

Preliminary Roost Assessment

**Ridge Corner, Jubilee Road, Finchampstead, Wokingham, RG40
3RU**

Survey conducted 26th February 2026

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SUMMARY

An internal and external daytime inspection for evidence of bats and bat roosting potential was conducted by ecologist Nick Kirke and Belle Adcock of Plan Ecology at Ridge Corner, Finchampstead on the 26th of February 2026.

The proposed works seek to add a double-storey extension onto the rear elevation.

The Site consists of a two-storey, detached building with an adjacent garden. The immediate surrounding area comprises other dwellings and the wider landscape includes arable and pastoral fields. The Moor Green Lakes sit approximately 1km south of the site which comprises of a series of lakes in the Blackwater Valley.

The building was carefully inspected, and the potential features were examined in the accessible spaces using an endoscope and torch with a ladder for accessing higher areas. The building has some notable features for bats such as the gaps under the roof tiles and the warped wooden soffits. In addition, approximately fifty bat droppings, which look to be consistent in shape and size to brown long eared bat droppings, were found inside the loft space.

However, since considerable repair work has been undertaken on the roof prior to the current owner's occupation, and the bat droppings appear to be degraded, the building has been deemed to have moderate potential to establish if the roost is an old one that can no longer be accessed by bats due to the newer roof.

Two activity surveys each with three surveyors are recommended to inform if bats are using the buildings features as roosts during the active season. Surveys are recommended during optimal weather conditions and must be spaced a minimum of three weeks apart. Surveys are required to take place between May and August.

If any bats are found to be roosting and will be affected by the planned works, it may be necessary to apply for a European Protected Species Licence (EPS) with Natural England (NE). A bat mitigation plan would also be designed from the survey results to minimise disturbance and reinstate bat roosting areas and access points.

Should materials need to be stored in the back garden it is recommended that they be covered overnight, and no open holes be left uncovered to avoid any fauna falling in and unable to escape.

It is also recommended that works only take place in the daytime to avoid any light or noise disturbance to bats or birds which may be nesting or foraging nearby.

The result of a survey can never completely rule out the presence of bats at a building as use may be obscure or occasional. If bats or evidence of bats such as bat droppings are discovered, the works must be paused, and you should seek advice from Plan

Ecology or Natural England via the Bat Conservation Trust bat helpline Tel 0345 1300 228.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Description

The Site consists of a two-storey, detached building with an adjacent garden. The immediate surrounding area comprises other dwellings and the wider landscape includes arable and pastoral fields. The Moor Green Lakes sit approximately 1km south of the site which comprises of a series of lakes in the Blackwater Valley.

See Appendix 1 for Site Location

1.2 Proposed Works

The proposed works seek to add a double-storey extension onto the rear elevation.

See Appendix 1 for Site location

1.3 Aims of the Survey

A Preliminary Roost Assessment was carried out with the aim to look for evidence of bats roosting and for the presence of structures within the building which hold bat roosting potential.

1.4 General Information about Bats and Buildings

Loft spaces can potentially be utilised by bat species such as e.g. Brown Long-eared bats or Serotine bats which are known to commonly roost inside loft spaces. This can generally be discovered via droppings inside the loft as the droppings will stay protected from weather elements.

External features of the building can potentially be used as roosting sites by e.g. Pipistrelle bat species (*Pipistrellus* spp). Pipistrelle bats are the most common bats out of the British species, and they are known to roost inside buildings utilising areas such as cavity walls, soffits and fascia boards, and between tiles and roofing felt. It is not practical to carry out a full physical examination of such building features, which is why activity surveys have to be done during summer months (May-September) when the bats are fully active.

Access points of 1-2 centimetres only are used by bats to enter and exit their roosting sites. Most buildings will have gaps of such size in roof areas, as ventilation of the roof void would otherwise not be possible.

2. METHODOLOGY

The surveys were undertaken in accordance with the methods described in the Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edn), Bat Conservation Trust (BCT).

External and internal inspection – Preliminary Roost Assessment

The building was surveyed during the daytime on the 26th of February 2026 by Nick Kirke (Natural England bat licence No.2025-83861-CL08-BAT) and Belle Adcock of Plan Ecology.

The building was inspected for evidence of bats in the form of live or dead bats, droppings, urine staining and insect feeding remains such as moth and butterfly wings. A careful visual search using a Clulite torch was conducted. An endoscope (Ridgid) was used for spot checks of internal and external gaps. The exterior of the building was surveyed for droppings on walls and ledges.

The bat roosting potential was assessed according to the scale negligible, low, moderate, high or confirmed:

Negligible: Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats. For example; a simple wooden garden shed, a corrugated iron barn or precast concrete modular garage may fit this category.

Low: A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, these potential roost Sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/ or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation).

Moderate: A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions, and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status.

High: A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.

Confirmed: This category is used where evidence of bats such as live or dead bats or bat droppings are present, or where there are records of a bat roost in the building.

Foraging and Commuting

Habitats were assessed for their suitability for foraging or commuting bats and categorised in accordance with table 1. Foraging areas of high suitability vary between species but generally include sheltered areas and habitats which support invertebrate prey such as woodland, scrub, hedges, watercourses, ponds, lakes, arable land with cattle manure and more species-rich or rough grassland. For commuting, well-connected hedgerows, woodland edge, watercourses and other linear features are generally considered to be of high suitability.

Table 1: Categorisation, foraging & Commuting habitats (adapted from Collins, 2023)

Category	Description
None	No habitat features on the site likely to be used by commuting or foraging bats at any time of year.
Negligible	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flightpaths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
Low	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream but isolated i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat. Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for commuting such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
High	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be regularly used by commuting bats such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.

Hibernation

‘Classic’ hibernation sites are often underground but may also be above ground (e.g. some ice ices and lime kilns) and they provide cool, stable and damp conditions favoured by some species for winter torpor and hibernation.

A hibernation survey requires close and systematic inspection of all cracks, crevices and voids for hibernating bats using torches, endoscopes and mirrors.

For ‘non -classic’ hibernation sites particularly those within/ behind external features of buildings or cavity walls the extent to which they can be surveyed is limited. Often only a destructive search would be definitive and also counterproductive.

3. RESULTS

External and internal inspection results – Preliminary Roost Assessment

Bat roosting potential:

The building was carefully inspected, and the potential features were examined in the accessible spaces using an endoscope and torch with a ladder for accessing higher areas. The building has some notable features for bats such as the gaps under the roof tiles and the warped wooden soffits. In addition, approximately fifty bat droppings, which look to be consistent in shape and size to brown long eared bat droppings, were found inside the loft space. A sample of these droppings has been taken and sent for DNA testing and the results will be added to this report once they are received.

However, since considerable repair work has been undertaken on the roof prior to the current owner's occupation, and the bat droppings appear to be degraded, the building has been deemed to have moderate potential to establish if the roost is an old one that can no longer be accessed by bats due to the newer roof.

The Site has low bat foraging and commuting potential within the garden. The wider surrounding area has moderate/ high bat foraging potential.

The areas to be affected by the works have negligible bat hibernation potential.

See Appendix 3 for photographs

4. ASSESSMENT

Constraints on study information

All accessible areas of the building could be surveyed without restrictions.

A biological record data search was not conducted as the results of a data search is not likely to impact on the decision-making process at this stage.

Bat survey results are generally considered to be valid within two years of the survey date or until the next active bat season of May-September. The County Council Ecologists and/or Natural England may ask for updated surveys if the reports are older than two years.

Potential impacts on bat foraging and commuting habitat.

The works are small and localised and will not be detrimental to foraging or commuting bats.

Legislation and policy guidance

As population numbers have fallen, all bats and their roosts are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Under this legislation it is an offence to:

- deliberately capture (or take), injure or kill a bat;
- intentionally, recklessly or deliberately disturb a bat (in relation to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) the offence applies whilst the species is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection; in relation to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 it applies anywhere);
- damage or destroy the breeding or resting place (roost) of a bat;
- possess a bat (alive or dead), or any part of a bat;
- intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost;
- sell (or offer for sale) or exchange bats (alive or dead), or parts of bats.

Please refer to the original legislation for the definitive interpretation.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Discussion of results

A full inspection was carried out and the building was deemed to have moderate potential due to some potential features, such as the gaps under the roof tiles and wooden soffits as well as around fifty bat droppings being present in the loft space. However, since considerable repair work has been undertaken on the roof prior to the current owner's occupation, and the bat droppings appear to be degraded, the building has been deemed to have moderate potential to establish if the roost is an old one that can no longer be accessed by bats due to the newer roof.

Should materials need to be stored in the back garden it is recommended that they be covered overnight, and no open holes be left uncovered to avoid any fauna falling in and unable to escape.

It is also recommended that works only take place in the daytime to avoid any light or noise disturbance to bats or birds which may be nesting or foraging nearby.

Lighting should be designed in accordance with the Institute of Lighting Professionals Guidance note 8: 'Bats and Artificial lighting in the UK' which can be downloaded for free from the ILP website.

The result of a survey can never completely rule out the presence of bats at a building as use may be obscure or occasional. If bats or evidence of bats such as bat droppings are discovered, the works must be paused, and you should seek advice from Plan Ecology or Natural England via the Bat Conservation Trust bat helpline Tel 0345 1300 228.

Further Survey Effort

Two activity surveys each with three surveyors are recommended to inform if bats are using the buildings features as roosts during the active season. Surveys are recommended during optimal weather conditions and must be spaced a minimum of three weeks apart. Surveys are required to take place between May and August.

If any bats are found to be roosting and will be affected by the planned works, it may be necessary to apply for a European Protected Species Licence (EPS) with Natural England (NE). A bat mitigation plan would also be designed from the survey results to minimise disturbance and reinstate bat roosting areas and access points.

Biodiversity Enhancements

Under the National Planning Policy Framework⁷ a development must provide enhancement for biodiversity. To support this, it is recommended that one bat brick and one open nest brick be installed within the brickwork of the new extension.

6.REFERENCES

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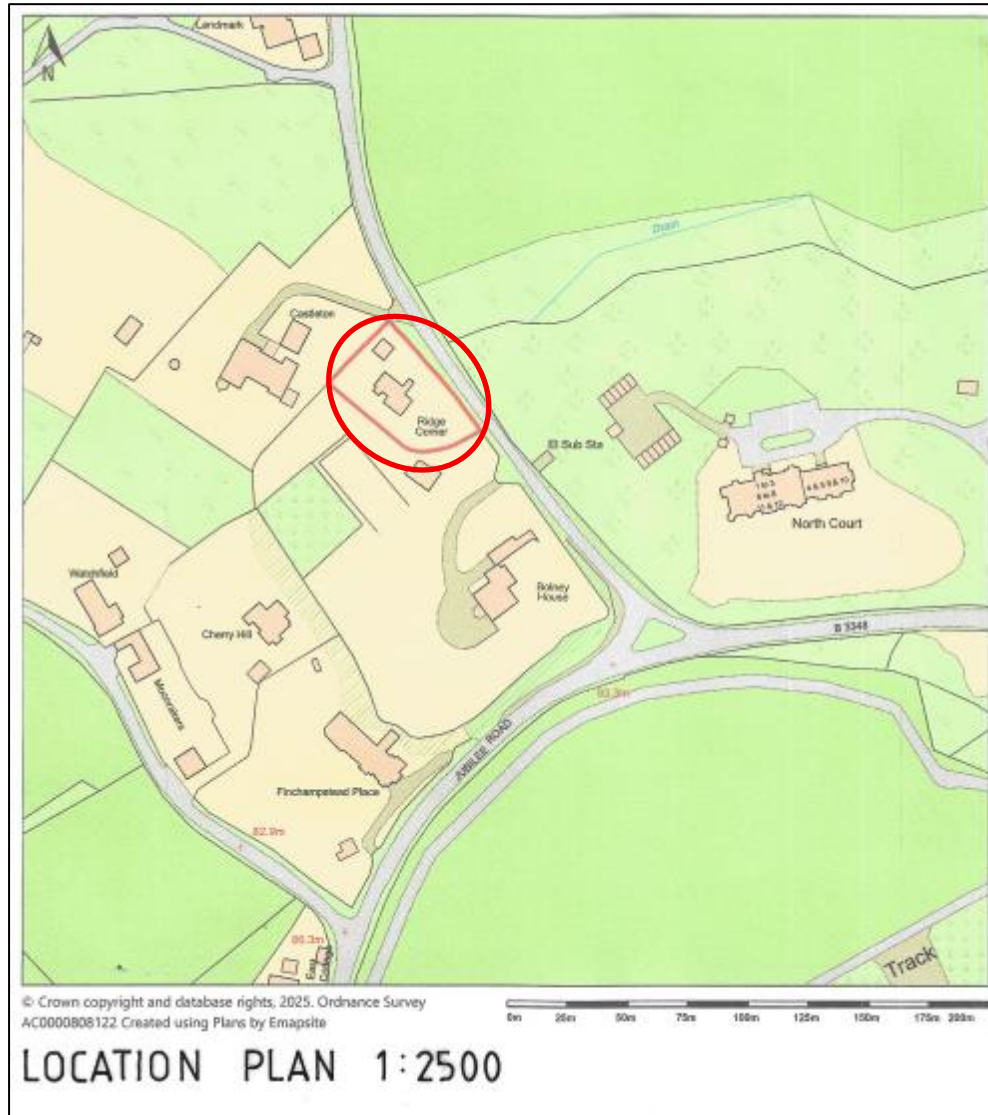
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APPENDIX 1: Site Location



APPENDIX 2: Proposed Elevations



FRONT ELEVATION



REAR ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION

APPENDIX 3: Photographs



Photograph 1: Side elevation



Photograph 2: Side and rear elevation.



Photograph 3: Front elevation.



Photograph 4: Adjacent garden.



Photograph 5: Front elevation.



Photograph 6: Gaps under roof tiles and wooden soffits.



Photograph 7: Adjacent garden with shrubs and mature trees.



Photograph 8: Adjacent garden with mature trees.



Photograph 9: approximately 50 bat droppings found in the loft space.



Photograph 10: Side elevation.



Photograph 11: Loft space.



Photograph 12: Side elevation.



Photograph 13: Loft space.



Photograph 14: Loft space.



Photograph 15: Side elevation.



Photograph 16: Loft space.

APPENDIX 4: Map of potential features



Gaps under roof tiles
and around soffits.

APPENDIX 5: Surveyor and Camera Positions



APPENDIX 6: Biodiversity Enhancements

