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By E-mail Only

FAO Morgan Jones
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1 MANORAU, QUEENS ROAD, TWYNYRODYN, MERTHYR TYDFIL, CF47 0LY ECOLOGICAL SURVEY (SITE WALK-OVER)

Dear Mr Jones,

In order to inform the construction of a new dwelling in the side garden of the existing property and erect a shed to the rear of the existing dwelling, Stephen Shutt a suitably experienced bat licensed ecologist (NRW:S087708/1) conducted an ecological appraisal (site walkover) and preliminary bat roost assessment of the garage onsite in November 2020.

Site Location & Context

The application site is located within a housing estate and is situated on a corner plot, with Queens Road to the West, The Parade to the North and is approximately 0.05 ha. The estate mostly comprised of semi-detached dwellings, with some large detached dwellings and Thomastown Park approximately 100m to the north, which is part of the Thomastown conservation area. The largest habitat onsite is a domestic garden with mostly unkempt lawn, around 20m of defunct hedgerow and bare wire fence with several Ivy *Hedera helix* covered posts. The hedgerow mostly comprised of Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and Privet *Ligustrum ovalifolium*. No mature trees were present on the site.

The garage on site that is to be demolished, is of block construction with single skinned corrugated tin roof, metal facias, metal door and a boarded-up window in the rear. Some sparse ivy cover is present on the NE corner of the building.

Survey Method

To assess the types, extents and ecological significance of the existing habitats onsite, as well as the potential for buildings/trees/hedgerows to support roosting bats or nesting birds, a daytime walkover survey was conducted in November 2020.

During the Ecological Appraisal Survey, the garage and hedgerow were assessed for any potential for roosting/hibernating bats or nesting birds and main species noted in the garden area. As well as recording species compositions of different habitats, any evidence of protected and/or invasive species (such as Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica*) was also recorded.

Survey Findings

Desk Study

The local authority confirmed due to the small size of this site, no desk study was required.

Site Walkover

The results of the site walkover are summarised in the following sections, with further details provided in the enclosed photographs and proposed plan (see Appendix I & II).

Trees, Scrub and Hedges

No semi-mature or mature trees were present on site. A hedge approximately 20m in length, with gaps filled by interwoven sticks formed part of the boundary on the north side of the plot, along with a bare wire fence with four of the posts covered with Ivy. Scrub on site and species in the hedge included Blackthorn, Garden Privet, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, Ivy and Black Bryony *Tamus communis*. Whilst on site, the hedgerow was utilised by House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. The hedgerow has very little potential for nesting birds due to its gaps and lack of density.

Garden area and Garage

The garden area comprises of mainly unkempt lawn and an area of flagstones with vegetation growing in between the joints. Species noted were Barren Strawberry *Potentilla sterilis*, Common Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*, Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Dandelion *Taraxacum sp.*, Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Cocks Foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Common Couch *Elymus repens* and Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*.

The garage on the site that is to be demolished is of block construction with single skinned corrugated tin roof, metal fascias, metal door and a boarded-up window in the rear. Some ivy cover was present on the NE corner of the building. The inside of the garage contained various items including Heras fencing, wood, various tools, guttering etc with some Ivy growing in from the outside. No evidence of roosting bats or nesting birds was identified within the garage, and it was considered to have negligible potential for roosting bats or nesting birds, (See photos in Appendix 1).

Invasive Species

The survey did not identify any invasive species on site.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Trees, Scrub and Hedges (Bats and nesting Birds)

We recommend the scrub and hedgerow onsite are retained, as it provides foraging/nesting/breeding opportunities for bats, birds and insects. It is recommended that where possible the existing grassland is also retained at the site. (See additional plan provided by client)

Method Statement (Demolition)

- As a precaution, the garage should be checked by an NRW bat licenced ecologist no more than 48 hours prior to demolition for any signs of nesting birds or roosting bats, this check will include the Ivy on the north-east corner of the garage.
- The metal facias and corrugated sheets will be removed by hand.
- If any signs of bats are found, works must stop, the ecologist consulted, and an NRW bat mitigation licence applied for. If an active bird nest is found, the building and nest should be left until the Ecologist confirms the chicks have fledged and the nest is no longer active

Reptile Mitigation

- To minimise the risk to any reptiles, grass should be kept short with a mower and any arisings removed so as not to provide any reptile refugia. No materials should be left on the grass that could provide refugia for reptiles.
- Prior to demolition the works area including the area between the north facing wall and hedge in particular should be thoroughly checked by the site ecologist.
- If any reptiles are found, the ecologist will carefully move the reptile to suitable habitat/refugia away from the works area.

Habitat Enhancements and Recommendations

Gaps in the hedgerow would benefit from planting of native species such as Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Hazel *Corylus avellana*. It would be recommended to use similar species for the planting of shrubs around the rest of site, as well as incorporating other native shrubs that are dense, thorny and berry-producing species, such as Dog Rose *Rosa canina* and Holly *Ilex aquifolium* (See additional plan provided by client). This would provide greater nesting and foraging opportunities for commuting bird, bats and invertebrates. Insect refugia such as Bee/Ladybird hotel and Butterfly home will provide enhancements for invertebrates (See additional plan provided by client).

Finally, the incorporation of Sparrow bird boxes and Beaumaris bat boxes on the side of buildings would provide localised enhancements for these groups (See additional plan provided by client).

Bats

It is recommended that a bat box is installed either **under the eaves on the house, or under the apex of the newly built shed** at the property **away from artificial light sources**. Suitable bat boxes are detailed below. (See additional plan provided by client).

[Eco Kent Bat Box | NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment](https://www.nhbs.com/title?slug=eco-bat-box)

If possible, site the box at a height of between 4m and 6m in a sheltered sunny place, away from artificial light sources. The box should not be positioned in direct sunlight. A clear path to the entrance of the box is essential. **(Install on house).**

<https://www.nhbs.com/title?slug=eco-bat-box> (Cavity version)

The Eco Bat Box can be sited on a **shed or external wall** – it has three holes at the top of the box and a single hole at the base through which a nail or screws and wall plugs can be fitted. Boxes should be positioned as high as possible in a sheltered place. A clear path to the entrance of the box is essential

<https://www.nhbs.com/beaumaris-woodstone-bat-box?bkfno=231796>

Suitable for attaching to **external walls**. Boxes should be positioned as high as possible in a sheltered place. A clear path to the entrance of the box is essential

Birds

A sparrow terrace box should be attached to the **house** under the eaves of the property. Suitable sparrow terrace boxes are detailed below. (See additional plan provided by client).

<https://www.nhbs.com/sparrow-terrace-nest-box>

The boxes can be hung to fit the shape of any building: horizontally or vertically, diagonally to fit gable eaves or A-shaped for a gable apex. The Terrace should be installed in a sheltered location, out of direct sunlight, at least two to four metres off the ground making sure that there is a clear flight path to the nest. Boxes may also be sited directly under the eaves, but make sure that they are away from areas used by house martins.

<https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-woodstone-house-sparrow-nest-box?bkfno=210670>

The House Sparrow Nest Box can be integrated into the masonry of a new house or fixed onto an external wall using strong screws and wall plugs (not included). If possible, it should be positioned near to vegetation in a sheltered location, out of direct sunlight and at a minimum of 2m above ground.

We trust that this summary letter and enclosed photos provide sufficient detail to describe the existing site conditions with respect to habitats and protected species and also recommendations and enhancements for the site. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Chrispian Snell BSc (Hons) MCIEEM
Director

Enc:

Appendix I Site photographs
Appendix II Site Plan

APPENDIX I SITE PHOTOS

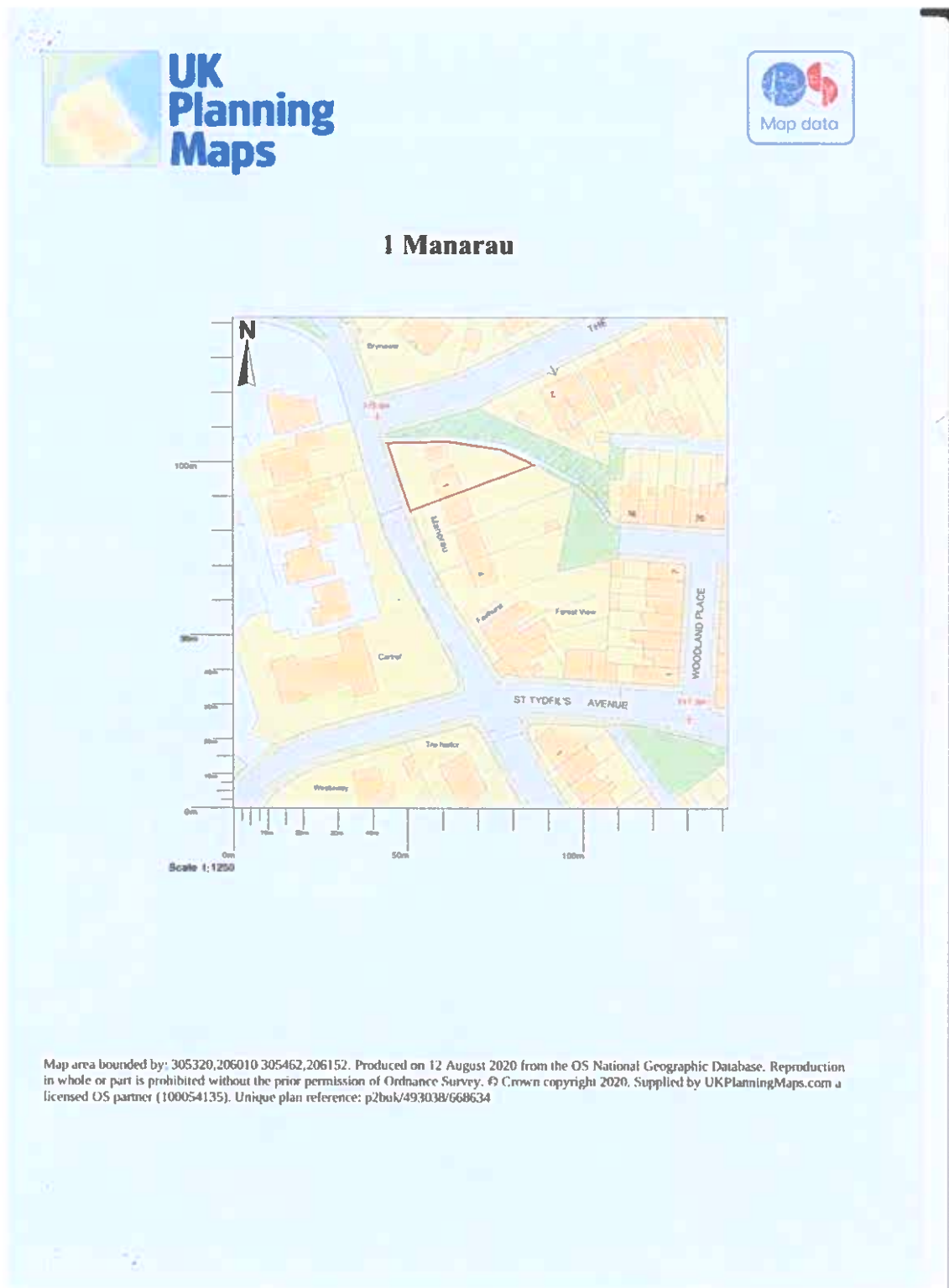
Garage



Garden and Hedgerow



APPENDIX II SITE PLAN



(1)

We're still open for business - read our Brexit (/brexit) and Covid-19 (/coronavirus) statements



Promotions

Equipment shop (/equipment) Bookstore

Practical Conservation Equipment (4/practical-conservation-equipment?q=8

Beaumaris Woodstone Bat Box



Select product Average customer



Midi
In stock
£31.45 
#231796



Maxi
In stock
£41.95 
#231797

Selected £31.45

product:

[About this product](#) | [Specification](#) | [Customer reviews](#) | [Related products](#)



 Additional images



~~Confidentiality and Integrity of Information: 9/11/2001 10:00:00 AM 2/2/2001 10:00:00 AM~~



Alternatives



Eco Bat (/eco-bat-box?bkfno=232523)
A hard-wearing bat
£34.99

Current promotions

About this product

This bat box is made entirely from Woodstone, a robust material comprising concrete and wood fibres. This means that, not only does the box have excellent insulating properties maintaining a more consistent temperature throughout the year, it also provides excellent protection from predators. The Beaumaris box has a single narrow cavity which makes it suitable for crevice roosting bats such as the common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Nathusius' pipistrelle, Brandt's bat and whiskered bat. The interior of the box has a rough surface for bats to cling to and the front of the box features a subtle but attractive imprint of a bat in flight.

Suitable for attaching to external walls and available in two sizes: the Midi and the Maxi.

Specification

Midi:

- * Height: 39cm
- * Width: 29cm
- * Depth: 6cm
- * Weight: 4.4kg

Maxi:

- * Height: 50cm



Google
Customer Reviews



Allow 2 - 3 days for delivery. [Details](#)



RSPB Sparrow terrace nest box

Product Code: R407816

£ 29.99

★★★★★ [Read all reviews](#)

SAVE £2 WHEN YOU BUY TWO PROMOTIONAL NEST BOXES!

- Add two promotional nest boxes to your basket to save £2
- Offer ends 6th July 2021 and is subject to availability
- Loyalty points can be collected/redeemed as usual
- Not available in conjunction with any other offer

Stock delay

We are sorry this product is currently out of stock. This is due to additional Covid-19 safety procedures and increased demand on our workshop. Please be assured we are doing all we can to restock as soon as possible.

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Ok, got it

Q

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Login or create an account (<https://www.greenhousesensation.co.uk/customer/account/login/>) to earn points.

Bee & Ladybird Houses



£20.00
Select sizes:

Choose from a variety
These beneficial insect
Bee Log - £20.00
Increase the flower, fruit
tubes, then fill the tubes



Butterfly & Bee Feeder - £7.90
& Ladybird Houses - From £22.50

will lay eggs in the

4.5 ★★★★★
Google
Customer Reviews

