

Thank you for re-consulting GMEU on the application for change of use at Bassfield Farm, Ramsbottom (71217), to address my initial comments sent on 18/12/2024.

A 'Dusk Emergence Bat Surveys' report has now been submitted (ERAP, June 2025) following two emergence surveys on the existing building. As per the report, the results of surveys found no bats to be emerging from the building and therefore no bat roosts were identified. However, relatively large numbers of common pipistrelle bat passes were recorded and one brown-long eared bat. These bats were likely foraging or commuting near to the site which evidences that bats are present in the locality. The report presents a robust bat assessment with no further surveys needed to carry out the building works. I have no reason to doubt the findings of the bat assessment.

The recommendations provided in the report should be followed during the works (section 4.2) and GMEU would also recommend a sensitive lighting scheme to be implemented, given that bats are present in the locality.

We also have the following recommendations:

- Protected species can turn up in unexpected places and the granting of planning permission does not negate the need to abide by the laws which are in place to safeguard biodiversity. An informative should be used so that the applicant is aware that they must seek ecological advice should they find or suspect that the proposals will impact on protected species (e.g. bats).
- Planning policy encourages enhancements and net gains for biodiversity to be delivered through the planning system. Wherever possible measures to enhance the site for biodiversity should be secured as part of this planning application, and could include integration of a bat and bird box onto the building.

In summary, GMEU are now satisfied that the application can be forwarded to determination.

If you have queries relating to this advice, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Greater Manchester Ecology Unit
Tameside MBC, Dukinfield Town Hall
King Street, Dukinfield,
Tameside, SK16 4LA