

## Toolbox Talk: Bat Mitigation Class Licence

Site name: 30-32 Queens View, Netley Abbey, Hampshire, SO31 5EA  
BMCL reference: RC002-10408A

In order to protect bats during the works, the following includes an overview of legislation, ecological issues, precautions to be taken and the method of hand demolition. The acting site agent must ensure that the details of this toolbox talk are complied with at all times and contractors are aware of the following prior to works.

### 1. Overview of the legislation

- Bats and their roosts are legally protected in the UK and all bats are European Protected Species.
- It is an absolute offence to deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat, or deliberately disturb a bat in any way. This includes damaging, destroying or obstructing their roosts.
- To comply with the law, all work affecting bats must be completed under an appropriate site-specific licence issued by Natural England.

### 2. Overview of the ecological issues

- Bats may use any built structure for roosting and there is always a risk that bats, or evidence of bats (e.g. droppings) may be encountered.
- Ecological surveys confirm that the structure is a roost for bats.

### 3. Precautions to be taken/ Method of hand demolition

- The strategy for this site is based on careful destructive searching of buildings.
- The destructive search will be supervised by the licence holder with an assistant in order to safely check for bats.
- Structures will be **stripped and demolished carefully**, supervised by the licence holder. Tiles or other coverings will be **removed one-by-one by gently lifting each one vertically and inspecting underneath allowing the ecologist to search for bats**. All soft demolition must be carried out under **direct visibility of the ecologist** and **contractors may only work on one elevation at a time**. This ensures that any bats found are unlikely to be harmed.
- Other bat roost features e.g. **bargeboards, wooden cladding, soffits, cavity walls, roofing felt, batons, ivy etc** can also provide potential for bat roosts and must be removed in the same manner.
- **Contractors must be aware this may be a slower pace of working compared to their normal routine and should factor this into their tenders/ method statements rather than trying to rush the task.**
- Bats may only be captured by the licence holder, solely to check for injuries. If unharmed, the bat will be placed in a bat box on site. Any injured bats will be taken to a veterinary surgeon immediately.
- Contractors and other unlicensed personnel are strictly forbidden from handling bats.
- Once the licence holder is satisfied that all affected bat roost features have been safely removed, or made unsuitable for bat habitation, the remaining works may proceed without further ecological supervision.
- Should bats or evidence of bats be encountered in the absence of the licence holder, then works must stop immediately and the ecologist for this project contacted. Natural England (0845 600 3078) can be contacted for advice. As a last resort, the National Bat Helpline 0345 1300 228 can be contacted in an emergency.
- Any work not carried out in accordance with the terms of the licence is a **criminal offence** and **contractors and employers may be prosecuted** as a result of non-compliance.

#### 4. Responsibility of Site Agent

- A Site Agent will be appointed to ensure that the details of the toolbox talk are complied with at all times.
- The Site Agent will ensure that that all contractors are aware of the procedure to follow in the unlikely event that bats are found during the works.
- Please note where bat compensation or enhancement is required, roof linings **MUST** consist of bitumen type 1F felt with a hessian matrix (not a breathable membrane such as Tyvek™ or other non-woven membrane). Bats may become tangled in the fibres as a result of their claws catching on the membrane. A struggling bat may also puncture the membrane, thus invalidating the material guarantee and causing water ingress. This is also a Natural England licence requirement (where applicable). Alternatively a non-bitumen coated roofing membrane (NBCRM) with a test certificate approved by Natural England can be used.
- At least ONE bat box per species **MUST** be erected by contractors prior to works. This will also be used to temporarily house any translocated bats. One such example can be found at: <https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-woodstone-bat-box>

**To be signed by the acting Site Agent, to ensure that all of the above is understood by all contractors on site.**

Signature of Acting Site Agent:.....

Full Name in capitals:..... Date:.....

For and on behalf of:.....

Signature of Registered Consultant/ Accredited Agent : **John Poland** Digitally signed by John Poland  
Date: 2024.12.05 15:17:17 Z

Full Name in capitals:..... Date:.....

#### Bat Ecology

Bats use different roosting sites throughout the year according to their life cycle requirements. This is why there are often only narrow timeframes for bat survey and mitigation work.

Hibernation during the winter months requires roosting sites that are cool and humid. As conditions improve through the spring, bats become increasingly active and tend to use transitional roosting sites. During the summer months, females give birth in maternity roosts. Maternity roosts tend to be warm and temperature-stable, which aids rapid development of the young, which are weaned in late summer. In the autumn, adult bats congregate in mating roosts and also use transitional roosting sites. Autumn is the time when both adults and juveniles have to build up fat reserves in preparation for hibernation through the winter months.

Bats also use roosts during the night as feeding perches. Species that catch large prey items such as moths (e.g. brown long-eared bat) often enter buildings to hang up and eat the prey before emerging again to forage.

Bats are most vulnerable during the summer in their maternity roosts, when disturbance can jeopardise their breeding success. Bats give birth to only one pup per year and young do not breed until the second or third year after birth. This means that if maternity colonies are disturbed there can be serious implications for the conservation status of populations.