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Stage II Bat Surveys Countess Farm Small Granary Amesbury Wiltshire SP4 7AS

Background

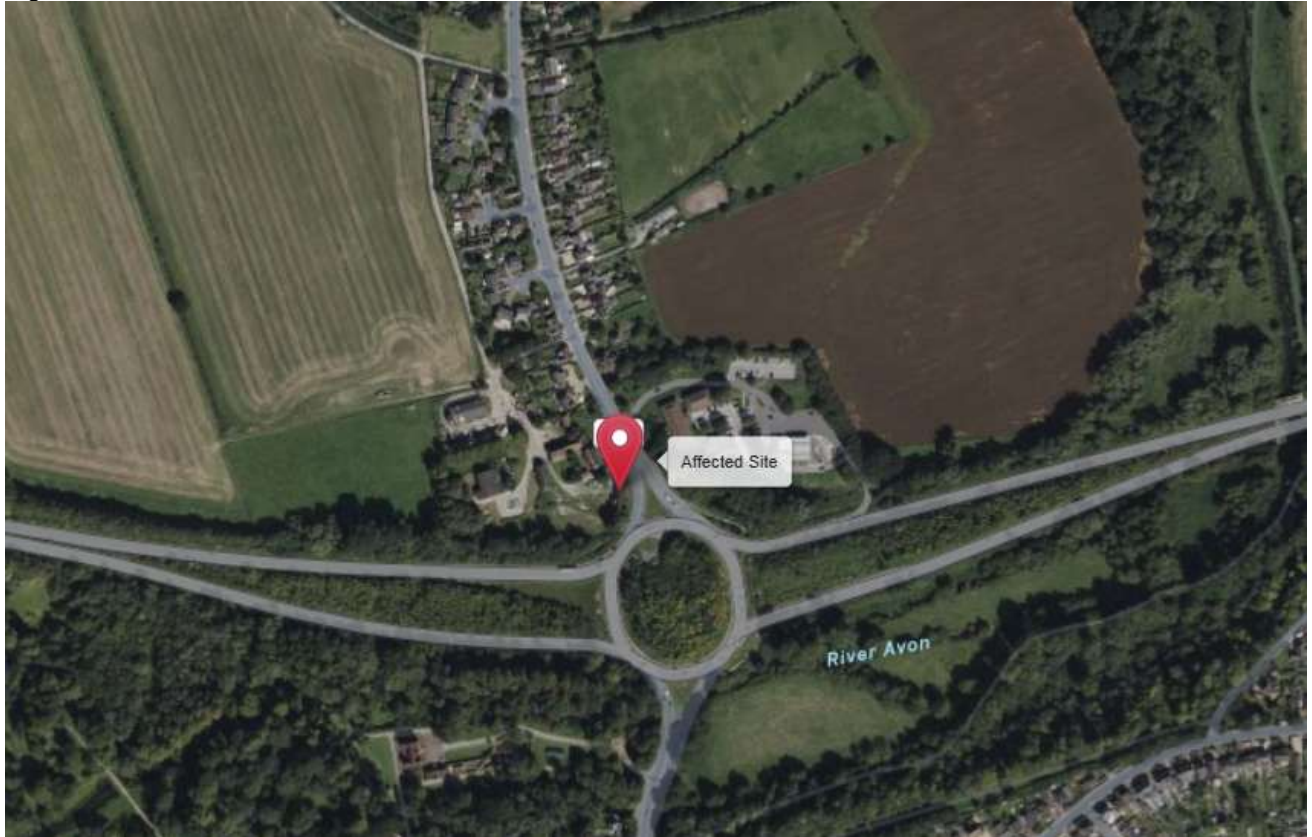
The site a barn located at Countess, at OS grid reference SU 15305 42173, see Figure 1. Countess is located northwest of Amesbury. The site lies in very close proximity with the heavily trafficked A303, directly south of the site and east of site is another public road frequently used. Around the site are other buildings used within the same farm west of the site is grassland and agricultural cropland.

Greena Ecological Consultancy was instructed to conduct an initial Preliminary Ecological Appraisal survey and following report. Initial daytime survey was conducted on the 7th of April 2025 and no obvious signs (droppings, urine stain etc) were identified on exterior of the barn, no interior access was available as building is unsafe being structurally unsound.

Multiple potential roosting features were, however, identified during the daytime survey, including: areas along the ridge/hips, between timber cladding, cracks in brick work and areas in the tiled roof. The surrounding habitat was further deemed to provide high potential for foraging and commuting bats due to connecting woodland, areas of grassland with hedgerows surround the grassland and the close proximity to the River Avon SAC which provides excellent forage and commuting opportunities.

As the barn was assessed to provide moderate bat roost potential with multiple Potential Roosting Features (PRF) two bat activity surveys covering all elevations were performed on the 29th of September and 28th of October 2025. This report contains the results of the two bat activity surveys completed and mitigation measures required. Figure 1 indicates the site location and figure 2 presents survey locations.

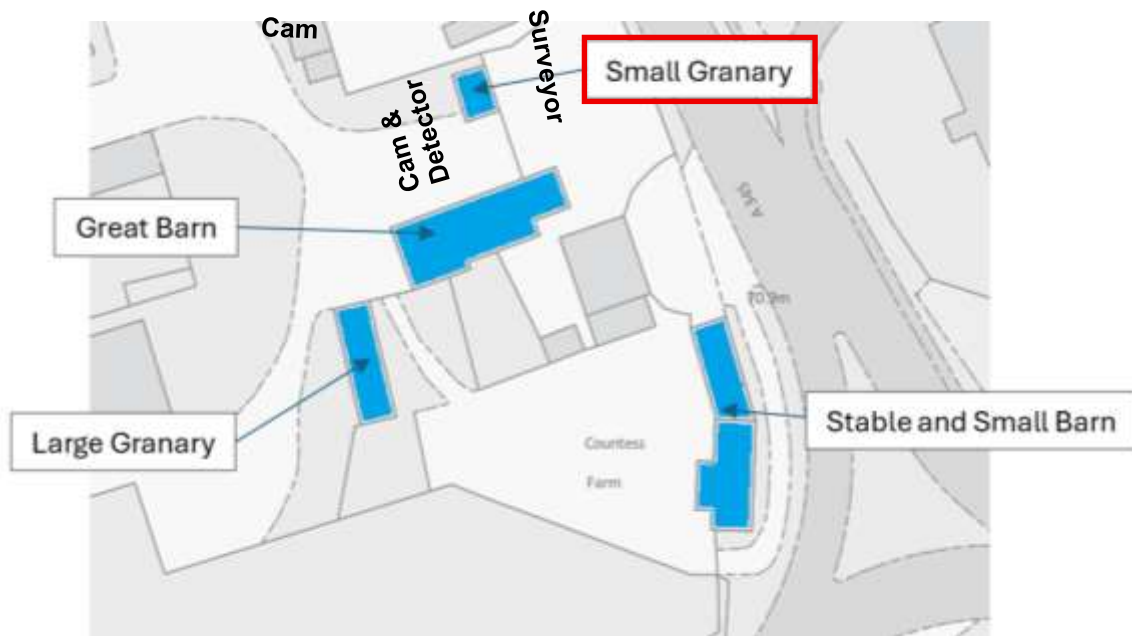
Figure 1. Site location



Methods

The surveys were performed by surveyor Geoff Billington MCIEEM (Greena Ecological Consultancy, holder of Natural England class 3 & 4 bat survey licenses). The survey was performed with assistance of two Anran CCTV 5MP HD video cameras with built in infrared illumination. The cameras were used with time-synchronized EcoObs Batcorder bat detectors containing recorders. As the cameras recording the east and north elevation of the building it was deemed that one EcoObs Batcorder was used for the elevations (See Figure 2.). The manufacturer's specifications of the high-definition cameras list its range for both, colour (daytime, dusk) and black & white (post-dusk to complete darkness) during infrared illumination as 100ft (30.48metres). The cameras are fitted with a varifocal (adjustable) 2.8-12mm lens covering the field view from very wide (up to 100 degrees) to narrow and zoomed in. The setting is manual, and a maximum possible view of the surveyed structure is always ensured prior to the start of the survey. The smart IR technology enables the cameras to automatically adjust the intensity of the infrared lighting based on the distance objects are located from the camera (wide dynamic range enhancement). The recordings are subsequently viewed by an experienced licensed bat ecologist with the possibility to rewind and view segments repeatedly, providing much higher accuracy of the assessment than the traditional in-field survey method alone.

Figure 2. Survey location and observation locations



The following photos illustrate viewing conditions around end of the survey

Photograph 1 Small Granary 29th of September 2025



Photograph 2 Small Granary 28th of October 2025



Results

Survey – 29th of September 2025

The survey was completed between 1840 and 1956 with sunset at 1851. Weather conditions on the survey were suitable for bats to be active and complied with Bat Conservation Trust, Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist, Best Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2023) on seasonal timings and weather suitability. Result of each elevation are presented in detail.

Weather

	Temperature (oC)	Cloud (%)	Wind	Rain
Start	15	95	0	0
End	14	95	0	0

West side Detector

Time	Numbers	Species
18:59-19:11	8	55P
19:12	1	LE
19:21-19:29	12	55P lots of social calls
19:29	1	55P & Sert
19:30-19:35	29	55P lots of social calls
19:42	1	45P
19:42-19:56	134	55P lots of social calls

LE – Long eared, 55P – Soprano pipistrelle, 45P – Common pipistrelle

North & West video

No bats emerged

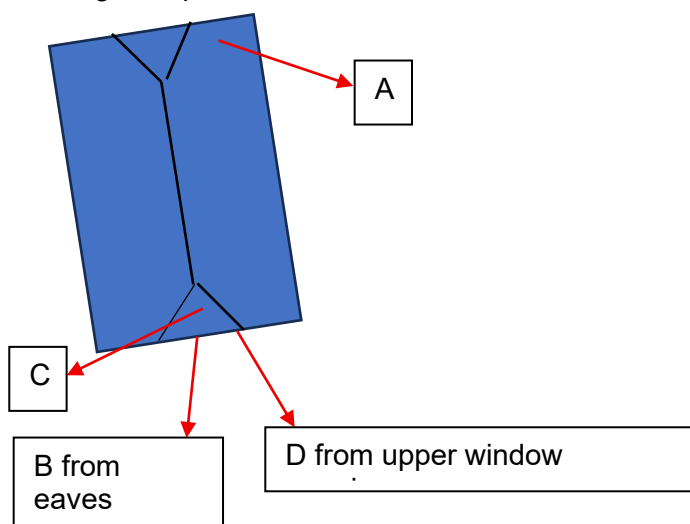
East side Surveyor

Time	Species	Numbers	Notes
18:59	55P	1	Out A
19:06	55P	1	Out B
19:08	55P	1	Out C
19:10	55P	1	Past E-W
19:14	55P	1	Past SE-W
19:15	55P	1	Heard
19:16-19:24	55P	2-3	Continuous flying between Granary & Great Barn

19:25	LE	1	Out D
19:26-19:30	55P	2-3	Continuous flying between granary & Great Barn
19:31	45P	1	Heard

LE – Long eared, 55P – Soprano pipistrelle, 45P – Common pipistrelle

Emergence points



For reference a number of Soprano pipistrelle bats emerged/re-entered the Great Great that was not part of this survey.

Survey – 28th of October 2025

The survey was completed between 1649 and 1651 with sunset at 1649. Weather conditions on the survey were suitable for bats to be active and complied with Bat Conservation Trust, Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologist, Best Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2023) on seasonal timings and weather suitability, even though this survey was conducted late in the season October is deemed to be a suitable survey month if weather pattern remains suitable for bat activity which this year it did. Result of each elevation are presented in detail.

Weather

	Temperature (oC)	Cloud (%)	Wind	Rain
Start	11.5	10	1	0
End	11	80	0	0

West side Detector
No recordings

North & West video
No bats emerged

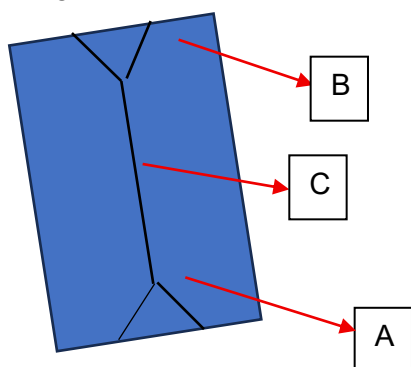
Surveyor

Time	Species	Numbers	Notes
17:06	55P	1	Out Great barn

17:09	55P	1	Out A
17:09	55P	1	Out B
17:10	45P	1	Heard
17:11	45P	1	W-E
17:13	45P	1	Past W-E
17:14-17:32	45P	1	Out C
17:22	45P	1	Foraging
17:35	55P	1	Social calls
17:42	55P	1	Heard
17:43	LE	1	Heard
17:47	U	1	Heard

LE – Long eared, 55P – Soprano pipistrelle, 45P – Common pipistrelle, U - Unknown

Emergence points



CONCLUSIONS

A total of three bat species were identified during both the bat activity surveys, including *Common pipistrelle Bats (Pipistrelle pipistrelle)*, *Soprano pipistrelle Bats (Pipistrelle pygmaeus)* and *Long eared Bats (Plecotus sp. taken to be Brown sub species auritus)*.

During the survey on the 29th of September 2025 four bats were seen to emerge from the east side of the barn three *Soprano pipistrelle Bats (Pipistrelle pygmaeus)* and one Brown long eared (*Plecotus auritus*). During the second survey on the 28th of October 2025 a total of three bats were seen to emerge from the east side of the barn two *Soprano pipistrelle Bats (Pipistrelle pygmaeus)* and one *Common pipistrelle Bats (Pipistrelle pipistrelle)*.

During both surveys up to four bats were seen to emerge on one survey, in total three species all day roosting, the numbers and spread of bats of this species indicate a male/non breeding roost.

Mitigation plan (for works affecting bat areas):

- Obtain any relevant consents
- Obtain a Low Impact Bat Licence from Natural England
- Put up three bat boxes prior to work commencing onto trees
- Toolbox talk and ecologist attend whilst potential roosting places removed/uncovered
- Licence report

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