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Chapel Lane
Bronington
Whitchurch
SY13 3HP

Report Reference: EA 21-07 226.1

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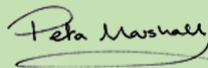
Author: Peta Marshall BSc (hons)
peta@greenscape.pm 07801 698084





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Author:	P. Marshall BSc(hons) MCIEEM PIEMA Principal Consultant		28 th September 2021
Reviewed by:	B. Jones BSc(hons) MSc Lead Consultant		29 th September 2021

Greenscape Environmental Ltd.
Registered Office: Long Acres, Lyth Bank, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY3 0BW
Company Reg number: 5364283

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The report should be read in its entirety.

Questions arising from the survey report should be directed to the author of the report who will be pleased to clarify any technical issues raised.

Whilst the surveyors make every reasonable effort, Greenscape Environmental Ltd cannot guarantee that all protected species have been identified and survey results are definitive. Many species are cryptic and transitional in habit.

Reports are considered valid for one year for planning purposes, after which time further survey information may be required.

Greenscape Environmental Ltd can provide advice and support for recommendations and planning conditions.

The use of this report or survey data for any form of formal submission to an NGO or other authority implicitly implies acceptance of the terms and conditions.



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1 Executive Summary

1.1 Purpose of the Report

Greenscape Environmental Ltd was commissioned by the Hanmer Estate to undertake a preliminary roost assessment of The Lilacs, Chapel Lane to provide supporting information for a planning application for the extension of the cottage.

The survey report has these principal aims:

- To provide an initial assessment of the ecological value of the site in local context.
- To identify potential ecological constraints relating to the development, and recommend measures to avoid, reduce or manage negative effects, and to provide a net ecological gain.

1.2 Methodology

The appraisal included a desktop study and a site visit undertaken at the site, OS grid reference SJ48413830 on 19th July 2021 by P Marshall. Phase 2 activity surveys for bats were conducted on the 11th and 26th August, and 8th September.

1.3 Key Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The desktop study included a search for nearby designated sites and previously recorded protected species. It was considered that the site would provide potential habitat for bat and bird species, and these should be the main focus of the ecological appraisal.

The cottage is set in a rural area with an adjacent barn. This is not being impacted by the development. Very few potential roost features were observed inside or outside the building and it was considered to have low potential for bats. However, during the precautionary bat survey, two pipistrelle bats were observed emerging from under the flashing around the chimney on the western gable end where the extension is to butt up to. **Work on the extension will therefore need to be conducted under mitigation licence from Natural Resources Wales, and a strict method statement followed.**

No nesting birds were observed. The cottage is adjacent to a field access track and the habitat is therefore considered to be of low ecological value.

1.4 Conclusion

It has been agreed with the client that an integral bat box will be included in the gable end of the cottage and a Schwegler 1FF bat box will be erected on the adjacent barn as an enhancement.

The method statements provided in section 6.3.2 of this report will be followed, and work will be conducted at a suitable time of year to minimise potential impacts.

There are no other ecological constraints to the development as currently proposed.

**Table 1.1. Timing of Works**

Action	Timing	Justification
Update phase 1 survey	After 18 months from survey issue date	Ecological features can change and develop over time
Update emergence/re-entry survey	If work is to commence more than 12 months after the survey is complete	To ensure site conditions have not significantly altered prior to commencement
Apply for NRW derogation licence	Once planning permission has been granted	



2 Introduction

This report has been compiled by Peta Marshall BSc (hons) MA who has over 10 years' experience conducting ecological appraisals. It has been reviewed in line with Greenscape's Quality Management System.

For full details of surveyors and licences please see Appendix A.

2.1 Project Background

Greenscape Environmental Ltd was commissioned by Hanmer Estate to conduct a survey to determine the presence of protected species and potential for the damage or destruction of habitats of value. This forms part of the planning application for an extension at The Lilacs.

2.2 Purpose of the Report

This report aims to:

- Identify the key ecological constraints to the proposed development.
- Inform planning to allow significant ecological effects to be minimised or avoided where possible.
- Allow any necessary mitigation or compensation measures to be developed following the mitigation hierarchy.
- Identify the opportunities offered by a project to deliver ecological enhancement under NPPF Section 15.

2.3 Site Context and Location

The site is located in the village of Bronington, OS grid reference SJ48413830. It is set in a rural environment surrounded by arable land and woodland to the east and south. There is high value connectivity to the surrounding countryside via the surrounding woodland and open field boundary hedgerows. The surrounds provide potential foraging and commuting opportunities for bats and nesting birds.



3 Methodology

Broad methodologies for data collection and interpretation were informed by guidance outlined in CIEEM (2017) – Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisals. Full details can be found in 0.

3.1 Desk Study

The desk study provides contextual information such as the site's proximity to designated areas and known records of protected or notable species. A desk survey was purchased from BIS.

3.2 Field Survey

3.2.1 Date and Survey Conditions

Table 3.1. Survey conditions

Date	Time Start – End (Sunset/rise Time)	Structure	Equipment Used	Weather
19/07/2021	10:00	Cottage	Strong torch, camera	Sunny 18°C, light breeze
Comments	One surveyor used: Peta Marshall			
11/08/2021	20:00- 22:00 (20:44)	Cottage	2x Anabat Walkabout and Anabat SD2	19-17°C 90% overcast, light breeze, light rain at end of survey
Comments	Two surveyors, P Marshall with the assistance of BR Marshall			
26/08/2021	04:45-06:30 (06:11)	Cottage	Wildlife Acoustics Echometer Touch 2 Pro and Wildlife Acoustics Echometer Touch 1	14°C throughout, 100% overcast, wind speed F0-1
Comments	Two surveyors, B Jones and R Wilson			
08/09/2021	19:30-21:15 (19:43)	Cottage	Wildlife Acoustics Echometer Touch 2 Pro and Anabat Walkabout	22-20°C 100% overcast, No breeze
Comments	Two surveyors, B Jones and C Shiel			

3.2.2 Habitats

The level of survey is aimed to identify field signs of, or habitats with the potential to support protected species and therefore assist in the determination of site value.

3.3 Species Survey

Features on site were assessed for potential for bat roosts, foraging and commuting. Phase 2 surveys were conducted to confirm the presence/absence of any roosts and ascertain the nature of them. These were conducted in accordance with Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 3rd Edition, BCT, Collins (ed.) (2016).

Features on site were assessed for potential for nesting birds. This included the eaves and inside the cottage.



3.4 Constraints of the Survey

All areas were accessible for this survey. It was conducted at an optimal time of year for the assessment of bats and nesting birds. No specific constraints have been identified.

The identification of calls and species using sonogram analyses are dependent on the clarity of the sonogram recording, which may be affected by the distance from the bat and background noise. Species of *Myotis* bats are identified to genus level on the basis of the inherent difficulty in distinguishing between species from their echolocation calls.



4 Baseline Ecological Conditions

4.1 Nearby Features of Importance

4.1.1 Designated Sites

The map from Natural England presented in Figure 4.1 indicated that the site is within 1km of four designated areas.

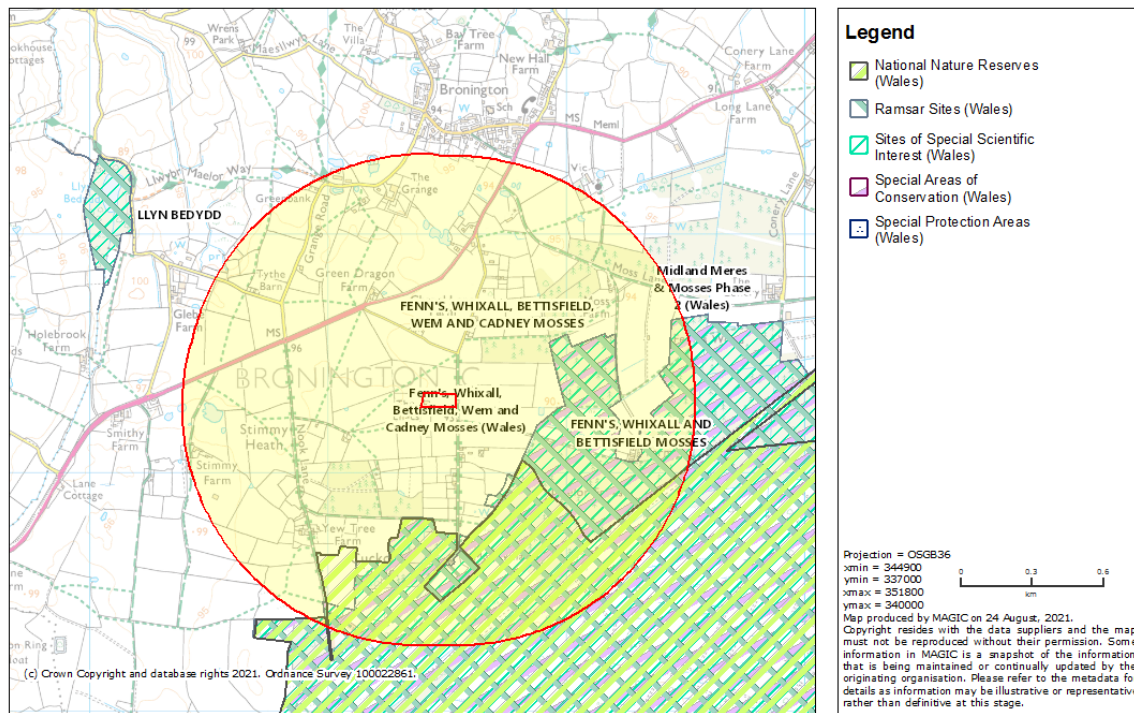
MAGiC**The Lilacs**

Figure 4.1. Identifying any designated areas near site, a 1km buffer is shown

Table 4.1. Details of statutory designated sites within 1km

Type of Designation	Site Name & Ref	Reason for Designation	Distance & Direction
Statutory - NNR	Fenn's, Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses	Biological – Largest region of raised bog with 18 species of bog moss and 670 different species of moth and 32 species of butterfly	445m Southeast
Statutory – Ramsar Site	Midlands Meres & Mosses Phase 2 (Wales)	Geological – Diverse series of lowland open water and peatland sites	445m Southeast
Statutory – SSSI and SAC	Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses	Biological - Largest region of raised bog with 18 species of bog moss and 670 different species of moth and 32 species of butterfly	445m Southeast



4.2 Habitats on Site

The site comprises the cottage set in a garden. There is a redundant barn complex to the north of the building, but this is not in the red line boundary.

Cottage

The cottage is constructed of brick with a lined slate roof. The first-floor rooms have partially vaulted ceilings. There is a ground floor extension on the northern elevation of the cottage. This is mainly brick and glass with a corrugated roof.



Figure 4.2. Northern elevation of cottage

The western elevation has a single storey kitchen extension with a flat roof and a rendered wall. The eastern elevation is also rendered.



Figure 4.3. western elevation of cottage



The interior of the cottage was examined by P Marshall. The partially vaulted ceilings leave a very small loft over the cottage.



Figure 4.4. First floor room.



4.3 Bats

4.3.1 Records

There are no bat records within the vicinity of the site's boundary.

4.3.2 Field Observations

The cottage had very few potential roost features. The tiles were seen to be lined with silver backed insulation material leaving very little gap between the tiles and plasterboard.

No bat droppings were observed in the loft area, and cobwebs under the central ridge did not have any droppings caught up in it.

The single storey extension was examined in detail using a strong torch as the fascia board was not fixed firmly to the wall. No evidence of bats was observed.



Figure 4.5. Southern elevation of cottage

The building was considered to have low potential for bat roosts, so a precautionary bat survey was conducted on 11th August 2021. Two common pipistrelle bats were recorded emerging from the western gable end from under the lead flashing near the chimney, so two further surveys were conducted. Two additional surveys were conducted after these findings, and no further emergence or entry into the cottage was recorded. This suggests the pipistrelle roost is transitory.

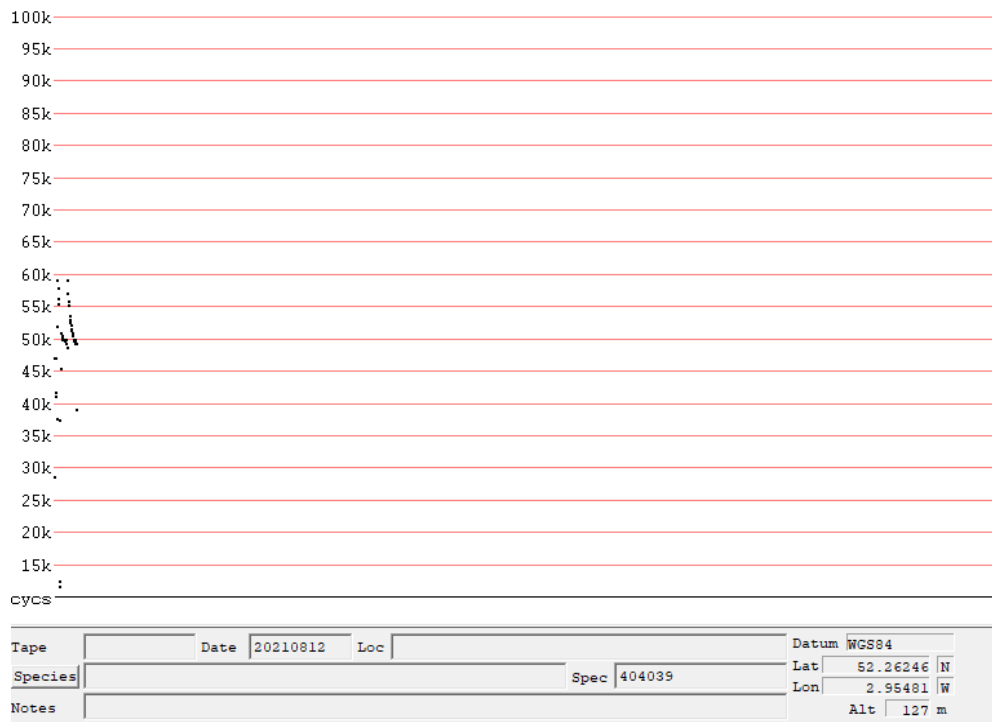


Figure 4.7. Showing emergence point

Full survey details are presented in Appendix D.

Table 4.2. Evaluation of survey results

Structure	Species	Count	Roost Location	Site Status Assessment	Conservation Significance
Cottage	Common pipistrelle	2	Under flashing of western chimney	Day roost (transitory)	Low



4.4 Birds

4.4.1 Records

Records of birds within 2km include swift (*Apus apus*), house martin (*Delichon urbicum*), swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and barn owl (*Tyto alba*).

All of the above listed species, besides swift, have been recorded at a site 210m north between 2008 and 2018.

4.4.2 Field Observations

The exterior of the building was examined closely for the presence of house martin nests and none were observed. No other nests were observed on the building.



5 Description of Proposed Development

The current plans are for the extension of the cottage and internal alterations. The cottage is to be extended over the ground floor extension. This may be altered during the works so that the extension looks in keeping with the rest of the building.



6 Impacts, Enhancements and Mitigation

6.1 Nearby Features of Importance

Figure 4.1 shows that the nearest SSSI is Fenns Meres and Mosses. This is a small-scale development of an existing building. No negative impact is anticipated on this habitat.

6.2 Habitats on Site

The extension is to be constructed over the existing footprint of the building. No habitats listed as priority habitats in Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006) will be lost, but the bat roost will be affected and so mitigation will be delivered at a species level.

6.3 Bats

6.3.1 Impacts

Without consideration there may be a destruction or damage of a transitional day roost of two common pipistrelle bats along with the potential for death or damage of individual bats.

Two bats were observed emerging from the gable end of the building from under the flashing of the chimney. These were common pipistrelle bats. The extension will result in the destruction of the roost when the flashing around the chimney is removed and the new roof integrated into the existing.

This roost is considered to be of low ecological conservation status, being of low numbers of a common species. However, destruction of a roost would be an offence and therefore the work will need to be conducted under licence from Natural Resources Wales. This can be applied for once planning permission has been granted.

It is considered that the building has negligible potential for hibernating bats.

Determination of conservation significance of roosts was taken from Figure 4: Guidelines for proportionate mitigation (Bat Mitigation Guidelines P. 39).

6.3.2 Mitigation

Work will need to be conducted under European Protected Species Licence from Natural Resources Wales.



EPSL Working Method Statement

1. Construction will need to follow a rigid method statement. It will need to be conducted under a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL).
2. A suitably licensed ecologist will be employed as an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) to oversee works in areas sensitive to bats and provide expert advice.
3. The licence can only be applied for when full planning permission has been granted.
4. The ECoW will provide a toolbox talk prior to work commencing. The developer and the contractors will be made aware that there is a possibility that bats may be found during works, and will be advised to work in a way to ensure bats are not harmed during work in areas sensitive to bats; particularly around the western gable end. They will be provided with a simple emergency procedure to follow if bats are found at any stage of the work on site. It will be ensured that the method statement is retained on site at all times.
5. There are no timing restrictions for a roost of low conservation status.
6. A pre-commencement check will be conducted by the ECoW using a strong torch and borescope where appropriate.
7. Bats will be excluded using one-way gates where appropriate. This will be erected with the assistance of the ECoW.
 - a. The one-way exclusion will be left in place for five days before being checked by the ECoW.
8. Bats will always be allowed access to an undisturbed area during works- this is the barn to the north of the cottage.
9. The ECoW will be present on site when work is being conducted in the area of the bat roost, particularly around the ridges, gables.
10. If a bat is found when the ECoW is not present, work will stop immediately and the ECoW contacted for advice.
11. If another species of bat is found during the work on site, NRW will be contacted and the need to amend the licence considered.
12. The bat can only be handled by the ECoW or authorised person unless it is in immediate danger. The bat must be carefully placed in a well-ventilated lidded box with a small container (i.e. a plastic bottle lid) with water in it. The container must be kept in a quiet and safe place.
13. Care should be taken to avoid rousing the bat whilst transferring to a suitable location, such as a suitable roost box or alternative roost space that provides a safe, quiet environment with a stable cool temperature and relatively high humidity – the barn to the north of the cottage.
14. If the bat is underweight or injured it will be cared for by an experienced bat carer until such time that it is strong enough to be released into a suitable alternative replacement roost on site.



15. The bat compensation will be created following the instructions and the client will agree that any bat box erected must stay in place for a minimum of five years post-development.
16. Long term provision for bats will be ensured with the integration of a bat box on the western gable end.
17. The removal of the roof – and work near where the bats were observed emerging will not take place if the temperature has been below 6°C for four consecutive days and nights.
18. Once the building has been reroofed, bat access will be limited by sealing all doors and windows, thus reducing the potential for bats to re-enter where they are not expected.

6.3.3 Compensation & Enhancements

It is recommended that provision be made for roosting opportunities for bats with the erection of one woodcrete bat box suitable for day roosts. This will be on a gable wall of the barn opposite the cottage. This will be erected at a height of 4m and in a westerly direction.



Figure 6.1. Example woodcrete bat box: Schwegler 1FF & Beaumaris Bat Box Midi



An integral bat box will be constructed into the western gable end of the cottage.

Enclosed Bat Box (B and C)

- Designed specifically for the pipistrelle bat
- Available in all brick types
- Discrete home for bats
- Various sizes
- Several roosting zones are created inside the box
- Bats are contained within the bat box itself
- Maintenance free with entrance at the base
- Ideal for new build & conservation work



Bat Box B



Bat Box C

Eco Habitats for Bats	Sizes (mm)	Durability
Bat Box Type A	215 x 65	F2 S2 – Fully Frost Resistant
Bat Box Type B	215 x 215 or 215 x 290	F2 S2 – Fully Frost Resistant

Figure 6.2. Example integral bat box

Lighting

Lighting needs to be designed to have minimal impact on bats and their commuting and foraging areas. This results in the recommended use of downlights and the horizontal spread of lighting to be kept to a minimum.

Where it is not possible to reduce the horizontal spread of light, a 2700°K to 3000°K LED light bulb is recommended, which will provide a warm white light. This range has the least impact on bats and invertebrates.

1. A lighting scheme will be drawn up in line with ILP and BCT Guidance Note 08/18.
2. All newly proposed external lighting will be directed away from any vegetated boundary features to retain dark corridors for commuting bats.
3. There will be no direct illumination of any enhancement features erected for bats.
4. All domestic lighting will be below 10 lux, orientated towards the ground and controlled by PIR (Passive Infra-red), set on a short timer.



Figure 6.3. Example external down-light design

6.3.4 Monitoring

Failing boxes or enhancements will be replaced at the cost of the developer if deterioration or damage is noted within five years post-development. Further monitoring is not necessary due to the type of roost at the site, but results will be sent to COFNOD.



6.4 Birds

6.4.1 Impacts

Work at this site will include the erection of an extension which could affect nesting birds if conducted during the nesting season.

6.4.2 Mitigation and Enhancements

1. Should a nesting bird be found, a 4m buffer will be left around the nest, and no further disturbance conducted until the young have fledged.
2. Once work has commenced on the building and it is confirmed that there are no nesting birds present, the building will be sealed to prevent birds gaining access during works and potentially causing further delay.
3. It is recommended that a range of woodcrete boxes are erected around the site to provide an enhancement for passerine birds, and a selection of the following would be appropriate.



Cedarwood Sparrow Terrace



Schwegler 1b Bird Box

Figure 6.4. Bird boxes

6.4.3 Monitoring

Failing boxes or enhancements will be replaced at the cost of the developer if deterioration or damage is noted within five years post-development.



7 Concluding Remarks

The survey has focussed on the potential habitats or protected species to be damaged or destroyed as part of this development.

Of particular interest are bats and bird species. Two common pipistrelle bats were recorded emerging from the western gable end of the building. Work on extending the building will therefore need to be undertaken following a rigid method statement and under EPS derogation licence from Natural Resources Wales.

No nesting birds were recorded around the building.

The method statements provided in section 6.3.2 of this report will be followed and works will be done at a suitable time of year. Other than those listed above, there are no ecological constraints to the development as currently proposed.



Appendix A – Surveyor Details

Table A.1. Details of surveyors' experience and licences held

Name	Membership of associations/ experience	Licenses
Peta Marshall BSc(hons)MA	Principal Consultant MCIEEM PIEMA Peta has a degree in Applied Biology and has been working in commercial environmental assessment for over 10 years. She has 10+ years' experience surveying for protected species. As a member of the CIEEM she is bound by professional conduct.	Holder of survey licenses for bats and newts in England and Wales. Registered Consultant for Mitigation Class Licence for Bats <u>England:</u> Bats - 2015-12200-CLS-CLS BMCL - RC084 GCN - 2015-18939-CLS-CLS Dormice - 2017-29225-CLS-CLS <u>Wales:</u> Bats – S087133-1 GCN – S087606-1
Ben Jones BSc(hons) MSc	Lead Consultant Ben has a degree in Marine and Freshwater biology and a Master's degree in "Managing the Environment". He has 6 years' experience conducting environmental appraisals and phase 2 surveys for bats and newts in England and Wales.	Holder of survey licenses for bats and newts in England and Wales. <u>England:</u> Bats - 2017-29112-CLS-CLS GCN - 2016-25209-CLS-CLS <u>Wales:</u> Bats – S088669-2 GCN – S087992-1
Brian Marshall	Technical Director FIEMA CEnv PEA Consultant with over 35 years in the Environmental Sector	
Chloe Sheil MZool (Conservation)	Chloe has a master's degree in Zoology with Conservation from Bangor University. She has 3 years' experience assisting with surveys.	Listed as an accredited agent on Ben Jones' NRW bat licence – S088669-2
Rebecca Wilson BSc(hons) MSc PhD	Rebecca has a PhD in bioenergy crop cultivation and has been assisting with ecological surveys in 2021	



Appendix B – Methodology

Desk Study

Table B.1. Data sources

Organisation/Resource	Information Assessed
MAGIC website	International statutory designations (1km) • Special Protection areas (SPA) • Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) • RAMSAR sites National statutory designations (1km) • Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) • National Nature Reserves (NNR) EPS Licenses for protected species (2km)(due to proximity of English border)

A data search was purchased from COFNOD in September 2021.

A search on Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (Magic Maps) determined nearby designated areas. The map is presented in Section 4.1.

Field Survey

An assessment of habitats was conducted broadly following the JNCC Handbook for Phase 1 Surveys 2010.

The level of survey is aimed to identify field signs of or habitats with the potential to support protected species and therefore assist in the determination for detailed phase 2 surveys.

Determination of Ecological Value is based on the general criteria provided by IEEM (IEEM 2006).

Table B.2. Criteria of ecological values

Ecological Value	Description and Examples
High	Habitats or features that have high importance for nature conservation, such as statutory designated nature conservation sites of international or national importance or sites maintaining viable populations of species of international or national importance (e.g. Red Data Book species; European protected species).
Medium	Sites designated at a county or district level, e.g. Local Wildlife Site (LWS), ancient woodland site, ecologically 'important' hedgerows or ecological features that are notable within the context of a region, county or district (e.g. a viable area of a Priority Habitat on the county BAP or a site that supports a viable population of a county BAP species).
Low	Sites of nature conservation value within the context of a parish or neighbourhood, low-grade common habitats, such as arable fields and improved grasslands and sites supporting common, widespread species.



Species Surveys

Bats

Methodology used is in accordance with recommendations by BCT, Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 3rd edition, Collins (2016).

Features on site were assessed for potential for bat roosts, foraging and commuting.

An external assessment of all structures on site was undertaken to determine potential roost features (PRF) The potential suitability of the structures assessed was assigned a rating of low to high in accordance with table 4.1 of Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 3rd edition, Collins (2016).

An internal assessment of all structures was undertaken by a suitably licensed surveyor for evidence of roosting bats such as droppings, feeding remains and staining.

Daytime surveys were conducted with the aid of a strong torch and a pair of close focus binoculars. Bat species may leave little evidence of their presence.

Evidence for the presence of bats includes:

- Holes, cracks and rot holes used as roosts, marked by streaks of urine and faeces.
- Smoothed, darkened edges where bats have rubbed and left natural body oils when entering and exiting a space.
- Faeces under a roof access point, a well-used feeding point or a resting spot.
- Feeding signs such as discarded insect wings under a feeding point.
- Lack of cobwebs around eaves, roof spaces, beams or ceilings where routes are kept clear by bats or presence of droppings in a cobweb.
- Presence of roosting or dead bats in or behind any object.

Phase 2 bat activity surveys were conducted to reinforce the findings using heterodyne and frequency division bat detectors (Anabat SD2, Anabat Walkabout, Wildlife Acoustics Echo Meter Touch).

Surveys were conducted when the weather conditions were suitable for bat activity, i.e. when the ambient temperature exceeded 10°C at sunset and when there was little or no rain. Dusk surveys were begun approximately 15mins prior to sunset and continued for 90-120mins following sunset depending on visibility and site conditions. Dawn surveys were begun approximately 90-120mins before sunrise, depending on the species expected, to 15 minutes after sunrise. Dawn surveys were only conducted if the temperature at the previous sunset was over 10°C.

Table B.3. Windspeed scale

Wind Force	Description	Speed mph (kph)	Specifications
0	Calm	<1 (<1.6)	Smoke rises vertically
1	Light Air	1-3 (1-5)	Direction shown by smoke drift but not by wind vanes
2	Light Breeze	4-7 (6.5-11)	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; wind vane moved by wind



Activity surveys are conducted to establish the presence of bats within a structure, what species they are, approximately how many are present, and if possible, where they are exiting a roost.

Bats were identified from the characteristic echolocation calls using appropriate computer sonogram analysis software.

Birds

Searching for evidence of nesting birds, including barn owls, involved looking for:

- Presence of nests
- Collections of droppings and/or feathers
- Highly distinctive droppings or splats under roosting points.
- Presence of owl pellets/feathers
- Listening for bird song
- Recording bird activity



Appendix C – Policy

The following areas of policy and legislation are of relevance to ecology and provide context to the surveys conducted. Findings presented in this report are in line with the following:

The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 – as listed in:

- Schedule 2. European protected species of animals
- Schedule 5. European protected species of plants

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) – as listed in:

- Schedule 1. Birds protected by special penalties at all times
- Schedule 5. Protected animals
- Schedule 8. Protected plants

Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)

Hedgerow Regulations (1997)

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006)

Planning Policy Wales 2002, updated Dec 2018

Section 6.4 – Biodiversity and Ecological Networks

The Nature Recovery Plan for Wales – Setting the course for 2020 and beyond (2015)

Environment Act (Wales) (2016)

Section 7

Wrexham Unitary Development Plan – EC6 Biodiversity Conservation



Bats

All bat species are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 which implements the EC Directive 92/43/EEC in the United Kingdom. It is an offence, with certain exceptions, to:

- Deliberately capture or kill any wild animal of a European Protected Species.
- Deliberately disturb any such animal.
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such a wild animal.
- Keep (possess), transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange, any live or dead wild animal or plant of a European Protected Species, or any part of, or anything derived from such a wild animal or plant.

A person found guilty of an offence is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to an unlimited fine or to both.

Seven bat species are on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and are listed as Species of Principal Importance under the provisions of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that to minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, *"planning policies should... promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations"*.

To allow a development that might result in an offence, a derogation licence can be sought via the implementation of a European Protected Species Licence. This is provided by Natural Resources Wales.

Work can be conducted under a derogation licence from Natural Resources Wales providing suitable compensation and mitigation is provided and the "three tests" can be met. These are:

Regulation 55(2)(e) states: a licence can be granted for the purposes of "preserving public health or public safety" or other imperative reason of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment.

Regulation 55(9)(a) States: the appropriate authority (Natural Resources Wales) shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied "that there is no satisfactory alternative"

Regulation 55(9)(b) states that the appropriate authority shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied "that the action licensed will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at favourable conservation status in its natural range."

The method statement in the EPS licence is a legally binding document which outlines the species, context of the colony, method of mitigating and compensating and ongoing habitat management for ensuring favourable conservation status.



Birds

Under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), birds, their nests and young are all protected from damage, particularly during the breeding season. The Act allows for fines or prison sentences for every bird, egg or nest destroyed. It makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird.
- Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built.
- Take damage or destroy the egg of any wild bird.
- To have in one's possession or control any wild bird, dead or alive or egg or any part of a wild bird or egg.

Some bird species are included in the UK and local BAPS and are recognised as species of principal importance for nature conservation in accordance with section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. Such species and their habitats receive protection through the provisions of the NPPF.



Appendix D – Bat Survey Data

Table D.1. Survey results table

Date	Time Start – End	Species and Numbers	Roost Type	Structure	Roost Location	Access Points
11/08/2021	20:00-22:00	C. Pip x2	Day	Cottage	Western gable end under flashing	From flashing
Notes/Observations:	The first bat was recorded emerging at 20:54, 14 minutes after sunset. A second common pipistrelle emerged 10mins later. Other bat species recorded in the area, but not roosting in the cottage include soprano pipistrelle bats, .					
26/08/2021	04:45-06:30	-	-	Cottage	-	-
Notes/Observations:	No bats were recorded entering the cottage roof. Activity of brown long eared bats was seen to be associated with the barn to the north					
08/09/2021	19:30-21:00	-	-	Cottage	-	-
Notes/Observations:	No bats were recorded emerging from the cottage on this occasion. Species recorded include common and soprano pipistrelle and					

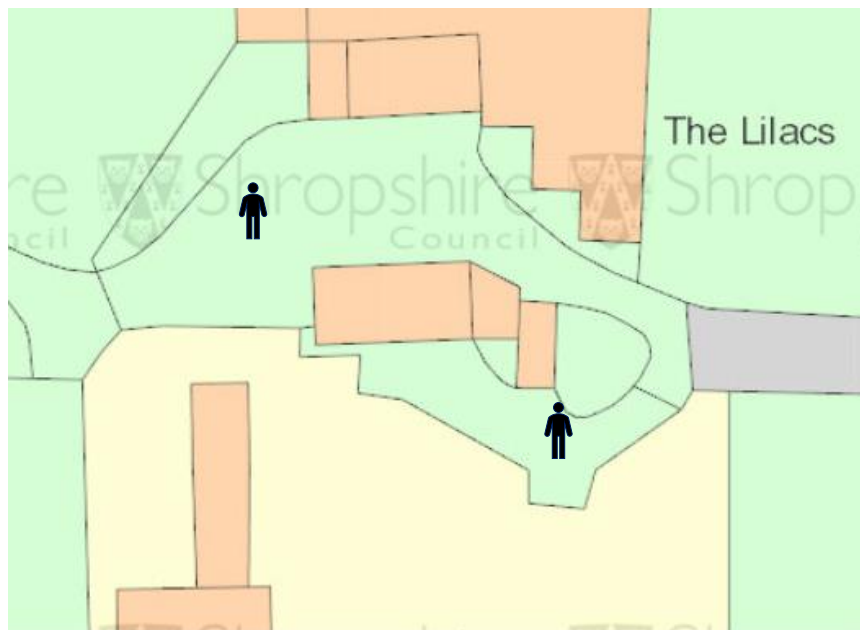


Figure D.1. Surveyor locations area



Figure D.2. Survey results

Icon	Description
	Roost Location
	Droppings Location
	Flight Paths



Appendix E – Bibliography

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