

Rhos Primary School Bat Survey Report

Executive Summary

Rhos Primary School is due to have an extension built on one side to increase internal capacity.

A preliminary roost assessment survey and an emergence bat survey was carried out on the side of the proposed extension to assess the presence/absence of bat roosts in the building and propose suitable mitigation.

No bats were observed using the building during the survey however the school site is used for foraging and commuting purposes.

There are no constraints to the proposed extension being built, bird boxes should be included in the new extension for the purpose of biodiversity enhancement.

Introduction

Rhos Primary School is located in the village of Rhos.

The proposed extension is small and only affects the rear elevation (see image below) due to this, only this elevation was surveyed as the works will have no impact on any other bat roost (if present) in the school buildings. The extension is also not the full height of the building and consists mainly of enclosing an existing porch/overhang feature.



Figure 1- Proposed rear elevation showing planned extension and location of bird box

Scope of Survey

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

1. Identify potential bat activity levels and use of buildings 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 present;

3. Assess whether the proposed redevelopment of the buildings 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.

Emergence Survey

In accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust guidelines (Collins J. 2016). The building was assessed as having low potential to support roosting bats. One emergence survey was carried out.

The dusk emergence survey was undertaken on the 14th September 2022 (by Rebecca Sharp and Megan Price) in weather conditions conducive to bat activity i.e. little or no rain and temperatures in excess of 10° C. The emergence survey began approximately 30 minutes before sunset and continued for approximately 2 hours after sunset.

Two surveyors were positioned at opposite ends of the building so they had a clear view of the building.

Each surveyor was equipped with either a SSF Bat 2 detector and an Echometer Touch Pro detector and ipad or a Elekon Batscanner bat detector.

There were no limitations to this survey as it was carried out at the correct time of year in conducive weather conditions.

There was a low level of bat activity recorded on the site, Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) bats were recorded foraging and commuting over the top of the school building and play area/gardens.

No bats emerged from the building or were observed flying around in close proximity to the building.

Recommendations for mitigation

There are no constraints to the proposed extension, however to provide biodiversity enhancement as required by The Environment (Wales) Act 2016, bird boxes will be installed on the new extension when it is being built (these are shown on Figure 1).