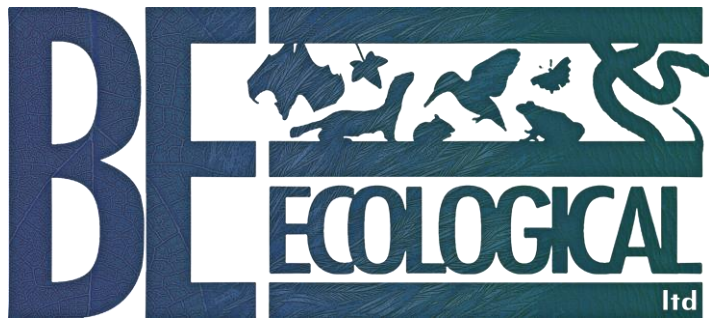




Technical Note

Subject	P/22/0175- Garages at Tramroad Side, Merthyr Tydfil		Date	30.09.22
Ref			Previous versions:	
Author	Beth Evans			
Reviewed	Beth Evans	Date	30.09.22	
Approved	Beth Evans	Date	30.09.22	

Dear Matthew Davies,

We are writing to you with regards to a letter, regarding a brief walk over, compensation measures and enhancements at the above site.

The habitat present is comprised of hard standing, buildings with amenity grassland with a short sward to the front of the site. The hard standing and small strip of amenity grassland are of minor ecological value due to its managed nature and low species diversity.

The buildings on site are typical garage buildings, single skinned with a flat roof excluding one that has a pitched metal roof. There are a small number of gaps at wall plate level. These were searched thoroughly from the exterior with no evidence of roosting bats found to be present. There is some ivy cover on some of the buildings, however, the ivy is relatively thin stemmed and not thought suitable for use by roosting bats. It is possible that the ivy will be used by nesting birds.

At the time of survey it was not possible to gain access into the interior of the buildings due to each garage being rented by different clients making access to the interior difficult. As a result of this due to the style and location of the buildings, it is considered unlikely that bats will use them, however, prior to any works commencing on the garages, a check of the interior will need to be undertaken prior to any works commencing. If at any point bats or evidence of bats are found, all works must cease and further surveys and a licence from Natural Resources Wales may become necessary.

No other evidence or potential for any other protected species was found on site

Due to the site's small size and current management, it is considered unlikely that there will be any impact on protected species.

Compensation/Enhancements

Bats

A Schwegler 1FF bat box will be attached to each garage as per Appendix 1 below. Should the 1FF prove difficult to source, an eco bat box (crevice box) <https://www.nhbs.com/title?slug=eco-bat-box> will be installed in its place. The bat box will not be illuminated and the eastern boundary of the site will remain unlit to allow bats to make use of the bat box undisturbed.

Birds

A Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace or the following <https://www.nhbs.com/sparrow-terrace-nest-box> will be attached to each garage as per Appendix 1 below.

Lighting

Bat boxes will not be directly illuminated. All external lighting will face downwards and be set on timers to ensure that bats can use the area should they wish. – In addition to this, any onsite lighting will conform to the following guidelines:

<https://theilp.org.uk/publication/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/>

All work will be undertaken in line with the following method statement and ecological supervision

Method Statement

1. A suitably licenced and experienced ecologist will be on site/call for the duration of the works.
2. Before any work begins on site, a briefing for contractors and other site-staff 'toolbox talk' will be given by an ecologist. The briefing will cover the issues in respect of protected species they may encounter on site, where they might find them, methods of working, and what they need to know to avoid committing an offence. Every briefing attendee will be provided with a copy of a Method Statement and the contact details of an ecologist and Natural Resources Wales.
3. Prior to works commencing the garage interiors will be thoroughly inspected by an appropriately qualified ecologist
4. Before any work commences, the ivy on the exterior of the buildings will be checked by the ecologist for the presence of bats and birds.
5. All suitable bat roosting features will need to be removed by hand (metal sheets) and inspected by the onsite bat ecologist.
6. The sheets will also need to be removed manually, one at a time, with the bed and underside inspected for bats/sign of bats by the onsite ecologist before moving onto the next.
7. Only when the onsite bat ecologist is happy that there is no further potential for bats, may he/she leave and the works continue with no supervision. A licensed bat ecologist will be on call for the remainder of the works. In the unlikely event that bats are found during a period that the licensed bat ecologist is not present on site, all works must cease and the licenced bat ecologist engaged.
8. If bats or their signs are found, a EPS licence may be required before works can legally resume.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you,

Beth Evans

Director/Principal Ecologist

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1:200 EXISTING SITE / 3 No. PLOTS LOCATION PLAN