

During supervised works to the area of the roost the RC would capture any bats that do not fly away and move them to a temporary bat box (erected on a nearby tree prior to works commencing).

These works (when capture/handling and exclusion of bats is possible) should ideally take place in conditions suitable for bats to be active (spring-autumn inclusive). However, works can also be undertaken in the winter as long as weather conditions allow (sunset temperature of at least 8°C on preceding 2+ days).

5.3.4. Compensation

Although there is no requirement for any compensatory roosting features to be installed under the BMCL scheme (favourable conservation status is maintained without any compensation), it is recommended that two 1FF Schwegler Bat Box with built-in Wooden Rear Panel-bat boxes (or similar) are installed on trees in owners landholding (**Plate 2**). Lifted ridge tiles on the new dwelling should also be considered, noting that an appropriate roof lining (1F or bitumen felt) must be used.

Plate 2. Proposed bat box locations; orange stars



5.4. Lighting

Habitats with the potential to support foraging and/or commuting bats around the site periphery were identified.

To minimise impacts to bats during construction, works during the period between 15 minutes before sunset and 15 minutes after sunrise should be avoided/minimised so far as practicably possible. If temporary lighting is necessary, it should be directed to where it is needed, and light spillage avoided.

To ensure that impacts commuting/foraging bats from permanent lighting are minimised so far as practicably possible, lighting should be directed to where it is needed and light spillage avoided. This can be achieved by the design of the luminaire and by using accessories such as hoods, cowls, louvres and shields to direct the light to the intended area only.

The height of lighting columns in general should be as short as is possible as light at a low level reduces any ecological impact. However, there are cases where a taller column will enable light to be directed downwards at a more acute angle and thereby reducing horizontal spill. For access lighting this can take the form of low-level lighting that is as directional as possible and below 3 lux at ground level.

Light levels should be as low as possible and if lighting is not needed, it should be avoided.

Many security lights are fitted with movement sensors which, if well installed and aimed, will reduce the amount of time a light is on each night. This is more easily achieved in a system where the light unit and the movement sensor are able to be separately aimed. If the light is fitted with a timer this should be adjusted to the minimum to reduce the amount of 'lit time'. The light should be aimed to illuminate only the immediate area required by using as sharp a downward angle as possible. A shield or hood can be used to control or restrict the area to be lit. Avoid illuminating at a wider angle as this will be more disturbing to foraging and commuting bats and other wildlife.

5.5. Nesting Birds

No evidence of nesting bird presence was encountered. If active nests are encountered during works all works must cease and the advice of a SQE sought.

5.6. Report/Survey Validity

The findings of this report are considered valid for up to 12 months from the date of this report⁷. If the project is delayed beyond this period, an updated assessment of potential impacts will be required.

Please note that, to inform a BMCL licence application, surveys must have been completed during the most recent/current bat survey window (May – Sept, inc.). If a licence application is not submitted prior to May 2025, at least one update survey will be required by NE.

⁷ CIEEM (2019). *Advice Note on The Lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys* [online] available at: <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Advice-Note.pdf>