

Report for: Slip End Farm, Slip End, Ashwell, SG7 6SL

Commissioned by: James Northern, D Northern & Sons

Bat Emergence Report



Old pigsties on site (B2)

Slip End Farm, Slip End, Ashwell, SG7 6SL

Report No: J3172-2-0423

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SUMMARY

On the instructions of James Northern, D Northern & Sons, Morgan & Stuckey Ecological Consultants carried out a Bat Emergence Survey for the site of Slip End Farm, Slip End, Ashwell, SG7 6SL.

Proposals for the site are yet to be finalised, but currently include for the demolition of the four existing agricultural buildings on site and the construction of 7 new residential dwellings.

Following the Ecological Impact Assessment (Report no. J3172-0423), carried out by Morgan & Stuckey Ecological Consultants, it was recommended that a single dusk emergence survey be carried out on the old pigsties on site, referred to as 'B2'.

No bats were observed emerging from the building and very little bat activity was recorded. Therefore, no impacts to bats are foreseen from the development.

Recommendations for the site can be found in Section 6.

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Document Title:	Bat Emergence Report Slip End Farm, Slip End, Ashwell, SG7 6SL
The Client:	James Northern, D Northern & Sons

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Report Number J3172-2	Status FINAL	Date of issue 14/06/23
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Reviewed by		
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Biological Records of species identified during this survey, the date, their location and a brief description of the circumstances of their identification, may be passed on to Biological Records Centres, local wildlife groups, the Wildlife Trust, Natural England and other interested parties unless written instructions not to do so are received within 30 days of receipt of this report.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INSTRUCTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

On the instructions of James Northern, D Northern & Sons, Morgan & Stuckey Ecological Consultants carried out a Bat Emergence Survey for the site of Slip End Farm, Slip End, Ashwell, SG7 6SL.

Proposals for the site are yet to be finalised, but currently include for the demolition of the four existing agricultural buildings on site and the construction of 7 new residential dwellings.

Following the Ecological Impact Assessment (Report no. J3172-0423), carried out by Morgan & Stuckey Ecological Consultants, it was recommended that a single dusk emergence survey be carried out on the old pigsties on site, referred to as 'B2'.

The emergence survey, carried out on the 11/06/2023, is intended to inform on the presence/ likely absence of bats on site, and if present, what the species, population and entry/exit points are. Information from the survey can be used to suggest appropriate mitigation and compensation measures, if necessary, to ensure that the presence of bats at the site is maintained and to comply with the legislation affording bat species protection.

2 METHOD

2.1 DUSK EMERGENCE/ DAWN ENTRY SURVEYS

All survey work is conducted according to the latest 'best practice' standards as published in the 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines' (Bat Conservation Trust, 3rd edition, 2016).

Surveyors are positioned around the buildings, structures or trees to cover all elevations where possible, which are then observed for any emergences or entries of bats from suitable features e.g., gaps/ crevices.

The surveys are undertaken during the optimum survey period for bats (May-August inclusive) and in suitable temperature and weather conditions. The surveys commence 15 minutes before sunset and continue until at least 1.5 hours after sunset or 1.5 hours prior to sunrise and continue until 15 minutes after sunrise, by which time any bats present were expected to have emerged or entered.

Any additional bat activity on site e.g., foraging or commuting bats, is noted.

Equipment available for the assessment includes:

- Torches
- Ladders
- Endoscope
- Mirrors
- Binoculars
- Camera
- Sample pots (for collection of droppings)
- Echo Meter Touch Detector
- Night Vision Aids (IR lights and camera)

2.1.1 CONSTRAINTS

There are no specific constraints on this assessment and no deviation from the guidelines has been taken.

The absence of a bat roost at the time of the survey cannot rule out the possibility of a bat roost being present or developing at another time. Bats are highly mobile and regularly move their roost locations in response to both environmental conditions and the time of year.

3 RESULTS

3.1 SITE LOCATION AND SETTINGS

The site is centred on OS NGR TL 28306 36697, post code SG7 6SL, in Ashwell, Hertfordshire.

The site is surrounded by agricultural land and arable fields on all sides, with the A505 road running close to the south-eastern boundary of the proposed development site.

Small copses and larger areas of woodland are found throughout the vicinity of the site, with the closest approx. 120m SW from the development area.

A ditch runs approx. 150m S from the site, otherwise there are no known water bodies within 2km of the site.



Figure 3-1 Proposed development area with red boundary.

3.1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is situated within a farmyard, with a large modern grain store, now used as storage for waste (B1), disused pigsties (B2), disused cattle shed (B3) and an open pole barn (B4), hardstanding, regularly mown and parked upon grassland and occasional areas of tall ruderal.

Following the Ecological Impact Assessment (Report no. J3172-0423), carried out by Morgan & Stuckey Ecological Consultants, B2 was found to hold low potential for bats and it was recommended a single dusk emergence survey be carried out.

B2 is a collection of old pigsties that have fallen into disrepair, built from brick with a pitched roof comprised of asbestos type sheets. Inside the lining was in poor condition. Cavities were found within the brick walls and in areas where the ceiling/lining was still intact.

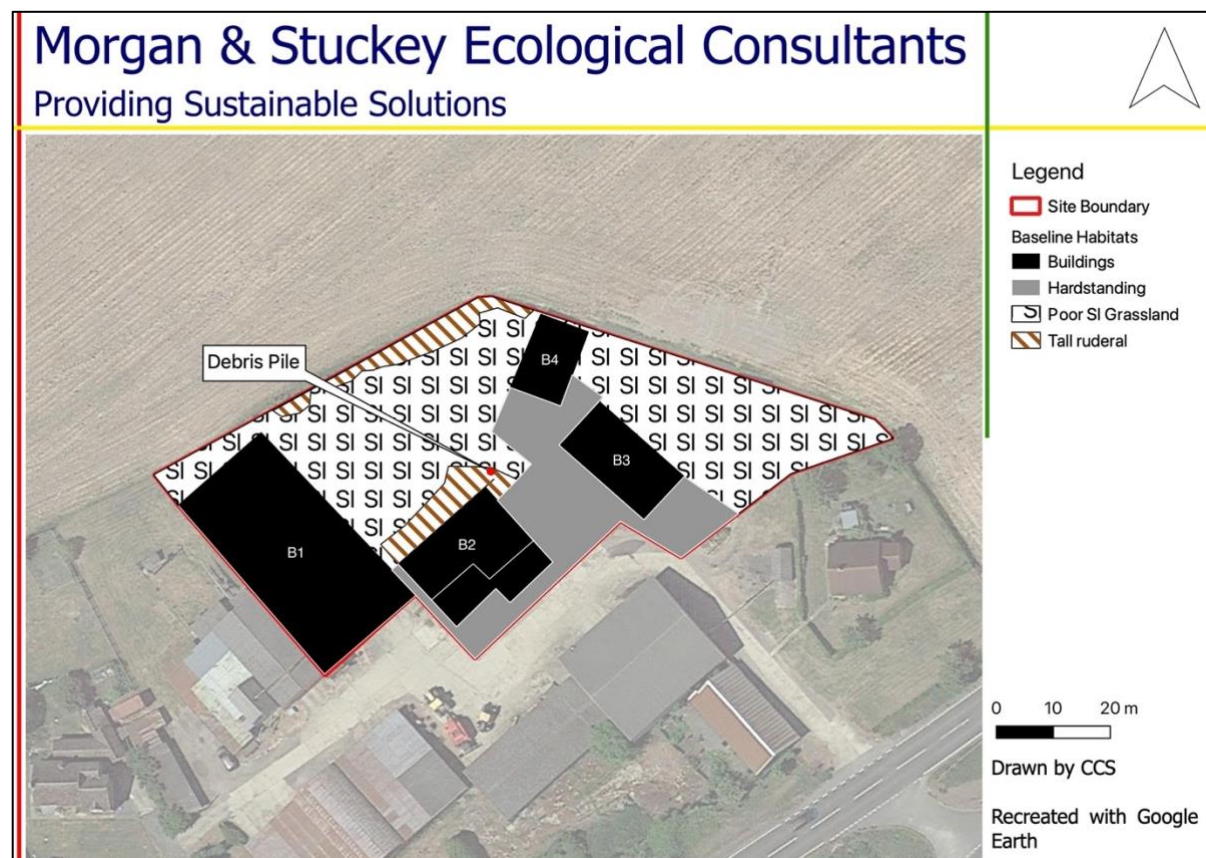


Figure 3-2 Site Plan

3.2 DUSK EMERGENCE/ DAWN RE-ENTRY SURVEYS

Table 3.1 Dusk Emergence Survey- 11/06/23

Date	11/06/2023	
Sunset	21:20	
Survey Start	21:05	
Survey End	22:50	
Weather	Start Temp: 22°C Humidity: 65 Cloud: 80% Wind: 1/8 Precipitation: None	End Temp: 19°C Humidity: 72 Cloud: 70% Wind: 1/8 Precipitation: None
Building Observed	B2	
No. of Surveyors	2	
Bats seen emerging/ re-entering buildings	No	
Species Recorded	Common Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>) Leisler (<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>)	
Surveyor Notes		
HS	A distant recording of a leisler was recorded at 22:34, followed by a distant recording of a common pipistrelle at 22:40. No activity observed.	
CS	A close pass of common pipistrelle was recorded at 22:25, heard but not seen, and a distant recording of a leisler was heard at 22:33.	

IR Image	
Supplementary Observations	Rabbits and small rodents were observed on site.

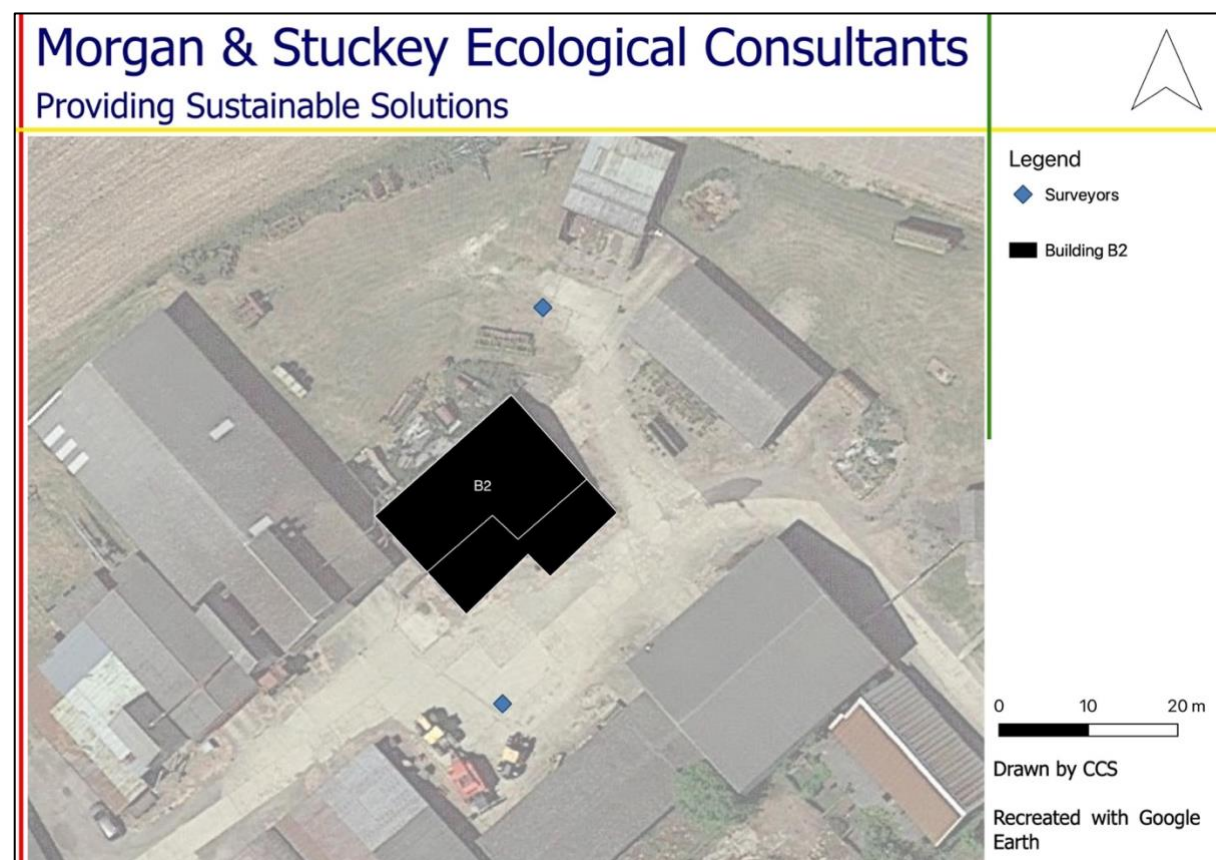


Figure 3-3 Bat Activity Plan

4 CONCLUSION

On the instructions of James Northern, D Northern & Sons, Morgan & Stuckey Ecological Consultants carried out a Bat Emergence Survey for the site of Slip End Farm, Slip End, Ashwell, SG7 6SL.

Proposals for the site are yet to be finalised, but currently include for the demolition of the four existing agricultural buildings on site and the construction of 7 new residential dwellings.

Following the Ecological Impact Assessment (Report no. J3172-0423), carried out by Morgan & Stuckey Ecological Consultants, it was recommended that a single dusk emergence survey be carried out on the old pigsties on site, referred to as 'B2'.

No bats were observed emerging from the building and very little bat activity was recorded. Therefore, no impacts to bats are foreseen from the development.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 MITIGATION

5.1.1 BATS

As no bats were recorded emerging from the building, no further impacts to bats are foreseen.

If a bat should be found at any time during the works, then all works must stop and advice sought from a licenced bat worker.

5.1.2 GENERAL

As rabbits and small rodents were observed on site, any excavations that need to be left overnight should be covered or fitted with mammal ramps to ensure that any animals that enter can safely escape. Any open pipework with an outside diameter of greater than 120 mm must be covered at the end of each workday to prevent animals entering/becoming trapped.

5.2 ENHANCEMENTS

The LPA has a duty to impose enhancements on each site, for recommendations for these please refer to the Ecological Impact Assessment (Report no. J3172-0423), carried out by Morgan & Stuckey Ecological Consultants.

6 LEGISLATION

6.1 ANIMALS (EXCEPT BADGERS)

Wild animals listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and/or Schedules 2 and 4 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)

	Sections of the Act applicable
Bats and GCN	9 (1), (2) (4 a & b) of the WCA and Regulation 39 (1 a-c) of the Habitats Regulation

Species listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) are afforded protection subject to the provisions of Section 9. A person will be guilty of an offence if they:

1. intentionally kill, injure or take any wild animal included in Schedule 5,
2. have in their possession or control any live or dead wild animal included in Schedule 5 or any part of, or anything derived from, such an animal,
- 3.
4. intentionally or recklessly—
 - a. damage or destroy any structure or place which any wild animal specified in Schedule 5 uses for shelter or protection.
 - b. disturb any such animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection; or
 - c. obstruct access to any structure or place which any such animal uses for shelter or protection.
5. Subject to the provisions of this Part,
 - a. sell, offer, or expose for sale, or have in his possession or transports for the purpose of sale, any live or dead wild animal included in Schedule 5, or any part of, or anything derived from, such an animal; or
 - b. publish or cause to be published any advertisement likely to be understood as conveying that they buy or sell, or intends to buy or sell, any of those things,
6. In any proceedings for an offence under subsection (1), (2) or (5)(a) relating to an act which is mentioned in subsection (1), (2) or (5)(a), the animal in question shall be presumed to have been a wild animal unless the contrary is shown.

Species listed on Annex II and Annex IV of The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (the Habitats Regulations) which transpose into UK law Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21st May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (often referred to as the 'Habitats [and Species] Directive.') are afforded further protection. The former Annex relates to the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for some species.

Inclusion on Annex IV ('European protected species') means that member states are required to put in place a system of strict protection as outlined in Article 12, and this is done through inclusion on Schedule 2 of the Regulations. Regulation 39 makes it an offence to:

Deliberately capture or kill an animal listed on Schedule 2 [Regulation 39(1)(a)]

Deliberately disturb an animal listed on Schedule 2 [Regulation 39(1)(b)]

Deliberately take or destroy the eggs of an animal listed on Schedule 2
[Regulation 39(1)(c)]

Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of an animal listed on
Schedule 2 [Regulation 39(1)(d)]

Where applicable legislation applies to all life stages of a species.

6.2 BADGERS

Species	Sections of the Act applicable
Badgers & their Setts	All

Badgers were initially protected by inclusion on Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The protection has subsequently been strengthened by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. The purpose of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 is to protect badgers from the incidental effects of lawful activities and deliberate attempts to inflict injury or kill badgers.

Under the Protection of Badger Act 1992:

1. A person is guilty of an offence if, except as permitted by or under this Act, he willfully kills, injures, or takes, or attempts to kill, injure, or take, a badger.
2. If, in any proceedings for an offence under subsection (1) above consisting of attempting to kill, injure or take a badger, there is evidence from which it could reasonably be concluded that at the material time the accused was attempting to kill, injure or take a badger, he shall be presumed to have been attempting to kill, injure or take a badger unless the contrary is shown.
3. A person is guilty of an offence if, except as permitted by or under this Act, he has in his possession or under his control any dead badger or any part of, or anything derived from, a dead badger.
4. A person is not guilty of an offence under subsection (3) above if he shows that—
 - a. the badger had not been killed, or had been killed otherwise than in contravention of the provisions of this Act or of the Badgers Act 1973; or
 - b. the badger or other thing in his possession or control had been sold (whether to him or any other person) and, at the time of the purchase, the purchaser had had no reason to believe that the badger had been killed in contravention of any of those provisions.
 - c. If a person is found committing an offence under this section on any land it shall be lawful for the owner or occupier of the land, or any servant of the owner or occupier, or any constable, to require that person forthwith to quit the land and also to give his name and address; and if that person on being so required willfully remains on the land or refuses to give his full name or address he is guilty of an offence.

Cruelty.

1. A person is guilty of an offence if—
 - a. he cruelly ill-treats a badger.

- b. he uses any badger tongs in the course of killing or taking, or attempting to kill or take, a badger.
- c. except as permitted by or under this Act, he digs for a badger; or
- d. he uses for the purpose of killing or taking a badger any firearm other than a smooth bore weapon of not less than 20 bore or a rifle using ammunition having a muzzle energy not less than 160 foot-pounds and a bullet weighing not less than 38 grains.

2.2 If in any proceedings for an offence under subsection (1)(c) above there is evidence from which it could reasonably be concluded that at the material time the accused was digging for a badger he shall be presumed to have been digging for a badger unless the contrary is shown.

Interfering with badger setts.

3 A person is guilty of an offence if, except as permitted by or under this Act, he interferes with a badger sett by doing any of the following things—

- (a)damaging a badger sett or any part of it.
- (b)destroying a badger sett.
- (c)obstructing access to, or any entrance of, a badger sett.
- (d)causing a dog to enter a badger sett; or
- (e)disturbing a badger when it is occupying a badger sett,

intending to do any of those things or being reckless as to whether his actions would have any of those consequences.

Selling and possession of live badgers.

4. A person is guilty of an offence if, except as permitted by or under this Act, he sells a live badger or offers one for sale or has a live badger in his possession or under his control.

Marking and ringing.

5. A person is guilty of an offence if, except as authorized by a license under section 10 below, he marks, or attaches any ring, tag, or other marking device to, a badger other than one which is lawfully in his possession by virtue of such a license.

6.3 BIRDS

Species
All species of wild birds

All wild birds, with certain exceptions, are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

It is an offence for any person to:

Intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird.

Intentionally take damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built.

Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

The penalty for each offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act - in respect of a single bird, nest, or egg - is a fine of up to £5,000, and/or six months' imprisonment.

Bird species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 are further protected from intentional or reckless disturbance whilst nest building or at (or near) a nest with eggs or young; or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

To avoid disturbance, recommend that no work should be undertaken within 'line of sight' of the nest. Note certain activities e.g., pile driving, pneumatic drilling and borehole drilling will require a wider buffer zone.