



Stephanie Norris
Stephanie Norris Architects Ltd

By email

14 November 2019

Dear Stephanie

Re: Church of St Denis, East Hatley

I am writing to confirm that I visited the above church on 17 September 2019 to check for evidence of bat occupation and set-up an automated bat detector (Anabat Express) that recorded bat calls from sunset to sunrise over a 20-night period 17 September to 6 October 2019. The bat detector was retrieved on 7 October and all bat calls analysed in accordance with Russ 2012¹ using Analook software.

The church had been recently swept clean prior to my visit on 17 September, but individual bat droppings that had been recently deposited were present on the floor throughout the Nave and Chancel along with spiders legs and a small number of moth and butterfly wing remains. The droppings were mainly of a size and form consistent with those produced by brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*, with a few smaller droppings consistent with those produced by barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus* and pipistrelle bat *Pipistrellus sp.* No bats were present in the bat box hung-up at the western end of the Nave.

The quantity of bat droppings and insect feeding remains on the floor of the church had increased significantly on my second visit on 7 October 2019, and I also noted two brown long-eared bats roosting behind a patch of lifted lime wash on the wall next to the entrance porch on the north side of the Chancel – see photos overleaf.

The automated bat detector survey recorded the calls of bats throughout the night every night for the 20-night survey. Four species of bat were recorded of which all were recorded at times to suggest they had been day roosting inside the building at different points in time over the 20 night survey as follows:

- **Brown long-eared bat** – recorded every night at times after and before sunset and sunrise respectively to indicate day roosting inside the building throughout the entire 20-night survey period.
- **Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri*** – recorded every night inside the church, but only at times to indicate day roosting inside the building on a few occasions.
- **Common pipistrelle bat** – recorded most nights inside the church at times to suggest that it had day roosted regularly inside the building.
- **Barbastelle** – recorded most nights inside the church at times to suggest that it had day roosted regularly inside the building.

¹ Russ, J (2012) *British Bat Calls – A Guide to Species Identification*. Pelagic Publishing

In conclusion, the recent building work to reinstate the stained-glass windows does not appear to have had a detrimental impact on bat use of the building and, on this basis, I do not believe that future window re-instatement would result in adverse impact on roosting bats.



Given the confirmed use of the void behind the peeling lime wash by roosting bats, care should be taken to check for the presence of bats behind such features as part of any future maintenance work. In event that bats are present and such features have to be disturbed, advice should be sort from a licenced bat worker. On the basis that peeling lime wash is a temporary bat roost feature (as it will eventually fall off), consideration should be given to the provision of a crevice roost bat box hung up in the same location as the peeling wash as a more permanent bat roost replacement in this part of the church.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duncan Painter'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Dr Duncan Painter CEnv MCIEEM

Director

On behalf of Applied Ecology Ltd