

Site Inspection Report

Land off Rockingham Roundabout



Site Inspection reference	SI-3806-06	Date of inspection	18.11.2022
Inspected by	David Lovett, Ecologist MBiolSci (Hons), ACIEEM		
Task description	Ground-based bat roost suitability assessment of trees at land off Rockingham Roundabout.		
Report	An updating Bat Roost Suitability Assessment was undertaken at the Site by Brooks Ecological in November 2022. The original PEA for the Site (R-3806-01A, March 2019) found that "none of the trees present offer features that might be suitable for roosting bats". Given the time passed since this assessment, an updating survey was commissioned to determine if this statement was still true. The whole of the Site, as shown in Figure 1 below, was walked and all trees assessed for the presence of potential roost features that could be used by bats. The majority of the Site is covered by open grassland. Small areas are being colonised by self-set young trees of predominantly grey willow and hawthorn. These trees are young and small in stature. No potential roost features were noted in these specimens. The Site is bound by woodland along the southern boundary, with this extending somewhat along the eastern edge too. A variety of trees are present here including goat willow, hawthorn, silver birch, sycamore, oak, wild privet, dog rose, cherry, ash and hazel. These woodland areas have only been established over the past twenty years, with the majority of the trees therefore quite immature As a result of the age of the trees, very few potential roost features were noted in the woodland sections. Two tree trunks that have been heavily colonised by ivy were noted. Whilst ivy of this maturity is considered to be a potential roost feature, in this situation the feature still only provides low roost suitability. No other trees with potential roost features were noted within or close to the site boundary.		

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Summary	The Site is generally devoid of potential roost features which could be used by roosting bats. Two tree trunks covered by ivy were noted and classed as having low roost suitability. In line with best practice guidance provided by the Bat Conservation Trust, no further surveys are required for trees with low roost suitability, but their removal, or works to them, should be carried out under a suitable method statement. As a result of these findings, no further survey work is recommended with regards to roosting bats the Site.
Further actions	A Biodiversity Management Plan has been produced for the development of the Site (ER-3806-08A). This includes guidance for the installation of bat boxes and the advice included in this document should be followed. The Site's CEMP has been updated (now ER-3806-07A) to provide a protocol for the trees with Low suitability. This should be followed.
Figure 1 Site red-line boundary with approximate location of low suitability trees marked.	

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Photographs 2 and 3

Standing tree trunks covered by ivy



References

Andrews H. L. (2011) A habitat key for the assessment of potential bat roost features in trees.

Bat Conservation Trust (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists - Good Practice Guidelines.

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