



Tool Box Talk Non-Licence Method Statement 47 Grove Road, Reading

UK Bats

Bats are small Flying nocturnal mammals. In the UK we have 17 breeding species ranging from the smallest being less than 5g to over 20g. All British bats eat insects and use roosts to rest, hibernate, breed and give birth. Many bats use buildings for roosting, and it is vital for the future of our bat populations that any building alteration or maintenance work takes bats into account.



Brown Long-eared bats in timber crevice in loft void



Pipistrelle bat, one of our smallest bat species

In buildings bats are found in many areas depending on the structure but more commonly bats are found in -

- Loft Voids
- Hanging tiles
- Missing roof tiles/Slates
- Cavity Walls
- Lead flashing
- Soffit boxes
- Timber frames/mortise joints

Legislation

Under UK law bats protected under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)* and the *Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019*. In combination, this makes it an offence to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take (capture etc.);
- possess;
- intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy, obstruct access to any structure or place used by a scheduled animal for shelter or protection, or disturb any animal occupying such a structure or place; and
- sell, offer for sale, possess or transport for the purpose of sale (live or dead animal, part or derivative) or advertise for buying or selling such things.

A roost is defined as 'any structure or place which a bat uses for shelter or protection'. As bats tend to reuse the same roosts, legal opinion is that a roost is protected if bats are present or not.

Any disturbance of a bat occupying a roost can lead to prosecution. Disturbance can be caused by noise, vibration and artificial lighting. Penalties for breaking the law can include fines of £5,000 per bat, imprisonment and the seizure of equipment.

This Site

This site has been surveyed and checked by a suitably qualified ecologist for bats. Bats are present using the building, with one common pipistrelle and one soprano pipistrelle using roof and hanging tiles on the building.

Works to the roof of the house and garage have been carried out under a Bat Mitigation Class Licence for the site from Natural England to the Licenced Ecologist Daniel Whitby who is responsible for all the licenced work being conducted on the site. The licence has now completed and any further work to the roof or gable end hanging tiles will require a new licence from Natural England.

In the interim, removal of bay window hanging tiles are permitted under the Non-Licence Method Statement produced by AEWC, this must be adhered to at all times to avoid committing an offence.



Brown-Long eared bat on hand

Non-Licence Method Statement conditions

- A licensed ecologist will be present for all stripping of hanging tiles on the northern bay window.
- The Bat Box erected on the site will act as a safe place to move bats into if found.
- Only the licensed ecologist is able to move any bats found.
- Works may only proceed in areas with the agreement of the licensed ecologist.
- Only 1F roofing felt is safe to use on properties with bats, modern non-woven polypropylene membranes must not be used within the development.

Best Practice

Any work on areas confirmed or have high potential to have bats present will be supervised by the ecologist, this will include soft stripping areas with suitability to have bats present and identified roosts. This is careful removal of materials checking for bats or evidence of bats, such as droppings. If a bat, or evidence of bats is found contact the ecologist on site to move or assess.

What to do if a bat is discovered in an unexpected area or time

If in the event a bat is found at an unexpected time and the ecologist is not on site it is a condition of the licence that the licenced ecologist Daniel Whitby (07764813002) or his accredited agent are contacted immediately.



Lesser Horseshoe bat

If there is any suspicion that a bat is present within the vicinity of the works, STOP ALL WORKS and contact the ecologist IMMEDIATELY. DO NOT RISK BREAKING THE LAW.

Daniel Whitby

AEWC_{Ltd}

Managing Director / Consultant Ecologist

I confirm that I have been given a toolbox talk by Brigitte de Coriolis for a non-licence method statement at 47 Grove Road and I understand the conditions and working requirements.

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