



YSGOL CLYWEDOG, WREXHAM

PRELIMINARY BAT ROOST ASSESSMENT

DATE	ECOLOGIST	APPROVED	VERSION	COMMENTS
20/03/2018	Rebecca Lloyd	Lucy Boyett	V1	

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Enfys Ecology Limited were commissioned by TACP Architects on behalf of Read Construction and Wrexham County Council to undertake a Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment and nesting bird survey of the admin block at Ysgol Clywedog, Wrexham
- 1.2 The proposed works are to build a two storey extension onto the front of the admin block, to create a new entrance way into the building (Figures 1.1 & 1.2).
- 1.3 The survey was commissioned to determine whether the proposed works would affect protected species: specifically bats and nesting birds. The survey work to inform this report was carried out on the 7th March 2018. This report is valid for a period of two years from this date in accordance with best practice.
- 1.4 All British bats (and roost sites) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended). In addition, all bats are classified as European Protected species by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). Under this legislation, it is an offence to kill, injure or disturb a bat, or to destroy any place used as a shelter by bats.
- 1.5 Should evidence of bats be found and it is deemed likely that they will be disturbed by the proposed works; a licence from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) must be obtained.



FIGURE 1.1 & 1.2 EXISTING ENTRANCE THE SCHOOL & PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE FRONT

2.0 Site Description

- 2.1 The building is located to the south of Ruthin Road (A525), Wrexham, LL13 7UB, with the approximate grid reference SJ 32223 49987 (Figures 2.1 and 2.2).



FIGURE 2.1 AERIAL VIEW OF THE LOCATION AND SURROUNDINGS, WITH THE SURVEYED BUILDING SHOWN IN RED. © GOOGLE 2018

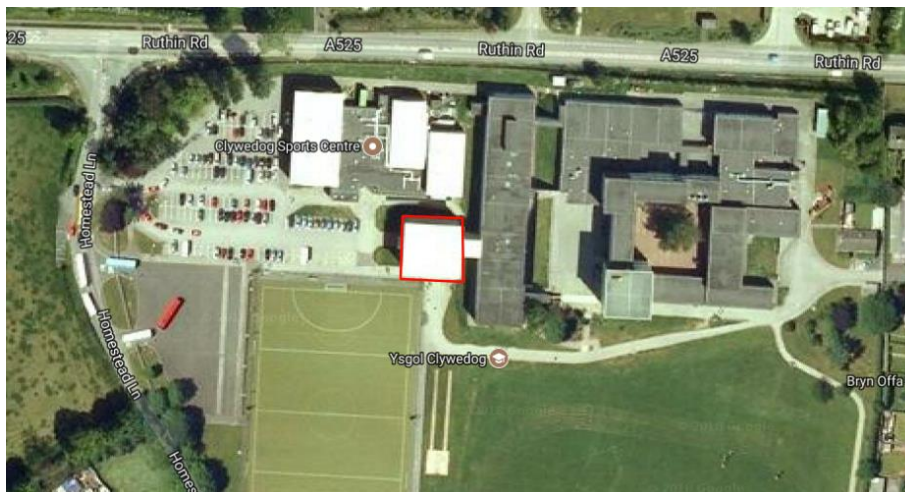


FIGURE 2.2 THE SURVEYED BUILDING IS SHOWN IN RED © GOOGLE 2018

- 2.2 The building was located on the western outskirts of Wrexham, within a broadly residential area. The area to the west of the school comprised agricultural fields, lined with mature hedgerows and trees. To the north of the school was the A525, with council offices and a small area of grassland and scattered trees beyond. To the south of the school was a large area of amenity grassland playing field, with a number of scattered mature trees along its southern boundary, backing onto a residential estate.

- 2.3 Mature trees and hedgerow ran alongside Homestead Lane along the western boundary of the school, which connected the site to further linear features along field boundaries to the east. There was also scattered mature trees and hedgerow along the northern boundary of the school and along the A525. The area was well lit with numerous street lights on the A525 to the north and floodlights around the school bus car park and the astro-turf pitch which was located next to the school entrance.
- 2.4 There were no statutory designated sites within a 1km radius of the building.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 *Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (PRA)*

The admin block was assessed for any signs of bats; these included droppings, feeding remains, and other indicative marks, plus features of potential use to bats such as crevices, cracks and other holes, and any potential access points into the building. High-powered torches were used to inspect any identified features, and an endoscope was used to investigate any gaps or crevices, where appropriate. Only the exterior of the building was examined.

3.2 *Survey Details*

The building inspection was carried out on the 7th March 2018 by Lucy Boyett (accredited agent under licence number 77581:OTH:CSAB:2017) and Rebecca Lloyd. Building and potential roost assessments were carried out following the guidelines set by the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2016). Photographic evidence was taken where necessary.

3.3 *Limitations*

- 3.3.1 Bats are a difficult group to survey, and as bats are highly mobile animals it is possible that they could move into a building after the survey has occurred. Therefore, it cannot be guaranteed that bats will not move into the building following the survey.
- 3.3.2 Due to the potential presence of asbestos in the building we were unable to inspect any roof spaces present.

4.0 Building Description

- 4.1 The building was three stories high and of brick construction. The roof was metal clad at the eaves, with a shallow pitch, which was almost flat (Figure 4.3). The building was joined to the rest of the school at the rear (eastern side) (Figure 4.4).



FIGURE 4.3. NORTHERN SIDE OF BUILDING **FIGURE 4.4. NORTH EASTERN CORNER OF BUILDING**

5.0 Survey Results

- 5.1 All brick work and windows were in good condition, with no missing mortar, gaps or cracks.
- 5.2 There were no gaps in the metal clad eaves or where they met the wall on all sides.
- 5.3 There were small channels in the metal cladding, however on closer inspection, these did not lead in into the eaves or roof space (Figure 5.1).

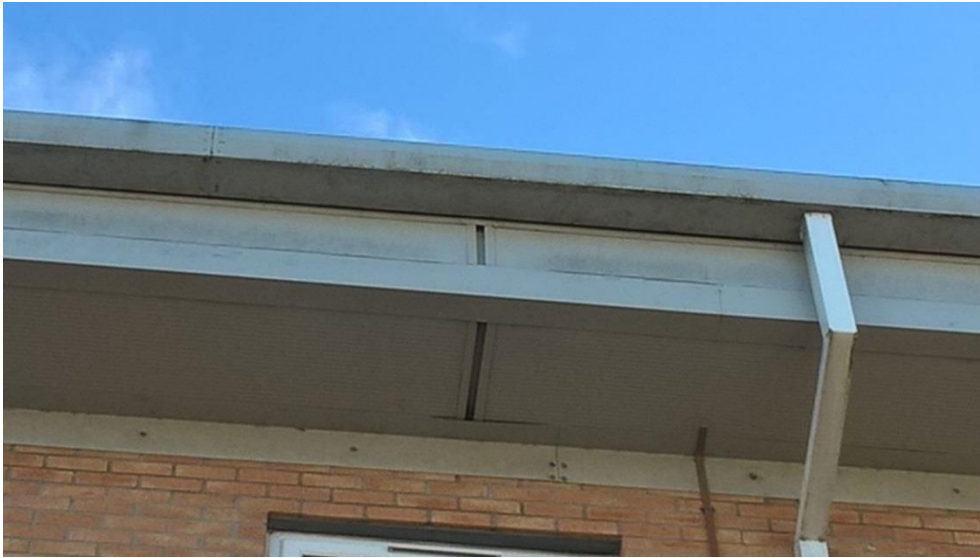


FIGURE 5.1. NORTHERN SIDE OF THE BUILDING, WHERE CLADDING MET THE BRICK WALL

- 5.4 Due to the height of the building, the roof was not visible, however given the material and roof structure, it is unlikely that any gaps would be present.
- 5.5 No evidence of bats or nesting birds were found and no potential roosting features were identified.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The proposed works are to build a two storey extension onto the front of the admin block, to create a new entrance way into the building. The current plan is for the new extension to tie into the existing wall of the school at a lower level than the existing roof, however the plans have the potential to change and the new extension may tie in higher up and into the existing roof.
- 6.2 The habitat surrounding the school had moderate suitability for bats with hedgerows and scattered trees around the boundaries of the school connecting to further suitable habitats in the wider countryside. The habitat immediately surrounding the surveyed building was less suitable as it was well lit, with short amenity grassland and hardstanding to the front and the nearest trees or shrubs were more than 70m to the north east.
- 6.3 The roof spaces were not inspected during the preliminary roost assessment due to the potential presence of asbestos, however given the nature of the roof structure, and no potential roosting features or entrance points were seen externally, it is not thought any evidence of bats would have been found.
- 6.4 The preliminary roost assessment found no evidence of bats or potential roosting features.

- 6.5 With these considerations in mind, the building is considered to have negligible potential for roosting bats and no further surveys are recommended.

7.0 Mitigation and Recommendations

- 7.1 As the building was considered to have negligible potential for roosting bats, further surveys or mitigation are not recommended.
- 7.2 In the unlikely event that bats are encountered during the works, all works to the building in which bats are found **must** cease immediately. A suitably licenced bat ecologist called and a licence from NRW must be obtained. (Enfys Ecology can provide such a service on 07764 897417).
- 7.3 No birds were seen on the building during the survey, however the survey was not undertaken during peak bird nesting season and use by nesting birds cannot be ruled out.
- 7.4 If works were to be conducted within bird nesting season (from March to September [inclusive]) then a thorough search for any nesting birds should take place immediately prior to the commencement of works. If any active nest is recorded then all works to that section of the building would have to cease until the chicks have fledged. It is an offence to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built with unlimited fines and/or imprisonment.

8.0 Legislation

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) forms the key legislation protecting habitats and species in the UK. All UK bat species are fully protected under the 1981 Act through inclusion on schedule 5. All bats are also listed under Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 which transcribes the EC Habitats Directive into UK law. In combination, this legislation makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately or recklessly take, injure or kill a bat;
- Deliberately or recklessly damage or destroy a place or structure used by bats for shelter or protection;
- Deliberately or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost; or
- Deliberately or recklessly disturb bats while occupying a roost.

Bat roosts are protected under these laws whether the animals are present at the time of survey or not. Under both laws the Welsh Government and D.E.F.R.A. are empowered to issue licences to carry out work to bat roosts for reasons of overriding public interest. It is not illegal to tend to a disabled bat pending recovery.

In addition, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act all birds, their nests and eggs are protected during the breeding season (typically March to August inclusive) from killing/destruction, damage and disturbance.

9.0 References and useful Information Sources

Collins, J. (ed.) (2016) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (3rd edn). The Bat Conservation Trust, London. ISBN-13 978-1-872745-96-1