

Nesting Bird and Bat Friendly Demolition Method Statement

PROJECT TITLE: Land at Dragon Park, Merthyr Tydfil

National Grid Reference : SO 05436 04336

DATE: October 2020

1.1 The applicant is seeking planning permission to complete the demolition a number of partly demolished buildings on a former large factory site. A suite of bat surveys were undertaken in 2019 by suitably qualified ecologists who concluded that no bats were using the buildings on site as a day roost during the survey periods.

1.2 Walked transects of the site did however did identify bats using the site to commute and to feed.

1.3 The buildings on site are already part demolished and it is suggested that these are unsuitable for hibernating bats due to the building's being unlikely to retain a consistent stable temperature range that is suitable for bats during the winter months.

1.4 These buildings however are suitable for use as an occasional day roost by bats. Therefore any demolition must be undertaken using a bat friendly methodology. Bat are a protected species and are afforded legal protection under the The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. It is a criminal offence to:

- Deliberately capture or kill a bat
- Deliberately disturb a bat
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a bat
- Keep, transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange a living or dead bat or any part of a bat

1.5 The site is also suitable for nesting birds.

1.6 All breeding birds are protected under schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended. Under this Act it is an offence to:

- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird

1.7 Enhanced protection is afforded to species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act, this additional protection makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

2.0 Demolition Methodology

2.1 The British bird nesting season is from February to August inclusive. UK bats hibernate from November to February inclusive. Therefore if demolition of the remaining structures commences from the middle of November 2020 and is completed before the end of January 2021 then neither nesting birds or bats will be negatively impacted upon. The site would not have to be cleared of rubble in this timeframe just any remaining vertical structure.

2.2 Any vegetation that is planned for removal that is greater than 0.5m in height above ground level would also be required to be moved in this time frame.

2.3 If the demolition is completed within this time frame, the demolition contractor will notify the Local Planning Authority of the date that all structures have been demolished along with the date that this was achieved.

2.4 If demolition of the structures is not possible by the end of January 2021 then a retained suitably qualified ecologist will be appointed as an ecological clerk of works for the remaining demolition process.

2.5 The general site manager will be appointed as responsible person for the site. The ecologist and site manager will discuss time frames and works will not be undertaken on any structural demolition until the site manager is in possession of a sign document from the ecologist that it is ecologically safe to proceed.

2.6 The ecologist responsibilities will be:

- The ecologist will give a tool box talk to all contractors prior to works starting on what is permitted.
- There will be no night time working.
- The structures will not have any direct flood lighting.
- No works will be permitted to the structures until a further nesting bird and bat emergence survey is undertaken. This survey must be undertaken 24 hours before any demolition of any structure. The site manager will be informed in writing the results of the surveys and if demolition is permitted.

2.7 While the proposed works do not directly impact on the bat roost and therefore a European Protected Species license issued by Natural Resources Wales will not be required at this stage it is imperative that working practices are adopted to ensure that no bats are disturbed.

3.0 If Protected Species are Discovered.

3.1 If nesting birds are discovered at any stage the nest will be cordoned off by 20m and no works will be permitted within this exclusion zone until the chicks have fledged. A further survey for bats and nesting birds will be undertaken at this stage, and the results forwarded to the site manager.

3.2 If bats are discovered using the site at any time, NRW will be informed and a European protected Species Licence applied for to sanction the works. No further works will then be permitted until the license is issued.

3.3 Outside the supervision period in the very unlikely case that a bat is discovered and that it is necessary to remove a bat to avoid it being harmed, gloves should be worn. It should be carefully caught in a cardboard box and kept in the dark in a quiet place until it can be released at dusk near to where it was

found, or moved to an undisturbed part of the building, with outside access, and placed in a location safe from predators. THE BAT WORKER MUST BE CONTACTED IN THIS INSTANCE AND WILL ATTEND SITE TO ADVISE. IF THE BAT WORKER IS NOT CONTACTABLE THEN NATURAL RESOURCES WALES MUST BE CONTACTED AND ADVICE SORT.

3.4 The bat will be inspected ensuring that it is healthy and uninjured.
The bat will be relocated to a bat box which will be erected onsite.

3.5 The contact details of the bat worker must be provided to the site manager, to be on-call incase any bats or nesting birds are discovered. In the event that bats or nesting birds are found during work, all work must cease and the retained ecologist contacted for further advice.

4.0 Method Statement Contractor Induction Sheet

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Richard Watkins
Director
Ecological Services Ltd

Signed: *R Watkins*

Date: October 2020