
The Old Airfield, Honeystreet

Bat Surveys

August/September 2025

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1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 In August 2025, Seasons Ecology was instructed by LP Planning, on behalf of the landowner, to undertake bat surveys of The Old Airfield, Honeystreet, Pewsey, SN9 5PS (central grid reference: SU 10384 61705). The surveys were recommended following a *Preliminary Ecology Appraisal* of the site undertaken in July 2025 by Seasons Ecology¹.
- 1.1.2 The *Preliminary Ecology Appraisal* identified confirmed presence of roosting bats within the former mess building on site, in the form of a low number (10-20) of bat droppings confirmed by DNA analysis as belonging to serotine bat *Eptesicus serotinus*. The former mess building is assessed as *Moderate* suitability to roosting bats, owing to accesses into the building and gaps behind and above plasterboard.
- 1.1.3 The purpose of the bat surveys is to provide further information on the known bat roost and to identify any other roosts that may be present, to inform a planning application for conversion and extension of the former mess building to a residential dwelling.
- 1.1.4 This report details the results of the bat surveys and should be read in conjunction with the *Preliminary Ecology Appraisal* report produced by Seasons Ecology (July 2025).

2. Survey Method

- 2.1.1 The survey method is provided below and refers to survey guidelines in BCT (2023)².

2.2 Dusk Emergence Surveys

- 2.2.1 Two dusk emergence surveys were undertaken, one on 26th August and one on 23rd September 2025. The surveys commenced 15 minutes before sunset and continued for an hour-and-a-half after sunset.
- 2.2.2 Two surveyors attended the surveys. Each surveyor was equipped with an Echo Meter Touch Pro bat detector supported by an Apple iPad Mini 4 interface, on which all bat activity was recorded.
- 2.2.3 Two night-vision, infrared cameras were set up for the surveys (Sony FDR-AX53 and Canon XA20), one adjacent to each surveyor, with infrared torches and floodlights, which were positioned to illuminate the elevations of the former mess building. The surveyors also used digital night vision goggles (Nightfox Whisker).
- 2.2.4 Passive acoustic recording devices (*Titley AnaBat Express*) were also deployed for the surveys. These were positioned in the same locations as the surveyors and were set on 'continuous' recording mode for the duration of the surveys. Recordings were later analysed using AnalookW 4.2.24. software to aid the identification of species with reference to Russ (2012³).
- 2.2.5 Following the surveys, camera footage was reviewed, and recordings analysed.

¹ Seasons Ecology (July 2025) *Preliminary Ecology Appraisal*. The Old Airfield, Honeystreet (SEB3133_01).

² Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) (2023) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists. Good Practice Guidelines*. Bat Conservation Trust. Fourth Edition. Collins.

³ Russ, J. (2021) *British Bat Calls of Britain and Ireland. A Guide to Species Identification*. Pelagic Publishing.



2.3 Constraints to Survey

- 2.3.1 One of the surveys was undertaken towards the end of September, which is a valid but suboptimal month for survey. There were no other constraints to the surveys; all elevations and the roof of the mess building were in full view, the surveys were undertaken during the recommended survey period, and the weather conditions were suitable.

2.4 Personnel

- 2.4.1 The emergence surveys were overseen by Principal Ecologist, Kate Hayward, who has produced this report. Kate is a licensed bat ecologist registered to use Class Licence CL18 (Bat Survey Level 2) (class licence registration number 2015-15106-CLS-CLS) with 25 years' experience and is a full member of the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).
- 2.4.2 Ecologist, Patrick Ryan, led the emergence surveys. Patrick has over ten years' experience in undertaking bat surveys. The surveys were assisted by Ecologist, Hayley Evenett.



3. Survey Results

3.1.1 The results of the bat surveys are provided below. The locations of the surveyors and the key results are shown at Annex 1.

3.2 Dusk Emergence Survey, 26th August 2025

3.2.1 The survey commenced at 19:53 and finished at 21:38. Sunset was at 20:08. Weather conditions were suitable, with a start temperature of 18°C and end temperature of 17°C, wind was at a Beaufort 1-2⁴ (light air/light breeze) with 80% cloud cover and no rain.

3.2.2 **One common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* entered the former mess building via the open doorway on the south-west elevation and immediately emerged without alighting, at 21:09 (61 minutes after sunset), and then one common pipistrelle entered the former mess building, briefly alighting inside the building, before emerging via the open doorway, at 21:28 (80 minutes after sunset).**

3.2.3 General bat activity was low and by at least four species: common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, noctule *Nyctalus noctula*/Leisler's bat *N. leisleri* and serotine. A summary of activity is provided below:

- Common pipistrelle was recorded 14 times during the survey. The first recording was at 20:38 (30 minutes after sunset) of one bat commuting past the south-east end of the former mess building. Individual bats were then mainly heard periodically throughout the survey, the majority commuting with some foraging activity heard.
- Soprano pipistrelle was recorded three times during the survey, the first at 21:05 (57 minutes after sunset) heard briefly, then at 21:13 (65 minutes after sunset) and at 21:37 (89 minutes after sunset), both heard commuting.
- Noctule/Leisler's bat was recorded seven times during the survey. The first observation was at 20:10 (2 minutes after sunset) of an individual commuting bat. Individual bats were then recorded occasionally throughout the survey all individual commuting bats with one brief period of foraging heard at 21:25 (77 minutes after sunset).
- Serotine was recorded twice during the survey, one at 21:33 and one at 21:35 (85 and 87 minutes after sunset), both brief commuting passes.

3.2.4 Referring to the above, activity by common pipistrelle accounted for 54% of overall bat activity, with noctule/Leisler's bat contributing 27%, soprano pipistrelle 12% and serotine contributing 8% of overall general bat activity.

⁴ The Beaufort scale of wind velocity: 0 = Calm, 1 = Light Air, 2 = Light Breeze, 3 = Gentle Breeze, 4 = Moderate Breeze, 5 = Fresh Breeze, 6 = Strong Breeze, 7 = Near Gale, 8 = Gale, 9 = Strong Gale, 10 = Storm, 11 = Violent Storm, = 12 Hurricane (<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk>).



3.3 Dusk Emergence Survey, 23rd September 2025

- 3.3.1 The survey commenced at 18:50 and finished at 20:35. Sunset was at 19:05. Weather conditions were suitable, with a start temperature of 14°C and end temperature of 11°C, wind was at a Beaufort 0⁵ (calm) with 10% cloud cover.
- 3.3.2 **Two barbastelle bats *Barbastellus barbastellus* were observed emerging from the former mess building via the open doorway on the south-west elevation, one at 19:48 and one at 19:52 (43 minutes and 47 minutes after sunset).**
- 3.3.3 General bat activity was low and by at least three species: common pipistrelle, noctule/Leisler's bat and brown long-eared bat. A summary of activity is provided below:
- Common pipistrelle was recorded nine times during the survey. The first recording was at 19:44 (39 minutes after sunset) of one bat heard briefly. Individual bats were then heard occasionally throughout the survey, as brief commuting passes. Two bats were seen at 19:47 (42 minutes after sunset) circling the barn but then flew southwards.
 - Noctule/Leisler's bat was recorded twice during the survey, the first at 19:36 (31 minutes after sunset) and the second at 19:37 (32 minutes after sunset), both heard briefly.
 - Brown long-eared bat was recorded once during the survey, at 20:29 (84 minutes after sunset), seen commuting past the old mess building.
- 3.3.4 Referring to the above, activity by common pipistrelle accounted for 75% of overall bat activity, with 17% of activity by noctule/Leisler's bat and 8% of activity by brown long-eared bat.

4. Evaluation

- 4.1.1 Based on the results of the *Preliminary Ecology Appraisal* undertaken in July 2025 and the two bat surveys undertaken in August and September 2025, the former mess building supports roosting bats. Details of the roosts are provided below:
- Former Mess Building
 - Serotine: One day roost for low numbers of serotine bat, evidenced by bat droppings inside the building, but no bats recorded during the bat surveys. The access is likely to be the open doorway on the south-west elevation.
 - Common pipistrelle: One night roost for low numbers (one to two bats) inside the building with access via the open doorway on the south-west elevation.
 - Barbastelle: One day roost (possible mating site) for low numbers (two bats) inside the building with access via the open doorway on the south-west elevation.

⁵ The Beaufort scale of wind velocity: 0 = Calm, 1 = Light Air, 2 = Light Breeze, 3 = Gentle Breeze, 4 = Moderate Breeze, 5 = Fresh Breeze, 6 = Strong Breeze, 7 = Near Gale, 8 = Gale, 9 = Strong Gale, 10 = Storm, 11 = Violent Storm, = 12 Hurricane (<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk>).



Inside the building there are gaps between plaster and the external brick walls, which offer the only suitable roosting habitat, see photographs below:



- 4.1.2 Common pipistrelle is a common and widespread species and night roosts for this species have low conservation significance. Serotine is a less common species and day roosts for low numbers have low to medium conservation significance. Barbastelle has a rarity category of very rare and is an Annex II species. Non-breeding day roosts and mating sites for low numbers of this species have moderate conservation significance (local importance).
- 4.1.3 General bat activity was low and by at least five species. The majority of activity was by common pipistrelle with 23 passes over the course of the two surveys. There was relatively low activity by other species with nine passes by noctule/Leisler's bat, three passes by soprano pipistrelle, two passes by serotine and one pass by brown long-eared bat over the course of the two surveys.
- 4.1.4 There was little activity recorded by bats near to their emergence times. Noctule/Leisler's bat was recorded once near to sunset indicating an occasional tree roost nearby for this species.

5. Legislation

- 5.1.1 Bat species in England and Wales are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 (as amended) (EU Exit) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:
- Deliberately capture, injure or kill bats;
 - Intentionally or recklessly disturb bats;
 - Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which bats use for shelter or protection; and,
 - Deliberately damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place.
- 5.1.2 With the exception of disturbance, this legislation applies throughout the year whether bats are present or not at the time of works being carried out and irrespective of planning permission being obtained or being required.



6. Recommendations

6.1 The Proposal

- 6.1.1 The site is the subject of a planning application for conversion and extension of the former mess building to a residential dwelling.
- 6.1.2 With consideration to the proposal, the following is recommended:

6.2 Additional Bat Survey

- 6.2.1 The two bat surveys were undertaken in August and September 2025. September is a valid but suboptimal month for survey. Therefore, it is recommended that at least one additional bat survey is undertaken during June or July of the following year. This is to confirm the assessment of the known roosts and to identify the presence of any further roosts, including a maternity roost, although it is considered that there is low likelihood of the former mess building supporting a significant roost.

6.3 Consultation and European Protected Species Licence

- 6.3.1 Owing to the presence of a roost for a very rare bat species, it is recommended that a pre-application consultation request is made to Natural England on the proposal.
- 6.3.2 A European Protected Species Licence would then need to be applied for on receipt of planning consent.
- 6.3.3 Should works not commence for 12 months after the date of the latest survey(s), then an update survey should be undertaken to inform the bat licence application.

6.4 Protection, Mitigation and Compensation

- 6.4.1 Works to the former mess building would need to be undertaken at a time when roosting bats are unlikely to be present. The former mess building has negligible potential to support hibernating bats; therefore, the winter season is the best time to carry out initial works to the building.
- 6.4.2 Similar roosting opportunities for barbastelle and serotine bat will need to be provided in the converted former mess building, or the new extension, or an alternative should be constructed nearby. One bat box will need to be provided on a nearby tree to provide long-term replacement roosting for common pipistrelle bat.
- 6.4.3 A toolbox talk, pre-works checks and supervision will need to be carried out by the appointed Licensed Bat Ecologist.
- 6.4.4 The above measures will ensure the protection of bats during the works and provide long-term roosts on site for the bat species recorded, including a very rare, Annex II species.

6.5 Lighting

- 6.5.1 The *Preliminary Ecology Appraisal* report recommended the following in relation to lighting:
Owing to the rural location of the site, lighting should be limited to one downlighter outside the front entrance to the converted building, which should be low-level and operated by motion sensor with a timer to minimise times of illumination.



6.6 Biodiversity Enhancements

- 6.6.1 The *Preliminary Ecology Appraisal* report recommended the following in relation to enhancements specifically for bats:

One built-in bat box could be provided, built-in to the south-facing elevation of the new extension to the former mess building, or attached to the existing south-west elevation, at a height of between 3m and 5m.

Species of benefit to wildlife should be included in garden planting, including species to attract day and night-flying insects, which will enhance foraging resources for bats and birds. Owing to the rural location of the site, non-native, invasive species should be avoided.



7. Annexes

Annex 1: Surveyor Locations and Key Results (August and September 2025)



General bat activity was low and by at least five species. The majority of activity was by common pipistrelle with 23 passes over the course of the two surveys. There was relatively low activity by other species with nine passes by noctule/Leisler's bat, three passes by soprano pipistrelle, two passes by serotine and one pass by brown long-eared bat over the course of the two surveys.

Bat Survey Key

-  Survey area
-  Surveyor location
-  Camera location
-  Bat emergence/re-entry point (open doorway)

