

Angela Graham Bat Consultancy Service Limited

Office 47, Bury Business Centre, Kay Street, Bury, Lancs, BL9 6BU

tel - 0161 763 6171, fax - 0161 761 7854, mob - 07710 184142

e-mail : bat.consultancy@talktalk.net Company no. 7492656



**Dusk emergence survey at
Tithe Barn,
212 Lower Lane,
Rochdale,
OL16 4PT**

OS grid reference:
SD 9115 11384

Commissioned-by:
Emma Pickles

Survey Date: 24/5/24
Previous surveys: day-time – 9/5/23

Report Date: 1/6/24
Previous reports: day-time – 16/5/24

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Summary.

(This summary should be read in conjunction with the conclusions and recommendations.)

No bats emerged at this survey but there was activity by the common pipistrelle well before sunset, suggesting a roost or roosts nearby.

Most photographs taken of the south-east wall, where bat droppings were seen in 2023, were not well-enough in focus to confirm whether or not bat droppings were present on this occasion, though one photograph did seem to show at least one bat dropping.

Further survey work is necessary as previously recommended.

The next dusk-emergence-survey should be in about a month.

Introduction.

I was engaged to undertake a dusk emergence survey of this building further to my day-time survey on **9/5/23**.

It consists of 2 inter-connected limbs forming an L-shape, with the old farmhouse attached, to form a second L-shape. The house is not included in the planning application but the section adjoining the barns was assessed incidentally as it clearly also has bat roosting potential. The structures were reported-on separately.

At the day-time survey no evidence of roosting was found inside the buildings, but it appeared some bat droppings were attached to the main, south-east-facing wall of the barn, below the eaves.

The buildings were assessed as being at moderate to high risk of use by roosting bats and in need of at least two, probably 3, bat activity surveys.

This report should be read in conjunction with the report of the 2023 day-time assessment.

Survey.

I returned on **24/5/24** to carry out the first dusk emergence survey. I had 4 assistants with me - Louise Parker, Thomas Insje, Charlotte Baldwin, Anthony Breeze - and a trainee, Kelly-Marie Orrell.

Prior to the survey, I re-examined the south-east-facing wall where droppings had been seen last year. It is not possible to get right up to the wall due the presence of a cherry laurel hedge. As in 2023 photographs were taken for closer inspection on computer.

For the survey, we took up fixed positions to watch for bats leaving the building. See Fig 1 below. We all had the use of heterodyne "bat detectors" to help alert us to the presence of bats and to help us distinguish the species present, and synchronised watches to help us piece together the flight paths followed by bats.

Watches are checked as quickly as possible after sighting a bat and times are recorded to the second.

The usual aim of the survey is to position surveyors so that even if areas of roof cannot be seen directly, the building is covered well enough that, by a process of elimination, it can be worked-out whether or not bats emerged or arrived from off-site.

In addition I placed Anabat Swift x 2, Anabat Express and Anabat SD1 x 2 detectors around the building. See Fig 1 below. These record bat calls for analysis on computer later. They are extra tools for helping to confirm the species present.

I also employed four Canon XA10 camcorders with supplementary infra-red lighting to assist with observations in poor light conditions. See Fig. 1 below. Simple heterodyne bat detectors were used alongside the cameras to add sound recordings of bat presence to the footage.

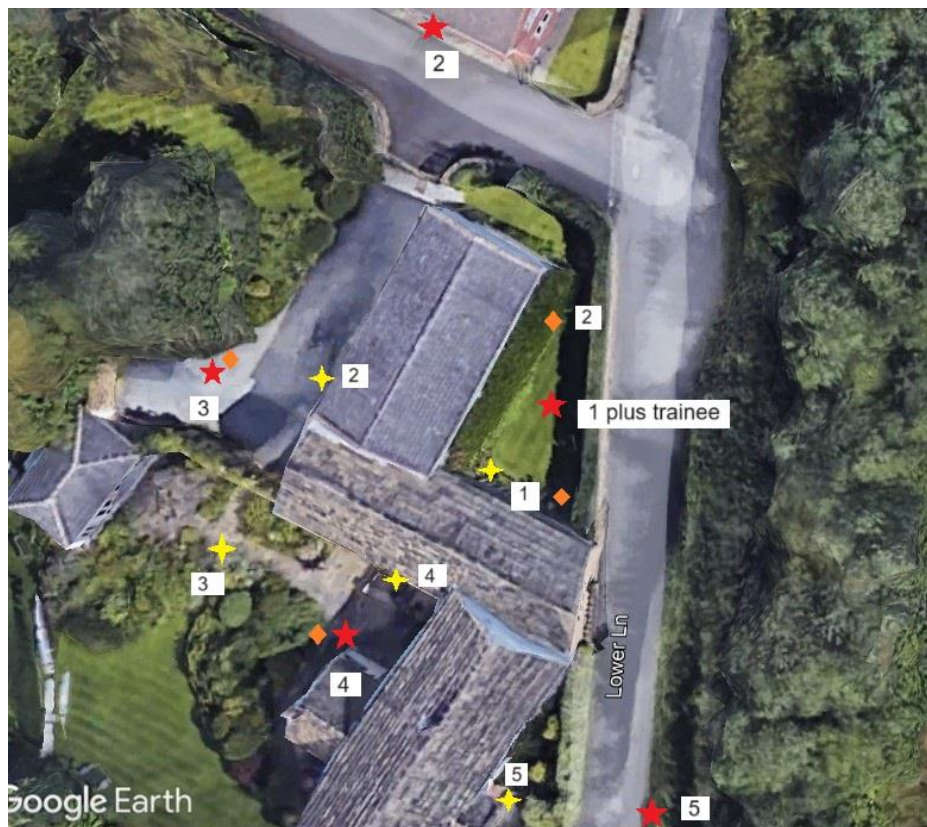


Fig. 1.

Key: Approximate locations of surveyors shown by red stars (numbered 1 to 5)
approximate locations of recording devices shown by yellow crosses (1 to 5),
approximate location of infra-red camcorders shown by orange diamonds (1 to 4).

Findings.

Most of the photographs were not well enough in focus to confirm whether or not bat droppings were present. One however appeared to show at least one bat dropping to be present:



Likely bat dropping outlined in red. Possible bat dropping outlined in orange.

The main results of the dusk-emergence are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Summary of survey and significant findings

Date	Survey type	Sunset / sunrise time	Time of survey	Conditions °C/weather	Comments
24/5/24	dusk	21.18	20.55 – 22.55	12.2°C at start, heavy cloud, still, 10.8°C at end	No bats emerged. Only common pipistrelle recorded – first at 20.59 (heard only – distant). All surveyors heard another at 21.08/9. Most activity recorded by surveyors 2 and 5, offsite, especially in the lane. These bat passes were heard also by surveyors at position 1 and recorded by detector 5 (24 bat passes, sometimes 2 bats). Eighteen bat passes recorded by surveyors 3 and 4 combined, but only 6 bats seen.

Survey type key: **dusk** = dusk emergence survey, **dawn** = dawn re-entry survey

Conclusions/Discussion

No bats emerged on this occasion. Plenty of activity by the common pipistrelle was recorded but little in the immediate vicinity of the buildings, apart from bat/s feeding in the lane.

High-risk features for roosting are present however, and the common pipistrelle is known for moving frequently between the roosts known to it.

Although cloudy conditions often result in early bat emergence, the fact bats were recorded well before sunset suggests there's a roost or roosts nearby.

Further survey work is still required to accord with good practice. The next survey should be in about a month. Another attempt will be made to discover whether there are bat droppings attached to the south-east-facing wall as previously.

Recommendations.

These recommendations should be read in conjunction with the conclusions above.

Have another bat emergence survey undertaken in about a month.

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