

# AFFETSIDE CHAPEL, WATLING STREET, AFFETSIDE

## Nocturnal Bat Survey Report

*JUNE 2023*



## Report Control Sheet

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| /          | 19/06/2023  | Draft report sent to Client for comment. | KBrewer         | KB              | OC              |
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

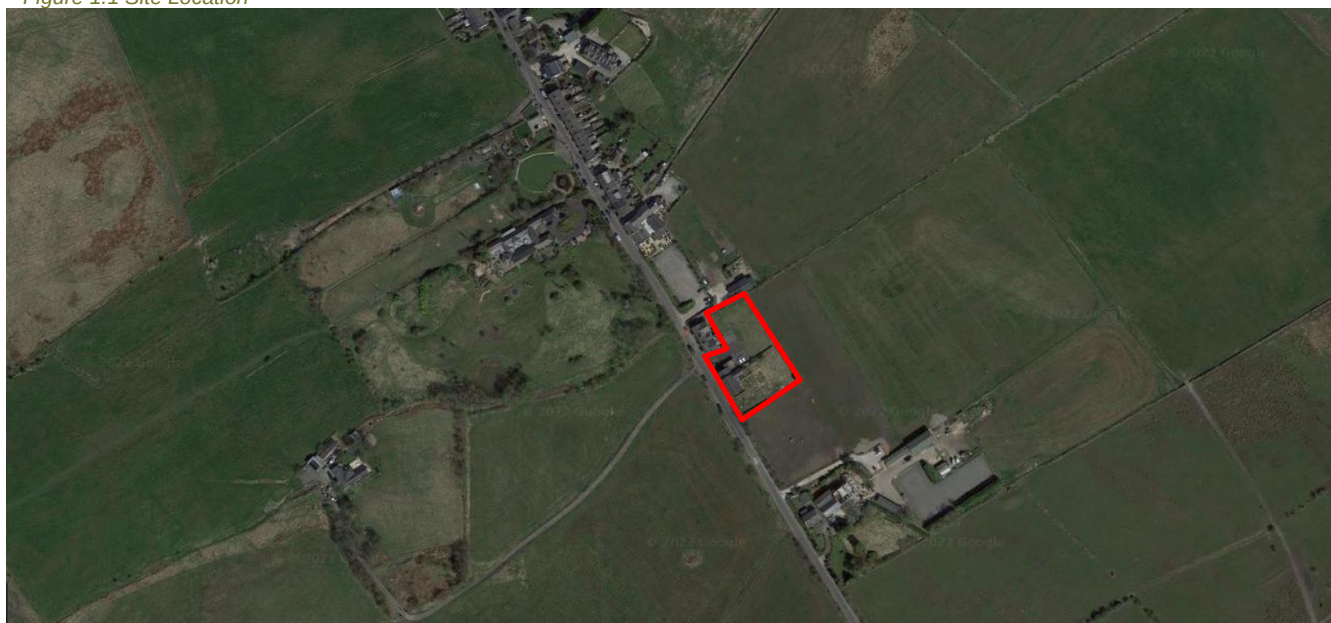
### 1.1. SCOPE & PURPOSE

- 1.1.1. Collington Winter Environmental Ltd was commissioned by Affetside Congregational Church to undertake two Nocturnal Bat Surveys at the site Affetside Chapel, Watling Street, Affetside, Bury. This report has been prepared to allow for the proposed development for an extension of the current building.
- 1.1.2. The author of this report is Katie Brewer BSc (Hons), Assistant Ecologist at Collington Winter Environmental Ltd. The project has been managed and overseen by Olivia Collington BSc (Hons), MEnvSc, CEnv. Director and Principal Ecologist at Collington Winter Environmental. Olivia is highly experienced managing schemes and has produced many ecological reports to inform planning permission. Olivia holds a Class 1 Natural England Bat Licence and is experienced assessing sites for bat roosting potential.
- 1.1.3. A preliminary roost inspection of the site was undertaken in 2022 by Collington Winter Environmental Ltd which found the building to provide **moderate** bat roosting potential due to the roosting features identified which included access points into the loft space and the gaps within the external tiles. Therefore, two nocturnal emergence survey was recommended, the results of which are detailed in this report.

### 1.2. LOCATION

- 1.2.1. Please refer to Figure 1.1 for the approximate site location. The site is located within the urbanised area of Affetside, Bury. It is located approximately 1.5km south from Hawkshaw village centre and approximately 5km northwest from Bury town centre.

Figure 1.1 Site Location



### 1.3. OBJECTIVES

- 1.3.1. The objectives of the Nocturnal Bat Survey are as follows:
- Identify any bats roosting within the buildings.
  - Assess the value of the buildings for roosting bats.
  - Identify the species assemblage of bats using the site.
  - Provide recommendations on any further surveys or mitigation required for bats.

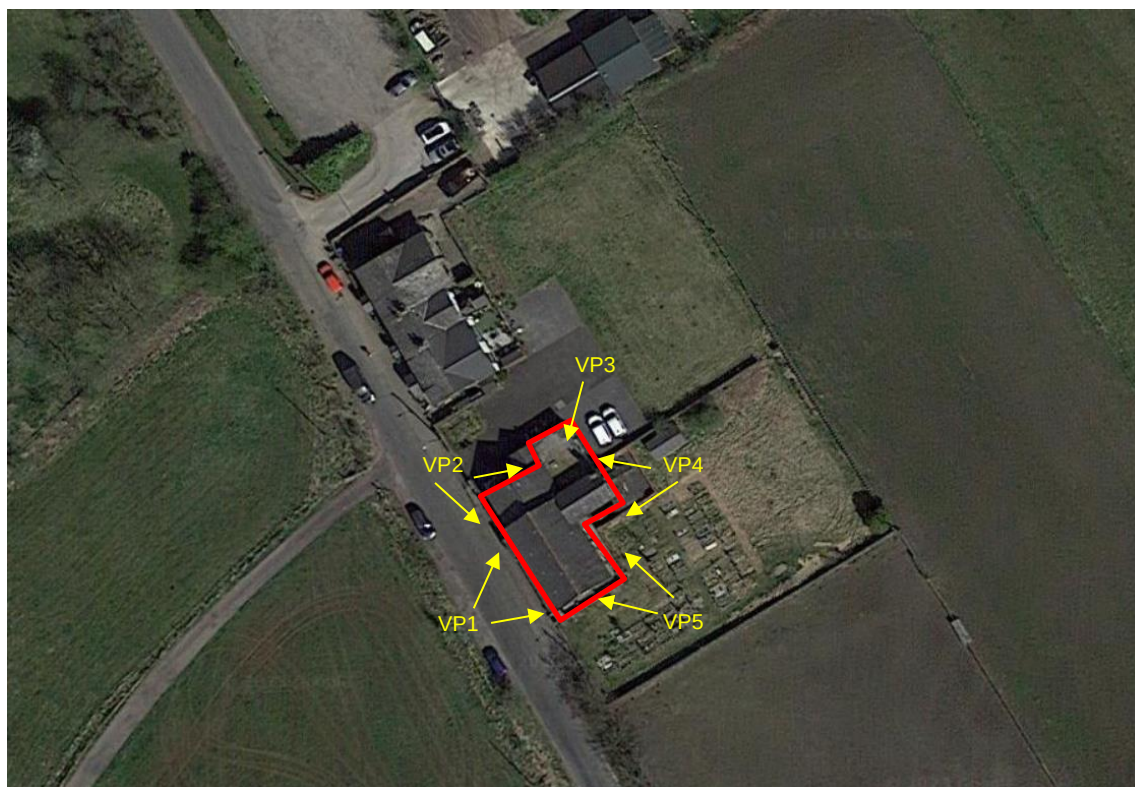
## 2 METHODOLOGY

### 2.1. NOCTURNAL BAT SURVEY

2.1.1. The nocturnal surveys were undertaken as a dusk survey on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 and 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 by five qualified surveyors.

2.1.2. Please refer to Figure 2.1 for locations of vantage points used during both surveys.

Figure 2.1 Surveyor Locations



2.1.3. The surveys were undertaken in line with guidance as set out in Collins (2016). Surveyors used heterodyne handheld bat detectors. All surveyors were suitably experienced undertaking bat emergence surveys. Please refer to Table 2.1 for details of surveyors.

Table 2.1 Survey Details

| Date       | Sunset/<br>Sunrise<br>Time | Start | Finish | Surveyors                                                                                                          | Weather Conditions                                                                                                                 |
|------------|----------------------------|-------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 31/05/2023 | 21:26                      | 21:11 | 22:56  | VP1 – Darnell Shaw<br>VP2 – Michael Boucher<br>VP3 – Katie Brewer<br>VP4 – Allegra Lindsay<br>VP5 – Jessica Davies | Temp at start/end: 16 Celsius<br>Cloud start: 2 Octas<br>Cloud finish: 2 Octas<br>Wind: 2 max (Beaufort scale)<br>No precipitation |
| 14/06/2023 | 21:40                      | 21:25 | 23:10  | VP1 – Ben Miles<br>VP2 – Michael Boucher<br>VP3 – Darnell Shaw<br>VP4 – Joshua Dixon<br>VP5 – Jessica Davies       | Temp at start/end: 21 Celsius<br>Cloud start: 1<br>Cloud finish: 1<br>Wind: 2 max (Beaufort scale)<br>No precipitation             |

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## 2.2. SURVEY LIMITATIONS

2.2.1. No limitations were observed during the surveys.

### 3 SURVEY RESULTS

#### 3.1. DUSK SURVEY (31/05/23)

- 3.1.1. VP 3, 4 and 5 did not record any bat activity throughout the nocturnal survey and no emergences were observed from the dwelling from these points.
- 3.1.2. VP1 and VP2 only recorded one bat throughout the survey which consisted of one common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) bat species, emerging from the dwelling on the western aspect along the slate tile roof. This emergence was recorded at 22:13 (approximately 47 minutes after sunset), the bat then commuted northwest and there was no further bat activity recorded.
- 3.1.3. A total of one roost location was observed throughout the survey in relation to an unidentified bat emerging at 22:13, from the roof tiles on the western aspect of the building.

#### 3.2. DUSK SURVEY (14/06/23)

- 3.2.1. VP1 and VP2 recorded one bat which was seen and not heard at 22:37, one more bat was identified commuting over the building at 22:39. VP4 recorded foraging activity from a singular common pipistrelle throughout the survey from 22:39 continuously until 22:45, further foraging activity of two common pipistrelles was then recorded from 22:51 until 23:00. The same foraging behaviour was recorded from VP5.
- 3.2.2. There were no emergences from the building throughout, no roost locations were observed throughout the survey.

#### 3.3. ASSESSMENT

- 3.3.1. Limited bat activity was recorded during the surveys with only common pipistrelles and one unidentified bat recorded throughout the surveys. Foraging and commuting activity was recorded minimally, they are not anticipated to utilise the area.
- 3.3.2. A total of one emergence location were observed, indicating that there is one common pipistrelle roosting in relation to the roof on the south-western aspect of the site. Please refer to Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1 for the emergence location. It is deemed that the bat is roosting between the tiles and roofing felt.
- 3.3.3. Based on one bat observed roosting during the first survey, but no bats being recorded during the second survey indicated that the roost is non-breeding summer roost for low numbers of common pipistrelle (peak count 1 bat). Bat roost categorisation was possible as surveys were completed during maternity roost season. As stated in the best practice guidelines (Collins, 2016) to determine the presence of a maternity roost surveys are to be carried out in the months of May to August. In addition, one emergence was only recorded on the first survey and there were none recorded in the second survey, providing confidence in the roost assessments.

Table 3.1 Roost Locations

| Roost                           | Photograph                                                                           |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Roost 1- observed on 31/05/2023 |  |



## 4 RECOMMENDATIONS AND MITIGATION

### 4.1. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 4.1.1. A total of one non-breeding summer roost of common pipistrelle bat was identified relating to the slate tile roof of the building. Foraging and commuting behaviour by common pipistrelles was recorded minimally in association to the hardstanding areas and graveyard.
- 4.1.2. The proposed extension to the current standing building would carry a probability of injuring and/or killing bats and the disturbance/destruction of a known bat roost as a result of the proposed works, without mitigation. **As such, Natural England European Protected Species License (EPSL) is required and is to be obtained prior to any works being completed on the building. No works to the building can be completed until the licence has been obtained and the licenced ecologist confirms works can proceed without the presence of the licenced ecologist.**
- 4.1.3. The proposed development is anticipated to disturb a bat roost site and therefore a replacement roost site will need to be provided for the bats utilising the building for roosting and foraging purposes. The Bat Mitigation Guidelines (Mitchell-Jones, 2004) state that avoiding damage or loss of existing roosts with the preferred option in all cases and wherever possible, replacement roost habitat should be on a “like for like” basis to replicate the existing conditions selected by the bats.

### 4.2. BAT LICENCE

- 4.2.1. A Bat Mitigation Class Licence (BMCL) is to be used for the site which is applicable for the destruction of up to three “low conservation status roosts” which include feeding, day, night and transitional roosts. The site will be registered under a BMCL of a suitably qualified ecologist. The following Working Methods will be followed under the supervision of a licenced bat ecologist to reduce the risk of killing/ injuring bats.
- 4.2.2. Alternatively, a standard Mitigation Licence can be completed for the site, which requires similar requirements to the BMCL. A Reasoned Statement is not required under the BMCL. The licence will be obtained once full planning permission has been granted and all relevant wildlife conditions discharged.
- 4.2.3. **The roosts located on the building will be removed under the supervision of the registered licenced bat ecologist under the Natural England BMCL. No works to the building should be completed until the bat roosts have been destroyed under the BMCL. If works proceed without the BMCL, the client is at risk of breaching legislation.**

### 4.3. WORKING METHODS

- 4.3.1. The proposed re-roofing will cause an offence to be committed by the way of disturbance or damage to bats or their roosts under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (As amended) (refer to Appendix 1).
- 4.3.2. Therefore, the works on the roof which was assessed to support one roost of common pipistrelle should be undertaken under a Natural England BMCL. In addition, the following Precautionary Working Methods (PWMs) are to be undertaken under the supervision of a licenced bat ecologist to reduce the risk of killing or injuring any bats.
- 4.3.3. Pre-commencement works are as follows:
- Before developments works can start, one general purpose bat box will be fixed to a suitable location (see Figure 5.1)
  - Boxes are to be affixed onto retained trees located within the landowner’s land. Boxes must be positioned on a south-west or south-east-facing aspect, at a minimum of 4m from the ground, and must remain in situ for a minimum of 5 years.
  - The licenced ecologist will undertake a daylight inspection to assess the status of the site for bats prior to works commencing on site. The Registered Consultant will check for fresh droppings and accurately assess the levels of bat activity.
  - The licenced ecologist will attend site on the day of the scheduled re-roofing works to undertake a search

for bats in the identified roost locations prior to the works commencing. Any bats found will be relocated into the roost provisions, already installed on site. The initial stages of the works will occur under the supervision of the licenced ecologist.

- All contractors working on the site will be briefed with a Toolbox Talk by the licenced ecologist, on the legal protection afforded to bats and their roosts, and on how to proceed if a bat is discovered during the course of the work.
- If bats are encountered during works, the licenced ecologist will capture them, whilst wearing thin gloves. Any bats found that do not need to be taken into care will then be placed in one of the two bat boxes, which will act as receptor sites during demolition works.

4.3.4. Once the selected features (i.e. the ridge and slate tiles at the emergence points) have been removed under supervision, works can proceed in the absence of the licenced ecologist, at their discretion. If a bat is discovered at any unsupervised time, work must cease immediately, and a licenced bat handler must be called for advice. This advice will include leaving the bat to disperse of its own accord or wait for the licenced ecologist to move the bat. Builders and contractors are explicitly forbidden from handling bats except in the case of finding a trapped or injured bat. In which case the bat may be moved into a safe and secure place (e.g. a box) and the registered ecologist must be contacted immediately.

#### 4.4. ROOST PROVISION

4.4.1. The proposed development should not result in the overall loss of bat roosts. Therefore, a replacement roost site will need to be provided. In this case, the one roost was identified. The Bat Mitigation Guidelines (Mitchell-Jones, 2004) state that avoiding damage or loss of roosts is the preferred option. However, the works require the full re-roofing of the building due to its current state, and this is not possible. As such, replacement roost provisions should be on a “like-for-like” basis to replace the existing conditions that will be lost.

4.4.2. To mitigate for the loss of bat roosts, one multipurpose bat boxes will be installed prior to the re-roofing of the building. The bat box is aimed at crevice-dwelling bats, such as common pipistrelle found to be roosting in the building. Box types such as Greenwood’s Ecohabitats – Two Crevice Bat Box (or of similar specification) would be suitable.

4.4.3. The box will act as receptor site should any live bats be found during the supervised destruction of the roost. The box is to be installed onto a retained mature tree under the same site ownership (ideally at a minimum height of 4m from the ground level). This will minimise the risk of them being damaged by vandalization or the bats being targeted by predators such as domestic cats. This box must remain in-situ for a minimum of five years post-development.

#### 4.5. MONITORING SURVEYS

4.5.1. No monitoring surveys of the bat boxes, under the BMCL will be required due to the roost being identified as of ‘low conservation value’.

#### 4.6. POST DEVELOPMENT LIGHTING

4.6.1. No Lighting Plan has been produced at this stage. However, the following measures will be implemented in the final proposed lighting strategy, following guidance outlined in the Institute for Lighting Engineers document “Guidance for the Reduction of Obtrusive Lighting” (2005) and BCT’s “Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK” (2018):

- Keep site lighting to minimum levels.
- LED lighting with a warm white light to be used over cool white light (<2700Kelvin).
- Lighting feature peak wavelengths greater than 550nm.
- Light placement to be downward facing to prevent excess horizontal or vertical light spill.
- Avoid illuminating habitats of value.
- Use of timed security lights should be set on motion-sensors and using short, 1-minute timers, to minimise light use.

## 5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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