

Bassfield Farm, Walmersley Road, Bury BL9 5LY

DUSK EMERGENCE BAT SURVEYS

June 2025

ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd Reference: 2025-176

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Document Control

Survey Type:	Surveyors	Survey Date(s)
Dusk Emergence Surveys	Amy Sharples and Stuart Laverick Amy Sharples and Leah Hart	14 th May 2025 4 th June 2025
Reporting	Personnel	Date
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Checked	Oscar Caunce B.Sc. (Hons) Brian Robinson B.Sc. (Hons) MCIEEM	10 th June 2025
Revised and issued	Amy Sharples	11 th June 2025
Report issued to	Mrs Gloria Real & Mrs Rachael Armstrong	
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SUMMARY

Introduction and Scope

- i. This bat survey and assessment presents the results of two dusk emergence bat surveys at the building associated with Bassfield Farm, Walmersley Road, Bury BL9 5LY. The survey was required to inform a planning application to refurbish the building.
- ii. The survey is in accordance with the recommendations presented in Section 7 of *Bat Survey Report (preliminary day-time survey): Ex-agricultural building at Bassfield Farm, Walmersley Road, Bury BL9 5LY* (Angela Graham Bat Consultancy Service Ltd, 2024).
- iii. No roosting bats were detected at the site. No emergence or re-entry was detected at the site by the dusk emergence surveys.
- iv. Appropriate and proportionate survey effort and assessment, in accordance with standard survey guidelines, has been applied to discount adverse effects on roosting bats and other relevant protected species. No further surveys for other protected species are required to inform the planning application.
- v. It is considered that, if works have not commenced by the next bat activity survey season (i.e. May 2026), updated bat activity surveys will be required to ensure the survey findings remain valid. Recommendations relating to survey validity in respect of roosting bats are presented at **Section 4.0**.
- vi. It is concluded that the proposals are feasible and acceptable in accordance with ecological considerations and relevant planning policy.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Rationale

- 1.1.1 ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd was commissioned by Mrs Gloria Real & Mrs Rachael Armstrong to carry out dusk emergence bat surveys at the building associated with Bassfield Farm, Walmersley Road, Bury BL9 5LY (hereafter referred to as the 'site'). The Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference at the centre of the site is SD 80315 14975. An aerial image of the site and its surrounding habitats is appended at **Figure 1** (source image: ESRI World Imagery).
- 1.1.2 The survey was requested in connection with a planning application to refurbish the building.
- 1.1.3 The results of a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) are presented at *Bat Survey Report (preliminary day-time survey): Ex-agricultural building at Bassfield Farm, Walmersley Road, Bury BL9 5LY* (Angela Graham Bat Consultancy Service Ltd, 2024), hereafter the '2024 PRA report'. In accordance with the 2024 PRA report the building is considered to be of 'moderate' suitability for use by roosting bats and two further dusk emergence surveys for bats are recommended by the report.

1.2 Scope of Works

- 1.2.1 The scope of ecological works undertaken in May and June 2025 comprised two dusk emergence surveys at the building.

2.0 METHOD OF SURVEY

- 2.1.1 In accordance with Tables 7.1 and 7.2 of *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edn)* (Collins, J. (ed), 2023) two dusk emergence bat surveys, supplemented by night vision aids (NVAs), are required to determine the presence or absence of bats at buildings assessed to be of 'moderate' suitability. The surveys were completed at the building on 14th May and 4th June 2025 and were conducted under suitable conditions. The dates of the surveys, surveyors, equipment used and weather conditions are presented in **Table 2.1**.
- 2.1.2 The dusk emergence surveys commenced at least 15 minutes before sunset, and continued for at least 1.5 hours after sunset.
- 2.1.3 Surveyors, experienced in conducting bat surveys, were positioned at suitable locations to maximise the coverage of the building to determine any entry or emergence by roosting bats. Any bat emergence or re-entry activity was recorded, with brief notes relating to bat activity at each survey position collated at the end of the survey.
- 2.1.4 Anabat Scout bat detectors were used to determine any bat detected to species or group (*Myotis* species, for example, often cannot be reliably identified to species from their echolocation calls), and were also used to record and analyse echolocation calls after the survey using Anabat Insight bat call analysis software.
- 2.1.5 Night vision aids (NVA)¹ were used at the surveyor positions presented in **Table 2.1**. Footage was subsequently reviewed using VLC Media Player to determine any emergence / re-entry at the building.

¹ Guide TK612 thermal cameras.

- 2.1.6 Surveyor positions and NVA locations are annotated on **Figure 2**. Photographs showing each survey position from the darkest point of the survey are appended at **Photos 1** and **2**.

Table 2.1: Dusk Emergence Survey Dates, Weather Conditions and Surveyors

Date	14 th May 2024	4 th June 2025
Sunset time:	21:01	21:31
Start & end time	20:45 until 22:31	21:15 until 23:01
Weather	13°C, dry and calm (Beaufort scale 0)	12°C and dry with a light breeze (Beaufort scale 2)
Survey Position	Surveyor, Detector and NVA	Surveyor, Detector and NVA
1	Amy Sharples, Anabat Scout and Guide TK612	Amy Sharples, Anabat Scout and Guide TK612
2	Stuart Laverick, Anabat Scout and Guide TK612	Leah Hart, Anabat Scout and Guide TK612

2.2 Survey and Reporting Limitations

- 2.2.1 The survey was completed under suitable conditions and all areas of the site were accessible.
- 2.2.2 During the survey on 4th June 2025 the Guide TK612 thermal camera used at survey position 1 experienced technical issues and no video footage was recorded. Survey position 1 is located in a well-lit area of the site and bat activity was low at the site during the survey. It is concluded that the building was fully visible to the surveyor throughout the survey and the absence of video footage has not impacted the ability to determine the presence or absence of roosting bats.

2.3 Evaluation Methods

- 2.3.1 Government advice on wildlife, as set out in the NPPF and associated government circulars, has been taken into consideration. Legislation relating to protected species, such as those listed under Schedule 5 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) and *The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019*, is referenced where applicable, and any impacts to protected species are evaluated in accordance with current guidance.

3.0 SURVEY RESULTS

14th May 2025

No bat emergence was detected at the building. Common pipistrelle were detected between 21:38 and 22:28 with the first bat detected 37 minutes after sunset. A total of 188 call sequences were recorded during the survey. No other species were detected.

- 3.1.1 Raw data are appended in **Table 7.1**.

4th June 2025

- 3.1.2 No bat emergence was detected at the building. The following species were recorded:
- One brown long-eared bat call sequence was detected at 22:28, 57 minutes after sunset.
 - Common pipistrelle were detected between 21:52 and 22:59 with the first bat detected 51 minutes after sunset.
- 3.1.3 A total of 123 call sequences were recorded during the survey.

3.1.4 Raw data are appended in **Table 7.2**.

4.0 EVALUATION, ASSESSMENT AND RECOMENDATIONS

4.1 Evaluation and Assessment

4.1.1 Appropriate and proportionate survey effort and assessment, in accordance with standard survey guidelines, has been applied to discount adverse effects on roosting bats and other relevant protected species. No further surveys for other protected species are required to inform the planning application.

4.2 Recommendations

4.2.1 If any works are proposed to the roof, it is recommended that ridge copings and roof slates are to be removed by hand. The underside of the ridge copings and roof slates are to be checked for bats prior to discard or stacking.

4.2.2 If at any point during the works a bat is found or suspected, all works in the area must stop immediately and ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd or the Bat Conservation Trust must be contacted for guidance.

4.2.3 If works have not commenced by the start of the next bat activity survey season (i.e. May 2026) then it is recommended that updated dusk emergence surveys are completed at the site to ensure these findings remain valid.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 The completion of the dusk emergence surveys has confirmed the absence of roosting bats at the site. The scope of ecological survey and assessment has demonstrated that the proposals at the site are feasible in accordance with ecological considerations and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

5.2 The recommendations in **Section 4.2** of this report outline the actions to be applied to ensure compliance with wildlife legislation, the NPPF, relevant planning policy and best practice.

6.0 REFERENCES

Angela Graham Bat Consultancy Service Ltd, 2024. *Bat Survey Report (preliminary day-time survey): Ex-agricultural building at Bassfield Farm, Walmersley Road, Bury BL9 5LY*, Bury: Angela Graham Bat Consultancy Service Ltd.

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7.0 APPENDIX: TABLES, PHOTOGRAPHS AND FIGURES

7.1 Raw Data from Dusk Emergence Surveys

Table 7.1: Dusk Emergence Survey 1, 14th May 2025, Sunset Time 21:01, Start Time 20:45

Survey Position 1: Amy Sharples

Time	Species	Notes
21:38 to end	Common pipistrelle	Foraging over site. No emergence or re-entry detected.
The Anabat Scout made the following recordings: 96 call sequences of common pipistrelle between 21:38 and 22:28.		

Survey Position 2: Stuart Laverick

Time	Species	Notes
21:38 to end	Common pipistrelle	Foraging over site. No emergence or re-entry detected.
The Anabat Scout made the following recordings: 92 call sequences of common pipistrelle between 21:38 and 22:26.		

Table 7.2: Dusk Emergence Survey 2, 4th June 2025, Sunset Time 21:31, Start Time 21:15

Survey Position 1: Amy Sharples

Time	Species	Notes
21:52 to end	Common pipistrelle	Occasional passes. No emergence or re-entry detected.
The Anabat Scout made the following recordings: 1 call sequence of brown long-eared bat at 22:28. 38 call sequences of common pipistrelle between 21:52 and 22:56.		

Survey Position 2: Leah Hart

Time	Species	Notes
21:55 to end	Common pipistrelle	Occasional foraging activity over site. No emergence or re-entry detected.
The Anabat Scout made the following recordings: 85 call sequences of common pipistrelle between 21:55 and 22:59.		

7.2 Photographs



Photo 1: Survey Position 1



Photo 2: Survey Position 2

7.3 Figures

Figure 1: Bat Surveyor and NVA Locations

