



# ROAVR | GROUP

**Project:** 24\_PRA\_05\_84  
**Site:** Anchor Paddock, Batchelor's Lane, Wimborne, BH21 7DS  
**Client:** Michael White



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<b>Project Number:</b>	24_PRA_05_84
<b>Report Type:</b>	Preliminary Roost Assessment Report [PRA] Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW)
<b>Site Address:</b>	Anchor Paddock, Batchelor's Lane, Wimborne, BH21 7DS

Role:	Name:	Position:	Date:
Surveyor	Connor Harmsworth	Field Ecological Consultant	06/06/2024
Author	Max Shaw	Ecological Consultant	17/06/2024

Revision History		
Date:	Version number:	Summary of changes:
17/06/2024	1.0	First Draft
17/06/2024	1.0	First Issue

## Summary:

1. ROAVR Group were appointed by Michael White to undertake a preliminary roost assessment survey and report at Anchor Paddock.
2. It is proposed to redevelop the site with the renovation of the existing dwelling which requires alterations to the roof space. Dorset Council as the Local Planning Authority have requested a PRA due to the alterations to the roof and the proximity to suitable foraging habitat.
3. Before visiting the site, a desk study was undertaken in order to determine records of local designated sites, habitats and bat species within a 2km of the proposed development. Data was sourced via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (DEFRA MAGIC) on the 4th June 2024, at this stage, and due to the size of the proposed development a further Local Environmental Records Centre (LERC) search was not deemed necessary.
4. A site survey was carried out by Connor Harmsworth on the 6th June 2024 under the guidance provided within Bat Conservation Trust's 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Best Practice Guidelines' (Collins, 2023). Connor has 4-years continuous experience carrying out preliminary roost assessments and nocturnal bat activity surveys under supervision from a licensed ecologist.
5. Anchor Paddock, Batchelor's Lane, Wimborne, BH21 7DS is a two storey detached property most likely of 1900's origin, the building undergoing development is a single storey outbuilding to the west of the main property. The building is set in a rural area surrounded by agricultural and grazing farmland and areas of mixed woodland with a small area of modified grassland to the south.
6. An internal and external examination discovered no known potential roosting features. There was no loft space in the outbuilding and no evidence of bats in the internal examination. The building was assessed as holding **negligible suitability for roosting bats.**
7. Located close to various rivers, streams and ponds (100m to the south of the site) and bordered by agricultural and grazing farmland as well as Queens Copse 250m to the east there is the moderate potential for foraging bats to sporadically and opportunistically utilise the property through the adjacent habitats. No EPSM licences have been granted within 2km of the site.
8. No further survey work is recommended as per the guidance located within Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition) Collins, J. (Ed.) 2023.

9. With the assumption that the existing conditions on-site remain unchanged. The results of this report are likely to remain valid for 12-month sinline with the guidance published by CIEEM and the Bat Conservation Trust.

*Matt Harmsworth Tech.Arbor.A HND Countryside Recreation, Assoc. ICFor Arboricultural and Ecological Consultant - Member of the British Ecological Society and the Bat Conservation Trust - ROAVR Group*

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#### Acknowledgements:

Data referred to within this report has been sourced from Natural England Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (DEFRA MAGIC) database and NBN Atlas.

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 ROAVR Group were commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Bat Roost and daytime bat walkover survey at Anchor Paddock, Batchelor's Lane, Wimborne, BH21 7DS.
- 1.2 The survey was comprised of a desktop study, which was undertaken in June 2024 and a site survey, which was carried out by Connor Harmsworth on the 6th June 2024.
- 1.3 The methodology and results are outlined within the report. Where applicable, recommendations for suitable mitigation and ecological enhancements are provided.
- 1.4 The report is to be submitted to support a planning application to renovate the site. Full details of the proposed development are available in the planning portal.
- 1.5 The information and recommendations within this report have been prepared and provided in accordance with CIEEM's Code of Professional Conduct.

### SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1.6 The survey site covers an area of approximately 2,142.3 sqm and is centred on grid reference 'SU 0315 0646'.
- 1.7 The site is situated in the Dorset Council control area. The site is located 628m to the north of the centre of Holt Wood and 550m to the southeast of Chalbury Common.
- 1.8 The site is a detached residential dwelling house located in a rural area surrounded by agricultural and grazing farmland.

### DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

- 1.9 The site is to be redeveloped with the construction of a extension and general improvements to the outhouse on the north west perimeter of the property, as shown on drawing 4419(A)-6 Site and location plans. provided to me for inspection in June 2024.

### POLICY AND LEGISLATION

- 1.10 All UK bat species and their roosts are strictly protected under European and UK legislation (Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (CHSR), and the Wildlife and Countryside Act, (1981) (WCA). Furthermore, Annexe II of the Habitats Directive lists four UK bat species, providing them further protection. Under the National Planning Framework, bats and their roots must be considered during development.

## SCOPE OF WORKS

1.11 The aims of this assessment were to:

- Assess the presence/potential for roosting bats within the existing building;
- Identify potential access/egress points for bat species;
- Assess potential habitat usage for foraging/commuting bats on-site;
- Determine whether further Bat Surveys may be necessary;
- Provide recommendations for suitable mitigation and ecological enhancement (if required).

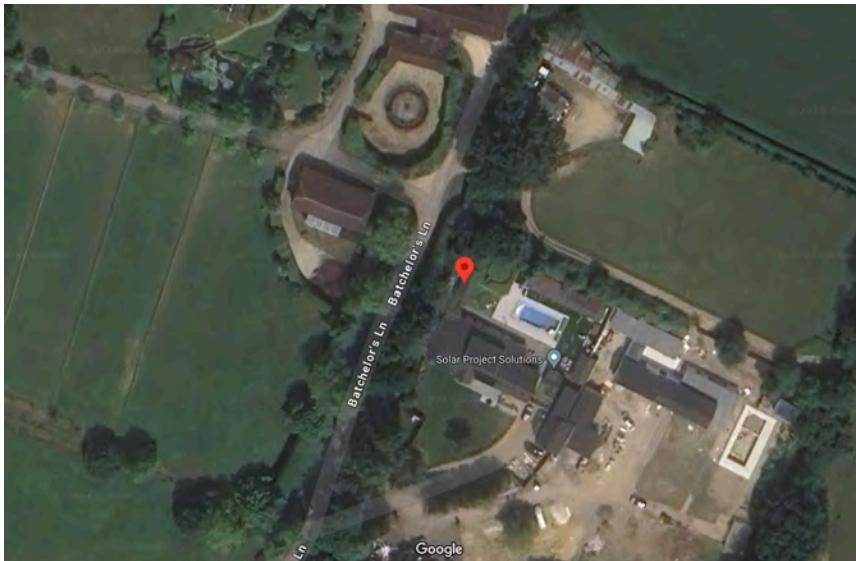


Figure 1 - Site Location Plan and Assessment Boundary.



## 2 Methodology

### DESKTOP STUDY

- 2.1 Site-specific information in relation to land designations, bat species and protected habitats within a 2km zone of influence (ZOI) was sourced from DEFRA MAGIC.
- 2.2 In order to ensure that ecological data searches were up to date, species data was screened and all data records pre-2012 were omitted from the results.
- 2.3 Results of the desktop study should be considered to be indicative only.

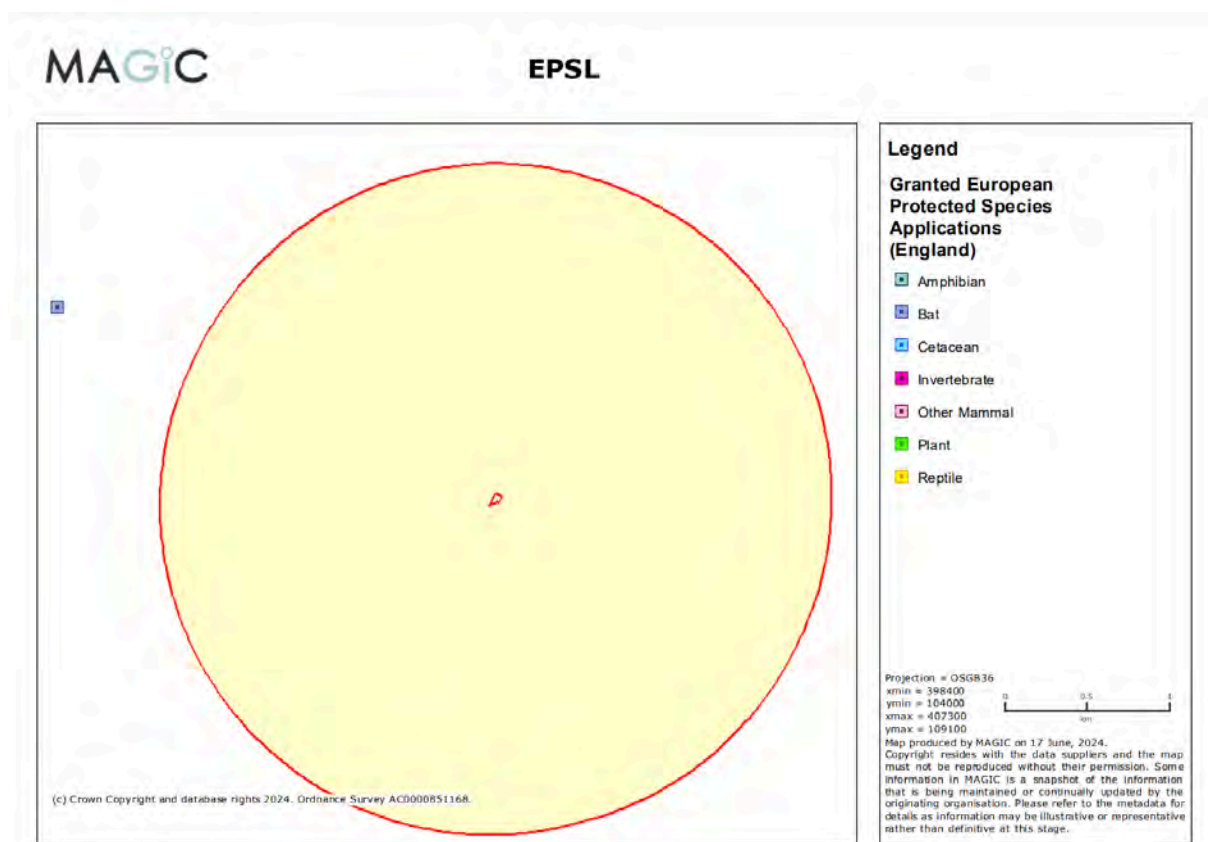


Figure 2 - EPSL licences granted within 2km ZOI.

## PRELIMINARY BAT ROOST ASSESSMENT (PRA)

- 2.4 A Preliminary Roost (PRA) assessment, was undertaken by Connor Harmsworth on the 6th June 2024. The PRA was undertaken in line with the Bat Conservation Trust's Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition) Collins, J. (Ed.) 2023.
- 2.5 The survey included an active search for evidence of roosting bats such as droppings, feeding remains, oil staining, bat fur and/or scratch marks. The survey also assessed the building for suitable Potential Roosting Features (PRF).
- 2.6 The survey was conducted from the ground and from the air using a GPS enabled DJI Mavic Mini 3 Pro drone operated by a CAA approved operator.

## SPECIES POTENTIAL

- 2.7 The potential for roosting bats within building B1 and foraging/commuting bats within the existing habitats was assigned a rank as per Table 2.7.1. An assessment was carried out using data collected during both the desktop study and site survey.



Table 2.7.1: Criteria used to assess the likelihood of occurrence (site's suitability) for bats, from Bat Conservation Trust's 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Best Practice Guidelines' (Collins, 2023) (Table 4.1.)

Potential suitability	Description	
	Roosting bats	Potential flight-paths and foraging habitats
None	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of the year (i.e a complete absence of crevices / suitable shelter at all ground/underground levels).	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of the year (i.e. no habitats that provide continuous lines of shade/protection for flight-lines, or generate/shelter insect populations available for foraging bats).
Negligible	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flight-paths or by foraging bats; however a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
Low	<p>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).</p> <p>A tree of sufficient size and age to contain PRFs but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential.</p>	<p>Habitat that could be used by small numbers of commuting bats but isolated ( i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat).</p> <p>Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of bats for foraging such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.</p>
Moderate	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only - with respect to roost type only).	<p>Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for flight-paths such as lines of trees or linked back gardens.</p> <p>Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used for bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.</p>
High	A structure or tree 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 habitats. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts, e.g. maternity or classic cool/stable hibernation sites.	<p>Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by commuting bats.</p> <p>High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats.</p> <p>Site is close to and connected to known roosts.</p>

Table 2.7.2: Potential roosting features (PRFs) in trees listed in Bat Conservation Trust's 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Best Practice Guidelines' (Collins, 2023) Table 6.6.

Table 2.7.2. PRF types that can be exploited by bats and how they form (adapted from Bat Roosts in Trees, BTHK, 2018) reproduced from Table 6.6. (Collins, 2023.)		
PRFs formed by disease and decay	PRFs formed by damage	PRFs formed by association
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Woodpecker holes</li> <li>● Squirrel holes</li> <li>● Knot holes</li> <li>● Pruning cuts</li> <li>● Tear outs</li> <li>● Wounds</li> <li>● Cankers</li> <li>● Compression forks</li> <li>● Butt rots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lighting strikes</li> <li>● Hazard beams</li> <li>● Subsidence</li> <li>● Cracks</li> <li>● Shearing cracks</li> <li>● Transverse snaps</li> <li>● Welds</li> <li>● Lifting bark</li> <li>● Desiccation</li> <li>● Fissures</li> <li>● Frost cracks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fluting</li> <li>● Ivy</li> </ul>

Table 2.7.3. Guidelines for assessing the suitability of trees on proposed development sites for bats, to be applied using professional judgement. reproduced from Table 6.6. (Collins, 2023.)

Suitability	Description
NONE	Either no PRFs in the tree or highly unlikely to be any
FAR	Further assessment required to establish if PRFs are present in the tree
PRF	A tree with at least one PRF present

## ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS AND MITIGATION

2.8 An evaluation of the potential impacts to roosting and foraging/commuting bats caused by the proposed development was made with reference to the the 'Bat Mitigation Guidelines' (Mitchell-Jones, 2004) and CIEEM's 'Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland (CIEEM, 2018).

## LIMITATIONS

2.9 With the assumption that the existing conditions on-site remain unchanged. The results of this report are likely to remain valid for 12-month sinline with the guidance published by CIEEM and the Bat Conservation Trust.

### 3 Desktop Study

#### BAT ECOLOGY AND LEGISLATION

- 3.1 One bat species has been recorded within 2km of the site including Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*). In order to obtain this information, a record search of NBN Atlas was undertaken on the 17th June 2024.
- 3.2 All species of bats in the UK are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981, which prohibits the intentional or reckless disturbance, harm, or destruction of bats and their habitats. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 implements the EU Habitats Directive in the UK, providing even more stringent protections. This means it is an offence to deliberately capture, kill, or disturb bats, or to damage, destroy, or obstruct access to their roosts.
- 3.3 Specific licences may be granted for certain activities that might otherwise be considered offences under these regulations, such as building developments or research projects, but these are typically accompanied by requirements for mitigation and compensation measures to protect the bat populations. It is essential to maintain compliance with these legislations to conserve the bat populations.
- 3.4 All bat species are also a Local Biodiversity Action Plan priority species. The Dorset Council Local Plan 2021 provides advice on the design of development proposals and reference should be made to Section 3 'The Environment and Climate Change' and its policies 'ENV2: Habitats and species' and 'ENV3: Biodiversity and net gain'.

## SITE DESIGNATIONS

3.5 There are six designated sites within the 2km of the proposed development (Table 3.5.1).

Table 3.5.1: Statutory and non-statutory designated sites recorded within a 2km radius of the survey site.

Site Name	Grid Reference	Area (ha)	Approx. Closest Distance from Site (km)	Notes.
Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB	SU 0210 0637	98594	1.1 km	<p>Cranborne Chase is a National Landscape, a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and covers 380 square miles of countryside, overlapping the boundaries of Wiltshire, Dorset, Hampshire and Somerset.</p> <p>It is a diverse natural landscape with a rich archaeological and historical significance. Cranborne Chase offers areas of rare chalk grasslands, scientifically important ancient woodlands, and chalk escarpments. The downland hillsides and chalk river valleys have a distinct and recognisable character.</p>
Holt Heath NNR	SU 0298 0589	486.14	0.4 km	<p>To the north west of the heath are two separate areas of semi-natural ancient woodland (Holt Forest and Holt Wood) that are also part of the reserve. Dry heath, wet heath and mire communities are all represented at the site. Local plants include common heather, bell heather, cross-leaved heath, bog asphodel, sundews and marsh gentian.</p>
Dorset Heathlands Ramsar Sites	SU 0459 0505	6674.82	2 km	<p>The site comprises areas of heathland lying on acidic sands, clays and gravels between the Upper Moors River and its tributaries Mannington Brook and Uddens Water. Holt Heath is one of the largest remaining areas of heathland in Dorset and the other blocks are fragments of once extensive areas at Lower Common, Mannington and West Moors. Holt Forest and Wood lie to the west on soils derived from London Clay.</p>
Holt and West Moors Heaths SSSI	SU 0298 0589	767.21	0.4 km	<p>This is a complex site which includes 37 SSSIs, most of which include fine transitions between 4030 European dry heaths and wet lowland heathland</p>

				and mires, as well as other habitats such as woodland, grassland, pools, saltmarsh and reedswamp.
Dorset Heaths SAC	SU 0459 0505	5711.25	2 km	NA
Dorset Heathlands SPA	SU 0459 0505	8166.97	2 km	NA
SSSI Impact Risk Zones	SU 0318 0646	NA	0 km	Consultation with Natural England is not required as the proposal does not fall within Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals.

\*Data from DEFRA MAGIC.

## LOCAL HABITAT

3.6 The entire site is a residential site and is not located within any known priority habitats. B1 is a detached residential property accessed off the public highway. There is an area of introduced shrubs to the north east of the built footprint and a vegetated garden to the rear (south) of B1. The garden contains a small area of overgrown modified grassland with a sward height of 600mm.

## HISTORICAL SPECIES RECORDS

3.7 Records for bats are present within 2km of the site, including records for Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*). These records were obtained through a search of NBN Atlas on the 17th June 2024.

## 4 Site Survey

4.1 The site survey was undertaken by Connor Harmsworth on the 6th June 2024. The survey was undertaken during sunny conditions with an air temperature of 16°C and light winds with no precipitation.

## ON-SITE ROOSTING POTENTIAL

All methodology follows the current guidance from the Bat Conservation Trust (Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition) Collins, J. (Ed.) 2023) unless otherwise specified.

The survey was undertaken via a ground-based daytime inspection with the assistance of close focus binoculars and a DJI Mavic Mini Pro drone operated by a CAA approved operator (operator ID - GBR-OP-63WQD93CFL2F). The surrounding habitats were assessed in relation to their connectivity and foraging resource value.

The survey focused on identifying a range of characteristic signs which can indicate current/recent use of a potential roost site by bats in addition to a detailed focus on potential features which could be utilised by bats as survey effort should not focus on field signs alone. A more detailed external inspection was then undertaken using a drone to allow examination of the roof for potential roosting features that cannot be viewed from the ground.

An internal inspection of the roof void limited to only safely accessible areas was conducted to identify any field signs of bats including: droppings, grease marks, urine stains and feeding remains.

In terms of limitations of this survey, there was no loft void in the building, as it was a single story outbuilding.

### **Building B1:**

Anchor Paddock, Batchelor's Lane, Wimborne, BH21 7DS is a detached residential dwelling house located in a rural area surrounded by agricultural and grazing farmland. However, The building assessed on Anchor Paddock, is a single storey out building (B1), situated to the north of Anchor Paddock, along the north west boundary. The site is located 628m to the north of the centre of Holt Wood and 550m to the southeast of Chalbury Common. The surrounding area is predominantly rural with good foraging opportunities to all cardinal points. These opportunities include vegetated residential gardens and more significantly, The Queen Copse located 300m to the east of the site.

B1 was built between 2000-2010. The building is made of wooden cladding with a clay ridge and clay roof tiles that tightly overlap. There is no loft void space inside the building.

B1 is currently being used and is subject to moderate levels of disturbance.

There was no known evidence of bats found during the internal inspection, including: staining, feed remains or droppings.

## Field Results:

External	Feature of value to bats	Notes
External Stonework	None.	N/A.
Window/Door Frames	None.	N/A.
Eaves Coverings	None.	N/A.
Roof Coverings	None, all clay tiles were tightly overlapping.	N/A.
Internal	Feature of value to bats	Notes
Membrane Coverings	No void space.	N/A.
Roof Void Floor Covering	No void space.	N/A.
Protruding Daylight	N/A.	N/A.
Evidence From Bats	None.	N/A.
Restrictions	No void space.	N/A.

## FORAGING & CONNECTIVITY

Although the building is somewhat isolated in a residential street, the surrounding landscape does provide extensive foraging and commuting habitats including agricultural and grazing farmland to the north, south and west of the site. The Queen Copse Wood to the east provides pockets of tree cover, scrub and grassland that bats could utilise for foraging in calm weather conditions.

Bats are commonly found in both broad-leaved and coniferous woodlands, which serve as excellent foraging sites such (as as those found to the west of the site). Local tree cover offers an abundance of insect prey and provides cover, reducing the chances of predation. Woodland edges, particularly those adjacent to open habitats are crucial commuting routes.

Hedgerows, lines of trees, and other linear features are used by many bat species as commuting routes between roosting and foraging sites. They provide navigational aids and offer protection from predators. Ancient and species-rich hedgerows may also serve as good foraging areas.

Rivers, ponds, lakes, and wetlands attract a large quantity of insects, making them attractive foraging sites for bats. Water bodies are also commonly used as commuting routes, with some species like the Daubenton's bat, specifically adapted to forage over water surfaces.



Grasslands, especially those adjacent to other habitats such as woodlands or hedgerows, are important for certain bat species. They provide a rich source of insect prey.

Although urban areas are generally less suitable due to light pollution and habitat fragmentation, many bat species have adapted to urban life. Parks, gardens, and green corridors can provide important foraging sites and commuting routes.

Traditional farmland can provide a mosaic of habitats, including hedgerows, ponds, and grazed fields, which can be suitable for foraging and commuting.

Different bat species have different preferences and tolerances for these habitats, and so a mix of these features can support a diverse bat community. Conservation efforts often aim to maintain and enhance these landscape features to promote bat populations.

Anchor Paddock is located 628m to the north of the centre of Holt Wood and 550m to the southeast of Chalbury Common. And situated in Batchelors Lane which is a residential street surrounded by similar style properties with a mix of vegetated gardens and scattered introduced shrubs and trees.

The wider landscape consists of a mixture of arable and grazing farmland and broadleaved woodlands.

## 5 Evaluation and Assessment

- 5.1 Results from the desktop study and site survey were evaluated to assess bat species potential (as per Table 2.7.1). An evaluation of potential ecological constraints (in relation to bats) to the proposed development and recommendations for appropriate mitigation strategies are provided in Table 5.1.1
- 5.2 No known evidence of bats was observed during the internal inspection of Anchor Paddock, Batchelor's Lane, Wimborne, BH21 7DS. The external inspection noted no potential roosting feature. The site has good connectivity to good foraging habitat to the south.
- 5.3 No potential roosting features were seen during the site survey. Therefore, based on this information and the guidance outlined by the Bat Conservation Trust, the building has been assessed as having **negligible suitability for roosting bats.**
- 5.4 No further survey work is required.
- 5.6 Construction works should be limited to daylight hours (excl. dawn and dusk) in order to prevent disturbance to nighttime foraging activity. Post-construction, the use of artificial lighting should be limited where possible. Motion sensors on outside lighting will prevent prolonged disturbance. It is recommended that outside lighting be set on short-timers (1 minute) and that the sensitivity is set to large moving objects only.

Table 5.1.1: Potential ecological constraints (in relation to bats) to the proposed development and appropriate mitigation strategies.

Bats (Chiroptera)	Presence/Potential	Further Comments	Potential Impacts	Recommendations for Mitigation
Roosting Bats	Negligible	Building B1 had no potential for roosting bats in the form of small cracks/crevices.	None.	None required.
Bats (Chiroptera)	Presence/Potential	Further Comments	Potential Impacts	Recommendations for Mitigation
Foraging/Commuting Bats	Moderate	The site is considered to be part of a mosaic of suitable foraging/commuting habitats. The river to the south of the site and the wider Riparian corridor have excellent foraging potential.	The proposed development may result in the loss of suitable foraging/commuting habitats if suitable mitigation strategies are not put in place.	<p>Construction works should be limited to daylight hours in order to prevent disturbance to nighttime foraging activity.</p> <p>The use of artificial lighting should be limited where possible.</p> <p>Motion sensors on outside lighting will prevent prolonged disturbance. It is recommended that outside lighting be set on short-timers (1 minute) and that the sensitivity is set to large moving objects only.</p>

## 7 Conclusions

- 7.1 The property at Anchor Paddock is to be redeveloped with the construction of an extension and general improvements to the outhouse on the north west perimeter of the property. These alterations will require works to the roof of the out-building.
- 7.2 A local record search using NBN Atlas and DEFRA Magic on the 04/06/2024 highlighted that a number of bat species are present within the local landscape.
- 7.3 There are no features present at the property that are suitable for bat species which are present in the local area. As such the property has been classified as having negligible suitability for bats.
- 7.4 No further bat surveys are required.

## 8 References

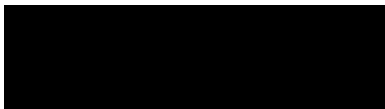
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## 9 Report Limitations

- 9.1 ROAVR Group has prepared this Report for the sole use of the above named Client/Agent in accordance with our terms of business, under which our services were performed. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this Report or any other services provided by us.
- 9.2 This Report may not be relied upon by any other party without the prior and express written agreement of ROAVR. The assessments made assume that the land use will continue for its current purpose without significant change. ROAVR has not independently verified information obtained from third parties.
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Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Max Shaw  
Ecological Consultant



Prepared by: Max Shaw BSc CIEEM  
Checked by: Matt Harmsworth BSc



## Appendix 1: Site Location and Assessment Boundary



Figure A1.1: An extract from DEFRA showing the site location.



## Appendix 2: Additional Site Photographic Plates & Target Notes

<i>Detail</i>	<i>Photograph</i>
<i>Image 1 - Southern elevation.</i>	
<i>Image 2 - Existing building, B1.</i>	

*Image 3 - Overall condition of roof of B1.*



*Image 4 - showing interior of B1.*

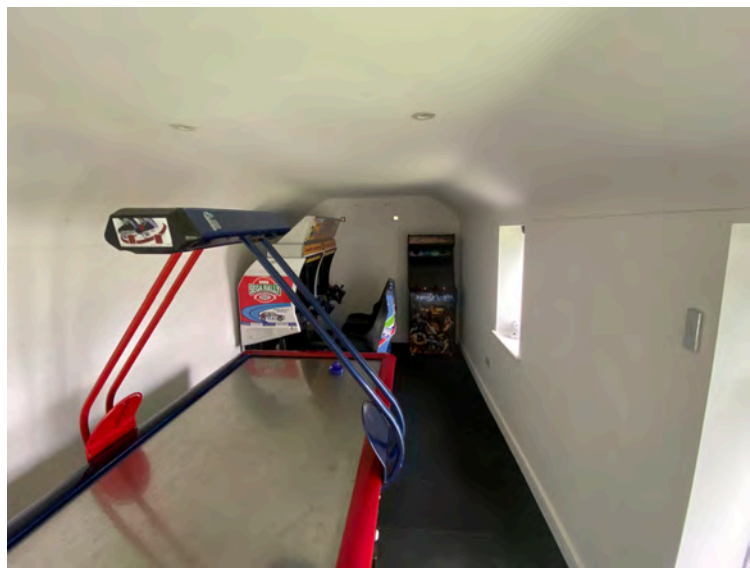


Image 5 - Showing location of outbuilding on Google Maps.



## What Are PRFs & What Does It Mean For My Project?

**Potential Roosting Features** (PRFs) are specific structures or characteristics in buildings, trees, or other parts of the environment that might provide suitable places for bats to roost, or set up home.

These can include things like gaps under roof tiles, holes in walls, hollows in trees, and other sheltered, undisturbed spaces that bats might find attractive.

A **Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment** is a survey conducted by an ecologist to check a property or area for these Potential Roosting Features. The goal is to identify whether there's a likelihood of bats being present, which could impact development plans because bats and their roosts are legally protected.

Now, what does this mean for a client, typically someone planning a development or construction project?

If the assessment finds **no PRFs**, or if the features found are assessed as offering **negligible potential** for bats, the customer can usually proceed with their plans without further steps to mitigate bat impact.

However, if the assessment **finds PRFs** that could potentially house bats, the next step would typically be **a more detailed** bat survey, **carried out at dusk or dawn** when bats are most active.

If bats are indeed found, **this doesn't mean the project can't proceed**, but there might be some requirements to meet first. Usually this involves drawing up mitigation measures which are implemented **after planning** is determined.