



Mitigation strategies and licensing

Bat method statement

If we have recorded roosting bats on site you will usually need to submit a method statement to the Local Planning Authority as part of your planning application.

The method statement demonstrates how you will ensure no bats will be affected by the proposed development, and how you will secure a licence from Natural England, Natural Resources Wales or Scottish Natural Heritage once planning permission has been granted.

Our licensed bat ecologists are experienced at developing mitigation strategies that not only ensure the safety of bats on site, but work with your construction timings and building designs.

European Protected Species (EPS) mitigation licence

If your development has the potential to disturb roosting bats, the works must be carried out under a EPS mitigation licence issued by Natural England, Natural Resources Wales or Scottish Natural Heritage.

The EPS licensing process can be a confusing and time-consuming one. At UES, we have experience of many successful EPS licence applications, ranging from a common pipistrelle summer roost in Staffordshire, to a lesser horseshoe summer and hibernation roost in Wrexham.

We can provide advice on whether or not you will need to apply for a licence and what information will be needed if so.

EPS mitigation licences are separate to planning permission and we can apply for a licence once you have secured planning permission (or any other relevant consents).

Bat Low Impact Class Licence (BLICL)

Toby Hart, Managing Director of UES, is one of only six registered consultants of the BLICL in the northwest.

This streamlined licensing process allows us to undertake works that have low impacts on certain bat species and certain roost types, but that still need to be licensed in order to meet legal requirements.

The BLICL allows us to provide you with a quicker and cheaper alternative to the European Protected Species mitigation licence (in England only).

In order for us to apply for a BLICL the site must meet the following criteria:

- Common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared, whiskered, Brandt's, Natterer's or Daubenton's bats only
- No more than three of the above species at any one site
- Feeding, night, day, or transitional roosts only i.e no maternity or hibernation roosts
- No more than three roosts at any one site



The new licence is designed to reduce the application paperwork and the speed with which a licence decision is made. Natural England aim to process a BLICL application in 10 working days, where as a EPS licence application takes 30 working days.

Ecological clerk of works (ECoW)

Once you are ready to start on site, you will need an ecological clerk of works to ensure your EPS licence or BLICL is fully implemented, and that no bats are harmed throughout the development.

This usually includes an ecological toolbox talk to contractors, roost inspections, supervision during soft demolition of the roosts, and translocation of bats. Our licensed bat surveyors are legally allowed to disturb bats as part of surveying, enter known bat roosts, and handle bats where necessary.