

Bat Activity Surveys at

120 Rhosnesni Lane,

Wrexham, Clwyd,

LL12 7NB

GR SJ 34642 51423

On 10th, 13th and 28th August 2018

Report completed 11th October 2018

Ref: RHO100818

Survey by:

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Background

A preliminary roost assessment of two buildings at 120 Rhosnesni Lane, Wrexham was carried out on 16th March 2018 which identified the former shop as having low roost potential and the former warehouse as having moderate roost potential for bats.

Therefore one bat activity survey was carried out on the shop and two bat activity surveys were carried out on the warehouse on the 10th, 13th and 28th August 2018 and the results of these are given here.

Procedures and equipment

An emergence survey was carried out on the shop and an emergence and pre-dawn re-entry survey were carried out on the warehouse to establish whether the buildings were being used by bats and the nature of that use if any. These were carried out in accordance with Collins J. (Ed) (2016) *Bat surveys for professional ecologists: Good practice guidelines (3rd Edn)*. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.) and *Bat Worker's Manual*, JNCC (McLeish, A. P. and Mitchell-Jones, A. J., 2004) Frequency division detectors were used to record any bat sounds for later analysis on the computer. These were Anabat SD1, Anabat II and Echo Meter EM3.

Personnel

Susan Worsfold (SW) BSc Hons Grad CIEEM

Licensed bat worker and VBRV, 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) (NE) and 72725:OTH:CSAB:2016 (NRW);

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

Craig Thomas (CT) is an experienced assistant.

Activity Surveys

10/8/18 - Former Shop

Number of observers: 2

Observer 1: SW; equipment: Echo Meter EM3; Station: north west corner of building

Observer 2: CT; equipment: Anabat II; Station: south east corner of building

Bat species seen and/or recorded:

First bat:

Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)

Time: 21.17; *Location:* SW station

Subsequently: Once, SW station at 22.05

Other species:

None

No bats were seen to emerge from the building.

13/8/18 - Former Warehouse

Number of observers: 2

Observer 1: SW; equipment: Echo Meter EM3; Station: south west corner of building

Observer 2: CT; equipment: Anabat II; Station: north east corner of building

Internal equipment: Anabat II on ground floor and first floor

First bat:

Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)

Time: 21.00; *Location:* SW station

Subsequently: Both external stations, 21.08 and CT station, 21.40,

Other species:

None

No bats were seen to emerge from the building. No bat calls were recorded internally. At 21.01, 21.08 and 21.12 a bat was seen flying south to north at SW station CT stations.

28/8/18 - Former Warehouse

Number of observers: 2

Observer 1: SW; equipment: Echo Meter EM3; Station: south west corner of building

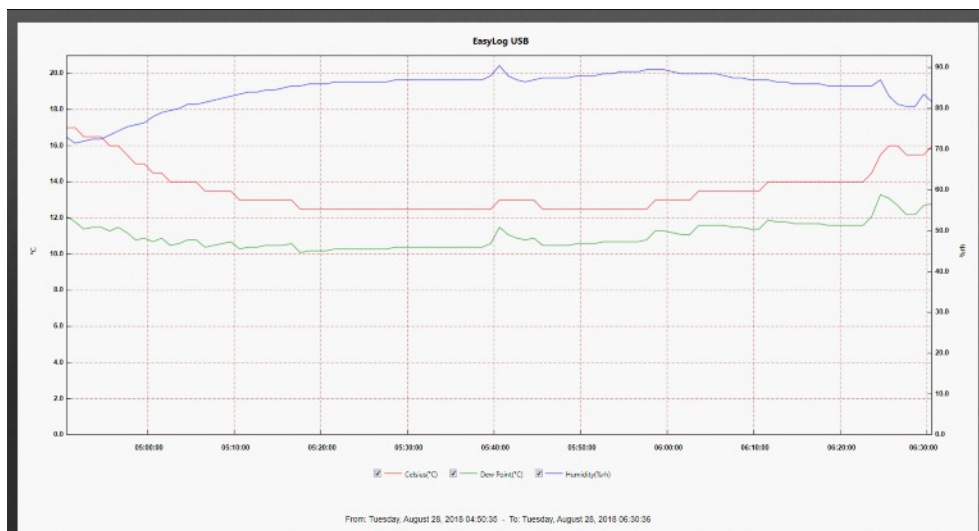
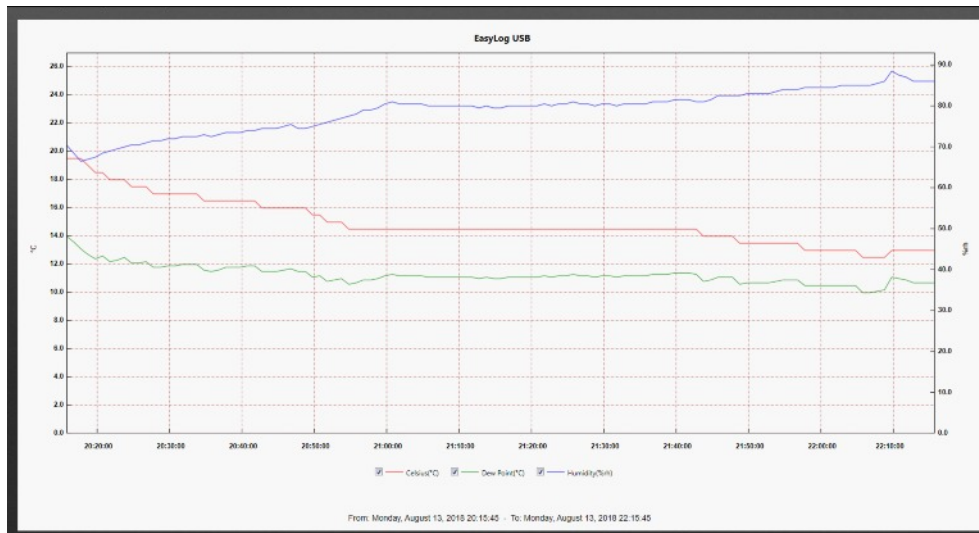
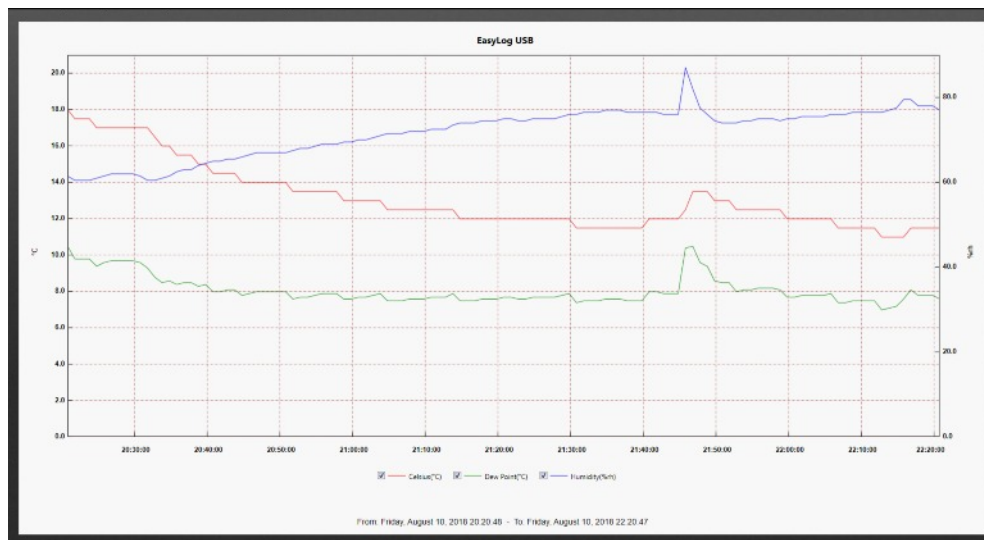
Observer 2: CT; equipment: Anabat SD1; Station: north east corner of building

No bat calls were recorded during the survey.

No bats were seen to enter the building. At 05.42 a bat was seen at CT station flying east to west.

Survey Conditions

Date	Sunset/ Sunrise	Start	End	Temp Start °C	Relative Humidity Start %	Temp End °C	Relative Humidity Start %	Cloud %	Wind 0-6
10/8/18	20:50	20:20	22:30	16	61	11	77	10-0	0-0
13/8/18	20:44	20:15	22:15	18	68	12	85	10-0	0-0
28/8/18	06:14	04:45	06:30	14	79	14	85	50-90	0-0



Assessment of Effects and Mitigation Measures

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. Bat activity on site was very low.

However, the site is suitable for foraging and commuting bats.

It is possible that transient bats may temporarily roost or perch in the building in the future, therefore precautions must be taken.

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.

Compensation

None considered necessary as no roosting sites affected.

Enhancement Recommendations

A bat box e.g. Schwegler 1FF to be fitted externally to two of the new buildings. 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

Ecological Constraints

None identified.

Monitoring

Not considered necessary..

Bibliography

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

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

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

Mitchell-Jones, A. J. (2004) *Bat Mitigation Guidelines*, Peterborough: English Nature

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

Bats and the Law

Taken together, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW), and the 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
- 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' (Conservation of Habitats & Species 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 (or, in Wales, NRW (Natural Resources Wales)) the function of providing advice or assistance to the police in respect of alleged offences.

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 a Natural Resources Wales licence in respect of bat species

A NRW licence is a licence which 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.