



F.A.O – Mel Ferreira – Swyddog Cynllunio/Planning Officer, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Subject – Bat activity survey at 1 Morlais Buildings, High Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8UL

Following queries by the county ecologist on a bat scoping survey undertaken on 1 Morlais Buildings in February 2025, I&G Ecological Consulting Ltd undertook a dusk activity to provide further evidence of the lack of bat activity in the building. The results of the survey are shown below. Following the survey I&G can confirm that there was very little bat activity found on site and no bats were seen to leave the building during the survey.

If any further information is required, please get in touch.

Yours faithfully

For and on behalf of

I&G Ecological Consulting Ltd.

Site	1 Morlais Buildings, High Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8UL
Grid reference	SO 05030 06473
Client	Mr Liu
Date(s)/time(s)/type(s) of survey(s)	Scoping survey: 24th February 2025 Dusk emergence survey: 10 th May 2025
Surveyor details	Scoping survey: Thomas Bellingham and Ellie Davies Activity survey: Miss Ceri Daugherty NRW Licence number S092522/1 & Mr Mike Jones and 1 x NV camera.
Architect	Atrium Planning

Summary

On 24th February 2025 a daytime scoping survey was completed. To provide extra confidence a dusk emergence survey was undertaken on 10th May 2025 following concerns raised by the county ecologist. Weather conditions were conducive to bat activity and access was available to all areas.

As part of the scoping survey, no bats or their signs were found. During the activity survey **Soprano pipistrelle** and **Common pipistrelle** were foraging and commuting along the road to the north west of the building, but no bats were seen to leave/enter any part of the **building**. **There are currently no bats using the building**, it receives no ecological protection under wildlife legislation, and there are no ecological constraints to the proposed works.

No evidence of bats, nesting birds, or signs of owl activity were discovered. However, biodiversity enhancement measures are required to be submitted to ensure the development complies with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Future Wales 2040, and PPW (Edition 12, February 2024). Recommendations are as follows and all locations will be provided on the plans to be submitted (**see appendix 5 for recommended locations and appendix 7 for examples**):

- ✦ **Recommendation 1 (Bat Enhancement):** 1 x Beaumaris Woodstone bat box (or similar) to be affixed to the south-west elevation of the property. See [Putting up your box - Bat Boxes - Bat Conservation Trust \(bats.org.uk\)](#)
- ✦ **Recommendation 2 (Bird Enhancement):** 1 x Sparrow terrace or Swift nest cups to be affixed to the south-west elevation of the property. See [Where To Put A Bird Box | Nestboxes - The RSPB](#)
- ✦ **Recommendation 3 (Broadscale Enhancement):** Wider ecological benefit could be delivered by ensuring (where possible) that all boundaries are planted with native species to retain connectivity to the surrounding habitat as well as planting up any gardens with wildlife friendly plants and retaining any mature trees. See [17 bats & hedges leaflet.pdf \(hedgelink.org.uk\)](#)

Field survey methods and results

Methods

A Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) was undertaken on 24th February 2025 to identify Potential Roost Features (PRF).

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 while internally access was available to all areas. In addition, one activity survey was undertaken in good weather conditions to provide confidence in the results, and to understand how bats are using the surroundings. Therefore, using the equipment available to them all areas were thoroughly surveyed by the surveyors to maximise effectiveness.

The dusk emergence survey was undertaken on 10th May 2025, and the surveyors were Miss Ceri Daugherty NRW Licence number S092522/1 and Mr Mike Jones. Sunset was at 20:53, the survey started at 20:30 and ended at 23:00. The weather during the day had been warm and sunny, and the weather remained dry throughout the survey, humidity was 89%, there was a light breeze of 2mph, and the temperature at the start of the survey was 17.3°C and was 13.1°C when the survey ended.

Figure 1 below shows the position of surveyors during the activity survey. Each surveyor had a Magenta 5 or an Elekon Batscanner bat detector to assist in identification and detection of bats and their behaviour. **Surveyors moved along the elevation they were watching during the survey.** The position of the NV camera is shown with an NV.



Figure 1. Surveyor positions during the activity survey

Figure 2 below shows the flight lines of bats detected and the times they were detected. The species of bats detected during the surveys, and the nature of their activity follows.

- ***P. pipistrellus***: Bats were detected foraging and commuting along the road to the north west of the building. Despite the weather conditions being favourable activity was low with only one bat observed 32 minutes after the survey began, 20 minutes after sunset.
- ***P. pygmaeus***: Bats were detected foraging and commuting along the road to the north west of the building. Despite the weather conditions being favourable activity was low with only two bats observed 35 minutes after the survey began, 23 minutes after sunset.

3.2.3 Activity summary: No bats were seen to leave or enter any part of the **building** but ***P. pipistrellus*** and ***P. pygmaeus*** were using the road to the north west for commuting.

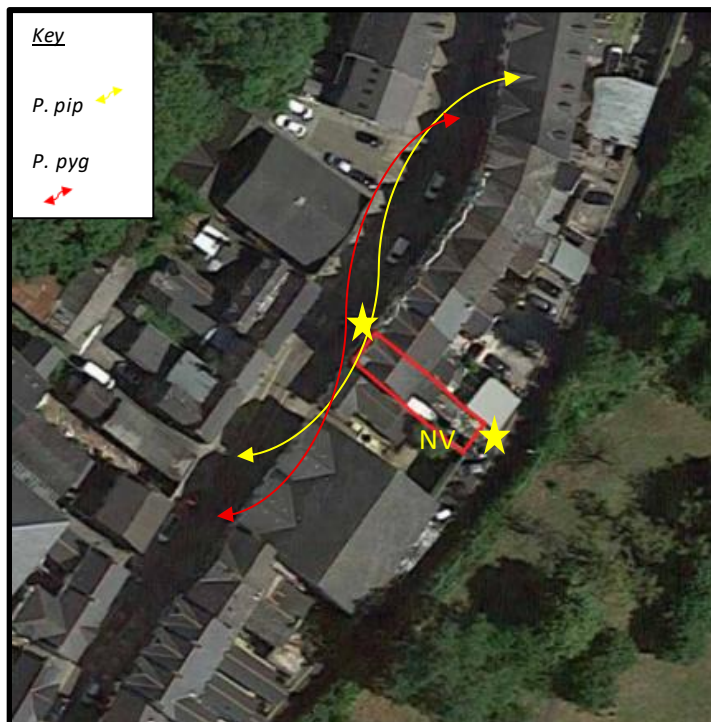


Figure 2. Aerial map showing the flight lines of bats detected

Although no bats were seen by the surveyor to the south east of the property, the surveyor did record both *P. pipistrellus* and *P. pygmaeus* calls to the rear of his position. Bats are likely to be feeding and foraging along the road and in the fields to the south east of the building.

Interpretation, conclusions and recommendations

Interpretation and conclusions

The results for each species were interpreted as follows:

- ***P. pipistrellus*:** No bats were seen to either leave or enter the **building** and there was no activity close to the building, but bats were detected foraging and commuting along the road to the north west. Despite the weather conditions being favourable activity was low with only one bat observed 32 minutes after the survey began, 20 minutes after sunset.
- ***P. pygmaeus*:** No bats were seen to either leave or enter the **building** and there was no activity close to the building, but one bat was detected foraging and commuting along the road to the north west. Despite the weather conditions being favourable activity was low with only two bats observed 32 minutes after the survey began, 20 minutes after sunset.

4.1.1 Using the findings of the desk study and field survey, it is **concluded that the property is within relatively close proximity to favourable bat habitat. However, bats are not currently using any part of the building.** There are also no trees or hedgerows of ecological value on site that will be affected by the development, so no flight corridors will be affected. It is therefore considered that proposed development will not have a negative impact upon the favourable conservation status of the bat species using the area. The localised scale of the proposed development also suggests that the impact on the local ecology is likely to be low, and it is anticipated that the proposed enhancements will result in a positive impact and net gain for biodiversity.