

Bat Survey Report and Method Statement European Protected Species (Bats)

Reasonable Avoidance and Mitigation Measures

**Crimble Hall,
Crimble Lane,
Bamford,
Rochdale, OL11 4AD**

05.08.2026



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Executive summary

In July 2026 Batworker consultancy was commissioned to undertake a survey of Crimble Hall, Crimble Lane, Bamford, Rochdale, OL11 4AD assess the potential for use by bats and breeding birds.

A daytime survey was carried out on 29th July 2026 to support development plans to develop the existing buildings which are currently undergoing renovation and development works.

The buildings, when assessed in combination with location and surrounding habitat, were observed to have a low level of bat roost potential.

An emergence survey was carried out on 29th July 2026 and recorded no bats emerging from the buildings.

An extremely low level of Common Pipistrelle bat activity was recorded with individual bats observed arriving on site and foraging to the east of the buildings. Timing of activity was consistent with bats emerging from a nearby roost.

Given the observations of the emergence survey it was considered that survey effort is appropriate to characterise the roost potential of the buildings and that the presence of a significant or low conservation value bat roost is unlikely.

“The presence of a significant bat roost (invariably a maternity roost) can normally be determined on a single visit at any time of year, provided that the entire structure is accessible and that any signs of bats have not been removed by others”. - Mitchell-Jones, A (2004) Bat mitigation guidelines. English Nature.

A previous survey in 2022 had observed a single Common Pipistrelle emerging from a northern component of the building complex which subsequently was subject to roof slate removal via robbery and fire damage in late 2022. The remaining section of this building was demolished in 2022.

It is considered unlikely that significant or low conservation value roosts are present within the remaining buildings, and as such no Natural England EPS Licence is now necessary to cover works, however considering the opportunistic nature of *Pipistrellus* sp bats it is recommended that proposed works are carried out with mitigation and reasonable avoidance measures in place.

The overall purpose of the Method Statement is to ensure that bats and their roosts are fully protected to ensure the ‘favourable conservation status of the species’.

This method statement is designed to minimise or remove any potential disturbance to bats. By following the Reasonable Avoidance Measures and mitigation included in this document the work can take place, ensuring the Continued Ecological Functionality of the site.

Site Location

Crimble Hall, Crimble Lane, Bamford, Rochdale, OL11 4AD
NGR: SD8631012017



Surrounding Habitat



The property is located in a semi rural location with surrounding habitat a mosaic of improved and semi improved grassland with some hedgerow and scattered tree cover on field boundaries, semi natural deciduous woodland, ancient woodland and riparian woodland cover associated with the River Roch.

Connectivity to the wider landscape is good. Overall foraging potential for bats can be considered high.

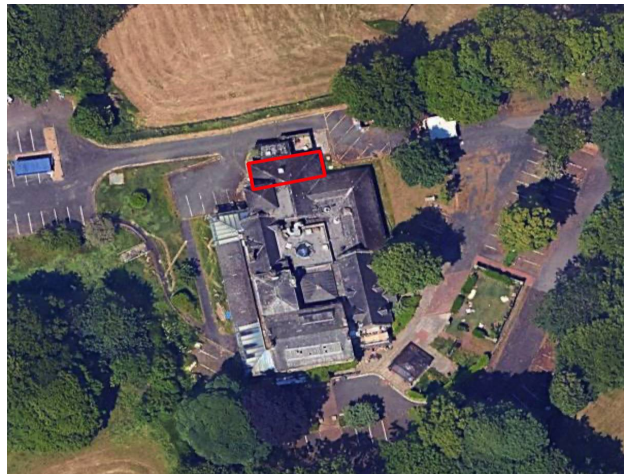
Survey summary and site assessment

Pre-existing information on the bat species present at this site.

A search of the MAGIC website revealed no EPS licence applications within a 1km radius.

Previous surveys in 2022 (*Bat Emergence Surveys at Crimble Hall, Crimble Lane, Rochdale. Rachel Hacking Ecology. August 2022*) recorded a single Common Pipistrelle emerging from a day roost on the north facing aspect of the roof.

It is understood that this section of the building was fire damaged in 2022 and demolished.



Approximate location of observed bat roost

From personal experience of surveying for and researching bats in Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumbria, the following species were considered.

Common Pipistrelle – known to roost on sites where suitable foraging habitat is available.

Soprano Pipistrelle – known to roost on sites where suitable foraging habitat is available.

Whiskered/Brandt's – species often found roosting in buildings close to woodland.

Natterer's – a typical upland bat with foraging bats being recorded high on heather moorland. Often roosting in barns.

Daubenton's – a species commonly associated with aquatic habitats.

Long Eared bat – a woodland species which has been recorded foraging over in bye meadows and rough grassland sites. Often roosting in barns.

Survey Personnel.

Personnel on surveys included: David Anderson, an experienced ecologist and bat researcher with 25 years experience of fieldwork and bat ecology, a founder member of the East Lancashire Bat Group and Yorkshire Dales and Bowland Bat Research Group, formerly a Natural History Curator and manager of the East Lancashire Biological Records Centre. (Natural England licence No:2025-86113-CL18-BAT, Conservation, Science and Education). Sarah Dunham, an experienced bat worker.

Survey Summary

Survey	Date	Timings
Preliminary Roost Assessment	29.07.2026	1 Hour
Emergence Survey	29.07.2026	2 Hours

Survey constraints

Visual access to all areas of the interior and exterior of the buildings was possible and good visual inspection at ground level was possible.

Evidence of bat activity such as bat droppings or staining on external walls and surfaces is frequently removed by the action of wind and rain; apparent absence of evidence is therefore evaluated with caution.

In many situations it is not possible to inspect every locations where bats are present therefore it should be assumed that an absence of bat evidence does not necessarily equate to evidence that bats are absent.

Some species such as pipistrelle sp bats are opportunistic and it is possible for individuals to be found during works, even where surveys have had negative results during preliminary and activity surveys.

Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment

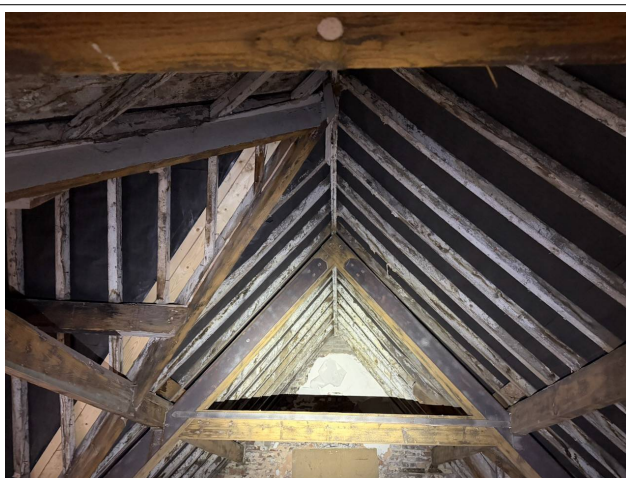
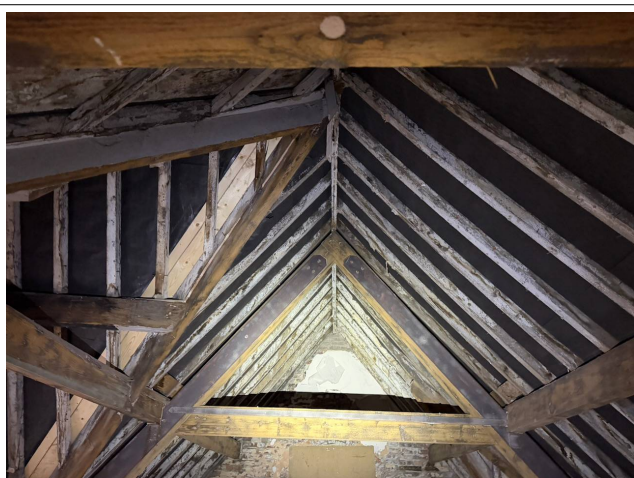
The property consists of a complex of stone built two storey stone built buildings which are currently undergoing renovation and development works.

External walls are generally well pointed, however some gaps were noted on west and east facing aspects.

The buildings have recently been reroofed, consequently slates are close fitting with no lifted, missing or slipped slates present. Ridge tiles are close fitting and well sealed. Roof slates are lined with a modern breathable membrane and are currently exposed to the interior with no loft spaces present.

The building complex was assessed as offering low bat roost potential.





Nesting Bird Survey.

No nesting birds were observed during the survey.

Visual Search.

No physical evidence to suggest use by bats was recorded despite numerous undisturbed horizontal surfaces being present.

Emergence Survey 29th July 2026

Start Temp: 20.5c Finish Temp: 18.6c
0% Cloud Cover. Wind: Bft 0 Precipitation 0
Start: 20.55 Sunset: 21.11 Finish: 22.45

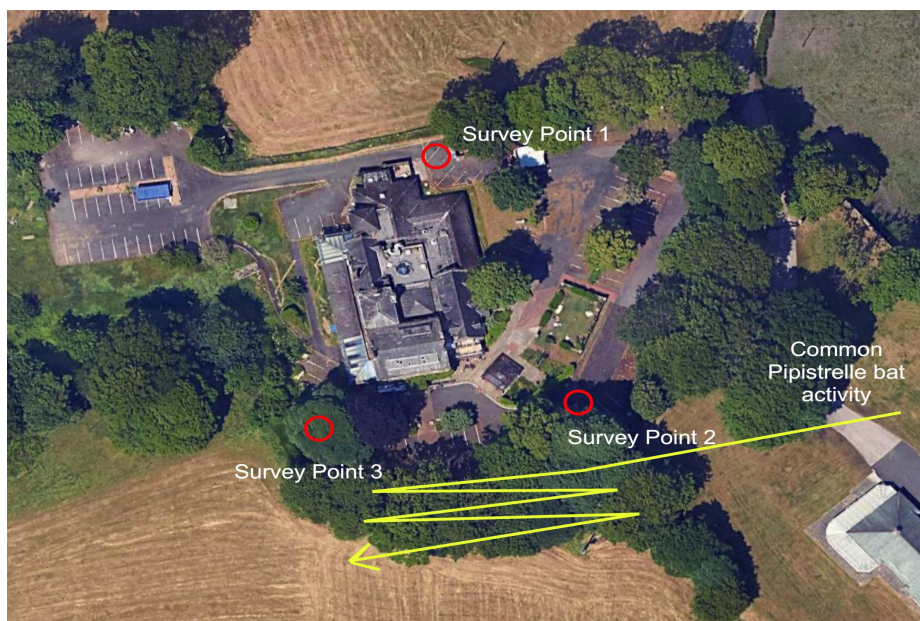
Surveyors equipped with Anabat Walkabout, Anabat Chorus and Anabat Swift full spectrum detectors were positioned around the building to monitor observed potential roost features for emerging bats. Surveyors were aided by a Pulsar Axion2 XG35 and two Guide TK612 thermal cameras.

Recorded bat calls were analysed post survey using SonobatUK 30 analysis software. Video was reviewed in realtime post survey on a 38" 4K monitor.

At 21.23 Noctule bat activity was recorded with bats observed foraging along the River Roch corridor to the south.

From 21.50 a low level of bat activity was recorded with individual Common Pipistrelle bats observed arriving on site from the east and foraging along boundary trees before dispersing into the wider landscape. Activity was steady throughout the survey period.

No bats were observed emerging from the buildings.



Survey Summary



Thermal camera coverage at end of survey



Thermal camera coverage at end of survey



Thermal camera coverage at end of survey

Interpretation of results

A daytime survey was carried out on 29th July 2026 to support development plans to develop the existing buildings which are currently undergoing renovation and development works.

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An emergence survey was carried out on 29th July 2026 and recorded no bats emerging from the buildings.

An extremely low level of Common Pipistrelle bat activity was recorded with individual bats observed arriving on site and foraging to the east of the buildings. Timing of activity was consistent with bats emerging from a nearby roost.

Given the observations of the emergence survey it was considered that survey effort is appropriate to characterise the roost potential of the buildings and that the presence of a significant or low conservation value bat roost is unlikely.

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A previous survey in 2022 had observed a single Common Pipistrelle emerging from a northern component of the building complex which subsequently was subject to roof slate removal via robbery and fire damage in late 2022. The remaining section of this building was demolished in 2022.

It is considered unlikely that significant or low conservation value roosts are present within the remaining buildings, and as such no Natural England EPS Licence is now necessary to cover works, however considering the opportunistic nature of *Pipistrellus* sp bats it is recommended that proposed works are carried out with mitigation and reasonable avoidance measures in place.

The overall purpose of the Method Statement is to ensure that bats and their roosts are fully protected to ensure the ‘favourable conservation status of the species’.

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Impact Assessment

Short-term impacts – Disturbance Low risk: No roosting bats observed.

Long-term impacts - Roost loss: No impact on a local bat population.

Long-term impacts - Fragmentation and isolation: Minimal risk, the impact of the proposed development on local bat species will be insignificant.

Predicted scale of impact: No loss of roosting sites of a common and relatively widespread species.

Method Statement and Reasonable Avoidance Measures

The overall purpose of the Method Statement is to ensure that bats and their roosts are fully protected to ensure the 'favourable conservation status of the species'. The Method statement is designed to minimise or remove any potential disturbance to roosting bats.

Common and soprano pipistrelle bats are considered an opportunistic species and it is possible for individuals to be found during works, even where surveys have had negative results during preliminary and activity surveys.

A Method Statement is normally required by the local planning authority to ensure that procedures are in place before the development works are carried out and will form part of the EPS Licence application where necessary.

No work should commence without contractors receiving a toolbox talk.

All contractors will be made aware of the legal protection afforded all species of bats in the UK and procedures will be in place to mitigate for the potential impact on bats before any building work is undertaken.

Timing of works – Work should take place following a night temperature of 5c

Work to affected roof areas will take place under supervision with the batworker 'on call'.

In the unlikely event bats are found during works. The area should be carefully covered and work stop until the batworker can attend to assess the appropriate way forward.

A compensatory bat box (Greenwood Eco Habitats two crevice box) will be placed on site.

Bat boxes will remain on site as part of proposed biodiversity enhancement.

A copy of the Method Statement should be available to site / project managers in advance of any works being carried out.

The existence of a Method Statement helps to establish a defence against prosecution for intentional (WCA), deliberate (Habitat Regulations.) or reckless (WCA) disturbance of bats or damage to roosts. All work should take place under the supervision of the ecologist.