Bat Survey Report and Method Statement
European Protected Species (Bats)

Reasonable Avoidance and Mitigation Measures

Barn at Clitheroe Castle,
Clitheroe,
BB7 2JX

04.09.2023

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Executive summary

In July 2023 Batworker consultancy was commissioned to undertake a survey of a barn at Clitheroe Castle Clitheroe BB7 2JX to assess the potential for proposed re-roofing work to impact on protected species.

A daytime roost assessment survey was carried out on 6th August 2023. The building, when assessed in combination with location and surrounding habitat, had been observed to have a moderate level of bat roost potential.

Emergence surveys were carried out on 6th August and 3rd September 2023. No bats were recorded emerging from the barn. A constant level of Soprano Pipistrelle bat foraging activity and social calling along treelines to the south of the building. was recorded during surveys

Survey effort is considered appropriate to characterise the roost potential of building.

"The presence of a significant bat roost (invariably a maternity roost) can normally be determined on a single visit at any time of year, provided that the entire structure is accessible and that any signs of bats have not been removed by others". - Mitchell-Jones, A (2004) Bat mitigation guidelines. English Nature.

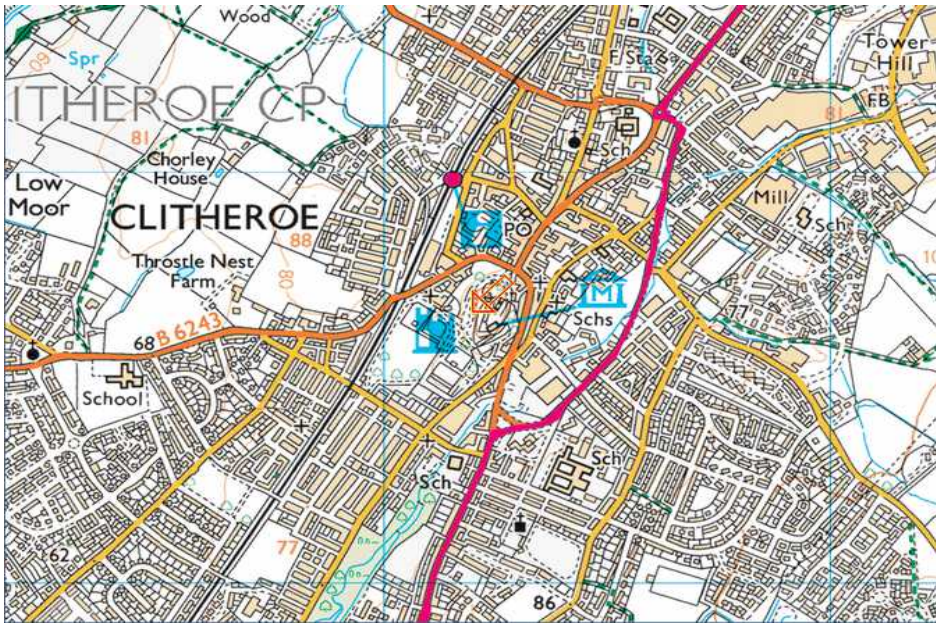
Local batworkers hold historic records of a brown long eared bat roost within the barn. It is proposed that construction of a bat loft within the southern gable of the barn will ensure the continuing ecological functionality of the barn for roosting bats.

It is proposed that timing of works, installation of bat slates and selection of Type 1F roofing membrane within the bat loft is a suitable and proportionate mitigation strategy.

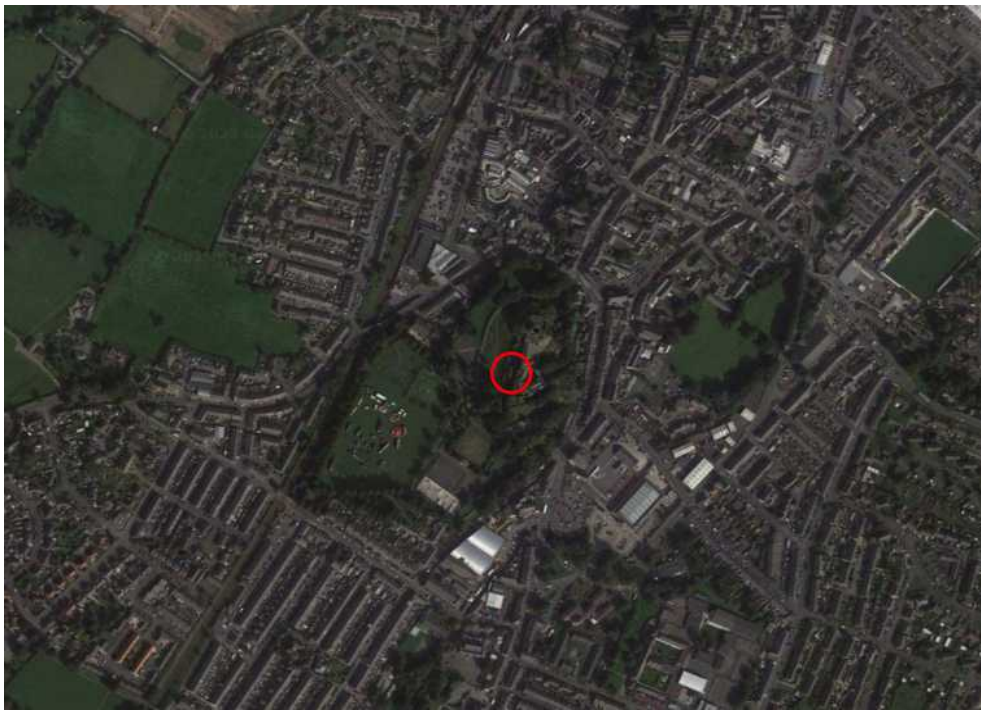
The overall purpose of the Method Statement is to ensure that bats and their roosts are fully protected to ensure the 'favourable conservation status of the species'.

This method statement is designed to minimise or remove any potential disturbance to bats. By following the Reasonable Avoidance Measures and mitigation included in this document the work can take place, ensuring the Continued Ecological Functionality of the site.

Site Location
Barn at Clitheroe Castle, Clitheroe, BB7 2JX
NGR: SD7422541645



Surrounding Habitat



The property is located within parkland with surrounding habitat a mosaic of amenity, improved, and semi improved grassland and semi natural deciduous woodland tree cover.

Connectivity to the wider landscape is moderate. Bat foraging potential is moderate.

Survey summary and site assessment

Pre-existing information on the bat species present at this site.

A search of the MAGIC website revealed no EPS licence applications within a 1km radius.

Local batworkers hold historic (date unconfirmed) recorded of roosting Brown Long eared bat within the barn.

From personal experience of surveying for and researching bats in Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumbria, the following species were considered.

Common Pipistrelle – known to roost on sites where suitable foraging habitat is available.

Soprano Pipistrelle – known to roost on sites where suitable foraging habitat is available.

Whiskered/Brandt's – species often found roosting in buildings close to woodland.

Natterer's – a typical upland bat with foraging bats being recorded high on heather moorland. Often roosting in barns.

Daubenton's – a species commonly associated with aquatic habitats.

Long Eared bat – a woodland species which has been recorded foraging over in bye meadows and rough grassland sites. Often roosting in barns.

Survey Personnel.

Personnel on surveys included: David Anderson, an experienced ecologist and bat researcher with 25 years experience of fieldwork and bat ecology, a founder member of the East Lancashire Bat Group and 'Batworker.com', formerly a Natural History Curator and manager of the East Lancashire Biological Records Centre. (Natural England licence No:2015-15784-CLS-CLS, Conservation, Science and Education). Sharon Anderson, an experienced bat surveyor.

Survey Summary

Survey	Date	Timings
Preliminary Roost Assessment	06.08.2023	1 Hour
Emergence Survey	06.08.2023	2 Hours
Emergence Survey	03.09.2023	2 Hours

Survey constraints

Access to all areas of the interior and exterior of the building was possible and good visual inspection at ground level was possible.

Evidence of bat activity such as bat droppings or staining on external walls and surfaces is frequently removed by the action of wind and rain; apparent absence of evidence is therefore evaluated with caution.

In many situations it is not possible to inspect every locations where bats are present therefore it should be assumed that an absence of bat evidence does not necessarily equate to evidence that bats are absent.

Some species such as pipistrelle sp bats are opportunistic and it is possible for individuals to be found during works, even where surveys have had negative results during preliminary and activity surveys.

Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment.

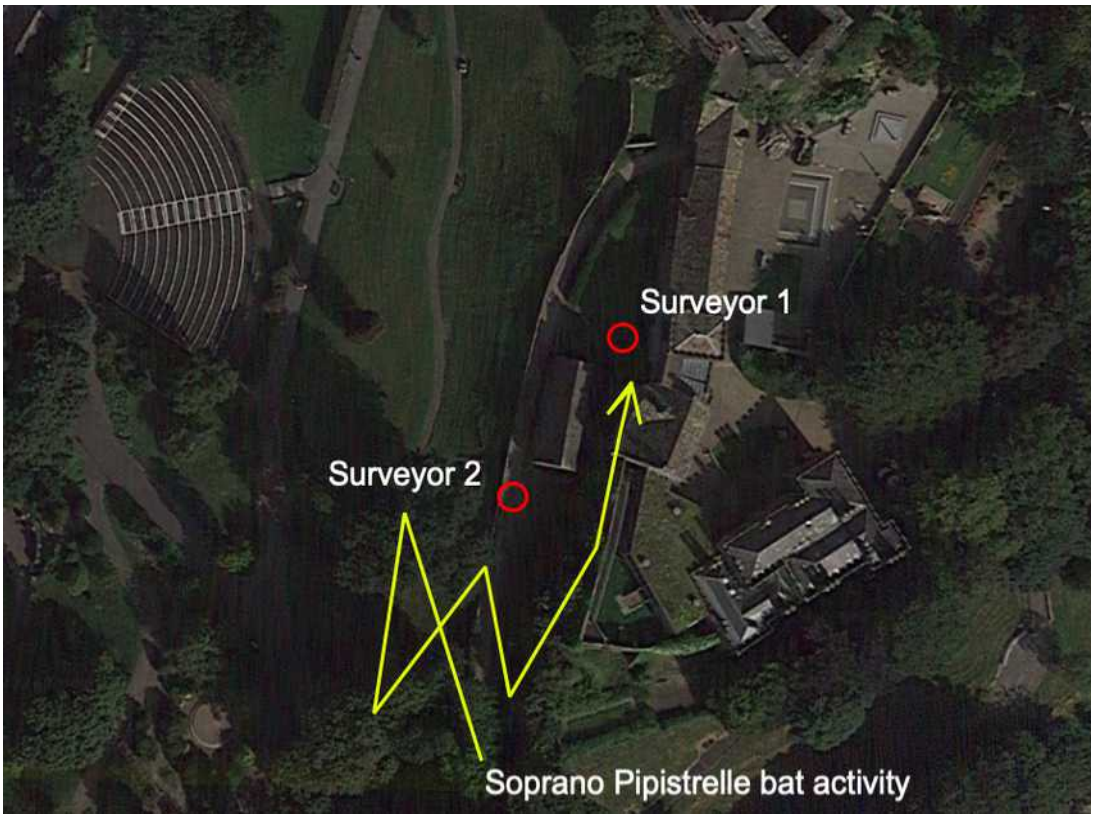
The property consists of a detached traditional stone built two storey barn with a double pitched tiled roof.

Walls are generally pointed with no cracks gaps or crevices present. Gaps were recorded at wall top height allowing access to the eaves.

Roofing is predominately close fitting, however gaps were recorded where tiles had slipped or were missing on the east facing roof section.. Parts of the roof are obscured so it is possible more potential roost entrances are present.

Bat roost potential was assessed as moderate.

Bat Activity Survey Results



Survey results summary

Emergence Survey - 6th August 2023
Start Temp: 15.2c Finish Temp: 14.5c 100% Cloud Cover Wind: Bfd0/1 Precipitation 0
Start: 20.42 Sunset: 20.57 Finish: 22.27

Surveyors equipped with Anabat Walkabout and Anabat Scout full spectrum detectors aided with Canon XA50, Canon XA25 and Nightfox Whisker HD infrared video cameras with infrared flood and spot lights positioned covering the building to monitor for emerging bats.

Recorded bat calls were analysed post survey using Anabat Insight software. Video footage was reviewed on a 42” 4K monitor at realtime post survey by two separate surveyors.

Soprano Pipistrelles were observed foraging along treelines to the south of the building from 20.56 before dispersing north along the eastern side of the barn. Bat activity was constant throughout the survey period.

Emergence Survey - 3rd September 2023
Start Temp: 20.1c Finish Temp: 19.8c 100% Clear Sky Wind: Bfd0 Precipitation 0
Start: 19.40 Sunset: 19.56 Finish: 21.30

Surveyors equipped with Anabat Walkabout and Anabat Scout full spectrum detectors aided with Canon XA50, Canon XA25 and Nightfox Whisker HD infrared video cameras with infrared flood and spot lights positioned covering the building to monitor for emerging bats.

Recorded bat calls were analysed post survey using Anabat Insight software. Video footage was reviewed on a 42” 4K monitor at realtime post survey by two separate surveyors.

Soprano Pipistrelles were observed foraging along treelines to the south of the building from 20.17 before dispersing north along the eastern side of the barn. Bat activity was constant throughout the survey period.

Interpretation of results

A daytime roost assessment survey was carried out on 6th August 2023. The building, when assessed in combination with location and surrounding habitat, had been observed to have a moderate level of bat roost potential.

Emergence surveys were carried out on 6th August and 3rd September 2023. No bats were recorded emerging from the barn. A constant level of Soprano Pipistrelle bat foraging activity and social calling along treelines to the south of the building. was recorded during surveys

Survey effort is considered appropriate to characterise the roost potential of building.

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It is proposed that timing of works, installation of bat slates and selection of Type 1F roofing membrane within the bat loft is a suitable and proportionate mitigation strategy.

The overall purpose of the Method Statement is to ensure that bats and their roosts are fully protected to ensure the 'favourable conservation status of the species'.

This method statement is designed to minimise or remove any potential disturbance to bats. By following the Reasonable Avoidance Measures and mitigation included in this document the work can take place, ensuring the Continued Ecological Functionality of the site.

Impact Assessment

Short-term impacts – Disturbance Low risk:

Roof stripping where necessary will be undertaken by hand and under supervision.

Long-term impacts - Roost loss: No impact on a local bat population.

Long-term impacts - Fragmentation and isolation:

Minimal risk, the impact of the proposed development on local bat species will be insignificant.

Predicted scale of impact: No loss of roosting sites of a common and relatively widespread species.

Method Statement and Reasonable Avoidance Measures

The overall purpose of the Method Statement is to ensure that bats and their roosts are fully protected to ensure the 'favourable conservation status of the species'.

The Method statement is designed to minimise or remove any potential disturbance to roosting bats.

Pipistrelle bats are considered an opportunistic species and it is possible for individuals to be found during works, even where surveys have had negative results during preliminary and activity surveys.

A Method Statement is normally required by the local planning authority to ensure that procedures are in place before the development works are carried out and will form part of the EPS Licence application.

No work should commence without contractors receiving a toolbox talk.

All contractors will be made aware of the legal protection afforded all species of bats in the UK and procedures will be in place to mitigate for the potential impact on bats before any building work is undertaken.

Timing of works -

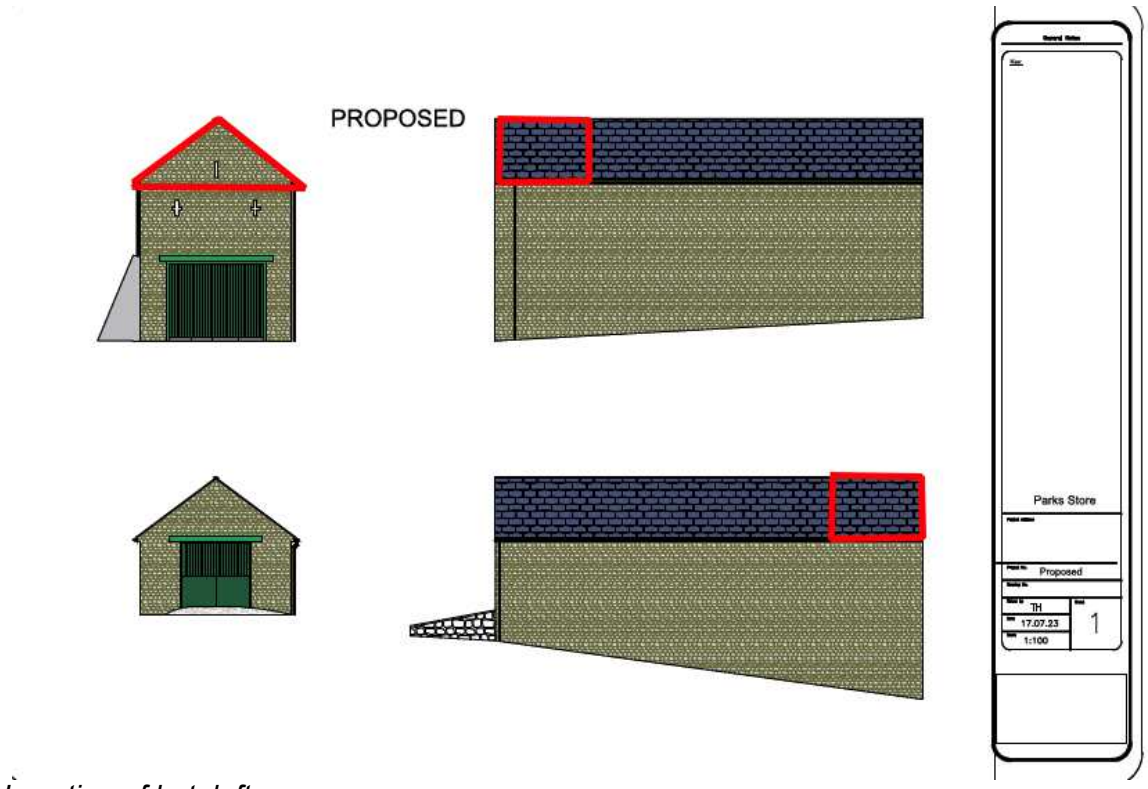
Roof work is proposed to be undertaken between Mid September and May 1st inclusive to ensure avoiding disturbance.

Roof work should take place following an evening temperature of +5c

Work to affected roof areas will take place under supervision of the batworker as necessary. With the batworker 'on call'.

Roofing slates will be removed by hand and under supervision as necessary.

Type 1F bituminous roofing felt will be used within the bat loft during re-roofing in line with Natural England EPS requirements.



Location of bat loft

Four bat access slates, two per roof face, will be fitted two slate rows below ridge tiles to ensure ongoing use of the loft spaces by roosting bats.

In the unlikely event bats are found during works, bats will be rehoused within bat boxes on site under licence.

A compensatory bat box (Two Greenwood Eco Habitats two crevice box) will be placed on site (on trees to the south of the building) prior to work commencing. Bat boxes will remain on site as part of proposed biodiversity enhancement.

A copy of the Method Statement should be available to site / project managers in advance of any works being carried out.

The existence of a Method Statement helps to establish a defence against prosecution for intentional (WCA), deliberate (Habitat Regulations.) or reckless (WCA) disturbance of bats or damage to roosts. All work should take place under the supervision of the ecologist.

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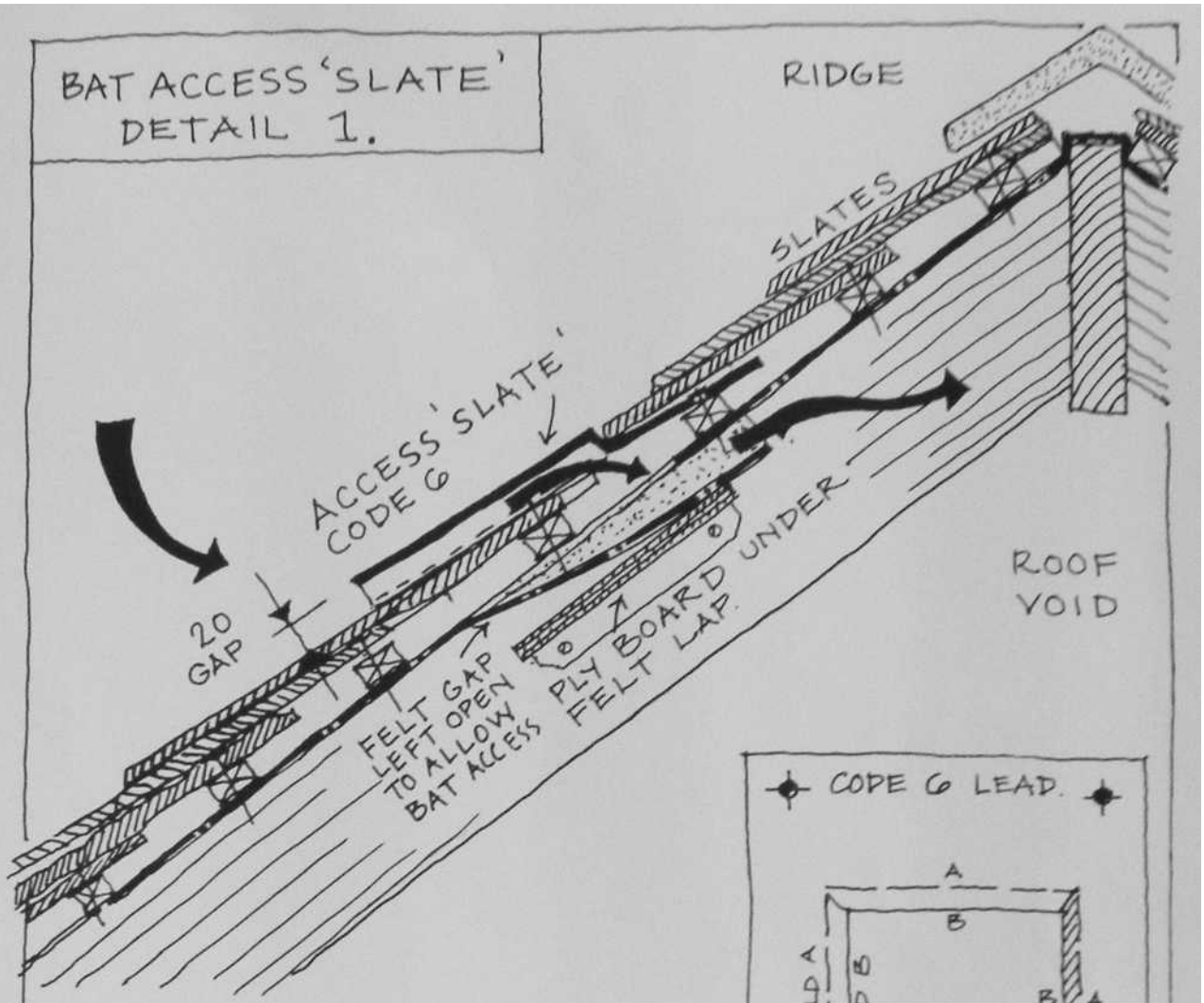
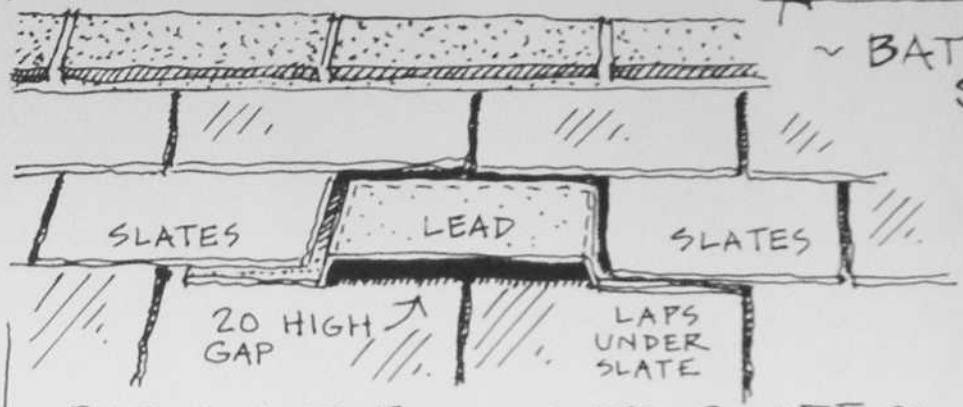
BAT ACCESS 'SLATE' DETAIL 1.



~ SECTION THROUGH ROOF

~ BAT ACCESS SLATE



~ BAT SLATE BUILT INTO SLOPE ~

ENGLISH NATURE

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