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Our reference: 2489777 D02 (00)

Dear Rob,

This letter provides a summary of the dusk emergence bat survey undertaken by RSK Biocensus on 21 May 2026 at St Marys Primary School in Gomersal, Cleckheaton.

There are 11 buildings on the site, all of which were subject to a detailed external inspection in November 2022 by RSK Biocensus¹. Indigo surveys Limited² carried out emergence surveys of these buildings in 2023 and no roosting bats were recorded, however these surveys are now out of date. An updated inspection was undertaken in October 2025 by RSK Biocensus³, during which two of the buildings (Building EFAA and Surestart Children's Centre) were assessed as having moderate suitability to support roosting bats.

Given that building EFAA will be demolished, a single dusk emergence survey was recommended during the bat active season (May to August, inclusive), to confirm the presence or likely absence of roosting bats. The Sure Start Children's Centre building is being retained, therefore, it was not subject to an updated dusk emergence survey.

Methods

Dusk emergence survey

A dusk emergence survey of building EFAA was undertaken on 21 May 2026 by five RSK Biocensus ecologists, led by Natural England Level 2 bat licenced consultant ecologist IN02. The surveyors were positioned to cover all potential roosting features (PRFs) identified during the updated external inspection in 2025. Each surveyor was equipped with an Elekon Batlogger M2 detector and supported by a Panasonic X1500E infrared video camera, to assist with bat identification and activity recording.

Surveyors recorded any emerging bats and noted all commuting or foraging activity, including species identification and flight direction. The survey commenced 15 minutes before sunset and

¹ RSK Biocensus (2023). 2484745 Gomersal St Mary's Primary School - Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. Rev 01.

² Indigo Surveys (2023). 231096/E1 Nocturnal Bat Survey Report - Gomersal St Marys C of E Primary, Shirley Avenue, Gomersal, Cleckheaton, BD19 4NA.

³ RSK Biocensus (2025). 2489777 Gomersal St Mary's Primary School - Ecological Impact Assessment. Rev 01.



continued for 1.5 hours after sunset, in accordance with Bat Conservation Trust guidelines (Collins, 2023)⁴. Table 1 details the survey information.

Table 1. Survey date, timings and weather conditions for dusk emergence survey.

Date	Sunset time	Start time	End time	Temperature (°C)	Wind (mph)	Humidity (%)	Notes
21/05/2026	21:11	20:56	22:41	16	4	84	Dry and overcast

Data analysis

Bat species were identified from the characteristics of their calls (including shape, peak frequency, minimum and maximum frequency, call duration, and inter-pulse interval). Bat calls were analysed using BatExplorer software (version 2.2.4.0).

The IR camera footage was reviewed in real time and analysed using VLC media player (V3.0.20).

Survey limitations

No significant limitations were noted.

Weather conditions were suitable and did not restrict survey effort or data quality.

Results

Roosting

No roosting bats were observed during the survey, and the overall level of bat activity was low. Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Myotis (*Myotis species*) and noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) bats were recorded during the survey, but none were seen emerging from the building. Calls were recorded between 21:32 and 22:22.

Commuting and foraging

Low levels of commuting and foraging activity of common pipistrelle, Myotis and noctule bats were noted around the building during the survey. The majority of calls recorded were common pipistrelle and all of the bat activity was recorded to the east of the building along the lines of trees. No other bat species were recorded.

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



Recommendations

No bats were observed emerging from building EFAA during the dusk emergence survey. The building was surveyed during optimal weather conditions and within the core bat activity season, when maternity roosts would typically be active. The absence of emergence or significant activity indicates that bats are not roosting in the building.

Based on the survey results, the proposed demolition of building EFAA is unlikely to result in direct impacts to roosting bats. No further survey or mitigation is currently considered necessary. In the unlikely event that bats or any evidence of bats are found during the demolition works, all works should be stopped, and the advice of an ecologist should be sought.

The Sure Start Children's Centre building is being retained; however, it may be indirectly impacted by the demolition of the EFAA building. Therefore, the works should proceed under a Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS).

Should any works be required on the Sure Start Children's Centre building, as a minimum an updated dusk emergence survey will be required.

In line with CIEEM (2019)⁵ Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing, this assessment remains valid for up to 18 months from the date of the survey, unless there are significant changes to the structure, its condition, or surrounding habitat. If demolition works are delayed beyond this period, or if there is any material change to site conditions, an updated assessment may be required.

If you require any further information or have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Iveta Nikandrovaite on Iveta.Nikandrovaite@rskbiocensus.com.

Yours sincerely,

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Consultant Ecologist

On behalf of RSK Biocensus
Technical review by

E. Sorfleet

⁵ CIEEM (2019) Advice Note on the Lifespan of Ecological Reports & Surveys. CIEEM.



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