

ECOLOGY AND PROTECTED SPECIES SURVEY
CHAPELS AND GROUNDS AT PARK ROAD CEMETERY,
HOLBEACH, LINCOLNSHIRE

NOVEMBER 2016



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Report to: Heritage Lincolnshire
The Old School
Cameron St
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Chapels and grounds at Park Road
Cemetery, Holbeach, Lincolnshire

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Date:
7th November 2016

The findings of these surveys will remain valid for a period of 12 months.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Scarborough Nixon Associates Ltd has been commissioned by Heritage Lincolnshire to undertake an ecology and protected species survey of the chapels and surrounding areas at Park Road Cemetery, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.

The cemetery and the exterior of the chapels were surveyed on 27th September 2016, in dry and bright conditions, by Ian Nixon (registered to use Natural England class licences WML-CL19 and WML-CL20 to survey bats; registration numbers 2015-12336-CLS-CLS and 2015-12338-CLS-CLS respectively) and Gemma Watkinson. An evening emergence survey was carried out following the daylight inspections by Ian Nixon, Gemma Watkinson, Helen Scarborough (registered to use Natural England Class Licences WML-CL19 and WML-CL20 to survey bats; registration numbers 2015-12691-CLS-CLS and 2015-12692-CLS-CLS respectively) and Celia Commowick. An internal inspection of the chapels was undertaken by Ian Nixon on 13th October 2016.

During the initial appraisal of the site the protected species considered likely to occur were identified. These were:

- Bats
- Common bird species

There are no ponds within or immediately adjacent to the survey site, and the site is therefore not considered suitable to support a population of great crested newts *Triturus cristatus* during their terrestrial phase. There are no drains on the boundaries of the survey site and water vole *Arvicola amphibius* have been scoped out of the survey. Due to the isolated nature of the site from other suitable habitat, the site is also not considered suitable to support a population of common reptile species.

This report details the methods used, describes the species found on the site, discusses the results and makes recommendations for further work. English names of higher plants are used throughout the text. Plant names are those used by Stace (2010).

2 METHODS

2.1 Bats

2.1.1 Daylight inspection

The chapels on site were inspected, and checked for any gaps and dark corners with potential for roosting bats, where it was safe to do so. Where accessible, all undisturbed surfaces were inspected for evidence of past and present occupation by bats. This includes droppings, urine or fur staining around possible access points and roost areas, lack of cobwebs, feeding remains such as moth wings or other insect parts and the bodily remains of bats. The site and adjacent areas were also assessed for potential foraging and commuting habitats for bats.

2.1.2 Evening emergence survey

A team of 4 surveyors undertook a dusk emergence survey on 27th September 2016. The survey was carried out under suitable weather conditions with 5/8 cloud cover, light breeze, 17.8 – 16.4°C, 85 – 86% relative humidity. One surveyor was located on each of the north western, north eastern, south eastern and south western corners of the chapels. This allowed all sides of the chapels to be assessed for emergence with particular attention given to potential roost sites and exit/ entry points.

The survey was started 15 minutes before sunset, and continued for 1.5 hours after sunset. Bat detectors (Pettersson D-1000x ultrasonic time expansion bat detector, and Magenta bat5 heterodyne bat detector) were used to assist the survey, and to enable acoustic species identification.

2.2 Common bird species

All bird species noted on site were recorded. The survey site was searched for signs of use by nesting birds, typically old and active nests and concentrations of faecal deposits associated with a breeding site. The chapels and mature trees on site are not considered suitable to support breeding by any Schedule 1 bird species.

2.3 Habitats and plant species

An extended ecological assessment survey was undertaken, not only to identify the habitats present on the survey site, but also to include more detailed information on plant species on site, and undertake a further appraisal of the area as habitat for legally protected species. Plant species on site were assessed against the Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain, and the site was assessed against the Local Wildlife Site (LWS) criteria.

3 SITE DESCRIPTION

3.1 Location and grid reference

The survey site is the Park Road Cemetery, located off Park Road, Holbeach, Lincolnshire—central grid reference TF 362250.

The chapel buildings and the surrounding habitats are described in turn below and representative photographs are included in the text. An aerial view of the site location is provided as Photograph 1.



Photograph 1: Aerial view of the proposed development site (outlined in red)

3.2 Chapels

The site comprises two identical chapel buildings (north and south), which are connected by an arch which supports a bell tower. There are also small porches on the north and south elevations. The building is constructed of solid stone walls supporting a pitched timber roof covered with slates. There are a small number of lifted slates on the chapels, and a slipped slate on the northern elevation, with a reasonable sized gap underneath. The large windows of the chapels have been boarded over whilst smaller roundel windows have fine wire mesh over them. There is a small gap above a boarded up window on the southern elevation of the chapel. Generally the stonework is tight and there were few gaps seen. There are some small gaps at the eaves level where the timbers meet the stonework, and a crack in the stonework was noted on the western elevation. There are some small gaps under lifted lead flashing on the northern porch.

The internal ceilings are vaulted whilst the roof is pitched leaving a small inaccessible gap between the two. The southern chapel is in better order than the northern one which has had most of the plaster removed.

The access to the tower is via a door at high level from the chapel roof and therefore due to health and safety concerns was not accessed. The bell chamber has a series of openings that are covered by wooden slats, though there are gaps between the slats.



Photograph 2: The chapels



Photograph 3: Further view of the chapels



Photograph 4: Slipped and lifted slate on northern chapel



Photograph 5: Lifted tile and gap under lead flashing



Photograph 6: Interior view of the southern chapel



Photograph 7: Interior view of the northern chapel

3.3 Cemetery amenity grassland

The grassland within the cemetery is dominated by perennial rye-grass, Yorkshire-fog, creeping bent and cock's-foot with greater plantain, daisy, white clover, creeping buttercup, selfheal and hawkbit species. There was occasional yarrow, cat's-ear, lady's bedstraw, tormentil and oxeye daisy seen.

Around the headstones and graves there are ephemeral and ruderal species including bittercress, black nightshade, common chickweed, groundsel, creeping cinquefoil, spear thistle, and prickly sow thistle.

There are mature trees planted within the cemetery, including an avenue of Leyland cypress. Other species seen include yew, larch, alder, London plane, silver birch, cedar, cherry species, oak species and cherry laurel. There are a number of planted shrub areas also, including around the chapel, with species seen including holly, butterfly bush, rose species, hawthorn, cotoneaster, and exotic species.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Bats

4.1.1 Daylight inspection

During the internal inspection of the buildings a single fresh dropping recalling those voided by brown long-eared bats *Plecotus auritus* was noted in the southern chapel. Generally there were few potential access points into the building, and there were few potential roosting features seen on the exterior of the building. There are some lifted tiles on the roof of the

chapel, which offer potential access points into the small roof voids of the building. These voids are inaccessible, and the tower of the chapels could not be inspected due to health and safety reasons. The chapel buildings are considered to offer moderate potential for long term roosting by bats.

The buildings and surrounding habitats were assessed in accordance with Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 3rd Edition (Collins J, 2016) Table 4.1 page 35. The results of the assessment for each building in turn appear in tabular form below:

Table 1: Assessment of survey site to support roosting, foraging and commuting bats

Building/ Feature	Description	Site value for bats
Chapels	Small number of lifted slates on chapel roofs Small, inaccessible void between pitched roof and vaulted ceilings in chapels Bell tower not accessed and inspected Single dropping typical of brown long-eared within southern chapel Single brown long-eared bat emerged during evening survey	Moderate potential for roosting bats
Surrounding habitats	Mature trees and amenity grassland within cemetery Surrounding landscape dominated by residential areas and arable land	Moderate potential for foraging bats



Photograph 8: Brown long-eared dropping found in the southern chapel

4.1.2 Evening emergence survey

During the evening survey, a single brown long-eared bat was seen to emerge from the eaves on the north western side of the north chapel building. Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and brown long-eared bats were recorded foraging and social calling around the chapel and cemetery areas. Only one bat was seen at any one time.

The results of the evening emergence watch are presented in tabular form below:

Table 2: Surveyor 1 located south east of the chapel

Time	Species	Notes/activity
19:08	Common pipistrelle	Pass from W to E, social calls
19:10	Common pipistrelle	Pass from S to N, social calls
19:11	Common pipistrelle	Single pass
19:13	Common pipistrelle	Foraging pass, feeding buzz and social calls
19:15	Common pipistrelle	Pass, not seen
19:15	Pipistrelle species	Pass, N to SW
19:19	Common pipistrelle	Pass, SW to NE
19:21	Common pipistrelle	Repeat foraging passed on eastern side of chapel
19:25	Common pipistrelle	Repeat foraging passed on eastern side of chapel and social calls
19:27	Common pipistrelle	Pass, social calls
19:34	Common pipistrelle	Pass from S to N, social calls
19:35	Common pipistrelle	Single pass
19:37 – 19:39	Common pipistrelle	Repeat foraging passed on eastern side of chapel and social calls
19:43	Common pipistrelle	Single pass
19:46	Common pipistrelle	2 passes, social calls
19:50	Common pipistrelle	Pass, social calls
19:51	Common pipistrelle	Repeat passes, social calls
19:52	Common pipistrelle	Pass, social calls

Table 3: Surveyor 2 located to north east of the chapels

Time	Species	Notes/activity
19:12- 19:17	Common pipistrelle	Foraging and social calling at east end of chapels and then circuits around building
19:21 – 19:23	Common pipistrelle	Foraging and social calling from east then circuits around buildings

Time	Species	Notes/activity
19:27	Common pipistrelle	Foraging and social calling as previous
19:36 – 19:42	Common pipistrelle	Foraging and social calling as previous
19:45 – 19:56	Common pipistrelle	Foraging and social calling as previous
19:54	Brown long-eared	Single pass

Table 4: Surveyor 3 located to north west of the chapels

Time	Species	Notes/activity
19:12	Common pipistrelle	Brief pass
19:13 – 19:17	Common pipistrelle	Repeat passes and feeding – social calls ++
19:17	Brown long-eared	Emerged from under eaves
19:20 – 19:27	Common pipistrelle	Repeat passes and feeding – social calls ++
19:36	Common pipistrelle	Single pass

Table 5: Surveyor 4 located to the south west of the chapels

Time	Species	Notes/activity
19:10	Common pipistrelle	Single pass
19:16	Common pipistrelle	Several passes and social calling
19:19	Common pipistrelle	Single pass
19:22	Common pipistrelle	Repeated foraging passes and social calling
19:26	Common pipistrelle	Several passes and social calling
19:36	Common pipistrelle	Single pass
19:39	Common pipistrelle	Repeated passes and social calling
19:48	Common pipistrelle	Repeated passes and social calling

4.2 Common bird species

All birds seen during the daylight or evening surveys were recorded. These are listed below along with their current status as BAP species or Birds of Conservation Concern 4 (Eaton et al, 2015):

Table 6: Common birds seen on site

English name	Scientific name	BAP	BoCC
woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		Green
collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		Green
house martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		Amber
robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		Green
blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		Green
goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		Green
blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		Green

There were no disused nests noted on the exterior of the chapel buildings. The trees and shrubs within the cemetery have potential to support breeding by common species of bird.

Further bird surveys are planned for spring 2017.

4.3 Habitats and plant species

The habitats and plant species recorded on the site are common and widespread in the local area and in the country.

The plant species recorded on the site are not listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). There are no species on site that are listed as Near Threatened (NT), Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN), or Critically Endangered (CR) in the Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain.

The site would not meet the required criteria to qualify as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS). There are no species classed as 'notable' for Lincolnshire.

Further botanical surveys are planned for spring 2017.

5 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Bats

5.1.1 Legal protection

In England, Scotland and Wales, all bats are strictly protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and as amended); in England and Wales this legislation has been amended and strengthened by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. Bats are

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also protected by European legislation; the EC Habitats Directive is transposed into UK law by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 – often referred to as 'The Habitat Regs'. Taken together, all this legislation makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately capture (or take), injure or kill a bat
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a group of bats where the disturbance is likely to significantly affect the ability of the animals to survive, breed, or nurture their young or likely to significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of the species whether in a roost or not.
- Damage or destroy the breeding or resting place of a bat
- Possess a bat (alive or dead) or any part of a bat
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost
- Sell (or offer for sale) or exchange bats (alive or dead) or parts of bats

A roost is defined as being 'any structure or place that is used for shelter or protection', and since bats regularly move roost site throughout the year, a roost retains such designation whether or not bats are present at the time.

5.1.2 Recommendations

The chapel buildings are considered to have moderate potential for transient day roosting by small numbers of bats, including brown long-eared and pipistrelle species. A single brown long-eared bat was recorded emerging from the chapel during the evening emergence survey.

The plans for works to the building have not yet been finalised. However, it is considered unlikely that bats are breeding on site, or that the site supports roosting by high numbers of bats. Therefore a Natural England Protected Species licence is not considered necessary ahead of works to the building.

The site was used for foraging by small numbers of bats and a single bat was recorded emerging from the chapel. It is likely that the site provides important foraging and commuting habitats for bats in the area, as the surrounding landscape is dominated by residential areas and arable land which provide limited foraging habitats.

It is recommended that precautionary working practices for bats are followed to ensure that bats are not disturbed during the works to restore the buildings.

Precautionary Working Practices for Bats – Park Road Cemetery, Holbeach

- Work will commence outside the main hibernation period only i.e. before late October or after early April. This minimises the potential to disturb bats which may be using the building for hibernation.

Note: early spring or late autumn are good times to commence work to avoid conflicts between the bat hibernation season and the bird nesting season

- All contractors working on the building will be briefed on the legal protection afforded to bats and their places of shelter and on how to proceed if a bat is discovered during the course of the work. A procedure to follow in the unlikely event of discovering bats on site is given as Appendix 2.
- Prior to work commencing, the building will be checked for signs of roosting bats by a suitably licensed ecologist. An evening emergence survey or dawn re-entry survey may be required if the ecologist considers this necessary.
- All gaps within the stonework of the chapels should be checked for roosting by a suitable licensed ecologist if they are to be filled in. This may require the use of an endoscope and mirrors. The gaps should be checked immediately before they are filled in.
- If any works are planned for the roofing of the chapels, an ecologist will be present when the work to strip the roof covering from the chapels commences.
- It may be necessary to put in place replacement access points for bats into the new roof covering, to allow continued use by roosting bats of the small loft void within the chapels. Details of such access points will be determined on site by the ecologist and contractor.

5.2 Birds

5.2.1 Legal protection

All common wild birds are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and as amended). Under this legislation it is an offence to:

- Kill, injure or take any wild bird
- Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built
- Take or destroy the egg of any wild bird

Certain rare breeding birds are listed on Schedule 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

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(and as amended). Under this legislation they are afforded the same protection as common wild birds and are also protected against disturbance whilst building a nest or on or near a nest containing eggs/unfledged young.

5.2.2 Recommendations for common bird species

The cemetery, including mature trees and shrub planting on site, has high potential to be used for nesting by species of common bird. Any vegetation clearance work to be carried out on site should commence outside the active nesting season which typically runs from March through to late August. If, however, work commences during the bird breeding season, a search for nests should be carried out before work begins, and active nests should be protected until the young fledge.

6 SUMMARY

The chapel building is considered to have low potential for roosting bats. A single brown long-eared bat was seen to emerge from the buildings during the evening survey, and a single dropping typical of those voided by brown long-eared bats was found within the southern chapel. The buildings are not considered to support a maternity roost for bats, and a Natural England Protected Species Licence is not considered necessary.

Precautionary working practices should be adopted to prevent any disturbance to bats using the buildings as a transient roost, and enhancement measures should be incorporated into the plans to improve the site for bats.

There is high potential for nesting common birds within the landscaped areas of the site. Any vegetation removal works should avoid the active nesting season where possible.

7 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1

Plant list

**ECOLOGY AND PROTECTED SPECIES SURVEY,
CHAPELS AND GROUNDS AT PARK ROAD CEMETERY,
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ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
annual meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>
bittercress species	<i>Cardamine sp.</i>
black nightshade	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>
butterfly-bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>
cat's-ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>
cedar species	<i>Cedrus sp.</i>
cherry laurel	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>
cherry species	<i>Prunus sp.</i>
cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
common chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>
common mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
common ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster sp</i>
creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
creeping cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
dandelion	<i>Taraxacum sp.</i>
elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
field horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>
fox-and-cubs	<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>
germander speedwell	<i>Veronica chaemdrys</i>
greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
ground-ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>
groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>
hawkbit species	<i>Leontodon sp.</i>
hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
ivy-leaved speedwell	<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>
knotgrass	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>

ENGLISH NAME

lady's bedstraw
 larch
 leyland cypress
 liverwort species
 London plane
 oak species
 oxeye daisy
 perennial rye-grass
 prickly sow-thistle
 Procumbent yellow-sorrel
 ribwort plantain
 rose species
 selfheal
 silver birch
 spear thistle
 tormentil
 wall barley
 white bryony
 white clover
 willowherb
 yarrow
 yew
 Yorkshire-fog

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Galium verum
Larix sp
X Cupressocyparis leylandii

Platanus x hispanica
Quercus sp.
Leucanthemum vulgare
Lolium perenne
Sonchus asper
Oxalis corniculata
Plantago lanceolata
Rosa sp
Prunella vulgaris
Betula pendula
Cirsium vulgare
Potentilla erecta
Hordeum murinum
Bryonia dioica
Trifolium repens
Epilobium sp
Achillea millefolium
Taxus baccata
Holcus lanatus

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APPENDIX 2

Procedure to follow if bats are discovered during the works

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Procedure to follow if bats are discovered during works

- If at any point during the works, bats are discovered then contractors must stop work immediately and telephone Scarborough Nixon Associates either Helen Scarborough on 01526 344726 or 07979833524 or Ian Nixon on 01205 723342 or 07833 674500.
- Scarborough Nixon Associates will either provide an appropriately licensed bat worker to the site or provide a member of staff who will liaise directly with Natural England. Actions will then be taken following advice given. This may include removal of bats, but only where direct written or verbal permission is gained from Natural England.
- Only when Natural England is satisfied that there is no further risk to bats will works recommence.
- Should it transpire that the operation being carried out is of more risk to bats than was originally thought, then works will be stopped until they can be supervised by an appropriately licensed bat worker.
- If a bat is found under a tile or any other aperture, works will stop immediately (as above). If the bat does not voluntarily fly out, then the aperture will be carefully covered over to protect the bat(s) from the elements, leaving a small gap for the bat to escape voluntarily. Any covering should be free from grease or other contaminants, and should not be a fibreglass-based material.
- Any injured bats should be gently placed in a secure ventilated box in a cool, quiet dark place (e.g. cardboard box with a sealed lid) by the contractor for the bat's protection whilst awaiting the arrival of the licensed person.