



Bat and Nesting Bird Friendly Working Methodology

Brynhyfryd Chapel, Treharris, Brynhyfryd Chapel



Instructed by: Steve Groucott

Reported by: Ecological Services Ltd

10 Mount Pleasant, Llanelly Hill, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 0NT

Author	Date	Version
Richard Watkins	April 2023	V2.0

T: 01873 268017/07866461726

E: rich@ecologicalservices.wales

W: www.ecologicalservices.wales

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Recent Bat survey works did not identify any bat roost in the building but due to land access issues the survey of the north east aspect of the building was suboptimal.

1.2 A bat friendly working methodology will therefore be adopted prior to works commencing on the building to ensure that no protected species are impacted on and all contractors will be inducted onto the methodology.

2.0 Prior to Works Commencing on Site

- **A suitably qualified ecologist will be retained for the duration of the project.**
- **Works will commence outside the core hibernation period for bats which is November through February inclusive. Works will only commence once the weather is warm enough for bat activity, i.e. consistently over 10 degrees centigrade.**
- **The ecologist will give a ‘tool box talk’ to all contractors prior to works starting.**
- **There will be no night time working.**
- **The area will not have any flood lighting.**
- **The contractors will be briefed on the details below.**
- **If at any time the schedule of works change then prior to any additional works starting the retained ecologist will be informed. No additional works are to start until the ecologist notifies the client in writing that these works are ecologically permissible.**

Bats are unlikely to be present within the building, and the likelihood of bats being present when works commence will remain low, the following precautionary measures should be taken.

- **In summary the law states that 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**
- **It is imperative that working practices are adopted to ensure that no bats are disturbed.**
- **Bats use different buildings and structures at different times of the year.**
- **Bats are unable to build roosts themselves but instead rely on both man-made and naturally occurring features to provide suitable accommodation. Bats generally prefer older buildings built with traditional materials, as traditional building methods provide more opportunities for gaps and entrances to buildings. Traditional cut roofs are preferred to a roof with trusses. Bats also prefer to roost where the external roost area has access to sunlight during the day such as south facing roof elevations.**
- **Bats can utilise the following features on a building; end tiles, barge boards, soffit, gable ends, porches, lead flashing, hanging tiles, ridge tiles, broken tiles, eaves, sash window frames, wood cladding, fascia boards, window sills, and internal roof spaces and timbers. Although this list demonstrates the most popular roosting sites, it is by no means definitive. Bats can use apertures as small as 10mm in diameter to gain access. If you can put your thumb into a hole then a bat can gain access to the building.**

- The U.K bat population is divided into two distinct families, Rhinolophidae and Vespertilionidae. In general, Rhinolophidae (Horseshoe) bats differ in their roosting requirements to Vespertilionidae (the remainder of UK bat species). Horseshoe bats prefer to roost in large areas such as internal attic spaces and hang in the open from the roof of the roost. They tend to roost in visible clusters to maintain the high temperatures that a maternity colony needs. Horseshoe bats also prefer free flight access and egress into the roosting area. Horseshoe bats tend to be more light averting to other UK bat species, and routinely fly around the internal roosting area to warm up before exiting. It is noted that Plecotus (Long Eared) bats share some of these preferences. Vesper bats are, on the whole, crevice dwelling bats who squeeze into small apertures to access the roost. These, like Horseshoe bats, will cluster in maternity colonies, but are normally hidden from view. Vesper bats, with the exception of Long Eared bats, do not require a large internal roost to fly around before exit. Long Eared bats, although part of the vesper family, are very light averting and will, on occasions share the roosting patterns of both Horseshoe and crevice dwelling species.
- Bats can carry dangerous diseases. However, this is very uncommon in British bats, and almost unknown in species of bats that commonly occupy buildings, although it is exceptionally rare, a risk still exists. Out of 17 species of UK bats, only a handful in number have tested positive for the European Bat Lyassa Virus type II.
- Bats have very small teeth which can not penetrate normal working gloves. Bats tend to be asleep during the day and take a number of minutes to wake up.
- In the very unlikely situation that any contractor is bitten by a bat then medical advice must be immediately sought.
- Most UK bats are roughly the size of an adult human thumb although bats look bigger when flying because of their open wings.



- Most bats like to squeeze into small gaps but some like to hang off roof timbers and felt.



- Please be aware of bat droppings. If these are seen then bats are or have been present.



3.0 When Removing or patch fixing the Roof

- The supervising ecologist will make a pre works inspection. Once the ecologist has established there is no evidence of the presence of bats works can proceed. Under direct supervision of the ecologist follow the contractors are start in the area of works and as softly as possible lift the ridge tile with a bar, if the ridge tile needs to be removed. The contractor will then search the underside of the ridge tile and also inspect the aperture on the roof where the ridge tile was. Once no bats have been seen, the contractor will hand down the ridge tile and the process will be repeated. Once the area of ridge tiles within the scope of works have been removed, the same process will be applied to the slates starting from the top row.

- The removal of any existing slates and other roof materials will be by hand and taking care not to twist or bang. The underside of ridge tiles will be checked and a careful watch for bats will be kept during the operation.
- If evidence of bat use is identified works will stop. NRW will be informed and a European Protected Species Licence will be applied for to sanction the works. No further works will be permitted until the license is issued.
- If bats are discovered, all works will stop and the bat ecologist will house the bat in a temporary portable box. NRW will be informed and a European Protected Species Licence will be applied for to sanction the works. No further works will be permitted until the license is issued.
- The bat will be inspected to ensure that it is healthy and uninjured and the bat will be relocated to a bat box which will be erected onsite.
- The contact details of the bat worker must be provided to the site manager, to be on-call incase any bats are discovered. In the event that bats are found during works, all works must cease and the retained ecologist contacted for further advice.
- Be observant during works for bats which may use the building if new areas of the roof are exposed and left open over night. Bats are opportunistic and may make use of gaps opened up during works overnight.
- Outside of 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 THE SITE TO ADVISE. IF THE BAT WORKER IS NOT CONTACTABLE THEN NATURAL RESOURCES WALES MUST BE CONTACTED AND ADVICE SOUGHT.**

4.0 Nesting Birds

If the vegetation on the front of the building is to be removed this will ideally be undertaken outside the core nesting season for birds which is February through August inclusive.

If the works are to be undertaken within the nesting bird season then the works will only be undertaken once a nesting bird survey has been undertaken. The legal owner will not commence works until they are in possession of written confirmation from a suitably qualified ecologist that no nesting birds are present. Any de-vegetation works will then be completed within 24 hours of this documentation. If there is any time delay then works will need to be directly supervised by a suitably qualified ecologist.

If nesting birds are found to be in residence then works will be postponed until any nests become inactive. Further nesting birds surveys will be required and no works will be undertaken until the legal owner is in possession of written confirmation for the ecologist that no active nests are present.

5.0 Mitigation

- Mitigation is proposed in section 10 of the accompanying bat scoping survey:

Bat Scoping Survey: Brynhyfryd Chapel, Treharris, Brynhyfryd Chapel, V1.0, dated October 2022

- This method statement must be followed in its entirety.
- Any proposed mitigation for roosting bats or nesting birds must remain in the building in perpetuity.
- Any bat boxes must not be illuminated during the night.
- Any questions? Please sign to acknowledge this document.

