

Pontardawe Arts
Centre
Herbert Street
Pontardawe
SA8 4ED



A Bat Survey Report
By:



On Behalf Of:

Mr Mike Cox

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1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Plans are being prepared for the extension of the Pontardawe Arts Centre, to accommodate a new toilet, circulation space and cinema. The building will be extended into the courtyard to the south, and roof alterations may also be required for the plant room. The primary objective of this report is to highlight any ecological constraints and opportunities associated with the proposals which might arise in relation to bats and birds.
- 1.2 A Preliminary Roost Assessment was completed during the day on the 10th November 2020. Assessment found bat droppings inside and on the external gable end wall of the plant room. Since the proposals have the potential to impact bats and their roosts, it is likely that a European Protected Species licence will be required to legally facilitate the work needed. The application would need to be informed by dusk emergence or dawn re-entry observations to confirm bat species, animal numbers, and access points. Considering the plant room's small size and 'medium' level of suitability, two such surveys would be sufficient to inform the planning process and, ultimately, the licence application. In lieu of these further surveys, a reasonable mitigation strategy is briefly outlined at the end of this report.
- 1.3 Although no evidence of roosting bats was recorded at the south end of the main building, the storeroom, and the studio theatre, a number of Potential Roosting Features were identified in these locations. Consequently, a 'low' level of suitability was given to these structures, therefore requiring a single emergence observation to complete the assessment and determine use of these features by bats.
- 1.4 No evidence for nesting birds was recorded during the assessment. However two gaps within the plant room were noted as being suitable for nesting birds. The site also offers potential for roof-nesting gulls on top of the main building. All nesting birds are protected under the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Therefore, birds must not be disturbed or their nests destroyed when they are active during the breeding season between March and August inclusive.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 The Just Mammals Consultancy LLP was commissioned by Mike Cox on behalf of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to assess the ecological value of Pontardawe Arts Centre, and its suitability for protected species. The property is located at National Grid Reference (NGR) SN 72314 03971, at an altitude of approximately 34m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
- 2.2 Plans are being prepared for the extension of the Pontardawe Arts Centre into the courtyard to the south. This will allow for the provision of a new toilets, a circulation space and cinema. These works will require the demolition of the small storeroom section which is currently attached to the studio theatre and south side of the main building. Roof alterations may also be required to the plant room as part of the development proposals (see Figure 2). Exact plans were not available at the time of writing this report.
- 2.3 The primary objective of this report is to highlight, as far as reasonably possible, any development risks that might arise in relation to bats and nesting birds at the Pontardawe Arts Centre. More specific objectives of this assessment include the following:
 - to assess the suitability of the site for protected and notable species, particularly bats and birds;
 - identify any key ecological constraints associated with the proposals (Section 9); and
 - use the survey findings to highlight requirements for further survey effort and appropriate avoidance/mitigation measures for safeguarding biodiversity (Section 10).

3 Survey Team Experience

- 3.1 The lead surveyor is Andrew Ross, who is co-author of this report. Andrew has over ten years of experience working as an ecological consultant, working to safeguard wildlife at a range of development projects. As well as being a full Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM), Andrew also holds licences for surveying bats in England and Wales (S087519/1). Between 2017 and 2019, Andrew worked very closely with the Bat Conservation Trust on their Bat Mitigation Project, where he investigated the success of numerous bat mitigation schemes in England and Wales, many years after compensation roosts were created. Andrew is a Senior Ecologist with the Just Mammals Consultancy LLP.

- 3.2 Assisting with the survey was Phoebe Williams, who is co-author of this report. A Geography graduate from the University of Exeter, and a former trainee at Gwent Wildlife Trust she has completed a Natural Talent trainee programme, studying Hemiptera at the National Museum of Wales. Practical experience includes survey work for dormice, botany, newts, reptiles, and invertebrates. She has also carried out habitat management work whilst volunteering for Gwent Wildlife Trust. Phoebe is undertaking an MSc in Wildlife and Conservation Management at the University of South Wales. She is an Assistant Ecologist with the Just Mammals Consultancy LLP

4 Survey Methodology

- 4.1 Sites of nature conservation interest within 2km of Pontardawe Arts Centre were identified using the web-based MAGIC database (www.MAGIC.gov.uk). These included sites with statutory designations of international importance (Special Areas of Conservation SACs, Special Protected Areas SPAs and Ramsar sites) and sites of national importance (Sites of Special Scientific Interest SSSIs and National Nature Reserves NNRs).
- 4.2 The Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) was completed on 10th November 2020, to assess its suitability for roosting bats and nesting birds. Assessment included a day-time visual assessment of the internal and external parts of the plant room, studio theatre, the south section of the main building, and the small storeroom, with the aim of assessing suitability and detecting any signs of bat presence. The external survey involved examining outer surfaces and looking for signs of bat presence including bat faeces (droppings) on walls, ledges, doors and sills. A high-powered torch was used to examine potential access and roosting areas. Any gaps or crevices in the structure were inspected as closely as possible. The context of the building within the surrounding landscape was also assessed at this time.
- 4.3 Internal survey included the examination of a single loft void within the storeroom and internal areas of the plant room and studio theatre. This internal space was checked for the presence of live bats, the remains of dead bats (including dead juveniles and babies, which might indicate the presence of a maternity site), and signs of bats, including faeces (droppings) on floors, etc. Urine staining, both on paintwork and window glass or staining on timbers caused by oil from bat fur were also searched for, as well as discarded fragments of insects such as wings.
- 4.4 Nesting birds were also assessed at this stage. Surveyors noted any signs of bird activity including nest-building, feeding at nest sites and any indirect evidence such as bird droppings and feathers.

5 Site Description

- 5.1 Originally built in 1908, the Pontardawe Arts Centre is situated within the town, some 6.6 km north-west of Neath. The Arts Centre stands on the High Street, with the front elevation facing west onto Herbert Street, and comprises the main three-storey building from which stem a number of interconnected sections of varying heights and sizes. The sections subject to assessment are positioned around the courtyard to the south and include the studio theatre, a storeroom, the south side of the main building, and the detached plant room, at the south-east end of the courtyard.
- 5.2 The main building is brick built with partially rendered sections and features a ground floor café and upper gallery space with skylights. External, metal fire escape stairs spirals up the southern end of the building, providing access to each storey via uPVC doors. The roof is covered with slate-type tiles and clay ridges. Attached to the external southern wall of the main building, at the first storey level, is a small concrete-block built storeroom which juts out into the courtyard. External access is provided by a timber door and an adjacent metal slatted door, which is covered with a metal mesh on the interior side. The roof is lined with a paper-type liner, with additional sections of bitumen felt, and is covered with slate-type tiles with lead flashing along the ridges. A shallow loft void is present.
- 5.3 Adjacent to the storeroom is the studio theatre. This is coated with a rough render and features a pitched roof that is covered with slate-type tiles and clay ridge tiles. No loft void is present, the interior studio is open to the apex, creating a large, open space. A bay window protrudes out from the south-east elevation.
- 5.4 Just south of the main building is the plant room. This is a small, detached rectangular building located at the south-east end of the courtyard. The building is built with a mix of concrete block and brick, which has been covered with a rough render and painted cream. The pitched roof is constructed with a timber frame that is lined with a modern paper-type lining membrane and

covered with Chinese slate, and a clay tile ridge. The roof structure is open to the apex, with no loft void. Doorways are covered with metal mesh and slats. Rainwater goods are metal and timber soffits are present.

- 5.5 The surrounding landscape is typically urban, with residential houses and commercial activity dominating. The Upper Clydach River is present just 70m to the south-west of the site, which flows into the Afon Tawe, some 350m to the south. These river sections are lined with trees which are connected to more extensive areas of woodland slightly further afield. The Swansea Canal is also just 90m to the north, and this will provide additional riparian habitat.

6 Desktop Study

- 6.1 Sites of nature conservation interest within 2km of Pontardawe Arts Centre were identified using the web-based MAGIC database (www.MAGIC.gov.uk). These included sites with statutory designations of international importance (Special Areas of Conservation SACs, Special Protected Areas SPAs and Ramsar sites) and sites of national importance (Sites of Special Scientific Interest SSSIs and National Nature Reserves NNRs).
- 6.2 Although no part of the site is within or directly adjacent any sites of nature conservation interest, the desktop study confirmed two sites within 2km of the Pontardawe Arts Centre:
- Frondeg SSSI, is of special interest for its neutral grasslands, fen, meadows and wet grassland and is approximately 1.8km north-west of the site; and
 - Fforest Goch Bog SSSI, is of special interest as a rain-fed raised bog and is approximately 1.9km south-east of the site.
- 6.3 All the aforementioned protected sites are considered to be outside the scheme's zone of influence and not reasonably likely to be affected, since they are designated for their terrestrial habitats. They are therefore not considered further in this assessment.

7 Survey Constraints

- 7.1 None were identified. Full access to the loft void and around the site was available. The PRA was conducted in advance of summer emergence surveys being completed, so the ecological assessment is currently incomplete. However, sufficient information has been gathered to provide outline mitigation measures.

8 Survey Results

- 8.1 Table 1 below summarises the time and weather conditions under which the surveys were undertaken. Wind speeds employ the Beaufort scale.

Table 1: Summary of Survey Activity and Weather Conditions

Date	Survey Type	Timing	Weather Conditions
10/11/2020	Internal and external daytime inspection	10.15 – 12.00 hours Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)	Air temperature: 12°C Cloud cover: 7/8 oktas Wind speed: F1, light air Conditions: Rain showers
Surveyors	Andrew Ross; Phoebe Williams		

- 8.2 The plant room, studio theatre, storeroom and south side of the main building were assessed for their suitability for roosting bats and nesting birds. The only loft void is present within the storeroom, none of the other structures having such a feature. The storeroom loft is approximately 1m high (from floor to central hip), and although considered suitable for roosting bats – being dark, dry and reasonably well-protected from the elements – no evidence of bats was recorded inside the void or within the internal space of this section.
- 8.3 Despite most parts of the storeroom being generally well maintained, several Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) were recorded on the building exterior offering roosting opportunities for bats. These include:
- gaps beneath lifted lead flashing around the ridges; and
 - gaps under lifted slate tiles.
- 8.4 No evidence of bats was recorded associated with the studio theatre or southern end of the main building. However, several PRFs were noted on the exterior of these sections, offering roosting opportunities for bats. These include:
- gaps at the ridge of the south elevation of the main building;

- gaps at the eaves on south side of the main building; and
 - gaps under lifted roof tiles on both buildings.
- 8.5 Despite no bats or evidence of bats being recorded during the daytime assessment of the studio theatre, storeroom or south side of the main building, several external PRFs were noted. Therefore, due to the low density of external PRFs, these sections have a 'low' level of suitability for day-roosting bats in accordance with BCT's Bat Surveys Good Practice Guidelines (Collins 2016).
- 8.6 The plant room was also assessed. The exterior walls are in good condition and the eaves are well sealed. However, despite most parts of the plant room being generally well maintained, several PRFs were recorded on the exterior of the building offering roosting opportunities for bats. These include:
- gaps beneath lifted roof tiles of the west slope;
 - gaps at the edge tiles at both gable ends;
 - a gap created by broken mortar above guttering on north-east side;
 - gap within the soffit box on the southern corner; and
 - a gap beneath the soffit box at the apex of the north-east elevation.
- 8.7 In addition to these notable external features of the plant room, a single bat dropping was found beneath the gap at the apex of the north-east gable end wall. Further internal inspection revealed approximately 10 droppings on the internal north-east gable end wall and an additional 8 droppings on the opposite south-west gable end wall. Droppings were associated with gaps between the rafters and concrete blocks. Most droppings were small and characteristic of *Pipistrellus sp.* The presence of bat droppings within the plant room beneath associated access points signify this building is highly likely to host a bat roost. Notwithstanding the presence of a bat roost, the plant room has an overall 'medium' level of suitability for day-roosting bats in accordance with BCT's Bat Surveys Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2016).
- 8.8 No evidence of nesting birds was found and the majority of small gaps and crevices noted for their suitability for bats are unlikely to be large enough for bird species like blue tits (*Cyanistes caeruleus*). However, assessment was undertaken outside of the bird nesting season so absence cannot yet be confirmed. The presence of gulls and jackdaws (*Corvus monedula*) in the area may also indicate summer nesting in parts of the building that were not inspected.

9 Discussion and Conclusions

- 9.1 Bat droppings were recorded at the gable end walls of the plant room, both internally, and a single dropping externally. Since bat droppings decay quite rapidly on building exteriors, the dropping found on the exterior north-east gable end wall would have been deposited this season. Furthermore, their presence inside the plant room, beneath associated gaps at both gable end walls is more indicative of roosting than foraging or exploratory behaviour. Although the species is unknown at this point, the size and shape of the droppings were indicative of *Pipistrellus sp.* The number of droppings was not considered large enough to indicate the presence of a breeding colony, and the roosting site itself is unlikely to provide the optimal conditions required to support a maternity or hibernation roost. It is therefore considered to be a day roost or, possibly, a transitional roost during the late autumn or early spring.
- 9.2 At the time of writing, proposals include the potential alterations to the roof of the plant room, which would probably remove or damage a bat roost. Even if no such alterations occur, due to the close proximity of the plant room to the proposed new cinema, and toilets/circulation space extensions, construction activities could result in increased noise levels, site activity and vibrations which could cause bats to at least temporarily abandon their roosts. The demolition of the storeroom section and construction of a new toilets/circulation space, at the same height as this storeroom section, also have potential impacts to bats and their roosting structures. These include; the possible removal of bat roosts within the storeroom section, disturbance to roosting bats during the building works, and potential temporary blocking of roosting sites during construction.
- 9.3 Impacts are limited to the storeroom, exterior lower south wall of the main building and the west facing roof slope of the studio theatre. Changes to proposals, such as significantly increasing the height of the proposed toilets/circulation space may change the outcome of the recommendations. All bats are protected under the provisions of Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), whilst their roosting places are also protected under the provisions of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (Amendment) (EU Exit) 2019, any of the above impacts would contravene current wildlife legislation (see Appendix IV).

- 9.4 No evidence for nesting birds was recorded during the assessment. However gaps within the exterior south and east corners of the plant room were noted as being suitable for nesting birds. The site also offers potential for nesting gulls on the roof space of the main building. All nesting birds are protected under the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Therefore, birds must not be disturbed or their nests destroyed when they are active during the breeding season between March and August inclusive.

10 Recommendations

- 10.1 Proposals to the Pontardawe Arts Centre, namely the roof alterations proposed to the plant room and the proximity of the proposed new cinema, have potential to impact bats and their roosts. Since this would contravene current wildlife legislation (see Appendix III), it is highly likely that a European Protected Species (EPS) licence will need to be obtained to legally facilitate the proposals. EPS licence are currently issues by NRW provided the following three tests are met:
- the proposed activity must be for the purpose of preserving 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;
 - there is no satisfactory alternative;
 - the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable status in their natural range.
- 10.2 Since the EPS application must demonstrate to NRW beyond reasonable doubt that the favourable conservation status of bats will be safeguarded, a detailed and robust site evaluation and bat mitigation strategy must be submitted with the application package. Both of these would need to be informed by some level of night-time emergence/re-entry counts to confirm bat species, number of animals, conservation status and access points. Considering the plant room's small size and 'medium' level of suitability, two such surveys carried out during the active bat season which runs from May to September, would be sufficient to inform the licence
- 10.3 Despite the potential for adverse impacts, it is considered highly likely that all of NRW's three tests could be met so an EPS licence can legally cover building work. Developers can only apply for EPS licences after planning consent has been secured and any relevant pre-commencement conditions have been discharged. Furthermore, Neath Port Talbot cannot determine the forthcoming planning application until the ecological assessment has been completed and a suitable mitigation strategy has been broadly outlined. Such precise details of any mitigation strategy cannot be prescribed ahead of further survey information. However, considering the nature of the proposals and most likely bat roost details, a suitable mitigation strategy is likely to include the following:
- where possible, retaining existing roosting sites and protecting them from damage during construction;
 - if they cannot be retained, roosting structures to be integrated into the new build as permanent like-for-like compensation for any roosts removed, blocked or damaged;
 - no roosting areas to be subjected to additional levels of artificial lighting;
 - type 1F bituminous roofing felt to be used exclusively in buildings that host bat roosts;
 - use of timber treatment products must ensure that only bat friendly materials are used (details can be found in the list produced by Natural England (TIN 092) dated February 2013);
 - although considered highly unlikely at this stage, further survey work may indicate that some timing restrictions may be necessary if a breeding colony is recorded;
 - prior to building demolition, a licenced bat worker to provide a verbal briefing, or 'Toolbox Talk', to contractors working on site;
 - a licenced ecologist to provide any necessary supervision and guidance to contractors during building work that has the potential to injure bats;
 - a licenced bat worker to be 'on-call' in the unlikely event that any live bats are found during construction; and
 - post-development monitoring (if considered necessary following further surveys).
- 10.4 NRW may take at least six working weeks to reach a decision and this must be accounted for in any build program. NRW do not currently charge for issuing EPS licences, although this may change in the future.

- 10.5 Although the other structures subject to assessment including the south side of the main building, storeroom and studio theatre revealed no evidence for bats, PRFs were noted and subsequently a 'low' level of suitability has been given to these sections. As such, this area subject to works will require a single bat emergence observation in order to determine if bats are using features present. In the event that a bat roost is recorded, additional survey following the initial emergence observation may be required to obtain further details of the roost.
- 10.6 As the assessment was undertaken outside of the bird nesting season, any further determination of such usage could be ascertained during dusk or dawn bat observations. Since removing or disturbing active bird nests contravenes current wildlife legislation (see Appendix IV), reasonable precautions must be put in place to prevent such impacts. Once a wild bird nest is established, birds must have access to it at all times until the young have fledged and the nest is no longer active. More precise mitigation recommendations will be provided if nesting is confirmed during subsequent survey effort.

11 References

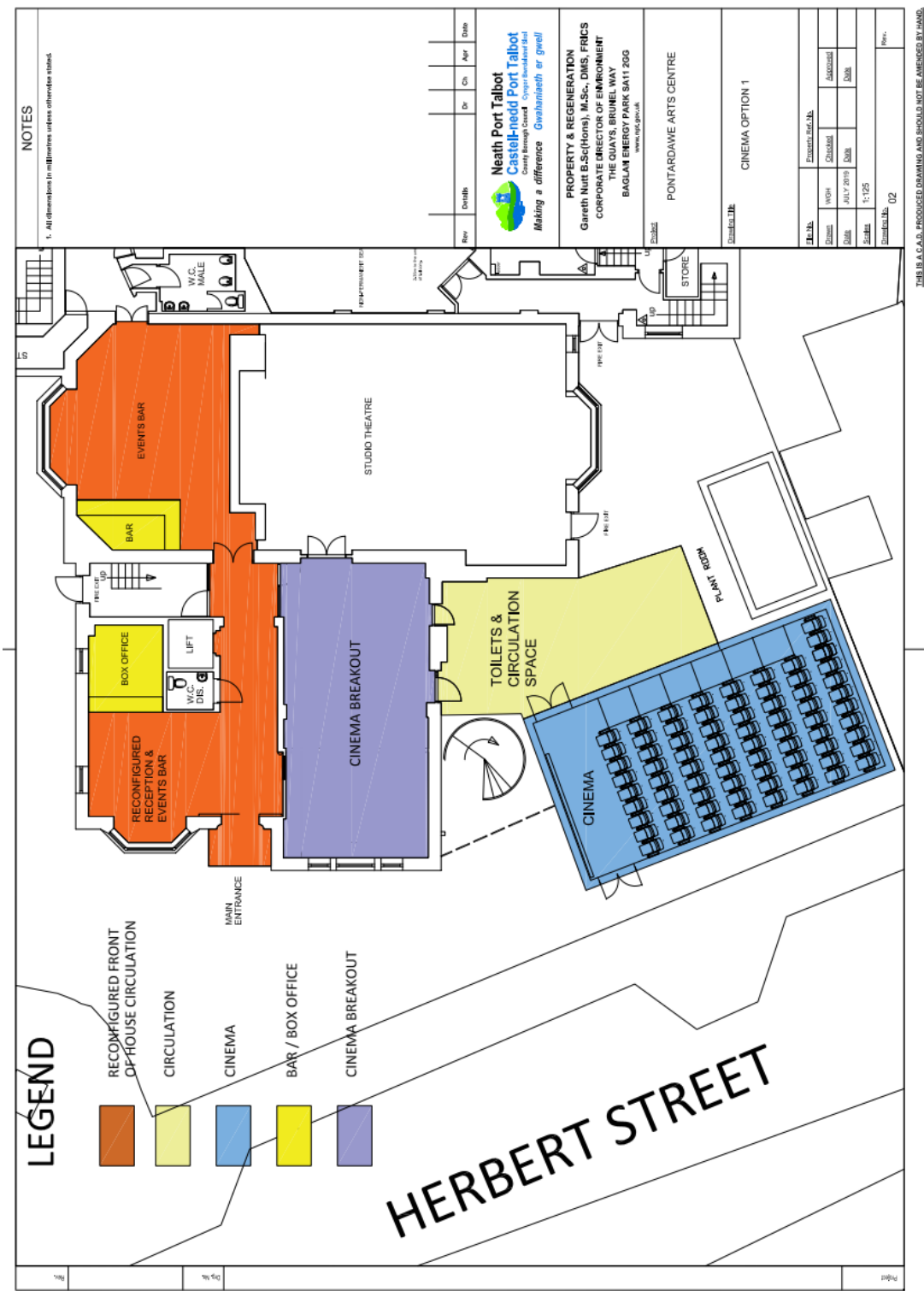
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Appendix I: Site Plans

Figure 1: Site location plan

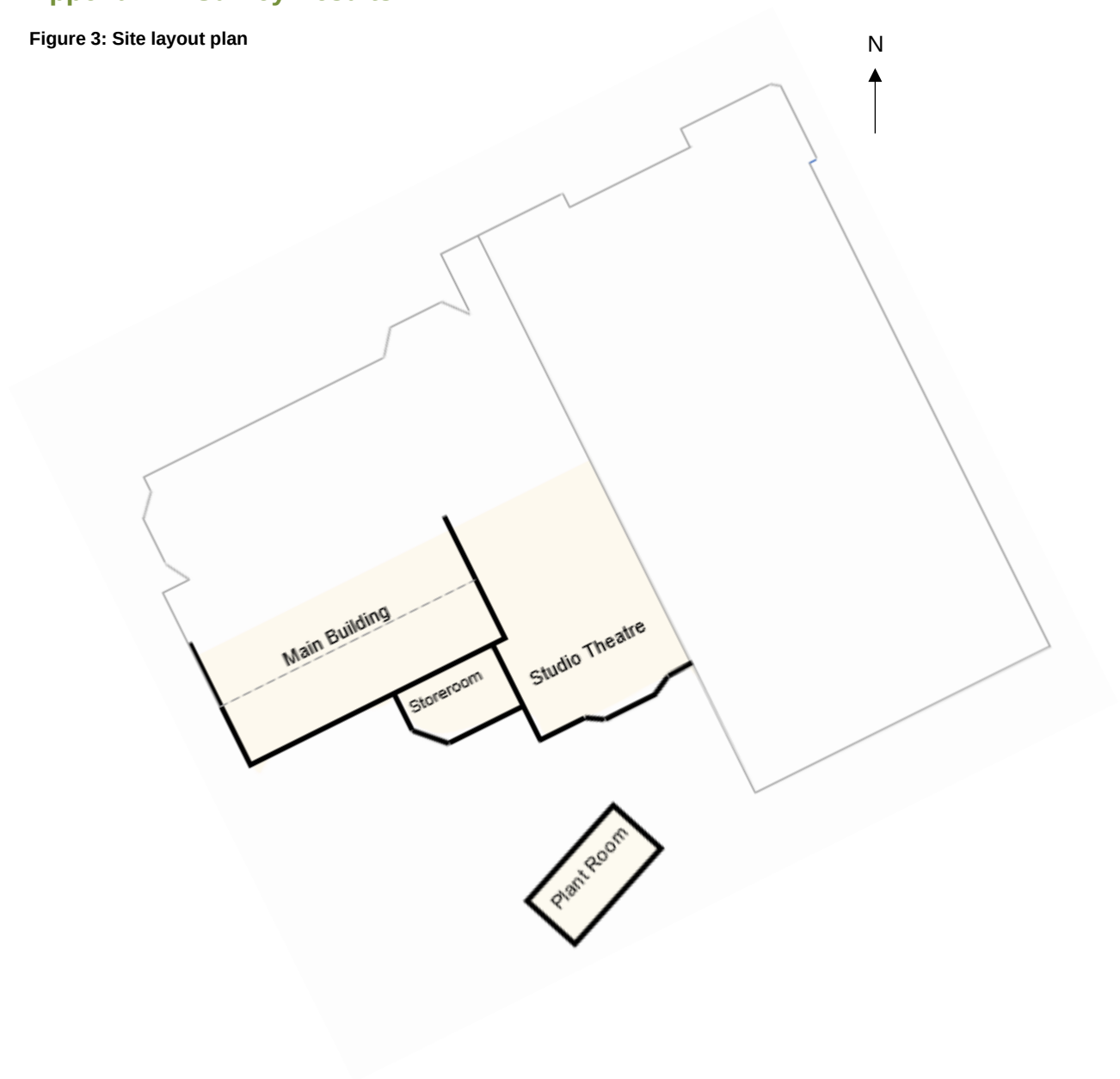


Figure 2: Plan of proposals, Cinema Option 1



Appendix II: Survey Results

Figure 3: Site layout plan



Appendix III: Site Photographs

Plate 1: Front west elevation of plant room



Plate 2: south-west end of plant room, gaps at edge tiles and within soffit



Plate 3: Gaps along edge tiles on south-west end of plant room



Plate 4: North-east elevation of plant room, location of bat dropping at apex and gap at edge tile



Plate 5: Plant room interior, facing north-east



Plate 6: South elevation of storeroom and studio theatre



Plate 7: Lifted roof tiles and gap beneath lead flashing of storeroom



Plate 8: Interior of storeroom



Plate 9: West sloping roof of studio theatre, lifted slate tiles



Plate 10: Interior of Studio Theatre



Plate 11: South elevation of the main building



Plate 12: Front elevation of main building



Appendix IV: Ecology of British Bats

There are at least 18 species of bats breeding in Britain. Most of them are regarded as threatened due to a variety of factors including habitat loss, intolerance and disturbance/damage or loss of roosts. Of these species a number regularly use buildings at certain times of year in order to find safe secure roost sites. Often several different species can use a building over the course of the year, and not all species are present at the same time, making assessment of their presence complex.

Bats are highly mobile flying mammals, which in Britain, feed entirely on insects. They have evolved over seventy million years and have developed sophisticated mechanisms to allow them to effectively 'see' in the dark by using sound waves. This system is called echo-location which enables them to track and hunt down small moving insects whilst in flight, rather like radar does in a modern military fighter aircraft. It is possible to record this sound, and because each species of bat echo-locates in a different way, determine what the species is without actually handling the animal which made the call.

In winter, when their prey is scarce, British bats hibernate or enter torpor, in cool parts of caves, buildings (cavity walls), and tree cavities. They may wake occasionally and will feed if evening temperatures are greater than 7°C, when flying insects can be active. Generally however, activity during cold winters is very limited and bats only become fully active in spring, with late March and early April being a critical time for animals desperately trying to save energy whilst gaining weight. Disturbance during these months can therefore be more devastating to bats than at other times of year.

By late spring female bats will gather together in maternity roosts in order to give birth and rear their single baby in June. Such maternity roosts are often near to important foraging areas in order to save energy as flight requires vast energy resources. Flight routes to and from such roosts can therefore also be important and some bats are extremely light averse preferring dark locations without street or security lamps which can force them to take complex routes to reach foraging areas. Such lighting can also badly degrade foraging areas where they occur close to buildings and hedgerows and tree lines can be particularly important areas for bat foraging to take place particularly when close to the roost building.

Whilst females form maternity colonies, usually in warmer roofs or trees, male bats tend to seek out cooler sites which may not be so close to the foraging areas. Males are often solitary and do not exhibit the social behaviour that marks out females during the birthing period. Non-breeding females will also roost in this way, when they have no need to spend energy on raising a single baby.

Several British bat species are known to rely heavily on buildings to roost. Of these species, the most likely are the soprano pipistrelle bat and the common pipistrelle. Other bat species regularly found in buildings are the brown long-eared bat; Natterer's bat; Brandt's bats and whiskered bat. Pipistrelle species and the small myotis or mouse-eared species (Brandt's, whiskered etc) often favour locations at the ridge or around the exterior shell of the structure. Brown long-eared and Natterer's tend to prefer living within the roof area of a building – large lofts being popular.

Other species that are known to use the internal areas of built structures such as barns include the two horseshoe species, the greater horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*), and lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*), as well as western barbastelle bat (*Barbastella barbastellus*).

Appendix V: Relevant Legislation

Bats

All species of bat in Britain, and their places of rest are protected under the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA), Section 9(1), 9(4)(a) and 9(4)(b) as amended by Schedule 12 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Further protection is afforded by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (Amendment) (EU Exit) 2019. In relation to structures used by bats for shelter or protection (i.e. roosts), this legislation makes it an offence to either intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any site used by bats, whether bats are present at the time or not, or to intentionally or recklessly disturb bats within a roost.

Infringements under this legislation include building demolition, removal of hollow trees, blocking, filling or installing grills over old mines or tunnels, building alteration or maintenance work, re-pointing of stone walls, getting rid of unwanted bat colonies, re-roofing, remedial timber treatment, re-wiring or plumbing in roofs, treatment of wasps, bees or cluster flies (Mitchell-Jones, 1992; Childs, 2001). Greater horseshoe bat, lesser horseshoe bat, Bechstein's bat, greater mouse eared bat and barbastelle are included in Annex II of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (Amendment) (EU Exit) 2019 and hence require special protection.

Maximum penalties for committing offences relating to bats or their roosts can amount to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to fines of up to Level 5 on the standard scale under the Criminal Justice Act 1982/1991 (i.e. £5000 in April 2001) per roost or bat disturbed or killed, or to both. Bodies corporate and their directors/secretaries are liable for offences under the 2019 Regulations and the WCA. Additionally, where such an offence results in the offender benefitting in a monetary form from the illegal action, confiscation or civil recovery of the proceeds can occur under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

It is sensible to assess as soon as possible if bats are present at potential sites for development – preferable before the land is acquired. In some cases the period required for adequate survey work may span more than one calendar year. If a development, including demolition or change of use, is likely to impact on bats and their roosts then a licence will usually be required. Adequate survey results are a necessary input to any licence application. If bats are not found until late in the development stage this may result in delays while a licence is sought and even in offences being committed.

The law with respect to dwellings and other structures is applied equally. Where disturbance is deemed likely to have a significant effect on bats to survive, breed and rear their young or will affect the local distribution and abundance of the species, a European Protected Species licence issued by Natural Resources Wales. A licence application must demonstrate that the development will not be detrimental to the maintenance and conservation status of the species concerned.

This explanation must be regarded only as a guide to the law. For further details, reference must be made to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (Amendment) (EU Exit) 2019 and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Wild birds

All wild birds, their eggs and their nests are protected under the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence, with certain exceptions, to:

- intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built;
- intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird;
- sell wild birds or put them on display for sale;
- use traps or similar items to kill, injure or take wild birds; and
- intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

Penalties that can be imposed for criminal offences in respect of a single bird, nest or egg contrary to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is an unlimited fine, up to six months imprisonment or both. In exceptional cases NRW and Natural England issues licences for specific purposes, so that legitimate work may be undertaken without breaking the law.

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We confirm that in preparing this document we have exercised reasonable skill and care, taking into account the project objectives, the agreed scope of the work, prevailing site conditions, the degree of manpower and resources allocated to the project, and in compliance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct.

This document is valid for a period of two years from November 2020.

Just Mammals Consultancy is an ecological consultancy based in Mid-Wales. Specialising in legally protected mammal, reptile and amphibian species, but providing a wide range of ecological services, it provides appropriate expertise on behalf of a range of clients.

Clients include government departments, local and regional authorities, development agencies, commercial and industrial enterprises as well as statutory nature conservation organisations, wildlife trusts and other charitable bodies.

Please visit our web site www.justmammals.co.uk to see the full range of services we offer and some of the projects we have undertaken in the past.



Natural Problem Solvers

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