



Urban Tree Experts

BS5837 – Tree Surveys – Ecological Consulting

ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT (BATS) AT 3 PINWOOD AVENUE CROWTHORNE



**Prepared for:
Mr C Russell
3 Pinewood Avenue
Crowthorne
RG45 6RS**

4 September 2025

Ref: SPH/ESR-25/20.08



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The validity of this report ceases at the prescribed time limit or after one year from the survey, or if the site conditions change due to unspecified works that affect the site whichever is the sooner.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Urban Tree Experts was commissioned by Mr C Russell to carry out two dusk emergence surveys at 3 Pinewood Avenue, Crowthorne, RG45 6RS. The surveys were undertaken at the property to provide further evidence to support the initial findings (a negative result) and conclusions from the preliminary roost assessment conducted by arbtech in June 2025 and to inform appropriate mitigation for the proposed works, if required. This report is prepared to support a current planning application to Wokingham Borough Council.

A search of Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire bat group records confirmed 11 different species within the 2-kilometer search radius, including *Myotis sp.*

The dusk emergence surveys were conducted on Sunday 27 July and Wednesday 20 August 2025. A very low number of bats were seen and heard foraging in and around the site throughout both surveys and none were seen emerging from or re-entering the property to roost.

This report confirms the findings of the surveys, completed by an experienced licensed bat ecologist, in accordance with the current best practice guidance where possible, and outlines any ecological constraints or issues with the proposed works.

The combined evidence from the preliminary survey and activity surveys provides a high level of confidence in support of the opinions set out in this report. No bats or evidence of bats were observed during the PEA and no bats were seen entering or emerging from the property during the activity surveys. This indicates that the property has not been used as a roost by bats and that an EPSL from Natural England (NE) is not required.



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1. Introduction

1.1 Instruction

Urban Tree Experts were commissioned by Mr C Russell to carry out two dusk emergence surveys at 3 Pinewood Avenue, Crowthorne, RG45 6RS.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The dusk emergence surveys are designed to:

- Identify the presence/likely absence of bats using the building to roost.
- Estimate the size and status of any existing bat roost within the building.
- Establish where the bats are accessing the building.
- Determine the potential impacts on any bat roost from the proposed development.
- Determine if an EPSL and ecological method statement is required.

The survey was carried out in accordance with Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines 4th edition.

1.3 Proposed Works

The surveys were commissioned to support a current planning application (number 251493) Wokingham Borough Council for “Householder application for the proposed erection of single storey extension, single storey garage following demolition of existing garage, entrance porch extension, raised roof conversion for habitable accommodation, 2 no. front and side dormer windows, 1 no. rear dormer window and changes to fenestration”.

1.4 Surveyor Background and Experience

The activity surveys were conducted by Robert (Bob) Brittain and Nick Powell and Katie Holmes and a remote camera and the report was compiled by Simon Holmes MSc. CEnv, a Natural England licensed bat ecologist.

Simon holds Class 3 (CL19) and 4 Bat (CL20) Licenses (Nos. 17637 and 17638) and a Science and Education license (SCI64844). He has 35 years’ experience of carrying out bat surveys and bat conservation work.

Bob holds a Class 2 Bat Licence (CLS-11916) and has been surveying bats for 12 years with various ecological consultancies and has received training in surveying techniques, bat detector use, bat biology, identification, acoustic monitoring, echolocation analysis and netting.

Nick holds a Class 2 Bat License (CLS-11742) and has been surveying bats for 3 years with various ecological consultancies and has received training in surveying techniques, bat detector use, bat biology, identification, acoustic monitoring, echolocation analysis and netting.



2. Survey Methodology

2.1 Constraints/Limitations

An assessment of the building exterior was conducted on 27 July 2025, prior to the first activity survey being undertaken and there were no constraints or limitations to the surveys. Weather conditions for both surveys were suitable, being conducted during warm weather, and a low number of bats were seen and heard foraging and in transit during the surveys.

2.2 Dusk Surveys

The dusk emergence surveys were conducted on the evenings of Sunday 27 July and Wednesday 20 August 2025. The surveyors and equipment were stationed (as shown in Figure 1 below), to ensure the features identified in the preliminary roost assessment could be observed.

During the surveys bat activity was monitored using three BatLogger M bat detectors together with five Sony Handycam night shot video cameras with high intensity IR lamps. Sample screenshots from the video cameras is included at Figure 2 on page 6. The detectors and cameras were fitted with SD cards for recording bat activity, allowing for later analysis with Kaleidoscope Pro 3 software, MotionMeerkat and VLC media player.

Figure 1 – 3 Pinewood Avenue, Crowthorne, surveyor/equipment locations.



During the surveys no bats were seen emerging from and/or returning to the property to roost. In total 5 different species were recorded and identified foraging and commuting around the site. A simple summary of the bats recorded can be seen in Table 2 on page 7. The most frequently used flight paths of bats could not be shown as a very low number of bats were heard/seen across both surveys.



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Figure 2 – 3 Pinewood Avenue, Crowthorne, sample screenshot from night vision cameras.

Position A:



Position B:



Position C:



Position D:





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3. Survey Findings

3.1 Dusk Survey

The weather conditions and surveyor details from the surveys can be found in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Surveyor details and weather conditions for the bat activity surveys conducted at 3 Pinewood Avenue, Crowthorne.

Date:	27 July 2025	20 August 2025
Survey Type	Emergence survey	Emergence survey
Surveyor and location	(A) Nick Powell (B) Remote camera (C) Bob Brittain (D) Remote camera/batlogger	(A) Nick Powell (B) Remote camera (C) Bob Brittain (D) Remote camera/batlogger
Weather Conditions (Start)	Temperature 19.5°C Cloud cover 10% Humidity 64% Dry with Wind Beaufort 0	Temperature 13.6°C Cloud cover 50% Humidity 68.4% Dry with Wind Beaufort 1-2
Sunset	20:58	20:15
Start time	20:40	20:00
Finish Time	22:30	21:45
Duration	01:50	01:45
Weather Conditions (Finish)	Temperature 18.6°C Cloud cover 0% Humidity 63.3% Dry with Wind Beaufort 0	Temperature 11.4°C Cloud cover 5% Humidity 72.9% Dry with Wind Beaufort 1

Table 2. Summary of bat calls recorded in the vicinity of 3 Pinewood Avenue, Crowthorne.

Date	Surveyor Position	Time	Seen	Heard	Species	Comments
27/07/25	A	20:40 – 22:30	Y	Y	Common pipistrelle, noctule and brown long-eared (BLE)	At 21.09 (11 minutes after sunset) a common pipistrelle bat was both seen and heard in transit into the site from the right of the surveyor and down towards the surveyor at position C. Thereafter and until survey end sporadic common pipistrelle foraging and transit calls were heard but the bat was not seen again. A noctule was heard at 21.10 and 21.31 but not seen. Analysis of the data recorded revealed three calls from a BLE bat.
27/07/25	B	20:40 – 22:30	N	N	Remote camera only	The remote camera did not record any bat activity.
27/07/25	C	20:40 – 22:30	Y	Y	Common pipistrelle, noctule and serotine	A common pipistrelle call was heard at 21.10 and thereafter limited and sporadic transit and foraging calls from common pipistrelle bats were heard with, at 21.16, a bat being seen foraging around the top of the tree on the eastern boundary. A brief call from a noctule was heard at 21.11, it was heard again at 21.54. At 21.45 a serotine was seen and heard in transit across the garden.
27/07/25	D	20:40 – 22:30	N	Y	Common pipistrelle, noctule and serotine	Between 21.11 and 22.28 the batlogger recorded 29 calls from common pipistrelle bats, a call from a noctule and a call from a serotine. The remote camera did not record any bat activity.



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Table 2 continued

Date	Surveyor Position	Time	Seen	Heard	Species	Comments
20/08/25	A	20:00 – 21:45	N	Y	Common pipistrelle and serotine	At 20.30 (15 minutes after sunset) a common pipistrelle bat was seen and heard in transit into the site from the road and foraging in the tree line to the left (north) of the site until 20.38. A common pipistrelle bat was seen and heard again foraging along the same tree line at 21.07. Another 3 calls from a common pipistrelle bat were heard until 21.41. A call from a serotine was heard at 21.03.
20/08/25	B	20:00 – 21:45	N	N	Remote camera only	The remote camera did not record any bat activity.
20/08/25	C	20:00 – 21:45	Y	Y	Common and soprano pipistrelle and serotine	At 20.33 a loud call from a common pipistrelle bat was heard, a bat was seen at 20.51 foraging in the tree tops on the eastern boundary. Limited common pipistrelle foraging activity continued until 21.41, the bat was not seen again. A call from a serotine was heard at 21.10 and a call from a soprano pipistrelle at 21.28, neither bat was seen.
20/08/25	D	20:00 – 21:45	N	Y	Common and soprano pipistrelle	Between 20.36 and 21.40 only 14 common pipistrelle calls, and a single soprano pipistrelle call were recorded. The remote camera did not record any bat activity.

4. Conclusions/Interpretation

- 4.1 The calls detected and recorded from the surveys provided identification of common pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, noctule, *Nyctalus noctule*, and serotine, *Eptesicus serotinus*, and BLE, *Plecotus auritus*, foraging and/or transiting in the vicinity.
- 4.2 The property has features suitable for crevice dwelling bats to roost. However, the surrounding urban area does not provide prime habitat for bats in which to forage and the roosting potential in neighboring buildings may also be higher. No bats were seen emerging from or returning to the property to roost.
- 4.3 Pipistrelle bats are one of the first emerging bat species after sunset, frequently emerging within 20 minutes after sunset and this was confirmed when a common pipistrelle was seen and heard entering the site at 11 minutes after sunset indicating that it is roosting in the immediate vicinity. Whilst no bats were seen emerging from or returning to the property to roost, this does not mean that they will not be present in the future as bats are known to be transient and use a wide variety of crevice like features opportunistically.
- 4.4 Whilst a limited number of calls from BLE bats were heard by the surveyors, this is not unusual as the BLE bat is commonly referred to as the 'silent' bat as the calls are very quiet and difficult to detect as they prefer to hunt using their hearing and sight.
- 4.5 The survey conditions were good, with warm weather, a variety of insects prey flying and the bat calls and field observations were, in our opinion, considered low. This has been a common theme this season, 2025.
- 4.6 The bat calls and field observations support the opinions set out in this report and provide a high level of confidence in the species detected during the surveys at 3 Pinewood Avenue.



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- 4.7 The cumulative evidence leads me to conclude that bats are not roosting at 3 Pinewood Avenue, and the property has a negligible potential to support roosting bats, therefore an EPSL is not required.
- 4.8 All bats and their roosts are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

5. References

Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition).
Bat Workers Manual – Mitchell-Jones & McLeish 2004.
Bat Mitigation Guidelines – Natural England 2006.
The Conservation and Habitat Regulations – 2017.

6. Queries

Any queries regarding this report should be addressed, in the first instance, to Urban Tree Experts:

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