

8 Grove Close
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 3NA

Preliminary Roost Assessment

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CONTENTS PAGE

1	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
2	INTRODUCTION	4
2.1	Project Background.....	4
2.2	Site Location and Context.....	4
2.3	Report Objectives	4
3	LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY BACKGROUND	5
3.1	Relevant Legislation.....	5
3.2	Planning Policy	5
3.3	Mitigation Licensing	6
4	SURVEY METHODOLOGY	7
4.1	Desk Study	7
4.2	Building Inspection.....	7
5	SURVEY RESULTS	10
5.1	Desk Study	10
5.2	Building Inspection.....	10
6	DISCUSSION	15
6.1	Assessment of Potential Roost Suitability.....	15
6.2	Assessment of Potential Roost Status	15
7	IMPACT ASSESSMENT	17
7.1	Potential Impacts of Development Proposals	17
7.2	Conclusions	17
8	RECOMMENDATIONS	18
8.1	Further Survey	18
8.2	Indicative Mitigation Strategy	18
9	REFERENCES	20
	APPENDIX 1 – POTENTIAL SUITABILITY CATEGORIES FOR ROOSTING BATS	21
	APPENDIX 2 – DEFINITION OF BAT ROOST TYPES	22
	APPENDIX 3 – FURTHER SURVEY RATIONALE	23
	APPENDIX 4 – PROPOSED ELEVATIONS	24

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1.1** John Wenman Ecological Consultancy LLP was instructed by Steve Simpson on behalf of the homeowner (Lewis Barron) to undertake a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) for bats at 8 Grove Close in Wokingham, Berkshire. The PRA was commissioned to accompany a householder planning application to be submitted to Wokingham Borough Council seeking consent for side and rear extensions.
- 1.1.2** The private gardens and adjacent woodland provides continuous habitat that could be used as bat flight paths and feeding habitat for any bat(s) roosting in the property.
- 1.1.3** Whilst no evidence of void-dwelling bat species was observed within the roof void, a external features may have potential to lead to crevice roosting sites for crevice dwelling species recorded in the surrounding area. Therefore, the property has been assessed to be of moderate potential suitability for bats.
- 1.1.4** The development proposals could obstruct access to and result in the damage/destruction of bats roosts and lead to direct/indirect disturbance, injury and/or death of bats, and potentially result in the permanent loss of a bat roost.
- 1.1.5** Therefore, further survey is recommended to establish the presence or absence of bat roosts in the property, in order to be able to assess fully whether the development proposals will have an adverse effect on bats and design a mitigation strategy if necessary. The recommended further survey is detailed in **Section 8.1**.
- 1.1.6** This report contains information regarding a mobile species so it will likely be valid for less than 12 months (CIEEM 2019).

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

2.1.1 John Wenman Ecological Consultancy LLP was instructed by Steve Simpson on behalf of the homeowner (Lewis Barron) to undertake a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) for bats at 8 Grove Close, in Wokingham, Berkshire.

2.1.2 The PRA was commissioned to accompany a householder planning application to be submitted to Wokingham Borough Council seeking consent for a side and rear extension (see proposed drawings in **Appendix 4**).

2.2 Site Location and Context

2.2.1 The semi- detached house is located at the northern end of Grove Close – a cul-de-sac in Wokingham, Berkshire (central OS Grid Reference: SU 82224 65467).

2.2.2 The property is situated at the northern end of a small, suburban cul-de-sac with neighbouring properties and their associated gardens to the west, east and south. The land immediately to the north of the house's garden comprises the Gorrick Plantation – an extensive area (c. 26 hectares) of plantation woodland owned by the Forestry Commission supporting coniferous and broadleaved trees.

2.3 Report Objectives

2.3.1 The aim of the PRA is to ascertain if there is evidence of the presence of bats and/or potential for roosting bats to be present, and therefore whether further survey and/or mitigation would be required for future proposed development activities.

3 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY BACKGROUND

3.1 Relevant Legislation

3.1.1 In England and Wales, all bat species found in the wild are fully protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA) and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended); the regulations are commonly referred to as the Habitat Regulations and hereafter referred to as such. The Habitat Regulations refer to European Protected Species (EPS) and all species of bats in the United Kingdom (UK) are EPS. Although the UK left the European Union on the 31st January 2020 and is therefore no longer tied to European legislation, the Habitat Regulations have been retained in their current format.

3.1.2 The legal framework underpinned by the WCA and Habitat Regulations makes these specific actions an offence as follows:

- Deliberately kill, injure, capture or take a wild bat;
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb bats; in particular any disturbance which is likely to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, to rear or nurture their young, to hibernate or migrate, or to significantly affect local distribution or abundance;
- Damage or destroy a place used by a bat for breeding or resting; and
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any place used by a bat for shelter or protection.

3.2 Planning Policy

3.2.1 The biodiversity duty imposed through the Environment Act 2021 states that Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) must consider what action they can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. Government planning policy, such as the ODPM Circular 06/2005, requires LPAs to account for the conservation of protected species when considering and determining planning applications.

3.2.2 The ODPM Circular 06/2005 states that '*the presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal that, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the species or its habitat.*' This policy means that in instances where there is a reasonable likelihood of bats being present and affected by a development, surveys must be undertaken to inform a mitigation strategy to be agreed prior to granting planning permission.

3.3 Mitigation Licensing

3.3.1 The government's statutory nature conservation body, Natural England, is responsible for issuing European Protected Species (EPS) mitigation licences that would permit activities that would otherwise lead to an infringement of the Habitat Regulations. An EPS mitigation licence can be issued if the following three tests derived from Regulation 55 have been satisfied:

- (2)(e) – the derogation is for the purposes of '*preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment.*'
- (9)(a) – there is '*no satisfactory alternative*' to the derogation; and
- (9)(b) – '*the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.*'

3.3.2 LPAs have a statutory duty under Regulation 7(3)(e) of the Habitat Regulations to consider and determine whether these three tests are likely to be satisfied by planning proposals affecting EPS before granting planning permission. If an EPS mitigation licence is necessary, a licence can be sought once all the necessary planning consents have been granted. Natural England aims to issue a decision on licence applications within 30 working days of submission.

3.3.3 The Bat Mitigation Class Licence (BMCL) scheme allows ecologists to apply to become Registered Consultants to use this licence for low conservation status roosts, i.e. roosts comprising small numbers of seven commonly occurring species. A site registration form must be completed as a condition of the licence and submitted to Natural England at least three weeks before the licensable activities are due to start; Natural England aims to register sites within two weeks of submission.

3.3.4 Baseline survey information supporting EPS mitigation licence applications or BMCL site registrations must be up-to-date and have been completed within the current or most recent optimal season. A suitably experienced ecologist will be required to undertake a site walkover/check within three months prior to application/registration submission to confirm that conditions have not changed since the most recent survey.

4 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

4.1 Desk Study

4.1.1 A desk-based study for bats was undertaken to collate and review existing information about the site and the surrounding land. The study utilised the following open access resources:

- OS maps and Google Earth – maps and satellite imagery were used to identify potential flight-paths and foraging habitats for bats;
- DEFRA Data Services Platform and MAGIC – maps were used to locate relevant designated sites, habitats and granted European Protected Species licences; and
- Pre-existing bat survey reports – any available reports were obtained from the client or relevant planning portal.

4.2 Building Inspection

Survey Details

4.2.1 A detailed inspection of the exterior and interior of the property was undertaken on the 6th June by John Wenman MCIEEM - registered under Natural England Bat Survey Class Licence CL18 (Registration no: CL18 2016-23859-CLS-CLS) in accordance with good practice guidance (Collins 2023). The equipment used during the inspection comprised binoculars, a high-power (1 million candlepower) LED torch, a headtorch, ladder and PPE (facemask, gloves etc.). The inspection involved a systematic search of the exterior and interior of the structure during daylight hours to compile information on potential and actual bat access points; potential and actual bat roost sites; and any evidence of bat presence.

External Survey

4.2.2 Frequently used bat access points and/or roost sites include (but are not limited to) spaces:

- behind hanging tiles, weatherboarding, soffit boxes and barge boards;
- under lead flashing (particularly around chimneys) and roof tiles/slates; and
- in existing bat boxes.

4.2.3 It is important to note that the two most abundant and widespread bat species, common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*),

typically only require gaps measuring 15mm by 20mm to gain access to a roost inside a building.

4.2.4 The external survey involved a systematic search for evidence of bats including:

- live or dead specimens;
- droppings;
- urine marks;
- fur-oil staining; and
- squeaking noises.

4.2.5 It should be noted that bats can be present in a building while leaving no visible signs externally and wet weather has the potential to wash any evidence away. The search for evidence was focused on (but was not limited to) the ground, windowsills, windowpanes and walls (including cladding and hanging tiles); particularly in places near to potential bat access points and/or roost sites.

Internal Survey

4.2.6 The internal survey comprised a systematic search for evidence of bats on the upper floors of the building (i.e. checking the exterior from windows) and inside the roof and eave spaces. Evidence of bats found during an internal inspection can include:

- live or dead specimens;
- droppings;
- urine marks;
- fur-oil staining;
- feeding remains (i.e. moth wings);
- squeaking noises;
- bat-fly (Nycteribiid) pupal cases; and
- odour.

4.2.7 It should be noted that only specimens or droppings can be relied upon in isolation to confirm the presence of a bat roost.

4.2.8 Frequently used roosting locations within the roof include (but are not limited to):

- the apex of the gable end or dividing walls;
- the top of chimney breasts;
- ridge and hip beams;
- mortise and tenon joints;
- behind purlins; and
- between tiles and roof lining.

Survey Limitations and Validity

- 4.2.9** There were no significant survey limitations because PRAs can be carried out at any time of year under any weather conditions and the building was fully accessible.
- 4.2.10** It should be noted that it is not always possible to inspect all potential roost sites during a survey, particularly for bat species which typically roost in hidden crevices. Therefore, an absence of bat evidence found during a survey does not necessarily equate to evidence of bat absence in a building.
- 4.2.11** This report contains information regarding a mobile species so it will likely be valid for less than 12 months (CIEEM 2019).

5 SURVEY RESULTS

5.1 Desk Study

- 5.1.1 The private gardens and nearby extensive Forestry Commission neighbouring the residential plot provides continuous habitat of high suitability for use as bat flight paths and feeding habitat.
- 5.1.2 Bat mitigation licences that have been granted within the last ten years inside a 2-kilometre radius of the property are detailed in **Table 1** below.

Table 1. Bat mitigation licences granted within a 2km radius of the property (Source: MAGIC).

Case Reference of Granted Licence	Species on the Licence	Licence Start	Licence End	Licensable Works	Distance from site (m)
2015-7775-EPS-MIT	BLE; S-PIP	06/09/2016	06/09/2021	Destroy resting place	1999
2015-7982-EPS-MIT	C-PIP	11/03/2015	31/03/2020	Destroy resting place	1907
2015-8440-EPS-MIT	BLE	14/04/2015	14/04/2020	Destroy resting place	1410
2016-24162-EPS-MIT	BLE	28/04/2015	30/04/2020	Damage resting place	1025
2020-45340-EPS-MIT	C-PIP	18/07/2016	18/07/2021	Destroy resting place	1800
2020-48238-EPS-MIT	BLE	25/03/2020	30/09/2025	Destroy resting place	1349
2017-31639-EPS-MIT	BLE; C-PIP	28/07/2020	30/07/2026	Destroy resting place	1999
2018-33861-EPS-MIT	C-PIP	24/10/2017	30/10/2027	Destroy resting place	1786
2017-31130-EPS-MIT	BLE	14/03/2018	30/11/2018	Destroy resting place	1147
2017-31789-EPS-MIT	WHISK	06/09/2017	30/09/2022	Damage resting place	1907

- 5.1.3 A single historic planning application for the property dated from 2006 and related to the construction of the existing conservatory; no bat survey data was required with the application.

5.2 Building Inspection

Overview

- 5.2.1 The findings from the external and internal inspections carried out for the property are described with photographs, and annotated in a plan, as follows:

External Survey

- 5.2.2 The semi-detached house had a pitched, tiled roof with a flat roofed single storey extension on the south eastern side, a conservatory on the rear (north eastern) elevation

and pitched roof porch to the front (south west) (**Photographs 1 & 2**).



Photograph 1. Front of property viewed from south west.



Photograph 2. Rear of property viewed from south.

- 5.2.3** The plain roof tiles across the front and rear elevations were mostly in place, the tiles along the verges to the front and rear were uneven creating gaps suitable for bats beneath (**Photographs 3 & 4; Target notes 2 & 3**). Gaps beneath tiles was visible beneath tiles close to the base of the chimney on both sides (**Photograph 4; Target notes 1 & 4**) The ridge and verge mortar was fully intact and had been recently replaced (**Photographs 3, 4 & 5**). The conservatory lacked any features suitable for bats and the lead flashing was sealed tightly to the wall. The flat roofed side extension had an open superficial gap where the felt overlapped to the rear, but this was unsuitable for use by bats (**Photograph 6; Target note 6**)



Photograph 3. Gaps beneath verge tiles (front elevation); tightly fitted ridges.



Photograph 4. Uneven roof tiles around chimney.



Photograph 5. Recently re-bedded verge mortar (side (north western) elevation).



Photograph 6. Superficial gap beneath bitumen felt of single storey side extension.

- 5.2.4** The soffits to the rear were formed of uPVC that was sealed to the brickwork with no ingress opportunities for bats (**Photograph 7**). The soffits to the front elevation were formed of boards and there were gaps between these and the wall that would be suitable access opportunities for bats (**Photograph 8; Target note 5**).



Photograph 7. Tightly fitted uPVC soffits (rear elevation).



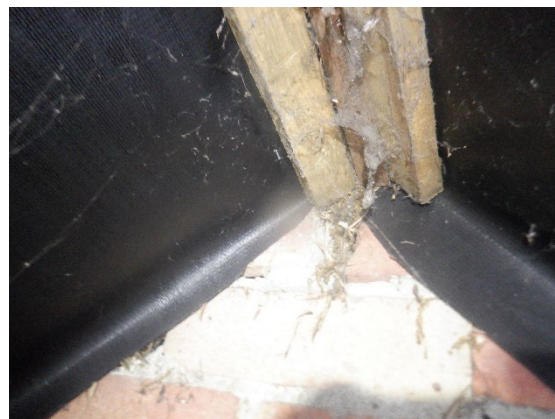
Photograph 8. Gap behind board soffits (front elevation).

Internal Survey

- 5.2.5** The property's roof void was accessible via a first floor loft hatch (**Photograph 9**). The roof was of 'cut and pitch' construction with an approximate floor-to-ridge height of two metres. The floor was largely boarded with fibre glass insulation beneath. The roof was lined with plasticised felt that had been tacked tightly to the underside of the rafters and this extended to both the gable end and party, and down to the eaves (**Photographs 11 & 12**). Timbers had been fixed at the ridge to hold the felt in place and these covered the original ridge board (**Photograph 10**). There was a gap in the brickwork at the south eastern gable end (**Photograph 11; Target note 7**). Mouse and rat droppings were scattered through the void. No bats or evidence of bats was visible.



Photograph 9. Roof void showing boarded floor and felt fixed to the underside of the rafters.



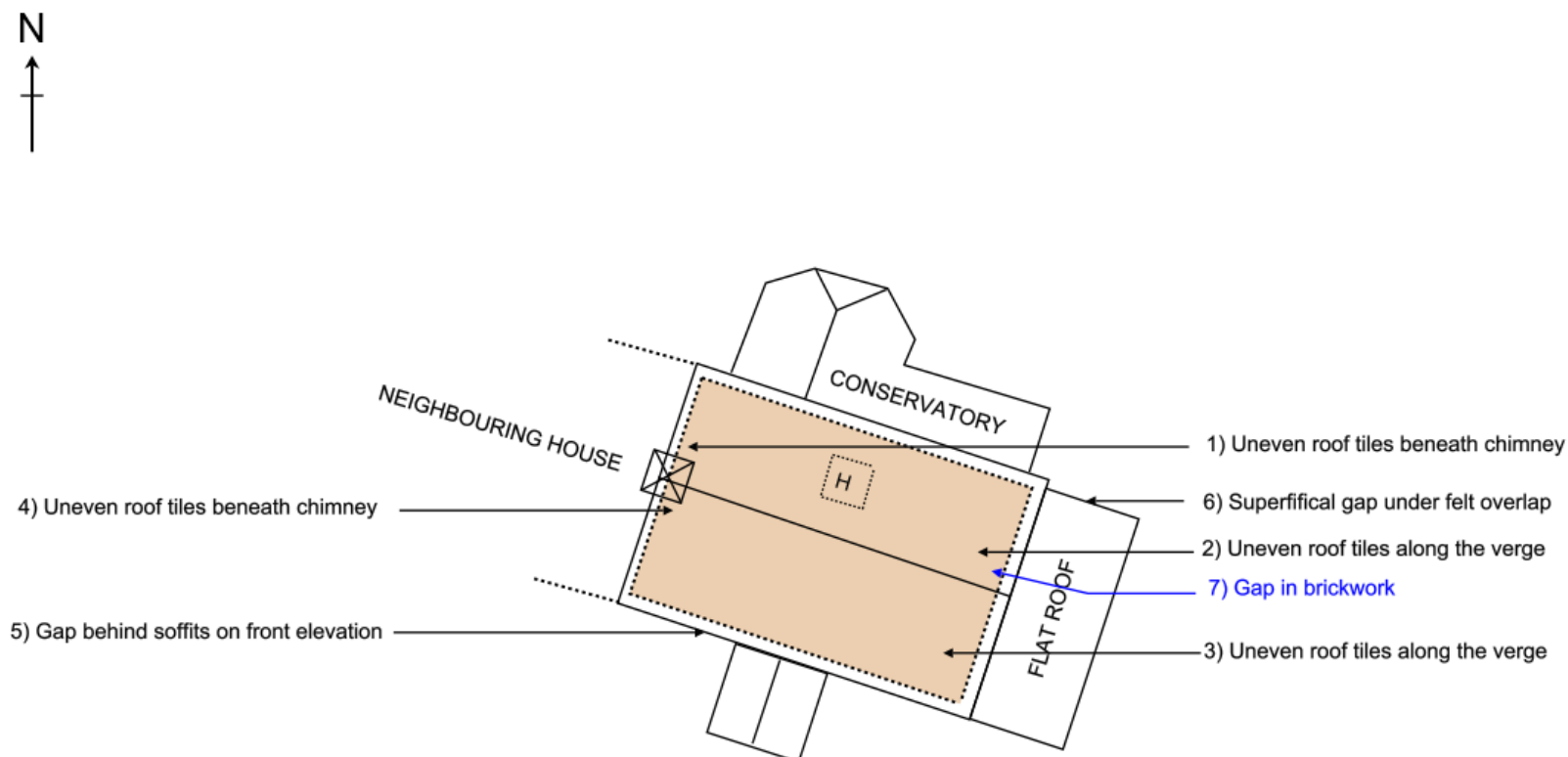
Photograph 10. Timbers fixed at the ridge holding the felt in place.



Photograph 11. Gap in brickwork at south eastern gable end.



Photograph 12. Felt extending down to the eaves.



n. External target note

n. Internal target note



Chimney



Roof void



Loft hatch

Drawn by:	Date:	Scale:	8 Grove Close, Wokingham	
JW	June 2025	Not to scale	Preliminary Roost Assessment Plan	

Figure 1. Preliminary Roost Assessment Survey Findings

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Assessment of Potential Roost Suitability

6.1.1 The private gardens and adjacent extensive woodland at the Gorrick Plantation provides continuous habitat that could be used as bat flight paths and feeding habitat. The search of granted bat mitigation licences identified four species known to be roosting within a 2km radius of the property: soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*) and whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*), with the closest licence granted for the destruction of a resting place for soprano pipistrelle approximately 783 metres from the house.

6.1.1 The property had the following suitable/potential bat access points and roost features:

- Uneven roof tiles along the verges (**Photograph 3; Target notes 2 & 3**).
- Lifted tiles around the chimney (**Photograph 4; Target notes 1 & 4**).
- Gaps behind the soffit on the front elevation (**Photograph 8; Target note 5**).

6.1.2 The roof void was of a suitable size and condition for void-dwelling bats, such as the locally recorded brown long-eared (*P. auritus*); however, it was tightly lined with felt fixed to the underside of the rafters likely restricting any bat access and no bat droppings were observed, and so the presence of void-dwelling bats is considered highly unlikely.

6.1.3 The house there are potential roosting sites for crevice-dwelling bats such as common pipistrelle (*P. pipistrellus*), soprano pipistrelle (*P. pygmaeus*) and whiskered bat (*M. mystacinus*) confirmed to have been roosting within a 2km radius. Evidence of crevice-roosting species is typically hidden from view in areas such as gaps between tiles and internal linings/insulation.

6.1.4 Considering the features noted and its setting, the house is considered to be of moderate potential suitability for bats (see **Appendix 1** for potential suitability categories).

6.2 Assessment of Potential Roost Status

6.2.1 The potential crevice roost sites across the building are considered to be suitable for use by typically crevice-dwelling bat species such as the abundant and widespread soprano pipistrelle (*P. pygmaeus*), common pipistrelle (*P. pipistrellus*) and the rarer Brandt's / whiskered bats (*Myotis brandtii* / *mystacinus*). The presence of a maternity

colony is considered to be highly unlikely given the absence of visible roosting evidence together with the scale and nature of the features observed.

6.2.2 Common pipistrelle (*P. pipistrellus*) and soprano pipistrelle (*P. pygmaeus*) are the most abundant and widespread bats in Great Britain. These species occur in almost any habitat type and are well adapted to the built environments; they are the species most regularly reported roosting in houses and churches (Mathews *et al.* 2018). Brandt's / whiskered bat (*Myotis brandtii* / *mystacinus*) are small *Myotis* species that are widespread and will roost in the same buildings as the much more abundant pipistrelle species (Mathews *et al.* 2018). Roosts supporting these species hold site to county level conservation importance subject to the roost type, i.e. non-breeding roosts supporting individual bat or small groups through to maternity roosts supporting large numbers of female bats (Reason & Wray 2023).

7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Potential Impacts of Development Proposals

Overview

7.1.1 The development proposals include a side and rear extensions (see proposed drawings in **Appendix 4**).

7.1.2 The impacts of the proposals have been assessed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy during construction and post development as follows:

Construction Phase

7.1.3 The development proposals will impact the potential bat roosting features associated with the raised verge tiles. Therefore, the construction activities could lead to direct/indirect disturbance, injury and/or death of bats if bats were found to be using these features, and could lead to the loss of bat roosts.

Post Development

7.1.4 In the absence of mitigation and/or compensation, the development proposals could potentially result in the permanent loss of bat roosts. The loss of a roost has potential to significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of a bat species, subject to its conservation status.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 The development proposals cannot be altered to avoid the potentially adverse effects on bats in the property. Therefore, further survey is recommended to determine the presence or likely absence of a bat roost(s) in the property, in order to be able to assess fully whether the development proposals will have an adverse effect on bats (see **Appendix 3** for further survey rationale). The scope of the recommended further survey is detailed in **Section 8.1** below.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Further Survey

- 8.1.1** A minimum of two dusk emergence survey visits should be undertaken in the period of May to September, with at least one of the surveys completed between May and August; the survey visits should be spaced at least three weeks apart (Collins 2023). If roosting bats are present, these survey visits would enable the roost characterisation necessary to inform an impact assessment and mitigation strategy.
- 8.1.2** If bats are present, once roost characterisation is complete, an impact assessment with reference to the mitigation hierarchy will be made. In cases where the adverse effects caused by the development proposals are unavoidable, an application for a European Protected Species (EPS) mitigation licence or the registration of the site under the Bat Mitigation Class Licence (BMCL) would be required to permit the work to proceed lawfully. An EPS mitigation licence or BMCL can be issued by Natural England if the three licensing tests (detailed in **Paragraph 3.3.1**) have been satisfied by the proposals.
- 8.1.3** To satisfy one of the licensing tests, it would be necessary to demonstrate that the 'favourable conservation status' of the bat species using the property is maintained during the construction phase and post development. A mitigation strategy setting out avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures would be required to achieve this. Indicative and provisional measures are summarised in **Section 8.2** below.

8.2 Indicative Mitigation Strategy

- 8.2.1** If further survey and the impact assessment have demonstrated that an EPS mitigation licence or BMCL (if applicable) is required to permit lawful development, the commencement of construction activities impacting the bat roosts would be timed to avoid the periods when bats are most susceptible to disturbance, i.e. winter hibernation period if there is a reasonable likelihood of hibernating bats (mid-November to mid-March) and peak breeding season (May to August) if a maternity colony is present.
- 8.2.2** Alternative roost sites would be made available to bats prior to and throughout the construction phase by installing at least one woodcrete bat box (suitable for the type of roost/species present) on a suitable mature tree or a pole mount. The bat box should be positioned at least 3-4 metres from the ground, away from artificial lighting and sheltered from strong wind while being exposed to sunshine (usually south, south east or south west facing).

- 8.2.3** Before the commencement of construction activities impacting the bat roost (i.e. the licensable works), a licensed ecologist or 'Registered Consultant' under the BMCL would provide a toolbox talk to all contractors working on site detailing how bats use buildings, legal protection, working methods (i.e. soft demolition/roof strip by hand), actual and potential roost sites, actions to be taken if a bat is found and personal safety procedures.
- 8.2.4** A soft demolition/roof strip approach to the works affecting the bat roosts would be adopted, i.e. careful removal of roof coverings by gloved hands and handheld tools under the direct supervision of a licensed ecologist or 'Registered Consultant'. In the event that a bat is found during the course of the works, the licensed ecologist or 'Registered Consultant' would capture the bat and transfer it directly to a woodcrete bat box installed in advance.
- 8.2.5** Replacement bat access points and roost sites may need to be created and/or reinstated into the building as part of an EPS mitigation licence or BMCL site registration. This compensation should aim for like-for-like roost sites with access points corresponding as closely as possible to the previous locations.
- 8.2.6** Where access is provided for bats, a bituminous roofing felt that does not contain polypropylene/polyethylene filaments (e.g. bitumen felt type 1F) or a non-bitumen coated 'breathable' membrane that has passed the snagging propensity test (e.g. TLX 'Bat Safe') should be used; other non-bitumen coated membranes are harmful to bats and must be avoided.

9 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1 – POTENTIAL SUITABILITY CATEGORIES FOR ROOSTING BATS

The categories detailed in **Table 2** below are derived from the '*Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition)*' (Collins 2023) and provide guidance for assessing the potential suitability of buildings (and other structures) for roosting bats. These categories are applied using professional judgement and irrespective of whether the presence of a bat roost has been confirmed during a survey, as additional bat roosts could be present which have not yet been discovered.

Table 2. Categories for potential suitability of buildings (and other structures) for roosting bats.

Potential Suitability	Category Justification
None	A building (or structure) that has no features likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of the year (i.e. a complete absence of cracks, crevices or voids that could provide suitable shelter).
Negligible	A building (or structure) that has no obvious features likely to be used by roosting bats, but in this case a small element of uncertainty remains as bats will occasionally use small and apparently unsuitable features. This category may also be used where a bat could potentially roost due to one attribute, but it is considered unlikely due to another attribute (e.g. a feature that is subject to constant illumination from artificial lighting).
Low	A building (or structure) that has one or more potential roost sites suitable for opportunistic use by individual bats at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites for bats do not provide sufficient space, shelter, protection, conditions and/or surrounding suitable habitat to be used regularly or by large numbers (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for a maternity colony and not a classic hibernation site).
Moderate	A building (or structure) that has one or more potential roost sites suitable for regular use by individual bats, or small non-breeding groups, due to sufficient space, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat. However, these potential roost sites for bats are unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status with regards to the type of roost only (i.e. maternity colonies and classic hibernation sites).
High	A building (or structure) that has one or more potential roost sites suitable for use by large numbers of bats more regularly and for longer periods of time due to sufficient space, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat. These potential roost sites for bats are capable of supporting high conservation status roosts (i.e. maternity colonies and classic hibernation sites).

APPENDIX 2 – DEFINITION OF BAT ROOST TYPES

The potential suitability of a building in conjunction with any evidence of bat presence is used to provide an initial assessment of likely roost type and importance. The types of roost considered are based on the following Natural England definitions:

- Day roost – a summer resting place used by individual bats, or small non-breeding groups, during the day;
- Night roost – a resting place used by individual bats on occasion, or by a whole colony regularly, during the night;
- Feeding perch – a resting place used by individual bats, or a few individuals, primarily for short periods of feeding during the night;
- Transitional roost – a place used by a few individual bats, or occasionally small groups, for a short period of time upon waking from hibernation or in the period prior to hibernation;
- Maternity roost – a place used by small to large groups of female bats to give birth and raise their young to independence;
- Hibernation roost – a place used by individual bats, or in groups, during winter where there is a constant cool temperature and high humidity; and
- Satellite roost – a place used by a few individuals to small groups of breeding female bats found in close proximity to the main nursery colony throughout the breeding season.

The importance of a bat roost is underpinned by the conservation status of the suspected species (i.e. the distribution/rarity of a species in a specific geographic location) and the type of roost (i.e. not all roosts have the same level of importance in supporting the local bat population). Further roost characterisation surveys may be required to fully determine the importance of a confirmed roost to allow for a robust impact assessment.

APPENDIX 3 – FURTHER SURVEY RATIONALE

In cases where no evidence of use by bats is found during a building inspection but the possibility of their presence cannot be ruled out, further presence/likely absence survey is likely to be required if the development proposals will impact potential roost sites. Emergence surveys are carried out to establish the presence or likely absence of roosting bats in buildings (and other structures) and these are designed in accordance with the ‘*Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition)*’ (Collins 2023) detailed in **Table 3** below.

Table 3. Recommended further survey for establishing presence/likely absence of roosting bats in buildings (and other structures).

Potential Suitability	Further Survey
None	No further surveys are required.
Negligible	No further surveys are required.
Low	A minimum of one dusk emergence survey visit should be undertaken in the period of May to August. However, if all areas (including cracks, crevices and voids) can be thoroughly inspected and no evidence of use by bats is found, then emergence surveys may not be required. In cases where a complete inspection cannot be carried out, professional judgement and proportionality should be applied when assessing the impacts of the development proposals.
Moderate	A minimum of two dusk emergence survey visits should be undertaken in the period of May to September, with at least one of the surveys between May and August; the survey visits should be spaced at least three weeks apart.
High	A minimum of three separate dusk emergence survey visits should be undertaken in the period of May to September (inclusive), with at least two of the surveys between May and August; the survey visits should be spaced at least three weeks apart.

In cases where the PRA and/or further survey establishes the presence of roosting bats in a building (or structure), this will likely trigger the need for roost characterisation to collect sufficient information to inform the impact assessment and mitigation strategy. The roost characterisation comprises information collected during the PRA, emergence surveys and by other methods, such as DNA analysis of bat droppings, and ultimately aims to determine the bat species roosting; the number of bats the roosts support; the roost access points; the locations of the roosts and the types of roost present. This information is crucial when applying for planning permission and/or a European Protected Species mitigation licence.

APPENDIX 4 – PROPOSED ELEVATIONS

