

Land at The Griffin, Mill Street, Frizington CA26 3SQ

UPDATED DUSK EMERGENCE BAT SURVEY

July 2024

ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd Reference: 2024-091

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Document Control

Survey Type:	Surveyors ¹	Survey Date(s)
Updated Dusk Emergence Survey	Stuart Laverick, Richard Lowe, Tracy Cumberbatch and Brian Robinson	4 th June 2024
Reporting	Personnel	Date
Author	Brian Robinson B.Sc. (Hons) MCIEEM Senior Ecologist	8 th July 2024
Signature(s)		
Checked	Rachel Brown B.Sc. (Hons) MCIEEM	10 th July 2024
Revised and issued	Brian Robinson B.Sc. (Hons) MCIEEM	10 th July 2024
Report issued to	Smith & Love Planning Consultants	
Version Number	1	
¹ Licence reference number		
Bats		
Brian Robinson Natural England Class Survey Licence (bats, Level 2) Registration Number 2015-13161-CLS-CLS		

SUMMARY

Introduction and Scope

- i. This ecological survey and assessment presents the results of an updated dusk emergence bat survey at the buildings associated with land at The Griffin, Frizington CA26 3SQ. The updated survey was required as works relating to a planning application at the site have not commenced at the building. The updated survey is in accordance with the recommendations presented in Section 5.2 of *2021-390 Land at The Griffin, Mill Street, Frizington CA26 3SQ: Ecological Survey and Assessment* (ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd, 2021), hereafter the '2021 ecology report'.
- ii. No roosting bats were previously detected at the site. No emergence or re-entry was detected by the updated dusk emergence survey.
- iii. It is considered that the evaluation, assessment and conclusions presented in the 2021 ecology report remain appropriate for the site. Updated recommendations relating to survey validity are presented within this report, otherwise the recommendations presented in the 2021 ecology report should be referred to.
- iv. It is considered that, if works have not commenced by the next bat activity survey season (i.e. May 2025), a single bat activity survey 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**.
- v. It is concluded that the proposals are feasible and acceptable in accordance with ecological considerations and relevant planning policy. Redevelopment at the site will provide an opportunity to secure ecological enhancement for wildlife associated with suburban areas.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Rationale

- 1.1.1 ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd was commissioned by Smith & Love Planning Consultants to carry out an updated dusk emergence bat survey at the buildings associated with land at The Griffin, Frizington CA26 3SQ (hereafter referred to as the 'site'). The Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference at the centre of the site is NY 03360 17191. An aerial image of the site and its surrounding habitats is appended at **Figure 1** (source image: ESRI World Imagery).
- 1.1.2 The updated assessment was requested in connection with a planning application to demolish the disused and derelict former public house and redevelop the site to a refuelling station. It is also proposed to renovate and extend the existing SPAR retail outlet within the site boundary.
- 1.1.3 This survey updates the findings of the bat activity surveys previously completed at the site, as presented in *2021-390 Land at The Griffin, Mill Street, Frizington CA26 3SQ: Ecological Survey and Assessment* (ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd, 2021), hereafter the '2021 ecology report'. The survey is in accordance with the recommendation relating to survey validity presented at Section 5.2 of the 2021 ecology report.
- 1.1.4 Note that no roosting bats have previously been detected at the site by the surveys completed by ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd in 2021.

1.2 Scope of Works

- 1.2.1 The scope of ecological works undertaken in June 2024 comprised a single updated dusk emergence survey of Building 1 and the relevant section of Building 2.

2.0 METHOD OF SURVEY

- 2.1.1 One dusk emergence survey, supplemented by night vision aids (NVAs), was completed at the building on 4th June 2024. The survey was conducted under suitable conditions. The date of the survey, surveyors, equipment used and weather conditions are presented in **Table 2.1**.
- 2.1.2 The dusk emergence survey 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 Heterodyne 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). Recording bat detector units¹ 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)², supplemented with additional infra-red lighting (comprising Nightfox XB5 torches and infra-red floodlights) 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.
- 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 to 5**.

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

Date	4 th June 2024
Sunset time:	21:43
Start & end time	21:25 until 23:15
Weather	11 ⁰ C and dry with a light breeze (Beaufort scale 2)
Survey Position	Surveyor, Detector and NVA
1	Stuart Laverick, Anabat Scout & Canon XA20
2	Richard Lowe, Anabat Scout & Panasonic VX870K
3	Tracy Cumberbatch, Anabat Scout & Canon XA20
4 and 4b	Brian Robinson, Anabat Scout & Nightfox Red and Xinfiray T2 Pro

2.2 Survey and Reporting Limitations

- 2.2.1 The survey was completed under suitable conditions and all areas of the site were accessible.

2.3 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 Schedules 1, 5, 6 and 8 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) and *The Conservation of Habitats and Species*

¹ i.e. Anabat Express (FS), Anabat Scout and Anabat Walkabout units.

² Canon XA20 and Panasonic VX870K camcorders, a Nightfox Red infra-red binocular and an Xinfiray T2 Pro thermal camera.

(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

- 3.1 No bat emergence was detected at Buildings 1 or 2.
- 3.2 No bats were heard during the survey, despite suitable survey conditions being present. Note that only low levels of bat activity were previously detected at the site by the surveys completed in 2021.
- 3.3 Raw data are appended in **Table 6.1**.

4.0 EVALUATION, ASSESSMENT AND CONCLUSION

- 4.1 No roosting bats have been detected at the site. The evaluation, recommendations and conclusion of the 2021 ecology report remain appropriate and valid for the site.
- 4.2 If works have not commenced by the start of the next bat activity survey season (i.e. May 2025) then it is recommended that an updated dusk emergence survey is completed at Building 1 to ensure these findings remain valid.

5.0 REFERENCES

Collins, J. (ed), 2023. *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edn)*. London: The Bat Conservation Trust.

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2023. *National Planning Policy Framework*. London: H.M.S.O.

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6.0 APPENDIX: TABLES, PHOTOGRAPHS AND FIGURES

6.1 Raw Data from Dusk Emergence Survey

Table 6.1: 6th June 2024, Sunset Time 21:43, Start Time 21:25

Survey Position 1: Stuart Laverick

Time	Species	Notes
N/A	No bats detected	No bats detected. No emergence from Building 1
The Anabat Scout did not record any bat call sequences during the survey.		

Survey Position 2: Richard Lowe

Time	Species	Notes
N/A	No bats detected	No bats detected. No emergence from Building 1
The Anabat Scout did not record any bat call sequences during the survey.		

Survey Position 3: Tracy Cumberbatch

Time	Species	Notes
N/A	No bats detected	No bats detected. No emergence from Building 1
The Anabat Scout did not record any bat call sequences during the survey.		

Survey Position 4: Brian Robinson

Time	Species	Notes
N/A	No bats detected	No bats detected. No emergence from Building 2
The Anabat Scout did not record any bat call sequences during the survey.		

6.2 Photographs



Photo 1: Survey Position 1

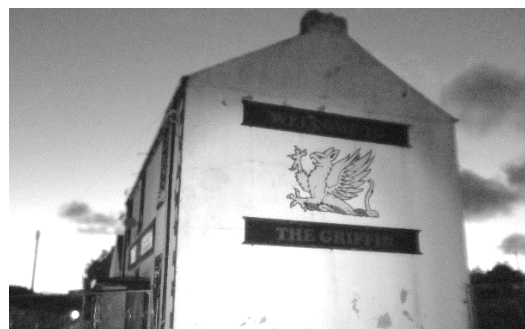


Photo 2: Survey Position 2



Photo 3: Survey Position 3



Photo 4: Survey Position 4



Photo 5: Survey Position 4b

6.3 Figures

Figure 1: Aerial Image of the Site and its Surroundings



Figure 2: Plan to Show Bat Activity Surveyor Positions

