

Halghton Hall
Bangor-on-Dee, Wrexham, LL13 0BN

***Bat Survey
with Mitigation Plan***

For: David Lewis
(Agent: Andrew Storey)

July 2014

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background – Gerald Longley

Gerald Longley, Ecological Consultant, has been commissioned to undertake a bat survey on the grade 1 listed Halghton Hall, Bangor-on-Dee, Wrexham, LL13 0BN, national grid reference SJ415424. He has two decades of experience of wildlife surveying and, prior to working as an independent ecological consultant, held posts as Conservation Officer with Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust and Head of Shrewsbury Countryside Unit.

1.2 Background – This Survey

It has been proposed to carry out works to take down and rebuild a large part of the north gable end wall of the cross wing of the hall. The request for this survey comes from the applicant's and the planning team's need to ensure that if the building is being used by protected species, notably bats or nesting birds, their conservation needs are met and the law is not broken. Under the law, a bat roost is any structure or place used for shelter or protection. "Structure" could be any building, wall, well, cave or mature tree. Bats use many roost sites and feeding areas throughout the year. These vary according to bat age, condition, gender and species, as well as season and weather. Since bats tend to re-use the same roosts for generations, the roost may be protected whether the bats are present or not. A full citation of the law with regard to birds and bats is given in the Appendices.

1.3 Report Summary

Bat Survey – Halghton Hall, Bangor-on-Dee, LL13 0BN

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The 17th century Halghton Hall was surveyed following the BCT 2012 Bat Survey Guidelines, using a thorough daytime survey and three bat activity surveys between 02 and 29 July 2014 by Gerald Longley MCIEEM. Works to take down and rebuild a large portion of the north gable end wall of the cross wing of the hall are proposed. The walls of the Hall were of brick on a stone plinth with stone quoins and decoration. The pitched roof was slate with bitumastic felt and traditional timber framing beneath with large oak timbers.

Inside the attic approximately 15 brown long-eared bats were observed flying in the loft space and approximately two pipistrelle bats recorded in gaps in the corners of the east gable. One baby brown long-eared bat and one dead baby brown long-eared bat were also observed. Many bat droppings of at least two different types were found in the attic, particularly under the ridges and A-frames and at the east and south gable walls:

- Medium sized droppings with a coarse grained texture, typical of brown long-eared bats.
- Small droppings with a fine grained texture typical of pipistrelle and *Myotis* bats.

Common and soprano pipistrelle bats, brown long-eared bats and *Myotis* species, probably mainly whiskered bats, were found to be roosting in the attic, entering via gaps under the eaves, slates and ridge tiles, mainly on the north and south sides of the main range of the building. Brown long-eared bats were confirmed as a maternity colony of about 50 adult bats and other bat species were considered to be using the building as a summer roost.

These surveys establish that Halghton Hall is a bat roost and maternity colony but the colonies are confined to the attic and there was no roosting in any cracks in the walls and the bats' presence is therefore a material consideration for any planning or listed building consent application.

No signs of nesting birds were found inside or outside the building.

The following is recommended:

1. The presence of maternity and roosting bat colonies is a constraint to the proposed works to the Hall. If works were to go ahead without approved mitigation, it is likely the bats would be negatively affected, especially if works were carried out in the spring or summer.
2. For the works to be carried out, a Development (European Protected Species) Licence concerning the bats will need to be applied for from Natural Resources Wales once listed building consent has been granted.
3. A Brief Bat Mitigation Plan, including a Method Statement, has been drawn up, which is presented in this report. It includes such matters as:
 - a) Timing of works – 1 October to 30 April.
 - b) Worker/contractor induction on bat presence.
 - c) Contingency for discovering bats.
 - d) Provision of bat boxes.
 - e) Protection of bat roosts and entry/exit points.
 - f) Applicant to provide the Mitigation details on their Planning Application drawings.

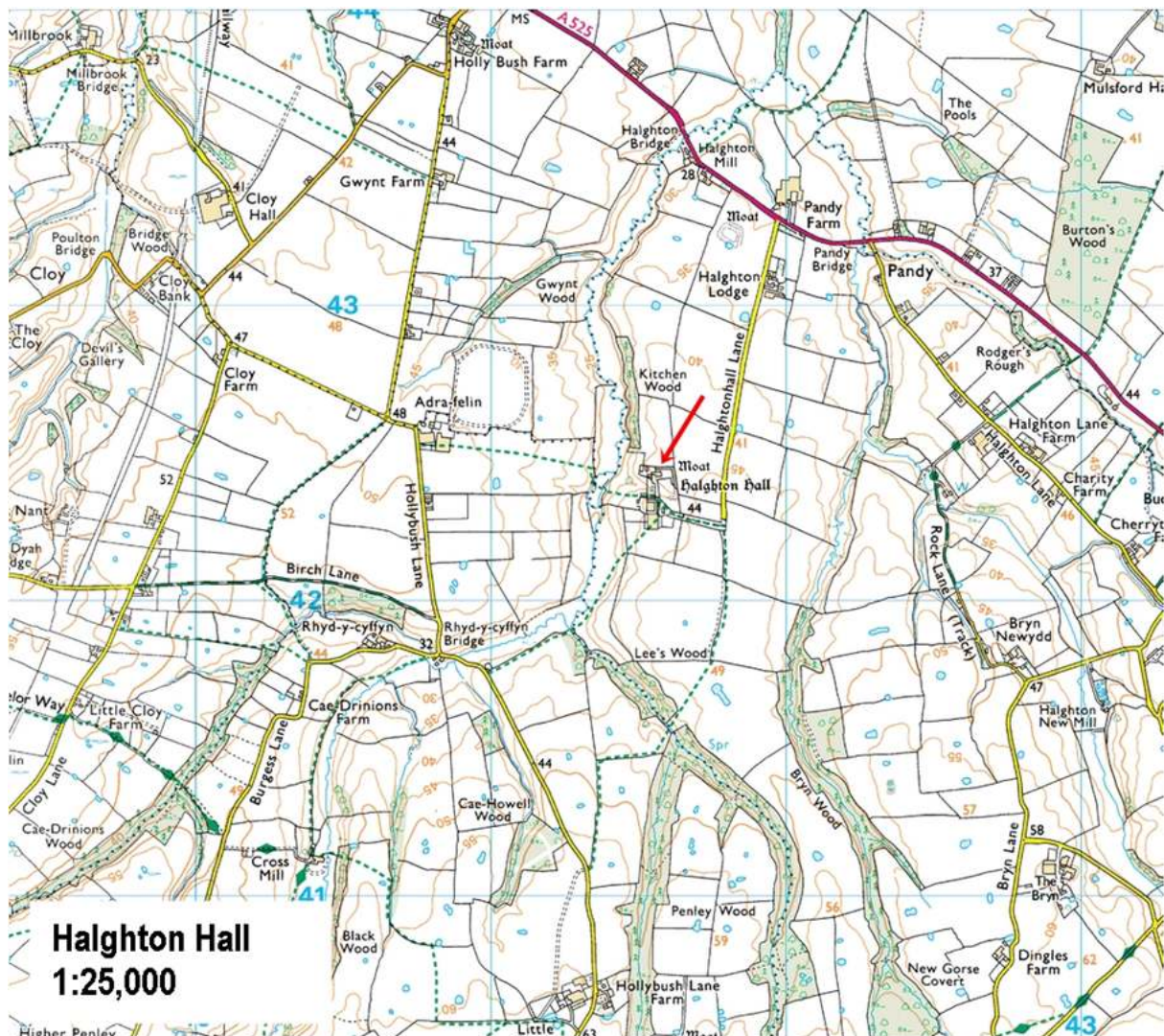
2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims of the Survey

- To establish the presence or absence of bat roosts and/or bat species in the building.
- To also establish the presence or absence of nesting birds in the building.
- To make recommendations accordingly.

2.2 Desk Study

The 1:25000 Ordnance Survey sheet covering the site, and the aerial survey on Google Earth, were scrutinised to assess the surrounding habitat at a crude level. This looked for any semi-natural habitat that may be of value to wildlife, for example ponds, hedges, parkland, wetland, and woodland with interconnecting habitats links. Searches were made on the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Gateway and Magic websites for statutory designated sites coincident with or adjacent to the area of search. The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Gateway website was also searched for records of the keynote species within five kilometres.



2.3 Site Surveys

The site survey was designed by Gerald Longley using standard techniques based on the guidance and information in Bat Conservation Trust (2012), English Nature (2004), Joint Nature Conservation Council (JNCC) (1999) and Schofield (2008).

The first survey consisted of a thorough daytime inspection followed by one pre-dawn and two evening bat activity surveys (not necessarily in that order). See the appendices for a full list of equipment used. The pre-dawn bat detector survey looked for possible re-entry to the building by bats and the evening activity surveys looked for emergence from the building. The four visits also provided a check to assess whether nesting birds used the Hall. The surveyors were Gerald Longley, MCIEEM, Stuart Thomas MCIEEM, Mickey Maher and Mary Thornton, MCIEEM.

The external and internal survey of the hall included an assessment for potential for nesting birds and bats and a search for evidence, such as pellets, dead bats, prey remains, droppings, urine marks and staining. Close-focusing binoculars were used immediately below potential roost areas. Droppings around the bases of and/or stuck to walls, on shelves, wall plates, purlins, etc. were searched for with the aid of the high-powered torch. Holes and cracks in the walls, purlins, beams, etc. and behind any cladding were inspected with the colour video endoscope.



3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Desk Study

No records of any notable species were found to exist for the site. No statutory protected site was coincident with the site. The nearest SSSI, Cloy Brook Pastures, was approximately 2.1km to the west.

Brown long-eared and whiskered bat had been recorded in the Old Rectory at Tallern Green, approximately 2km northeast (1992) and records for common pipistrelle were found for the villages of Penley (approximately 1.5km south), Overton (approximately 2km west) and Bangor-on-Dee (approximately 2km west). Details of the NBN records found are in appendix 7.3.

3.2 Site Surveys

The site consisted of the 17th century Haighton Hall. The Hall consisted of a two storey main range with a two and three storey cross wing at the west end. The walls of the Hall were of brick on a stone plinth with stone quoins and decoration. The pitched roof was slate with bitumastic felt and traditional timber framing beneath consisting of large oak timber, purlins and A frames. To the rear (north side) three single storey lean-to buildings were attached to the main range and a single storey building extended from the cross wing. Another single storey building extended from the west side of the building. All were built of brick with slate roofs. Many parts of the walls, especially the north facing gable, had numerous cracks and gaps in both the mortar and brick work itself.

The Hall was in an agricultural landscape of mainly pasture fields with hedgerows, veteran trees and patches of woodland which was generally good habitat for bats. Immediately to the north and east of the Hall were the remains of a moat lined with mature trees. The moat still held water. Farm buildings were immediately to the west and also to the south with a patch of woodland between them and the Hall. The site had good habitat connectivity (i.e. joined by vegetation links) in all directions, particularly to the north and west with the moat, trees, woodland and a small stream.

Adjacent farm buildings were not included in this survey as work to them was not part of the current proposal. They were largely of traditional brick construction and were considered to be likely to offer further roosting habitat for bats in the immediate area.

Daytime inspection – 02 July 2014

No bat signs were found on the outside of the Hall. Inside the attic approximately 15 brown long eared bats were observed flying in the loft space and approximately two pipistrelle bats recorded in gaps in the corners of the east facing gable. One baby brown long-eared bat and one dead baby brown long-eared bat were also observed.

Many bat droppings of at least two different types were found in the attic, particularly under the ridges and A-frames and at the east and south gable walls:

- Medium sized droppings with a coarse grained texture, typical of brown long eared bats.
- Small droppings with a fine grained texture typical of pipistrelle and *Myotis* bats.

Some holes in roof timbers showed signs of regular use as roosts with no cobwebs and the wood stained from bat fur oil.

No signs of nesting birds were found inside or outside the building.

First Evening Emergence Survey

02 July 2014 – 21.10 to 22.59 (sunset 21.41 BST)

A warm evening with a slight breeze. 17°C, 4/8 oktas. The surveyors were placed so as to attempt to view all elevations.

At 21.50 and until 21.54 there was an emergence of approximately 8 soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)(55Khz) bats from under the north eaves and from under roof slates on the north side of the main range of the hall.

At 21.56 and until 22.08, there was an emergence of approximately 6 common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)(45Khz) bats from similar places on the north side of the main range of the hall.

Both species of pipistrelle made passes along the line of the moat and around the grass area behind the hall after emerging.

From 22.02 until 22.30 approximately 5 brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*) bats were observed emerging from under the north eaves and flying directly into the trees along the moat and beyond. Approximately 5 brown long-eared bats also emerged from the northeast corner of the main range. Approximately 15 brown long-eared bats were observed to emerge from the southeast corner of the main range.

At 22.19 a *Myotis* species of bat, probably a whiskered (*Myotis mystacinus*) bat, emerged from the north eaves of the main range

From 21.57 until 22.00 approximately 3 common pipistrelle bats emerged from under slates and eaves on south side of the building. They made passes around the immediate area until 22.14 and then dispersed.

At 22.06 approximately 2 soprano pipistrelle bats emerged from under slates and eaves on the south side of the building. They continued to make passes in the immediate area until approximately 22.14.

At 21.59 a single common pipistrelle emerged from under the eaves on the west side of the building.

No bats were observed emerging from the north gable end wall of the cross range that is proposed to be taken down and rebuilt although this wall was closely observed throughout the survey.

Dawn re-entry Survey

11 July 2014 – 03.30 to 04.49 (sunrise 04.31 BST)

A still, clear, cool dawn. 12°C, 0/8 oktas. The surveyors were placed so as to attempt to view all elevations.

From 03.31 until 04.19 there were passes by approximately 6 common pipistrelles around the north and east sides of the Hall followed by entry under ridge tiles along the roof of the main range of the Hall.

From 03.40 until 04.24 there were passes by approximately 5 soprano pipistrelles around the north and east sides of the Hall followed by entry under ridge tiles along the roof of the main range of the Hall.

At 03.37 a *Myotis* bat entered under the north eaves of the building. From 03.48 until 03.51 another *Myotis* bat made passes near the building and entered under the north eaves. These were identified as most probably whiskered bats from detailed examination of their Anabat files later on AnalookW.

At 03.58 another *Myotis* bat entered under the north eaves. This was not able to be identified to species level.

From 03.48 until 04.13 approximately 60 brown long-eared bats were counted entering the north eaves, particularly in a corner formed by a small section of longer pitched roof adjacent to the chimney.

From 03.40 there were passes by approximately 5 soprano pipistrelles around the west side of the Hall followed by entry under the west eaves of the building.

From 03.43 until 4.25 there were passes by approximately 4 common pipistrelles around the west side of the Hall followed by entry under the west eaves of the building.

At 03.37 and 03.55 passes were made around the west of the building by approximately 2 brown long-eared bats.

No bats were observed to enter the building via any wall cracks or gaps even in the north gable end wall of the cross range where there were many gaps, although particular attention was paid to it throughout the survey.

Second Evening Emergence Survey

29 July 2014 – 20.02 to 22.30 (sunset 21.12 BST)

A warm, overcast evening with a light breeze. 21°C, 8/8 oktas. The surveyors were placed so as to attempt to view all elevations.

From 21.17 until 21.40 approximately 4 soprano pipistrelles emerged from under slates and the eaves on the north side of the roof. They continued to make passes along the tree lined moat and around the grass area behind the Hall throughout the survey.

From 21.29 until 21.53 approximately 8 common pipistrelles emerged from under slates and the eaves on the north side of the roof. They continued to make passes along the moat and around the Hall throughout the survey.

From 21.49 until 22.05 approximately 12 brown long-eared bats emerged from the north eaves, mainly in the corner adjacent to the chimney, and flew directly north into the trees along the moat.

At 22.01 and 22.14 approximately 2 *Myotis*, probably whiskered bats, emerged from under the eaves on the north side of the Hall and flew directly north into the trees along the moat.

From 21.12 until 21.33 approximately 5 soprano pipistrelles emerged from under the eaves and slates on the west side of the Hall. They flew around the farmyard and the front of the Hall for the duration of the survey.

From 21.25 until 21.43 approximately 4 common pipistrelles emerged from the eaves and slates on the west side of the Hall. They too continued to make passes close to the Hall for the duration of the survey.

At 21.49 a brown long-eared bat was observed emerging from under the west eaves and flying directly towards the trees and moat north of the Hall.

No bats were observed to emerge from the north gable end wall of the cross range although particular attention was paid to it throughout the survey.

See 8.0 Site Pictures for emergence/entry points.

3.3 Constraints of this survey

As with all wildlife surveys conducted, the data collected is only a representation of the species and species presence markers found during the actual dates of the survey. There are other seasons and many species are mobile or transitory.

There were no major constraints. The weather and dates for the surveys were ideal and the whole of the attic was accessed.

Evidence for some crevice-dwelling bats, eg. *Myotis* species, can be difficult to find. Brown long-eared bats are notoriously difficult to pick up on a bat detector as they call very quietly or not at all. They are also difficult to see during evening emergence, as it is getting very dark when they emerge. The dawn survey, however, enabled a fairly accurate count of brown long-eared bats returning to the roost to be made so this was not considered to be a major constraint.

3.4 Interpretation/evaluation of survey results

Most of Halghton Hall itself was highly suitable for bat roosting, with ideal conditions including brick walls and slate roofs with bitumastic felt and large traditional roof timbers underneath. There were dry conditions in the attic with good flying spaces and numerous potential access points under eaves, ridge tiles and roof tiles. The location of droppings inside the roof showed a concentration of roosting activity along the ridge, under the A frames and at the east and south gable walls.

The Hall was surrounded by generally good habitat for bats with mature trees, hedgerows, pasture and water nearby. The tree lined moat, which still held water, immediately north of the Hall provided a particularly good route into the surrounding habitat for emerging bats.

Brown long-eared bats habitually form smaller colonies than some other species of bats most often of around 20 bats although up to 50 is not uncommon. The evening emergence count of approximately 25 on 02 July suggested a large roost and the count of around 60 in the dawn survey (11 July) was high for this species and probably included young bats. More puzzling was the much lower count of approximately 13 brown long-eared bats emerging on the second evening survey (29 July). Brown long-eared bats call very quietly so they may have been missed but two surveyors were specifically watching the north of the building and the corner where around 60 bats had been counted during the dawn survey and large numbers of brown long-eared bats were not observed leaving the building by other exits either. It was speculated that other suitable buildings nearby might be being used as roosts on some nights by the same bats. A baby brown long-eared bat was observed flying in the roof space during the daytime inspection and a dead baby long-eared bat was also found confirming the roost as a good sized maternity colony. Since baby bats may well have been flying during the dawn survey causing a swell in numbers the colony is estimated at 50 bats.

Smaller numbers, approximately 10 of each, of common and soprano pipistrelle were recorded suggesting a summer roost of male bats rather than a maternity colony. A very small number of *Myotis* bats, probably mostly whiskered bat, were also recorded entering and emerging from the roof.

No bats were observed emerging from or entering the north gable end wall of the cross range that is proposed to be taken down and rebuilt although this wall was closely observed throughout the survey.

Common and soprano pipistrelle bats, brown long-eared bats and *Myotis* species, probably mainly whiskered bats, were found to be roosting in the attic, entering via gaps under the eaves, slates and ridge tiles, mainly on the north and south sides of the main range of the building. Brown long-eared bats were confirmed as a maternity colony of around 50 adult bats and other bat species were considered to be using the building as a summer roost.

These surveys establish that Halghton Hall is a bat roost and maternity colony but the colonies are confined to the attic and there was no roosting in any cracks in the walls and the bats' presence is therefore a material consideration for any planning or listed building consent application.

No signs of nesting birds were found inside or outside the building.

An assessment of the likely impact of the proposed works if they were to go ahead without mitigation is in section 6.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is recommended:

1. The presence of maternity and roosting bat colonies is a constraint to the proposed works to the Hall. If works were to go ahead without approved mitigation, it is likely the bats could be negatively affected, especially if works were carried out in the spring or summer.
2. For the works to be carried out, a Development (European Protected Species) Licence concerning the bats will need to be applied for from Natural Resources Wales, once listed building consent has been granted.
3. A Brief Bat Mitigation Plan, including a Method Statement, has been drawn up, which is presented in this report. It includes such matters as:
 - a) Timing of works – 1 October to 30 April.
 - b) Worker/contractor induction on bat presence.
 - c) Contingency for discovering bats.
 - d) Provision of bat boxes.
 - e) Protection of bat roosts and entry/exit points.
 - f) Applicant to provide the Mitigation details on their Planning Application drawings.

5.0 REFERENCES

- 1/ AJ Mitchell-Jones. Bat mitigation guidelines. English Nature (2004).
 - 2/ Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines Bat Conservation Trust 2nd ed (2012).
 - 3/ Eds. AJ Mitchell-Jones and AP McLeish Bat Workers' Manual (3rd Edition). JNCC (1999).
 - 4/ HW Schofield, The Lesser Horseshoe Bat Conservation Handbook. Vincent Wildlife Trust (2008).
 - 5/ Bat Conservation Trust BATS AND LIGHTING IN THE UK Ver. 3 (2009)
 - 6/ J. Russ, British Bat Calls: A Guide to Species Identification. Pelagic (2012).
- Bat Conservation Trust (2010) Bat species information sheets
http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/uk_bats.html

6.0 MITIGATION PLAN

Halghton Hall, Bangor-on-Dee, LL13 0BN

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Bat Survey

Brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*) maternity roost. Approximately 50 adult bats.
Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) summer roost. 10 bats
Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) summer roost. 10 bats
Myotis species, mainly whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*) bat summer roost. 2-3 bats

Objective: To ensure the bats remain at a favourable conservation status.

Impact assessment (in absence of mitigation)

Proposed works

It is proposed to make numerous repairs to brick work and mortar on the Hall including in particular taking down and rebuilding the upper part of the north gable end wall. It is understood that there are no plans to carry out works to the roof or roof timbers or other walls or to change the use of the attic. Behind this north gable wall is a large colony of bats. The brown long-eared bats may well be present through the autumn and some of the winter.

Short-term impacts: disturbance

Bats, including baby bats and pregnant females, could be killed or abandon their roosts if demolition and rebuilding works start while they are present in spring and summer. If works start in the winter and are not completed by the following spring, the roost would not be in a favourable condition for bats to return to. There is a small possibility of crevice dwelling bats, eg. both species of pipistrelle and *Myotis* species, being found hibernating in cracks and crevices in brickwork during demolition work during the winter.

Long-term impacts: roost modification

The main bat roosting areas, ie. east and south gable walls, ridges and roof timbers, will not be affected long-term by the proposed works. It is understood that there are no plans to remove or carry out works to the roof or its timbers. The restored north gable wall will have fewer holes and cracks, but it has been shown bats are not using these, which may have an impact on air flows within the attic space. Reducing draughts should help retain warm air and a stable temperature which are attractive to bats.

Long-term impacts: roost loss that is relevant

Roosts could be lost in the short term if works are undertaken in the spring or summer. In the long term, the roost may not be lost.

Long-term impacts: fragmentation and isolation

Any loss of linear features such as hedges, tree lines, moat; increased lighting, or severance of flight lines by roads would be negative. None of these are proposed as part of the works.

Post-development interference impacts

Once the works are completed, the roost will be returned to its present state. The same area will be available to bats to use for roosting and rearing young.

Predicted scale of impact

The impact on the colonies of bats concerned could be high, but the impact on the numbers in the locality would be:

Brown long-eared bat – moderate,

Common pipistrelle bat – low,

Soprano pipistrelle bat – low,

and *Myotis* species, mainly whiskered bat – low.

Land ownership – Halghton Hall is in the ownership of the applicant, David Lewis.

Method Statement

Halghton Hall, Bangor-on-Dee, LL13 0BN

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Bat Survey

Brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*) maternity roost. Approximately 50 adult bats.
Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) summer roost. 10 bats
Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) summer roost. 10 bats
Myotis species, mainly whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*) bat summer roost. 2-3 bats

In chronological order:

a) Timing of works

Carry out and complete all the works to take down and rebuild the north gable wall, including works to replace verges, any repairs or replacement of roof timbers or slates etc. and install and remove all scaffolding and other supports in the period **01 October to 30 April**. This will avoid the high-risk period for bat colonies in spring and summer.

Work to take down the upper part of the north wall, which has the attic space to the interior, should take place in **October or early November** to avoid disturbance or harm to any hibernating bats.

To further avoid disturbance to any bats using the attic, an ecologist search will be carried out to find any bats, and small numbers of bats at the northern part will be moved to elsewhere in the attic and then a timber partition will be erected to seal the work area from other sections of the attic and then removed at the end of the works. Although bats may still suffer some disturbance, this will allow them to continue to use the east and south gables and main part of the roof space while works are completed.

b) Worker/contractor induction on bat presence

Provide a "Tool Box Talk", Method Statement and summary sheet of guidance about bats in old buildings to site owner, Site Manager and all workers/contractors.

c) Creation of temporary roosts for any bats found during conversion

To erect, at 3m to 4m height, during the winter of 2015 prior to any works, three untreated timber bat boxes to BCT design, with a slot width 16 - 17mm on trees within 20m of the building. They will be primarily a safe, temporary roosting site for the ecologist to place bats in, if any are found at the searches prior to and during the works when it is not possible or suitable to place them elsewhere in the attic.

d) Contingency for discovering bats

A licensed bat ecologist will: search the attic immediately prior to any work and, if bats are found to move small numbers to elsewhere in the attic from the north gable. If large numbers, i.e. over 10 are found near the north gable, further advice will be taken from Natural Resource Wales. The licensed bat ecologist will then provide a "watching brief" of work to take down the upper part of the north gable wall and any work to strip/dismantle any part of the adjacent roof. Any bats found that do not fly will be released immediately at the site into other parts of the attic or bat boxes already erected in trees. If this is not possible they will be rehabilitated at a suitable centre with later release at site.

e) New/existing bat roosting habitat

- (i) Create 4 holes, 20mm diameter, in the slate verge mortar or under stone work on the north facing gable to give access for bats to behind the mortar and under the slates. Two holes to be evenly spaced on each pitch of the north facing gable.

- (ii) Existing bat accesses under eaves and slates will be left open and accessible as they are.
- (iii) Any external lighting will meet the requirements of the Bat Conservation Trust BATS AND LIGHTING IN THE UK Ver. 3 2009. Security lighting will be motion-sensitive only and on a relatively short timer (<5mins), positioned no higher than 2.5m above ground level, directed downwards only (with no up-lighting of any sort) away from bat roost access points and flight paths and motion-sensitive only to humans and not smaller animals

f) Providing clear details and connection to Planning Permission/Listed Building Consent

The applicant/surveyor/architect to include all these bat mitigation specifications and details on their Planning or Listed Building Application plans and drawings.

7.0 APPENDICES

7.1 Relevant Legislation

Birds – Legislation

Under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is an offence to intentionally kill, injure, handle or remove any wild bird; take or damage a nest whilst in use or being built; and take or destroy eggs. A person is not guilty of any offence if their action was the incidental result of a lawful activity and could not have been reasonably avoided.

A higher level of protection is afforded to those birds listed in Schedule 1 of the Act. It is an offence to disturb a Schedule 1 species whilst it is building or sitting on a nest, in addition to damaging or destroying their nests or eggs.

It is not an offence to disturb non-Schedule 1 species whilst they are building a nest or sitting on it. However, an offence may be committed if the bird is driven away from a nest by prolonged disturbance which results in the failure of eggs or death of dependent young.

In essence, the relevance of this is that any tree, hedge or similar that could have birds nesting in it can only be removed in the period October to February (inclusive) unless subject to additional onsite survey immediately prior to its intended removal by a Suitably Qualified Ecologist or a licence is obtained from the appropriate authority.

Bats – Legislation

All British bat species receive legal protection in the United Kingdom under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) (as amended). The WCA 1981 was amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. All British bat species are listed under Schedule 5 of the 1981 Act, and is therefore subject to the provisions of Section 9, which makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take a bat
- Possess or control any live or dead specimen or anything derived from a bat
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which a bat uses for shelter or protection
- Sell, offer for sale, possess or transport for the purpose of sale or publish advertisements to buy or sell a bat

Bats are also included on Annex IV of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. As a result of the UK ratifying this directive, all British bats are also protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. It makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately capture or kill a bat.
- Deliberately disturb a bat in such a way as to be likely to significantly affect i) the ability of any significant group of animals of that species to survive, breed or rear or nurture their young, OR ii) the local distribution of that species.
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a bat.

Under the law, a roost is any structure or place used for shelter or protection. This could be any structure, for example any building or mature tree. Bats use many roost sites and feeding areas throughout the year. These vary according to bat age, condition, gender and species, as well as season and weather. Since bats tend to re-use the same roosts for generations, the roost may be protected whether the bats are present or not.

7.2 Field equipment used for the survey:

Escort mini temperature data logger
Silva compass
Leica 8 x 42 close-focusing binoculars
Cluson Clubman 1 Million candle-power lamps
Access Cam Pro-Sight colour video endoscope (1m probe).
Telescopic mirror
Suunto clinometer
3.8-metre extendable ladder
8m extendable ladder
Anabat SD2 bat detectors with GPS and HP iPaq PDAs (active monitoring)
AnalookW v3.7w (bat data analysis software)
Anapocket v2.5b (bat data analysis software)
Wildlife Acoustics EM3+ bat detector
Kaleidoscope v1.12 (sound analysis software)
Batbox Duet bat detector (frequency division and heterodyne bat detector)
SSF2 Bat – bat detector
Two-way radios

7.3 Existing records from NBN (as at 01-08/14)

Brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*)

Natural Resources Wales	SJ457440	Dynocks Ville Cottage	1992-08-01	Unknown
Natural Resources Wales	SJ446442	The Old Rectory	1992-04-07	Unknown

Whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*)

Natural Resources Wales	SJ446442	The Old Rectory	1992-04-07	Unknown
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Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)

Natural Resources Wales	SJ446442	The Old Rectory	1992-04-07	Unknown
Natural Resources Wales	SJ390450	Maes-y-Groes	1993-07-01	Unknown
Natural Resources Wales	SJ392452	Whitchurch Road	1988-06-28	Unknown
Natural Resources Wales	SJ389457	Friars Court	1984-07-06	Unknown
Natural Resources Wales	SJ389457	Friars Court	1993-06-07	Unknown
Natural Resources Wales	SJ389457	Friars Court	1993-06-09	Unknown
Natural Resources Wales	SJ389456	Friars Court	1989-07-08	Unknown
Natural Resources Wales	SJ389456	Friars Court	1991-03-12	Unknown
Natural Resources Wales	SJ389456	Friars Court	1985-08-20	Unknown
Natural Resources Wales	SJ371419	Carton	1991-08-15	Unknown

8.0 SITE PICTURES



