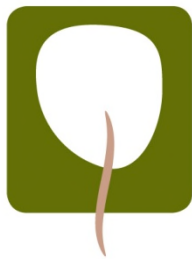


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ALDER ECOLOGY UK LTD

Working for the Client - Working with Wildlife

Rhyd Y Grug School, Aberfan, Merthyr Tyfil CF48 4NT

AEUK 1704

Bat Method Statement

Roger Martindale

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Rhyd Y Grug School

The site, Rhyd Y Grug School- Aberfan Merthyr Tydfil CF48 4NT national grid reference: ST073996 (what3words kilts.crop.desktops) (hereafter referred to as the “site”) has been assessed for both building and tree roosting bats based on the assessment criteria within the Bat survey guidelines 2023 and from undertaking a visual daytime inspection on 30th July 2024 and 2nd December 2025. The site was also subject to a series of bat emergence surveys in summer 2024. The total site size is approximately 4.494ha (1.819 acres) of school playing fields and standard trees, gardens with paving and school buildings and wooden out buildings.

The site is located in the village of Aberfan, Merthyr Tydfil and is set on the edge of a residential area surrounded on the north and west by residential properties and the south and east backs onto the wooded River Taff valley. The habitat is rural fringe and considered moderate/high quality for bat species but the school is well covered in municipal lighting reducing the opportunities for bats.

Please read this document in conjunction with Bat survey and assessment Alder Ecology UK Ltd September 2024 and Ground Level Tree assessment Alder Ecology UK Ltd December 2025.

Summary of bat survey findings

- The roof jointing with lead flashing confirmed one roost, a day roosts for a peak count of x2 soprano pipistrelle bats on the south side of the school and this will not be impacted by the proposed works see figure 1 and plate 1. **Confirmed day roost**
- A Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) was undertaken on the site in December 2025 and found no evidence of bat roosts or trees with features for bats that would be impacted by the scheme.
- The general area had a low biomass of bats during the survey likely as a result of the high lux levels on site, but situations can change quickly with mobile species such as bats, if opportunities arise particularly as the site is close to good quality habitat and the River Taff.

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General notes – PLEASE READ

Bats roost on buildings and utilise the conditions to their advantage seasonally.

- During the summer months bats want the roost to be as warm as possible (I have recorded roost temperatures up to 40 degrees Celsius) as this saves them energy so roosts during this period are often located on the south side of buildings and they would typically use this area from May to end of September (although this can vary from roost to roost). Then they leave or move to a different aspect of the same building if it is big enough.
- During the winter bats require stable conditions for hibernation typically temperatures of between 8-12 degrees Celsius inside the roost not external temperature (although some species it can be lower). So they often hibernate underground or on north aspects of buildings, or in thick walls, where the sun doesn't shine so conditions remain cool and stable.
- In October and November bats can be torpid this is a semi hibernation stage. When it's cold they will shut down and if the weather warms up will be active. They can appear dead and cold. Their body temp as in hibernation will only 1 or 2 degrees Celsius above ambient temperature. When in torpor or hibernation if disturb it may take them 30mins to warm up and may then fly off, be aware of this.
- If you find a bat that looks dead and isn't moving it is likely to be torpid or in hibernation. In this case please contact me directly.
- Torpid and hibernating bats are more likely if temperatures fall below 5 degrees Celsius.
- Bats can opportunistically roost in trees so care needs to be taken around established trees on site.
- A change to lower light levels may encourage more bat species to use the site. Therefore if light levels dramatically reduce bats may be encouraged into areas not previously occupied, operatives need to be mindful of such changes.

On a buildings the areas occupied during the summer are unlikely (always a few exceptions) to be the same areas used during the winter and vice versa. So when working on buildings such as this caution needs to be adopted when working on areas with stable conditions such as north aspects of buildings as highlighted on map 3 below.

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Map 1 Rhyd Y Grug school showing survey area

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Figure 1 Existing site plan

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Location of summer bat roosts

Map 2 summer roost locations



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Winter work risk areas

During winter on a multi aspect building bats will sometimes remain in the building during hibernation in small numbers utilising stable conditions on the north sides (aspect) of buildings so they are risk areas during the winter even though bats have not used those areas during summer roosting



Map 3 winter risk areas

Hibernating bats may use the underground cellars and trees

Risk areas for hibernating or torpid bats -yellow

These are not confirmed as used by bats but caution needs to be used when working in and around these areas between October and March. Highlighted in yellow

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Photographic plates



Plate 1 showing area of small soprano pipistrelle day roost behind lead flashing



Plate 2 bat dropping recorded on fascia and roost recorded behind lead flashing

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Plate 3 west facing aspect at the side of the school showing location of river Taff



Plate 4 showing significant light spill around the property, roost arrowed

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Plate 5 Areas subject to GLTA being surveyed Rhyd Y Grug School looking north



Plate 6 trees under assessment and proposed impact zone in red

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Method statement for bats

Method Statement

- The provision of a toolbox talk by the ecologist to contractors;
- Bats are protected in Wales under the provisions of the The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2010 or The Environment (Wales) Act (2016);
- Acts that are illegal under the provisions of the law
- Bat roosts must not be damaged or destroyed during the works guidance provided by ecologist
- Bats must not be killed or injured during the works
- Bats must not be disturbed while occupying a roost
- Entrance and exits to bat roosts must not be blocked or obstructed, or modified
- A pre-commencement bat survey not more than 24 hours prior to works starting and re-inspection of building prior to and during works operations;
- Immediately before the works commence the Ecologist will inspect the work areas with the aid of a powerful torch to ensure no bats are recorded in the work area.
- It may be necessary in high risk areas that a controlled strip of small sections of the roof by the roofing contractor takes place under the direct supervision of the bat expert during works if required. The Ecologist will remain on site until these works are completed.
- Care will also be taken when stripping areas around windows, doors and porches. The areas will first be checked by an ecologists and the soft strip will involve gently levering wooden sections using short handle wrecking bar. All removed material will be checked for torpid (semi hibernation state) bats.
- Maintain building integrity (Both new and old structures) up and until the point of the works to avoid occupation by bats.
- While work continues on site maintain coverings on buildings to prevent free access for bat species. Leave no open voids during work if it falls during at a time when bat species are active. For example it is advisable to cover openings into the building during overnight cessation of works.
- If a bat is discovered at other, unsupervised times, work will cease immediately and the ecologist will be called for advice. This advice will include leaving the bat to

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disperse of its own accord, or wait for the licensed handler to rescue the bat from danger and move the bat to a safe location.

- If any bats are encountered works will immediately stop. The bat expert will attempt to rescue bats if in immediate danger and hold them in accordance with the Bat Workers Manual and in a suitable handling box for release in the evening or continued roosting.
- Operatives and contractors are explicitly forbidden from handling bats.
- If bats are present on-site maintenance/repair/ replacement works must cease until advice is sort from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) this may delay to the project.

Emergency Site Action Plan (ESAP)

The Ecologist will be available during the above works and will capture and later release any bats found. Bats will be captured by hand or net and immediately placed into a cloth carrying bag for transport to the ground. Works will temporarily stop whilst the ecologist takes the bat to the trees where the bat will be transferred to an unoccupied Schwegler bat box. The bat box will be fastened into the tree, which is protected from members of the public or construction operative due to the height of installation (2.8m). The bat box will have sufficient rigid internal space and a suitable surface to allow animals to roost naturally and be protected from external noise and movement. These holding conditions will allow animals to spend time to safely emerge later to move to a suitable site if required.

Ecologists contact details

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