

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: David Cross
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278
Memo number: 2
Date of previous memo: -
Date: 01/02/2022

SUBJECT: P/21/0340 | CONVERSION OF BARN TO A DWELLING WITH A SINGLE STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSION AND OTHER ASSOCIATED ALTERATIONS | GOITRE COED FACH FARM GOITRE-COED ROAD TREHARRIS CF46 5BB

Report submitted in support of the above application:

- o Bat Survey Report. Goitre Coed Fach Farm Barn, Goitre Coed Road, Treharris, Quaker's Yard, Merthyr Tydfil, CF46 5BB. I&G Ecology Consulting Ltd. Version 1, Draft. Dated 18/10/21.

COMMENTS:

Report version

Report is a Draft version – a Final version is required.

Biodiversity data search

No data search has been undertaken, citing the small size, low predicted impact, and nature of the development. The CIEEM guidelines state *'The appropriateness of excluding a data search will need to be judged on a case-by-case basis as, in most situations, it will be essential to carry out such a search even if the development is very small or is likely to have a low impact. It can be very difficult to demonstrate that a data search would not have provided relevant information without obtaining and reviewing those data.'*

Without obtaining data, it cannot be known whether, for example, a structure has previously been identified as a roost.

A data search will not be requested in this instance, however, in future for this consultancy, excluding a data search must be agreed firstly by the LPA ecologist.

Hibernation suitability

Statement in Para 4.1.3, *'In relation to use of the property at different times of year by those species detected on site, Pipistrellus bats will use small cracks and crevices within cavity walls in a church roof or bell tower, a quiet place in a large house, a hollow tree, or rock crevice where small groups will form clusters. The species have a relatively flexible winter hibernation strategy and will fly when the weather is mild and will also use bat boxes to hibernate.'*

This is not a justification for the conclusion that the barn has very low suitability for hibernating pipistrelles.

As a precautionary measure therefore, works will be undertaken outside of the bat hibernation season. This must be stated within the method statement (Section 5).

Artificial lighting

Is artificial lighting planned? Can this be confirmed?

Recommendations

A further recommendation for bats will be added. Gaps will be left between any fascias, soffits, bargeboards and the stone walls of the barn in order to maintain some of the opportunities currently present.

Recommendation 3 will be amended to state that works will be undertaken outside of the bird breeding season. Confirming a nest to be vacant does not mean it is not in use by breeding birds. The nest could be in the process of being built for example.