

Bat Activity Surveys at

Tintern, Pistyll Hill,

Marford, Wrexham.

LL12 8LE

GR SJ 36198 55359

On 17th August and 4th September 2018

Version 2 completed 3rd October 2018

Ref: tin170818

Survey by:

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Background

A preliminary roost assessment of a house at Tintern, Park Street, Ruabon, Wrexham was carried out on 15th April 2018 which identified the building as having moderate roost potential for bats.

Therefore two bat activity surveys were carried out on 17th August and 10th June 2018 and the results of these are given here.

Procedures and equipment

An emergence survey and a pre-dawn re-entry survey were carried out to establish whether the building was 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 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

Date	Sunset/ Sunrise	Start	End	Temp Start °C	RH Start %	Temp End °C	RH End %	Cloud %	Wind 0-6
17/8/18	05:56	04:25	22:55	14	73	10	88	40	0
4/9/18	19:55	19:30	21:30	17	67	12	81	10	0

17/8/18

Number of observers: 2

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

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

Bat species seen and/or recorded:

First bat:

Myotis sp., probably *Myotis daubentonii*

Time: 04.51; *Location:* CT station

Subsequently: None

Other species:

Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)

Time: 05.16; *Location:* CT station

Subsequently: Twice, SW station.

Long eared bat, presumed brown long eared (*Plecotus auritus*)

Time: 05.00; *Location:* SW station

Subsequently: None

A bat was seen at 05.41 flying north west to south east at SW station. No bats were seen to enter the building.

4/9/18

Number of observers: 2

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

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

First bat:

Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)

Time: 20.08; *Location:* CT station

Subsequently: Frequently, CT station

Other species:

Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)

Time: 20.09; *Location:* CT station

Subsequently: Frequently, both stations

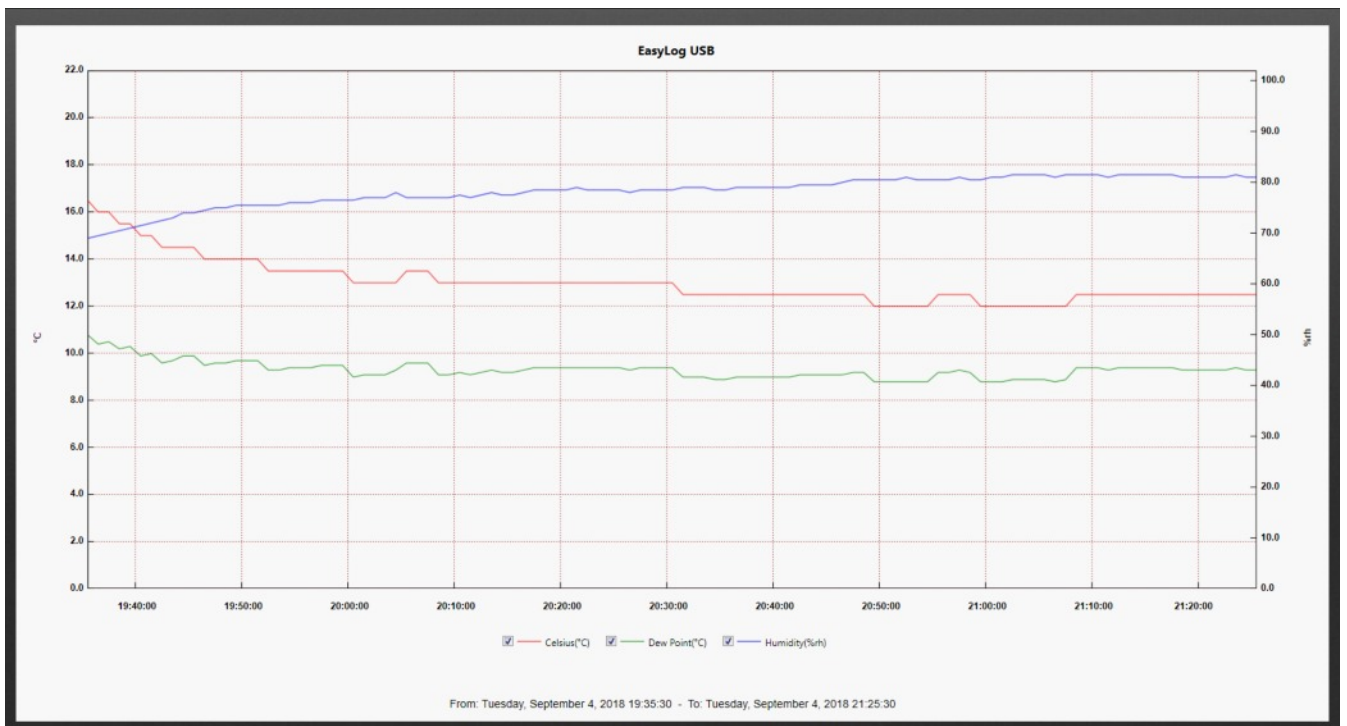
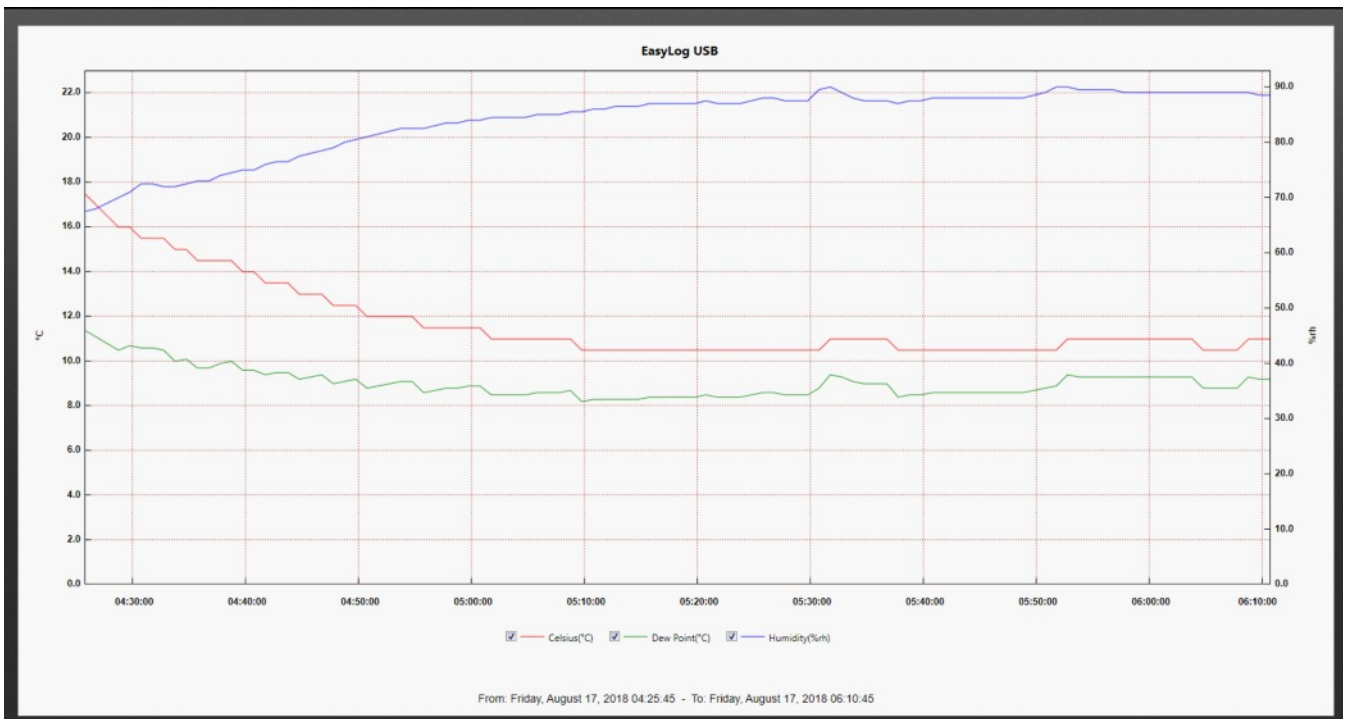
Long eared bat, presumed brown long eared (*Plecotus auritus*)

Time: 21.46; *Location:* SW station

Subsequently: None

A bat was seen at both stations at 20.08, flying around the house. Bats were seen eight more times at CT station and once at SW station, foraging near and above the house and flying to and from the area in different directions. No bats were seen to emerge from the building.

Temperature and Humidity Charts



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.

However, the building and site are suitable for use by bats and three species of bat were found to be foraging nearby.

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 recommended as no roosting sites affected.

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

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.