

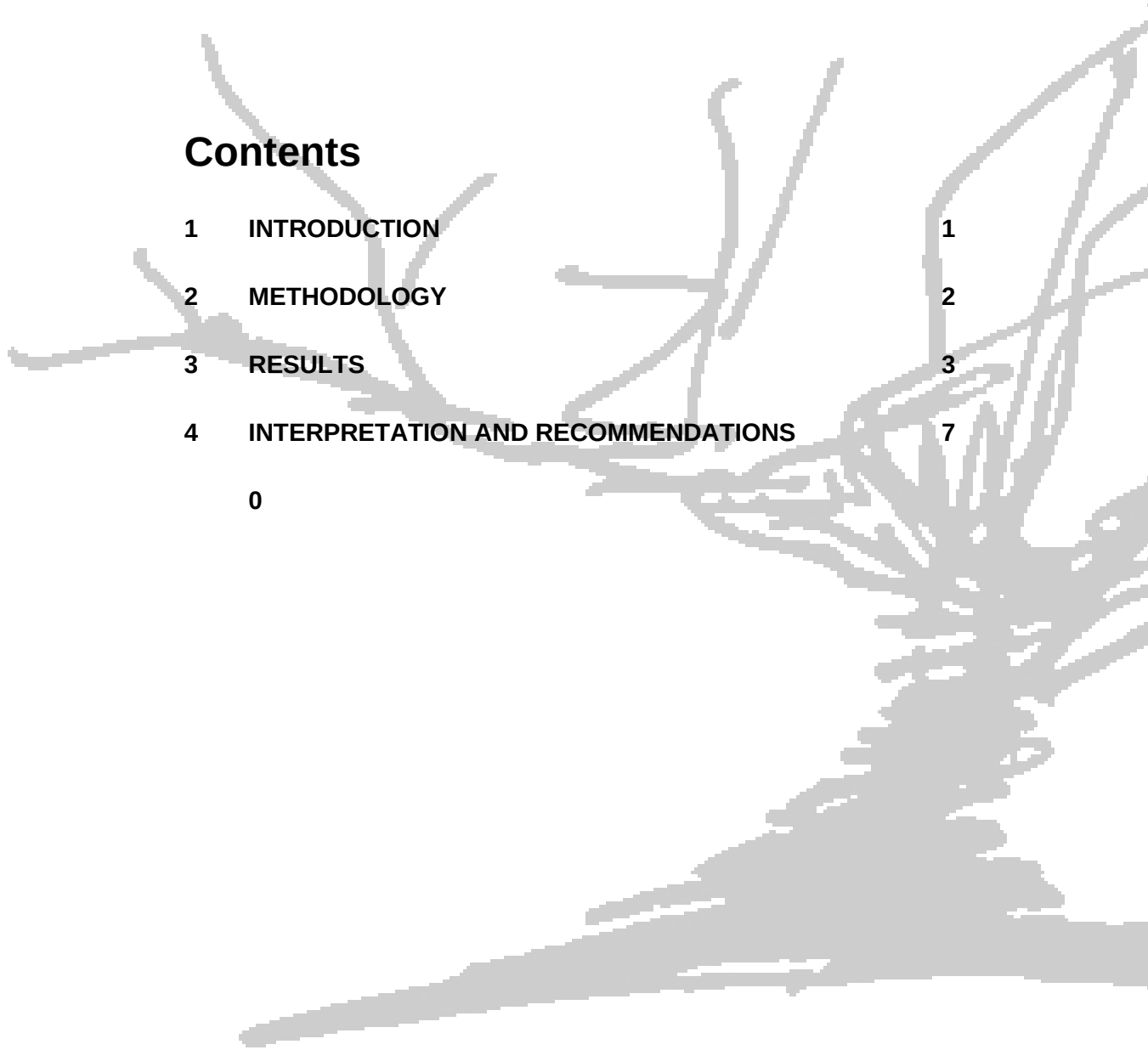


Sylvan Ecology

BAT TREE SURVEY REPORT

LAND OFF MAES TY
CANOL, BAGLAN

Project: LAND OFF MAES TY CANOL, BAGLAN		
Project Number	K069	
Title	Bat Survey Report	
Document Number	K069 - Bat Report-V1.2	
Client		
Issue Date	31-May-22	
Prepared by:	David Price - Consulting Ecologist 31-May-22	
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Executive summary		
Site	The survey was conducted on all trees within or on the boundary of the site, to assess their suitability for roosting bat.	
Protected Spp (Bats)	Emergence surveys were undertaken on two trees with moderate bat potential. No evidence of roosting bats were found on site.	
Conclusion	Given the results of the survey, it is considered that any possible tree felling will not require an EPS licence.	



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1 INTRODUCTION

Background

- 1.1 This report presents information on a bat presence/absence survey on the trees along a site perimeter, that Sylvan Ecology were commissioned to produce in order to inform on the proposed development on Land off Maes Ty Canol, Baglan.

Ecological Context

- 1.2 The site is located to the northeast of Baglan. All associated land for the development (herein referred to as the site) is located at:

- Central OS grid reference: SS 75354 93060
- Postcode: SA12 8US

- 1.3 The surrounding landscape is predominantly residential. There is a covered reservoir immediately to the west of site, and residential properties to the south and east. To the north there is a small section of woodland. The greater surrounding landscape to the north and east constitutes woodlands (some of which could be ancient), upland grasslands and a relatively intact network of hedgerows. The surrounding landscape has good potential for roosting, foraging, and commuting protected species.

Aims of Study

- 1.4 The aims of the study are to:
- determine the potential impacts on any bat roost from the proposed works; and
 - outline the mitigation strategy, which will be required to minimise impacts on bats within the site and to comply with any legal requirements, and identify requirements for any additional ecological surveys needed to determine potential ecological impacts.



2 METHODOLOGY

Visual Tree inspection

- 2.1 All trees on site were subject to a ground based inspection for/of potential roosting features (PRFs) for bats. The survey was conducted under optimal conditions by a suitably experienced ecologist. Surveys were led by licenced bat worker and tree climber, David Price MCIEEM. Mr Price has 18 yrs professional consultancy experience and has worked on a variety of bat related projects throughout the UK.
- 2.2 All observations were made from the ground; using short focal range binoculars or a *Ridgid 40613*, *DJI Phantom* and *FLIR TG165-X* where appropriate.
- 2.3 The following signs were searched for:
- Woodpecker holes;
 - Rot holes;
 - Hazard beams;
 - Partially detached platey bark;
 - dead bats, as either complete or partial skeletons;
 - insect remains (mainly wings & legs) below feeding perches;
 - droppings;
 - discolouring of entrance holes &;
 - scratch-marks.
- 2.4 A description of the tree was made, with particular attention to the PRFs like those listed above. Where possible voids, cracks and crevices were noted. The trees scheduled to be felled were inspected for their potential to support roosting bats. The trees were categorised as negligible, low medium or high, according to a scheme published in *Bat Conservation Trust's Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines* (2016). The results of the inspection can be found below,



3 RESULTS

3.1 All of the trees on site are part of boundary features, and have been grouped for convenience. The majority of the trees have negligible potential for roosting bats, the boundary trees within group one, had the greatest potential for bats and each was mapped individually, as shown in the table below.

Tree number	Features	Bat Potential Category	Recommendations
T1	Mature oak on site boundary. The trees has some heavy ivy growth lower down the trunk. The ivy was easily accessible and an endoscope survey was possible. PRFs were limited and no evidence of bats were found beneath the ivy.	Low	Standard guidance for low potential trees
T2	Mature oak on site boundary. The trees has some heavy ivy growth lower down the trunk. The ivy was easily accessible and an endoscope survey was possible. PRFs were limited and no evidence of bats were found beneath the ivy.	Low	Standard guidance for low potential trees
T3	Mature oak on site boundary, no viable PRFs were noted.	Low	Standard guidance for low potential trees
T4	Mature oak on site boundary. The trees has some heavy ivy growth lower down the trunk. The ivy was easily accessible and an endoscope survey was possible. PRFs were limited and no evidence of bats were found beneath the ivy	Low	Standard guidance for low potential trees
T5	Mature oak on site boundary. The tree is diseased with significant dieback, the health of the tree makes it unsafe to climb. There are numerous small rot holes that could be considered a potential PRF, however considering their location they are likely small and offer limited roosting opportunities for a small number of cervices dwelling bats.	Medium	At least two emergence survey
T6	Mature oak on site boundary, no viable PRFs were noted.	Low	Standard guidance for low potential trees
T7	Mature oak on site boundary, no viable PRFs were noted.	Low	Standard guidance for low potential trees
T8	Mature oak on site boundary, no viable PRFs were noted..	Low	Standard guidance for low potential trees
T9	Mature oak on site boundary, hazard beam on northern aspect..	Medium	At least two emergence survey
Group 1	A small area of ash/oak woodland. Trees 1-9 are the within the wood and are the trees along the site parameter.		
Group 2	Scattered broad-leaved and coniferous trees occur along the eastern site boundary. The trees are small, in good order with no PRFs visible. The trees are offsite and will not be directly impacted by works, the trees		



	within this group have been classified as having negligible bat roosting potential.
Group 3	Unmanaged boundary feature of young to semi mature trees, no PRF were observed.

Photographic evidence from site

Photo 1: Trees 1-3, the ivy lower down on trees one and two is clearly visible.

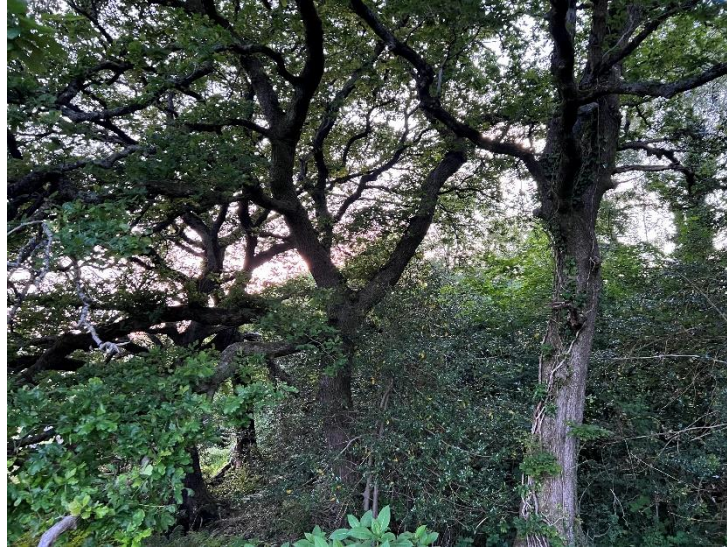


Photo 2: Trees 5, the dieback in the tree is clearly visible.





Photo 3: Trees 6-9.



Emergence Survey Results

3.2

Emergence dusk and dawn re-entry surveys were conducted on the 10th and the 24th May 2022. A total of two surveyors were used enabling all trees with moderate potential to be observed. Surveys were led by licenced bat ecologist David Price and assisted by Dr Todd Lewis. Survey equipment included an *Anabat Scout* full spectrum bat recorder and an *Elekon Batlogger M*. Where applicable bat echolocation calls were analysed using *Anabat Insight* and *Batexplorer* software. A breakdown of the survey results is shown in the table below.

Table 1: Emergence survey results

Date	Conditions	Results
10 th May, 2022	14°C, fine, no rain or wind. Insects flying.	No bats were observed exiting or entering either tree five or tree nine.
24 th May, 2022	22°C, fine, no rain or wind. Insects flying.	No bats were observed exiting or entering either tree five or tree nine.

**Bat activity on site**

- 3.3 A very small number of common pipistrelle bat were recorded foraging on the southern boundary edge. Approximately ten passes were recorded each night with bats moving along the wood then then crossing to a clearing north of the trees. Though activity south of the woodland was sparse, several bats were observed flying over a clearing north of the woodland. The bats were too far to be picked up on the detector, so species identification wasn't possible.

Nesting Birds

- 3.4 No evidence of nesting birds was noted within the application site.



4 INTERPRETATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 No bats were found to be roosting within the trees, no trees are anticipated to be lost as part of the development. If it transpires that the removal of the tree is required for access or construction, as trees are living, dynamic organisms that can change dramatically by being impacted upon by weather or wildlife (e.g. woodpeckers); a precautionary approach to felling operations of trees is recommended.
- 4.2 For trees with low potential, a soft approach should be adopted whereby trees are cut to the ground and left in situ for at least 24 hours prior to their removal, so to allow any bats (should any be present) to disperse.
- 4.3 In the unlikely event that bats are confirmed to be roosting within the surveyed trees, the felling of the tree(s) in question may need to be carried out under licence from NRW. Full planning permission for the development must be in place (and all relevant conditions must have been discharged) before the licence from NRW will be granted.
- 4.4 It is recommended that should the development be delayed for a significant amount of time (>1 year), an ecologist assess the site prior to works commencing. Should it appear that circumstances have changed and the development could impact a bat roost, surveys will be necessary to confirm the presence or likely absence of roosting bats. This survey work would encompass climb and inspect survey, using endoscope and torch, assuming it is safe to do so; and possibly detector surveys.



5 APPENDIX

Legislation pertaining to bats

- 5.1 All species of British bat are European Protected Species protected under *The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (Eu Exit) Regulations 2019*. It is therefore an offence to:
- recklessly, intentionally, or deliberately kill, injure or capture (take) bats;
 - deliberately disturb bats (whether in a roost or not);
 - damage, destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts;
 - possess or transport a bat or any part of a bat, unless acquired legally; and
 - sell, barter or exchange bats, or parts of a bat.
- 5.2 Developments that compromise the protection afforded to bats or roosts under the provisions of the *Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (Eu Exit) Regulations 2019* will require a European Protected Species (EPS) licence from NRW. Three tests must be satisfied before this licence (to permit otherwise prohibited acts) can be issued:
- 5.3 Regulation 44(2)(e) states that licences may be granted to "*preserve public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment.*"
- 5.4 Regulation 44(3)(a) states that a licence may not be granted unless "*there is no satisfactory alternative*".
- 5.5 Regulation 44(3)(b) states that a licence cannot be issued unless the action proposed "*will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range*".



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LEGEND

- Category A Woodland
- Tree with neg' bat potential
- Tree with low bat potential
- Tree with mod' bat potential
- Tree with high bat potential
- Canopy Spread
- Defunct Hedge
- Site boundary
- Surveyor location
- Common pip flight path
- Unidentified bat flight path

BAT TREE SURVEY

Land off Maes Ty Canol,
Baglan, Port Talbot. SA12 8US

Date: May 2022

Drawn by: D.P.

© Google Earth Data

Scale: 1:664 @ A4

Drawing N^o: v1.1





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