

**ELEVEN ACRE SHAW  
REDBROOK STREET  
WOODCHURCH  
KENT  
ECOLOGICAL SCOPING SURVEY**

BY

MARTIN NEWCOMBE

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D135. Woodchurch (TQ942359)R.



Martin Newcombe Wildlife Management Consultancy  
01233 720229

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.0 METHODS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.0 RESULTS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>10</b>

## **APPENDIX**

- 1 : LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED FROM THE SITE**
- 2 BUILDING ASSESSMENT FOR BATS.**

## **FIGURES**

- 1 A MAP OF THE SITE WHICH IDENTIFIES THE BUILDINGS MENTIONED IN THE TEXT.**
- 2 PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY OF THE SITE.**
- 3 A TYPICAL VIEW OF THE INTERIOR OF THE ANCIENT WOODLAND.**
- 4 THE INTERIOR OF BUILDING 1.**
- 5 BUILDING 2 VIEWED FROM THE OUTSIDE.**
- 6 THE GRASSLAND.**
- 7 THE OAK TREE ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE ENTRANCE TRACKWAY.**
- 8 THE DEAD OAK TREE NORTH – EAST OF THE WESTERNMOST YARD.**
- 9 THE WESTERNMOST YARD.**
- 10 PART OF BUILDING 3.**
- 11 ONE OF THE POPLARS SHOWING THE CRACKED BARK.**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** This document was compiled in order to report upon a bat building and protected species scoping survey of Eleven Acre Shaw, Redbrook Street, Woodchurch, Kent<sup>1</sup>. The site is a level one on clay – sand soil at approximately 52 metres OD. The site is located approximately one kilometre north – west of Woodchurch.
- 1.2** The **site** basically consists of a belt of woodland alongside Redbrook Street, with a parallel belt of improved mown grassland further south. At the western end is a former hard – surfaced revegetating yard with some corrugated iron buildings which are in a state of disrepair. In the centre of the site a trackway leads off Redbrook Street and head southwards through the woodland before splitting. One branch runs to the yard in the west, whilst the other leads to a similar yard in the eastern half of the site. In the easternmost part of the latter yard there is a small block – built building, with another one further south on the margin of the grassland. There is also a small caravan in the same area<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.3** The **surrounding area** is rural with scattered settlements. Redbrook Street forms the northern boundary, beyond which are some fishing ponds and scattered houses. Redbrook Street crosses Bethersden Road with the junction adjoining the north - eastern corner of the survey site. There is a large poultry farm to the south whilst the western boundary adjoins arable land.
- 1.4** The site is approximately 380 metres north – east of the nearest ancient woodland, and there are other areas of ancient woodland located at approximately 390 metres to the south – west and 780 metres to the north – west; the latter forms part of the Engeham Farm / Shirkoak Local Wildlife Site<sup>3</sup>. There are no other **designated sites** within one kilometre of the survey site.

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<sup>1</sup> OS / TQ942359. Grid reference taken from <http://gridreferencefinder.com/#>

<sup>2</sup> Which was ignored during the course of the survey. The details of the other three buildings are in Appendix 2.

<sup>3</sup> Hereafter 'LWS'. LWS are protected against development at a local (county) level.

## 2.0 METHODS

**2.1** The site **visit** took place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and took approximately one and a half hours, during which time the whole site was visited. The purpose of the visit was to carry out ecological scoping surveys as follows:

**2.1.1** A Phase 1 habitat survey of the type described by Nature Conservancy Council (1990) was carried out.

**2.1.2** The plant and animal **species** of the site were listed by using the variety of inventory methods described by Sutherland (2000) and Beattie and Oliver (1994) and are given in Appendix 1. Obviously – introduced species of plants were not included in this list.

**2.1.3** A search was made for any species, or habitat suitable for any species that are specifically **protected** for conservation purposes by wildlife legislation<sup>4</sup> such as badgers<sup>5</sup>, bats and common reptiles<sup>6</sup>, using appropriate established techniques e.g. assessment of potential habitat for reptiles by comparison of the habitat on site with descriptions of potential reptile habitat given by Gent and Gibson (2003) as augmented by previous personal experience.

**2.1.4** A search was also made for species<sup>7</sup> that are included within the short list of the national **Biodiversity Action Plans** and associated lists<sup>8</sup>, and, for birds, a search was made for species which are included within the red part of the national bird '**Red List**'<sup>9</sup> as well as any other species that were recorded within the Kent Red Data Book<sup>10</sup>, Kent Rare Plant Register<sup>11</sup> and other similar publications.

**2.1.5** The **method** used for the **bat survey** of the buildings was a visual assessment of the quality of possible roost sites based on the descriptions of bat roosts given by Hundt (2012), Collins (2016), Corbet and Harris (1991), Harris and Yalden (2008),

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<sup>4</sup> Mostly, this included species listed in <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-3408> as being protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and related legislation.

<sup>5</sup> Meles meles.

<sup>6</sup> E.g. common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*) and slow – worm (*Anguis fragilis*).

<sup>7</sup> Or habitat suitable for species.

<sup>8</sup> Biodiversity Steering Group, 1995 as amended. Hereafter known as the 'BAP'. Also, the species subject of Biodiversity 2020 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services>).

<sup>9</sup> Hayhow et al. (2017).

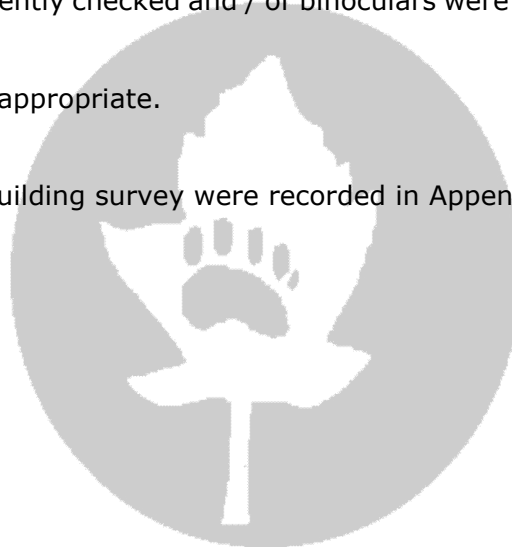
<sup>10</sup> Waite, 2001. Hereafter referred to as 'KRDB'.

<sup>11</sup> <http://bsbi.org/kent>

Mitchell - Jones and McLeish (2004) and Ransome (1990) as enhanced by extensive personal previous experience. Other methods which were also used included:

- The use of a portable ladder to check interior and exterior surfaces, including joints, cracks and other cavities.
- The use of an endoscope, mirrors, a Flir E60 thermal imager and similar equipment to check cracks and cavities, including those between joints etc.
- Searching for bat droppings on flat surfaces, walls and floors, in spiders' webs and on artefacts. These, if found, would be subsequently identified using experience, a reference collection and Stebbings, Yalden and Herman's (2007) descriptions, or DNA examination if required.
- Checking for signs of bat entry points.
- Checking for signs of bat feeding points e.g. piles of insect wings.
- Where access was difficult or dangerous, photographs of parts of the site were taken and subsequently checked and / or binoculars were used to scan potential roost sites.
- Other methods as appropriate.

All results of the bat building survey were recorded in Appendix 2.



### 3.0 RESULTS

**3.1** The Phase 1 **habitat survey** is shown as Figure 2.

**3.2** The following evidence of any species, or habitat suitable for any species which are specifically **protected** under wildlife legislation was found on the site;

- The woodland in the northern half of the site was considered as possible habitat for dormouse<sup>12</sup>.
- There was no evidence of **bats** in the buildings due to the absence of suitable habitat, but there were three potential roosting sites for bats:
  - An oak tree on the west side of the entrance drive, close to where it turned westwards.
  - A dead oak tree north – east of the westernmost yard.
  - A row of poplars, some of which were old enough and either possessed cavities or holes that might hold bats.

**3.3** No evidence of the presence of other **BAP**, KRDB or other notable species was found on site.

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<sup>12</sup> Muscardinus avellanarius.

## 4.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1** Short surveys such as this one are good at giving a sample of the ecological value of a given site and showing which species, if any, require more detailed survey<sup>13</sup>.
- 4.2** The **methods** of the survey have been used extensively elsewhere with consistent results and accord with good practice guidelines<sup>14</sup>. Signs of protected species and their habitat parameters are reasonably obvious to an experienced surveyor and ecological surveys of this type are valuable in terms of helping to determine whether protected or notable animals or plants are likely to be present, are present, or have been present in or around a site and whether further, more detailed Phase 2 survey is required for certain species. However, the results of a survey are partially determined by the time of year at which the survey takes place, the stages in an organism's life cycle, and the accessibility of the site. At this site, access was complete except for building 2, which could not be inspected internally.
- 4.3** The **plant** list was typical of the flora which is found in similar such areas throughout this part of the county. There were no unusual or uncommon or protected plant species at the site, although the woodland belt in the north of the site was clearly a remnant of ancient woodland. It contained eight species of Ancient Woodland Indicator plant of the type listed by Rose (1999)<sup>15</sup>. The habitat type of the grassland overall was probably largely Rodwell's (1998) MG7 *Lolio – Plantaginion* ley. This is a common habitat type which is widespread throughout the country<sup>16</sup>. The habitat type of the woodland was the same author's (1991) W10 *Quercus robur – Pteridium aquilinum – Rubus fruticosus* woodland.
- 4.4** No notable species of **birds** were recorded at the site. A few additional species<sup>17</sup> might be expected to occur on or over the site at other times of year. There were abundant nesting sites present in the survey area in the woodland and scrub, and to a limited extent in the buildings. No vegetation clearance or any demolition of any of the buildings, therefore, should take place between March to July inclusive when birds are nesting, unless a contemporary survey reveals that no breeding birds are present.

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<sup>13</sup> Stork and Samways, 1995.

<sup>14</sup> E.g. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, 2013: British Standards Institute, 2013, Collins, 2016.

<sup>15</sup> These are listed in Appendix 1.

<sup>16</sup> Rodwell, 1991.

<sup>17</sup> E.g. Great spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*) and starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

- 4.5 Bat** evidence was not found in any of the buildings. Overall the buildings were structurally unsuitable for bats roosting purposes, and / or insufficiently oriented to allow heating by insolation, and it is probably these two factors which primarily mitigated against their use by bats.
- 4.6** Of the three trees which were considered to be suitable for roosting bats, the oak tree on the western side of the entrance trackway was most suitable and was a category 1 tree as defined by Hundt (2012), whilst the second oak was the same. The row of poplars consisted of numerous trees, of which perhaps only five or six were potential bat roosts and were in Hundt's category 2.
- 4.7** Consideration was also given to a wide range of other protected species that might occur on site, but none were found. There was no suitable habitat on the site which was suitable for **reptiles**, because the site lacked sufficient vegetation of the right type and density. There were several trees of sufficient age, size, girth and condition that might provide habitat for **stag beetle**<sup>18</sup>, but no evidence of stag beetle was found. There were no **badger** setts or badger field signs.
- 4.8** In addition, no development proposals for the survey site will affect the Ancient Woodland area or the nearby LWS<sup>19</sup>.
- 4.9** The possibility of **dormouse** being present in the wood was considered, especially as it had links via the roadside hedge with other sites nearby. Dormouse is known to occur in this area<sup>20</sup> but it is understood that the woodland will be left untouched, and if suitable habitat enhancements are carried out, it could provide better habitat for this and other species. There would thus be no impact on dormice from any development, and there might even be a slight improvement if mitigation were affected.
- 4.10** The site had no ponds which might hold **great crested newts**<sup>21</sup>. However, there were approximately 33 ponds of varying suitability within one kilometre of the site, with the nearest pond being only approximately 72 metres north – east of the site but on the other side of the Bethersden Road / Redbrook Street junction. The woodland of the site is potentially good terrestrial habitat for newts; no Habitat Suitability Index<sup>22</sup> for great crested newt of the type described by Oldham et al

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<sup>18</sup> Lucanus cervus.

<sup>19</sup> Which is inaccessible except by permission of the owner.

<sup>20</sup> Personal observation.

<sup>21</sup> Triturus cristatus.

<sup>22</sup> Hereafter 'HSI'.



(2000) was calculated for any of the neighbouring ponds, but great crested newts are known to be common in this part of the Weald, so it is likely that they are present in the surrounding area. Although further survey for this species may be required, given the fact that the chicken farm to the south affords a significant barrier to this species from a pond to the south it may be possible to take reasonable avoidance measures instead, which will require a written site - specific method statement.

**4.11** In **summary**, therefore, no potential breeding bird habitat should be cleared between late March to the end of July. There is no potential for protected species on site except for the possibility of great crested newts crossing the site from nearby ponds, but although the need for survey of nearby ponds cannot be ruled out, it may be possible, given the absence of ponds on the site, to take reasonable avoidance measures instead. No other protected species, or habitat for protected species was found. It is, however, strongly recommended that, in order to accord with the National Planning Policy Framework<sup>23</sup> and to provide some positive ecological benefits, some of the wildlife conservation measures suggested by Gunnell, Murphy and Williams (2013) for instance, for the built environment should be incorporated into any proposed Scheme by means of a biodiversity plan for any completed development. Such measures could include the provision of bird<sup>24</sup> and bat boxes, a scheme of native species landscaping and similar measures, and should also include a plan for the long – term management of the ancient woodland to ensure that it retains and enhances its present character.

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<sup>23</sup> Department of Communities and Local Government, 2012.

<sup>24</sup> Especially sparrow terraces.

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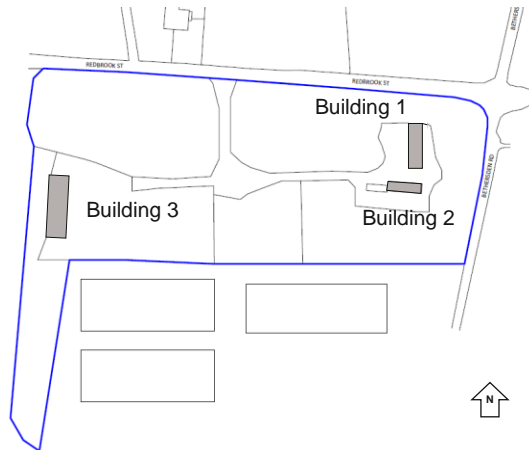
APPENDIX 1: LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED FROM THE SITE (All data approximate) (Notable species in red)				
	SCIENTIFIC NAME	VERNACULAR NAME	NOTES	NO SPP
<b>ALL FUNGI</b>				
	<i>Armillaria mellea</i>	Honey Fungus		
	<i>Calocybe gambosa</i>	St. George's Mushroom		
	<i>Fistulina hepatica</i>	Poor Man's Beefsteak	On oak.	
	<i>Piptoporus betulinus</i>	Birch Bracket		4
<b>LICHENS</b>				
	<i>Evernia prunastri</i>	A lichen		
	<i>Lecanora campestris</i>	A lichen		
	<i>Xanthoria parietina</i>	A lichen		3
<b>MOSSES</b>				
	<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	A moss		
	<i>Bryum sp.</i>	A moss		
	<i>Mnium hornum</i>	A moss		
	<i>Thuidium tamariscinum</i>	A moss	Other species present.	4
<b>VASCULAR PLANTS</b>				
	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	Ancient woodland indicator plant.	
	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore		
	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Hedge Garlic		
	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	Ancient woodland indicator plant.	
	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley		
	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	Greater Burdock		
	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat - grass		
	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort		
	<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Cuckoo Pint		
	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch		
	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckoo Flower		
	<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bittercress		
	<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge	Ancient woodland indicator plant.	
	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	Ancient woodland indicator plant.	

	<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky Mouse - ear	
	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	
	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	
	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock	
	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	
	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	
	<i>Crocsmia x crocosmiflora</i>	Montbretia	
	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot Grass	
	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	
	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Fuller's Teazel	
	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Hairy Willowherb	
	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	
	<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser Celandine	
	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	
	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Goosegrass	
	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Cranesbill	
	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	
	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Herb Bennett	
	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground Ivy	
	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	
	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	
	<i>Hieracium sp.</i>	Unidentified Hawkweed	
	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	
	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley	
	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	Ancient woodland indicator plant.
	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	Ancient woodland indicator plant.
	<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Stinking Iris	Ancient woodland indicator plant.
	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Deadnettle	
	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	
	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Rye Grass	
	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	
	<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	Lemon Balm	Garden escape?
	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forgetmenot	
	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Green Alkanet	

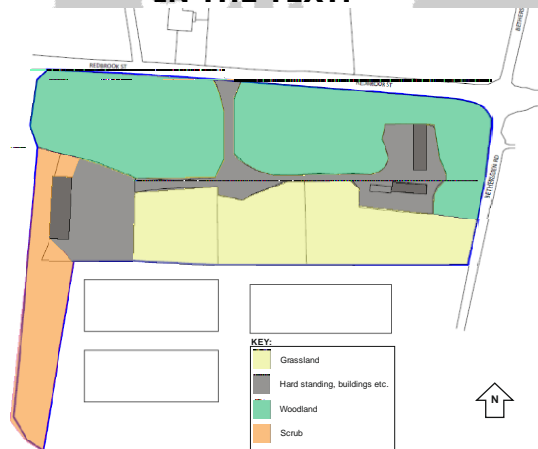
	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy Grass		
	<i>Picris echoides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue		
	<i>Picris hieracioides</i>	Hawkweed Oxtongue		
	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's horn Plantain		
	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain		
	<i>Plantago major</i>	Common Plantain		
	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil		
	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	Ancient woodland indicator plant.	
	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal		
	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Oak		
	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup		
	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose		
	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Blackberry		
	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Sorrel		
	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock		
	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad Dock		
	<i>Sagina apetala</i> agg.	Procumbent Pearlwort		
	<i>Salix capraea</i>	Goat Willow		
	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elderberry		
	<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Figwort		
	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort		
	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sowthistle		
	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort		
	<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed		
	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion		
	<i>Trifolium</i> sp.	Unidentified Clover		
	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle		
	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Giant Mullein		
	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Birdseye Speedwell		
	<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common Field Speedwell		
	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme - leaved Speedwell		79
<b>CRUSTACEA ISOPODA</b>				
	<i>Armadillidium vulgare</i>	Pillbug		
	<i>Oniscus asellus</i>	A woodlouse		2

<b>INSECTA DIPTERA</b>				
	<i>Diplolepis ilicis</i>	A gall - fly	In holly leaves.	
	<i>Phytomyza ranunculi</i>	A leaf - mining fly	In buttercup leaves.	2
<b>INSECTA: HYMENOPTERA</b>				
	<i>Bombus muscorum</i>	A bumble - bee		
	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	Buff-tailed Bumble Bee		
	<i>Lasius flavus</i>	Common Yellow Ant		
	<i>Lasius niger</i>	Common Black Ant		4
<b>INSECTA LEPIDOPTERA</b>				
	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Orange - tip		
	<i>Inachis io</i>	Peacock		2
<b>MOLLUSCA</b>				
	<i>Helix aspersa</i>	Garden snail		1
<b>BIRDS</b>				
	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Goldfinch		
	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Woodpigeon	Nests found.	
	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Blue Tit	Breeding.	
	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Robin	Singing males.	
	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch		
	<i>Parus major</i>	Great Tit		
	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Chiffchaff	Singing male.	
	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock	Breeding.	
	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Blackcap	Singing male.	
	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren	Nests found.	
	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Blackbird		11
<b>MAMMALS</b>				
	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Rabbit		1
<b>Total number of species:</b>				<b>113</b>

APPENDIX 2: BUILDING ASSESSMENT FOR BATS (nb. All data approximate)			
<b>Name of owner:</b>	Clyde Chapman.		
<b>Survey commissioned by:</b>	Patrick Durr Associates.		
<b>Address of site:</b>	Eleven Acre Shaw, Redbrook Street, Woodchurch, Kent.		
<b>OS grid reference:</b>	TQ942359		
<b>Date:</b>	4th May 2018		
<b>Surveyor:</b>	Martin Newcombe		
<b>Building no.:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Building type:</b>	Store	Store	Store
<b>Current use:</b>	Storage	Storage	Storage / disused
<b>Age:</b>	Late 20th century?	Late 20th century?	Late 20th century?
<b>Condition</b>	Good.	Good	In need of repair.
<b>Storeys:</b>	Ground floor only.	Ground floor only.	Ground floor only.
<b>Attic present?</b>	Absent.	Absent	Absent
<b>Cellar present?</b>	Absent.	Absent	Absent
<b>Walls:</b>	Block	Brick	Corrugated iron on a wooden frame.
Any wooden joints with potential for bats?	Absent.	Absent	Absent
Any cavities in brick or stone work suitable for bats?	Absent.	Absent	Absent
Cladding:	Absent.	Absent	Absent
<b>Walls:</b>	Solid	Solid?	Single skin (outer surface)
<b>Hanging tiles?</b>	Absent.	Absent	Absent
<b>Roof type:</b>	Flat	Flat	Single pitch
<b>Roof ridge orientation:</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Roof covering:</b>	Corrugated iron	Corrugated asbestos / cement fibre	Corrugated iron
<b>Lined with:</b>	Absent.	No data	Absent
<b>Soffits present?</b>	Absent.	Absent	Absent
<b>Insulation present?</b>	Absent.	No data	Absent
<b>Internal humidity:</b>	As external	No data	As external
<b>Heat source:</b>	Limited insolation only.	Insolation only.	Limited insolation only.
<b>Building Axis</b>	N - S	E - W	N - S
<b>Shade present?</b>	Partial	Absent	At least 70%
<b>Number of bats at time of visit:</b>	Absent.	Probably absent	Absent
<b>Droppings:</b>	Absent.	No data	Absent
<b>Summary bat status:</b>	Building structure and position unsuitable for bats.	Building structure and position unsuitable for bats.	Building structure and position unsuitable for bats.
<b>Constraints on survey:</b>	Absent.	Interior not surveyed.	Absent



**Figure 1: A MAP OF THE SITE WHICH IDENTIFIES THE BUILDINGS MENTIONED IN THE TEXT.**



**Figure 2: PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY OF THE SITE.**



**Figure 3: A TYPICAL VIEW OF THE INTERIOR OF THE ANCIENT WOODLAND.**





**Figure 4: THE INTERIOR OF BUILDING 1.**



**Figure 5: BUILDING 2 VIEWED FROM THE OUTSIDE.**



**Figure 6: THE GRASSLAND.**



**Figure 7: THE OAK TREE ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE ENTRANCE TRACKWAY.**



**Figure 8: THE DEAD OAK TREE NORTH – EAST OF THE WESTERNMOST YARD.**



**Figure 9: THE WESTERNMOST YARD.**



**Figure 10: PART OF BUILDING 3.**



**Figure 11: ONE OF THE POPLARS SHOWING THE CRACKED BARK.**