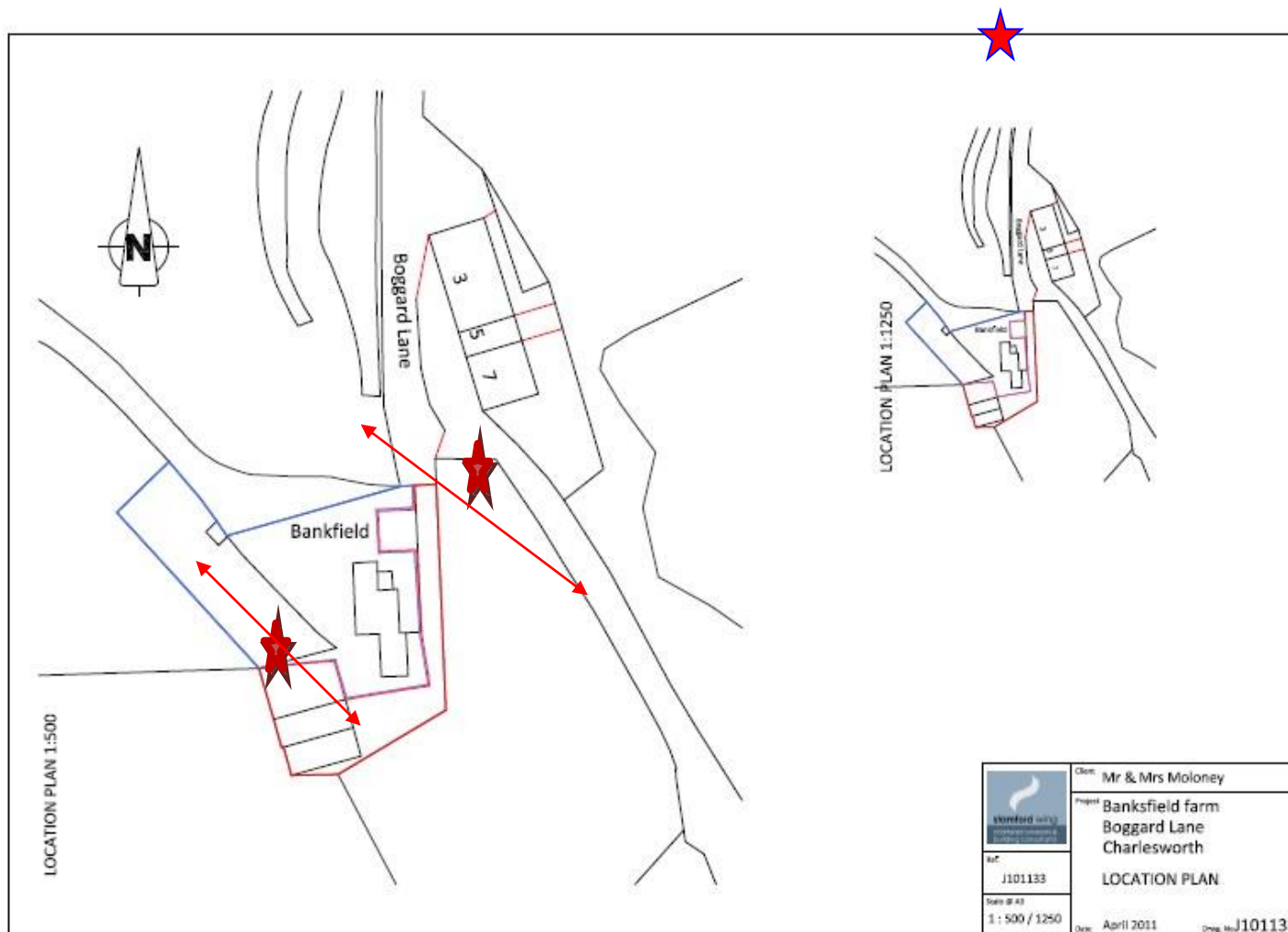


Fig5. Positions of surveys during dawn / dusk surveys



4. Assessment.

4.1 Constraints on Survey Information. None.

4.2 Constraints on Equipment Used. None.

4.3 Potential Impacts of Development.

4.3.1 Designated Sites. None.

4.3.2 Roosts. It is not thought that bats are roosting in any parts of the buildings at present.

4.3.3 Breeding Birds. No nesting birds noted (including Owl species)

4.3.4 Foraging and Community Habitat. The proposed development is not thought to have any detrimental ecological effects to the area. Any disturbance will be minimal and temporary.

5. Recommendations.

5.1 Further Surveys

5.1.1 Bat. If development / demolition of buildings on site is substantially delayed then surveys should be repeated.

5.1.2 Bird. If development / demolition of buildings on site is substantially delayed then surveys should be repeated.

5.2 Mitigation Measures.

5.2.1 Roost Sites. With reference to Natural England Bat Mitigation Guidelines (2004), no further mitigation is required at this point. No roosts are thought to be affected by the proposed development.

5.2.2 Foraging and Commuting Sites. With reference to Natural England Bat Mitigation Guidelines (2004), no further mitigation is required at this point. Not thought to be affected by proposed development.

5.3 Compensation.

5.3.1 Natural England Bat Mitigation Guidelines (2004) states "Where roosts of low conservation significance are to be lost to development, bat boxes may provide an appropriate form of mitigation, either alone or, preferably, in combination with the provision of new roosts in buildings. In such cases, the type of bat box provided should be appropriate to the species." As the current buildings do not hold any roosts no compensation is deemed necessary. However, as the buildings are deemed suitable for bat roosts, EBS think it appropriate for new bat boxes to be erected around the remaining site and buildings once the demolition is complete, any new build should incorporate design to attract bats to the site.

6. **Summary.** Physical searches along with dusk/dawn surveys stretching over a period from July 2014 to May 2015 provided no evidence of bat or breeding bird habitation in any of the buildings on site. Due to the findings of these surveys, it is thought that the proposed demolition development is unlikely to have any negative effect on any bat or bird populations at the present time. It is the opinion of EBS that if the above recommendations regarding mitigation and compensation are followed then the development will result in a nett gain to biodiversity in the immediate area.

**Bill Gaudie,
BSc hons (Wildlife Conservation), MCIEEM**

7 References

Bat Conservation Trust (2012). *Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines*. **Bat Conservation Trust, London**. ISBN 9781872745985.

RSPB (2002) The Population Status of Birds in the UK 2002-2007

The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations 1994. HMSO

Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)

Countryside Rights of Way Act (2000)

English Nature. (2004) *Bat Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature

APPENDIX 1

Site Photos of buildings to be demolished.

External old barn



Internal barn showing open roof

