

A Bat Survey Report
on behalf of

Mr Darren Abraham
for
The Patches
Heolgerrig
Cyfarthfa
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 1SA



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Project Overview

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Limitations

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The assessments made assume that the site(s) and facilities will continue to be used for their current purpose without significant change. The conclusions and recommendations contained in this Report are based upon information provided by others and upon the assumption that all relevant information has been provided by those parties from whom it has been requested. Information obtained from third parties has not been independently verified by Little Wing Ecology (CYF).

Executive Summary

The owner of 'The Patches,' is preparing a planning application to Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (the local planning authority), for the demolition of an existing two-storey, derelict cottage and the construction of two new-build residential units with off-road parking and associated landscaping works. To support the planning application process, a survey for the presence of bats and birds was undertaken in the summer months of 2025.

Following the results of a Preliminary Roost Assessment, this report contains the results from a dusk activity survey, conducted in accordance with national survey standards and undertaken between June - August 2025. During two dusk emergence surveys, evidence was recorded of one bat species using Building A as a day roost – (x2 common pipistrelle). While the structure offers many PRFs no other species were recorded roosting at the site. Of the 38 recordings made, two species were identified foraging and commuting near the site. The majority of observed behaviour was for animals foraging along the hedgerow and along the main service road (and streetlights). The vast majority of behaviour was for common pipistrelle – 31 of the 38 recordings were for this species. When the conservation significance of the site is considered, the impact is low, with breeding bats not a concern (Collins, J. (Ed.) (2023).

All bat species and their places of rest are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. The legal protection for bats concerns impacts from disturbance, loss of roost locations, modifications to roosts and loss of access or obstruction to roost locations. As impacts of this nature will arise during the proposed works, a European Protected Species (EPS) licence will be required from NRW before any work proceeds.

Birds were also considered at the same time as the bat surveys. The building supports features that could be exploited by nesting birds, and no active nest was identified during the survey visits. All nesting birds, their chicks' eggs and active nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). As nesting opportunities have been identified, a precautionary approach will be required. Therefore, mitigation for bird species and general advice on the legal status of breeding birds is given in this report.

Recommendations are presented in Section Five.

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) the planning authority has a statutory duty to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity. Details of planned site enhancements are also made in this report.

This Executive Summary is intended to provide an overview of the assessment of the proposed development site based on information received by Little Wing Ecology (CYF) at the time of production. This Executive Summary should be read in conjunction with the full report.

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SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Little Wing Ecology (CYF) was commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Roost Assessment and Bat Activity Survey of a site known as, 'The Patches, Heolgerrig, Cyfarthfa, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 1SA.' The survey was undertaken to inform the client of any constraints and associated planning requirements with regards to protected species, and to inform a planning application. For the purposes of this report, the structure will be referred to as, 'Building A.'
- 1.1.2 The owner of 'The Patches,' is preparing a planning application to Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (the local planning authority), for the demolition of an existing two-storey, derelict cottage and the construction of two new-build residential units with off-road parking and associated landscaping works.
- 1.1.3 Bats were identified as the group of animals with the potential to be affected by the planning proposal, and in this regard the objectives of the survey were:
- Determine the presence/likely absence of bat roost(s) at Building A.
 - Determine the species of bat present.
 - Determine the type of roost present (maternity, day roost etc).
 - Identify any bat foraging or commuting behaviour in relation to the location.
 - Consider if there will be impacts on bats from the proposed works.
 - Consider if nesting birds are present which might be affected by the development proposals.
 - Gather sufficient information to enable appropriate recommendations, inform mitigation and licencing.
- 1.1.4 Following the results of a Preliminary Roost Assessment, this report contains the results from a dusk activity survey, during the summer months of 2025, conducted in accordance with national survey standards. The survey was carried out with the purpose of identifying the presence/likely absence of bat roosts at Building A. Following survey, an assessment of the likely impact that the proposed works will have on bat interest at the site was carried out. This report has been prepared with recommendations for enhancement features, to improve opportunities for local species post-development.

1.2 Site Description

- 1.2.1 Located at National Grid Reference (NGR) SO 02742 05931(Appendix A), at an altitude of 296m above Ordnance Datum (OD), Building A is a modern, open-sided, timber-clad agricultural unit with a corrugated fibre-board roof. The building is in daily use as stabling. Building A is located on a main service road (Unclassified) near the western boundary of the settlement of Heolgerrig.

1.3 Policy and Legislation

- 1.3.1 In Wales, all bat species and their roosts are legally protected, by both domestic and international legislation. This means you may be committing a criminal offence if you:
- Deliberately take, injure, or kill a wild bat.
 - Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats.
 - Damage or destroy a place used by bats for breeding or resting (roosts) (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time).
 - Possess, advertise, sell or exchange a bat, or part of a bat species found in the wild in the EU (dead or alive).
 - Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost.
- 1.3.2 The framework for this protection is provided within three pieces of legislation from the Government of

Wales and the UK Government.

1.3.3 These are:

- The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019
- The Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) – as amended.

1.3.4 Additional information on the legal scope of these acts can be found in the Appendix, and a link to the full documentation can be found in, 'References and Bibliography.'

SECTION TWO: THE SURVEY METHOD

2.1 Desktop Survey (Bats)

2.1.1 Available records for bats were provided by the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc - LERC reference: 0256-102).

2.2 Desktop Survey (Habitat)

2.2.1 A review of aerial photography was undertaken to assess the provision of suitable foraging and commuting habitat within proximity to Building A. This information was used in combination with a review of statutory designated sites, via the Data Map Wales website, including Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to help in confirming the presence of bat species locally.

2.2.2 Bats are considered cryptic species and therefore it can be difficult to confirm whether they are present or not. Although the provision of local biological records would provide a range of information; such records can only be relied upon as relative where they are reasonably recent and when supplied by an experienced bat surveyor. It was therefore considered necessary to undertake a detailed survey regardless of the data search results, as this is most likely to be beyond the acceptability of current data as defined in BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity: Code of practice for planning and development and will not be as effective as spending time examining and/or monitoring the buildings for the presence of bats.

2.3 Preliminary Roost Assessment

2.3.1 A potential nest and roost assessment survey was carried out on the interior and exterior of Building A by a suitably experienced ecologist and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) licenced bat worker. The external fabric of the structure was methodically inspected using close-focusing binoculars and a high-powered torch for potential access points such as gaps in the fabric of the building, beneath lifted roof materials or other gaps in the roof. Loose flashing, smudge marks and droppings on walls directly below eaves and gables etc were also searched for. A description of the building, including construction material and current condition was recorded. Internally, the building was searched using a high-powered torch to identify possible links to exterior roost entrances and clear signs of presence via urine staining, feeding remains, odour, piles of droppings, live bats, and bat carcasses. The space was also examined in the dark to identify areas where the presence of light would identify potential entry points for birds and bats. The aim of this survey was to determine the actual or potential presence of bats and the need for further survey and/or mitigation. During the field survey, an assessment of the habitats on-site and beyond the site boundary was undertaken. The aim of this was to identify potential commuting and foraging corridors, and suitable foraging sites. This enabled the suitability of the location for bats to be determined.

2.3.2 Nesting birds were also considered at the time of the survey, with the surveyor looking for signs of bird activity, nests, nest building, feeding at nest sites, and evidence of collections of bird droppings, feathers, or any other indications of use by birds.

2.4 Additional Ecological Considerations

- 2.4.1 Whilst a full ecological appraisal was not undertaken at the site, a note was made of any additional ecological considerations identified during the survey. For ease of reference, these have been included within the results section of this report (Section 3).

2.5 Limitations of the Survey Method

- 2.5.1 A record was made of any constraints that limited the results of this survey report and is presented in Section 3.

2.6 Activity Surveys

- 2.6.1 Following the PRA and in line with guidelines set out in, 'Bat Conservation Trusts Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, J. (Ed.) (2023),' Building A will subsequently be categorised for the level of risk of supporting bats, and recommendations made as to the requirement (if any) for dusk activity surveys to determine the presence/likely absence of roosting bats, species identification, population size, roost type, and the requirement for any associated mitigation. If required, dusk survey(s) for bats will be conducted no less than 21 days apart. During any subsequent activity surveys, sufficient surveyors will be required to adequately cover all features identified during the PRA. Nocturnal bat surveys can be undertaken May to mid-September, inclusive. Taking a precautionary approach, and dependent on the outcome of these surveys, additional survey work may be required; but only if higher than expected activity is recorded. Details of our surveyors and their experience is recorded in Appendix C.

2.7 Equipment (Activity Surveys)

- 2.7.1 The equipment used for dusk activity surveys provides high quality recordings of bat calls, which are analysed using BatSound and AnalookW software. Recordings are annotated by the surveyors to provide contextual information on bat behaviour and flight patterns. At Little Wing Ecology (CYF) we use Pettersson D240x time expansion bat detector and Tascam DR-05X Portable Digital Recorder, Peersonic RPA3B full spectrum recorders and Anabat SD2 Frequency Division detectors. As night vision aids (NVA) we use a MELCAM Video Camera Camcorder 1080P IR Night Vision Digital Camera and Nightfox Swift 2 Pro. Audio for the NVAs is supplemented by an Anabat SD2. In addition, we use Audiomoth – a full-spectrum acoustic logger, based on the Gecko processor range from Silicon Labs.

SECTION THREE: RESULTS

3.1 Desktop Survey Results

- 3.1.1 The survey location was examined by consulting Data Map Wales and other available resources. No part of the site is within a statutory site of nature conservation interest. There are 3 statutory sites within 3km including Cwm Glo a Glyndyrys (SSSI - being the nearest at ≈250m), Cwm Taf Fechan Woodlands (SSSI at ≈1.9km), and Bryncarnau Grasslands, Llwydcoed (SSSI - at ≈2.5km). Also notable is a section of ancient woodland (≈500m) and a traditional orchard feature (at ≈650m).

3.2 Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA)

- 3.2.1 A Preliminary Roost Assessment was conducted on 20th May 2025 by the author. Weather conditions during the survey were recorded and are presented below. Details of the surveyor's experience are presented in the Appendix.
- 3.2.2 **Construction & Condition:** A traditional two-storey stone and lime cottage featuring a pitched concrete tiled roof was assessed. The roof incorporates cement-based ridge tiles with rudimentary timber

bargeboards and uPVC rainwater goods. The overall fabric was found to be in very poor condition and the structure can be considered derelict.

- 3.2.3 **Potential Roost Features (PRFs) identified:** Numerous raised tiles were recorded as a result of structural movement in the roof assembly. An area of missing tiles was observed on the rear extension roof, providing direct flight access into the property interior. Several sections of cement-based roof edging were found to be absent, providing direct access opportunities to the underside of the tile courses. A section of roof sheeting was missing from the side extension, creating an aperture of sufficient size to allow direct flight access into the structure. A small roof void was present, though physical access for detailed inspection was not possible. Limited visual assessment of this void was achieved, but not to a degree that would satisfy comprehensive evidence collection regarding potential occupation.
- 3.2.4 **Evidence of Bats:** No physical evidence of bat occupation, such as droppings, staining, or feeding remains, was recorded during the external assessment.
- 3.2.5 **Roost Potential Categorisation:** The structure was assessed as having **Moderate Roosting Potential**. The numerous access points and available roosting spaces within the roof structure provide suitable opportunities for bat occupation, particularly for crevice-dwelling species. Breeding colony potential was not identified as a primary concern given the structural instability and high disturbance likelihood.
- 3.2.6 **Hibernation Potential:** No classic hibernation sites were identified within the assessed structure. No cellars, underground spaces, or thermally stable environments typically associated with hibernation roosts were recorded. However, as pipistrelle species are known to utilise buildings for hibernation purposes, a precautionary approach will be recommended for any proposed demolition works.
- 3.2.7 **Flight Paths:** The mature trees and hedgerows along the northern boundary provide a continuous linear feature, offering **High suitability** for commuting bats, particularly connecting to the adjacent stream corridor. The remainder of the site offers **Low suitability** due to open, disturbed areas with limited connectivity and structural diversity.
- 3.2.8 **Foraging Habitat:** The adjacent stream provides **Moderate suitability** foraging habitat, supporting insect populations typical of riparian environments. The nearby mature woodland feature (≈150m west) offers **High suitability** for generalist foraging bats, providing diverse microhabitats and abundant invertebrate prey resources.

3.3 Local Biological Records

- 3.3.1 The local biological records search (LERC: 0256-102) reported 808 species records (all species). No records were documented on or directly adjacent to this site. Records for bats and birds are briefly summarised in the bullet list below:
- Chiroptera (bats) accounted for 46 species records (i.e., 5.69%). The nearest records for pipistrelle at 99m, and common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) at 119m.
 - Birds accounted for 277 species records (i.e., 34.28%), 56.68% of which were for CAT1 species. The nearest three records include swift (150m), house sparrow (150m), and lesser black-backed gull (150m).

3.4 Evidence of Protected Species

- 3.4.1 No evidence of occupation by protected species were recorded during the PRA survey.

3.5 Bats - Results of a Preliminary Roost Assessment

3.5.1 Building A represents a structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat, but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation significance (with respect to roost type only, such as maternity and hibernation – the categorisation described here is made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed). The structure is located within continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for flight paths; including lines of trees and scrub lines of back gardens.

3.5.2 Photographic evidence supporting the DBW is presented in the Appendix.

3.6 Suitability for Hibernating Bats

3.6.1 No traditional hibernation sites were recorded on-site. No cellars or underground spaces were identified. As pipistrelle species are known to hibernate in buildings, a precautionary approach will be recommended.

3.7 Evidence of Nesting Birds

3.7.1 The small marginal scrub and hedgerow habitat provides suitable nesting conditions for a variety of bird species commonly found in garden and woodland environments.

3.7.2 The features identified during the PRA also provide opportunities for roosting birds and in particular, house sparrows (a CAT1 species).

3.8 Conclusions of the PRA

3.8.1 Following guidelines set out in 'Bat Conservation Trusts Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, J. (Ed.) (2023)', Building A was categorised as being of moderate risk (with breeding bats not a concern), requiring a dusk survey for bats on a minimum of two occasions. These surveys represented the minimum recommended number of visits to give confidence in a negative result for structures. Should higher than expected activity be recorded, then additional survey effort will be required.

3.9 Activity Survey Recordings

3.9.1 On 29.06.2025, one bat was recorded as roosting at Building A (common pipistrelle). This emerged from a missing section of roof edge at the eastern gable. In total, 23 recordings were made, including for common pipistrelle (22), and one of an unidentified myotis bat - the recording of which was too faint to identify confidently to species level. Bat interest around Building A consisted predominantly of commuting for a small number of bats and foraging along the adjacent hedgerows and around an adjacent streetlight.

3.9.2 On 12.08.2025, two bats were recorded as roosting at Building A. One of these was identified from recordings as a common pipistrelle. The second made no sound on exiting the roost and therefore identification to species level was not possible. However, as both bats emerged from the same roost and with a similar timeframe, and, taking into account the contextual data from foraging and commuting activity at the site, this is also likely a common pipistrelle and this will be the working assumption. These emergences both occurred from the same missing section of roof edge at the eastern gable as recorded in the first survey. In total, 15 recordings were made, including nine for common pipistrelle, and six for unidentified bats - the recording of which was too faint to identify confidently to species level (being recorded at a distance from the site). Bat interest around Building A consisted predominantly of commuting for a small number of bats and foraging along the adjacent hedgerows and around an adjacent streetlight.

3.9.3 A bat activity plan is presented in Appendix D and raw data for observations is presented in Appendix E.

3.10 Roost Characterisation

3.11 Infrared Video Survey

3.11.1 In addition to active monitoring using bat detectors, an infrared camera was deployed on the dusk activity surveys as a night vision aid (NVA).



Plate A: Infrared Monitoring (NVA - Image quality)

3.12 Field Survey Details & Weather Conditions

Date	Timings (BST)		Notes, Sunset Times	Weather Conditions		
	Start	End		Variable	Start	End
20.05.2025	09.30	11.30	Preliminary Roost Assessment	Temp (°C)	18.1	21.1
				Cloud Cover (Oktas)	4	3
				Precipitation	Nil	Nil
				Beaufort Scale	F1	F1
29.06.2025	21.05	23.06	Dusk Activity Survey	Temp (°C)	21.3	15.6
				Cloud Cover (Oktas)	1	1
				Precipitation	Nil	Nil
				Beaufort Scale	F1	F0
12.08.2025	20.15	22.15	Dusk Activity Survey	Temp (°C)	24.0	18.0
				Cloud Cover (Oktas)	0	0
				Precipitation	Nil	Nil
				Beaufort Scale	F1	F0

Table 3.1: Field Survey Details and Weather Conditions

3.13 Additional Ecological Constraints (Results)

3.13.1 **Type of Constraint:** Access.

3.13.2 **Description of Constraint:** Internal access to the roof space was not possible due to poor access provision and structural instability of the derelict building.

3.13.3 **Implications and Mitigation:** This constraint restricted the opportunities for identifying physical evidence of bat occupation, such as droppings, staining, or feeding remains within the roof void. However, this limitation will be mitigated through vigilance during any future intrusive works and through the provision of additional surveys, specifically dusk emergence and dawn re-entry surveys, should the Preliminary Roost Assessment categorisation warrant further investigation.

3.14 A Summary of Evidence

Survey Location	Species (Recorded)	Notes
Building A	Common pipistrelle Myotis spp.,	Droppings: No droppings were recorded inside Building A. Live sightings: During two dusk observations, two bats were recorded emerging from

		Building A. All other observations and recordings made were of bats commuting and foraging along tree lines and around the adjacent streetlight. Roost Type: Likely a day roost for common pipistrelle bats in small numbers (possibly two individual animals).
Table 3.2: Summary of Evidence		

3.15 Impact Assessment

- 3.15.1 Based on current known plans for Building A, and considering the results from the desktop survey, field survey and other available data, the following will likely apply (impacts are assessed in absence of mitigation).
- 3.15.2 Evidence was recorded for protected or priority species on-site during the survey. Based upon the results from the desktop survey and field survey, the uncompensated re-development potential impacts have been summarised as follows:
- The loss of a bat roost(s);
 - Direct injury/killing/disturbance of bats;
 - A reduction in the Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) of bats in the local area; and
 - An offence under relevant UK wildlife legislation, including: · The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); and
 - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations.
- 3.15.3 When the nature conservation significance of the site is considered against recognised criteria ('Bat Mitigation Guidelines 2004', 'Good Practice Guide: NRW Approach to Bats and Planning October 2015' and 'IUCN Red List of Threatened Species'), the nature conservation status of the site is assessed to be low, due to the presence of a day-roost for a small number of a common species (common pipistrelle bats - Least Concern – IUCN Red List). If unmitigated, the scale of this development is not considered to affect the local bat population, with a low risk of detrimental impacts to the conservation status at a local level. Two species were identified commuting/foraging near Building A; common pipistrelle, and an unidentified myotis (Least Concern – IUCN Red List).

SECTION FOUR: CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 **Evidence in small numbers:** During two dusk emergence surveys conducted between June and August of 2025, evidence was recorded of one bat species using Building A as a day roost – common pipistrelle. While the structure offers many PRFs no other species were recorded roosting at the site.
- 4.2 Of the 38 recordings made, two species were identified foraging and commuting near the site. The majority of observed behaviour was for animals foraging along the hedgerow and along the main service road (and streetlights). The vast majority of behaviour was for common pipistrelle – 31 of the 38 recordings were for this species.
- 4.3 The proposed works will impact the whole structure including the roof and will directly impact the roost and roost entrances.
- 4.4 All bat species and their places of rest are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. The legal protection for bats concerns impacts from disturbance, loss of roost locations, modifications to roosts and loss of access or obstruction to roost locations. As impacts of this nature will arise during the proposed works, a European Protected Species (EPS) licence will be required from NRW before any work commences which affects the roosts and the bat exit/entry points. In the event that works do not start within two years of the original survey (i.e., August 2027) further survey and assessment will be necessary to qualify the results of this report and its recommendations. If at any point during works a protected

species is encountered on-site, it is essential that all work is to cease and that a suitably experienced ecologist is contacted for advice.

- 4.11 As pipistrelle species are known to hibernate in buildings, a precautionary approach will be followed with reference to the wall plate, lintels, window frames and any exposed cavities for any works conducted during the winter months (October to April inclusive).
- 4.11 Building A supports features that could be exploited by nesting birds, e.g., house sparrows (*Passer domesticus*). A cautionary approach is recommended, in particular with reference to the bargeboards.

SECTION FIVE: RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Based on the results of this report, it is recommended that the following conditions be included in the plans:
- 5.2 **Recommendation 1 (Applying for an EPS Licence):** The structure supports a day roost for common pipistrelle bats in small numbers (x2). Bats and their breeding sites and resting places are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019. Where these species are present and a development proposal is likely to contravene the legal protection, they are afforded, the development may only proceed under licence issued by NRW, having satisfied the three requirements set out in the legislation. A licence may only be authorised if:
- The development works to be authorised are for the purpose of preserving public health or safety, or for 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; and,
 - The action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.
- 5.3 Subject to planning consent being granted by the local planning authority, an EPS licence will be required to facilitate the proposals. The EPS licence is issued under Regulation 55 of the Habitats Regulations by NRW. Once the planning application has been approved, the applicant must appoint a suitably qualified ecologist, known as the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECW), to prepare;
- European Protected Species Licence - Application form
 - European Protected Species Licence - Method Statement
 - The application form and method statement are prepared to detail how the requirements of the Habitats Regulations will be met for managing the effects on bats during the renovation works. In addition, the applicant is also required to collate and pass on to the appointed ecologist the following documents:
 - A copy of the 'Local Planning Authority Decision Notice.'
 - A copy of either the Delegated Decision report or committee meeting minutes (whichever format was used to approve the planning application).
 - Local Planning Authority Consultation Form.
 - Architects' drawings containing the location of the bat mitigation measures (detailed below), any proposed external lighting and any proposed changes to the landscaping around the development.
- 5.4 Once the planning application has been approved, it is advised that the ecologist is engaged as early as possible as there can be a waiting time of approximately 40 working days / 8 calendar weeks for NRW to process the application, in addition to the time it takes to prepare and collate the documents. NRW now charge for issuing an EPS licence, but the exact charge is assessed on a case-by-case basis. It is not possible at this time to indicate what any likely charge might be.
- 5.5 **Additional Survey:** No further survey is recommended at this time. If works do not start within two years (i.e., August 2027) further survey may be necessary to qualify the roost status and recommended

adaptations (if required) to the mitigation measure detailed below.

- 5.6 **Timing of Works:** The day roosts identified at the structure are considered to be of low conservation significance (Reason, P.F. and Wray, S. (2025) with breeding bats, not a concern. The main concern is absolute harm to the bats themselves, which will be mitigated by the presence of a licenced Ecological Clerk of Works (ECW) and the provision of temporary roosting opportunities. As pipistrelle species are known to hibernate in buildings, a precautionary approach will be followed with reference to the wall plate, lintels, window frames and any exposed cavities for any works conducted during the winter months (October to April inclusive). Work will either be avoided during the winter months (October to April inclusive) or will be conducted in line with a method statement under direct supervision by a suitable experienced and licenced person. All works must be undertaken during daylight hours with no use of artificial light at night.
- 5.7 **Order of Works:** Appropriate works for the development at the building will include:
- The provision of a temporary roosting location prior to works commencing.
 - The capture/exclusion of bats at the start of works.
 - The modification/replacement of existing roosts.
 - The creation of a new roost.
 - Provision of appropriate external lighting.
- 5.8 **Capture/Exclusion of Bats & the Start of Work:** An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECW) will need to be appointed to advise the best location for the new bat roosts, the temporary bat boxes and features of mitigation. The ECW will also provide a toolbox talk to the building contractor on the specific requirements relating to bats and will remain on-site during specific works such as the erection of scaffolding, if applicable, and stripping of bat roost features. They will also be on-site when the roosts are to be modified, creation of new roosting features and prior to the strike of scaffolding, to inspect the placement and suitability of new roosting features.
- 5.9 Once scaffolding has been erected or a cherry-picker/telehandler is on-site, the ECW will attend the site to apply exclusion devices (if required) to the known roosting locations, in the form of a one-way gate using acetate sheets, bubble wrap or other effective material. Works may commence the day after, following a toolbox talk given to all site workers by the ECW about bats and bat behaviour. Due to the complexity of the site and numerous roosting locations available the ECW will need to be present during removal of materials from significant areas of the building including roofing materials at the eaves. At the same time that the exclusion devices are affixed, two Beaumaris Bat boxes¹, or similar artificial roost(s) should be installed on mature trees (or a pole) within the curtilage of the owner's property, providing access to the adjacent habitat. This is with the purpose of providing temporary roosting habitat for species such as pipistrelle. If necessary, bats can be relocated from here and have access to several suitable buildings within the local area. In general, bats seek warm places, and for this reason boxes should be located where they will receive full/partial sun, although installing features in a variety of orientations will provide a range of climatic conditions. Position boxes at least 3m (ideally 6m) above ground to prevent disturbance from people and/or predators. The most suitable location will provide a southern aspect. The ECW will advise on the suitable locations for the boxes, which may include the installation of a free-standing pole, such as those used with, 'Rocket Bat Boxes'² (The Nestbox Company).
- 5.10 Works may start with the stripping of the barge boards and roofing materials, to expose the roosts and to discourage further roosting activity by bats. The activity must be undertaken with a sympathetic approach where all roof coverings, barge boards will be removed carefully, by hand, i.e., lifting vertically to prevent scraping. When all roosting features have been removed, works may proceed without supervision by the ECW. In the unlikely event that a bat is discovered during a time when the ECW is not present on-site, all works must cease, and the ECW contacted for advice before proceeding.

¹ https://www.wildcare.co.uk/beaumaris-bat-box.html?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjw65-zBhBkEiwAjqRMLWbfTavFlgGTv2ry0OGQEWnqN0eVseleG460NUffHmj6NAF2TeGZhoCsKEQAvD_BwE

² <https://www.nestbox.co.uk/products/eco-rocket-bat-box>

- 5.11 **The Creation of a New Roost:** As day roosts for common pipistrelle bats will be destroyed during works, provision must be made to the proposed structures to provide suitable features post-development. This will include the retention of the two temporary roosting boxes, and the inclusion of integrated bat boxes on the southern/western elevations (e.g., Integrated Eco Bat Box³ – or similar).
- 5.12 **Recommendation 2 (Nesting Birds):** All nesting birds, their chicks' eggs and active nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). If a nest is discovered during works and is active, it must be left undisturbed until all the chicks have fledged. If any features associated with nesting birds are required to be altered during the bird breeding season, then a further inspection by a suitably qualified ecologist is required no more than 24 hours before this process commences. If an active nest is found by a site inspection, an exclusion zone around the nest will be necessary to preserve this feature until the chicks have fledged the nest.
- 5.13 These measures will allow the development to conform to current protective legislation as laid out in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (plus amendments)⁴.
- 5.14 **Recommendation 3 (Enhancement features)** Implementation of the enhancement features for net-gain biodiversity as outlined in Section Six (below).

SECTION SIX: BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT

- 6.1 In accordance with the provision of Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (Distinctive and Natural Places) and Local Planning Policy; biodiversity enhancement measures should be incorporated into the landscaping scheme of any proposed works to maximise the ecological value of the site.
- 6.2 **Enhancements Features:** Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, public authorities (including local councils and the National Parks), 'must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions; in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.' This replaces the section 40 duty in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act 2006), in relation to Wales, which states that; 'All public authorities have a statutory duty to conserve biodiversity in all of their functions.'
- 6.3 Local authorities are legally required to make efforts to protect and enhance wildlife and its habitat and this is executed, in part, through the requirement of an ecological assessment for planned development sites and, therefore, we recommend the following principles of design should be followed.
- 6.4 **Enhancement for Bats:** In line with the National Planning Policy Framework, the development should aim to enhance the site for bats. One artificial roost should be installed as high as possible on the southern (or southwestern) elevation of each new unit of the newbuild property; for the purpose of providing a roosting habitat for crevice dwelling species such as pipistrelle bat (e.g., Integrated Eco Bat Box⁵ – or similar).
- 6.5 **Enhancement for Birds:** This area is to be enhanced to provide additional opportunities for breeding birds. One 1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace⁶ (or similar) be attached to the northern/eastern elevation of each new unit, as high as possible, facing north or northeast. The nesting boxes must be of a woodcrete construction to ensure longevity.
- 6.6 **Implementation and Maintenance:** The owner will be responsible for the implementation of these

³ <https://www.nestbox.co.uk/products/integrated-eco-bat-box>

⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>

⁵ <https://www.nestbox.co.uk/products/integrated-eco-bat-box>

⁶ [https://www.nhbs.com/low-visibility-woodstone-nest-](https://www.nhbs.com/low-visibility-woodstone-nest-box?bkfno=266260&ca_id=1495&adlocale=uk&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjAs5i8BhDmARIsAGE4xHwiHLu8WP7vkUqfAZoKOG_cA9fl_vaD1olk8ZvXt7bVfKn3txQfYl8aAu4AEALw_wcB)

[box?bkfno=266260&ca_id=1495&adlocale=uk&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjAs5i8BhDmARIsAGE4xHwiHLu8WP7vkUqfAZoKOG_cA9fl_vaD1olk8ZvXt7bVfKn3txQfYl8aAu4AEALw_wcB](https://www.nhbs.com/low-visibility-woodstone-nest-box?bkfno=266260&ca_id=1495&adlocale=uk&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjAs5i8BhDmARIsAGE4xHwiHLu8WP7vkUqfAZoKOG_cA9fl_vaD1olk8ZvXt7bVfKn3txQfYl8aAu4AEALw_wcB)

enhancement and the ongoing maintenance of the enhancement features in perpetuity. Should any feature fail or become damaged, it will be promptly replaced.

SECTION SEVEN: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

7.1 ENCOUNTERING A PROTECTED SPECIES DURING WORKS

- 7.1.1 If at any point during works a protected species is encountered on-site, it is essential that all work is to cease and that a suitably experienced ecologist is contacted for advice.

7.2 EXPIRATION OF THIS REPORT

- 7.2.1 This report is valid for two years. In the event that works do not start within two years of the survey date (i.e., August 2027) further survey and assessment will be necessary to qualify the results of this report and its recommendations.

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The Wildlife and Countryside Act. (1981). The primary legislation protecting wildlife in Great Britain. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents>.

Appendix A: Site Location

Date: August 2025

Produced by: Little Wing Ecology

Our Reference: LT318-PEA-25

Author: N S Aldridge

Legend

- Site location



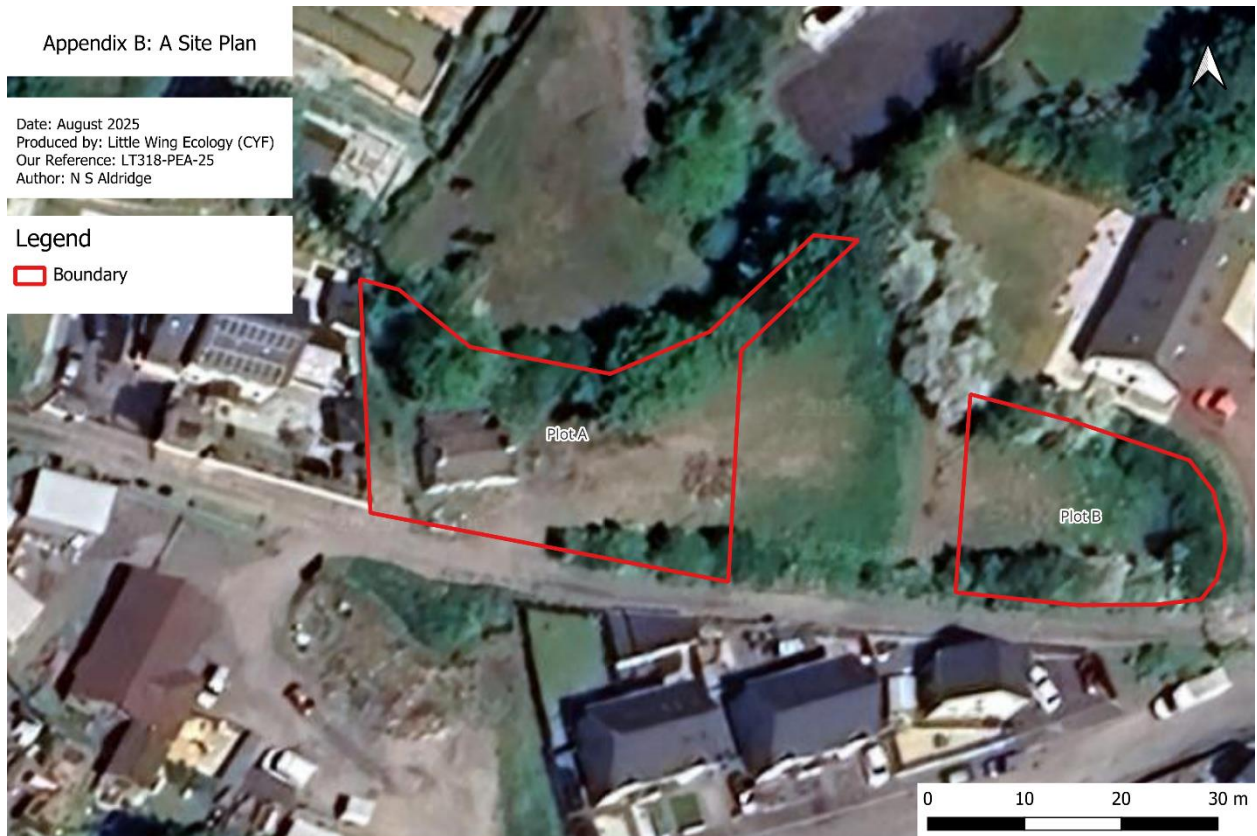
QGIS Development Team, <2025>. QGIS Geographic Information System. Open-Source Geospatial Foundation Project.

Appendix B: A Site Plan

Date: August 2025
Produced by: Little Wing Ecology (CYF)
Our Reference: LT318-PEA-25
Author: N S Aldridge

Legend

Boundary



QGIS Development Team, <2025>. QGIS Geographic System. Open-Source eospatal Foundation Project.

Appendix C: PRA & Daytime Bat Walkover (Photography)

	
Exterior – Southern elevation - multiple PRFs recorded.	Exterior – Western elevation - multiple PRFs recorded.
	
Exterior – Northern elevation - multiple PRFs recorded.	Exterior – Eastern elevation - multiple PRFs recorded.
	
Exterior – PRF – Raised ridge tiles	Exterior – PRF – Multiple raised tiles

	
Exterior – PRF – Broken roof panel	Exterior – PRF – Missing roof edge
	
Exterior – PRF – Missing roof edge	Exterior – PRF – Missing tiles – hole in roof
	
Interior – No physical evidence of roosting was recorded.	Interior – restricted access to small loft space. Some portions of bitumen and breathable membrane were visible.

Appendix D: Meet our Survey Team

Nic Aldridge (NA) is an ecologist with Little Wing Ecology and the author of this report. He is a licensed bat worker (S091427/1) with over 20 years' experience in education and conservation and over eight years' experience surveying built-structures, open habitats, and woodlands for bats. Following a degree in Botany and Zoology, Nic completed an MSc in Wildlife Management, Conservation and Control at the University of Reading. He has practical experience in field-based research with a focus on invertebrate and vegetation diversity and producing phase 1 habitat surveys and habitat management plans. He is experienced in hand netting common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle from maternity roosts, has carried out the ringing of Daubenton's bats as part of a multi-year project on the species and has undertaken monitoring work on several important lesser horseshoe bat roosts. Nic writes EPS licence applications, ecological reports and provides Ecological Clerk of Works services. He has attended courses with the Bat Conservation Trust to improve his knowledge and skills and has led voluntary projects to develop habitats and collect species data. Nic founded Little Wing Ecology in 2021 as a not-for-profit, to use the skills and expertise of an ecological consultancy to work with the local community, support local conservation projects and provide training and education for the next generation of ecologists.
Elizabeth Winstanley (LW) is a Nature Recovery Officer with a large Conservation Organisation, and a wildlife surveyor with Little Wing Ecology. She has over ten years' experience working in practical conservation. Following a degree in Outdoor Education, Liz volunteered with The Wildlife Trust before taking on her current responsibilities. She has held her current position since 2015. During this time, Liz has undertaken numerous surveys and monitoring projects, including work on butterfly transects, phase 1 habitat surveys, reptile and amphibian surveys, upland monitoring, BTO bird box round, intermediate tree survey and inspection, dormouse training and recording, bumblebee conservation – bee walks and many more. Currently Liz is responsible for the management of seven Nature Reserves including four SSSIs. Liz has also attended several training sessions to develop her knowledge, understanding and practical skills in bat monitoring and bat ecology.
Tracey Cotterell (TC) is employed by the NHS as a Porter and a wildlife surveyor with Little Wing Ecology. Tracey has a lifelong love of nature and enjoys spending her spare time volunteering with organisations such as The Welsh Wildlife Trusts, Blaenavon Heritage and the TRF (Trail Riders Fellowship). She enjoys being outdoors, whether in a working capacity or for personal interest such as running, riding, or surfing. She has volunteered throughout her life in roles as varied as an NHS First Responder, to working for the Wildlife Trust. During this time, she has gained skills in volunteering with environmental conservation matters, and through being a signaller in a search and rescue team. Tracey enjoys the responsibility of conserving the surrounding environment, learning, and helping to regulate human activities to minimise direct and indirect negative impacts on both flora and fauna. Tracey has also attended several training sessions to develop her knowledge, understanding and practical skills in bat monitoring and bat ecology.
Yvette Amos (YA) is a wildlife surveyor with Little Wing Ecology. She has a lifelong love of nature and enjoys spending her spare time and vacations centred around nature and wildlife focused destinations. Yvette enjoys being outdoors, where she expresses her love of photography along with her interest in the natural world. She is experienced in data collection at a high level, having formerly worked for Cardiff University, School of Social Sciences and Computer Science. Yvette has attended several training sessions to develop her knowledge, understanding and practical skills in bat monitoring and bat ecology and is dedicated to gaining experience in nature conservation, wildlife management and ecology.
Richard Farr (RF) is a wildlife surveyor with Little Wing Ecology. Richard has a life-long love of nature and has previously worked with the Gwent Wildlife Trust, where he gained a wide set of practical skills and experiences which have developed his knowledge and understanding of ecology and conservation at a range of the Trust's Local Nature Reserves. He has recently completed his bachelor's degree in ecology and conservation science at the University of the West of England (UWE), which has allowed him to develop knowledge and skills in numerous areas including field/survey techniques, geographical information systems, consultancy, habitat management/identification, data collection, data analysis using software such as RStudio. He has attended multiple training sessions to further develop skills and knowledge in bat monitoring, bat ecology, conducting surveys and associated reports.
Libby Cotterell (LC) is a full-time student and a wildlife surveyor with Little Wing Ecology. She has a lifelong love of nature and the outdoors and enjoys learning new skills and engaging in practical work, in order to have a positive impact on local conservation issues. Libby has attended several training sessions with Little Wing Ecology to develop her knowledge, understanding and practical skills in bat monitoring and bat ecology.
Elise Winstanley (ELW) is a full-time student and a wildlife surveyor with Little Wing Ecology. She previously ran a college newspaper and is committed to community engagement - both in her academic life and in the local community, as shown by her willingness to integrate herself into the towns of both Ebbw Vale and Lampeter. Elise is currently studying creative writing and has a keen interest in nature and habitat preservation. She has attended several training sessions with Little Wing Ecology to develop her knowledge, understanding and practical skills in bat monitoring and bat ecology.
Nadine Morgan (NM) is a County Ecologist with a Local Authority and wildlife surveyor with Little Wing Ecology, with over 15 years' experience of working in conservation. Following a degree in Physical Geography, Nadine volunteered with a Wildlife Trust and with the Countryside Team in a Local Authority before becoming employed in a Local Authority as a Biodiversity Officer. She held this position since 2010 before taking on the role of County Ecologist in 2020 and has held this position since. She has been a Full member of CIEEM since 2022. During this time responsibilities have included, delivering environmental education, working with community groups, carrying out practical conservation on several Local Nature Reserves, conducting ecological surveys on Phase 1 Habitats, reptile & amphibian, curlew monitoring and also bat surveys. The results of surveys have been used to inform the writing of ecological management plans for several sites. Nadine has attended many ecological training sessions to enhance her knowledge and skills.
Sam Haycock (SH) is a founding director of Little Wing Ecology and a commercial assurance executive with a national company. Sam has over 20 years' experience in the education sector and four years' experience managing two rural enterprise companies, of which she was a director for three years. She brings a broad range of interdisciplinary skills to her role at Little Wing Ecology where she has responsibility for editing, reviewing, data management and finances. In 2021, Sam became a founding director of Little Wing Ecology, as a social enterprise, that aims to use the skills and expertise of an ecological consultancy, to work with the local community, support local conservation projects and provide training and education for the next generation of ecologists and conservationists.

Appendix E: Species potential defined by integrating national guidelines e.g. Hundt 2012

Confirmed Presence	Species recorded to be present during the survey. Evidence of species is recorded during the survey.
High	Buildings, trees or other structures with features of interest for use by protected species are recorded e.g. nesting habitat, roosting opportunities and/or ponds. Habitat with high quality foraging opportunities e.g. broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed grassland. The site is connected to the wider landscape by strong linear features that have the potential to be used by commuting species e.g. a river, stream and/or hedgerows. The site is close to known locations of recorded protected species.
Medium	Several potential habitat opportunities in buildings, trees or other structures recorded during the survey. Habitat could be used for foraging e.g. trees, shrubs, grassland and/or water. The site is connected to the wider landscape by linear features that could be used by commuting species e.g. lines of trees, scrubs or linked back gardens.
Low	A small number of less significant features are recorded. Isolated habitat suitable for foraging e.g. a lone tree or patch of scrub. An isolated site which is not connected by significant linear features in the landscape.
Negligible	No suitable habitats observed.

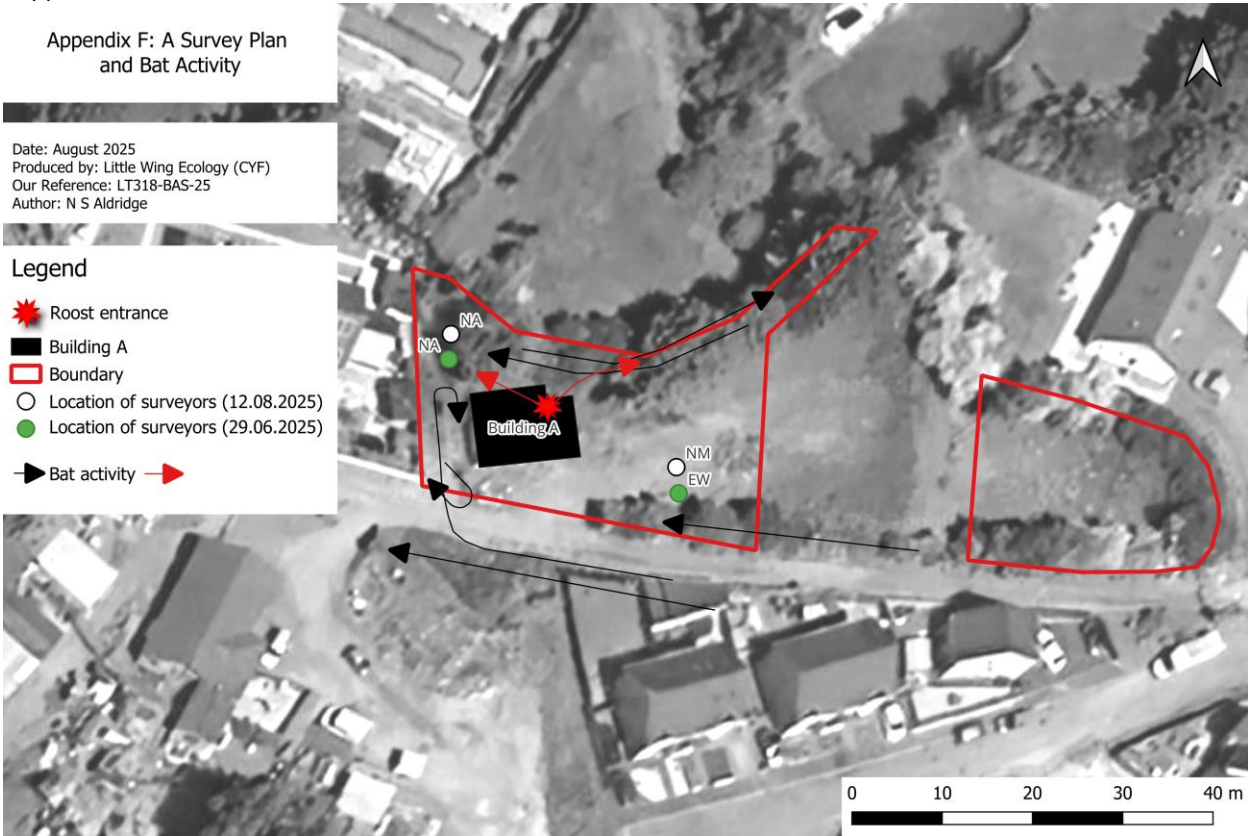
Appendix F

Appendix F: A Survey Plan
and Bat Activity

Date: August 2025
Produced by: Little Wing Ecology (CYF)
Our Reference: LT318-BAS-25
Author: N S Aldridge

Legend

- ★ Roost entrance
- Building A
- Boundary
- Location of surveyors (12.08.2025)
- Location of surveyors (29.06.2025)
- Bat activity



QGIS Development Team, <2025>. QGIS Geographic System. Open-Source eospacial Foundation Project.

Appendix G: Activity Survey – Recordings (Raw data)

DATE	Time (start)	Time (end)	SPECIES (COMMON)	No	Surveyor's Position	OBSERVER'S NAME	COMMENT	CLASS OF SITE
29.06.2025	22.08	22.08	Common pipistrelle	1	West	Nic Aldridge	Emergence	Day roost
29.06.2025	22.41	22.44	Common pipistrelle	2	West	Nic Aldridge	Foraging	Foraging
29.06.2025	21.37	22.38	Common pipistrelle	7	West	Nic Aldridge	Commuting	Commuting
29.06.2025	21.59	22.43	Common pipistrelle	2	West	Nic Aldridge	Heard-not-seen	
29.06.2025	22.17	22.17	Myotis spp.	1	West	Nic Aldridge	Commuting	Commuting
29.06.2025	22.17	22.43	Common pipistrelle	7	East	Elizabeth Winstanley	Foraging	Foraging
29.06.2025	21.32	22.00	Common pipistrelle	2	East	Elizabeth Winstanley	Commuting	
29.06.2025	21.44	21.44	Common pipistrelle	1	East	Elizabeth Winstanley	Heard-not-seen	
12.08.2025	21.22	21.22	Common pipistrelle	1	West	Nic Aldridge	Emergence	Day roost
12.08.2025	21.29	22.06	Common pipistrelle	3	West	Nic Aldridge	Foraging	Foraging
12.08.2025	20.57	21.13	Common pipistrelle	3	West	Nic Aldridge	Commuting	Commuting
12.08.2025	21.00	21.56	Common pipistrelle	2	West	Nic Aldridge	Heard-not-seen	
12.08.2025	21.26	21.26	Chiroptera	1	West	Nic Aldridge	Emergence	Day roost
12.08.2025	21.23	21.23	Chiroptera	1	East	Nadine Morgan	Emergence	Day roost
12.08.2025	21.48	21.48	Chiroptera	2	East	Nadine Morgan	Foraging	Foraging
12.08.2025	20.57	20.57	Chiroptera	1	East	Nadine Morgan	Commuting	Commuting
12.08.2025	21.03	21.03	Chiroptera	1	East	Nadine Morgan	Heard-not-seen	

Appendix H: Bat Friendly Lighting Scheme

Bat sensitive lighting schemes must follow advice details in 'Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK: Technical Guidance Note 08/23' (2023), available here: <https://www.bats.org.uk/news/2023/08/bats-and-artificial-lighting-at-night-ilp-guidance-note-update-released>

A lighting plan is required to prevent any adverse impact upon the potential roosting, commuting and foraging habitats of bats adjacent to the Site (post development), specifically on the nearby mature trees. Lighting for the site must be functional and directional only and kept to a minimum, servicing the public areas of the proposed development (as required for safety and security). It must be achieved using baffles and screens, if necessary, to ensure no light spill on any retained or planted vegetation (including off-site vegetation - where there is a potential to impact animals using the nearby habitat features).

- A sensitive lighting scheme is recommended and must be created. The sensitive lighting scheme must follow advice detailed in 'Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK: Technical Guidance Note 08/23' (2023) and comprise of:
- Light fixtures, filaments, light spill and artificial light must be directed away from bat roost entrances, both existing and those to be created as part of the mitigation;
- Luminaries are to be LED only, due to their sharp cut-off, lower intensity, good colour rendition and dimming capability. Luminaires must have a warm white spectrum (ideally <2700 Kelvins), reducing the blue light component and increasing the red-light component;
- Luminaries must feature peak wavelength highs of 550nm to avoid the component of light most disturbing to bats;
- Heights of fixtures must be carefully considered to minimise light spill. Only luminaries with an upward light ratio of 0% and with good optical control must be used;
- Luminaries must always be mounted on the horizontal, i.e., no upward tilt;
- Any external security lighting must be set on motion sensors and short (15 second) timers;
- As a last resort, accessories such as baffles, hoods or louvres must also be used, with light directed away from any natural features and must not encroach outside the Site boundaries, particularly the surrounding trees, hedgerows, and other vegetation in the landscape.



CYFYNGIADAU

Mae Little Wing Ecology (CYF) wedi paratoi'r Adroddiad hwn at ddefnydd y Cleient neu ei Asiantau uchod yn unig yn unol â'n telerau busnes, y cyflawnwyd ein gwasanaethau oddi tanynt. Ni roddir unrhyw warant arall, wedi'i mynegi neu ei hawgrymu, ynghylch y cyngor proffesiynol sydd wedi'i gynnwys yn yr Adroddiad hwn nac unrhyw wasanaethau eraill a ddarperir gennym ni. Ni all unrhyw barti arall ddibynnu ar yr Adroddiad hwn heb gytundeb ysgrifenedig penodol ymlaen llaw gan Little Wing Ecology (CYF).

Mae'r asesiadau a wnaed yn rhagdybio y bydd y safle(oedd) a'r cyfleusterau yn parhau i gael eu defnyddio i'w pwrpas presennol heb newid sylweddol. Mae'r casgliadau a'r argymhellion yn yr Adroddiad hwn yn seiliedig ar wybodaeth a ddarparwyd gan eraill ac ar y dybiaeth bod yr holl wybodaeth berthnasol wedi'i darparu gan y partïon hynny y gofynnwyd amdani. Nid yw gwybodaeth a gafwyd gan drydydd partïon wedi'i dilysu'n annibynnol gan Little Wing Ecology (CYF).

Cynhyrchwyd gan:

Rhif cwmni:

Cyfeiriad:

E-bost:

Ffôn:

Little Wing Ecology (CYF) (Cwmni Di-elw Cyfyngedig trwy Warant)

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About Us

Little Wing Ecology is a not-for-profit ecological consultancy based in the South Wales Valleys. Specialising in bat surveys for housing developments, and providing a wide range of ecological services, it provides appropriate expertise on behalf of a range of clients.

We are a small ecological consultancy dedicated to providing an easy-to-use and jargon-free service.

We produce the following products:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
- Preliminary Roost Assessment
- Bat Surveys
- Mitigation Planning
- Green Infrastructure Statements
- European Protected Species License Applications
- On-site Services to Support Planning Applications and Development
- eDNA Reports
- Reptile Surveys

As a Consultancy, we use our experience, expertise, and love of wildlife to provide an easy to access and pragmatic service, that upholds the highest standards of conservation.

As a Not-for-Profit Social Enterprise, we reinvest our profits. We work with valleys communities, conservation groups, local authorities, and other groups to support these three key areas:

A. Helping Nature

Developing and supporting habitat gain in the valleys through:

- Habitat improvement.
- Developing the built environment for the benefit of wildlife.
- Long-term monitoring projects for wildlife populations in the valleys.

B. Working with People

- Providing employment, training and voluntary opportunities for the local community and young people, to help them build their skills, develop a stronger relationship with nature and build confidence in themselves.

C. Supporting Communities

- Reinvesting in nature and people, locally.
- Supporting education within communities to promote a positive relationship between people and wildlife.
- Providing pro-bono surveys for worthwhile causes.

Adroddiad Arolwg gan



Cynhyrchwyd gan:
Rhif Cwmni:
Address:
e-bost:
Ffon:

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