

Bat Activity Surveys at
a Former Dwelling at 57 Bryn Glas,
Rhosllanerchrugog,
Wrexham LL14 2EA

On 26th August and 25th September 2018

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1. Summary

The purpose of the report is to assess the potential ecological impacts of a proposed development at 57, Bryn Glas, Rhosllanerchrugog and advise on any mitigation measures to comply with local planning policy and government legislation.

The proposed scheme entails the demolition of the building and construction of seven new dwellings and associated access, parking and gardens.

The building was examined to establish the presence of or evidence of use by protected species of animals. A visual inspection was carried out to assess the potential or actual use by bats, of the interior and exterior of the building. One pre-dawn survey and one emergence survey were carried out.

Impacts during the development are considered to be low. There is not considered to be any significant threat to the conservation status of bats or danger of harm to individuals as the building was not being used by roosting bats. However precautions must be taken to avoid harm to any transient bats which may roost there in future. If bats are found at any stage of the development then work in that area must stop and a licensed bat worker contacted for advice.

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2. Introduction

Susan Worsfold BSc (Hons) Grad CIEEM is an experienced wildlife surveyor, licensed bat worker and voluntary bat roost visitor. Registration number CLS0895 2015-12555-CLS-CLS (CL15 Bat Roost Visitor Level 1) and registration number CLS 0895 2015-12556-CLS-CLS (CL18 Bat Survey Level 2) (Natural England) and 72725:OTH:CSAB:2016 (Natural Resources Wales);

Licensed great crested newt worker, registration number 2015-8194-CLS-CLS (NE) and 72936-OTH-SA:2016 (NRW)

This report was commissioned by Blueprint Architectural Services, Office 3K4, Redwither Business Tower, Wrexham LL13 9XT.

The site, at 57 Bryn Glas, Rhosllanerchrugog, is a single storey building with a dormer extension.

The proposed scheme entails the demolition of the building and construction of seven dwellings and associated access, parking and gardens.

The purpose of the report is to update a previous report by The Tyrer Partnership: '57 Bryn Glas, Rhosllanerchrugog, Wrexham, LL14 2EA Ecological Scoping Survey Including Dusk Survey Results' on the 30th June 2016. This is necessary to comply with local planning policy and government legislation and avoid any offence being committed. Also, to describe any compensation, mitigation and enhancement measures which should be taken.

3. Methodology

3.1. Scope of the Assessment

The report comprises a preliminary bat roost assessment and two bat activity surveys as requested by Blueprint to update the previous report.

3.2 Field Survey

The building was examined to establish the presence of or evidence of use by protected species of animals. A risk assessment was made before entering the building. A visual inspection was carried out to assess the potential or actual use by bats, of the interior and exterior of the building. It was searched systematically for any signs of bats, including droppings, rub marks and urine stains at entrances to roosts and insect remains, such as moth or butterfly wings. Crevices were checked where possible.

Powerful lamps (LED Lenser P14, Cluson Clulite CB2) were used for examination of interiors and under eaves. Binoculars were used to examine parts which were not otherwise accessible. Photographs were taken of all areas and those of relevance are shown in Appendix 13.7.

A pre-dawn survey of the building was carried out on 26th August 2018 by Susan Worsfold and Craig Thomas, an experienced assistant. A dusk emergence survey was carried out on 25th September 2018 by Susan Worsfold and Craig Thomas. These were done in accordance with *Bat surveys for professional ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd Edn)* (Collins 2016) (Appendix 12).

Survey times and conditions are given in Appendix 11.2.

Frequency division detectors were used to record any bat sounds around the building for later analysis on the computer. These were Anabat SD1 and Echo Meter EM3.

4. Assessment of Effects and Mitigation Measures

Bats

There is not considered to be any threat to the conservation status of bats or danger of harm to individuals as the building was not being used by roosting bats at the time of the surveys. The site is being used by foraging and commuting bats. Four species were identified during the two surveys (see Appendix 11.1) The frequency of visits and number of bats seen does not indicate that the site is particularly important habitat for bats.

It is possible that transient bats may temporarily roost or perch in the building in the future.

If bats are found at any stage of the development then work in that area must stop and a licensed bat worker contacted for advice.

It is recommended that the new buildings use bitumastic hessian roofing felt type 1F, as modern roofing membranes are extremely hazardous to bats as they become entangled in the fibres and cannot escape. If this is not possible then it is important that access is prevented to the roof lining.

Residual Effects

No significant residual effects anticipated.

5. Compensation

None needed.

6. Enhancement Recommendations

A bat box e.g. Schwegler 1FF to be fitted externally to each new building. Further information is given in the bat box information pack available at <http://www.bats.org.uk/index.php>. Bat boxes should be placed in a south east to south west facing position if possible. A lighting plan should be designed in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust guidelines: http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/bats_and_lighting.html

One woodcrete nests suitable for small birds such as robin, blackbird, tit species and sparrow to be incorporated into each new building, and one swallow nest.

House Sparrow Terrace - Wooden (or woodcrete) nest box with 3 sub-divisions to support 3 nesting pairs. To be placed under the eaves of buildings or incorporated into walls. Entrance holes: 32mm diameter. Dimensions: H310 x W370 x D185mm. Also suitable for tits, redstarts and spotted flycatchers. Place at least 2 m from the ground.

Swallow nests - H110mm x W250mm x D140mm. The nests should be placed inside an enclosed outbuilding or shed, porch or garage leaving a distance of at least 6cm between the top of the nest and the ceiling. There must be access for the birds through an open window or sky-light. A car port or refuse bin shelter, or an outbuilding with a permanently open window or half door, or simply a space over the door, would suffice. Under the eaves of the buildings would be acceptable but less suitable.

Other designs of nest boxes may also be suitable.

7. Ecological Constraints

None identified

8. Monitoring

None recommended

9. Conclusions

If the recommended mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures are taken the overall ecological impacts of the proposed development will be low due to its small scale and lack of evidence of any rare or threatened species or priority habitat.

10. Bibliography

Bat Conservation Trust available at: <http://www.bats.org.uk>

Collins J. (Ed) (2016) *Bat surveys for professional ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd Edn)*. The Bat Conservation Trust, London

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora available at: jncc.defra.gov.uk

Mitchell-Jones, A. J. and McLeish, A. P. (2004) *Bat Worker's Manual*, Peterborough: Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Natural Resources Wales available at: <https://naturalresources.wales/?lang=en>

Wildlife and Habitat Conservation available at: <https://www.gov.uk/topic/environmental-management/wildlife-habitat-conservation>

Appendix 11.1: Activity Surveys

26/8/18

Number of observers: 2

Observer 1: Susan Worsfold (SW); equipment: EM3; Station: north west corner of building

Observer 2: Craig Thomas (CT); equipment : Anabat SD1; Station: south east corner of building

Bat species seen and/or recorded:

None

No bats were seen during the survey.

25/9/18

Number of observers: 2

Observer 1: Susan Worsfold (SW); equipment: EM3; Station: north west corner of building

Observer 2: Craig Thomas (CT); equipment : Anabat SD1; Station: south east corner of building

Bat species seen and/or recorded:

First bat:

Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)

Time: 19.05; *Location:* CT station

Subsequently: Frequently, CT station until 20.23

Other species:

Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)

Time: 19.24; *Location:* CT station

Subsequently: Frequently, both stations until 20.03

Myotis sp.

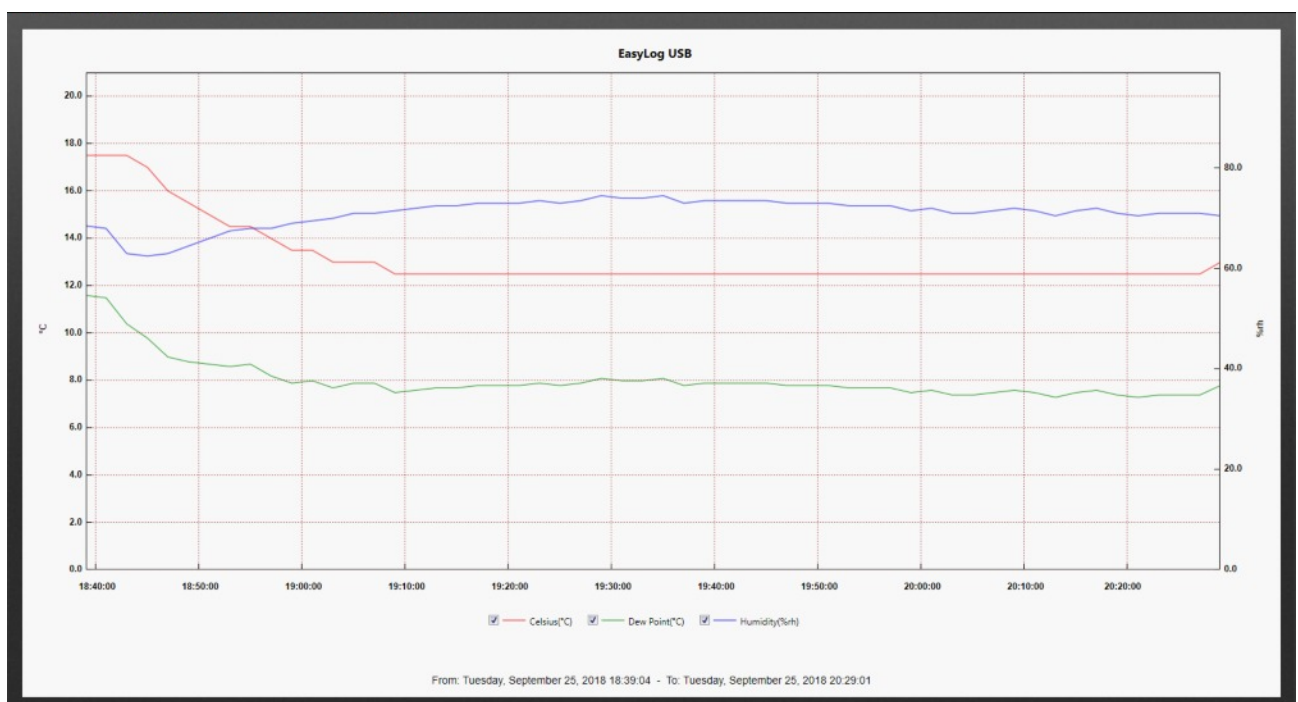
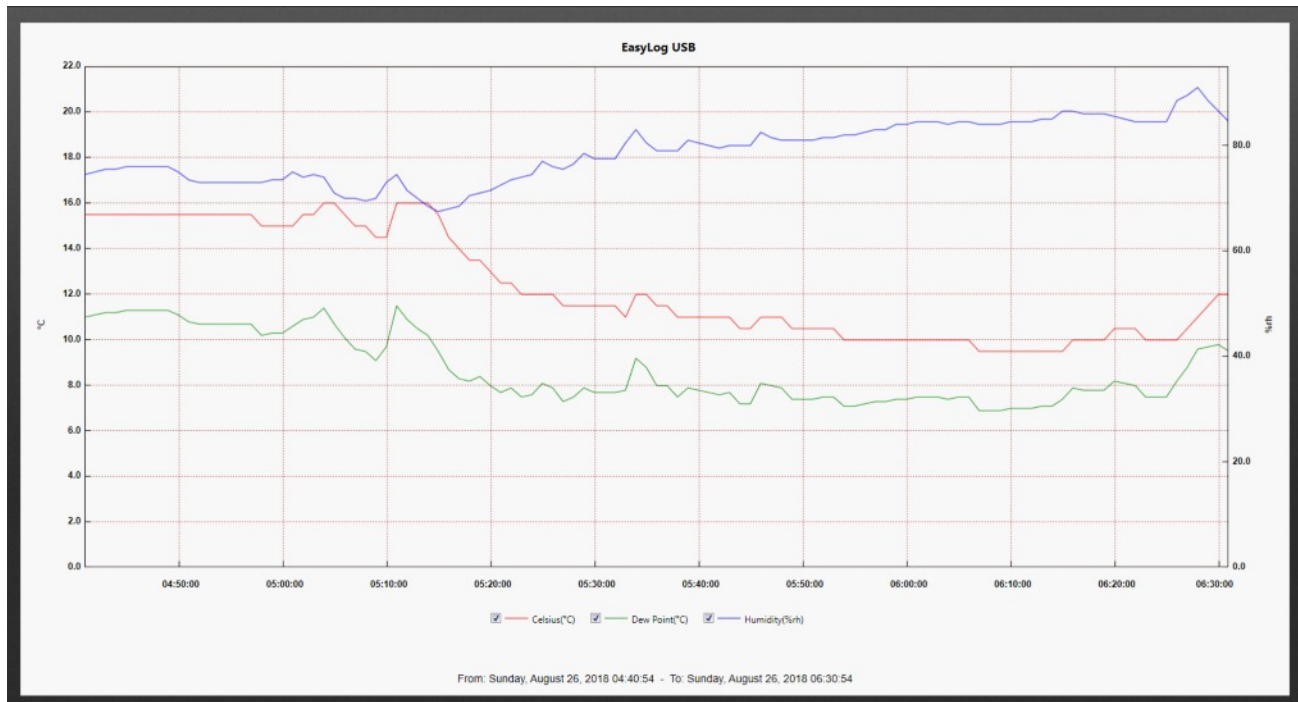
Time: 19.31; *Location:* CT station

Subsequently: Twice, CT station

The first bat to be seen was at 19.19 at CT station, flying north to south across the roof of the building. No bats were seen to emerge from the building. Bats were seen at both stations but mainly at CT station, flying around and above the building and amongst the surrounding trees.

Appendix 11.2: Survey Conditions

Date	Sunset/ Sunrise	Start Time	End Time	Temp. Start °C	Relative Humidity Start %	Temp. End °C	Relative Humidity End %	Cloud %	Wind 0-6
26/8/18	06:11	04:40	06:25	10	74	10	86	90-100	0-0
25/9/18	19:04	18:30	20:30	14	67	12	71	0-80	01 Jan-00



Appendix 11.3: Photographs of the Building



View from the north west



View from the south east



View from the north east



View from ground floor looking up through ceiling and hole in dormer roof on south west side

Appendix 11.4: Legislation Relating to Bats

Taken together, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW), and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 make it illegal to:

- intentionally or deliberately kill, injure or capture (or take) bats;
- deliberately disturb bats (whether in a roost or not);
- recklessly disturb roosting bats or obstruct access to their roosts (England & Wales only);
- damage or destroy bat roosts;
- possess or transport a bat or any part of a bat, unless acquired legally;
- sell (or offer for sale) or exchange bats, or parts of bats.

The word 'roost' is not used in the legislation, but is used here for simplicity.

The actual wording in the legislation is 'any structure or place which any wild animal.....uses for shelter or protection' (WCA) or 'breeding site or resting place' (Habitats Regulations).

Because bats tend to re-use the same roosts after periods of vacancy, legal opinion is that the roost is protected whether or not the bats are present at the time.

Enforcement

The police are the main enforcement body for wildlife offences, and in some cases local authorities may also take action.

Section 24(4) of the 1981 Act gives Natural England the function of providing advice or assistance to the police in respect of alleged offences.

The maximum fine on conviction of offences under Section 9 of the 1981 and Regulation 39 currently stands at £5000.

The CROW Act 2000 amended the 1981 Act to allow for a custodial sentence of up to six months instead of, or in addition to, a fine.

Note: Fines may be imposed in relation to each offence committed, so operations involving many animals or repeated offences can potentially accrue large fines.

In addition, items which may constitute evidence of the commission of an offence may be seized and detained.

The CROW Act 2000 also amends the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 to render Section 9 offences 'arrestable', giving the police significant additional powers.

The use of an EPS licence from Natural England in respect of bat species

An EPS licence permits an action that is otherwise unlawful,

To ensure that no illegal activities are undertaken during the course of a development, it is recommended

that a licence is applied for if, on the basis of survey information and specialist knowledge, it is considered that:

- the site in question is demonstrably a breeding site or resting place for bats
- the proposed activity is reasonably likely to result in an offence

No licence is required if the proposed activity is unlikely to result in an offence.