

Preliminary Roost Assessment

**11A Belmont Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45
6SA**

Date of Issue: 31/07/2026

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Executive Summary

EctoEcology has been commissioned by the client to carry out a Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (PRA) in support of a planning application at 11A Belmont Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 6SA (hereafter referred to as ‘the site’). The site comprises a two-storey detached residential brick dwelling (B1), a wooden garden shed (B2) and a detached brick garage (B3) situated within a private vegetated garden.

The PRA identified varying levels of suitability for use by roosting bats.

B1 was identified as having multiple potential opportunities for crevice-dwelling bats to access concealed areas within the roof structure. Internally, the loft was generally well sealed, no evidence of bat activity was recorded. Droppings identified within the loft were determined through eDNA analysis as brown rat and are not considered evidence of bats (Appendix 2).

Based on the number and location of identified PRFs and in accordance with Table 4.1 of Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition, 2023) published by the Bat Conservation Trust, B1 is considered to have **moderate** suitability for roosting bats. Two bat emergence/re-entry surveys are recommended with the first survey undertaken between May and August and the second between May and September. Surveys must be spaced a minimum of three weeks apart. It is recommended at least two surveyors with NVAs are placed around B1 to ensure all PRFs are adequately captured (Suggested locations can be seen in Appendix 1). If bats are identified, further roost characterisation surveys may be required to determine the type and status of any roost(s) present.

B2 was identified as having no PRFs externally or internally. No bat evidence was recorded during the internal inspection. Based on these findings, B2 is considered to have **negligible** suitability for roosting bats. No further bat surveys are recommended.

B3 was identified as having no PRFs externally or internally. No evidence of bat activity was recorded during the internal inspection. B3 is therefore considered to have **negligible** suitability for roosting bats with no further bat surveys recommended.

No evidence of nesting birds was recorded during the Preliminary Roost Assessment. However, any works affecting buildings or vegetation should ideally be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to September inclusive). If works are required during this period, a nesting bird check should be undertaken immediately prior to works commencing.

The results of the recommended surveys for Building 1 will determine whether bats are present and whether any further mitigation, licensing or ecological measures are required prior to works commencing. Any mitigation or enhancement recommendations should be provided following confirmation of the presence or likely absence of roosting bats.

In the event any evidence of a bat roost is found after this report, work must cease while the advice of Natural England or a suitably qualified and licensed bat ecologist is sought.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

EctoEcology has been commissioned by the client to carry out a Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (PRA) in support of a planning application at 11A Belmont Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 6SA (OS grid reference: SU 83967 64935; hereafter referred to as ‘the site’). The site comprises a two-storey detached residential brick dwelling (B1), a wooden garden shed (B2) and a detached brick garage (B3) situated within a private vegetated garden.

The purpose and scope of this PRA is to assess the potential of the on-site buildings to support roosting bats and/or nesting birds, and to evaluate any possible impacts associated with the proposed redevelopment of the site, which involves a downstairs rear extension, an upstairs full width dormer and gable hip to ceiling roof enlargement.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The site was located within a residential development of the village of Crowthorne in Berkshire. The site comprised a detached two-storey residential brick dwelling with clay roof tiles (B1), a wooden garden shed with a felted roof (B2) and a brick-built single garage with a flat felt roof. The buildings were situated within a private vegetated garden characterised by a hardstanding drive and patio, amenity grassland and ornamental shrubs and trees. The site is immediately surrounded by other residential properties. The wider landscape comprises a mosaic of residential developments, woodland, golf courses and open green spaces including schools and parks. This semi-rural landscape matrix is likely to provide suitable roosting, foraging and commuting opportunities for a range of bat species. The site and the wider landscape can be seen in Figure 1 below.

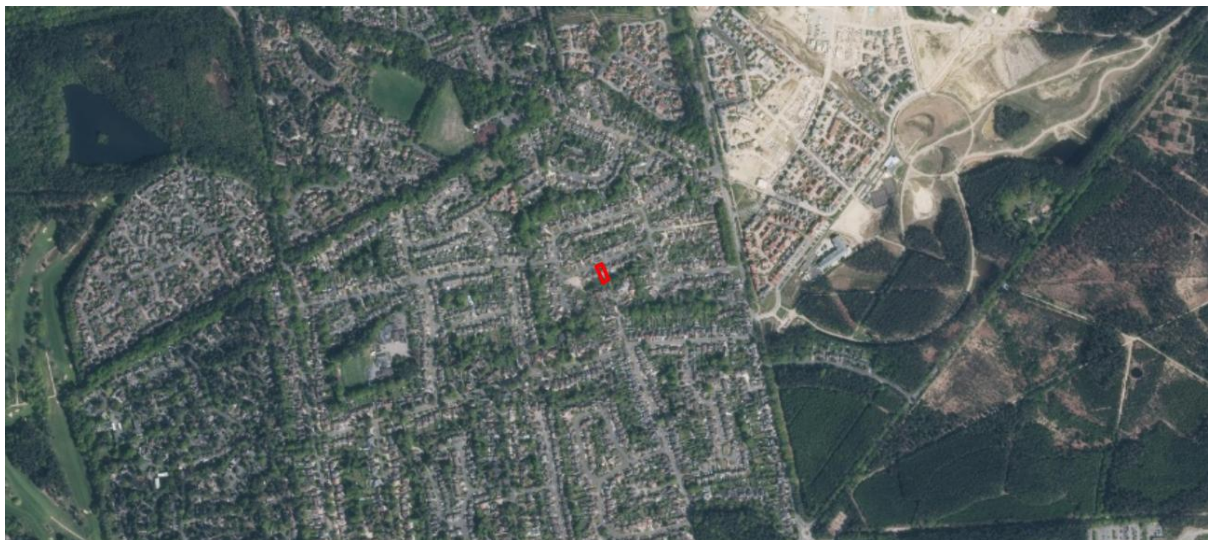


Figure 1. The site (outlined in red) and wider landscape. Aerial imagery from Natural England’s Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) database, accessed on 30th July 2026.

1.3 Scope of Survey & Objectives

The scope and objective of this survey, consisting of a single site visit and desk-based study, aims to provide an initial evaluation of the potential of the buildings on the site to support roosting bats and nesting birds and to guide the development of appropriate mitigation strategies in light of the proposed development. Specifically, the assessment seeks to identify any signs suggesting the likely presence or absence of roosting bats or nesting birds and suitable Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) for bats within the structure, evaluate how the planned works may impact any bats using the site for roosting, foraging or commuting, and determine whether additional survey effort is required.

Where appropriate, the findings of this assessment will inform whether additional ecological surveys or avoidance measures are required, in line with planning policy and both UK and European wildlife legislation. This may include the need for a European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licence from Natural England to ensure the development proceeds lawfully.

1.4 Development Proposals

The development proposal includes a downstairs rear extension, an upstairs full width dormer and gable hip to ceiling roof enlargement.

2. Methodology

2.1 Desk Study

Natural England's Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) database was accessed on 30th July 2026 for information on statutory sites designated for bats and any granted EPSM licenses granted for bats within 2 km of the site.

2.2 Preliminary Roost Assessment

A site visit was conducted on 9th of July 2026.

Ruben Mole BSc (Hons), MSc, ACIEEM conducted the on-site survey and is the main author of this report. He holds a CL17 bat license. He has worked as a practising ecologist in ecological consultancy for five years. During this time, he has conducted and led; Biodiversity Net Gain assessments, carried out habitat condition assessments, Phase 1 habitat surveys, has led Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) duties for major infrastructure projects and is well versed in UKHab and has led PEAs and PRAs.

The secondary author of this report is Autumn Nielsen BSc, MSc. She is a qualifying member of CIEEM and has worked as an ecological consultant for two years. She has conducted and led over 60 bat emergence surveys, done bat sound analysis and survey footage review and

has assisted on a number of PRAs. Additionally, she has conducted PEAs using UKHabs, badger surveys, reptile surveys, ecological constraints surveys for permitted development and been an ECoW for utility works.

Weather conditions during the survey on the 9th of July 2026 were recorded at the time of inspection (Temperature; 28 °C, Cloud Cover; 20%, Wind; 1, Rain; 0).

The PRA involved a thorough examination of the subject buildings to identify potential roosting features and assess its overall suitability for bats, in line with the *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (4th Edition, BCT, 2023). Both internal (where access was available) and external areas of the building were examined for signs of bat presence, including live or dead individuals, droppings, feeding remains and staining. The structure was evaluated for its potential to support various roost types, considering likely bat species, roost characteristics and the number of individuals it may accommodate.

The assessment was supported using a high-powered torch, binoculars and extendable ladders, where appropriate. The building was then assigned a suitability category (negligible, low, moderate, high) for roosting bats based on table 4.1 of the *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (4th Edition, BCT, 2023).

Evidence of nesting birds was also recorded during the survey.

2.3 Survey Limitations

Bats are mobile and cryptic animals and can occupy a variety of different roost types depending on season, weather or behaviour and can move roosts indiscriminately throughout the year. It is possible that the PRA carried out in July could miss roosts occupied at other points during a bat's annual life cycle. However, where undisturbed, it is possible to find secondary evidence of bats inside a building throughout the year, although secondary signs may be missed where they are within an area that can't be fully accessed.

Full access to the loft of B1 was not possible because of plumbing, therefore PRFs and evidence of bats in the inaccessible area could have been missed.

3. Results and Evaluation

3.1 Statutory Sites

A search of the MAGIC database identified six statutory designated sites within 2 km of the site; Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA), Heath Lake SSSI, Heath Lake Local

Nature Reserve (LNR), Sandhurst to Owlsmoor Bogs and Heaths SSSI and Edgbarrow Woods LNR.

Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths SSSI is located 0.7 km east of the site and consists of broadleaved woodland, coniferous plantation, dry and wet heathland, valley mire and a series of ponds. It supports internationally important breeding populations of nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) and Dartford warbler (*Sylvia undata*) and a scarce breeding invertebrate assemblage including dragonflies and damselflies.

Thames Basin Heaths SPA is located 0.7 km east of the site and consists of dry and wet heathland with scrub and woodland supporting important breeding populations of nightjar, woodlark and Dartford warbler, for which the site is designated. Other species of interest include hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*), short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*) and kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*).

Heath Lake SSSI is located 0.72 km west of the site and consists of a small, shallow lake surrounded by birch and pine woodland with areas of relict heathland supporting a variety of aquatic plants and invertebrates and breeding birds.

Heath Lake LNR is located 0.72 km west of the site and consists of woodland and heathland. The shallow 7-acre lake is the only acid lake in Berkshire. This means it has a naturally low pH which supports several rare plants, including water milfoil (*Myriophyllum*) and the six-stemmed water crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis*).

Sandhurst to Owlsmoor Bogs and Heaths SSSI is located 1.6 km south of the site and consists of wet and dry heathland, mixed woodland and mire supporting rare plants and invertebrates.

Edgbarrow Woods LNR is located 1.7 km south of the site and consists of mixed, semi-natural woodland, wet and dry heathland and acidic grassland supporting biodiversity action plan species, devil's bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*), round-leaved sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), glow-worm (*Lampyrus noctiluca*), bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), Dartford warbler, noctule bat (*Nyctalus noctula*) and silver-studded blue butterfly (*Plebejus argus*).

These sites are not specifically designated for bats; however, they do provide suitable habitat for roosting, foraging and commuting. There is no site specifically designated for bats within 10 km of the site.

Given the distance to the proposed works and the site-specific nature of the works, this designated site will not be affected by the proposed works at 11A Belmont Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 6SA.

As such, statutory sites will not be impacted by the proposed development and are not considered further in this report.

3.2 Protected Species Mitigation Licenses

A search of the MAGIC database identified 14 European Protected Species Mitigation Licenses (EPSLs) for bats within 2 km of the site.

Table 1. Known EPSLs granted by Natural England within 2 km of the site.

Licence Reference	Species	Distance to Site	Direction from site	Permitted Activity
EPSM2012-4677	Common Pipistrelle	1090 m	Southeast	Destruction of a resting place
EPSM2012-4680	Common Pipistrelle	1090 m	Southeast	Destruction of a resting place
2020-45346-EPS-MIT	Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle	1418 m	Southeast	Destruction of a resting place, Damage of a resting place
2018-33541-EPS-MIT	Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle	1317 m	Southeast	Destruction of a resting place
EPSM2013-5794	Common Pipistrelle	1347 m	Southeast	Destruction of a resting place
EPSM2013-5827	Common Pipistrelle	1632 m	Southeast	Destruction of a resting place
EPSM2013-5760	Common Pipistrelle; Brown Long-eared Bat	1374 m	South	Destruction of a resting place
2016-25037-EPS-MIT	Soprano Pipistrelle; Brown Long-eared Bat	644 m	South	Destruction of a resting place
2016-24162-EPS-MIT	Common Pipistrelle	1031 m	Southwest	Destruction of a resting place
2017-31130-EPS-MIT	Whiskered bat	1106 m	Southwest	Destruction of a breeding place, Damage to a breeding place
2015-7775-EPS-MIT	Common Pipistrelle	1154 m	Southwest	Destruction of a resting place
EPSM2013-5937	Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle	452 m	Southwest	Destruction of a resting place
EPSM2013-6420	Common Pipistrelle; Soprano Pipistrelle; Brown Long-eared Bat	1411 m	West	Destruction of a resting place
2014-4527-EPS-MIT-1	Common Pipistrelle; Soprano Pipistrelle; Brown Long-eared Bat, Whiskered bat, Brandts bat	1654 m	Northwest	Destruction of a resting place Affects a breeding place, Destruction of a breeding place

3.3 Preliminary Roost Assessment

3.3.1 Building One (B1):

External Inspection

B1 comprised a residential structure which appeared generally well maintained externally; however, several PRFs were identified during the assessment. Photographs of the exterior of B1 and PRFs can be seen in Table 2 below.

The building consists of a mixture of tiled roof sections and dormer features. A number of PRFs were recorded including areas of raised tiles around the chimney and lead flashing on the south-easterly rear elevation. These features may provide access beneath the roof covering and create potential crevice opportunities suitable for bats.

A further PRF was identified beneath the front dormer where areas of rotting timber have created a gap that may provide roosting habitat for bats. Raised tiles were also identified around the dormer feature providing additional opportunities for bats to access concealed areas beneath the roof structure.

The south-westerly roof slope was inspected and no PRFs were identified in this area with the roof appearing generally well sealed. No obvious gaps or access points were recorded around the remaining visible external areas.

The highest concentration of potential roosting features was associated with the dormer, chimney and lead flashing details where gaps and lifted materials may provide access into concealed areas suitable for use by individual bats or small numbers of crevice-dwelling species.

No evidence of nesting birds was recorded during the assessment.

Table 2. Photographs from external inspection of B1 including PRFs.

	
North-westerly facing frontage.	North-easterly facing aspect.



South-easterly rear of the building.



South-easterly rear of the building.



PRF: Rotting wood creating a gap under dormer at the front of the property.



PRF: Raised tiles around chimney and raised lead flashing at the rear of the property.



PRF: Raised tiles around the lead flashing at the rear of the property.



PRF: Raised tiles around the lead flashing at the rear of the property.

	
PRF: Raised tiles on the side of the dormer.	No PRFs on the south westerly roofing.
	
No PRFs on the south westerly roofing.	

Internal Inspection

The internal inspection included an assessment of the accessible loft areas with particular focus on areas corresponding with potential external access points. Photographs of the interior spaces of B1 can be seen in table 3 below.

Access into the loft was partially restricted due to plumbing infrastructure preventing full inspection of all areas. Within the accessible sections of the loft, a large open cavity was identified running down the property; however, no signs of bats were recorded within this area.

The gable end of the loft was inspected with no evidence of bat activity identified. No bat droppings, staining or urine marks were recorded within the inspected areas.

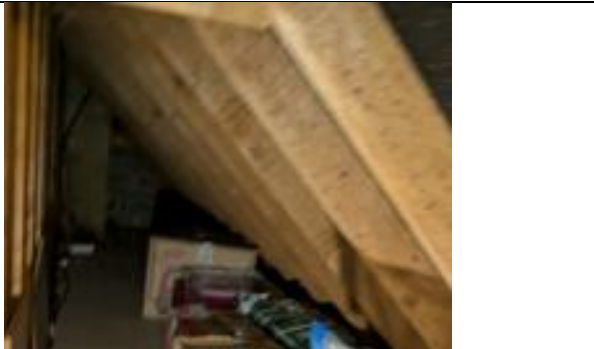
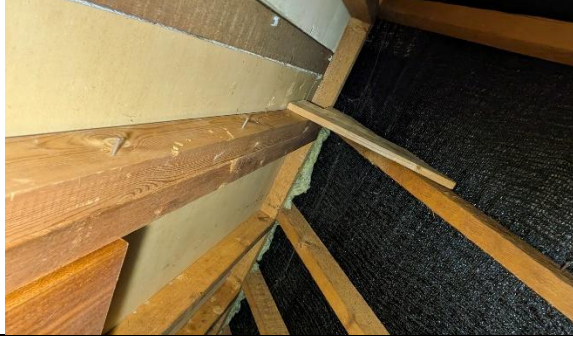
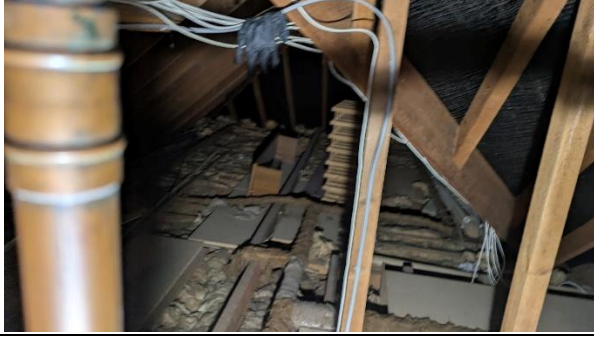
The interior of the loft was generally well sealed with felt covering and tightly fitted rafters and beams limiting potential roosting opportunities. No suitable internal PRFs were identified within the accessible areas.

Some mammal droppings were identified within the loft space, which failed the initial crumble test. A few were collected for eDNA analysis and subsequently confirmed as brown rat droppings (see Appendix 2). These were therefore not considered evidence of bat activity.

No evidence of bats was recorded during the internal inspection.

No evidence of nesting birds was recorded during the assessment.

Table 3. Photographs of internal inspection of loft of B1. No evidence of roosting bats recorded.

	
Plumbing preventing full access to the loft.	Large open cavity running down the property.
	
No entry points for loft access down the side of this building.	Gable end; no signs of bats, droppings or urine.
	
Tight seal on the interior of the loft, felt covering.	In larger open section of the loft no signs of bats, droppings or urine.

	
Rafters and beams tight with no suitable PRFs.	Some droppings were identified and failed the crumble test, however after eDNA analysis, they were confirmed as brown rat.

Suitability

Multiple PRFs were identified externally including gaps associated with rotting timber beneath the dormer, raised tiles around the chimney and lead flashing and raised tiles around the dormer feature. These features provide potential opportunities for bats to access concealed areas within the building, particularly crevice-dwelling bat species.

Although the majority of the building appeared well maintained and sealed with no PRFs identified on the south-westerly roof slope and limited opportunities identified internally, the presence of several external features provides potential roosting opportunities.

Although a large open loft was present, no evidence of bats was recorded, and the accessible areas did not contain features considered suitable for supporting larger roosts.

The identified features are considered capable of supporting individual or small numbers of bats, particularly species that utilise small crevices associated with roof coverings, dormers and flashing details. However, due to the limited extent of suitable habitat and the absence of confirmed bat evidence, the building is considered unlikely to support a roost of high conservation significance.

On this basis and in accordance with Table 4.1 of Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition, 2023) published by the Bat Conservation Trust, the building is assessed as having **moderate** roosting suitability.

Two further bat emergence/re-entry surveys are recommended. The first between May and August and the second between May and September. These surveys must be undertaken at least three weeks apart and are required to determine whether bats are utilising the identified potential roosting features. It is recommended at least two surveyors with night vision aids (NVAs) are placed around B1 to ensure all PRFs are adequately captured. Suggested surveyor locations can be seen in Appendix 1. If bats are confirmed to be present, further roost characterisation surveys may be required to determine the type, extent and conservation status of any roost(s) present.

3.3.2 Building Two (B2):

External Inspection

Building 2 comprised a detached shed structure located within the property boundary. The building appeared generally well maintained externally with no obvious signs of structural degradation or features considered suitable for use by roosting bats. Photographs of the exterior of B2 can be seen in table 4 below.

The structure was inspected externally including the south-easterly facing rear elevation and the northern-westerly facing entrance and north-easterly facing side elevation. No PRFs were identified during the assessment.

No suitable features were identified around the roofline, walls, entrances or other external elements that could provide opportunities for roosting bats.

No evidence of nesting birds was recorded during the assessment.

Table 4. Photographs from external inspection of B2.

	
South easterly facing rear of the building.	North westerly facing entrance and north easterly facing side of the building.

Internal Inspection

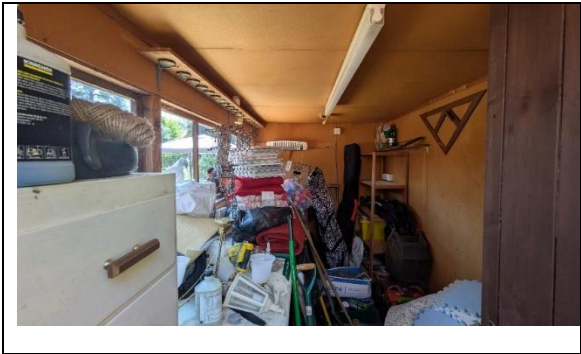
The internal inspection allowed for access into the available areas of Building 2. The inspection focused on identifying any potential roosting features and signs of bat activity.

No suitable roosting features were identified. The structure appeared generally well sealed with no gaps, cracks or concealed areas suitable for use by roosting bats. Photographs of the inside of B2 can be seen in table 5 below.

No bat droppings, staining, urine marks, feeding remains or other evidence of bat activity was recorded during the inspection.

The internal areas provided limited opportunities for bats with no features identified that could support individual bats or a roost.

Table 5. Photographs of internal inspection B2. No evidence of roosting bats recorded.

	
Interior: no signs of bats, droppings or urine.	Interior: no signs of bats, droppings or urine.

Suitability

No PRFs were identified externally or internally during the assessment of B2. The building appeared generally well maintained and sealed with no gaps, cracks or access points suitable for use by roosting bats.

The internal inspection identified no suitable roosting opportunities, no evidence of bat activity was recorded. The structure provided negligible opportunities for bats to enter and utilise concealed areas.

On this basis and in accordance with Table 4.1 of Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition, 2023) published by the Bat Conservation Trust, the building is assessed as having **negligible** roosting suitability.

No further bat surveys are recommended.

3.3.3 Building Three (B3):

External Inspection

Building 3 comprised a detached garage structure located within the property boundary. The building appeared generally well maintained externally with no obvious signs of structural degradation or features considered suitable for use by roosting bats.

The structure was inspected externally, including the south-easterly rear elevation, north-westerly frontage, and the flat roof area. Photographs of the external inspection of B3 can be seen in table 6 below. No PRFs were identified during the assessment.

The external elevations appeared generally well sealed with no visible gaps, cracks, damaged materials or access points identified that could allow bats to enter concealed areas within the structure.

The flat roof was inspected and no defects or features capable of providing roosting opportunities were identified. No suitable features were recorded around the roofline, walls or other external elements.

No evidence of nesting birds was recorded during the assessment.

Table 6. Photographs from external inspection of B3.

	
South easterly rear of the garage, no PRFs.	North westerly frontage of the garage, no PRFs.
	
Flat roof of the garage, no PRFs.	

Internal Inspection

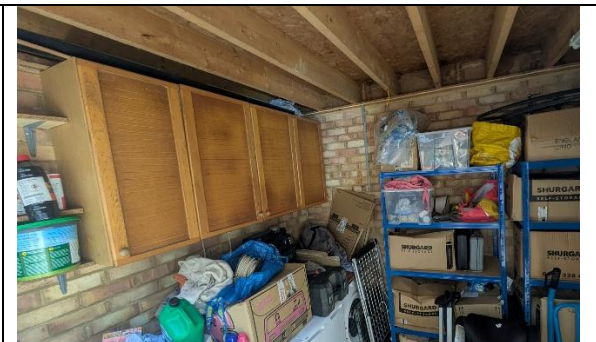
The internal inspection allowed for access into the available areas of Building 3. The inspection focused on identifying potential roosting features and any evidence of bat activity. Photographs of the inside of B3 can be seen in table 7 below.

No suitable roosting features identified. The structure appeared generally well sealed with no gaps, cracks or concealed areas suitable for use by roosting bats.

No bat droppings, staining, urine marks, feeding remains or other evidence of bat activity was recorded during the inspection.

The internal areas provided negligible opportunities for bats with no features identified that could support individual bats or a roost.

Table 7. Photographs of internal inspection of B3. No evidence of roosting bats recorded.

	
Interior: no signs of bats, droppings or urine.	Interior: no signs of bats, droppings or urine.

Suitability

No PRFs were identified externally or internally during the assessment. The garage appeared generally well maintained and sealed with no gaps, cracks, damaged roof features or access points suitable for use by roosting bats.

The internal inspection identified no suitable roosting opportunities, no evidence of bat activity was recorded. The flat roof design and lack of concealed features provide limited opportunities for bats to enter and utilise the structure.

On this basis and in accordance with Table 4.1 of Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition, 2023) published by the Bat Conservation Trust, the building is assessed as having **negligible** roosting suitability.

No further bat surveys are recommended.

4. Conclusion

The Preliminary Roost Assessment of the buildings at 11A Belmont Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 6SA identified varying levels of suitability for use by roosting bats.

B1 was identified as having multiple PRFs including raised tiles around the chimney and lead flashing, raised tiles around the dormer and a gap created by rotting timber beneath the front dormer. These features provided potential opportunities for crevice-dwelling bats to access concealed areas within the roof structure. Internally, the loft was generally well sealed with tightly fitted rafters and beams limiting opportunities. No evidence of bat activity was recorded. Droppings identified within the loft were determined through eDNA analysis as brown rat droppings and were not considered evidence of bats (Appendix 2).

Based on the number and location of identified PRFs and in accordance with Table 4.1 of Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition, 2023) published

by the Bat Conservation Trust, B1 is considered to have **moderate** suitability for roosting bats. Two bat emergence/re-entry surveys are recommended with the first survey undertaken between May and August and the second between May and September. Surveys must be spaced a minimum of three weeks apart. It is recommended at least two surveyors with NVAs are placed around B1 to ensure all PRFs are adequately captured (Suggested locations can be seen in Appendix 1). If bats are identified, further roost characterisation surveys may be required to determine the type and status of any roost(s) present.

B2 was identified as having no PRFs externally or internally. The building appeared generally well maintained and sealed with no gaps, cracks or access points suitable for use by roosting bats. No bat evidence was recorded during the internal inspection. Based on these findings, B2 is considered to have **negligible** suitability for roosting bats, in accordance with Table 4.1 of Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition, 2023). No further bat surveys are recommended.

B3 was identified as having no PRFs externally or internally. The garage was well sealed with no gaps, cracks, damaged roof features or access points identified. No evidence of bat activity was recorded during the internal inspection. B3 is considered to have **negligible** suitability for roosting bats, in accordance with Table 4.1 of Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition, 2023). No further bat surveys are recommended.

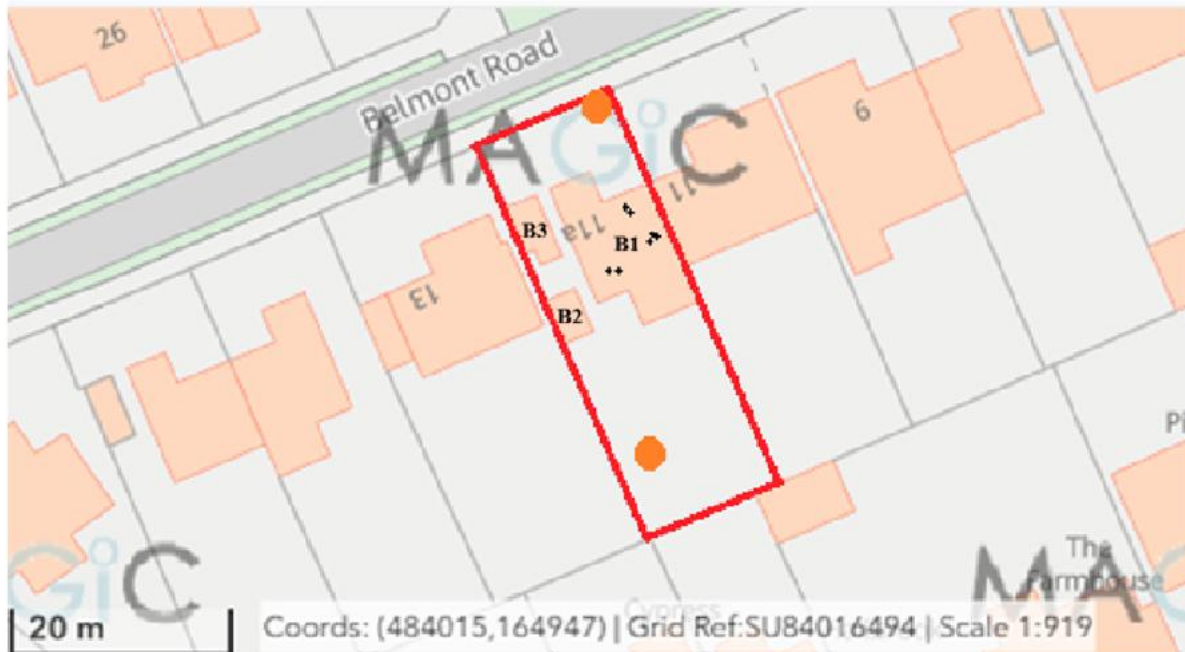
No evidence of nesting birds was recorded during the Preliminary Roost Assessment. However, any works affecting buildings or vegetation should ideally be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season (March to September inclusive). If works are required during this period, a nesting bird check should be undertaken immediately prior to works commencing.

The results of the recommended surveys for Building 1 will determine whether bats are present and whether any further mitigation, licensing or ecological measures are required prior to works commencing. Any mitigation or enhancement recommendations should be provided following confirmation of the presence or likely absence of roosting bats.

In the event any evidence of a bat roost is found after this report, work must cease while the advice of Natural England or a suitably qualified and licensed bat ecologist is sought.

5. Appendix 1: Building, PRFs and Surveyor and NVA Locations

Buildings as labelled. Location of individual PRFs as crosses. Suggested surveyor and NVA locations in orange.



6. Appendix 2: eDNA Analysis Results

Biological Sample Analysis

Summary

Most biological materials (tissue, feces, hair, blood, etc.) contain small amounts of DNA from the organism of which it originated. Using molecular methods such as PCR (polymerase chain reaction) and DNA sequencing, SureScreen Scientifics are able to analyze an unknown sample to determine which species the sample originates from. Our methods are optimized for the detection of species including bats (over 92% of bat species worldwide can be identified including all 18 UK bat species), mammals; bees, wasps & hornets; birds; fish; plants (from roots, leaves, stem and even dried wood) and many more species.

Results

Lab ID	Site Name	OS Reference	Sample Type	Species Name	Match(%)
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Result redacted as from a different site.

B26 0595	ST1		Dropping	Brown rat (<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>)	99.03
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Genetic Sequence

CTATATAATTGGAGGCTTCGGGAACCTGACTTGACCACTAATAATTGGAGCCCTGATATAGCATTCCCAGGAATA
AATAACATAAGCTTTTGGCTGCTTCCTCCATCATTTCTACTCCTTTTASCATCCTCATAGTAGAAGCTGGAGCTG
GAACAGGATGAACAGTATACCCCCCTTAGCCGGAACCTAGCACATGCAGGAGA

Matters affecting result: none
Reported by: Ruby Fielding

Approved by: Consuela Sopronyi

7. Appendix 3: Legislation & Policy

Legislation

Bats:

All bats are listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which affords them protection under Section 9, as amended. All bat species are further classified and protected as European Protected Species (EPS) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (amendment) (EU Exit) 2019).

It is illegal to:

- Deliberately kill, injure, disturb or capture bats.
- Damage or destroy bat breeding sites and resting places (even when bats are not present).
- Possess, control or transport bats (alive or dead).

Additionally, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

- Disturb bats while they are in a structure or place used for shelter or protection.
- Obstruct access to a place of shelter or protection.

Furthermore, seven bat species (barbastelle, Bechstein's, noctule, soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared, lesser horseshoe and greater horseshoe) are also Species of Principal Importance in England under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

In the event any evidence of a bat roost is found after this report, work must cease while the advice of Natural England or a suitably qualified and licensed bat ecologist is sought.

Birds:

Further under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) nesting birds are protected.

Protection of wild birds, their nests and eggs.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Part, if any person intentionally—

- (a) kills, injures or takes any wild bird;
- (aa) takes, damages or destroys the nest of a wild bird included in Schedule ZA1;
- (b) takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or
- (c) takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird,
- he shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Part, if any person has in his possession or control—
- (a) any live or dead wild bird or any part of, or anything derived from, such a bird; or
- (b) an egg of a wild bird or any part of such an egg.

Policy

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8. Appendix 4: References

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