

A Precautionary Working Method Statement for Bats
on behalf of

Highfield Property Group
for
62C High Street
Cefn-Coed-y-Cymmer
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 2PL



Produced by: **Little Wing Ecology CYF (A Not-for-profit Company Limited by Guarantee)**
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Project Overview

Client	Highfield Property Group
Site / Job	62C High Street, Cefn-Coed-y-Cymmer, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 2PL
Report Type	A Precautionary Working Method Statement for Bats
Report Reference	LT383-MS-25
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Prepared by	Nicholas Stephen Aldridge
License number	S094182/1

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1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE DETAILS

1.1 Site Information

Project Detail	Information
Site Address	62C High Street, Cefn-Coed-y-Cymmer, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 2PL
Grid Reference	SO 03332 07851
Building Type	A small, detached and derelict commercial unit. The structure is unoccupied and is located on a main service road (High Street), centrally within the settlement of Cefn-Coed-y-Cymmer.
Construction	Block built, cement render
Building Age	Undetermined
Current Use	Commercial
Proposed Works	Refurbishment, with the addition of a second story.
Planning Reference	-
Start Date	November 2025
Duration	6 months
Optimal Timing	Any time of year, no restrictions

1.2 Survey Information

Survey Detail	Information
Survey Date(s)	August 2025
Survey Type	A Bat emergence Survey
Surveyor	N.S. Aldridge - Little Wing Ecology CYF
Bat Licence Number	S094182/1
Features Identified	The roof inspection revealed several structural issues. The main roof lacked roofing felt beneath the slates, whilst ridge tiles were properly sealed. Multiple raised or slipped slates were noted on the eastern elevation's southern edge, and a gap between slates and verge trim on the western elevation could allow roof space access. Raised leadwork appeared at the south-eastern corner. The loft space contained numerous gaps in brickwork and timber crevices. A significant gap was found behind northern elevation bargeboards. No cellars existed, and no bat evidence (droppings, staining, or feeding remains) was observed during internal or external inspections.
Evidence Found	None
Risk Assessment	Bats likely absent but features could support occasional/opportunistic use
Supervision Required	Yes, but only at identified PRFs. This is a negligible-risk site. The licence bat worker will remain on-call for the duration of the work

1.3 Personnel

Role	Name	Contact
Licensed Bat Worker	N S Aldridge	07985 395251 nic@littlewingecology.cymru
Site Manager	Robert Price	07980601687
Principal Contractor	Highfield Property Group	As above

Role	Name	Contact
Client	Highfield Property Group	As above

1.4 Emergency Contacts

Contact	Number
Licensed Bat Worker	07985 395251
Site Manager	07980601687
Natural Resources Wales (24hr)	0300 065 3000
Local Bat Carer	Nic Aldridge 07985 395251
Veterinary Practice	Aberdare Rd Georgetown Merthyr Tydfil CF48 1AT

1.5 Purpose and Legal Context

This Precautionary Method Statement provides guidance for managing negligible bat-related risks during works where:

- A Preliminary Roost Assessment found bat presence extremely unlikely (negligible risk)
- Features present offer very limited potential to support roosting bats
- No evidence of bats was found during inspection
- On-site supervision is not required but Licensed Bat Worker remains on call

Legal Protection: All UK bat species are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is an offence to deliberately or recklessly disturb bats, damage/destroy roosts, or obstruct access to roosts.

Following this method statement demonstrates due diligence in the unlikely event a bat is encountered.

Guidance References:

- Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition, Collins 2023)
- UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines (Reason & Wray 2023, updated 2025)
- Bat Conservation Trust - Advice for injured or grounded bats

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Licensed Bat Worker

- Supervision of sensitive areas by a suitably experienced and licensed bat ecologist
- Deliver a tool-box talk prior to the start of work
- Available by phone during all working hours (On-call)
- Provide pre-works briefing document to site personnel
- Available to attend site if bat discovered (within a reasonable timeframe)
- Provide remote advice on bat handling if required
- Attend site if bat requires assessment or cannot be safely managed remotely
- Review works completion record

2.2 Site Manager/Principal Contractor

- Ensure all operatives briefed on this method statement before works commence

- Ensure copy of method statement available on site at all times
- Ensure care box and gloves available on site
- Contact Licensed Bat Worker immediately if bat discovered
- Stop works to affected area if bat found
- Complete works record sheet on completion
- Implement careful working practices throughout

2.3 Site Operatives

- Read this method statement before starting work
- Work carefully and methodically
- Remain vigilant for bats during all work
- Stop immediately if bat discovered
- Contact Site Manager who will contact Licensed Bat Worker
- Do not handle bats except following emergency procedures (Section 4)
- Follow all precautionary measures

3. PRECAUTIONARY WORKING METHOD

3.1 General Principles

Although bat risk is negligible, work carefully:

Work methodically:

- Remove materials systematically, section by section
- Work during good daylight hours
- Progress in controlled manner

Work carefully:

- Lift rather than drop materials where possible
- Place removed materials down gently
- Avoid creating piles where bats could be crushed

Stay vigilant:

- Check materials as you work
- Look for signs of bats (droppings, staining)
- Remember bats are small (thumb-sized)

3.2 Before Starting Work Each Day

- Check this method statement is available on site
- Confirm Licensed Bat Worker contact details are available
- Ensure care box and gloves available (see Appendix B)
- Note weather conditions
- If very cold (below 5°C) or very hot (above 30°C), work with extra care

3.3 Material Removal Procedure

Visual Check:

- Before disturbing materials, conduct visual inspection
- Look for gaps, crevices, cavities
- Use torch for dark areas
- Check under overlaps and behind features

Careful Removal:

- Remove materials by hand where possible
- Lift carefully rather than pulling or dropping
- Check underside of each item before setting down
- Pay attention to:
 - Undersides of tiles/slates
 - Timber joints
 - Behind fascias/barge boards
 - Roof voids and wall cavities
 - Inside gaps or tubes

Check Exposed Areas:

- Once materials removed, check exposed surfaces
- Look along timbers, joints, crevices
- Use torch for dark corners
- Look for bat droppings (small, dark, crumbly pellets)

3.4 Weather Considerations

Mild weather (10-20°C): Standard precautions - any bat would be alert

Cold weather (below 10°C): Extra care - bats may be torpid (sleepy)

Hot weather (above 25°C): Check carefully - bats may seek cool crevices

Wet weather: Extra care - bats may be sheltering from rain

3.5 Bat Identification

UK bats are:

- Very small (35-80mm body length, thumb-sized)
- Brown or grey coloured
- Furry with leathery wings folded against body
- Found in crevices, hanging from timber, tucked in corners

Common species in buildings:

- Pipistrelle bats (most common) - very small, light brown
- Brown long-eared bats - larger with very long ears
- Serotine bats - larger, dark brown

Do not confuse with mice (which have tails but no wings) **or large moths** (insects, not furry)

4. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES IF BAT DISCOVERED

4.1 Immediate Actions

STOP WORK IMMEDIATELY in the area where bat found

DO:

- Keep calm - bats are harmless and protected
- Keep bat in view if possible
- Prevent bat from being injured
- Contact Site Manager immediately

- Site Manager to contact Licensed Bat Worker on call
- Take photograph if safe to do so (do not disturb bat – do not use a flash)

DO NOT:

- Continue working in area
- Handle bat unless absolutely necessary (see Section 4.3)
- Attempt to trap or capture bat
- Spray bat with water or chemicals
- Allow pets near bat
- Expose bat to direct sunlight or extreme temperatures

4.2 Assessing the Situation

Contact Licensed Bat Worker for advice before taking action

Is the bat safe where it is?

- If safe, leave alone until evening when it will fly away naturally
- Protect from disturbance, pets, children
- Monitor from distance
- Continue work in other areas away from bat

Does the bat need to be moved? Only if:

- It is in immediate danger (about to be crushed, exposed to extreme weather)
- Bat appears injured or grounded

Licensed Bat Worker will provide remote advice or attend site if needed

4.3 Emergency Bat Rescue Procedure (Imminent Threat Only)

Only handle a bat if there is imminent threat of harm and Licensed Bat Worker advises remote handling is necessary.

This procedure follows Bat Conservation Trust guidance for rescuing injured or disorientated bats.

Step 1: Prepare

Put on thick gloves (gardening gloves or similar)

- Never handle bats with bare hands
- Small risk of European Bat Lyssavirus (bat rabies) - extremely rare but present

Prepare container:

- Use ventilated box/container (see Appendix B)
- Line with soft cloth or kitchen paper (not fluffy towels)
- Ensure secure but ventilated

Step 2: Contain the Bat

If bat is on a surface:

- Place box over bat
- Slide card/rigid paper underneath
- Carefully turn box upright
- Ensure lid secure with ventilation holes

If bat needs to be picked up:

- Approach slowly and calmly
- Cup gloved hands gently around bat
- Do NOT squeeze - bats are very delicate
- Transfer immediately to prepared container
- Close lid securely

Never:

- Handle with bare hands
- Squeeze or restrain tightly
- Hold by wings
- Allow children to handle

Step 3: Keep Bat Safe

Container placement:

- Quiet, cool, dark location
- Away from direct sunlight, heaters, draughts
- Safe from pets and children
- Temperature approximately 10-15°C

While bat is contained:

- Check periodically but do not disturb
- Do not offer food or water unless advised
- Keep container secure
- Contact Licensed Bat Worker for further advice
- Maximum containment: a few hours only

Step 4: Next Steps

Licensed Bat Worker will advise on:

- Whether bat can be released at dusk (if healthy)
- Whether bat needs to be transferred to bat carer
- Whether works need to be reassessed
- Any reporting requirements

Release procedure (if bat healthy and Licensed Bat Worker advises):

- Release at dusk when bats naturally emerge
- Release at or very near point of capture
- Suitable weather: dry, mild (above 8°C), light winds
- Position bat on tree trunk, wall, or elevated surface near cover
- Bat should crawl upward then fly
- If bat does not fly within 10-15 minutes, contact Licensed Bat Worker

Transfer to carer (if advised):

- Bat appears injured, thin, dehydrated
- Flightless juvenile
- Unable to fly
- Licensed Bat Worker will arrange transfer or provide carer contact

Step 5: After Bat Managed

1. Contact Licensed Bat Worker to report outcome
2. Photograph location where bat found
3. Complete incident section of works record (Appendix A)
4. Licensed Bat Worker will advise if works can continue or require reassessment
5. Document: date, time, location, description, actions, outcome

4.4 If Bitten or Scratched

Immediate action:

- Wash wound thoroughly with soap and water for several minutes
- Seek medical attention - inform doctor you were bitten by a bat
- Contact Licensed Bat Worker to report incident
- Risk of EBLV is extremely low but medical assessment essential

4.5 Roost Discovery

If evidence suggests features used more than anticipated:

- Multiple bats found
- Accumulations of droppings
- Grounded juveniles
- Other significant signs

Actions:

1. Stop all works immediately
2. Contact Licensed Bat Worker urgently
3. Do not resume works until advised
4. Licensed Bat Worker will attend site to assess
5. May require licence application or revised approach

5. TIMING AND SEASONAL CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Optimal Working Periods

Works can proceed year-round at negligible-risk sites, but these periods present lowest risk:

Best periods:

- April to early May: Bats active, before maternity
- September to October: Bats active, after maternity, before hibernation

Acceptable with standard care:

- March and November: Transitional periods
- June to August: Maternity season (extremely unlikely at this site)
- December to February: Hibernation period (extremely unlikely at this site)

5.2 Seasonal Precautions

If working May-August:

- Young bats cannot fly until July/August
- Flightless juvenile found must be kept with mother or transferred to specialist care
- Work carefully in warm, sheltered locations

If working November-March:

- Bats may be torpid in cold weather
- If below 8°C, work especially carefully
- Allow extra time for torpid bats to wake
- Do not expose to sudden temperature changes

6. SITE-SPECIFIC MEASURES

If working November-March:

- Bats may be torpid in cold weather
- If below 8°C, work especially carefully
- Allow extra time for torpid bats to wake
- Do not expose to sudden temperature changes

To mitigate the limited risk of impacting hibernating bats, all works undertaken within the winter period should only proceed when ambient temperatures are consistently above 10°C to minimise disturbance to torpid bats.

Lighting:

- Work during daylight hours where possible
- Avoid directing task lighting at potential bat features
- No flood lighting during dusk/night periods

Noise:

- Standard construction practices acceptable given negligible risk

Dust suppression:

- Dampen materials before removal where appropriate

Access retention:

- n/a

Enhancement opportunities (optional):

- Integrate bat box to be installed on rear elevation

7. BIOSECURITY AND HEALTH

7.1 Health Precautions

Rabies/EBLV awareness:

- UK rabies-free since 1902
- European Bat Lyssavirus present in <1% of UK bats
- Risk extremely low but always contact the licence bat worker on encountering a bat
- Seek medical advice if bitten or scratched

COVID-19:

- Follow current government health guidance
- Personnel with respiratory symptoms should not work on site
- Wash hands regularly

7.2 Hygiene

- Wash hands regularly, especially before eating

- If handling bat: wear thick gloves, don't touch face, wash hands thoroughly after
- Clean gloves before reuse

8. RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

8.1 Works Record

Site Manager to complete works record (Appendix A):

- Dates of works
- Weather conditions
- Any bat observations
- Any incidents
- Confirmation precautionary methods followed

8.2 Completion

On completion:

- Sign works completion statement (Appendix A)
- Provide copy to Licensed Bat Worker if requested
- Retain copy with building records

8.3 If Bat Found

Complete incident section including:

- Date, time, location
- Description and photographs
- Actions taken and who contacted
- Outcome for bat

Licensed Bat Worker will advise on any reporting to Natural Resources Wales if required.

8.4 Biological Records

Licensed Bat Worker will submit any bat records to local records centre: [insert name]

9. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What if I'm not sure if I've found a bat? A: If in doubt, treat as bat. Stop work, contact Licensed Bat Worker for identification advice.

Q: Can I continue working in other areas? A: Yes, continue work away from where bat found, but contact Licensed Bat Worker first.

Q: What if I find bat droppings but no bat? A: Stop work, contact Licensed Bat Worker immediately. Droppings suggest more use than anticipated.

Q: What if bat flies away when disturbed? A: Best outcome. Note sighting, photograph if possible (no flash), contact Licensed Bat Worker for advice.

Q: Do I need a licence if I find a bat? A: Not necessarily. Licensed Bat Worker will advise based on findings.

Q: What if weather gets very cold during works? A: If below 5°C, delay works or work with extra caution. Contact Licensed Bat Worker for advice.

Q: Can I work at night with floodlights? A: Best to work in daylight. If lighting essential, avoid directing at potential bat features.

This Precautionary Method Statement should be read with the Preliminary Roost Assessment report and be available on site at all times. The Licensed Bat Worker remains on call throughout the works period.

APPENDIX A: WORKS RECORD SHEET

Project:

Site Manager:

Daily Log

Date	Weather	Areas Worked	Bats/Signs Observed?	Notes
			Yes / No	
			Yes / No	
			Yes / No	

Bat Discovery (if applicable)

Date/Time:

Location:

Description:

Actions taken:

Who contacted:

Outcome:

Works Completion

I confirm:

- This method statement was available on site
- All operatives briefed on requirements
- Precautionary methods followed
- Emergency contacts available

Bats found during works? Yes / No

Signed:

Date:

Name:

Position:

APPENDIX B: CARE BOX SPECIFICATION

Suitable container:

- Rigid plastic/wooden box (minimum 20cm x 15cm x 10cm)
- Ventilation holes (5-10mm - too small for bat escape)
- Secure lid
- Soft cotton cloth or kitchen paper lining (NOT fluffy towels - claws catch)
- Quiet, cool, dark location (10-15°C)
- Safe from pets/children

Not suitable:

- Cardboard (bats can chew through)
- No ventilation
- Rough internal surfaces
- Direct sun or near heat sources

Setup: Prepare box before works commence and keep on site throughout.

APPENDIX C: BAT IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)

- Very small (body 35-45mm)
- Light to medium brown fur
- Most common in buildings
- Often in crevices, behind tiles

Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)

- Very similar to common pipistrelle
- Slightly smaller and paler
- Cannot reliably distinguish visually

Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*)

- Medium (body 45-55mm)
- Very long ears (almost body length)
- Brown fur
- Often in roof voids, hanging from beams

Serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*)

- Large (body 60-80mm)
 - Dark brown, almost black
 - Broad snout
 - Behind hanging tiles, weatherboarding
-

APPENDIX D: COMMON SIGNS OF BATS

Learn to recognise:

Bat droppings:

- Small (3-8mm long)
- Dark brown to black
- Crumbly/powdery (unlike hard mouse droppings)
- May glisten with insect fragments
- Accumulate below roost sites

Staining:

- Dark marks around regular entry/exit points
- Caused by oils from fur

Scratch marks:

- Tiny claw marks on timber/masonry
- Where bats regularly land

Feeding remains:

- Moth wings, insect remains
- On window sills or below feeding perches

Urine staining:

- White crystalline deposits
 - Below hibernation roosts
-

APPENDIX E: BAT CONSERVATION TRUST - RESCUE GUIDANCE SUMMARY

This method statement incorporates BCT guidance for rescuing injured or disorientated bats, adapted for construction site emergencies.

Key Principles:

1. Only handle if imminent threat of harm
2. Always wear thick gloves
3. Contain gently in ventilated container
4. Keep cool, dark, quiet
5. Contact Licensed Bat Worker immediately
6. Minimise containment time
7. Release healthy bats at dusk same day if possible
8. Transfer injured/vulnerable bats to specialist care

For full BCT guidance visit: www.bats.org.uk

BCT Helpline: 0345 1300 228



CYFYNGIADAU

Mae Little Wing Ecology (CYF) wedi paratoi'r Adroddiad hwn at ddefnydd y Cleient neu ei Asiantau uchod yn unig yn unol â'n telerau busnes, y cyflawnwyd ein gwasanaethau oddi tanynt. Ni roddir unrhyw warant arall, wedi'i mynegi neu ei hawgrymu, ynghylch y cyngor proffesiynol sydd wedi'i gynnwys yn yr Adroddiad hwn nac unrhyw wasanaethau eraill a ddarperir gennym ni. Ni all unrhyw barti arall ddibynnu ar yr Adroddiad hwn heb gytundeb ysgrifenedig penodol ymlaen llaw gan Little Wing Ecology (CYF).

Mae'r asesiadau a wnaed yn rhagdybio y bydd y safle(oedd) a'r cyfleusterau yn parhau i gael eu defnyddio i'w pwrpas presennol heb newid sylweddol. Mae'r casgliadau a'r argymhellion yn yr Adroddiad hwn yn seiliedig ar wybodaeth a ddarparwyd gan eraill ac ar y dybiaeth bod yr holl wybodaeth berthnasol wedi'i darparu gan y partïon hynny y gofynnwyd amdani. Nid yw gwybodaeth a gafwyd gan drydydd partïon wedi'i dilysu'n annibynnol gan Little Wing Ecology (CYF).

Cynhyrchwyd gan:

Rhif cwmni:

Cyfeiriad:

E-bost:

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About Us

Little Wing Ecology is a not-for-profit ecological consultancy serving the South Wales Valleys and beyond. We combine professional expertise with community impact, delivering high-quality ecological services while reinvesting in local nature and people.

We are a small ecological consultancy dedicated to providing accessible and pragmatic services that uphold the highest standards of conservation.

Our Services

Survey and Assessment Services:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisals and Roost Assessments
- Comprehensive bat, reptile, and eDNA surveys
- European Protected Species License Applications

Planning and Implementation Support:

- Mitigation planning and Green Infrastructure Statements
- On-site development support services

Our Mission

As a Consultancy, we use our experience, expertise, and commitment to conservation to provide an accessible and pragmatic service that upholds the highest standards of environmental protection.

As a Not-for-Profit Social Enterprise, we reinvest our profits to create lasting positive change. We collaborate with valleys communities, conservation groups, local authorities, and partners to advance our three core commitments:

A. Helping Nature

We champion biodiversity recovery and resilience through:

- Habitat restoration and enhancement initiatives
- Designing built environments that work with wildlife
- Supporting long-term conservation monitoring that informs future protection efforts

B. Working with People

We believe in empowering communities through meaningful engagement with nature:

- Creating employment, training and volunteer pathways that build ecological skills and confidence
- Fostering the next generation of conservation champions
- Strengthening the connection between people and their natural environment

C. Supporting Communities

We invest in the places and people we serve:

- Reinvesting locally in nature-positive projects and community development
- Promoting environmental education that builds understanding and stewardship
- Providing expertise to support worthwhile causes and community-led initiatives

Our Vision: A thriving South Wales Valleys where nature and communities flourish together, supported by practical conservation action and shared environmental stewardship.

Adroddiad Arolwg gan



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