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21 JUN 2011

Bat Survey Report

Grosmont Chapel,
Grosmont,
Near Whitby,
North Yorkshire.



Date of Survey: 12 May 2011.

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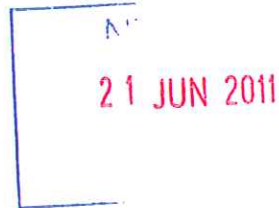


Introduction

At the request of Mr. R. Hodgson of 4 Manor Close, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO21 1HR, a bat survey was carried out on the 12th May 2011 at Grosmont Chapel and School Room. Further visits were made on the 29, 30 and 31 May 2011. This is necessary as he proposes to alter the existing buildings into habitable properties.

All photos reproduced within this report have been taken by Mr. R. Hodgson and are reproduced with permission, for which the author's thanks.

All 17 species of bats in England and their breeding sites or resting places (roosts) are protected by law. It is illegal to kill, injure, or disturb bats, obstruct access to bat roosts, or damage or disturb bat roosts. For the precise wording of the legislation please see section 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and regulation 41 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.



Survey



Site description:

Address: Ings Terrace, Grosmont, Near Whitby, North Yorkshire.

OS grid reference: NZ 283 053.

Altitude: 40 meters.

Local planning authority: North York Moors National Park Authority.

The site is on the eastern side of Grosmont just off Front Street in Grosmont. From the railway station head East up the hill and Ings Terrace is on the left. The Chapel is the first building on the right with the roof ridge running East to West and the School Room is the second building on the right with the roof ridge running East to West, further up Ings Terrace are a number of houses with pan tile roofs. Appendix 1 shows the surrounding countryside and Appendix 2 shows the Chapel and School Room off Ings Terrace (the Chapel is the building to the South and the School Room is the building to the North, there are a further two and a half pan tiled properties to the North of the School Room on the photo).

The surrounding area is open fields (grassland with hedges) and pockets of woodland close by and moorland at the top of the hill to the East towards the A 169 at about 280 meters altitude. The Murk Esk is at the bottom of the valley and runs roughly parallel and to the South of Front Street within Grosmont. The Murk Esk runs into the Esk which runs North East to the sea..

Limitations:

The survey was carried out in May 2011 this means that bats are likely to be present and should be visible if present. All of the walls (inside and out) and the roof voids were accessible. The main roof of the Chapel was only inspected from the loft hatch and the smaller voids at the back of the Chapel and School Room were not entered although parts of the roof timbers could be seen from ground level.

Desk Study:

A bat records search of 2 Km around the site was commissioned from the North Yorkshire Bat Group (NYBG) (Mr. John Drewett). This revealed the following information:

Species	Site	Grid ref.	Date	Comment
Daubenton's Bat	The Old Mass House, Egton	NZ8005	1986	In flight
Unknown	Riverside, Egton Bridge, Whitby	NZ8005	30-Jun-86	Roost
Unknown	6 Esk Valley Cottages, Grosmont	NZ8305	28-Jan-86	Roost
Unknown	6 Esk Valley, Grosmont	NZ8406	03-Sep-85	Summer roost
Pipistrelle species	Egton Bridge	NZ8005	01-Jul-90	Pipistrelle species
Unknown	Pear Trees House, Broomhouse Lane, Egton Bridge	NZ801052	05-Jul-07	Roost
Unknown	Dale View, Egton	NZ808064	08-Oct-07	Roost
Unknown	Red House Farm, Egton	NZ809062	04-Oct-06	In flight

Brown Long-eared Bat	Honeybee Nest Cottage, Egton Grange, Whitby	NZ811048	28-May-02	Summer roost
Unknown	2 Ivy Cottages, Green End, Goathland	NZ8203	24-Jun-02	Summer roost
Pipistrelle species	2 Ivy Cottages, Green End, Goathland	NZ8203	10-Sep-03	Summer roost
Unknown	Grosmont	NZ8205	08-Jul-01	Grounded bat
Unknown	Grosmont	NZ8205	23-Aug-07	Bat Inside house
Unknown	The Old School, Grosmont	NZ828051	05-Mar-07	Probable roost
Common Pipistrelle	Newbiggin High Farm, Aislaby	NZ8307	01-Jul-08	Roost in barn
Brown Long-eared Bat	Newbiggin High Farm, Aislaby	NZ8307	01-Jul-08	Flying in barn
Unknown	Low Newbiggin House, Aislaby, Whitby	NZ8407	17-Jun-02	Maternity roost

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Please be aware that this information has largely been assembled as a result of responding to enquiries from the public about bats and so does not represent a comprehensive assessment of the local bat fauna.

Methodology:

An examination of the site was made in which signs of bats and potential bat access points were looked for, where necessary a torch was used as was access equipment such as ladders. The signs looked for included bat droppings, feeding remains, stains from the natural oil in bats fur, dead bats and claw marks on timber. Live bats were also looked for. An emergence survey was carried out over three nights to make sure that none of the building(s) were being used as a roost.

The survey was carried out at 11.00 on the 12th My 2011. The weather was warm (about 15 degrees Centigrade) and sunny with a strong wind blowing. Emergence surveys were carried out on 29 May 2011 between 20.50 and 22.00, sunset time was 21.25. An East wind was blowing at about 25 kph. The cloud cover was about 20% and the temperature was 18 degrees Celsius. The survey carried out on 30 May 2011 was between 20.55 and 22.00 with a sunset time of 21.27. An East wind was blowing at about 10 kph. The cloud cover was about 50% and the temperature was 16 degrees Celsius. The survey carried out on 31 May 2011 was between 20.55 and 22.00 with a sunset time of 21.28. An East wind was blowing at about 15 kph. The cloud cover was about 12.5% and the temperature was 11 degrees Celsius.

Results:

The chapel:

There was no evidence of bats found on the outside of the building. The pointing on the walls looked in reasonable condition as did the pointing around the roof. The chapel is a stone built building. Some of the slates had let loose but there were no great holes in the roof. The roof was covered with slates. The Chapel had wooden barge boards upon which the guttering is attached (see appendix 3 for a photo). There are two louvred openings into the roof space, one above the front door and the other at the back of the property (one facing East the other West). The main chapel showed no signs of bats being present. The loft area was inspected from the loft hatch

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only as the ceiling was domed (see appendix 4 for a photo taken looking East). Due to the louvred openings the loft was draughty but not excessively so. The inside of the roof was slatted and plastered. There were no signs, from inside, of bats ever having used this loft.

The School Room:

There was no evidence of bats found on the outside of the building. The pointing on the walls looked in reasonable condition as did the pointing around the roof. The School Room is a stone built building. Some of the slates had let loose but there were no great holes in the roof. The roof is covered with slates. There are no barge boards on the School Room and the gutters are attached to the stonework (or pointing). The main building showed no signs of bats being present. The loft area was inspected (see appendix 5 for a photo taken looking East). The slates were visible from inside the roof and no evidence of bats could be found.

Emergence survey results:

The survey carried out on the 29 May 2011 was carried out on the South side of the Chapel by looking North North East so that the whole of the South side of the main roof could be seen as well as the barge boards, the barge boards and the West side of the vestry roof could also be seen from here, as could the front of the Chapel. 1 Pipistrelle was seen emerging from the barge board above the vestry door at about 21.40. Another was seen emerging below the hopper below the gutter at 21.44. A third Pipistrelle was seen emerging from the barge board between the two windows nearest Ings Terrace at 21.47. A fourth Pipistrelle was seen emerging from the barge board at the junction of the vestry and the Chapel at 21.50. The species was identified using a Batbox IIID detector. No bats were seen to be leaving the roof or walls.

The survey carried out on the 30 May 2011 was carried out looking East so that the North side of the Chapel roof could be seen and the South side of the School Room roof could be seen. From this position the South and West side of the roof behind the School Room could be seen as could the West side of the vestry roof and the western end of the Chapel. At 21.35 a Pipistrelle flew over the roof of the School Room from the North heading South. At 21.50 a pipistrelle flew over the roofs from the South heading to the North and remained between the two buildings for a further 5 minutes chasing insects. No bats were seen emerging from any of the buildings under observation.

The survey carried out on the 31 May 2011 was carried out looking East so that the North side of the School Room roof could be seen including the North side of the roof behind the School Room. At 21.30 a Pipistrelle could be heard but it was never seen. At 21.45 3 Pipistrelles were seen flying from South to North immediately above my head. At 21.55 further Pipistrelles were seen foraging. No bats were seen to be coming from the buildings under observation.

Impact Assessment

As bats were found on the South and West facing barge boards of the Chapel and the roof is being replaced or at the least repaired it is considered that the proposed development may have an adverse impact on local bats. As such mitigation measures need to be in place in order to conserve the roost.

It is suggested that any work to the roof, gutters and or barge boards be delayed until the bats are hibernating (from about October) and all works completed before the following spring (around April). The existing barge boards are to be retained or replaced with similar timber boards and the existing gaps between boards and stonework maintained in order to preserve the roost. If this is done then there should not be a need to apply for a licence as the bats are not disturbed and the roost is maintained. It is further suggested that should the barge boards need to be removed they are removed in such a way as to prevent any bats hibernating behind them from being squashed between the boards and the stonework. Should any bats be encountered at this stage then all work must stop and further advice must be sought.

As the School Room is not a roost no mitigation measures need be in place as no adverse impact on local bats is likely.

Even if a survey does not find any signs of bat activity, it is always possible that individuals may be found during building works. Should any bats be found then all work must stop and further advice must be sought.

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Summary

Evidence was found of Pipistrelles using the barge boards on the South facing side of the Chapel and the West facing barge boards of the vestry as a roost. Mitigation measures (as mentioned under impact assessment above) need to be in place before any work is carried out which may affect this roost.

No evidence was found of bats using, or having used, the School Room as a roost and as such no mitigation measures need to be in place as it is considered that the proposed development will have no adverse impact on local bats.

Unless agreed otherwise a copy of appendix 6 will be forwarded to the North Yorkshire Bat Group so that a better picture of which bats occur in the area can be had.

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Appendices

- Appendix 1: Surrounding countryside.
- Appendix 2: Chapel and School Room off Ings Terrace.
- Appendix 3: Photo of barge boards on the Chapel.
- Appendix 4: Photo taken looking East in the loft of the Chapel.
- Appendix 5: Photo taken looking East in the loft of the School Room.
- Appendix 6: Information to be passed on to North Yorkshire Bat Group
- Appendix 7: Details of surveyor(s) working on this project.

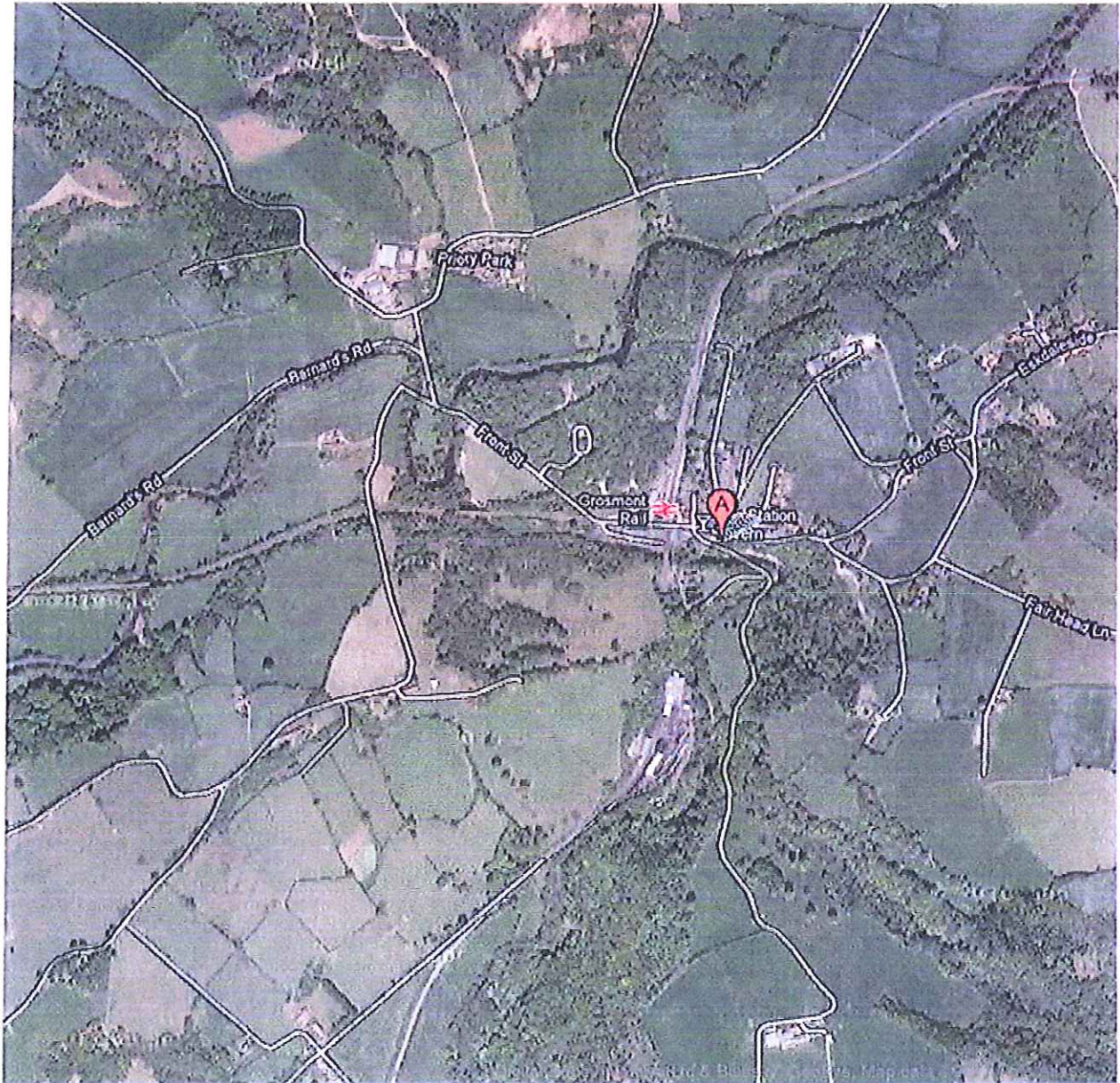


Appendix 1: Surrounding countryside.

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To see all the details that are visible on the screen, use the Print link next to the map.



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Appendix 2: Chapel and School Room off Ings Terrace.





To see all the details that are visible on the screen, use the Print link next to the map.



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Appendix 3: Photo of barge boards on the Chapel.



Appendix 4: Photo taken looking East in the loft of the Chapel.

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Appendix 5: Photo taken looking East in the loft of the School Room.



Appendix 6: Information to be passed on to North Yorkshire Bat Group.

Address: Grosmont Chapel and School Room, Ings Terrace, Grosmont, Near Whitby, North Yorkshire.

OS grid reference: NZ 283 053.

Altitude: 40 meters.

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The (internal) survey was conducted by Mr. Miles Worrton on the 12th May 2011. Emergence surveys were carried out on 29, 30 and 31 May 2011 by Miles Worrton.

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Contact details for Miles Worrton: Flat 4,
19 Hudson Street
Whitby
North Yorkshire
YO21 3EP

Appendix 7: Details of surveyor(s) working on this project.

This survey was carried out by Mr. Miles Worrton CBIol MIBiol licence number 20083025 trained by North Yorkshire Bat Group. Although I have only held a bat licence since September 2008 I have been involved with bat training since 2005. Prior to this as a pest controller who is also involved in woodworm treatment I have always been aware of what to look for, as far as bats are concerned, and have done this work since 1989.

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