

Phil Richardson, Bat Consultant

10 Bedford Cottages

Great Brington

Northampton

NN7 4JF

01604 770632 (Tel and fax)

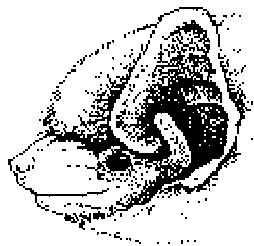
07969 883815

PRichabat@aol.com

Bird Report

Hunsbury Hill Centre, Northampton,

27th September 2006



1. Background:

Although late in the season, some indication of what birds had bred in or on the buildings was required.

Phil Richardson was British Trust for Ornithology representative in Northants for over 20 years until 2000 and has carried out numerous breeding bird surveys.

2. Methodology:

Nests were actively sought in buildings and around the site, as were “whitewash” signs on walls where birds had entered. All outer walls were visually checked, using binoculars as well.

3. Results (see Plan for locations).

3.1. Bar (7 on Plan)

Robin’s nest in wall

3.2 West barn (8 on Plan)

Collared dove nesting inside, also sparrows. Tit nest in wall crevice on east face of east wall.

3.3. Glass and furniture store (9 on Plan)

Blackbird nests (possibly song thrush, too?) on top of the back wall under roof “eaves”

3.4. South stable (11 on Plan)

Old blackbird nest on top of north wall (under eaves).

No signs of owls nesting or night-roosts.

The holes in the stone stable walls where mortar has failed could be used by birds at night for roosting.

The open stables seem to be used at night for some bird roosting, such as collared doves (eg Stable 8 on Plan).

3. Conclusions

- A small number of birds use the site for breeding. Doubtless the high human activity on site limits this use.
- Breeding birds are protected by law, so if any works are planned for buildings where birds nest, then the works should take place out of the breeding season or the birds excluded before the nesting season begins.
- It would be advantageous for birds if any mortar work on walls left some crevices for night-roosting.
- Erecting bird breeding boxes in the copse of trees to the north would be beneficial to the birds of the areas – tit, sparrow, wren boxes. Using woodcrete means maintenance-free. Similarly erecting some boxes on the buildings in the more secluded areas would be beneficial – tits, robin, sparrow boxes.

Appendix Plan of Hunsbury Hill Centre

