

CONTRACTORS PACK



EXTERNAL WALL INSULATION (EWI) AND ASSOCIATED WORKS TOOLKIT

Pack C: Contractors | Part 3: Mitigation method
statement template for
contractors

Home Improvement Series





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TOOLKIT PACKS



Pack A: Clients Pack

Part 1 - General introduction

Part 2 - Guidance for clients



Pack B: Ecologist's Pack

Part 1 - General introduction

Part 2 - Guidance for Ecologists

Part 3 - Precautionary Derogation Licence Application

- *application form*

- *MS template*



Pack C: Contractors Pack

Part 1 - General introduction

Part 2 - Guidance for Contractors

Part 3 - Mitigation method statement

Part 4 - Toolbox talk



Pack D: Mitigation Pack

Part 1 - Property mitigation audit form

Part 2 - Example of a completed mitigation audit form

Part 3 - Mitigation solutions and enhancements catalogue

Part 4 - Bat and bird public information request

Part 5 - Information on protected species and wildlife boxes for property owners



OVERALL PROCESS

STAGE 1: Determine risk to bats and breeding birds

- Desktop survey including Local Record Centre search
- Walkover survey by suitably qualified ecologist checking for signs of bats, bat potential including potential access points and signs of breeding birds

Property has NO signs of breeding birds or bats / potential for bats – continue with works incorporating enhancements on those properties

Property has signs of breeding birds or bats / potential for bats – continue to stage 2

STAGE 2: Mitigate through design

- Avoid impacts by ensuring all bat access points are retained and the roofline/soffits are not affected
- Carry out works outside of bird breeding season
- Provide replacement bird nests appropriate for relevant species

Property's bat access points CAN be retained / no extensions to the roof required / no new soffits/fascias required

- Produce method statement including bat and bird mitigation and enhancements and apply for precautionary bat licence
- continue with works in accordance with method statement for those properties

Property's bat access points CANNOT be retained / extensions to the roof required / new soffits/fascias required – continue to stage 3

STAGE 3: Presence / absence survey

- Where potential impacts can't be avoided, bat presence / absence surveys will be required in accordance with published guidelines

Property has NO evidence of bats

- Produce method statement including bat and bird mitigation and enhancements and apply for precautionary bat licence
- Continue with works in accordance with method statement for those properties

Property HAS evidence of bats - Apply for specific bat (derogation) licence for that property and carry out works in accordance with method statement (incorporating bird mitigation and enhancements) OR do not carry out works



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1 MITIGATION METHOD

1.1 Public engagement

- 1.1.1 At the commencement of the scheme, display the 'Public Information Request' notice (Pack D, Part 4) in the site office in a conspicuous public place. The notice can also be displayed at any public engagement events.
- 1.1.2 All applicants for EWI should be encouraged to notify the site office if they know of bats or sites where birds nest in their property.
- 1.1.3 All applicants for EWI should be given a copy of the document 'Information on protected species and wildlife boxes' (Pack D, Part 5), which is to be included in the information pack issued at the start of the scheme. They should be made aware that these are ecological requirements of such a scheme and that mitigation measures and enhancements may be required on their property/s. This information should be delivered as part of any initial information so it doesn't appear like an 'add-on' or option. Receive agreement regarding acceptance of any measures when they agree to the EWI.

1.2 Mitigation strategy for features with wildlife potential

- 1.2.1 The ecologist will complete a report detailing the mitigation measures that are required. This will need to be signed off to demonstrate that the site manager has read and understood the requirements.
- 1.2.2 The ecologist will have completed a dedicated Property Mitigation Form (Pack D, Part 1) for each property requiring bat (and/or bird) mitigation. The form includes a list of all possible mitigation strategies. A catalogue of mitigation strategies is provided in Pack D, Part 3. The ecologist will highlight the features required for the property affected (e.g. Pack D, Part 2).
- 1.2.3 Site managers will agree with the ecologist an appropriate 'off-the-peg' mitigation strategy that retains holes, gaps or features with potential for bats or birds (Pack C, Part 3). The ecologist will advise on which measures are appropriate for a given situation on a given property.
- 1.2.4 If one of the off-the-peg solutions is not suitable then the site manager will discuss how to retain that feature and a tailored mitigation method will be written for that property.
- 1.2.5 If bat potential is found, a precautionary bat EPS Derogation Licence will be required, with the site manager the named person responsible for its implementation. Contractors risk committing an offence under European and national law if the mitigation and therefore licence is not implemented.



1.3 Toolbox talk

- 1.3.1 All contractors/site managers involved with the installation of EWI will arrange for the ecologist to deliver a toolbox talk that emphasises the risk to bats/birds and the importance of the mitigation detail [see Part 4 – Toolbox Talk].

1.4 Animal welfare

- 1.4.1 If any bats are seen/found when the ecologist is not on site then the contractors will stop work, cover/screen the bat(s) again and contact the ecologist [**ENTER ECOLOGIST CONTACT DETAILS HERE**] on how to proceed. If the ecologist cannot be reached, contact Natural Resources Wales protected species officer (0300 065 5235) or the BCT Bat HelpLine 0345 1300 228 (available out of hours in the active season). Avoid handling bats for reasons of personal health and safety.
- 1.4.2 In the event that any bats are accidentally injured or killed during the works, notify the ecologist immediately. A record of the circumstances will be passed to the ecologist for subsequent reporting to NRW.
- 1.4.3 If a bat maternity (nursery) roost is discovered at any point during the surveys then the roost area will be secured (i.e. the bats protected) and work will be postponed until a suitable time of year. An application will be made for a property-specific European Protected Species licence if necessary.
- 1.4.4 If a bird nest is found at any stage, contact the ecologist for further advice. Any work on scaffolding or walls is to stop until advice has been received from the ecologist on how to proceed. The ecologist may need to carry out an inspection.

1.5 Mitigation audit

- 1.5.1 The site manager will arrange for the ecologist to carry out a compliance audit of the mitigation detailed in any of the ecology reports relating to this scheme before any scaffold is taken down and before contractors leave site. Any mitigation that has not been implemented as agreed will be corrected. Subsequent monitoring may also be required.

1.6 Biodiversity enhancements

- 1.6.1 The ecologist will select a number of suitable properties to receive biodiversity enhancement features, including bird and/or bat boxes. Biodiversity enhancement features are not a substitute for mitigation. The site manager is to obtain agreement from the property owner before installing any features classed as biodiversity enhancement. Property owners may require advice in order to reach a decision on having a biodiversity enhancement feature. Ensure that the property owner has a copy of the document 'Information on protected species and wildlife boxes' (Pack D, Part 5). The site manager can also put the property owner in touch with the ecologist.