Earned Recognition Accreditation Levels

Table 1. Earned Recognition Accreditation Levels required to register sites

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Accreditation Level 1 (lower risk)</th><th colspan="2">Accreditation Level 2 (medium risk)</th><th colspan="2">Accreditation Level 3 (higher risk)</th></tr>
<tr><th>Species to be impacted</th><th>Roosts to be impacted*</th><th>Species to be impacted</th><th>Roosts to be impacted*</th><th>Species to be impacted</th><th>Roosts to be impacted*</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Group 1 species† (brown long-eared, common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle)

Group 2 species† (Brandt's, Daubenton's, Natterer's, whiskered, Leisler's, noctule, serotine, Nathusius' pipistrelle)</td><td rowspan="2">Feeding roost

Night roost

Day roost

Transitional/ occasional roost

(For all roost types in Accreditation Level 1 – used by individuals or small numbers of bats)</td><td>Group 1 species† (brown long-eared, common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle)</td><td>Satellite roost

Maternity roost

Hibernation roost

Mating site§</td><td>Group 2 species† (Brandt's, Daubenton's, Natterer's, whiskered, Leisler's, noctule, serotine, Nathusius' pipistrelle)

Group 3 species† (barbastelle, Bechstein's, grey long-eared, lesser horseshoe, greater horseshoe, Alcathoe)</td><td>Satellite roost

Maternity roost

Hibernation roost

Mating site</td></tr>
<tr><td>Group 3 species† (barbastelle, Bechstein's, grey long-eared, lesser horseshoe, greater horseshoe, Alcathoe)</td><td>Feeding roost

Night roost

Day roost

Transitional/ occasional roost

(Also Group 1 and Group 2 species† where larger numbers of bats involved)</td><td>All bat species
Any roost in or related to a nationally or internationally designated site for a given species, or that has potential to qualify as a designated site for bats

A site that relates to a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

Any roost of 'high conservation significance'‖

Any other bat species, roost type or habitat feature¶</td><td>Swarming site</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Trees and woodland:
Up to 4 tree roosts and 0.25ha trees/woodland affected by proposed works

Where number of tree roosts or extent of trees/woodland exceed these thresholds, the site is pushed into Level 2/3</td><td colspan="2">Trees and woodland:
Up to 4 tree roosts and 0.25ha trees/woodland affected by proposed works

Where number of tree roosts or extent of trees/woodland exceed these thresholds, the site is pushed into Level 3</td><td colspan="2">Trees and woodland:
Any site where there are 5 or more tree roosts and/or where more than 0.25ha of trees/woodland is affected by proposed works (of species and roost types in any of Level 1, Level 2 and/or Level 3)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Total number of species: up to 3
Total number of roosts: up to 7‡
(of species and roost types in Level 1)

Where numbers of species or roosts exceed these thresholds, the site is pushed into Level 2/3</td><td colspan="2">Total number of species: up to 5
Total number of roosts: up to 11‡
(of species and roost types in Level 1 and/or Level 2)

Where numbers of species or roosts exceed these thresholds, the site is pushed into Level 3</td><td colspan="2">Any site where there are 6 or more species and/or 12 or more roosts present‡
(of species and roost types in any of Level 1, Level 2 and/or Level 3)</td></tr>
</table>

*See Table 2 for roost type definitions. Species and roost impacts refer to destruction, damage (including roost modification) and disturbance.
†**Species groups** Group 1 species: brown long-eared bat, common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle Group 2 species: Brandt's bat, Daubenton's bat, Natterer's bat, whiskered bat, Leisler's bat, noctule, serotine, Nathusius' pipistrelle Group 3 species: barbastelle, Bechstein's bat, grey long-eared bat, lesser horseshoe bat, greater horseshoe bat, Alcathoe bat.
‡**Number of roosts** The definition of a roost varies depending on the structure, how bats are using it and the judgement of the person who has undertaken the surveys. A whole structure or part of a structure may be considered as a roost, depending on the circumstances. For example, 3 common pipistrelle bats may be using separate roof tiles as roosting sites/access points but the roof structure itself could be considered as one roost because it is in use by a single species. But if 2 common pipistrelle bats and a whiskered bat are using roof tiles – then as there are 2 species this would be considered to be 2 roosts. If brown long-eared bats are using a structure for different purposes, for example as a feeding roost and a day roost, there would be 2 roosts, even though it is 1 species.
§**Mating site of Group 1 species in Accreditation Level 2** For common and soprano pipistrelle bats this refers to a mating site used by small numbers of bats at any one time. For brown long-eared bats, this refers to any mating site that is not a swarming site. Any site where large numbers of bats of Group 1 species gather and display swarming behaviour (except where this is associated with a maternity roost) would fall within Accreditation Level 3.
‖**Roost of high conservation significance** This category includes maternity and hibernation sites of Annex II species, very large traditional maternity colonies of any species, hibernation sites used by significant numbers of bats of any species, Regionally and Nationally important roosts of any species, and sites meeting nationally and internationally designated site status.
¶**'Other' bat species, roost type or habitat feature** This category should be used where a bat species, roost type or habitat feature does not fit in one of the other categories.

Earned Recognition Accreditation Levels

Accreditation Level 1 contains categories of licensed work which are likely to be lower risk. Levels 2 and 3 contain categories of licensed work which are more likely to be medium and higher risk, respectively, and which require higher levels of competence to deliver good outcomes for bats. In this context, risk combines conservation status of species (with species grouped into three categories), conservation significance of roost type, and also takes into account presence of multiple species and multiple roosts. Some additional criteria are also used to identify potentially higher risk situations, including: projects that relate to nationally or internationally designated sites, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, or any roosts of high conservation significance.

Species have been grouped according to population size and conservation status. Group 1 contains the most abundant species in England and Group 3 contains Annex II species and other rare species with restricted distributions.

How to use Table 1

Prospective ER Consultants should use Table 1 in conjunction with the Competency Profiles for Bat Mitigation to decide the appropriate Accreditation Level to apply for. For each Accreditation Level a range of competencies is defined and ecologists will be required to demonstrate that they meet the relevant competencies before they are accredited to work at the defined level and can apply to undertake licensed work under the pilot Earned Recognition bat mitigation licensing scheme.

Accreditation Levels 2 and 3 encompass the categories of competence below them; thus, Accreditation Level 2 confers competence for both Levels 1 and 2; and Accreditation Level 3 similarly confers competence for Levels 1, 2 and 3.

Registered ER Consultants should use Table 1 to identify which Accreditation Level is required for a particular bat licensed project prior to preparing and submitting a site registration application. Where more than one species and/or roost type is present, the Accreditation Level required for that site is in line with the species/roost type (or other criterion) which falls in the highest category. For example, a project impacting on a single common pipistrelle day roost (Level 1) and a serotine maternity roost (Level 3) would require Accreditation Level 3.

Table 2. Roost type definitions

Day roost	A place where individual bats, or small groups of males, rest or shelter in the day but are rarely found by night in the summer.
Night roost	A place where bats rest or shelter in the night but are rarely found in the day. May be used by a single individual on occasion or it could be used regularly by the whole colony.
Feeding roost	A place where individual bats or a few individuals rest or feed during the night but are rarely present by day.
Transitional/occasional roost	A place used by a few individuals or occasionally small groups for generally short periods of time on waking from hibernation or in the period prior to hibernation.
Swarming site	A place where large numbers of males and females gather during late summer to autumn. Appear to be important mating sites.
Mating site	Sites where mating takes place from later summer and can continue through winter.
Maternity roost	A place where female bats give birth and raise their young to independence.
Hibernation roost	A place where bats may be found individually or together during winter. They have a constant cool temperature and high humidity.

Satellite roost	An alternative roost found in close proximity to the main nursery colony used by a few individual breeding females to small groups of breeding females throughout the breeding season.