

Biodiversity Enhancement Statement

Cefn Fforest Farm, Treharris | P/26/0160 and P/26/0161

1 Introduction

This statement accompanies the prior notification for demolition of the attached barn and associated structures at Cefn Fforest Farm and the separate application for a certificate of lawful proposed development relating to works to the retained farmhouse. It summarises the biodiversity measures set out in BE Ecological Ltd's Bat Activity Survey Report, Issue 2VB, dated 12 August 2026. The separate Ecological Technical Note, Issue 1VA, considers the wider site and provides precautionary methods for site clearance and demolition. The statement should be read alongside those reports and the plans prepared in support of this statement.

2 Survey findings

The bat survey recorded no bat emergence from the buildings and no bat calls from the static detectors placed within them. BE Ecological concluded that the buildings are not used as a day or night roost and that a European protected species licence is not required on the evidence obtained. Bats were nevertheless recorded foraging and commuting around the buildings and grounds. Two pairs of swallow were recorded nesting within the farmhouse. No evidence of barn owl was found.

3 Biodiversity measures

The scheme proposes two integrated bat boxes or bricks within the retained or extended farmhouse. In accordance with section 9.1 of the bat report, these would be installed at a height of at least 4 metres on suitable south, south east or south west facing elevations, away from external lighting. Their entrances and flight approaches would remain unlit.

The bat report also recommends a dark, covered night roost feature suitable for horseshoe bats, with unobstructed internal flight space and permanent flying access through an opening of at least 300 mm × 200 mm. The existing barn adjacent to the farmhouse, identified on the accompanying plans, is proposed as the location for this feature.

To provide replacement nesting opportunities for the two pairs of swallow, four artificial nest cups are proposed beneath suitable retained eaves. The report also proposes a one integrated house sparrow terrace at a height of at least 3 metres. The final arrangement for swallow access is shown on the accompanying plans.

4 Implementation

The bat report specifies that the proposed boxes and features should be in place before first occupation and retained and maintained thereafter. New external lighting would be downward directed and timer controlled, with no direct illumination of bat features or their flight approaches. Works affecting the buildings and vegetation should take place outside the bird nesting season of 1 March to 31 August inclusive unless a suitably experienced ecologist undertakes a check no more than 48 hours before work starts. Any active nest would be protected until the young have fledged. If a bat is found during the works, work in the affected area would cease pending ecological advice. Together, the agreed measures would provide permanent additional roosting and nesting opportunities.