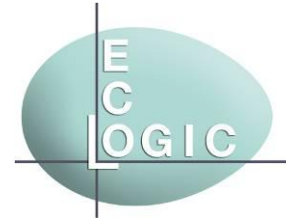


Bat and Protected Species Survey

Guard Room
Buckley Barracks
Chippenham
Wiltshire
SN14 6BT



Planning Reference:		Report Reference:	260201 rev00B
Client:	MOD		
Architect/Agent	Martin Ralph Group		
Survey Date/s:	19 th February 2026		
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1.1 Introduction

It is understood that it is proposed to undertake repairs to the Guard Room at Buckley Barracks, Chippenham SN14 6BT, including:

- Rebuilding of the parapet walls;
- Isolated repairs to the tiled roof;
- Minor repairs to the ashlar walls; and,
- Replacement of decayed windows.

1.2 Bats

It is considered that the surveyed building does not support roosting bats; therefore, the proposed works are unlikely to result in disturbance to bats or to affect the distribution or abundance of local bat populations significantly.

1.3 Nesting Birds

No bird nesting sites or signs were identified in association with the surveyed building. Precautionary recommendations are provided to ensure the proposed works do not disturb any active bird nest site(s), which could be newly established during any future bird-nesting seasons.

1.4 Ecological Enhancements

Provisions for bats, birds and invertebrates should be incorporated into the proposal to increase opportunities for wildlife on site (detailed within Section 5.3).

2.1 Site Proposals

It is understood that it is proposed to undertake repairs to the Guard Room at Buckley Barracks, Chippenham SN14 6BT, including:

- Rebuilding of the parapet walls;
- Isolated repairs to the tiled roof;
- Minor repairs to the ashlar walls; and,
- Replacement of decayed windows.

2.2 Survey Objectives

The Bat and Protected Species Survey specifically aimed to identify the following:

- The presence of, or past use of the site by, any species of bat;
- The presence of, or past use of the site by, barn owl, or other nesting birds;
- The site's potential for use by any of the above;
- Any other ecological issues relating to the proposal.

2.3 Site Description

The Guard Room was located at the south-eastern extent of Buckley Barracks and was surrounded by operational buildings and access roads with a small woodland of mature trees situated to the south and east, either side of the entrance road to the site (Figure 2.1).

2.4 Building Description

The building was a single-storey structure constructed of stone including low parapet walls to each elevation with a small central courtyard (Figures 2.2 to 2.4). The multi-pitched roof was constructed of original timbers supporting a clay tile covering with an underlining of sarking boards and bitumen felt (Figures 2.5 & 2.6).



Figure 2.1. Guard Room at Buckley Barracks outlined in red



Figure 2.2. The north elevation of the building



Figure 2.3. The east elevation of the building



Figure 2.4. The south elevation of the building



Figure 2.5. The west elevation of the building



Figure 2.6. The open roof void



Figure 2.7. The roof lining

SECTION 3

SURVEY METHODS

3.1 The Bat & Protected Species Survey

The survey was conducted by James Baker on 19th February 2026 with the aid of head and hand-held torches, an endoscope, close-range binoculars, an extendable ladder and a digital camera.

The survey aimed to assess levels of use by bats through the presence of actual animals or their field signs, such as droppings, insect prey, remains and/or urine staining, and the potential suitability of the buildings for roosting.

Other protected species, notably nesting birds and barn owl/s, were also investigated, including the presence and behaviour of any actual animals or their field signs, such as whitewash, pellets and or nest debris.

SECTION 4

SURVEY RESULTS

4.1 The Bat & Protected Species Survey

Table 4.1. Environmental conditions on 19th February 2026

Temperature (°C)	Wind Speed (Beaufort Scale)	Cloud cover (%)	Precipitation (%)	Sunset time
9	3	100	0	N/A

Constraints on the survey:

There was open access to the building and a thorough search was made of all internal and external surfaces and an assessment made of the roof structure.

4.1.1 Bats

No bats, or field signs of bat use, were identified in association with the building.

4.1.2 Nesting Birds

There were no signs of nesting birds associated with the surveyed building.

5.1 Bats

It is considered that the surveyed building does not support bat roosts, and the proposed works to undertake repairs to the walls, roof and windows are unlikely to result in disturbance to bats or to significantly affect the distribution or abundance of local bat populations. Therefore, it is not considered necessary to apply for a bat license under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) (Amendments) 2010 Regulations, and no further survey effort is considered necessary in relation to the proposal.

Although it is considered unlikely that bats may be encountered, as a matter of good practice, any contractors should be made aware of the potential presence of bats, particularly in association with the roofing layers and loft voids. In the unlikely event that a bat is found during work, work should stop in the vicinity of the bat/s and advice should be sought from EcoLogic Consultant Ecologists LLP or from the Natural England Bat Helpline (Tel: 0345 1300 228). Bats should ideally not be handled (unless with gloves), but should be left in situ, gently covered until advice is obtained.

5.2 Nesting Birds

No nesting birds were identified in association with the surveyed building. However, it is possible that new nests could be established within or upon the building during any future bird nesting seasons. Care will need to be taken to ensure no newly established bird nests are disturbed by the proposed works.

Whilst active, bird nest sites are legally protected from damage or disturbance (see Appendix 1). Therefore, care must be taken that the works do not disturb any future established bird nests.

Ideally, the proposed works should be scheduled to commence outside of the bird nesting season, removing any potential for undue delays caused by nesting birds. The bird nesting season is considered to extend from March to August inclusive, although, depending upon the species, geographical area and the weather conditions, nesting can extend outside this period.

Alternatively, if works are to be commenced during the bird nesting season, a nesting bird check would be required to confirm the presence or absence of active bird nests, with any active nests protected accordingly.

5.3 Ecological Enhancements

The National Planning Policy Framework outlines the Government's commitment to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide increases in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.

Therefore, for the development to increase opportunities for wildlife, the following provisions should be included;

- One bat roosting provision – positioned upon a building/mature tree at the site (see Appendix 2);
- One bird nest box – positioned upon a building/mature tree at the site (see Appendix 3); and,
- One bee box – positioned upon the southern elevation of a building/mature tree at the site (see Appendix 4).

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APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Legislation
- Appendix 2: Examples of Bat Roosting Provisions
- Appendix 3: Examples of Bird Nesting Provisions
- Appendix 4: Examples of Invertebrate Provisions

Bat Species

All bat species and their roosts are legally protected in the UK. All bats are listed as European protected species of animals in the European Union's Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known as the Habitats Directive. This Directive is implemented in the UK by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (better known as the Habitats Regulations).

There is also some protection for bats and roosts in England and Wales under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). For practical purposes, the protection of bats and their roosts now falls mostly under the Habitats Regulations

In summary, it is an offence to

- deliberately, capture, injure or kill a bat
- deliberately, disturb in a way that would significantly affect their local distribution or abundance, or affect their ability to survive, breed or rear young
- damage or destroy a roost (this is an 'absolute' offence)
- possess, control, transport, sell, exchange or offer for sale/exchange any live or dead bat or any part of a bat

('Deliberately' may be interpreted as someone who, although not intending to injure, kill, etc, performed the relevant action, being sufficiently informed and aware of the consequences their action will probably have.)

A person who needs to carry out actions that would result in an offence being committed should apply for a derogation licence from Natural England. They have powers to grant Habitats Regulations derogation licences in certain circumstances, for certain reasons and with certain terms attached, so that the licence holder remains within the law. Application for a derogation licence should be made in plenty of time, and the services of a bat expert utilised in making the application. It is an offence to make a false statement to obtain such a licence.

This information is not provided as legal advice and before making decisions relating to the law a qualified legal representative should be consulted.

Barn Owl

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Barn Owls are listed on Schedule 1 which provides them with special protection.

It is an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure, or take (handle) any wild barn owl.
- Intentionally take, damage, or destroy any wild barn owl nest whilst in use or being 'built'.
- Intentionally take or destroy a wild barn owl egg.
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild barn owl whilst 'building' a nest or whilst in, on, or near a nest containing eggs or young.
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any dependent young of wild barn owls.

Nesting and Nest Building Birds

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Nesting is determined as being from when birds first initiate nest building up until the point when fledglings stop returning to the nest.

Harlech Woodstone Bat Box

Material: Woodstone
Weight: 4 kg
Entrance: 20 x 80 mm slit

The bat box can be placed on both a tree or a façade. Preferably choose a sunny spot but do not place the cabinet under or in artificial light and avoid placing where the rain can directly access the box. 3m or higher from ground level.

**Eco Crevice/Cavity Bat Box**

Material: Recycled LDPE plastic outer with internal FSC Certified OSB chamber
Width: 215 mm
Height: 420 mm
Depth: 111 mm
Weight: Crevice 2.4 kg; Cavity 2.1 kg

Position: southerly aspect, 3m or higher from ground level..

**Schwegler 2FN**

Material: Woodcrete

Diameter: 160 mm
Height: 360 mm
Weight: 4.3 kg

Position: In a south facing location, minimum of 3 m above ground level.



Vivara Pro Barcelona Woodstone Open Nest Box

Suitable for wren, robin, pied wagtail and blackbird

Material: Woodstone

Height: 240 mm

Width: 190 mm

Depth: 175 mm

Position: Externally, at a minimum height of 3 m

**Vivara Pro Seville 32mm Woodstone Nest Box**

Suitable for: House sparrow, blue & great tit, nuthatch

Material: Woodstone

Height: 310 mm

Width: 200 mm

Depth: 200 mm

Weight: 6.9 kg

Position: Externally, at a minimum height of 3 m

**Eco Sparrow Tower**

Suitable for: House sparrow and individual blue & great tits

Material: Recycled LDPE plastic & FSC certified OSB

Height: 650 mm

Width: 170 mm

Depth: 170 mm

Weight: 2.8 kg

Position: Externally, at a minimum height of 2 m



Woodstone Insect Block

Suitable for bees, lacewings and ladybirds.

Material: Woodstone

Height: 270 mm

Width: 185 mm

Depth: 90 mm

Position: Site in a southerly facing location, adjacent to garden or boundary habitats at a minimum height of 2 m.



Green & Blue Bee Brick

Suitable for non-swarming solitary bees such as mason bees and leaf cutter bees.

Material: Concrete (75% waste materials from Cornish China Clay Industry)

Height: 215 mm

Width: 105 mm

Depth: 65 mm

Position: Within external wall in a southerly facing location, adjacent to garden/boundary habitats at a minimum height of 2 m.

