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Site Address: Sugyn-y-Pwll
Tower Hill
Acrefair
Wrexham
LL20 7YH

Report Reference: EA 21-03 071.1

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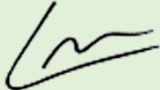
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The report should be read in its entirety.

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 client, Mr T Howard to undertake an ecological appraisal of Sugyn-y-Pwll, including bat activity surveys, to provide supporting information for a planning application for the extension of the property.

The survey report has these principal aims:

- To provide an initial assessment of the ecological value of the site in local context.
- To provide details supporting further surveys that were conducted.
- 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, reviews surveys previously conducted on site in 2009 by Greenscape Environmental, and a site visit undertaken at the site, OS grid reference SJ26284334 on 9th June 2021 by B Jones. Bat activity surveys were conducted on 9th June, 6th July and 2nd August by B Jones, C Sheil, L Maggs and N Hurley.

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 that these should be the main focus of the ecological appraisal.

The site comprises a farmhouse, joining building and agricultural buildings, of which only the farmhouse and joining building are being affected by the proposed development.

Evidence of bats was clear in detritus falling through gaps in the ceiling on the upper floor of the house, but a full inspection of the loft was not possible due to the lack of hatch. **Bat activity surveys identified peak counts of two Natterer's bats and two soprano pipistrelles roosting in the areas to be affected. Work must proceed under licence from Natural Resources Wales, which can only be applied for once planning permission has been granted.**

No evidence of nesting birds was identified anywhere on site in areas to be affected, and so no further consideration is required at this time.

There are no bodies of water within 250m, and the development is not affecting any habitat of value to amphibians.

1.4 Conclusion

It has been agreed with the client that the biodiversity value of the site will be enhanced post-construction with the inclusion of bat and bird boxes.

Work will proceed under licence from Natural Resources Wales and follow the method statement provided in section 6.3.2 of this report.

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 two survey seasons after the surveys described in this report	To ensure site conditions have not significantly altered prior to commencement
Apply for NRW bat mitigation licence	Once planning permission has been granted	To ensure a wildlife offence is not committed
Begin works in bat roost areas	September to April, once the NRW licence has been granted.	This is the recommended period of work for initial disturbance work on summer non-maternity works.



2 Introduction

This report has been compiled by Ben Jones BSc (hons) MSc who has 6 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 Mr Howard 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 the extension of the dwelling.

Barns adjacent to the dwelling were previously surveyed in 2009. The details of this survey are in report 726 01 R. In summary this survey found four soprano pipistrelles roosting in the barns.

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.

The Local Planning Authority will require further information regarding bats due to the nature of the building and proposals.

2.3 Site Context and Location

The site is located in open countryside to the west of Ruabon and north of the Llangollen Valley, OS grid reference SJ26284334. It is set in a rural environment surrounded by open fields and small blocks of woodland on all sides. Lower Dingle is 100m to the north and would provide excellent habitat for local bats.



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 Appendix B.

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.

3.2 Field Survey

3.2.1 Date and Survey Conditions

Table 3.1. Survey conditions

Date	Time Start – End (Sunset Time)	Structure	Equipment Used	Weather
09/06/2021	20:00-23:05 (21:36)	Dwelling	Anabat Walkabout, Wildlife Acoustics EMT Pro 2 x2	18-17°C, 80% cloud cover, F0-1 wind, no rain, new moon
Comments	Three surveyors used: Ben Jones, Logan Maggs and Chloe Sheil			
06/07/2021	21:25-23:10 (21:39)	Dwelling	Anabat Walkabout, Wildlife Acoustics EMT Pro 2, Anabat SD2	17°C throughout, overcast, no wind, no rain
Comments	Three surveyors used: Ben Jones, Chloe Sheil and Niamh Hurley			
02/08/2021	03:30-05:40 (05:32)	Dwelling	Anabat Walkabout, Wildlife Acoustics EMT Pro 2 x2	13-12°C, 75-10% cloud cover, no wind, no rain, waning crescent moon
Comments	Three surveyors used: Ben Jones, Logan Maggs and Chloe Sheil			

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.

3.4 Constraints of the Survey

Not all areas were accessible for these surveys, there was no access to the roof void. This is not considered a constraint as phase 2 surveys were conducted to assess the status of roosting bats. Surveys were conducted at optimal times of year for the assessment of bat roosts and nesting birds. No further constraints have been identified.

The internal search revealed that the buildings had not been subjected to any form of specific cleaning and was in a natural redundant state.

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

The map from Natural England presented in Figure 4.1 indicated that the site is not within 1km of any designated areas.

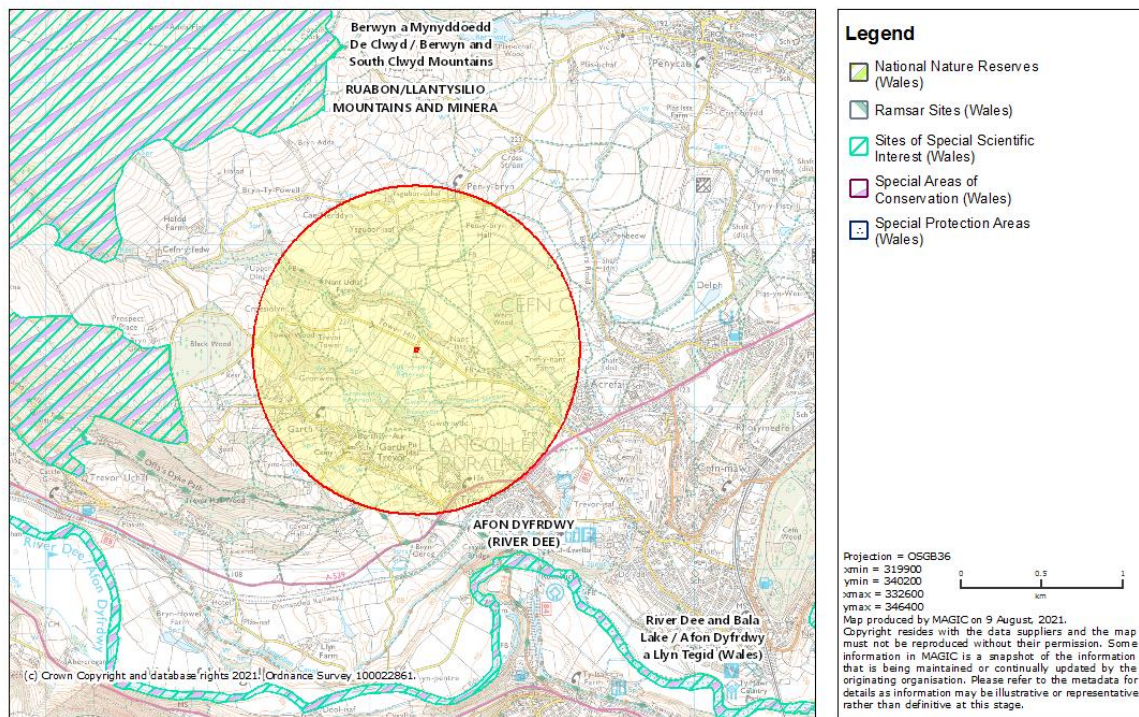
MAGiC**Sugyn-y-Pwll**

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



4.2 Habitats on Site

The site comprises a series of buildings of which only the farmhouse is being impacted by the current development. The farmhouse is split into two distinct areas, the house and a joining building, both at the northernmost end of site, a long agricultural barn heads south from the farmhouse, and a detached agricultural barn is further to the south. There are other sheds and Dutch barns scattered around site, but all buildings except the farmhouse are outside the red line of this development.



Figure 4.2. Farmhouse



Figure 4.3. Farmhouse joining building



Figure 4.4. Agricultural barns south of house

4.3 Bats

4.3.1 Records

Cofnod hold no records of bats within 2km of this site. Soprano pipistrelles have previously been recorded in the barns to the south in 2009.

4.3.2 Field Observations

The house was checked for evidence of bats. There is a loft over the entire upper floor, but there are no hatches to permit an internal assessment. Some droppings were seen where damage to the upper floor ceiling had allowed detritus to drop from the loft. These prompted additional activity surveys.



Figure 4.5. Droppings caught in cobwebs dropping from ceiling holes



Howard

On the exterior there were potential roost access points such as gaps beneath raised tiles, and damage to the northern gable end.



Figure 4.6. Damage to northern gable end



Figure 4.7. Gap beneath ridge tile

Phase 2 Bat Activity Surveys

These surveys were conducted in June, July and August 2021. In summary these found day roosts of Natterer's bats roosting in the roof of the main farmhouse, and soprano pipistrelles in the joining building. Full details of these surveys and roost locations can be seen in Appendix D



4.4 Birds

4.4.1 Records

Records of birds within 150m include typical passerine species such as blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) and swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). Raptor species such as barn owl (*Tyto alba*) have also been recorded. Records of all species are provided with low accuracy and so specific locations are not clear.

4.4.2 Field Observations

The damage to the northern gable end is an example of features on site that might be used by nesting birds. No evidence of use was seen during any other surveys, however.

4.5 Amphibians

The site had no features suitable for amphibians in their terrestrial phase and there are no ponds within 250m.

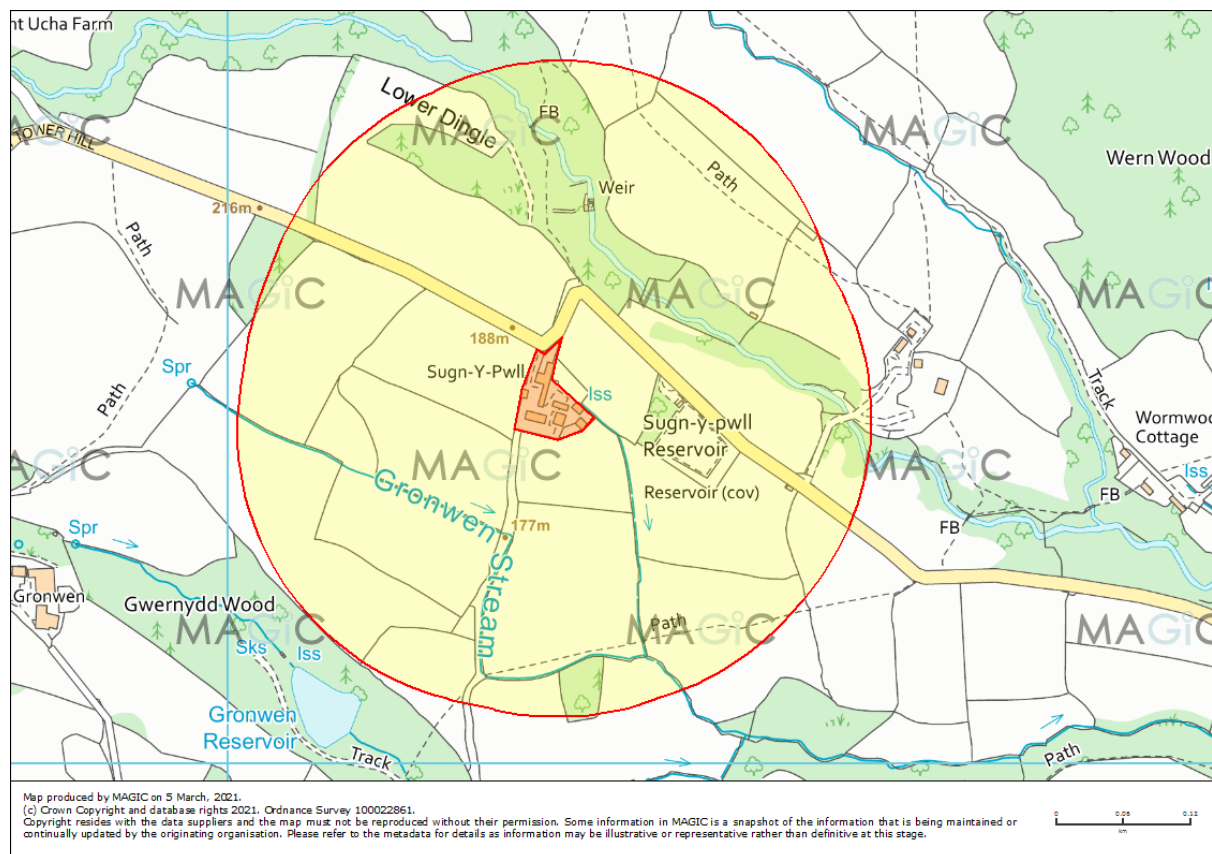


Figure 4.8. OS Map showing lack of ponds in 250m



5 Description of Proposed Development

The current plans are for the renovation and alterations to the southern gable of the farmhouse. The joining building will be demolished and rebuilt.

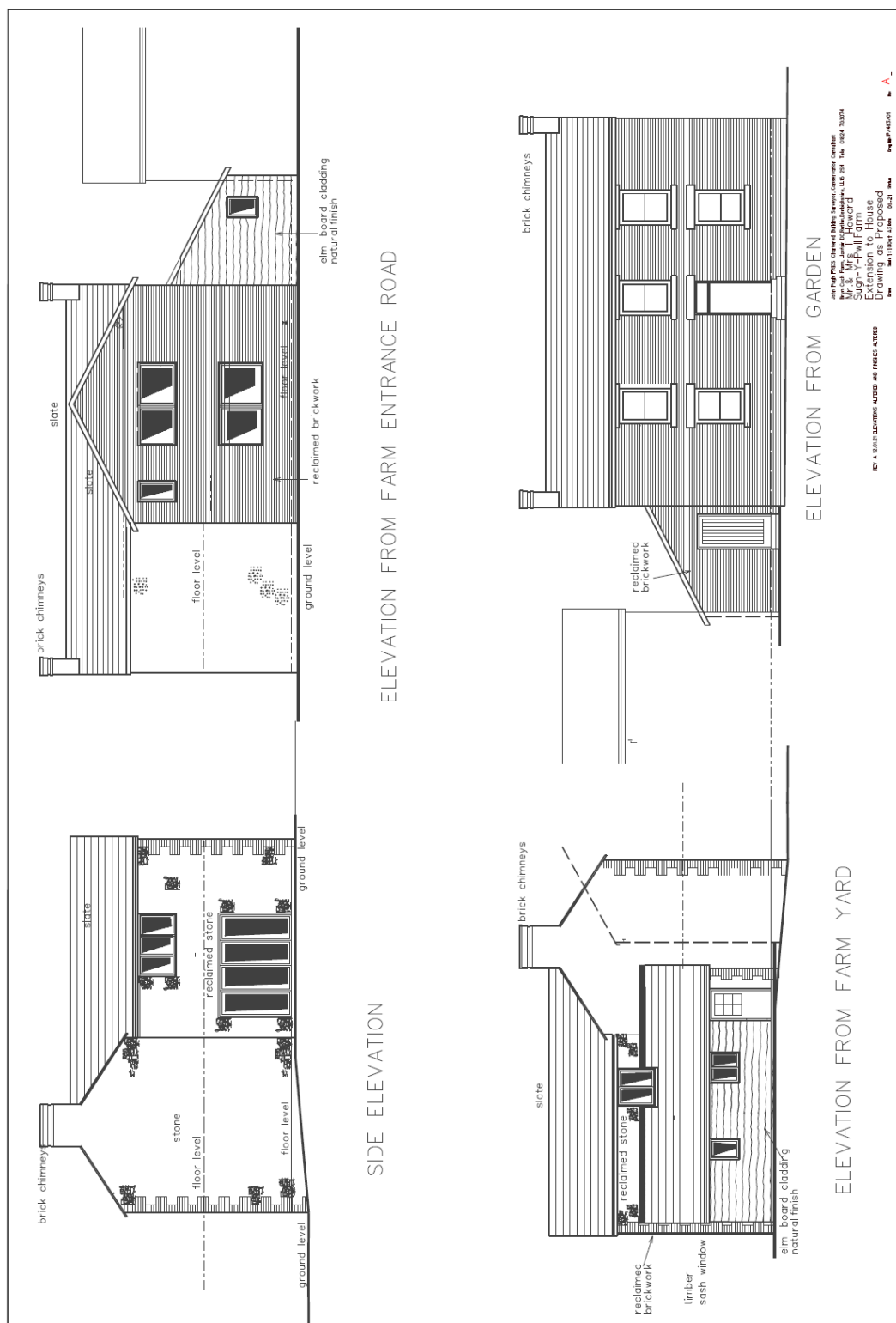


Figure 5.1. Proposed elevations



6 Impacts, Enhancements and Mitigation

6.1 Nearby Features of Importance

Figure 4.1 shows that there are no designated areas within 1km.

6.2 Habitats on Site

The development as proposed does not involve any habitats of value, or priority habitats according to Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006). As such, all mitigation will be delivered at a species level.

6.3 Bats

6.3.1 Impacts

Without consideration there would be damage to the day roost space of Natterer's bats, and loss of the soprano pipistrelle day roost. These are both common species and only low numbers were recorded, which makes them roosts of low conservation significance. 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, as the work will modify or destroy known roosts. These are summer non-maternity roosts, and so the timing of the works to impact known roost spaces will take place between September and the end of April, as per the table below.

Table 6.1. Timing of works as recommended by the Bat Mitigation Guidelines (2004)

Bat usage of site	Optimum period for carrying out works (some variation between species)
Maternity	1 st October – 1 st May
Summer (not a proven maternity site)	1 st September – 1 st May
Hibernation	1 st May – 1 st October
Mating/swarming	1 st November – 1 st August

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. A toolbox talk will be provided by the ECoW. 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 known roost entry points. 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. A pre-commencement check will be conducted by the ECoW using a strong torch and borescope where appropriate.
6. The work around the bat roost area will occur when bats are least likely to be present, from September to the end of April.
7. The lofts will only be accessed when necessary.
8. Bats will always be allowed access to an undisturbed area during works.
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, hips, valleys and edges.
10. 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.
11. If a bat is found when the ECoW is not present, work will stop immediately and the ECoW contacted for advice.
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.
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 in the method statement and the client will agree that any bat box erected must stay in place for a minimum of five years post-development.
16. The removal of the roof will not take place if the temperature has been below 6°C for four consecutive days and nights.



6.3.3 Compensation & Enhancements

It is recommended that provision be made for roosting opportunities for bats with the erection of two woodcrete bat boxes suitable for day roosts. These will be erected either on other buildings around site, or on nearby trees. The ECoW will oversee and approve the locations during site visits for licensable work. These will be erected at a height of 3-4 m and in a southerly, westerly or easterly facing direction.



Figure 6.1. Example woodcrete bat box: Schwegler 1FF & Beaumaris Bat Box Midi 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 6.2. Example external down light design



6.3.4 Monitoring

There is no requirement to monitor day roosts even after a licence. The boxes will be observed however and replaced if damage is noted within the first five years after installation.

6.4 Birds

6.4.1 Impacts

Work at this site will not impact any areas seen to support nesting birds. No negative impact is expected.

6.4.2 Enhancements

1. 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



Schwegler 2H Robin Box

Figure 6.3. Bird boxes

6.5 Amphibians

As there are no ponds in the area and no habitats of value to be impacted, no negative impact is expected and no further consideration is required.



7 Concluding Remarks

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

Evidence of bats using the loft over the farmhouse was visible from the upper floor of the house where damage to the ceiling allowed detritus to spill through. These droppings and the lack of a thorough internal assessment prompted further surveys. These found peak counts of two Natterer's bats and two soprano pipistrelles roosting in the buildings to be affected. Work must proceed under licence from Natural Resources Wales. There is no requirement for specific mitigation for low numbers of common species, but it has previously been agreed with the client that artificial roost boxes will be erected around site.

No evidence of nesting birds was seen during any site visit. No habitat suitable for amphibians is present, and there are no ponds within 250m.

The method statement provided in section 6.3.2 will be followed once the licence from NRW is obtained 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
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
Logan Maggs BSc(hons)	Lead Consultant Logan has a degree in Conservation and Land Management. He has over 10 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 - 2016-24901-CLS-CLS GCN - 2017-29218-CLS-CLS <u>Wales:</u> Bats – S086874/1 Newts - 79665:OTH:SA:2018
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
Niamh Hurley BSc(hons)	Niamh has been assisting with bat surveys in the 2021 season.	



Appendix B – Methodology

Desk Study

Table B.1. Data sources

Organisation/Resource	Information Assessed
Local Records Centre - Cofnod	Protected/UK BAP Species records (2km)
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)

A data search for bats within 2km and roof-nesting birds within 150m was purchased from Cofnod to support the appraisal.

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

A review of other surveys conducted on site by Greenscape Environmental was also conducted, this report is 726 01 R.

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 12x55 monocular. 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 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
3	Gentle Breeze	8-12 (12-19)	Leaves and small twigs in constant motion; light flags extended



Howard

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

Amphibians and Reptiles

The terrestrial habitats at the application site were surveyed and assessed for their suitability and potential value for the support of GCN. The general topography, ground conditions and presence or absence of vegetation were recorded. A refugia search was conducted for amphibians and reptiles by looking under any logs, large stones and other debris.



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

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

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

Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)

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.

Amphibians and Reptiles

All species of amphibians receive a measure of protection under legislation.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 has been amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000. This applies to England and Wales only. The key relevant fact is:

- Section 9(4) is amended to create an additional offence of reckless damage to, destruction of, or obstruction of access to, any structure or place used for shelter or protection; and reckless disturbance while occupying such a structure or place.

Great Crested Newts

Great crested newts 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.
- Deliberately take or destroy eggs of any such wild 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.

Great crested newts are listed as a priority species on the UK BAP and Section 41 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"*.

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.



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
09/06/2021	20:00-23:05	--	--	--	--	--
Notes:	No bats were seen to emerge from any of the buildings during this survey. Activity was of foraging bats, including common pipistrelles, soprano pipistrelles, brown long-eared bats and myotis bats. These foraging on all sides of the building and in the lane to the northwest of site.					
06/07/2021	21:25-23:10	Myotis - 1	Day	Farmhouse	Beneath Ridge	Eastern face of roof
Notes:	One myotis bat was seen to emerge from a gap beneath a ridge tile on the eastern face of the roof. This emerged at 22:06 and proceeded to forage over the garden and fields to the east. All other activity was of foraging bats, including common pipistrelles, soprano pipistrelles and noctule.					
02/08/2021	03:30-05:40	Natterer’s – 2	Day	Farmhouse	Beneath tiles/in loft	Damaged northern gable
		Soprano pip - 2		Farmhouse joining building	Beneath fascia boards	Small gaps behind boards
Notes:	Day roosts of Natterer’s bats and soprano pipistrelles were identified on this survey. The two Natterer’s bats entered into slightly different roost points on the northern gable end of the house but are likely to be a shared roost space. The two soprano pipistrelles entered roosts behind the fascia boards in the joining building to the south of the farmhouse and are certainly individual roosts. All other activity was again of foraging bats, including brown long-eared bats, common and soprano pipistrelles, noctules and a lesser horseshoe bat which was last seen flying off-site to the south on the eastern side of the building.					

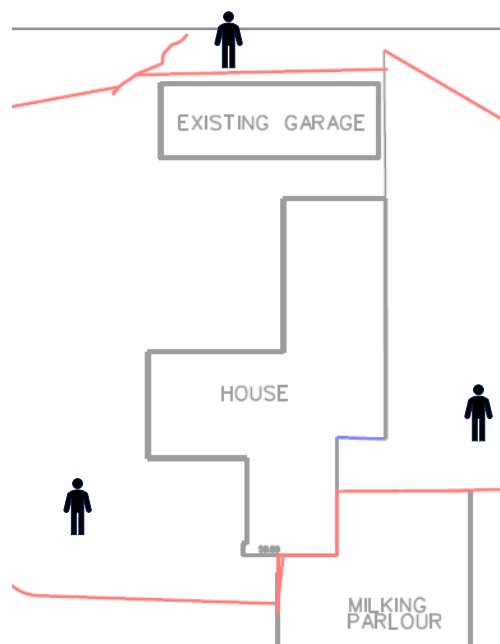


Figure D.1. Surveyor positions

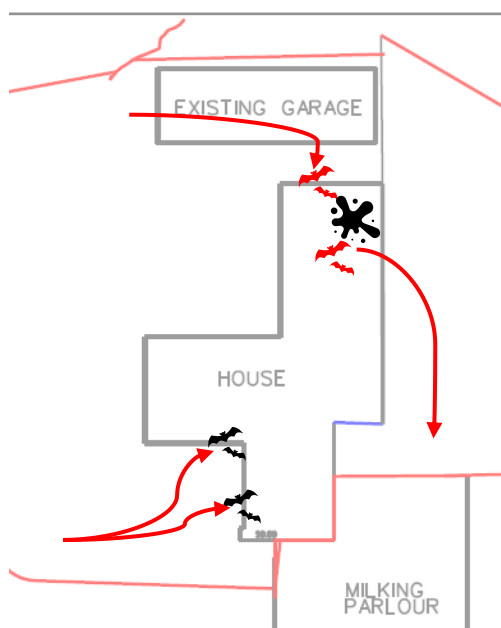


Figure D.2. Survey results

Icon	Description
	Natterer's bat roost location
	Soprano pipistrelle roost location
	Droppings location inside house
	Flight Paths



Figure D.3. Myotis bat emergence point on second survey



Figure D.4. Natterer's bat re-entry points on third survey



Figure D.5. Soprano pipistrelle roost entry points on third survey



Appendix E – Bibliography

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