

**former PLAZA CINEMA
PORT TALBOT**

BAT SURVEY: UPDATE

August-September 2018

1 survey at the request of-

Laura Palmer, Biodiversity Officer, NPTCBC.

2 proposed works

unknown

3 site: name/grid ref

former Plaza Cinema, Heibronn Way, Port Talbot
SS768(5)896(0)

4 nature & date of survey

The former cinema was subject to full ecology/bat survey by David Clements Ecology Ltd, in July-August 2016, reported as "Plaza Cinema, Port Talbot: Surveys for Bats and Nesting Birds", Aug. 2016.

No bat use of the building was found at the 2016 survey.

These survey data being >2yrs old, in August 2018 NPTCBC Biodiversity Unit requested an "update" survey of bat activity at/around the building.

The 2018 update-survey was restricted to direct-observation over the dusk + one hour period during which bats can be expected to leave their day roosts-

26th August 2018- assessment of bat-use *via* external search

26th August 2018- roost-emergence watch

10th September 2018- roost-emergence watch

n/a - overnight activity *via* remote detectors/recorders.

Site description and survey context are as-reported at the 2016 David Clements report, and are not repeated here.

5 surveyors

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Rob Colley: scientific/conservation bat licence 1999-, 75096:OTH:CSAB:2017
Rob Taylor: scientific/conservation licence, 1995-
Len Moran: named agent, 75096:OTH:CSAB:2017

8 methods

Survey methodologies are implemented as appropriate, based on experienced surveyors' assessment of the features at each site and with reference to the advice in ***Bat Surveys: Good practice guidelines*** (Bat Conservation Trust, 2007/12/16) & ***Bat Workers' Manual 3rd ed.*** (JNCC 2004).

building assessment: Daytime survey of the building exteriors was made, searching for possible bat entry/exit and roosting points and for evidence (principally faeces) of bat use of the building.

emergence watch: On two dates, over the period during which bats can be expected to leave their roosts, direct observation was made of the building exteriors to monitor any bat movement in or out. Heterodyne (Pettersson D200 and frequency-division (Anabat SDI/II+ ZCAIM & CF recorder; Anabat Express) bat detectors were used by observers throughout this period, to assist species detection/identification.

DNA genotyping: **n/a** (Found-at-site bat-guano which surveyors cannot assign to a bat species are submitted to Dr Robin G Allaby, University of Warwick, for species ID via genotyping.

overnight (dusk-dawn) remote data recording: **n/a** (At sites where initial investigation suggests that it is appropriate, Anabat (or Songmeter) detector-recorder equipment is left *in-situ* to indicate species identification and patterns-of-use at the site.)

methodology/mitigation measures, where appropriate, are based on the surveyors' experience of similar situations, with reference to ***Bat Mitigation Guidelines*** (English Nature, 2004) & ***Bat Workers' Manual 3rd ed.*** (JNCC 2004).

9 results

9.1 site location, adjacent habitat:

As "Plaza Cinema, Port Talbot: Surveys for Bats and Nesting Birds"; *David Clements Ecology Ltd. Aug. 2016.*

9.2 general description; potential bat access points; evidence of bat presence:

As "Plaza Cinema, Port Talbot: Surveys for Bats and Nesting Birds"; *David Clements Ecology Ltd. Aug. 2016.*

evidence of bat presence:

No external evidence of bat-use was found; no "likely" bat entry opportunity was identified.

9.3 emergence watch:

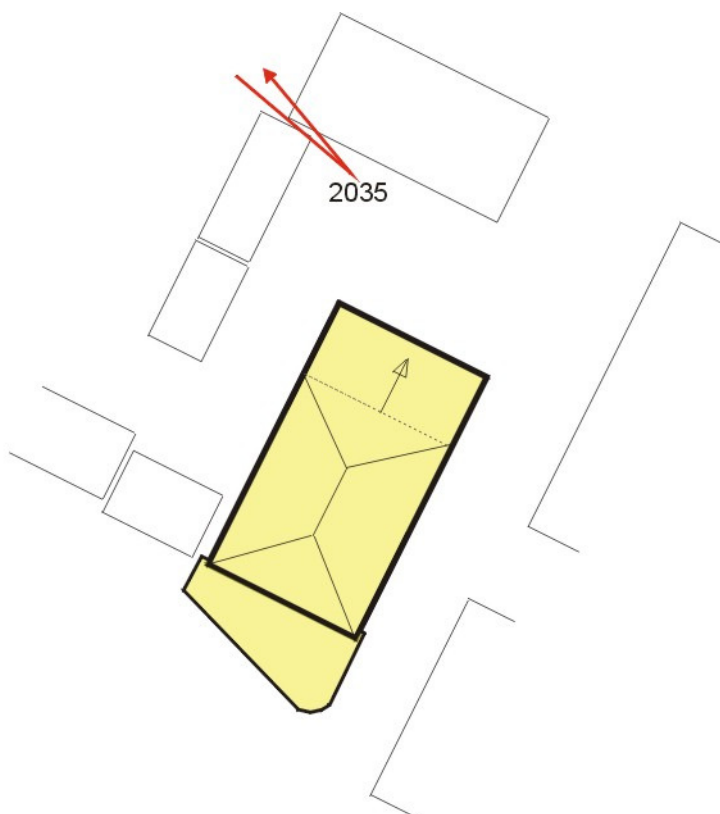
On two dates, observers were positioned to ensure visual/electronic coverage of all of the building exteriors.

Common pipistrelle *P. pipistrellus* was seen/heard at/near the site.

26th August 2018

1950-2120

start temp: 16°C; 100% cloud; wind fc3 sw



Common pipistrelle: x1 seen/heard, once, briefly, between buildings over-yard to-north.

No bats emerged from, or entered, the former cinema; no other bats were seen or heard.

10th September 2018
1930-2045
start temp: 15°C
100% cloud; wind fc2 sw

No bats emerged from, or entered, the survey building; no bats were seen or heard.

No owl activity was seen at either date.

9.5 overnight (dusk-dawn) remote data recording: n/a

9.6 DNA genotyping: n/a

9.7 other-season use- assessment: no "likely" winter-roost sites were identified: all roofs/roofskins are too subject to environmental fluctuation to give suitable winter-roost conditions.

9.8 evidence of owl use: none

10 summary/discussion

10.1 There is no owl use of the building.

10.2 No evidence of bat use was seen at inspection of the building exteriors; no potential/likely bat-entry points could be seen at external inspection; no bats emerged from, or entered, the building; no bat activity was seen at/near to the building, and bat-activity at the wider area was minimal.

The surveyors have no expectation of any bat use of the building.

Rob Colley
October 2018