

Dews Farm Bat House, Colne Valley. HS2 AWE1 Mitigation Site Creation & Species Translocation

Project Profile

Client: Fusion JV/HS2

Designer: Fusion/Aecom

Date: July 2020 – Feb 2021

Value: £516k



In July 2020 we were awarded the contract for the construction of a bespoke Bat House in the Dews Lane Mitigation area, (part of the AWE1 Colne Valley surface mitigation work) in preparation for HS2 main works. The requirement to construct the bat house had arisen late in the planning stage of the Environmental Mitigation works in the area owing to the discovery of bats roosting in the roof of the nearby Dews Farm, which will be demolished for HS2 construction.

We were involved with Fusion and designers Aecom at ECI and design development stages to assist in detailed design and procurement of products to match the existing farm house. This work was undertaken in parallel with the submission of planning applications to ensure work could proceed at the earliest opportunity once approval was granted.

Owing to project delays, it became necessary for the removal of the roof tiles from the existing Dews Farm building in order to render it unsuitable for bat hibernation and as a temporary measure additional Bat hibernation boxes were installed in adjacent woodland. We arranged for the scaffolding and careful removal of the roof tiles for reuse on the new structure.

Construction of the Bat house commenced in early November 2020 and works included:

- Foundation Construction
- Gas Membranes and sub-structure brick/blockwork
- Superstructure brick/blockwork
- Bespoke timber roof and floor construction
- Roof tiling utilising recycled tiles from Dews Farm.
- Drainage and regrading of existing surfaces.

Specialist bat related products incorporated in the building included:

- Bat Bricks.
- Bat Tubes.
- Bat Shelters
- Bat (Hot) Boxes
- Bat 'Cool' Room
- Bat Tiles
- Bat Access Hatch.

The building was sufficiently complete to allow it to be used as a bat habitat by the end of January 2021.

