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By E-mail Only

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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.

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*. This would provide greater nesting and foraging opportunities for commuting birds and bats.

Finally, the incorporation of Sparrow bird boxes and Beaumaris bat boxes on the side of buildings would provide localised enhancements for these groups.

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:

<i>Appendix I</i>	<i>Site photographs</i>
<i>Appendix II</i>	<i>Site Plan</i>

APPENDIX I SITE PHOTOS

Garage



Garden and Hedgerow





APPENDIX II SITE PLAN

