

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc
Beaully-Denny Overhead Line Diversion
Environmental Appraisal
Technical Appendices

Appendix B – Species Protection Plan (SPP) - Bat

July 2025



TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

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Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	References	4
3	Part 1: General Protection Plan	5
4	Part 2: Project Licence Protection Plan	17
5	Revision History.....	22
	Appendix A Project Licence Method Statement Template	23

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

1 Introduction

All bat species occurring in Britain are European Protected Species (EPS), protected under Annex II and IV of EC Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive) and are afforded a high level of protection in Scotland. Licences from NatureScot can be acquired for disturbance of a roost, or destruction / exclusion of a bat roost, assuming specific list of conditions are met. Licensed bat workers may be required to implement these licences. Some licensed bat workers may also hold a BLIMP licence (Bat Low Impact licensing) which will, providing the situation meets clear criteria, enable them to deal directly with mainland Scotland roosts which are not used for breeding or hibernation for two of the more common species without the need to submit individual licence applications to NatureScot for each development site (as BLIMP licence is held by bat worker and required to be reflected in an update licence return schedule submitted to NatureScot).

Bats in need of rescue or assistance can be aided without the need for Species Licensing as the bat's welfare is prioritised, exempting these activities from the legislation. This is covered in further detail in Section 3.5.

This Protection Plan provides guidance and agreed procedures for the protection of bats and their shelters (roosts) during construction works on SSEN Transmission projects. The Plan contains two parts and details the procedures that must be followed where there is potential for bats to be present (Part 1), and where a Project Licence for bats has been issued by NatureScot to cover the project (Part 2):

1.1 Part 1: General Protection Plan

This section applies to all projects where bats may be present and is issued to Contractors. Part 1 outlines the responsibilities of SSEN Transmission and Contractors regarding protection of bats. It also details relevant legislation, survey requirements, general mitigation measures, guidance on compensation / enhancement and the requirement for licensing and mitigation.

1.2 Part 2: Project Licence Protection Plan

This section is provided to Contractors, in addition to Part 1, for large projects where a Project Licence has been issued by NatureScot to cover the work and identifies those activities and protection / mitigation measures which are permitted under the Project Licence and those activities which require a Method Statement to be submitted to NatureScot for written approval before works can commence. Part 2 should be followed in conjunction with Part 1 and the relevant Project Licence to provide approved guidance and methodologies for carrying out work.

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

2 References

The documents detailed in Table 2.1 – Miscellaneous Documents, should be used in conjunction with this document.

Table 2.1 – Miscellaneous Documents

Title
EC Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive)
The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended in Scotland)
The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2019
https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/safeguarding-protected-areas-and-species/licensing
https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/licensing/species-licensing-z-guide/bats-and-licensing
https://www.nature.scot/guidance-bat-low-impact-licensing-blimp-ecologists-guide
https://www.bats.org.uk/resources/guidance-for-professionals/bat-surveys-for-professional-ecologists-good-practice-guidelines-4th-edition
https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/help-ive-found-a-bat/bats-in-need-of-rescue/assess-the-situation

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

3 Part 1: General Protection Plan

3.1 Ecology

Bats are a diverse group of mostly nocturnal flying mammals of which there are generally recognised to be 10 different species in Scotland. There are four more common or widespread species; common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), and brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*). The two pipistrelle species mentioned above are most likely to be encountered.

The other less common species are Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*), Nathusius' pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*), Leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*), Noctule bat (*Nyctalus noctula*) and whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*). The Brandt's bat (*Myotis brandtii*) is considered rarest and suspected to have a small range in southern Scotland, if at all.

Identification can be made by using bat detectors and recording devices to differentiate the characteristic echolocation signals (used to navigate and catch prey) as well as flight patterns, morphology and DNA analysis of droppings. The use of night vision aids (NVAs) including night vision/ infrared / thermal imaging cameras, can be used to record roosting or emerging bats, including the use of further infrared illumination.

Bats exploit a wide variety of natural and semi-natural habitats such as woodlands, pasture, water and hedges in pursuit of insect prey such as moths and midges. They use a variety of strategies to catch their prey. For example, brown long-eared bats glean insects from foliage, whereas Daubenton's bats gaffe insects from near the surface of water.

Bats rest during the day in roosts within sheltered voids or cavities. Although all bat species in Scotland rely heavily on man-made structures, roosts can be found in; buildings and ruins, trees (woodpecker holes, cracks, flaky bark and callused flush cuts), bridges, caves and tunnels. Signs of an active roost may include urine staining, scratch marks, sound (rustling or high pitch squeaking/ chattering, especially near twilight), strong odour and droppings, however not all roosts have such features. Many roosts can be particularly difficult to identify, and usually require dusk and/ or dawn activity surveys at appropriate time of year to confirm.

Roosts are often communal structures which are in use at different times and many different types of roosts exist varying from temporary day roosts to more permanent maternity and hibernation roosts. The most sensitive periods for maternity roosts are from early May to September and hibernation roosts can in use from October until March. Bats are particularly vulnerable to disturbance during hibernation which could result in mortality due to cold temperatures and lack of food resource, or during maternity period when disturbance could result in the newly born bats being abandoned. Bats have a slow reproductive rate, usually with one pup per female each year which makes their colonies susceptible to disturbance and direct impacts, such as habitat loss. Males can sometimes be found singular, in small 'bachelor' groups, or within maternity roosts.

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

3.2 Responsibilities

It is the Contractor's responsibility to comply with all the requirements of this Protection Plan where bats are or may be present, and it is both the Contractor's and SSEN Transmission's responsibility to monitor compliance with the Protection Plan. The Contractor is required to appoint a suitably qualified and competent Ecologist, where licensable activities need to be overseen, and in some cases, undertaken by a licensed bat worker (e.g. roost exclusion). Not all bat surveys require the ecologist to be licensed, but they should be suitably trained and competent in the bat survey type being used. Independent ECoWs may be appointed on a project to undertake compliance monitoring. The responsibility for applying for any Licence, including a Project Licence, usually sits with the Contractor, but may vary from project to project, but all applications and mitigation works must adhere to this plan.

3.3 Legislation

All bat species (Chiroptera) in Britain are European Protected Species (EPS), protected under Annex II and IV of EC Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive). The Habitats Directive is transposed in Scottish law by The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended in Scotland). The protection has remained operable in Scotland following amendments of the Regulations by the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2019.

As EPS, it is an offence to deliberately or recklessly¹ kill, injure or take (capture) bats, deliberately or recklessly disturb or harass bats, and damage, destroy or obstruct access to a breeding site or resting place of any bat. It is important to note that bat roosts are protected even at times of year when not in use.

To summarise, for any wild bat species it is an offence to deliberately or recklessly:

- capture, injure or kill a bat;
- harass a bat or group of bats;
- disturb a bat in a roost (any structure or place it uses for shelter or protection);
- disturb a bat while it is rearing or otherwise caring for its young;
- obstruct access to a bat roost or otherwise deny an animal use of a roost;
- disturb a bat in a manner or in circumstances likely to significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of the species;
- disturb a bat in a manner or in circumstances likely to impair its ability to survive, breed or reproduce, or rear or otherwise care for its young; and
- disturb a bat while it is migrating or hibernating.

¹ Reckless acts would include not having or disregarding a mitigation plan aimed at protecting Bats resulting in killing, injury, and/or disturbance of any Bat or Bat Roost, or carrying out an activity which would result in an offence where the presence of Bats was foreknown.

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

It is also an offence to:

- damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal (whether or not deliberately or recklessly); and
- keep, transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange any wild bat (or any part or derivative of one) obtained after 10 June 1994.

3.4 Bat Care (Rescue)

Occasionally bats find themselves in situations or locations where they become trapped in buildings. If bats are mobile and flying around, opening the door and windows may be sufficient for the bat to make an escape unharmed. However, if they have been trapped for a period or are otherwise in need of care (exhaustion / injury etc.), they should be taken into care. Often bats in need of care are found grounded and unable to sustain flight. Sometimes bats can appear to be dead, therefore should be carefully assessed, and advice sought from a trained and competent person (e.g. the Environmental Advisor or ecologist).

Whilst handling bats is usually an offence without a licence, injured or grounded bats can be legally handled or dispatched where severe injury is clearly evident (e.g. broken wing) for the purposes of care. Although bats are protected by law, handling a bat in trouble in order to assist it is permitted. Ideally this would be undertaken by a suitably trained and rabies vaccinated individual, or ecologist. There is a small risk of rabies transmission from bat bites and scratches in the UK, but you can protect yourself by limited handling (required to contain the bat to take into rehabilitation) and wearing long sleeves and gloves. An FFP2 face mask should also be worn to prevent any potential infection of the bat from human born viruses such as COVID (SARS-CoV-2). Please refer to referenced Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) guidance on containment of a grounded bat and procure beneath.

<https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/help-ive-found-a-bat/bats-in-need-of-rescue/assess-the-situation>

The finding of the bat must be reported to site management and an SSEN Transmission environmental representative. Further investigations maybe required to establish the entry point of the bat and check for any nearby roosts. Should a dead bat or bats be found, this should also be reported. Always wear gloves when handling a bat, alive or dead, and seek medical advise immediately if bitten, licked, or scratched, even if you have been vaccinated for rabies.

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

3.5 Surveying for Bats

Surveys should be undertaken in line with the BCT Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (current edition).

Bat surveys (or consideration of their requirement) are often undertaken during the development stage of a project, such as during EIA or Environmental Appraisal. The assessment and findings of these reports must be reviewed by the Contractor engaged for delivery to ensure adequate time for further bat surveys where required. Should proposals change, then the Contractor must reassess the potential to impact on bats and their roost, including requirement for further surveys as appropriate. Consideration for bats should also be considered for any changes, or additional development not included in the main application, such as enabling works, public road improvements or the formation of construction compounds. Other factors such as lighting, or noise from generators, including temporary elements, must also be considered, and follow best practice guidance.

1. Bat surveys must be undertaken in all works areas containing suitable habitat, at a suitable time of year a maximum of 12 months² prior to the works commencing, (this includes site investigations), to ensure the availability of up-to-date information on shelter locations.
2. Surveys must extend for a minimum of 30 m beyond working areas.
3. Pre-construction surveys will be undertaken for all potential roosting features likely to be affected (i.e. built structures and trees). If evidence of roosting bats is encountered, further surveys may be required to confirm species, roost type and usage, which are required to support any licence application.

3.6 Review of Bat Survey

Once survey(s) have been completed, the ecologist must review the survey results, apply the mitigation hierarchy outlined below and decide whether a Licence is required (either Individual or Project) for the works. A specific bat protection plan may be required in support of a licence application, applying the mitigation hierarchy with reference to this plan.

NatureScot state that a species protection plan should:

- build on the results of surveys to look at the potential impacts of the development on protected species;
- describe how those impacts will be mitigated or compensated;
- identify whether or not a licence is necessary; and
- include a good method statement – i.e. a description of how all work in relation to protected species (including licensed work) will be done.

² Note: Information from any previous surveys (e.g. surveys carried out to provide data for EIA or other Assessments) can be a useful guide to bats activity in an area, particularly if roosts were recorded. However, surveys will always require to be updated if carried out more than 12 months prior to works commencing.

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

A species protection plan will also allow the planning authority to state that adherence to the plan is a condition of any consent.

Construction teams must be advised of existing / new constraints, together with mitigation and licensing requirements by the ecologist.

Relevant site documentation and project information sources must be updated with new and amended information on bat constraints as it is produced, with changes communicated to appropriate staff immediately.

3.7 Mitigation Hierarchy

There is a general presumption against works being carried out which could disturb bats or to destroy / exclude or obstruct access to any bat roost. A hierarchical approach to mitigation of Avoidance - Disturbance - Destruction will be applied to any roost that may be affected:

Avoidance

This is the preferred option for roosts identified within 30 m of works, an initial protection zone of 30 m will be demarcated and appropriately signed to restrict work access.

Protection zones must be maintained until works are completed. Site staff must be briefed of their purpose through a Toolbox Talk and works micro-sited out with the protection zone. If bat disturbance can be avoided in this way, there is no need to obtain a Licence from NatureScot.

Disturbance

Works required within 30 m of an active roost may constitute disturbance and therefore may require a Licence from NatureScot, to be assessed case-by-case. In these circumstances the ecologist must be tasked to determine the likelihood of disturbance to bats and need for a licence (in consultation with the NatureScot licensing team if required). Individual Licence applications to NatureScot are to be accompanied by a Protection Plan outlining how disturbance will be minimised and roosts protected; for example, through timing works for when bats are least likely to be present, screening of works and modifying protection zones. In some circumstances works may be allowed under a Bat Low Impact Licence (BLIMP).

Some disturbance licensing requirements may include compensation, such as installation of bat box(es) away from the proposed works. Installation of boxes should be within 100 m of the roost or as close as reasonably practicable, where they are less likely to become a future constraint, whether this is during operation of the asset or another development. Placement must therefore be agreed with SEN Transmission and landowner(s) in addition to NatureScot as appropriate.

If a Project Licence is in place, part 2 of this document should be used to ascertain whether a formal Method Statement is required to be submitted for approval to NatureScot prior to works commencing which could disturb bats.

Roost Destruction

Destruction of roosts should only be undertaken as a last resort. For destruction of roosts a Licence will be required from NatureScot. Destruction of maternity roosts and hibernation roosts will only be licensed outside of the seasons when they are in use.

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

Individual Licence applications to NatureScot should be accompanied by a Protection Plan which outlines how disturbance of bats will be minimised, roosts compensated for, and individual bats protected. Roost destruction may not always be permitted; this will depend on roost type and rarity of species (see species matrix in part 2 of this document). In some circumstances works may be allowed under a Bat Low Impact Licence (BLIMP).

If a Project Licence is in place the following activities require a formal Method Statement to be submitted and approved by NatureScot in accordance with Part 2 of this document, prior to any works commencing:

- Destruction of a breeding / hibernation roost of a brown long-eared or Daubenton's bat.
- Destruction of any roost of an uncommon species (Natterer's, Leisler's, Whiskered, Noctule, Nathusius' pipistrelle, and Brandt's bat) at any time of year.

For all other scenarios (such a destruction of a non-breeding roost of a more common species outside of the active season) works should be carried out in accordance with part 2 of this document. Any roost subject to works under Licence will be monitored during and after those works.

Similarly to disturbance, some destruction licensing requirements may include compensation, such as installation of bat box(es) away from the proposed works. Installation of boxes should be within 100 m of the roost or as close as reasonably practicable, where they are less likely to become a future constraint, whether this is during operation of the asset or another development. Placement must therefore be agreed with SSEN Transmission and landowner(s) in addition to NatureScot as appropriate.

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

3.8 Mitigation Measures

3.8.1 General Mitigation

The following mitigation is to be incorporated, but not necessarily limited to:

1. Where possible, timing of works which have the potential to impact bats and / or their roosts should be avoided during the most sensitive times of year. Maternity roosts and hibernation roosts are particularly sensitive to disturbance. Weather conditions should also be considered (e.g. warmer winters may lead to bats hibernating later). Advice from the ecologist should be sought.
2. Where works are in areas where bat roosts may be encountered, toolbox talks should be used to brief workers on bats and their protected status, including findings of surveys undertaken, and exclusion buffers, and emergency measures to be undertaken on bat encounter or identification of a suspected roost.
3. Any artificial lighting to be directed away from known shelters/suitable habitat as far as reasonably practical.
4. Tree felling to be directed away from known roosts. Remnants such as branching must not block / obstruct roosts. Retain surrounding vegetation as far as possible.
5. Habitat connectivity to be maintained with obstruction and fragmentation avoided.
6. Any considerably noisy static machinery to be stored outside of sensitive areas / exclusion zones and switched off overnight where practical.
7. Avoid activity between dusk and dawn when bats are most active as far as reasonably practical.

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

8. Emergency procedures must be implemented inclusive of the following:

- Should bats or field signs be identified unexpectedly and measures not already in place, all work within 30 m must cease until the ecologist and SSEN Transmission environmental representative has been consulted, the site inspected where required, and determined the appropriate course of action.
 - Any suspected sick or injured bats to be reported to the ecologist and taken into care as appropriate, following the procedure outlined by the Bat Conservation Trust³. Further guidance is provided in Section 3.5. Ensure the bat is contained within a secure box with breathable holes, a towel / similar, and **shallow** dish of water (milk lid appropriate). Where there is not a bat carer associated with the project, contact the National Bat Helpline on **0345 1300 228**.
 - The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) can be contacted where bat carers are not available. The SSPCA will only attend site if the animal has been contained (within a box or cover placed over) and / or someone is monitoring consistently-frequently. The SSPCA require 'What 3 Words' of location, contact number and postcode. Incidents can be reported to the SSPCA⁴ on **03000 999 999**.
 - Site personnel safety must never be compromised in attempt to rescue wildlife. Any animal can be unpredictable, particularly when they are in pain or feel threatened by humans. There is a small risk that bats can carry rabies, a fatal virus. Avoid direct handling if you can, always wear gloves and long sleeves, and wash hands after. An FFP2 mask should be worn to protect bats from potential virus transmission.
 - Where injury or death to a bat is a result of site activities and / **or licensing conditions have been breached**, activities in the area must cease and the site made safe immediately. SSEN Transmission Environmental representative must be notified and a suitably qualified ecologist contacted and arrangement made for to attend site. The incident must be reported to SSEN on **0800 107 2307** within 30 minutes and reported to the NatureScot licensing team as soon as possible. Details must also be recorded on [EcoOnline](#).
9. Where injury or death to a bat is not a result of site activities and no licensing conditions have been breached, activities in the area must cease and the site made safe immediately. The SSEN Transmission Environmental representative is to be contacted and should attend site. The incident should be recorded on [EcoOnline](#) and within weekly-monthly reports (e.g. dead bat found in building and suspected to be a 'one off' incident).
10. An exceptional circumstance procedure will be implemented should mitigation options not prove satisfactory in a particular case. Works will be halted whilst mitigation is determined (under consultation with NatureScot if required).

³ [Help! I've found a bat - Advice - Bat Conservation Trust](#)

⁴ The SSPCA is the animal welfare charity operating in Scotland and should not be confused with the RSPCA operating only in England and Wales.

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

3.8.2 Monitoring and Reporting

1. The Ecologist will attend site on a regular basis throughout the construction period to ensure all environmental mitigation relevant to bats is delivered.
2. Reports to follow guidance within the BCT Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (current edition).
3. Reports will be submitted to NatureScot as required by the relevant Licence. These should also be shared with SSEN Transmission.
4. Any commitments to monitor effectiveness of compensation measures must be followed, and findings reported back to SSEN Transmission.

3.9 Compensation

Some activities that impact on bat roosts may require compensation to offset remaining impacts, for example after destruction / exclusion of a roost. Compensation measures may be included within licence applications made to NatureScot. These compensation measures are usually in the form of installation of a suitable bat roost box(es) with following points adhered to/ considered:

- They should be installed as close to the affected roost as possible (usually within 100 m).
- Of suitable type for the roost being compensated. Woodcrete boxes such as Schwegler are preferred as known to be successful.
- Consideration of the fixing of the proposed bat roost box type to location should be considered, with flat backed boxes being easier to hang on walls, and cylindrical types easily affixed to trees.
- Bat boxes should be placed at a suitable height to encourage uptake by bats, and to limit the potential of predation (3-5 m).
- Preferred orientation is south facing; however, offset from south may allow bats to move to warmer / cooler temperatures as required.
- Consideration as to the location of the proposed installation of bat roost compensation measures must be made to ensure they are installed in a suitable location for likely uptake by bats, but also an area which would not be disturbed or constrain future works, and
- Location(s) of proposed boxes or other mitigation must be agreed with the Land Assembly/ SSEN Transmission Operations (ensure land agreements are in place for placement on any area not under SSEN Transmission's control).

Larger more bespoke mitigation measures may be required for destruction / exclusion or more significant roosts; however, consideration of such can become complex, especially if heating elements are deemed required. Formation of bat roosting features within trees to be retained may also be considered, including cutting of new features or retention of roost feature, secured to a retained tree in suitable location.

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

Monitoring success of the compensation measures may be included within licence applications, but would form part of the conditions of the licence and therefore must be met where commitment is made. Once a bat box becomes occupied it is considered a roost and offered the same legal protection as any other roost.

3.10 Enhancement

Enhancement refers to providing net benefits for biodiversity, over and above the requirements for avoidance, mitigation or compensation, for example, placement of bat roost box associated with licensable roost disturbance. While SSEN Transmission seeks and welcomes opportunities for enhancement on projects / assets, measures installed for enhancement must follow the same principles as Compensation, set out above.

3.11 Licensing Requirements

Licence applications must be sent into NatureScot species licensing team sufficiently in advance of the project start date (approximately 30 days) to ensure the licence is in place prior to any work commencing.

3.12 Bat Low Impact Licence

In certain circumstances works on mainland Scotland affecting soprano pipistrelle or common pipistrelle bat roosts, which are not used for breeding or as hibernacula, can be undertaken utilising a BLIMP licence. BLIMPs may only be used by Licenced BLIMP holder and works must be undertaken following the most up to date NatureScot guidance; [Guidance - Bat Low Impact Licensing \(BLIMP\) - An ecologist's guide | NatureScot](#).

For the avoidance of doubt the BLIMP licence will not cover activities affecting other bat species or other types of roost. However, this will not preclude working under the BLIMP licence at a site where other species or roost types are present providing that the works will not affect them.

3.13 Project Licence

A NatureScot Project Licence is likely to be the most appropriate form of Licence for any large scale and / or long running Project, which may result in a large number of minor unavoidable bat offences.

For example, multiple instances of disturbance to a number of bat roosts over several years. A Project Licence can be used to standardise protected species mitigation / compensation, creating consistency across the project area and throughout the Project's lifespan. Project Licences do not negate the need for thorough pre-development surveys within 12 months of the planned project start date, and pre-construction surveys within 3 weeks of works commencing. Any Project Licence application will need to be accompanied by the Mitigation Plan and procedures for bats included in Parts 1 and 2 of this SPP.

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

3.14 Individual Licence

For small scale Projects expected to be completed over relatively short timescales, which will result in a low number of unavoidable bats offences, an Individual NatureScot Licence is most likely to be appropriate. Licence applications should be accompanied by a Method Statement and should be sent sufficiently in advance of the Project start date to ensure the licence is in place prior to work commencing.

Further guidance and details of how to apply for a bat Licence can be found on the NatureScot website (<https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/safeguarding-protected-areas-and-species/licensing>).

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

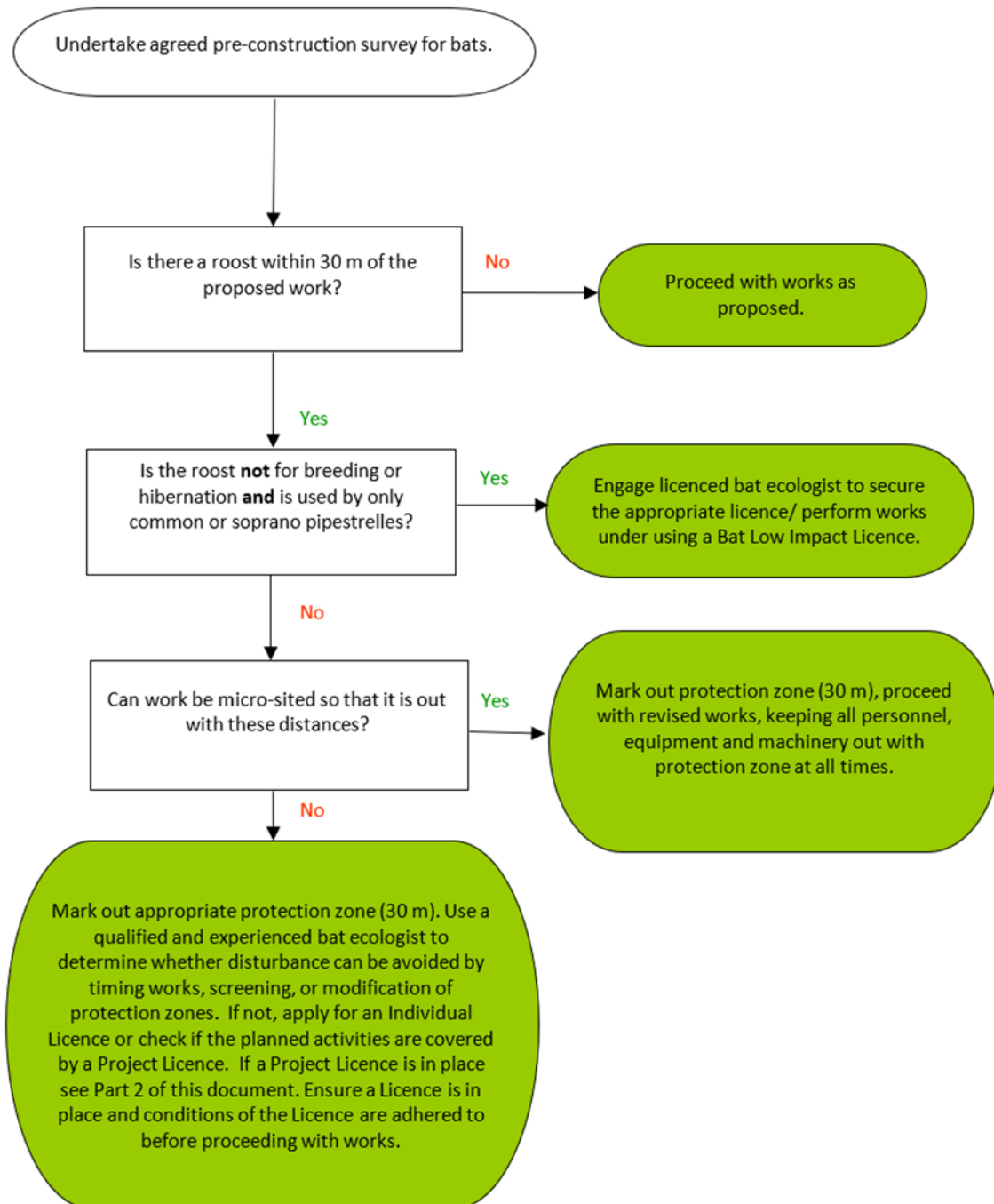


Figure 3.1 - Bat Mitigation Decision Tree

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

4 Part 2: Project Licence Protection Plan

The following sections of this plan are to be read in conjunction with the Project Licence (**insert Licence number**) and its conditions.

As stated in the Project Licence, methodologies for certain mitigation activities permitted under the Licence are included in this Part of the SPP. More disruptive activities, listed in Section 1 below, will also require a specific Method Statement to be submitted to NatureScot licensing team for written approval (see Appendix A). It is the Contractor's responsibility to submit these Method Statements to both SHE Transmission and NatureScot for written approval. No works shall proceed without this written approval.

Sufficient time should be allowed for in the programme to carry out any consultation work and obtain necessary approvals.

The Project Licence will specify reporting requirements detailing all disturbance and destruction works carried out.

4.1 Works Allowed under the Project Licence

Under the Project Licence there is a general presumption against works being carried out which could disturb bats, or to destroy / exclude or obstruct access to any bat roost unless it can clearly be demonstrated that either it is inactive (i.e. through monitoring) or that there is no alternative solution against Project timescales and requirements.

4.2 Activities requiring a NatureScot Approved Method Statement

The following activities require a formal Method Statement to be submitted and approved by NatureScot prior to any works commencing:

- Disturbance of breeding or hibernation roosts of Common Pipistrelle, Soprano pipistrelle, Brown long-eared, and Daubenton's bat during the seasons when they are likely to be in use;
- Disturbance of breeding or hibernation roosts of all non-common bat species (i.e. Natterer's, Leisler's, Whiskered, Noctule, Nathusius', and any other species not normally found in Scotland) at any time;
- Disturbance of non-breeding and non-hibernation roosts for all non-common bat species (i.e. Natterer's, Leisler's, Whiskered, Noctule, Nathusius', and any other species not normally found in Scotland);
- Destruction of a Brown Long-eared or Daubenton's breeding or hibernation roost;
- Destruction of any roosts for all non-common bat species (i.e. Natterer's, Leisler's, Whiskered, Noctule, Nathusius', and any other species not normally found in Scotland)); and
- Any exceptional circumstances not covered in this SPP or Points a to e above.

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

The Method Statement template in Appendix A has been developed in conjunction with NatureScot and should be used by the *Contractor / Named Agent* for all submissions.

Proposed mitigation works should be agreed with NatureScot.

Species Matrix

This matrix summarises which activities at which time of year can be carried out under this SPP or require an approved method statement. For explanation see text of this SPP.

Table 4.1 - Species Matrix

Species	Breeding / Hibernation Roosts		Non-breeding / non-hibernation Roosts	
	Disturbance	Destruction	Disturbance	Destruction
Common Pipistrelle	SPP (outwith seasons)	SPP (outwith seasons)	BLIMP	BLIMP
Soprano Pipistrelle	SPP (outwith seasons)	SPP (outwith seasons)	BLIMP	BLIMP
Brown Long Eared	SPP (outwith seasons)	Approved MS	SPP	SPP
Daubenton's	SPP (outwith seasons)	Approved MS	SPP	SPP
Natterer's	Approved MS	Approved MS	Approved MS	Approved MS
Nathusius' Pipistrelle	Approved MS	Unlikely to be allowed	Approved MS	Approved MS
Leisler's	Approved MS	Approved MS	Approved MS	Approved MS
Whiskered	Approved MS	Unlikely to be allowed	Approved MS	Approved MS
Noctule	Approved MS	Approved MS	Approved MS	Approved MS
Other species not normally found in Scotland	Approved MS	Approved MS	Approved MS	Approved MS

4.3 Activities not requiring additional NatureScot approval

The following works may be carried out under this SPP and / or specific Method Statements without the prior approval of NatureScot, using the prescribed methodologies:

- Disturbance to non-breeding (note according to European guidance mating roosts are considered to be breeding roosts) and non-hibernation roosts, and disturbance to maternity / hibernation roosts (outwith the seasons they are in use), for the more common species (i.e. brown long-eared, and Daubenton's bats). Destruction of any common or soprano pipistrelle breeding and hibernation roosts at an appropriate time of year for the type of roost (i.e. when bats are not likely to be present and avoiding sensitive seasons).
- Destruction of non-breeding and non-hibernation roosts for brown long-eared and Daubenton's bats, at an appropriate time of year for the type of roost when bats are not present, or avoiding sensitive seasons.

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

- 4.3.1 Disturbance to non-breeding and non-hibernation roosts at any time of year, and disturbance to maternity and hibernation roosts outwith the seasons they are in use.
- This methodology applies to the following:
 - Disturbance to non-breeding and non-hibernation roosts of common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared and Daubenton's bats.
 - If works are to be completed within the protection zone when bats are present the following measures will be adopted in order to minimise potential disturbance to the roost:
 - Works will be completed in a manner to reduce and ensure minimal disturbance;
 - No use of directional lighting; and
 - No site compounds and/or vehicle parking areas will be permitted within 30 m of the roost.
 - Prior to the commencement of Project works, a protection zone will be established to retain the maximum possible distance between Project works and the roost in order to prevent damage. In most cases this protection zone will be no less than 1 m from the drip line of the tree or 5 m for buildings or cave entrances, and will be set up by the Ecologist / ECoW who is an Agent on the Project bat Licence, or a suitably qualified bat worker under their supervision. No construction works will be completed within this zone.
 - All site construction staff will be made aware of the presence of the roost and the requirement to remain outwith the protection zone at all times through a Toolbox Talk and the site EMP.
 - A watching brief would be undertaken by the ECoW as required to ensure that the protection zone has not been breached and that the roost/ roost feature has not been inadvertently damaged.
 - No specific ecological mitigation is considered to be required for the disturbance to non-breeding and non-hibernation sites.

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

4.3.2 Destruction of roosts at an appropriate time of year.

- a. This methodology applies to the following:
 - Destruction of roosts of common and soprano pipistrelle bats; and
 - Destruction of non-breeding and non-hibernation roosts of common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared and Daubenton's bats.
- b. Destruction of these roosts will only be completed at an appropriate time of year (dependent on roost status, avoiding sensitive seasons and if presence/ absence of bats can be confirmed).
- c. Prior to the commencement of Project works within 30 m of non-breeding and non-hibernation roosts, a protection zone will be set up by the ECoW. No works will be completed within this area until the roost has been destroyed in a controlled manner.
- d. All site construction staff will be made aware of the presence of the roost and the requirement to remain out with the protection zone at all times through a Toolbox Talk and the site EMP.
- e. Prior to licensed destruction of the roost, appropriate mitigation / compensation shall be provided on a like-for-like replacement basis (e.g. provision of roost features that would match the roost to be destroyed). Replacement roost features would be sited as close as possible to the roost to be destroyed but out with any potential disturbance distances. Compensatory roost provision would be agreed with NatureScot.

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

- f. The destruction of the roost will be completed in a controlled manner under the supervision of the ECoW (who is an Agent on the Project Licence, or a suitably qualified bat worker under their supervision), in order to ensure that no bats are injured and/or killed. The following measures will be adopted during the controlled destruction of the roost:
- Prior to any works being completed that will result in the destruction of non-breeding and non-hibernation roosts, a survey will be completed to determine whether bats are present or absent, the status of the roost and the species involved (through visual or lab analysis of droppings).
 - Where a roost is to be destroyed during the active period, and the presence of bats is confirmed or cannot be discounted, bats will be excluded from the roost using an appropriate exclusion device. (e.g. a cotton sleeve) which will be fitted to the observed entrance/exit point by the ECoW.
 - A dawn survey will be undertaken on the day of the exclusion to confirm the absence of bats returning to the roost. These surveys will be undertaken when the dawn temperature is > 8o C. Should bats be seen entering the roost the exclusion will be postponed for 3 days and the process repeated.
 - The exclusion device will remain in place for 7 days, unless this corresponds to a period of cold or adverse weather (where the temperature at dusk is < 8o C or heavy rain), then the excluder must stay in place for a further 7 days.
 - In the event of bats being identified within the roost during destruction, the ECoW is responsible for determining the best course of action with respect to the welfare of the animals.

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

5 Revision History

No	Overview of Amendment and Text affected	Previous Document	Revision	Authorisation
01	Transfer to new template and Nomenclature	TG-PS-LT-708 (Rev 1.00)	1.00	Richard Baldwin
02	Sentence 3.8.2 (1) has been replaced by the equivalent sentence of precursor TG-PS-LT-708. Paragraph 3.10 has been replaced by the equivalent paragraph of precursor TG-PS-LT-708. Paragraph 3.11 has been replaced by the equivalent paragraph of precursor TG-PS-LT-708 (with exception of update to SNH hyperlink).	TG-NET-ENV-502 (Rev 1.00)	1.01	Richard Baldwin
03	SPP updated to incorporate introduction of Bat Low Impact Licence.	TG-NET-ENV-502 (Rev 1.01)	1.02	Richard Baldwin
04	Updated in line with DMS requirement. Clarification on bat care added. SNH references updated to NatureScot. Survey requirements updated to align with current BCT guidance.	TG-NET-ENV-502 (Rev 1.02)	2.00	Richard Baldwin

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

Appendix A Project Licence Method Statement Template

<PROJECT TITLE>

METHOD STATEMENT FOR WORKS UNDER (insert licence details)

<insert species record reference>

<insert date>

Introduction

This document, prepared on behalf of SHE Transmission provides a Method Statement for <insert details of works> to be completed under <insert licence details>. These works are required in order to facilitate the delivery of the <insert Project details> (the Project).

Condition <insert No.> of the above Licence states that a <insert species> Protection Method Statement be submitted to NatureScot licensing team for written approval, under specific circumstances, prior to commencement of works which could affect <insert species>.

Therefore, no works which would <insert licensed activity> <insert species> shall take place without written confirmation of NatureScot approval of this method statement.

This Method Statement makes reference to the following documents:

- <insert licence details>, NatureScot
- Species Protection Plan (SPP): <insert SPP No. and title> Rev. X <insert date>

Further information is provided in Table A.1 - Summary of Data.

Licensable Works

Introduction

<Insert details>

Baseline Description

<Insert description, including photographs / location plan>

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

Table A.1 - Summary of Data

Reference	Easting	Northing	Date recorded	Description	Date works exclusion zone demarcated & distance

Survey Summary

<Insert details>

Description of the Proposed Licensable Works

<Insert details>

Works Duration

<Insert details>

Consideration of Alternatives

<Insert details>

Impact Assessment

<Insert details>

TG-NET-ENV-502	Bat Species Protection Plan		Applies to
			Transmission ✓
Revision: 2.00	Classification: Internal	Issue Date: March 2025	Review Date: March 2030

Method Statement Site Briefing (to be delivered to relevant staff prior to works)

Site: <insert description>

Reference number: <insert species record reference>

Client: SHE Transmission

Task: <insert description of works>

Prepared by: <insert individual or Company name>

Licensed Agent: <insert name>

Method statement for <insert works description>

Before works commence:

All relevant personnel will be made aware of the presence and location of the constraint and mitigation.

<insert details of methodology>

During works:

<insert details of methodology>

<Insert Contractor's name>

I, the undersigned, confirm receipt of this method statement and fully understand and agree to work to the conditions therein.

Signature of Contractor's Representative:..... Date / /

Print name in full: