

EWS

Ecology & Wildlife Services

**Specialists in Ecological Surveys, Assessments and Wildlife
Management**

Bat Potential Survey

**10 Brynhyfryd Terrace
Seven Sisters**

August 2019

**EWS
Parc Coedffaldau
Coedffaldau Rd
Rhiwfawr
Swansea
SA9 2RL
07542 926427
neil@ews.earth**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the findings of bat potential survey undertaken on the 24th August 2019, at the request of Mr R Sparks.

Table 1. Summary details of properties surveyed

<u>Plan reference</u>	<u>Property address</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Current use</u>
	10 Brynhyfryd Terrace Seven Sisters SA10 9BA, SN821090	Mr. R Sparks	Storage sheds

This report has been commissioned in response to a request from the Local Planning Authority (LPA), in relation to the proposed development of the site.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the survey were to obtain sufficient data to:-

1. Identify potential bat activity levels and use of building/s on site e.g. roosting within the buildings identified and/or foraging in and around the surrounding area;
2. Identify any other potential constraints to redevelopment on the site from other species/habitats present;
3. Assess whether the proposed redevelopment of the building/s on site would be likely to have an impact upon those species, if present;
4. Make recommendations for further survey work (if necessary) to establish the seasonal use of the site and to help determine the species status, if present; and
5. Recommend a mitigation strategy (where possible) for those habitats/species present that pose a constraint to the redevelopment of the site.

3.0 SPECIES LEGAL STATUS

Bats Chiroptera

All bats are European Protected Species (EPS). It is against the law to damage or destroy a bat roost, or deliberately to capture, kill, injure or disturb a bat.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) issues EPS licenses in Wales.

All British bat species are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended), known as the 'Habitats Regulations'.

Under the Habitats Regulations, it is an offence if you:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill any wild animal of an EPS,
 - Deliberately disturb wild animals of any such species,
 - Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal.
- Disturbance is defined as that which is likely:
1. To impair their ability –
 - to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or
 - in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or
 2. To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

Defra and the Welsh Government publish a joint guidance document on the interpretation of the offences relating to disturbance, and to damage and destruction of breeding sites and resting places.

There are other offences relating to possession, transport and sale.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) makes it illegal:

- To be in possession of, or to control
- To transport
- To sell or exchange, or
- To offer for sale or exchange, any live or dead EPS which has been taken from the wild, or any derivative

Another international agreement is the Implementation in the Community of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). CITES aims to regulate international trade in species which are endangered, or which may become endangered if over exploited. It lists species in three Appendices, according to the level of protection they need.

Licensing

NRW issues licenses under Regulation 53 of the Habitats Regulations. NRW will issue a license for specific purposes stated in the Regulations, if the following three tests are met:

- the purpose of the work meets one of those listed in the Habitats Regulations (see below);
- that there is no satisfactory alternative;
- that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status (FCS) in their natural range.

Licensing purposes

The Habitats Regulations permits licenses to be issued for a specific set of purposes including:

- include preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of over-riding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment;
- scientific and educational purposes,
- ringing or marking
- conserving wild animals

Nesting Birds

All British birds, their nests and eggs are protected in law. It is an offence to deliberately take, kill or injure any wild bird or to take, damage, or destroy any nest or egg of any wild bird under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA 1981) (as amended) (this applies to birds whilst building a nest and/or near a nest containing eggs and/or young).

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Desktop study

A desk study has been undertaken as part of this report. Habitat and species information for the site and surrounding area (up to one kilometre) was requested from the following organisations:

Glamorgan Bat Group – Rob Colley

Field Survey

Internal and external surveys were carried out on the building. These internal and external surveys assessed the structure of the building with regard to its suitability for roosting bats. Survey personnel are outlined in Table 2.

Table 2. Project surveyors

Surveyor	Surveys	Experience
Neil Price	Internal and external bat potential survey	licensed bat worker

Internal and External survey

Externally the building was surveyed, with the aid of binoculars where necessary, for evidence of access points, droppings and urine staining on windows. The building was examined in order to identify features that are favoured by bats as roosting sites, including pitched roofs with a void/loft, behind fascia boards and soffits, in and through gaps around windows and hanging tiles or weatherboarding. Any potential access points or suitable roost locations were recorded, along with any external physical evidence of use by roosting bats, such as urine staining and/or droppings around access points, on windows and on window ledges.

Internal evidence of roosting bats such as droppings, staining, scratch marks and live or dead bats was also recorded, as well as the physical structure of the roof, any suitable access points and other features of note.

Survey Constraints

No Constraints to survey

5.0 RESULTS

Results

Consultation responses

The Glamorgan bat group - reported several records for the area, but no records for the site,

Species recorded within 1KM of the site are

Myotis Daubentonii Daubenton's Bat
Myotis Brandtii Brandt's
Plecotus auritus Brown Long-eared
Pipistrellus pipistrellus Common Pipistrelle
Myotis mystacinus Whiskered
Pipistrelles pygmaeus Soprano Pipistrelle
Nyctalus noctula Noctule

Internal and External survey

No evidence of bats was found during the external or internal surveys. Potential of the building to offer roosting areas for bats is low.

Table 3. Results of internal and external surveys

Figure 2 Building Code- property No	Building construction details	Structural features present						Other structural features of note	Potential bat access points	Internal features
		Gables	Barge boards	Soffit Boards	Fascia Boards	Flashing	Roof void			
Detached storage shed	Single skin concrete block walls with steel sheet roof	N	N	N	N	N	N	None	Open areas allowing free access to all areas of the building	Bare walls and exposed roof timbers

6.0 CONCLUSION

Bats

The internal/external surveys of the building for bat potential found no evidence of bats roosting in the building surveyed. There were no signs of droppings or prey debris of the presence of bats. There were 3 cats residing in the sheds

The assessment indicates that there is a low potential for the use of the building by bats. There are no constraints to the proposed development of the building from the presence or usage of the building from bats or barn owls.
There is no requirement for further survey work

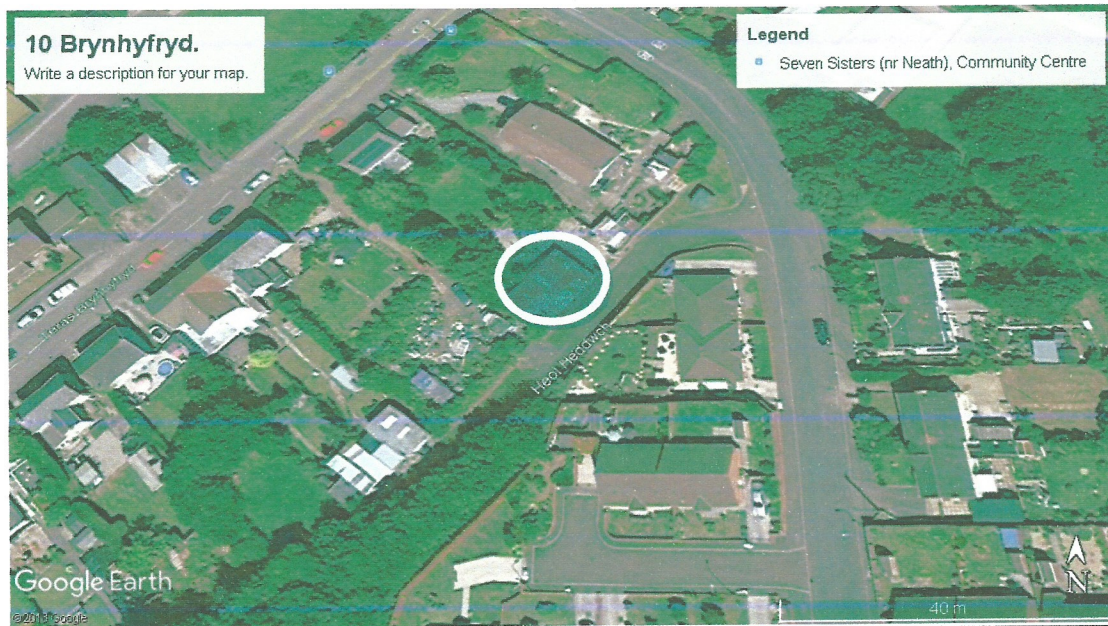
Nesting birds

Should any works to the buildings be planned within the nesting bird season (March to September inclusive) a further assessment for the presence of nesting birds should be carried out prior to works. This would involve a suitably experienced ecologist carrying out visual observation of the buildings to identify any bird nesting behaviour. Without it, development works may result in an offence being committed under the relevant legislation.

If an occupied nest and/or a nest under construction is found, the nest site must be left undisturbed until the chicks have fledged and/or the nest is abandoned. This again will need to be determined by a suitably experienced ecologist.

APPENDIX A

Location



Appendix B

Photos



Photo 1 External front and side elevation



Photo 2 External view rear elevation



Photo 3 side elevation



Photo 4,5 &6 Internal views



References

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. and McLeish, A.P. (2004) *The Bat Worker's Manual*, 3rd Edition, Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Bat Conservation Trust (2016) Bat Surveys – Good Practise Guidelines

English Nature Bat Mitigation Guidelines 2004