

FAO Ms Louise Jelley
Case Officer - Planning

Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Leicester
LE3 8RA

12th May 2022
Application No: **21/01305/FUL**

Dear Louise Jelley

Ref: Chapel Fields Livery Stables, Chapel Lane, Witherley, Atherstone, Leicestershire CV9 3LR

Proposals: The construction of five detached dwellings, with associated garages, parking provision, access and landscaping.

Application No: 21/01305/FUL

I am writing in response to the additional information request made within an email dated 2nd December 2021 in relation to the above application, specifically the request for a further eDNA survey of the nearby pond as recommended within the informing PEA report (RPS, September 2021).

In accordance with standard methodology the eDNA samples were collected from the waterbody located within a 500m radius of the site (P1) on 15th April 2022 following standard protocols set out by the testing laboratory (ADAS) whereby 20 water samples were taken from different locations around the pond margin, taking care to sample as much of the perimeter of the pond as possible. Appropriate precautions have been put in place to prevent contamination of samples between ponds e.g. wearing gloves, not standing in the water etc. Each of the 20 samples have then been pooled and 15ml has then been transferred into each of the six ethanol-filled tubes.

The eDNA samples were undertaken by suitably experienced Ecologist Casey Griffin MCIEEM holder of a Natural England Class Survey Licence (CLS).

The results of the eDNA assessment of P1 are provided overleaf:

Client: Casey and Ian Griffin,
Griffin Ecology



ADAS
Spring Lodge
172 Chester Road
Helsby
WAG 0AR

Tel: 01159 229249
Email: Helen.Rees@adas.co.uk

www.adas.uk

Sample ID: ADAS-3456 Condition on Receipt: Good Volume: Passed

Client Identifier: not supplied Description: pond water samples in preservative

Date of Receipt: 20/04/2022 Material Tested: eDNA from pond water samples

Determinant	Result	Method	Date of Analysis
Inhibition Control [†]	2 of 2	Real Time PCR	21/04/2022
Degradation Control [‡]	Within Limits	Real Time PCR	21/04/2022
Great Crested Newt [*]	0 of 12 (GCN negative)	Real Time PCR	21/04/2022
Negative PCR Control (Nuclease Free Water)	0 of 4	Real Time PCR	As above for GCN
Positive PCR Control (GCN DNA 10 ⁻⁴ ng/μL) [*]	4 of 4	Real Time PCR	As above for GCN
Report Prepared by:	Dr Helen Rees	Report Issued by:	Dr Ben Maddison

Signed:

Position: Director: Biotechnology Position: MD: Biotechnology

Date of preparation: 22/04/2022 Date of issue: 22/04/2022

eDNA analysis was carried out in accordance with the stipulated methodology found in the Technical Advice Note (WC1067 Appendix 5 Technical Advice Note) published by DEFRA and adopted by Natural England.

^{*} If all PCR controls and extraction blanks give the expected results a sample is considered: negative for great crested newt if all of the replicates are negative; positive for great crested newt if one or more of the replicates are positive.

[†] Recorded as the number of positive replicate reactions at expected C_t value. If the expected C_t value is not achieved, the sample is considered inhibited and is diluted as per the technical advice note prior to amplification with great crested newt primer and probes.

[‡] No degradation is expected within time frame of kit preparation, sample collection and analysis.

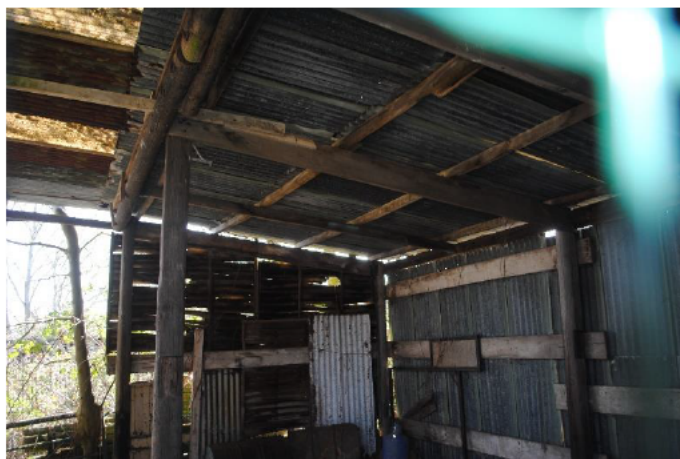
^{*} Additional positive controls (10⁻¹, 10⁻², 10⁻³ ng/μL) are also routinely run, results not shown here.

Following the result of this further effort it is concluded that the risk of GCN presence within habitats on site is negligible, considering that P1 is the only suitability connected waterbody within a 500m radius of the site (RPS, September 2021).

Additionally, further to the recommendation made within the PEA report (RPS, September 2021), building B1 has been subject to an updated Preliminary Roost Inspection including a detailed endoscopic search of the identified potential bat roosting feature. This has been undertaken by suitably experienced and licenced ecologist Casey Griffin MCIEEM on 15th April 2022.

The area of lifted flashing atop the corrugated metal finish has been fully endoscoped. This inspection revealed no evidence of bat activity in the form of droppings, staining or foraging remains.

This particular feature is shallow in depth and wedge shaped, additionally the metal substrate is likely to heat and cool rapidly making it unsuitable for any sustained bat roosting. The endoscopic inspection further revealed evidence of water penetration behind this feature.



B1 – internal view



B1 – area of flashing



B1 – endoscope view

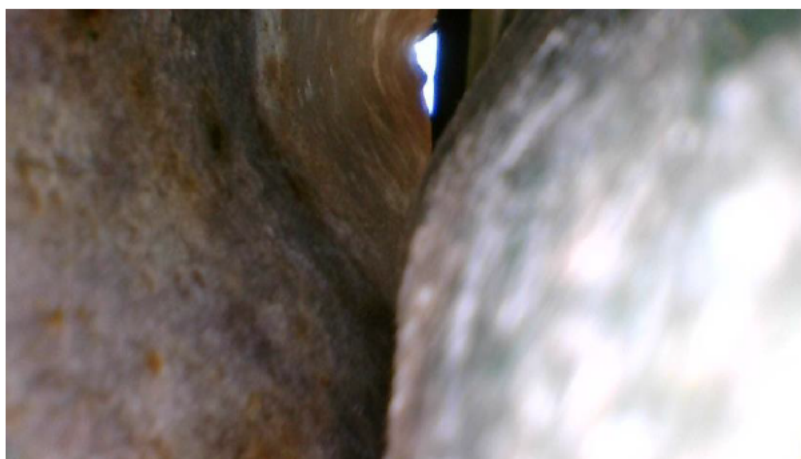
Directors: I.Griffin, C.Bevan

Griffin Ecology Limited, Bloxham Mill, Barford Road, Bloxham, Oxfordshire, OX15 4FF

Co.Reg. No. 11543362- 2018



B1 – endoscope view



B1 – endoscope view

Following the results of this updated PRA, the building B1, when considered in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust's "Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists, Good Practice Guidelines" (Collins, 2016) and Table 4.1 which attributes suitability for bat roosting based on features offered and habitat present within the locality, is subsequently afforded negligible suitability to support roosting bats.

We would however note that the habitats on site are likely to sustain densities of common and widespread invertebrates and therefore will present foraging opportunities for bats within a local context. Furthermore nearby established roosts are likely to be heavily dependent on such foraging opportunities within their Core Sustenance Zones (CSZs) (BCT; Core Sustenance Zones: Determining zone size; 2016). Therefore any proposed lighting would need to be sensitively designed and proposed landscaping should seek to include native species wherever possible to encourage invertebrate densities post development.

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If you have any questions or if I can assist further please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Casey Griffin

Casey Griffin BSc Hons. MCIEEM

Principal Ecologist and Technical Director



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