



Pendle Road, Clitheroe

Bat Tree Survey Report

VERSION: 1.0

DATE: February 2026

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Document

- 1.1.1 To support an outline planning application for the erection of 200 dwellings on land off Pendle Road, Clitheroe, BB7 1JH, further assessment of the trees on site has been undertaken to assess their potential for roosting bats.
- 1.1.2 The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (ref; ER-8455-01D) identified several mature hedgerow trees that had features with potential to support roosting bats (PRF's).
- 1.1.3 It was identified that a number of trees with bat roost potential could be impacted by the proposed site design.
- 1.1.4 Cross referencing the arboricultural plans (ref; 2052-AIA-V1-B) and the ecology site surveys identified the trees that would require further investigation.
- 1.1.5 The surveys were led by Nick Carter MCIEEM, NE Level 2 bat licence (2018-36650-CLS-CLS) on 6th February 2026..
- 1.1.6 The bat tree surveys that have been undertaken and detailed within this document comprise:
 - Ground Level Tree Assessment;
 - Aerial Tree Inspection and endoscope inspections
- 1.1.7 The methodologies and results of these surveys are described and presented within this report.

1.2 Relevant Legislation

- 1.2.1 All British bat species are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. All British bats are also included on Schedule 2 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as European Protected Species of animals. It is an offence to:
 - intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or capture bats;
 - deliberately or recklessly disturb bats (whether in a roost or not); and
 - damage, destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts.
- 1.2.2 A bat roost includes 'any structure or place which a bat uses for shelter or protection'. As bats tend to reuse the same roosts, a roost is protected whether or not bats are present at the time of survey.
- 1.2.3 A licence will therefore be required by those who carry out any operation that would otherwise result in offences being committed.
- 1.2.4 The following bat species are listed as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006: barbastelle, Bechstein's, noctule, soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared, greater horseshoe, and lesser horseshoe.

2 Survey Methodologies

2.1 Ground Level Tree Assessment

- 2.1.1 The Ground Level Tree Assessments (GLTAs) aim to determine whether the trees were suitable for roosting bats.
- 2.1.2 The GLTA surveys consisted of a detailed inspection of the trees from the ground, at all angles, from both close-up using binoculars and further away, to look for any features that could be used by roosting bats. Where appropriate an endoscope and high-powered torch was used.
- 2.1.3 PRFs may include but are not limited to; woodpecker holes, loose bark, cracks and crevices, broken off limbs and dense ivy.
- 2.1.4 Trees are then classified in accordance with **Table 1** based on the criteria given in the Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (BCT, 2023) and professional judgement. However, at this stage, the PRFs are not inspected in detail and therefore, the classification is only an estimate of their potential to support roosting bats.

Table 1. Summary of Assessing Potential Roosting Features (BCT, 2023)

Suitability	Description of Roosting Feature
None	Either no Potential Roosting Features (PRF) in the tree or highly unlikely to be any
FAR	Further assessment required to establish if PRFs are present in the tree
PRF-I	PRF is only suitable for individual bats or very small number of bats either due to size or lack of suitable surrounding habitat
PRF-M	PRF is suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used as a maternity colony.

2.2 Aerial Tree Inspection/Endoscope Inspection

- 2.2.1 The Aerial Tree Inspection (ATI) involves the use of tree climbing or access equipment (ladders, MEWPs) to gain access to PRFs identified through the GLTA surveys. This allows a more detailed assessment of their likely suitability for bats and provides an opportunity to look for more conclusive evidence of bats, such as:
- Live, dead or skeletons of bats;
 - Bat droppings in tree cavities;
 - Feeding remains e.g., insect wings;
 - Tiny scratches / claw marks around external entry points;
 - Urine staining or polishing around external entry point;
 - Bat droppings in, around or below points of entry;
 - Audible squeaking at dusk or in warm weather;
 - Flies around entry point; and
 - Smoothing of surfaces around a cavity.

- 2.2.2 The surveyor identified surrounding habitat that had any potential to support roosting, commuting and foraging bats. The surrounding habitat can influence roost potential and notes were made on the setting of the trees, their proximity to significant linear habitat features (such as a watercourse, mature hedgerow, wooded lane or an area of woodland) and other factors including artificial lighting.
- 2.2.3 Taking account of the habitat features, the trees were re-assigned a level of roost suitability (**Table 1**) based the criteria given in the Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (BCT, 2023) and professional judgement. The primary objective of this exercise was to identify the need for further detailed bat survey, or to establish whether the PRFs identified from ground level were not suitable for bats.
- 2.2.4 Trees are then classified in accordance with **Table 1** based on evidence of PRFs and, therefore, their potential to support roosting bats. The final classification of suitability post ATI informs the further survey work required.

3 Results

3.1 Ground Level Tree Assessment

- 3.1.1 The GLTA was completed in 2025 by Brooks Ecological Ltd in September 2025.
- 3.1.2 A total of 5 trees were assessed as requiring an Aerial Tree Inspection as part of the GLTA.
- 3.1.3 Table 2 below details the results of the GLTA as well as recommendations for further inspection or survey.

Table 2. GLTA Results.

Arb Tree Reference	Tree Species	Tree Height (m)	Description of roosting features	Tree condition	Suitability to support roosting bats	Recommendations for further inspection or survey
T34	Pedunculate Oak	7	Entirely rotten trunk	Mature	PRF-M	Aerial Tree Inspection
T35	Common Ash	16	Fallen limb resulting in tear and rot cavities	Mature	PRF-M	Aerial Tree Inspection
T36	Ash	18	Numerous small cavities along rotting lower limbs	Mature	PRF-I	Aerial Tree Inspection
G13d	Sycamore	11	Heavy ivy growth	Mature	PRF-M	Aerial Tree Inspection
T44	Ash	14	Numerous small branch cavities	Mature	PRF-I	Aerial Tree Inspection



3.2 Aerial Tree /Endoscope Inspection

3.2.1 The Aerial Tree Inspections were completed by licensed bat ecologist and qualified tree climbers Nick Carter and Sam Bardi.

3.2.2 The results of the aerial tree inspections completed are shown in **Table 3**.

3.2.3 No bat roosts were identified during the aerial tree inspections.

3.2.4 **The PRF-M graded trees with hibernation potential from the GLTA were downgraded to PRF-I.**

Table 3. Aerial Tree Inspection Results.

Reference	Tree Species	Tree Height (m)	Description of roosting features	Suitability to support roosting bats (GLTA)	Results after ATI #1 06/02/2026	Results after ATI #2	Results after ATI #3
T34	Pedunculate Oak	7	Stem extensively decayed present up into canopy. Small cavity on NW limb with multiple entrances.	PRF-M	PRF-I F1 presented a damp, exposed hollowed stem, offering limited protection for roosting bats, reducing the PRF classification to PRF – I	N/a	N/a



Reference	Tree Species	Tree Height (m)	Description of roosting features	Suitability to support roosting bats (GLTA)	Results after ATI #1 06/02/2026	Results after ATI #2	Results after ATI #3
T35	Common Ash	16	Torn out limb presents a decayed cavity with a large entrance	PRF-M	PRF-I The decayed cavity on the torn-out limb of T35 does not extend extensively and is too exposed to support roosting bats, thus reducing the PRF classification to PRF – I	N/a	N/a



4 Summary

4.1.1 This report presents the results of the GLTA and the ATI surveys undertaken in February 2026 for the application.

4.1.2 A total of 5 trees would potentially be impacted by the proposals and were subject to an ATI. Of the 5 trees assessed as part of the ATI, XXX were considered to have XXX roosting potential and T34, T35 were considered to have PRF-I suitability.

4.1.3 Further to the recently updated B.C.T guidelines to assessing bat roosts in trees, no further surveys are required for PRF-I category trees.

5 References

Collins, J. (ed.) (2023). Bat surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.



Plate 1. F1 presented a damp, exposed hollowed stem, offering limited protection for roosting bats, reducing the PRF classification to PRF – I

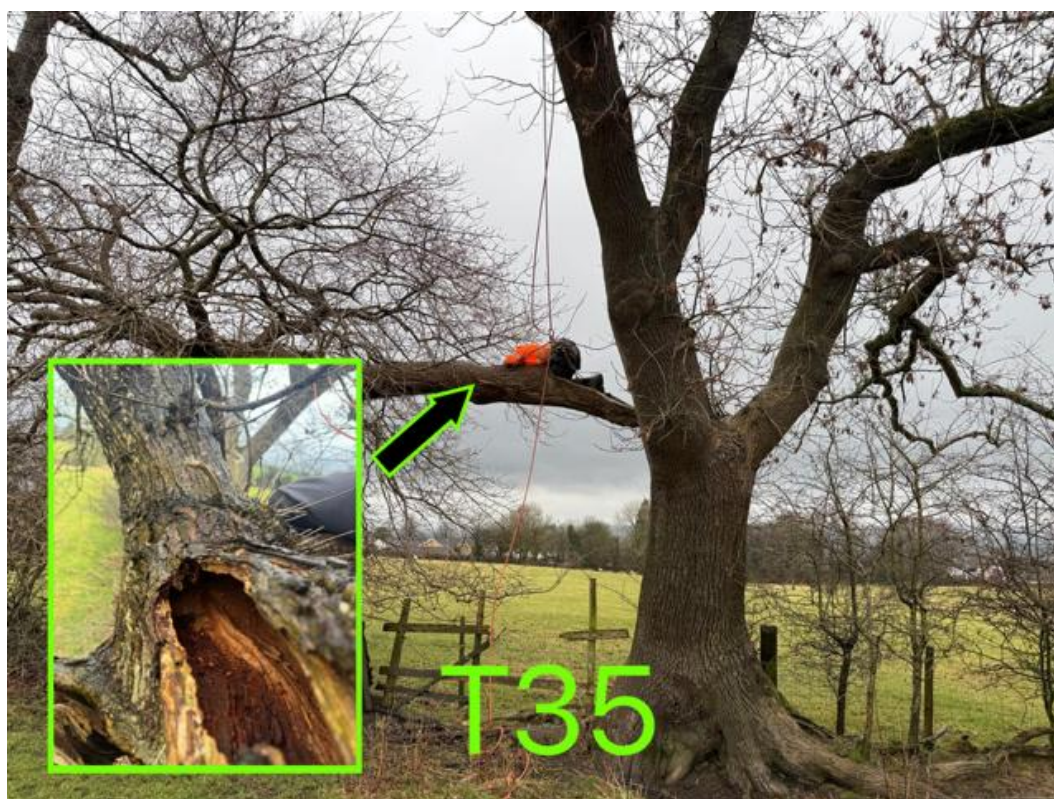


Plate 2. The decayed cavity on the torn-out limb of T35 does not extend extensively and is too exposed to support roosting bats, thus reducing the PRF classification to PRF – I