

BERKSHIRE LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE SELECTION FORM



Site Name:	Site code:
Land at Kentwood and Armour Hills	SU67S02
Local authority area:	Grid ref:
Reading BC	SU67187428
Owner:	Permission to survey:
Private Landowner	Yes
Survey date(s):	
15/04/2025	

Criterion	Evidence from surveys	Does the site qualify under this criterion ?																																																																											
Core Criteria																																																																													
1S. Rare or exceptional species features	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Taxon Group</th> <th>Taxon Name</th> <th>Common Name</th> <th>Last Rec Year</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Beetles</td> <td>Lucanus cervus</td> <td>Stag Beetle</td> <td>2019</td> <td>HabDir-A2np, WACA-Sch5-s9.5a, NERC-S41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td>Bufo bufo</td> <td>Common Toad</td> <td>2022</td> <td>WACA-Sch5-s9.5a, NERC-S41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td>Rana temporaria</td> <td>Common Frog</td> <td>2022</td> <td>HabDir-A5, WACA-Sch5-s9.5a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reptiles</td> <td>Anguis fragilis</td> <td>Slow-worm</td> <td>2022</td> <td>WACA-Sch5-s9.1k/s9.5a, NERC-S41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Birds</td> <td>Accipiter nisus</td> <td>Sparrowhawk</td> <td>2022</td> <td>Bird-Amber</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Birds</td> <td>Columba oenas</td> <td>Stock Dove</td> <td>2025</td> <td>Bird-Amber</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Birds</td> <td>Columba palumbus</td> <td>Woodpigeon</td> <td>2025</td> <td>Bird-Amber</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Birds</td> <td>Chloris chloris</td> <td>Greenfinch</td> <td>2023</td> <td>Bird-Red</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Birds</td> <td>Curruca communis</td> <td>Whitethroat</td> <td>2024</td> <td>Bird-Amber</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Birds</td> <td>Milvus milvus</td> <td>Red Kite</td> <td>2025</td> <td>BirdsDir-A1, WACA-Sch1-p1, RL-Global-post2001-NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Birds</td> <td>Passer domesticus</td> <td>House Sparrow</td> <td>2024</td> <td>NERC-S41, Bird-Red</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Birds</td> <td>Phylloscopus trochilus</td> <td>Willow Warbler</td> <td>2025</td> <td>Bird-Amber</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Birds</td> <td>Prunella modularis</td> <td>Dunnock</td> <td>2025</td> <td>NERC-S41, Bird-Amber</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Birds</td> <td>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</td> <td>Bullfinch</td> <td>2023</td> <td>NERC-S41, Bird-Amber</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Taxon Group	Taxon Name	Common Name	Last Rec Year	Status	Beetles	Lucanus cervus	Stag Beetle	2019	HabDir-A2np, WACA-Sch5-s9.5a, NERC-S41	Amphibians	Bufo bufo	Common Toad	2022	WACA-Sch5-s9.5a, NERC-S41	Amphibians	Rana temporaria	Common Frog	2022	HabDir-A5, WACA-Sch5-s9.5a	Reptiles	Anguis fragilis	Slow-worm	2022	WACA-Sch5-s9.1k/s9.5a, NERC-S41	Birds	Accipiter nisus	Sparrowhawk	2022	Bird-Amber	Birds	Columba oenas	Stock Dove	2025	Bird-Amber	Birds	Columba palumbus	Woodpigeon	2025	Bird-Amber	Birds	Chloris chloris	Greenfinch	2023	Bird-Red	Birds	Curruca communis	Whitethroat	2024	Bird-Amber	Birds	Milvus milvus	Red Kite	2025	BirdsDir-A1, WACA-Sch1-p1, RL-Global-post2001-NT	Birds	Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	2024	NERC-S41, Bird-Red	Birds	Phylloscopus trochilus	Willow Warbler	2025	Bird-Amber	Birds	Prunella modularis	Dunnock	2025	NERC-S41, Bird-Amber	Birds	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Bullfinch	2023	NERC-S41, Bird-Amber	Yes
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Birds	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Tawny Owl	2023	Bird-Amber
Birds	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling	2022	NERC-S41, Bird-Red
Birds	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren	2025	Bird-Amber
Birds	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing	2024	WACA-Sch1-p1, Bird-Amber
Birds	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	2025	NERC-S41, Bird-Amber
Birds	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare	2023	WACA-Sch1-p1, Bird-Red
Birds	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush	2022	Bird-Red
Mammals - Terrestrial (bats)	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Barbastelle	2023	UK Priority species-2007, Bern-A2, CMS_A2, CMS_EUROBATS-A1, England_NERC_S.41, HabDir-A2*, HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, RedList_GB_Vulnerable, WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b, WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a, WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c
Mammals - Terrestrial (bats)	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	Serotine	2023	HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5-s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b, RL-GB-post2001-VU
Mammals - Terrestrial (bats)	<i>Myotis</i> sp.	Myotis Bat species	2023	HabDir-A2np, HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5-s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b, NERC-S41, RL-GB-post2001-CR
Mammals - Terrestrial (bats)	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Natterer's Bat	2023	HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5-s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b
Mammals - Terrestrial (bats)	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Noctule	2024	HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5-s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b, NERC-S41
Mammals - Terrestrial (bats)	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	Nathusius Pipistrelle	2023	Bern-A2, CMS_A2, CMS_EUROBATS-A1, HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, RedList_GB_Near Threatened, WACA-Sch5_sect9.4b,

				WACA-Sch5_sect9.5a, WACA-Sch5Sect9.4c
Mammals - Terrestrial (bats)	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Common Pipistrelle	2024	HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5-s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b
Mammals - Terrestrial (bats)	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	Soprano Pipistrelle	2024	HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5-s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b, NERC-S41
Mammals - Terrestrial (bats)	Plecotus sp.	Long-eared Bat	2023	HabDir-A4, HabReg-Sch2, WACA-Sch5-s9.4b/s9.4c/s9.5a/s9.5b, NERC-S41
Mammals - Terrestrial	Erinaceus europaeus	Hedgehog	2023	NERC-S41, RL-GB-post2001-VU
Mammals - Terrestrial	Meles meles	Badger	2025	Badgers-1992

Amphibian and reptile records were not sufficient for the site to pass, though they are not insignificant. It was noted that these records are likely to represent populations reliant on adjacent areas such as the allotments.

There are a lot of bat species records. All of which are calls either heard from mobile detectors or recorded by static detectors. Eight of these species were recorded by ecological consultants between April and October in 2023. Five of these species were recorded on 3 or more occasions (Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule, Nathusius Pipistrelle and Serotine). There were no roost searches undertaken by them. Records made in 2024 and the 2023 Natterer's Bat were made by members of the bat group on the edge of the site. The rare Barbastelle had three contacts throughout the seven-month survey period.

As part of the panel's decision-making process, an overview of the bat records in the ecological report [ECO02861 | land at Kentwood Hill and Armour Hill, Tilehurst September 2024 by RPS group] was requested to discuss the site's eligibility for Criterion 1S [see screen shots below].

The Elkon Batlogger was the remote detector. Calls were analysed using Bat Explorer (Batlogger) and Kaleidoscope (Wildlife Acoustics) software to identify the bat species recorded.

Table 3-2: Numbers of bat contacts recorded during static monitoring surveys.

Month	Survey Dates	Recorder	Number of Nights Recording	Position	Figure Reference	Bat Species													Total
						COP	SOP	NAP	PIP	NOC	NLE	NYC	SER	LEB	MYO	BAR	NOID		
April	19/04/2023-25/04/2023	Static 1	5 then RF	SU 67186 74365	1	21	14	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	
		Static 2	7	SU 67218 74272	2	15	34	-	-	23	-	4	-	-	-	-	21	97	
May	26/05/2023-31/05/2023	Static 1	RF	SU 67186 74365	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		
		Static 2	6	SU 67218 74272	2	78	13	3	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	135	
June	22/06/2023-30/06/2023	Static 1 (A)	RF	SU 67173 74233	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		
		Static 2 (C)	6	SU 67173 74233	C	216	15	9	-	173	-	-	-	1	-	-	69	483	
July	20/07/2023-24/07/2023	Static 1	RF	SU 67186 74365	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		
		Static 2	5	SU 67218 74272	2	98	165	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	39	307	
August	07/08/2023-09/08/2023	Static 1	RF	SU 67186 74365	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		
		Static 2	6	SU 67218 74272	2	286	61	-	-	21	-	1	4	-	1	2	38	414	
September	08/09/2023-10/09/2023	Static 1	2 then RF	SU 67186 74365	1	664	28	1	-	44	-	4	1	24	1	-	211	978	
		Static 2	3	SU 67218 74272	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		
October	12/10/2023-16/10/2023	Static 1	1 then RF	SU 67186 74365	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		
		Static 2	5	SU 67218 74272	2	220	35	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	7	268		

Table 3-3: Average bat contacts recorded per night of recording during static monitoring surveys.

Month	Survey Dates	Recorder	Number of Nights Recording	Position	Figure Reference	Bat Species													Total
						COP	SOP	NAP	PIP	NOC	NLE	NYC	SER	LEB	MYO	BAR	NOID		
April	19/04/2023-25/04/2023	Static 1	5 then RF	SU 67186 74365	1	4.2	2.8	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.2	
		Static 2	7	SU 67218 74272	2	12.1	4.9	-	-	3.3	-	0.6	-	-	-	-	3	13.9	
May	26/05/2023-31/05/2023	Static 1	RF	SU 67186 74365	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		
		Static 2	6	SU 67218 74272	2	13	2.2	0.5	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.8	22.5	
June	22/06/2023-30/06/2023	Static 1 (A)	RF	SU 67173 74233	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		
		Static 2 (C)	6	SU 67173 74233	C	36	2.5	1.5	-	28.8	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	11.5	80.5	
July	20/07/2023-24/07/2023	Static 1	RF	SU 67186 74365	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		
		Static 2	5	SU 67218 74272	2	19.6	33	-	-	0.6	-	-	0.2	-	-	0.2	7.8	61.4	
August	07/08/2023-09/08/2023	Static 1	RF	SU 67186 74365	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		
		Static 2	6	SU 67218 74272	2	47.7	10.2	-	-	3.5	-	0.2	0.7	-	0.2	0.3	6.3	69	
September	08/09/2023-10/09/2023	Static 1	2 then RF	SU 67186 74365	1	332	14	0.5	-	33	-	2	0.5	12	0.5	-	105.5	489	
		Static 2	3	SU 67218 74272	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		
October	12/10/2023-16/10/2023	Static 1	1 then RF	SU 67186 74365	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		

Month	Survey Dates	Recorder	Number of Nights Recording	Position	Figure Reference	Bat Species													Total
						COP	SOP	NAP	PIP	NOC	NLE	NYC	SER	LEB	MYO	BAR	NOID		
			5	SU 67218 74272	2	44	7	-	-	0.4	-	0.8	-	-	-	-	1.4	53.6	

RF = Recorder failure COP = Common Pipistrelle, SOP = Soprano Pipistrelle, NAP = Nathusius Pipistrelle, PIP = Pipistrelle sp., NOC = Noctule, NLE = Leisler's bat, NYC = Nyctalus sp., SER = Serotine, LEB = Long-eared bat, MYO = Myotis sp., BAR = Barbastelle Bat, NOID= No identification/unidentifiable.

In the ecological report, the surveys revealed that this site is of county value for commuting/foraging bats, primarily on the basis of the presence Barbastelle.

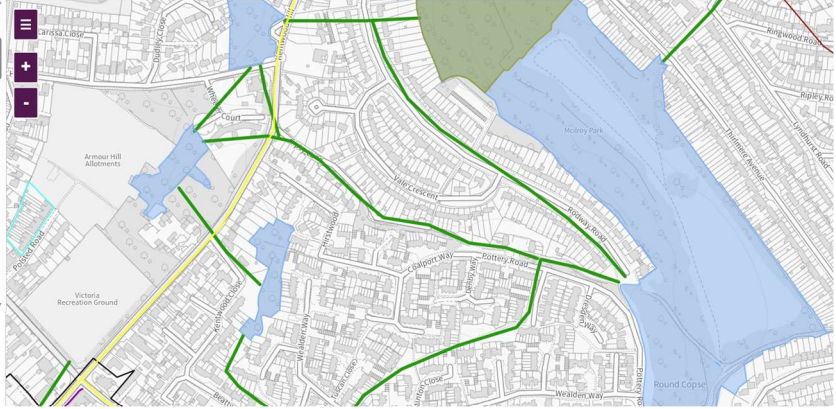
1H. Rare or exceptional habitat features

No exceptional habitat features were recorded.

No

2. Naturalness (habitat quality)	The woodland is not priority habitat with a sparse canopy including a number of introduced species and a species-poor field layer on disturbed ground. Bramble scrub is abundant at the edges. There are some older trees within the site (Ash, Oak, Crack-willow) and a variable structure, especially in The Withies. Although it is considered an urban site which could include habitat close to priority; there is not enough evidence that it is a degraded priority habitat.	No
3. Size or extent of features (habitat)	The site is small and therefore does not meet any necessary size thresholds.	No
4. Diversity (habitats or species)	The site is not diverse in habitats or species.	No

Contextual Criteria

5. Connectivity within the landscape	<p>The site is close to Arthur Newbery Park and Mclroy Park. The latter is in the West Reading Woodlands and LNRs Biodiversity Opportunity Area (https://berkshirelnp.org/west-reading-woodlands-and-lnrs).</p> <p>According to Reading's local plan it is at the intersection of 3 green links: (https://my.reading.gov.uk/custom/ReadingLocalPlanSolo.html)</p>  <p>These are also good foraging links for bats.</p>	Yes
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6. Fragility	The site does not contain any fragile habitats.	No
7. Recorded history and cultural associations	It was inclosed under an 1811 act as land allotted for the benefit of the poor. It's still owned by a charity formerly known as Tilehurst Poor's Land Charity.	No
8. Value for appreciation of nature	The site can be seen from the adjacent allotments, playing field and pavements. However, it is not accessible to the public.	No
9. Value for learning	Nothing found	No
Does the site qualify for LWS selection?	<p>YES/NO (qualifies by having:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - core criteria 1S OR - one of core criteria 1H or 2 & at least one of core criteria 3 or 4 OR - one of core criteria 1H or 2 & two or more contextual criteria (5-9) 	Yes

Comments:

Passes criteria: 1S and 5.
 1S - Based on the assemblage, with four or more species regularly using the site for commuting/foraging.

The bat surveys from the consultants ecological report indicated that a diverse assemblage of bat species uses this site, which is notable given its urban environment. The records presented demonstrated regular use of the site by four species (Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Nathusius' Pipistrelle and Noctule). It was also noted that Serotine and Barbastelle bats were recorded on more than one occasion, which is significant as these species are considered vulnerable.

5 - It appears well connected for an urban site, as supported by the green corridor mapping from the Local Plan and its proximity and connectivity through nearby woodlands to the BOA (Biodiversity Opportunity Area).