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Steve Griffin
SG Estates
By EMAIL

3rd August 2015

Dear Steve

BAT SURVEY: Phase 1, Gresford, Bryn-y-Groes

Please find below a report of our bat survey findings of Phase 1 of the site at Bryn-y-Groes.

BACKGROUND

Protected Species Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Mr Steve Griffin of SG Estates to undertake a bat survey of Phase 1 of a development site at Bryn-y-Groes, Gresford, Wrexham LL12 8TN. The survey was required prior to the discharge of Condition 7 of a planning permission GRE P/2014/0671 issued by Wrexham County Borough Council on 02/07/2015.

SITE CONTEXT AND STATUS

The site at Bryn y Groes is located at SJ347543. The area surveyed enclosed the whole of Phase 1 of the development [see Figure 1].

SURVEY METHOD & OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the survey were

- to look for evidence of bats
- to identify potential access points/roosts,
- to advise on the need for additional surveys/licensing

A walk-over survey was undertaken on 31st July 2015 by Principal Ecologist David Lewns (Scientific licence 61102:OTH:CSAB:2014). Pictures were taken of the site using a Nikon D7000 digital camera. The weather was dry and there were no constraints on visibility or access.

There were no buildings within this part of the site. Any trees within or close to the survey area were examined using binoculars and high-powered torch to check for evidence of bats and/or features suitable for roosting

bats, as described in the Bat Survey guidelines (Hundt 2012) Bat Mitigation Guidelines (Mitchell-Jones, 2004)¹ and Bat Survey guidelines (Hundt 2012)².

Limitations

It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the site, no investigation could ensure the complete characterisation and prediction of the natural environment. The visual assessment provides a preliminary view of the likelihood of bat species occurring on the site, based on the suitability of the structure, known distribution of the species in the local area and any direct evidence on the site. It is only valid at the time the survey was carried out

SURVEY RESULTS & ASSESSMENT

There were no (further) trees to be removed within the development footprint.

The mature trees that have been retained within or adjacent to Phase 1 of the development included numbers 521 (oak), G19 (Group of lime trees), 566 (sycamore) and 567 (beech) and 565 (*Pinus nigra*), T2 (lime), 531, 535, 555 & 556 (all limes) and a line of mixed semi-mature to mature trees at entrance to site [see Figure 1]. Most of the mature oak, lime and sycamore trees included features, such as dead wood or lifted bark, which meant that they had potential to be used by bats for roosting.

The retained trees are to be protected by Tree Fencing (Conditions 5 and 6 of the Planning permission), and so there was no potential for Phase 1 of the development to have a direct impact on roosting bats. The construction work will take place during daytime, and this may result in minor noise and vibration disturbance close to trees, but there will be no night-time working. Therefore, any impact on bats from indirect effects is likely to be negligible. The development would not affect bat foraging or access routes across the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Should any further tree work be required, including limb or branch removal, a further survey for bats should be completed prior to the work being carried out.
- Security lighting of laydown areas and site offices should be sited sensitively to avoid lighting trees. If necessary, any lights should be cowled and/or directed towards the ground.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Penny Lewns BSc(Hons) CEnv MCIEEM

¹ Mitchell-Jones AJ (2004) Bat mitigation guidelines. English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough

²Hundt L (2012). *Bat Surveys - Good Practice Guidelines 2nd Ed.* Bat Conservation Trust, London

FIGURE 1 Survey area enclosing Phase 1 of development

