



**18 Orchard Street, Neath,
Neath Port Talbot, SA11 1DU**

Bat Survey Report for Life Property Group Ltd

Updates from new scoping survey (12/08/2022) shown in red text for ease of reading.



An EPS licence will not be required for works to be undertaken.

**Government and CIEEM guidelines were followed in
relation to the COVID-19 pandemic**

Report type	Bat Survey Report
Report reference	IG202018OrchardStreet
Site	18 Orchard Street, Neath, Neath Port Talbot, SA11 1DU
Grid reference	SS 75334 97506
Client	Life Property Group
Date(s)/time(s)/type(s) of survey(s)	Scoping survey: 5 th January 2021 Emergence on 9thMay 2021 – no bat activity. Refresh scope – 12th August 2022
Surveyor details	Scoping survey: Mr Glyn Lloyd-Jones, Natural Resources Wales Licence number S088445/1
Architect	Chamberlain Moss King Architecture

Version	Status	Changes	Name	Position	Date
1	Draft	Sent for review on 11/01/21	Ceri Daugherty	Author	09/01/21
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	Name	Position	Date
Reviewed by	Ceri Daugherty	Author	11/01/2021
Approved by	Glyn Lloyd-Jones	Director	11/01/21 & 28/08/22
Sent to Client	Glyn Lloyd-Jones	Director	12/01/21 & 29/08/22

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Executive summary

- ✧ 18 Orchard Street (the property) is a large east/west aligned office block which was constructed approximately 12 years ago which is subject to proposed plans for conversion to flats. It is constructed of block cavity walls which have been rendered and painted and has a slate effect (Felt Shingle) roof and metal framed windows and doors (some of which have been boarded up). The walls are in good condition and the roof is mainly intact (see drone images), but parts of the roof and some of the windows have been vandalised and the broken/missing panes of glass have led to a large population of pigeons establishing themselves on the top two floors. Seagulls were also seen on the roof top and these birds are known to predate on bats. Internally, within the floors which were accessible, the walls (accessible cavities were endoscoped) and ceilings are in good condition with no bats or their signs, nor any signs of rodent use, but there were signs of fires and intravenous drug use. Thermal images were also taken and showed no hotspots which would have indicated the presence of bats. **The developers seek to change the roofing material to a more thermally efficient and durable material, constituting a change to what was initially agreed, so a further scoping survey for bats and birds was undertaken on August 12th 2022.**
- ✧ On the 5th January 2021 & 12th August 2022 I&G Ecological Consulting Ltd undertook a survey of the property. This report confirms the findings of that survey, completed in accordance with current best practice (Collins, J. (Ed.) 2016), and current government and CIEEM guidelines in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was conducted by an experienced, licensed ecologist and access was available to all parts of the site. On 9th May 2021 an emergence survey was undertaken with zero bat activity associated with the building.
- ✧ The site is located within the town of Neath and is within close proximity to favourable bat habitat. **It is within close proximity to favourable bat habitat but is not within 2km of any site which is known to support bats.**
- ✧ Using the results obtained from the desk study and scoping survey, it is considered that the property has **negligible to low (now Negligible)** potential to support roosting bats, and a **negligible to low (now negligible)** risk of bats using the features present (due to its location, uninvited visitors, casual fire lighting and sizeable pigeon population).
- ✧ **No evidence of nesting birds, no signs of bat activity was found and there were no signs of owl activity.**
- ✧ Recommendations have been made as follows, and are to be included in the final plans:
 - ✧ **Recommendation 1:** Based upon online searches for bats and having undertaken bat surveys in the near vicinity 2x Schwegler 1WQ (or similar) boxes are to be erected to the rear elevation of the building once works are complete.
 - ✧ **Recommendation 2:** One sparrow terrace box is to be erected to the rear elevation also.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Scope and purpose of survey

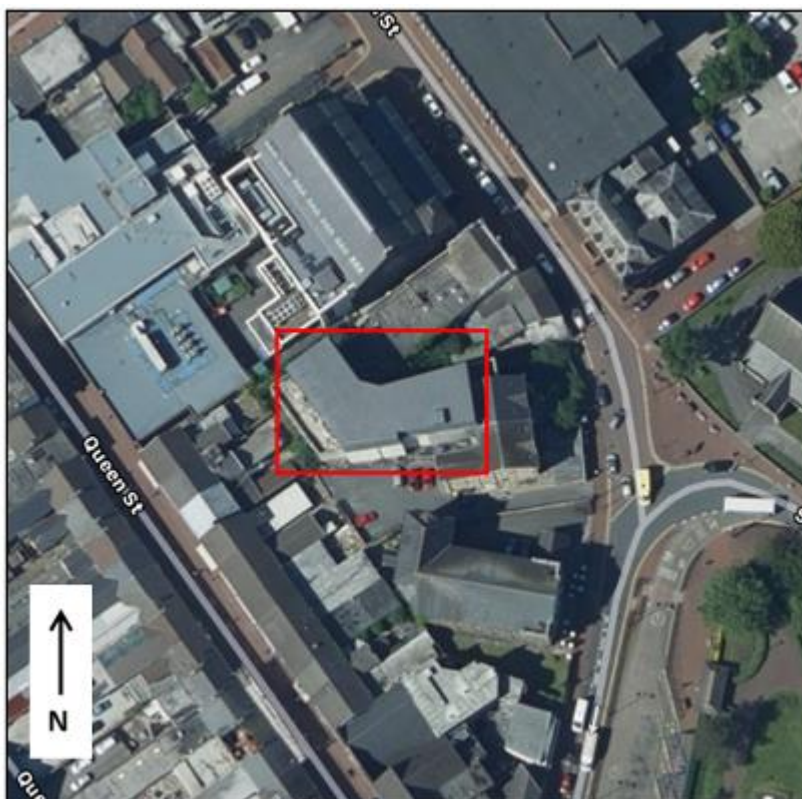
1.1.1 Any sign of use of a site by bats is enough to confirm that the space has 'bat interest' and is enough to confirm the importance of the location to bat species. All species, as well as their resting places, are protected by law and the site is protected even when bats are not present. See appendix 1 for an introduction to bat surveys, including the aims of the scoping survey, appendix 2 for an overview of the legislation, and appendix 3 for information on roost types and survey timings. Appendix 4 lists all surveyors who undertake work for I&G Ecological Consulting Ltd and includes their experience.

1.1.2 This report confirms the results of, and conclusions and recommendations from, the surveys undertaken. It aims to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information to enable a full assessment of the potential ecological impacts of the proposed development. The CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing (2017) state that it is important that the structure and content of a report should be proportionate to the predicted degree of risk to biodiversity and to the nature and scale of the proposed development. This report has therefore been written in line with these guidelines.

1.1.3 For the purposes of this survey report, the site boundary is defined as the building(s) and surfaces within the overall site footprint.

1.2 Site characteristics and proposed works

1.2.1 18 Orchard Street (the property) is located within the town of Neath and is within close proximity to favourable bat habitat. Victoria Gardens is 60m to the east, and Neath Rugby Football Ground is approximately 400m to the east, and many of the residences within the town have mature gardens (including mature trees). Beyond the urban areas, 650m to the east is the Gnoll Estate Country Park, 310m to the west is the Neath Canal and 80m beyond it is the Neath River and associated floodplain. There are also small agricultural fields within 1.2km to the south-west and south-east and woodlands – including ancient woodland – within 650m to the east.



1.2.2 The property is subject to proposed plans for conversion to flats. The proposed roofing material has changed, hence a new scoping survey was undertaken. Figure 1 is an aerial view of the property and figure 2 is of the wider environment around the property. Finalised elevation drawings were not available at the time of writing this report but proposed floor plans are included in appendix 5.

Figure 1: Aerial view of the site – the property is outlined in red (from Apple® Maps)

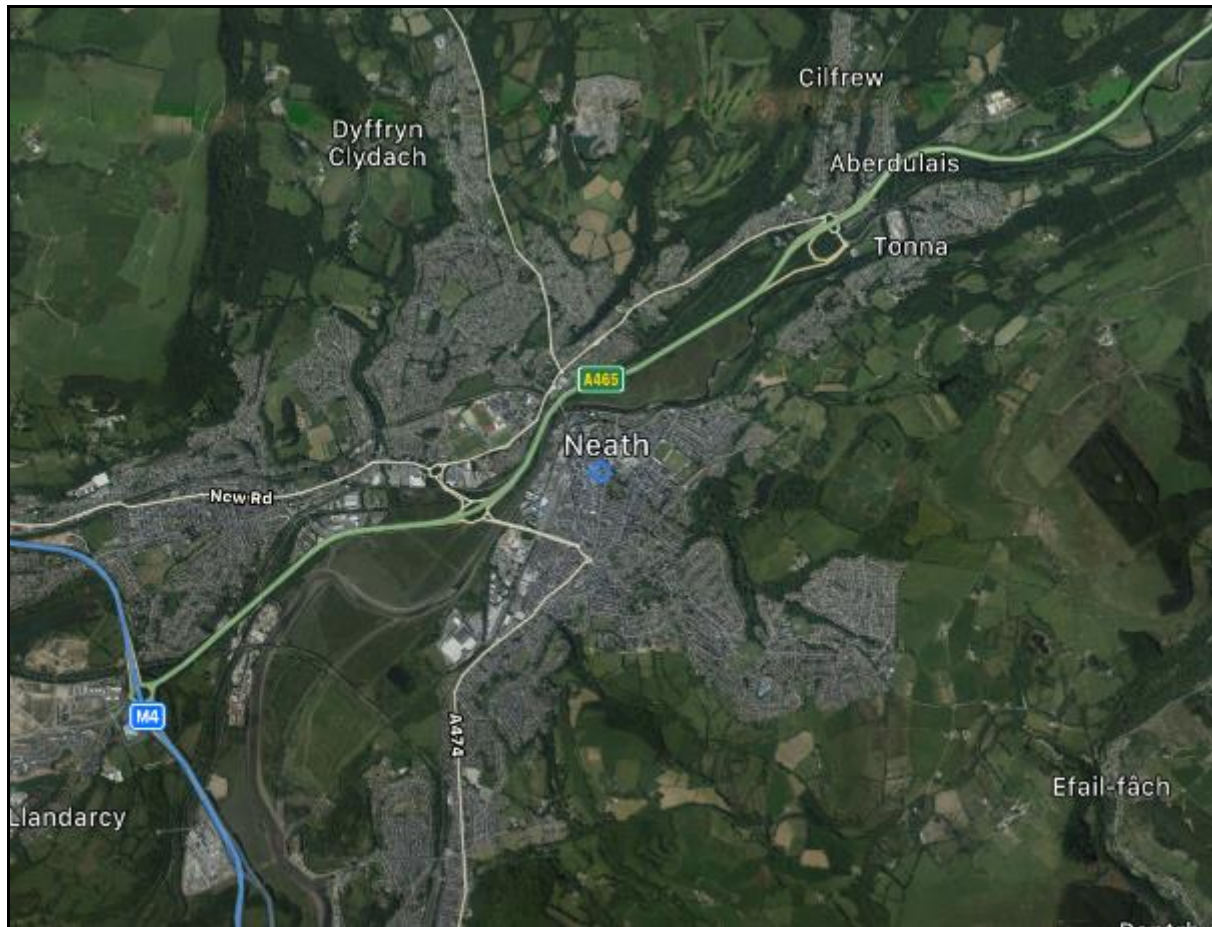


Figure 2: Map showing the wider environment. The property is indicated by a blue dot (from Apple® Maps)

2. Desk study methods and results

2.1 Methods

2.1.1 A 2km search area is used which covers the predicted zone of influence of the proposed development. Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) and Lle are both used to establish the proximity of National and International Statutory Designations, particularly in relation to designations for bat interest. Species searches are also conducted through the Local Records Centre (LRC) where appropriate. An online search of planning applications at the property is undertaken to understand its planning history, especially relating to bats.

2.2 Results

2.2.1 No statutory or non-statutory protected features of ecological significance were present within, or adjacent to, the site boundary. **1km to the south is Eaglebush Valley Local Nature Reserve.** In addition, there are 30 areas of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW), 13 Restored Ancient Woodland Sites and three Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites; the closest being an ASNW 650m to the east. Details of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation were only available through a species search and this was not undertaken at this time (see 2.2.2), although will be known by the Local Authority Ecologists.

2.2.2 A formal LRC data search was not undertaken due to the low predicted impact, and nature of the development. The overall impact on biodiversity is likely to be localised and of low significance and current proposals suggest no land will be lost or linear features severed. It is considered very unlikely that the development will have any impact outside the footprint of the works. The data search results would be considered unlikely to impact on the decision-making process. This approach is consistent with CIEEM Guidelines for Accessing and Using Biodiversity Data (2016). **An online search found records for the following four bat species within 2km of the property: Daubenton's (*Myotis daubentonii*), Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), and Brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*).**

2.2.3 An online search found seven previous planning applications for the property, all of which relate to the redevelopment of former Neath Liberal Club site to construct the existing office block. The most recent was variation of condition approved on the 17th July 2009. No associated documents relating to bat use of the site could be found.

3. Field survey methods and results

3.1 Methods

3.1.1 A Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) was undertaken (adhering to government and CIEEM guidelines on the COVID-19 pandemic) on the 5th January 2021 to identify Potential Roost Features (PRF). Details of the equipment used by I&G Ecological Consulting Ltd can be found in appendix 1. **The survey in January 2021 was undertaken by Glyn Lloyd-Jones and on August 12th 2022 he was accompanied by Mr Iestyn Evans.**

3.1.2 In relation to survey limitations, many of the UK species of bat are crevice dwelling, and bats or signs of bats can be difficult to find within a building. In addition, there may be areas that are inaccessible to the surveyor. Externally, sufficient access was available to enable a thorough survey from ground level; noting that the building is large and the roof could not be fully seen from the ground. Internally, access was available to the basement and ground floor but not to the upper floors due to the absence of a stairwell; however, a drone was used to take pictures of the roof and the upper floors. As a result, using the equipment available to them, all accessible areas were surveyed as thoroughly as possible to maximise effectiveness. In addition, weather conditions were good.

3.2 Survey results

3.2.1 The PRA found that the property is a large east/west aligned office block which was constructed approximately 12 years ago. It is constructed of block cavity walls which have been rendered and painted and has a slate effect roof and metal framed windows and doors (some of which have been boarded up). The walls are in good condition and the roof is largely intact (see drone images), but parts of the roof and some of the windows have been vandalised and the broken/missing panes of glass have led to a large population of pigeons establishing themselves on the top two floors. Seagulls were also seen on the roof top and these birds are known to predate on bats. Internally, within the floors which were accessible, the walls (accessible cavities were endoscoped) and ceilings (post and beam) are in good condition with no bats or their signs, nor any signs of rodent use, but there were signs of fires and intravenous drug use within the property. Thermal images were also taken and showed no hotspots which could have indicated the presence of bats. As a result of the findings, it is considered that the property has **low/Negligible** potential to support roosting bats and a **low/negligible** risk of bats using the features present, and **no evidence of the presence of bats was found either externally or internally**. Site survey images are included in appendix 5 **as well as updated images taken in August 2022. The roof is largely complete and the scaffolding has a fine mesh encircling the building to prevent dust, stone and building materials from falling and causing injury, also reducing the chances of bat and bird use.**

3.2.2 **No evidence of nesting birds** was found and **no signs of owl activity** were discovered.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

4.1 Conclusions

4.1.1 Using the findings of the desk study and field surveys, it is **concluded that the property is close to favourable bat habitat (not immediately within) but is not within 2km of any sites which are designated for their bat interest. The property has negligible to low potential to support bats (it's bright, breezy and subject to regular disturbance by birds and humans)**, despite the poor surrounding "batscape" **enhancement measures will be required for bats and birds as recommended below to meet obligations within Future Wales 2040, PPW 11th Edition as well as local policies and Environment Act (wales) 2016.**

4.1.2 There are not considered to be any survey limitations which would impact upon the findings and recommendations of this report.

4.2 Recommendations

4.2.1 Enhancement measures will be required to help meet obligations within the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Planning Policy Wales 10th Edition (Dec 2018); as well as to compensate for the loss of roosting opportunity. Excellent long-term enhancement can be delivered by implementing measures outlined within appendix 6. Recommendations are as follows:

- ✦ **Recommendation 1:** Based upon online searches for bats and having undertaken bat surveys in the near vicinity 2x Schwegler 1WQ (or similar) boxes are to be erected to the rear elevation of the building once works are complete.
- ✦ **Recommendation 2:** One sparrow terrace box is to be erected to the rear elevation also.

4.2.2 This ecological **report will remain valid** for a period of 18–24 months from the date of the last survey (see bulletin from NRW) i.e. until at least **12/02/2024** (CIEEM, 2019). A further scoping survey may be required to update the site information if planning is not obtained or works do not commence within that period, especially if the property to be developed has fallen into further disrepair.

5. Outline method statement for planning

5.1 Outline method statement for planning

5.1.1 **No bats** were detected utilising the property and there are no restrictions on the timing of the work in relation to bats. Extra care will be taken at wall tops, and when stripping any part of the roof(s) if necessary. All materials are to be lifted and not slid as – despite a negative survey – bats can still be found in these areas. **If bats are found at any stage, all works will stop and a qualified ecologist called for advice and guidance.** As no bats or bat signs were detected at the property, no monitoring is proposed (Mitchell-Jones, 2004 – figure 4, page 39).

5.1.2 Current lighting plans for the site are not known but should any be proposed, they must ensure that exterior lighting is kept to a minimum to prevent any adverse impacts on bats. In particular, external lighting around the recommended enhancement must be carefully designed to avoid any impact upon bats (Institution of Lighting Professionals, 2018). If an external lighting scheme is proposed for this application a plan will be produced that demonstrates compliance with the lighting principles outlined within the guidance referenced above.

5.1.3 Where external lighting is necessary, this should utilise a number of key design points to limit any impact, as follows: Low level lighting pointed towards the ground; LED bulbs to be used of 2700 Kelvin (*p.18 of the lighting guidelines referenced above*) and below (warm white light and not daylight); use of light shields and hoods to direct the light downwards and prevent vertical and horizontal light spill; and use of passive infrared (PIR) motion sensors on timers to ensure lights only come on when necessary.

Appendix 1: An introduction to bat surveys

A note on bat surveys

- ✧ All bats and their roosts, irrespective of the number of bats, species, and whether bats are present or not, are fully protected by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Bats are the only mammal capable of true flight. They are notoriously difficult to survey for as they cannot be heard unaided and are difficult to see due to their nocturnal behaviour. They are also small and can live in the smallest of crevices, so may often be overlooked because of their size.
- ✧ Wales has relatively high numbers of most of the species that occur in Britain; the rural landscape with its abundance of wooded areas, river valleys and hedgerows means that buildings are commonly used as roosting sites by bats. This is particularly the case for older buildings (typically with stone walls and slate roofs) that are located close to good feeding areas, on the edge of settlements, or that are rarely disturbed.
- ✧ Bats may also change their resting and feeding places regularly throughout the year, depending on the time of year and weather conditions. Thus, other signs of use are also looked for such as their droppings or signs of feeding.
- ✧ To gain an understanding as to how bats are using a building, a survey may also involve dusk and/or dawn observations which may need to be repeated at different times throughout the year.
- ✧ The search buffers implemented as part of the survey are considered to more than adequately cover the predicted zone of influence of the proposed development. The reasons for the site designations have also been considered when discussing potential impacts on the biodiversity of these sites. If the sites are designated for their bat or bird interest, this will be mentioned.
- ✧ Survey methodologies are implemented as appropriate, based on the surveyors' assessment of the site features and with particular reference to the advice in Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good practice guidelines, 3rd edition (Collins, J. (Ed.), 2016) & The Bat Workers' Manual, 3rd edition. (Mitchell-Jones, A.J., & McLeish, A.P. (Ed.), 2004). Reports are written with reference to the CIEEM (2015) Guidelines as well as BS42020.
- ✧ A PRA visit (scoping survey) is used to identify all potential access and egress points for bats in the building, and to identify crevices and possible dwelling places. Internal and external inspections are aided using powerful binoculars and close-focussing monoculars, as well as ladders, high powered Cree flashlights and head-torches. We also have thermal imaging cameras and night vision devices at our disposal as well as full spectrum photographic cameras which can photograph a bat in complete darkness with an infrared flash. Exploitable crevices are also endoscoped with either a hand-held digital scope or a smart phone compatible scope. Digital thermometers and hygrometers are also at our disposal.
- ✧ The survey consists of a visual inspection of the interior and exterior of the building for evidence of bat use, including droppings, smells, feeding remains, staining, and scratching around roost exit and entry points. Potential features conducive (but not necessarily predictive) to bat presence include voids in the stonework, wooden beams, any associated rot holes, gaps behind soffits or within walls and fascia boards, raised tiles, any raised render, and any sufficiently large crevices. The general condition of the building is

examined, including the structure of the roof, condition of walls, the potential for disturbance, and the position of the building in relation to connectivity to good bat habitat.

✧ If positive bat signs are discovered, or the construction style suggests cryptic bats *may* be present, a passive recorder is deployed within the space of the building surveyed. These commonly record all bats from within and to the exterior of a building as they have extremely sensitive microphones so clusters of calls or high frequency of calls over short periods that are repeated (not just a vocal (Chatty) bat passing the microphone once on a foraging /socialising expedition) may indicate a presence within the building. Supporting evidence is then needed to make a decision, such as bats seen during surveys, droppings and feeding signs as well as building suitability for a given species. For example, we have had clear sonograms for Serotine bats (*Eptesicus serotinus*) from a loft space deployed recorder where no gaps existed anywhere and no droppings from serotines were present. These large bats must have been present elsewhere on site or use the site for foraging.

✧ The outcomes have been used to specify whether further surveys are required, or to establish the need for, and extent of, any mitigation or compensation measures required as part of the proposed works.

✧ If positive signs of bat activity are found then it will be necessary to assess whether a licence is needed at all (damage and disturbance to the roost and harm to bats can be avoided through thoughtful and planned working practices), or whether a licence is recommended as damage, disturbance or harm are unlikely to be avoided.

Appendix 2: Overview of the legislation

- ✧ All bats and their roosts, irrespective of the number of bats, species, and whether bats are present or not, are fully protected by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- ✧ There is a risk that works could result in the damage or destruction of a bat roost or roosts, the disturbance of bats, and the potential killing or injury of bats, sufficient survey effort (where indicated) helps to minimise this risk.
- ✧ All wild birds, their nests, eggs, and dependent young are afforded protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), with the bird nesting season generally from 1st March until 31st August.

Technical Advice Note (TAN) 5 (Welsh Government, 2009) specifically provides advice about how the land use planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation. The TAN provides advice for local planning authorities on the key principles of positive planning for nature conservation; nature conservation and Local Development Plans; nature conservation in development management procedures; development affecting protected internationally and nationally designated sites and habitats; and development affecting protected and priority habitats and species.

Under Section 2.4 within the TAN 5, 'when deciding planning applications that may affect nature conservation local planning authorities should':

- ✧ Pay particular attention to the principles of sustainable development, including respect for environmental limits, applying the precautionary principle, using scientific knowledge to aid decision making and taking account of the full range of costs and benefits in a long- term perspective;
- ✧ Contribute to the protection and improvement of the environment, so as to improve the quality of life and protect local and global ecosystems, seeking to avoid irreversible harmful effects on the natural environment;
- ✧ Promote the conservation and enhancement of statutorily designated areas and undeveloped coast;
- ✧ Ensure that appropriate weight is attached to designated sites of international, national and local importance;
- ✧ Protect wildlife and natural features in the wider environment, with appropriate weight attached to priority habitats and species in Biodiversity Action Plans;
- ✧ Ensure that all material considerations are taken into account, and decisions are informed by adequate information about the potential effects of development on nature conservation;
- ✧ Ensure that the range and population of protected species is sustained;
- ✧ Adopt a step-wise approach to avoid harm to nature conservation, minimise unavoidable harm by mitigation measures, offset residual harm by compensation measures and look for new opportunities to enhance nature conservation; where there may be significant harmful effects local planning authorities will need to be satisfied that any reasonable alternative sites that would result in less or no harm have been fully considered.

✧ Bats are listed under Schedule 5 and 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and protected under sections 9 and 11 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000).

✧ The Environmental Damage (Prevention & Remediation) Regulations 2009 – A protected species and its habitat are protected under this legislation as well as others.

✧ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 – (regulation 43) fully protects all bats and their roosts, making it **an offence to deliberately kill, injure or capture** (take) bats; *to deliberately disturb bats; damage or destroy bat roosts* or resting places (this is considered an ‘Absolute Offence’ as damage and destruction may detrimentally effect the Continuous Ecological Functionality of that roost/resting place); possess or transport a bat or any part of a bat; sell (or offer for sale) or exchange bats or parts of bats.

✧ For any offence to occur a derogation or **European Protected Species (EPS) licence** must be gained from Natural Resources Wales. To gain an EPS Licence, they must be satisfied that;

i. granting the licence would not be detrimental to the Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) of the populations of species concerned within its natural range;

ii. the derogation (licence) is in the public interest of Health and Safety or for other reasons of over-riding public interest, including those of a socio-economic nature or will have a benefit of primary importance to the environment; and

iii. there is no satisfactory alternative to the derogation which would allow the described development to proceed but which would avoid or reduce, the need for any adverse impact to the species.

Bats are also protected by;

✧ Appendix III of the Bern Convention.

✧ Appendix II of the Bonn Convention (including the Convention's Agreement on the conservation of Bats in Europe).

✧ Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (in England).

✧ The Environment (Wales) Act 2016: specifically, Sections 6 (*places a duty upon Local Authorities to enhance biodiversity and the **resilience of ecosystems***) and 7 (*Creating local biodiversity lists and a duty to take steps to **maintain and enhance biodiversity***).

✧ All bats are listed in Annex IV of The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and are therefore designated as *European Protected Species*. These *protected* species are afforded enhanced protection and more stringent licensing provisions than those protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WACA) alone. There are also biodiversity obligations to be met within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 [WFG] and the seven well-being goals which include an emphasis on socio-economic resilience as well as protecting culture, heritage and the Welsh language. One Act does not take precedence over the other.

✧ Planning Policy Wales (10th Ed.) also emphasises the importance of ensuring – where possible – a net gain to biodiversity from any development.

Appendix 3: Types of bat roost and survey timings

As the mitigation guidelines state: The presence of a significant (important) bat roost... can normally be determined on a single visit at any time of year; providing that the entire structure is accessible and that any signs of bat activity have not been removed by others. The table below shows the applicability of survey methods. The table has been reproduced from Bat Mitigation Guidelines (table 5.2) (2004).

Season	Roost type	Inspection	Bat detectors and emergence counts
Spring (Mar – May)	Building	Suitable (signs, perhaps bats)	Limited, weather dependent
	Trees	Difficult (best for signs before leaves appear)	Very limited, weather dependent
	Underground	Suitable (signs only)	Static detectors may be useful
Summer (June – August)	Building	Suitable (signs and bats)	Suitable
	Trees	Difficult	Limited: use sunrise survey
	Underground	Suitable (signs only)	Rarely useful
Autumn (September – November)	Building	Suitable (signs and bats)	Limited, weather dependent
	Trees	Difficult	Rather limited, weather dependent; use sunrise survey?
	Underground	Suitable (signs, perhaps bats)	Static detectors may be useful
Winter (December – February)	Building	Suitable (signs, perhaps bats)	Rarely useful
	Trees	Difficult (best for signs after leaves have gone)	Rarely useful
	Underground	Suitable (signs and bats)	Static detectors may be useful

The table below shows the recommended survey timings and is reproduced from the Good Practice Guidelines (table 7.1) (3rd Edition, 2016). This is for presence/absence surveys to give confidence in a negative result for structures (also recommended for trees but unlikely to give confidence in a negative result).

Low roost suitability	Moderate roost suitability	High roost suitability
May to August (structures) No further surveys required (trees)	May to September ^a with at least one of the surveys between May and August ^b	May to September ^a with at least two of the surveys between May and August ^b

^a September surveys are both weather and location dependent. Conditions may become more unsuitable in these months, particularly in more northerly latitudes, which may reduce the length of the survey season.

^b Multiple survey visits should be spread out to sample as much of the recommended survey period as possible; it is recommended that surveys are spaced at least two weeks apart, preferably more, unless there are specific ecological reasons for the surveys to be closer together (for example, a more accurate count of a maternity colony is required but it is likely that the colony will soon disperse). If there is potential for a maternity colony then consideration should be given to detectability. A survey on 31 August followed by a mid-September survey is unlikely to pick up a maternity colony. An ecologist should use their professional judgement to design the most appropriate survey regime.

The table below shows the recommended minimum number of surveys to be carried out according to roost potential. It is reproduced from the Good Practice Guidelines (table 7.3) (3rd Edition, 2016).

Low roost suitability	Moderate roost suitability	High roost suitability
One survey visit. One dusk emergence or dawn re-entry ^a (structures). No further surveys required (trees)	Two separate survey visits. One dusk emergence and a separate dawn re-entry survey ^b	Three separate survey visits. At least one dusk emergence and a separate dawn re-entry survey. The third visit could be either dusk or dawn ^b

^aStructures that have been categorised as low potential can be problematic and the number of surveys required should be judged on a case-by-case basis (as noted in section 5.2.9 of the guidelines). If there is a possibility that quiet calling, late-emerging species are present then a dawn survey may be more appropriate, providing weather conditions are suitable. In some cases, more than one survey may be needed, particularly where there are several buildings in this category.

^b Multiple survey visits should be spread out to sample as much of the recommended survey period (see table 7.1 above) as possible; it is recommended that surveys are spaced at least two weeks apart, preferably more. A dawn survey immediately after a dusk one is considered only one visit.

Roosts required by bats

Hibernation sites (hibernacula). Sheltered areas with relatively stable winter temperatures.

Underground cavities, caves, mines, cellars, hollow trees and cavities and crevices in buildings or similar structures are examples.

Nursery roosts (maternity roosts). Places usually warm, where adult females of a colony gather to give birth and rear their young. These are often traditional sites with a history of such use and include roof voids, walls, soffit boxes, hollows and cracks/splits in trees and cavities in bridges and similar structures.

Night roosts/feeding perches. Places where bats may gather at night away from the day roost after initial feeding. These places are often quite exposed and may not be suitable for day roosting. They are often recognisable by deposits of droppings and insect remains.

Intermediate/dispersal roosts. Sites where small numbers of bats may gather after hibernation before taking up residence in the nursery roost. Bats may return to these sites after dispersal from the nursery roost and before entering hibernation.

Mating/male roosts. Places that an individual male may defend from other males and to which he will attempt to lure females. These will include small holes/cavities in trees, stonework, caves, mines, and buildings.

Access, size of roost space and structure

- *Crevise-dwelling bats* (such as Soprano pipistrelles) can crawl into roosts via small gaps in the range of 15–20mm high by 20–50mm wide. The roost area should maintain a crevice of this approximate size gap that the bats can roost between. The area this roost provision covers can be small but about 1m² would be useful for summer nursery roosts. The height of entry can be from 2–7m.
- *Roof-void dwelling bats* require similar dimensions to access the roost but typically need timber joists or beams on which to roost. The height of entry can be from 2–7m.
- *Bats needing a flying area* require the same access dimension as mentioned above, 15–20mm (h) x 20–50mm (w) situated over 2m in height. The roosting area should not be trussed, to allow flight, and should ideally (wherever possible) be of similar dimensions to the roost being replaced.
- *Horseshoe bats* need a larger access so that they can fly (instead of crawl) directly into the roost. Lesser horseshoe bats need an access of 300mm (w) x 200mm (h), while greater horseshoe bats need 400mm (w) x 300mm (h). As above, the roosting area should not be trussed, to allow flight, and should again (where possible) be of similar dimensions to the roost being replaced.

Appendix 4: List of surveyors

Surveyor	Licence	Experience/background
Mr Glyn Lloyd-Jones	Bats	Glyn has significant experience in survey and presentation skills and has also assisted/worked with many other licensed bat surveyors as well as local bat groups over the past years. He possesses both a Bachelor's (with honours) and Master's degree in the biological sciences and is a Chartered Biologist & member of the Royal Society of Biology. He has worked for EAW, NRW and CCW for over a decade and has gained significant experience of working for regulators and conservation bodies. He also holds a bat licence in England and has undertaken many badger, tree and herpetofaunal surveys. Natural Resources Wales Licence number S091520/1.
Mr Iestyn Evans	Bats	Iestyn has extensive experience in conservation, habitat improvement and management and has also worked with and assisted other licensed bat workers for many years. He has also helped with local bat group surveys and assisted in data gathering for the Beacon for Bats project undertaken by the Vincent Wildlife Trust. Iestyn has also assisted the Glamorgan Bat Group and will also help supervise and mentor members of the newly incarnated Carmarthenshire Bat Group. Natural Resources Wales Licence number S086081/1.
Miss Ceri Daugherty	Bats	Ceri worked at Team Leader level within the SNCO for Wales for many years, dealing with customers and negotiating with landowners. She also has practical conservation management experience as both a Countryside Ranger and a conservation volunteer. She possesses a Master's degree in Environmental Impact Assessment and a Bachelor's degree (with honours) in the natural sciences. She is a member of the Carmarthenshire Bat Group. Natural Resources Wales Licence number S086102/1.
Mr Pete Watts	Trainee	Peter provides survey support with his keen eye for detail and vigilance. He has accompanied I&G Ecological Consulting Ltd on many surveys and is becoming a valuable and experienced surveyor.
Mr Greg Evans	Trainee	Greg attends dusk and dawn surveys to provide extra monitoring for possible entry and exit points for bats. He is currently building his experience in this area and is a keen amateur natural historian with an enthusiasm and affinity for bats.
Mr Mike Jones	Assistant	Whenever we need extra assistance in observing and recording bat activity on buildings, Mike provides an excellent and reliable service
Ms Jody Evans	Assistant	Whenever we need extra assistance in observing and recording bat activity on buildings, Jody provides an excellent and reliable service.
Ms Sharon Doherty	Assistant	Whenever we need extra assistance in observing and recording bat activity on buildings, Sharon provides an excellent and reliable service.
Ms Wendy Larcombe	Assistant	Wendy has an Honours degree in Environmental Biology and over 17 years' experience working in conservation, including as a Planning Ecologist and a freelance Ecologist. She has a wide range of experience, which includes extended Phase 1 habitat surveys, building assessment for bats, bat/barn owl surveys, summer roost counts (Gower), and winter roost counts (Black Mountains). She has undertaken a range of training including bat ecology and surveying and is a valued member of the team.

Appendix 5: Site plans



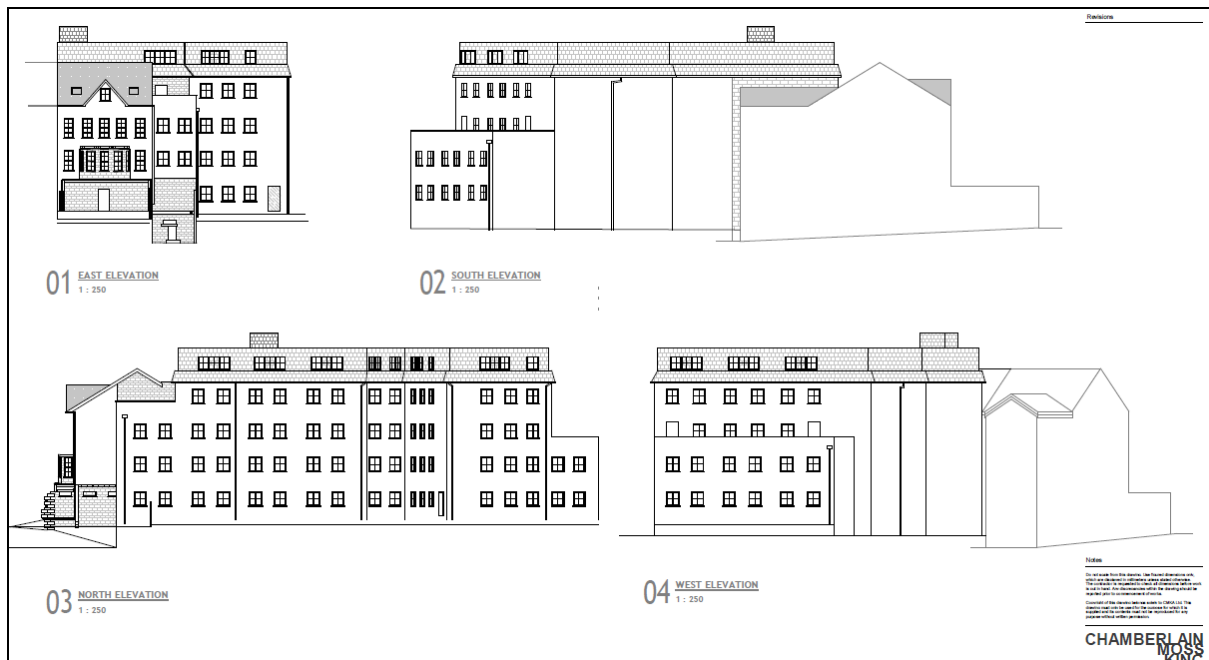
Indicative ground floor (above) and first and second floor (below) plans





Indicative third and fourth floor plans

Elevations As existing below



Appendix 6: Site survey images



The property is a large east/west aligned office block which was constructed approximately 12 years ago. It is constructed of block cavity walls which have been rendered and painted and has a slate effect (felt shingle) roof and metal framed windows and doors (some of which have been boarded up).



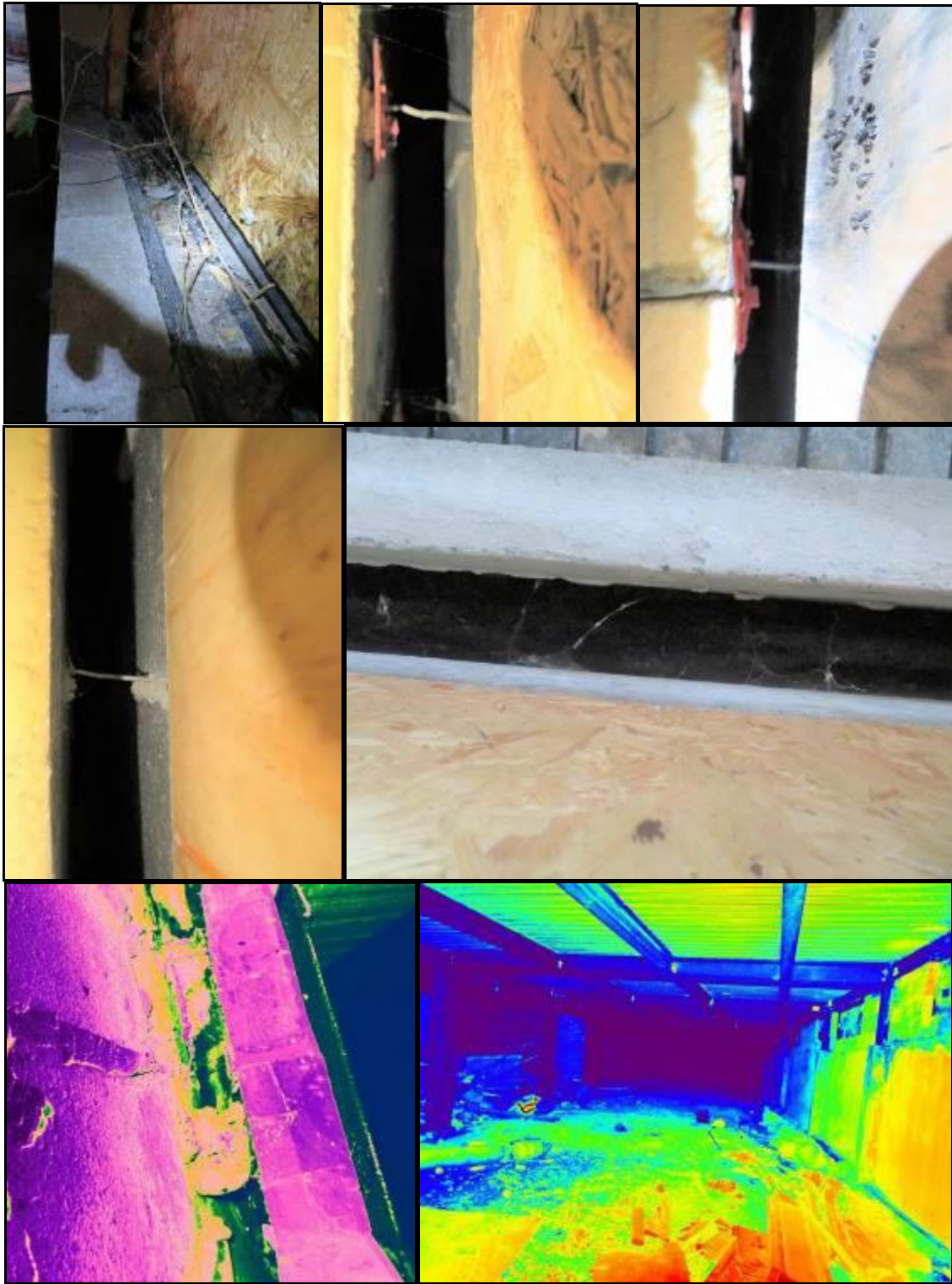
The walls are in good condition and the roof is largely intact (see drone images), but parts of the roof and some of the windows have been vandalised in places leading to a large population of pigeons establishing themselves on the top two floors. Seagulls were also seen on the roof top and these birds are known to predate on bats.



Internally, within the floors which were accessible, the walls and ceilings are in good condition with no bats or their signs, nor any signs of rodent use.

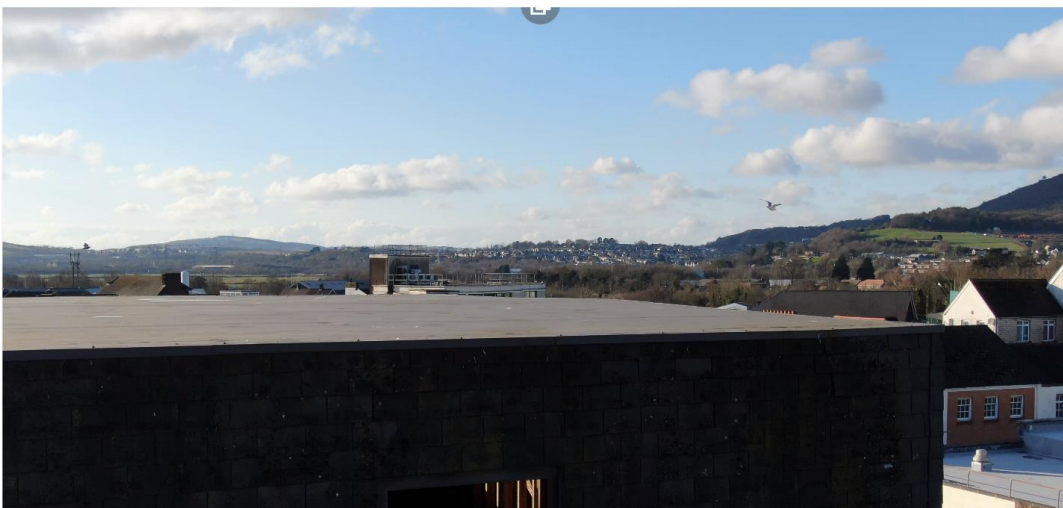


There were signs of fires, pigeon activity and intravenous drug use within the property.



Additional interior images from the property showing inspection of the cavities. Thermal images were also taken with image seven being of one of the void spaces within the property (the green areas are the insulation). Image eight is a thermal image of the basement area showing no hotspots which could have indicated the presence of bats.

Drone images



The roof is largely intact...but windows and one or two areas of the sides of the roof have been vandalised allowing pigeons in etc.

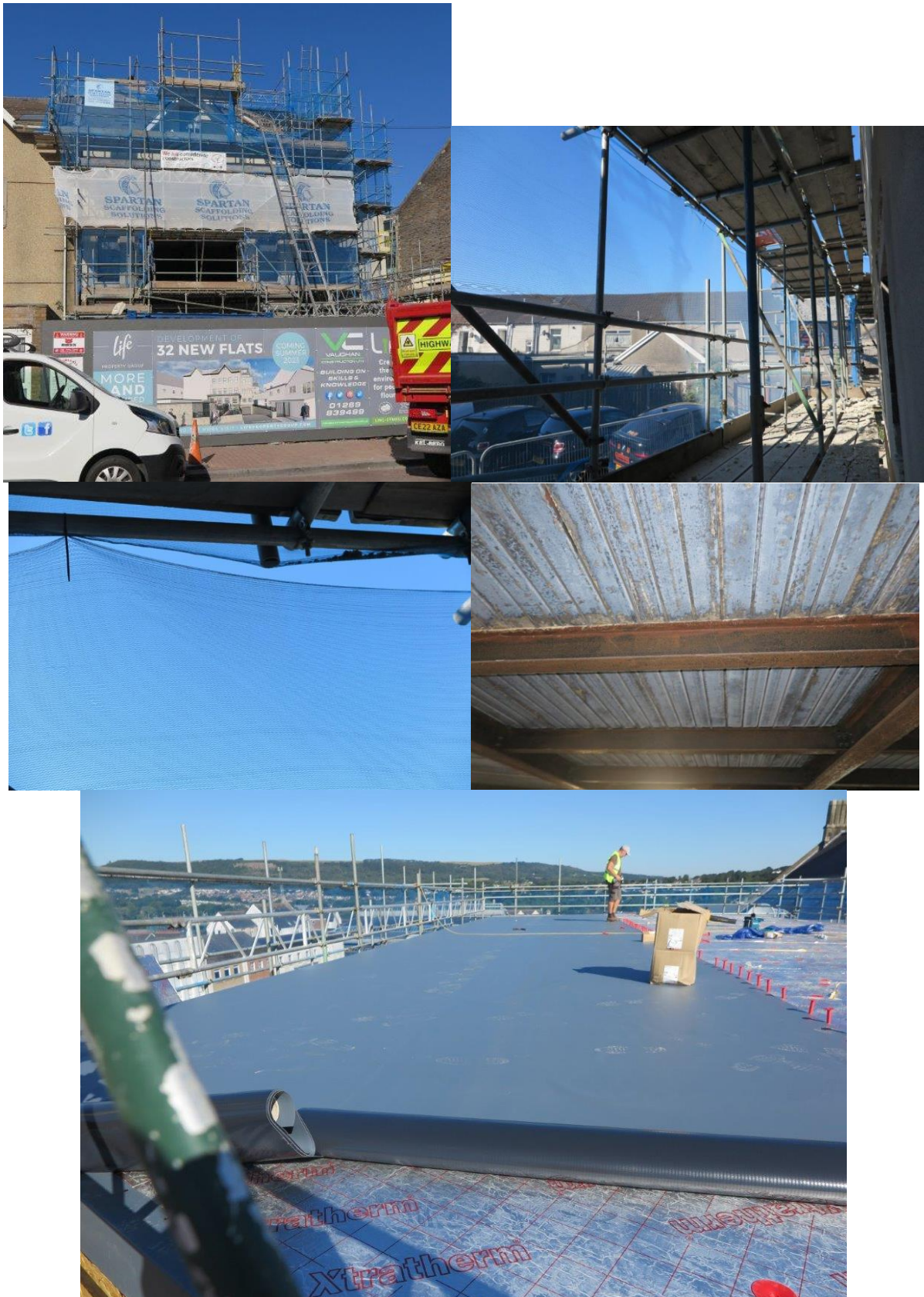


Images of the upper floors with post and beam ceilings. You can also see the timber floor of the roof space.

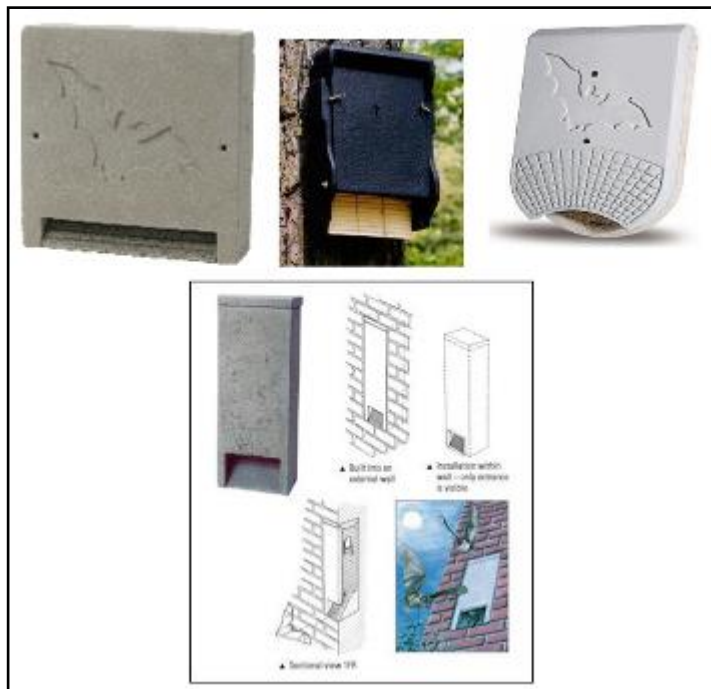
Updated images showing a busy worksite taken on 12th August 2022.

Zero bats/ birds or their signs were found. The site is now a tidy worksite , you can see the safety mesh on the scaffolding reducing access for bats and birds. The new robust and thermally efficient roof covering can also be seen. No crevices for the exploitation of bats were found.





Appendix 7: Roost compensation & enhancement measures

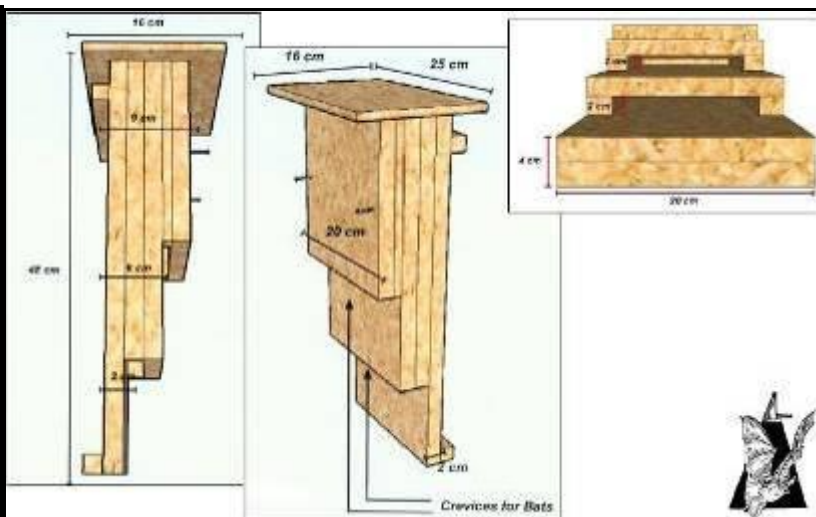


Top: From left to right, the in-wall Schwegler 1FR, the tree mounted 1FF and the multi season 1WQ. The bottom image shows the 1FR in situ.



Middle: The Beaumaris bat box is made entirely from Woodstone, a robust material comprising concrete and wood fibres. This means that, not only does the box have excellent insulating properties maintaining a more consistent temperature throughout the year, it also provides excellent protection from predators. The Beaumaris box has a single narrow cavity which makes it suitable for crevice roosting bats. The interior of the box has a rough surface for bats to cling to and the front of the box features a subtle but attractive imprint of a bat in flight. It is suitable for attaching to external walls and available in two sizes: Midi and Maxi.

Bottom: The Vincent Pro bat box (left) and the Kent Bat Box (right)



Appendix 8: I&G Ecological Consulting Ltd legal disclaimer

This report was prepared by I&G Ecological Consulting at the instruction of, and for use by, our client(s) named on the front of the report. It does not in any way constitute advice to any third party who is able to access it by any means. I&G Ecological Consulting excludes to the fullest extent lawfully permitted, all liability whatsoever for any loss or damage howsoever arising from reliance on the contents of this report. We do not however, exclude our liability (if any) for personal injury or death resulting from our negligence, for fraud or any other matter in relation to which we cannot legally exclude liability.

We confirm that in preparing this report, we have exercised reasonable skill and care, taking into account the project objectives, the agreed scope of the work, and prevailing site conditions.

Advice in this report is based on the judgement of I&G Ecological Consulting and the interpretation of data gathered during the course of their survey on the property named in this document. ***Until payment has been received, this report remains the intellectual property of I&G Ecological Consulting and can be withdrawn from the planning process at our request. You are also not covered by any of our indemnity or liability insurance until the report has been paid for in full.***

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All work undertaken in this report is the sole responsibility of I&G Ecological Consulting.

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