



# PLAN FOR ECOLOGY

## Preliminary Bat & Bird Assessment

Site:

The New Inn, New Grimsby, Tresco, Isles of Scilly

Grid Reference: SV 889 152

15<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Prepared for Tresco Estate by:

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## Summary

<b>Bat evidence?</b>	The dining room at the New Inn, Tresco was surveyed on 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2019. All parts of the building were accessible and could be fully inspected. No evidence of roosting bats was observed within the interior of the building and no external features were identified with potential to support roosting bats. All parts of the building were assessed as being of negligible suitability for roosting bats.
<b>Bat mitigation recommendations?</b>	Mitigation not required. Precautionary approach is recommended.
<b>Bird evidence?</b>	No evidence of nesting birds.
<b>Bird mitigation recommendations?</b>	Precautionary approach is recommended.



## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

Tresco Estate commissioned Plan for Ecology Ltd to undertake a Preliminary Bat and Bird Assessment (sometimes referred to as a Bat and Barn Owl Assessment) of the dining room at the New Inn, New Grimsby, Tresco, Isles of Scilly (OS Grid Ref: SV 889 152) in September 2019. The client proposes a single storey extension forming additional dining space and prep room including infill of swimming pool.

### 1.2 Project Administration

<b>Property Address:</b>	The New Inn, New Grimsby, Tresco, Isles of Scilly, TR24 0QG
<b>OS Grid Reference:</b>	SV 889 152
<b>Client:</b>	Tresco Estate
<b>Planning Authority:</b>	Council of the Isles of Scilly
<b>Planning Reference Number:</b>	P/19/054
<b>Report Reference Number:</b>	P4E1049
<b>Proposed work:</b>	Single storey extension forming additional dining space and prep room including infill of swimming pool.
<b>Survey Date:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2019
<b>Ecologist &amp; Licence Number:</b>	Dr Kim Jelbert BSc (Hons) MSc PhD MCIEEM: Bat licence No. 2015-10444-CLS-CLS & Barn owl licence No. CL29/00037  Naomi Scala BSc (Hons), MSc, ACIEEM (Bat licence No. 2018-34120-CLS-CLS)

### 1.3 Legislation & Planning Policy

**Planning:** The local planning authority has a statutory obligation to consider impacts upon protected species resulting from development. Planning permission will not be granted with outstanding ecological surveys, and if applicable an appropriate mitigation plan.

**Bats:** In the UK all bat species are listed on Annex IV(a) of the European Communities Habitats Directive and as such are European Protected Species (EPS). In Britain protection of bats is achieved through their inclusion on Schedule 2 of the Conservation and Habitats Regulations 2010, Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Schedule 12 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (HM Government, 1981, 2000 & 2010).

As a result of this statutory legislation it is an offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat/s in its roost;
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a bat roost (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time);



- Possess or sell or exchange a bat (dead or alive) or part of a bat.

Works with potential to cause significant disturbance to roosting bats may require a European Protected Species (EPSL) licence or Bat Mitigation Class Licence (CL21) from Natural England before works can legally commence. Works likely to result in less significant disturbance may be carried out under a Bat Mitigation Method Statement. The magnitude of disturbance and therefore the requirement for an EPSL, Bat Mitigation Class Licence or method statement is assessed on a case by case basis by the bat ecologist. The Bat Mitigation Method Statement or EPSL must be prepared and/or applied for by a suitably experienced and licenced bat ecologist. Only Registered Consultants can use the Bat Mitigation Class Licence. Where planning permission is required, the appropriate licence cannot be obtained until planning permission has been granted.

**Birds:** In Britain the nests (whilst in use or being built) and eggs of wild birds are protected against taking, damage and destruction under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (HM Government, 1981). The barn owl (*Tyto alba*) is listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (HM Government, 1981); this legislation makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally capture, injure or kill a barn owl;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a barn owl whilst nesting;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a dependent young barn owl.



## 2.0 Methodology

The ecologist (Naomi Scala) assessed the suitability of the building and the surrounding habitat to support bats and birds. A high-power torch was used to illuminate all accessible areas of the building with potential to support roosting bats and roosting/ nesting birds. The ecologist searched for signs of bats and birds including droppings, staining, feeding remains, bird nests, barn owl pellets and liming. Accessible crevices with potential to conceal a roosting bat were inspected using an endoscope.

The assessment was carried out in accordance with the 'Bat Survey for Professional Ecologists - Good Practice Guidelines' produced by the Bat Conservation Trust (Collins, 2016).

### 2.1 Ecological Evaluation

Potential bat roosts identified during the visual inspection of the building were categorised as to their suitability in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust's (BCT) Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2016) as described below:

Negligible: negligible features with potential to support roosting bats.

Low: one or more features with potential to support individual bats on an occasional basis. Unlikely to support large numbers of bats.

Moderate: one or more features with potential to support roosting bats but unlikely to be of high conservation status.

High: one or more features with potential to support large numbers of bats on a regular basis.

### 2.2 Limitations

Weather during the survey was in line with seasonal norms. There are no limitations associated with weather conditions.

### 2.3 Declaration

"The information, evidence and advice, which we have prepared and provided is true, and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management's (CIEEM) Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions."

**Name(s)**: Naomi Scala BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM; Dr Kim Jelbert BSc (Hons) MSc PhD MCIEEM

**Signed:** 





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## 3.0 Assessment Results

### 3.1 Site Description

The New Inn is located at New Grimsby, Tresco, Isles of Scilly. The location is rural and coastal in character: mixed farmland (pasture and arable field with hedgerows) encloses the site to the north, residential development to the south with coastal habitat beyond, and residential development to the east and west. Buildings in the wider area comprise a mixture of period and modern properties. In combination these features provide potential foraging and roosting habitat for bats, and suitable nest sites, roosts and foraging habitat for birds.

### 3.2 Bat Assessment

The visual assessment was undertaken on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019.

The dining room at The New Inn is a single storey projection of part block/ part glass construction with a pitch and hip roof (Figs 1-2). The roof supports slate roof tiles and concrete ridge tiles. Wood fascias are tight. The roof is well sealed throughout with no obvious gaps.

Internally, the dining room has a vaulted ceiling with wood cladding (Fig 3). The south east and south west elevations have large windows, making the interior well lit. No evidence of roosting bats was found internally.

A chemical store is situated at the north west elevation (Fig 2). The chemical store has a sloping mono pitch roof with slate. Vents on the exterior of the chemical store were deemed too small to permit bat access.

The interior of the chemical store was well sealed (Fig 4). The roof was boarded out with no roof void. No evidence of roosting bats was found internally.

No evidence of bats was observed within the interior of the dining room and chemical store and no obvious external potential bat accesses were observed. Overall, the dining room at The New Inn was assessed as being of **negligible suitability** for roosting bats.

### 3.3 Bird Assessment

No evidence of nesting birds including roosting barn owl, was observed during the survey. The property has **negligible potential** to support barn owl.





Figure 1: View of south west and south east elevations of dining room.



Figure 2: View of north west elevation of dining room, showing chemical store.





Figure 3: View of interior of dining room.



Figure 4: View of interior of chemical store.



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## 4.0 Mitigation Recommendations

### 4.1 Bat Mitigation

Although no current evidence of roosting bats was found, absence cannot be assumed. A precautionary approach should be adopted. The building contractors should be made aware that bats can roost unseen within the building structure. If, during works, a bat(s) is uncovered, the bat must not be handled and works must stop immediately (as soon as it is safe to do so). Advice must be sought from an experienced bat ecologist (Plan for Ecology Ltd: 01326 218839) or Bat Conservation Trust (Tel: 0345 1300 228). See Section 2.3 for relevant legislation.

Further surveys for bats are not recommended as part of this assessment.

### 4.2 Bird Mitigation

Although no current evidence of nesting birds was observed, absence cannot be assumed.

Works during the bird nesting season (March to September inclusive) should be avoided or preceded with a thorough search for nests to be undertaken by an ecologist. Works are most likely to be delayed between April and July. If, during works, an active bird nest is uncovered, works must stop immediately (as soon as it is safe to do so) and delayed until nesting activity has ceased.

Further surveys for birds are not recommended as part of this assessment.

### 4.3 Opportunities for Biodiversity Enhancement

Net gain is described as a measurable target(s) for development projects where impacts on biodiversity are outweighed by the mitigation hierarchy approach to first avoid, and then minimise, impact including through restoration and/ or compensation (Baker et al., 2019).

The biodiversity value of the site for roosting bats and nesting birds post-development could be enhanced by installing bird and bat boxes within the fabric of the extended building, on the building exterior or within the garden of the property. The value of the site for invertebrates could be enhanced by installing deadwood piles within garden habitat, or bee bricks within the extended building. Plan for Ecology Ltd can provide detailed recommendations upon request.

NB: suitable products are available from [www.nhbs.com](http://www.nhbs.com), [www.wildcareshop.com](http://www.wildcareshop.com) and [www.greenandblue.co.uk](http://www.greenandblue.co.uk)



## 5.0 References

Baker et al., (2019) Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development.

British Standard Institution (2013) BS42020: 2013 Biodiversity – A Code of Practice for Planning and Development. BSI Standards Limited 2013. ISBN 978 0 580 77917 6.

Collins (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, 3rd Edition, Bat Conservation Trust, London.

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