**Bats in Churches Class Licence WML-CL32**

**Report of action taken under licence**

Wildlife Licensing, Natural England, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol. BS1 5AH

Email: BatsinChurchesCL@naturalengland.org.uk

The Primary Registered Consultant and Licensee must submit an annual report to Natural England **to be received no later than 15 January in each year of site registration**.

Separate forms must be completed for each registered site.

**Guidance Notes:** *Please read the following notes carefully before completing this form in block capitals or type. This form may be downloaded from the Huddle site for the Bats in Churches Class Licence, completed on screen, and emailed to us.*

* It is a condition of your licence to provide Natural England with a report detailing action taken under this licence. This report must be completed, even if no action is taken.
* Send the completed form to Natural England (address above) to arrive **no later than 15 January in each year of the site registration period, to cover the previous calendar year (1 January to 31 December inclusive).**
* Failure to provide a report is a breach of the licence conditions and may lead to future applications for licences being refused.

This report is used to provide summary information to Defra and the European Union on the number and type of licences issued and the actual work carried out under the licence. The data collected from licence reports might also be used for scientific monitoring and evaluation purposes. Any request for information in this report will be considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as appropriate. If you have concerns about the information you are providing please contact us.

**Section A Personal and Site details**

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| Jenni Reid |

1. Name of Registered Consultant:

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| B32RC013 |

1. Registered Consultant’s unique reference number:

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| Church of St Moran, Lamorran, Truro |

1. Name of church:

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| Cornwall |

1. County:
2. Site registration unique reference number:

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| BL32RC013 |

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| January 2023 to December 2023 |

1. Period covered by this report:

**Section B Bat Population Monitoring**

**Summary of population monitoring results**

1. Were population monitoring surveys undertaken for the reporting year?

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| [x]  Yes [ ]  No  |

If yes, please complete sections 8 and 9 below.

1. Population monitoring survey details for the reporting year

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Type of survey** | **Details** e.g. area of focus, general surveyetc. |
| 21.06.2023 | Dusk nocturnal emergence survey  | Two surveyors positioned on external elevations of the church to monitor mitigation roost provision and determine any new roost/ access locations.Pre-survey inspections of barns adjacent to the church with static detectors deployed within the barns during the survey of the church.  |
| 19.07.2023 | Dusk nocturnal emergence survey  | Two surveyors positioned on external elevations of the church to monitor mitigation roost provision and determine any new roost/ access locations.Pre-survey inspections of barns adjacent to the church with static detectors deployed within the barns during the survey of the church. |
| 21.08.2023 | Dusk nocturnal emergence survey  | Two surveyors positioned on external elevations of the church to monitor mitigation roost provision and determine any new roost/ access locations.Pre-survey inspections of barns adjacent to the church with static detectors deployed within the barns during the survey of the church. Two surveyors monitoring two barns to the north east of the church. |
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1. Survey results and comparisons

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bat species** | **Peak count previous year \*** | **Peak count this year** | **Maternity roost present?** | **Have bats responded as predicted to licensed activities and management measures?** |
| Brown Long-eared bat | 16 | 19 |  [x]  Yes [ ]  No  | [ ]  Yes [x]  No  |
| **Notes:** please include type of roost present, ecological functionality, location of roosts and nursery clusters, description of entry exit locations. **Highlight and explain any significant differences to previous year results and any adverse or unintended impacts. If bats have not responded as predicted to licensed activities and management measures, please explain why and what measures will be taken.** |
| Following a significant decrease in numbers of Brown Long-eared bats after the mitigation works was carried out in 2021 (25no. down to 7no.), numbers increased to a peak count of 16no in 2022 and 19no in 2023. These numbers suggest that a maternity roost has returned and established itself in the church. In 2022, the vast majority of these bats were recorded emerging from the porch with only occasional emergences of individual bats recorded from the original main access point at the bottom of the roof valley between the southern transept and the chancel.Following monitoring surveys in 2022, it was considered likely that the Brown Long-eared bat maternity roost was roosting during the day between the porch ceiling cladding and the slates. This was due to the number of bats emerging from the porch with very few emerging from the original access points in the southern transept. In addition, very little evidence of bat activity was recorded within the transept voids during the internal inspection that year. It is not thought that bats can easily move within the building between the porch roof and the southern transept void. The porch was not a focus of surveys in 2021, and so there is a possibility that bats may have been started roosting there shortly following mitigation works.During the first emergence survey of the year in June 2023, 11 Brown Long-eared bats emerged from the porch with none from the original access point. However, during the emergence surveys in July and August 2023, bats only emerged from the eaves linked to the void in the southern transept, with none emerging from the porch. During an inspection of the transept voids in July 2023, a Brown Long-eared bat was recorded in the southern void with moderate numbers (around 100) of fresh droppings and scratching was heard above the cladding at the ridge of the void in the same vicinity. No evidence of bats was recorded in the northern transept void.The number of bats emerging from one of the original access points along the eaves linked to the southern transept void during the latter two monitoring surveys in 2023 suggests that the Brown Long-eared maternity roost has now begun to re-colonise the southern transept. It is expected that whilst the pups are likely to have been born in the porch in late-Spring/ early-Summer that the colony then moved to the southern transept void. As July 2023 was the first time the maternity colony had been recorded using the transept void, this gives confidence that the colony will now start to use the void to give birth to and rear their pups in future years as they become more settled.Other buildings: Subsequent to the reduction in recorded numbers of Brown Long-eared bats using the church in 2021, surveys were conducted of buildings in close proximity to St. Moran Church to detect any potential shifting of the Brown Long-eared bats to other properties, including static detector monitoring and internal inspections. The closest building (a barn approximately 20 metres to the north-east) recorded a significant amount of activity which was focused just after sunset or before sunrise, suggesting possible use as a day roost. Being static detector surveys, it was not possible to ascertain numbers of individuals from these surveys. Monitoring of these barns continued in 2023 with inspections of the barns conducted before each monitoring survey and detectors deployed for the duration of each emergence survey of the church. In addition, an emergence survey of two of the barns to the north-east of the church was conducted alongside the church monitoring survey in August. Evidence of Brown Long-eared and Lesser Horseshoe bats were recorded during the inspections, as well as evidence of Barn Owl, which would be expected to negatively affect the use of the barns by bats. No Brown-Long-eared bats were recorded emerging from the barns, but one bat was recorded perching in one of the barns on completion of the two of the monitoring surveys suggesting regular use of this building as a night roost.  |
| **Bat species** | **Peak count previous year \*** | **Peak count this year** | **Maternity roost present this reporting year?** | **Have bats responded as predicted to licensed activities and management measures?** |
|       |       |       |  [ ]  Yes [ ]  No  | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No  |
| **Notes:** please include type of roost present, ecological functionality, location of roosts and nursery clusters, description of entry exit locations. **Highlight and explain any significant differences to previous year results and any adverse or unintended impacts. If bats have not responded as predicted to licensed activities and management measures, please explain why and what measures will be taken.** |
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| **Bat species** | **Peak count previous year \*** | **Peak count this year** | **Maternity roost present this reporting year?** | **Have bats responded as predicted to licensed activities and management measures?** |
|       |       |       |  [ ]  Yes [ ]  No  | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No  |
| **Notes:** please include type of roost present, ecological functionality, location of roosts and nursery clusters, description of entry exit locations. **Highlight and explain any significant differences to previous year results and any adverse or unintended impacts. If bats have not responded as predicted to licensed activities and management measures, please explain why and what measures will be taken.** |
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| **Bat species** | **Peak count previous year \*** | **Peak count this year** | **Maternity roost present this reporting year?** | **Have bats responded as predicted to licensed activities and management measures?** |
|       |       |       |  [ ]  Yes [ ]  No  | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No  |
| **Notes:** please include type of roost present, ecological functionality, location of roosts and nursery clusters, description of entry exit locations. **Highlight and explain any significant differences to previous year results and any adverse or unintended impacts. If bats have not responded as predicted to licensed activities and management measures, please explain why and what measures will be taken.** |
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\* If reporting on first year results, include peak count numbers from pre-treatment surveys.

**Section C Summary of licensed action and work completed**

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| [x]  Yes [ ]  No  |

1. Have licensed activities been undertaken at this registered site during the period covered by this report?

If no, please explain why:

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1. Were all works conducted under this licence during the period specified above in line with the site registration form that was submitted for this place of worship?

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| [x]  Yes [ ]  No  |

If no, please explain why:

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1. Please provide a general summary of all licensable activities, management measures, and monitoring and site management/maintenance undertaken during the reporting year.

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| Following monitoring surveys in 2022, it was found that there was no bat activity within the internal areas of the church. It was also found that the peak count of Brown-Long-eared bats had increased but that it was likely their roost had shifted from the main church to the porch, between the roof slates and ceiling cladding. Monitoring of adjacent barns recorded low levels of Brown-Long-eared bat activity, mainly irregular use by low numbers of day roosting bats or as night roosts. 3no. monitoring surveys (nocturnal emergence surveys) of the porch and original access points associated with the southern transept and chancel were conducted in 2023. An intenal inspection of the church bat voids in the northern and southern transepts was carried out just prior to the second emergence survey in July.In addition, static detectors were deployed in barns, where Brown Long-eared bat activity had previous been recorded, for the duration of the monitoring surveys of the church. 1no. monitoring survey of these barns was also conducted alongside the church emergence survey in August.Monitoring surveys of the church recorded emerging bats solely from the porch during the first survey in June, but then solely from one of the original access points at the roof eaves near the south-eastern corner of the southern transept on the two latter survey visits, suggesting that the maternity roost has re-established within the transept void.Monitoring of the barns recorded very little use by Brown Long-eared bats, however 1no was recorded perching in one of the barns at the end of a monitoring survey and other evidence (droppings and feeding remains) were recorded.  |

**Section D Impacts caused by bat presence**

1. Now that work has been undertaken to reduce the impact of bats, please fill in the table below by making a new assessment of the impacts that bat presence is currently having at the church. The information provided will be compared to the site registration document or previous licence returns to give an indication of success.

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| Do bats cause damage to: (if yes, please rate on scale of 1-4 where 1= tolerable and 4 = severe) | * The fabric of the church
* Monuments
* Fixtures and fittings
 | [ ]  Yes [x]  No Scale:       [ ]  Yes [x]  No Scale:       [ ]  Yes [x]  No Scale:        |
| Please provide details of damage, if any:  |       |
| Do bats disrupt or stop worship taking place at the church? (if yes, please rate on scale of 1-4 where 1 = tolerable and 4 = severe) | [ ]  Yes [x]  No Scale:        |
| If yes, please provide details:  |       |
| Do bats disrupt or stop the church being used for: (if yes, please rate on scale of 1-4 where 1 = tolerable and 4 = severe) | * Weddings
* Funerals
* Community activities
 | [ ]  Yes [x]  No Scale:       [ ]  Yes [x]  No Scale:       [ ]  Yes [x]  No Scale:        |
| If yes, please provide details:  |       |

**Section E Management and progress towards meeting outcomes**

1. Please describe the progress that has been made towards meeting the agreed outcomes as described in the site registration form:

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| Monitoring surveys have shown that bats are no longer using the congregational area of the church. Brown Long-eared bats have started to return to the newly created transept voids in the church in greater numbers after a significant reduction following the main works in early 2021. It appears that the maternity colony has started to establish itself in the southern transept void as intended, following an intitial shift to using the porch roof as a roost in 2022. The Brown Long-eared bat maternity colony was still recorded using the porch in June 2023, however it is expected that these bats will begin use the void more regularly and over the entire maternity period in future years as the void becomes more familiar to them. |

1. Given the results achieved this year, will you be undertaking work differently next year than described in the site registration form or in previous licence reports?

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| [ ]  Yes [x]  No  |

1. If yes, provide details about any changes in approach:

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| The monitoring programme for the Church at St Moran, Lamorran has been completed.  |

Please note that:

If details within an authorised site registration form change, which could affect Natural England’s licensing assessment, the Licensee and Primary Registered Consultant must apply promptly to Natural England with an amended site registration form to allow reassessment.

Subject to natural change, in the unexpected event that monitoring reveals that populations have not responded as predicted to the licensed activities and risks to bats have increased, the Licensee and Primary Registered Consultant must promptly submit an amended site registration form and/or an adaptive management plan to Natural England of further measures and monitoring needed to address these risks. No licensed activities may continue until written authorisation has been received from Natural England.

**PRIMARY REGISTERED CONSULTANT DECLARATION**

I declare, as the Primary Registered Consultant for this registered site, that:

1. I have personally completed this licence return form.

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| [x]  Yes, I confirm |

1. I accept responsibility for the information provided.

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| [x]  Yes, I confirm |

**LICENSEE DECLARATION**

I declare, as the Licensee, that:

1. To the best of my belief and knowledge the information in this licence return form is accurate.

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| [x]  Yes, I confirm |