



TECHNICAL NOTE (Ecological Assessment)

Subject	Twynnyroddyn Community School, Merthyr Tydfil	Date	04/06/24
Ref		Previous versions:	
Author	Beth Evans		
Reviewed	Beth Evans	Date	05/07/24
Approved	Beth Evans	Date	05/07/24

Dear Matthew,

We are writing in response to your request for an ecology assessment for P/24/0114, a proposed MUGA with fencing at Twynnyroddyn Community School, Merthyr Tydfil.

Proposed development



An ecological assessment was undertaken in June 2023 and again in June 2024 to assess the site for its potential to support protected species and any impact that may occur as a result of the proposed works. The MUGA will be situated on existing hard standing and will therefore not have any impact on flora and fauna as a result of the construction works. There may be indirect impacts in the form of site lighting should it not be adequately mitigated for.

There is a native species hedgerow along the northern boundary. Prior to the request for ecological information, a bat transect was undertaken in June 2023 prior to plans being confirmed.. The only species heard and seen were common and soprano pipistrelles. Approximately seven bats were seen throughout the course of the survey foraging and commuting high along the tree boundary to the north. The first bat heard and seen was approximately 20 mins post sunrise and seen heading towards the tree line from the east.

The trees on the northern boundary are relatively young and thin stemmed with no obvious bat roosting potential. No nesting birds were noted in the trees at the time of survey.



Figure 2: photograph of trees on northern boundary

Surveyor Information

The inspection survey was undertaken by Beth Evans. Beth is the owner of BE ECOLOGICAL LTD and has a postgraduate degree in Environmental Biology: Conservation & Resource Management, specialising in British bats.

Beth has 11 years' experience of ecological surveys, both in a small scale and large multi-disciplinary context. Beth also holds Natural Resources Wales and Natural England bat licences to disturb and handle bats. Beth was assisted during the activity surveys by Gavin Vella. Gavin is an experienced ornithologist and bat surveyor and works with a number of companies within the local area.

Conclusion & Recommendations

The site appears to be of low ecological value within the construction zone and direct impacts are considered unlikely. The only impacts are likely to be on foraging bats as a result of increased site lighting.

All site lighting must conform to the following guidance [Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting | Institution of Lighting Professionals \(theilp.org.uk\)](#). It is essential that the northern boundary is kept dark with 0.2 lux on the horizontal plane and 0.4 lux on the vertical plane.

The lights will be used no later than 6pm.

ENHANCEMENTS

In addition to this a sparrow terrace and a bat box will be mounted on the south western face of the school as per figure 3 below. The sparrow terrace will be the following <https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-woodstone-house-sparrow-nest-box>

The bat box will be the following https://www.nhbs.com/low-profile-woodstone-bat-box?bkfno=210689&ca_id=1495&adlocale=uk&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwx-CyBhAqEiwAeOcTdVQI9WLKZuqpfBLZM2BTwXrEjYT_v8hf0f0MPpAP_8S3H8nKzFivtBoC2U8QAvD_BwE

Both boxes will be mounted at least 3m in height, with the bat box positioned away from windows.

Both the bat and bird boxes will be erected prior to the construction of the MUGA.

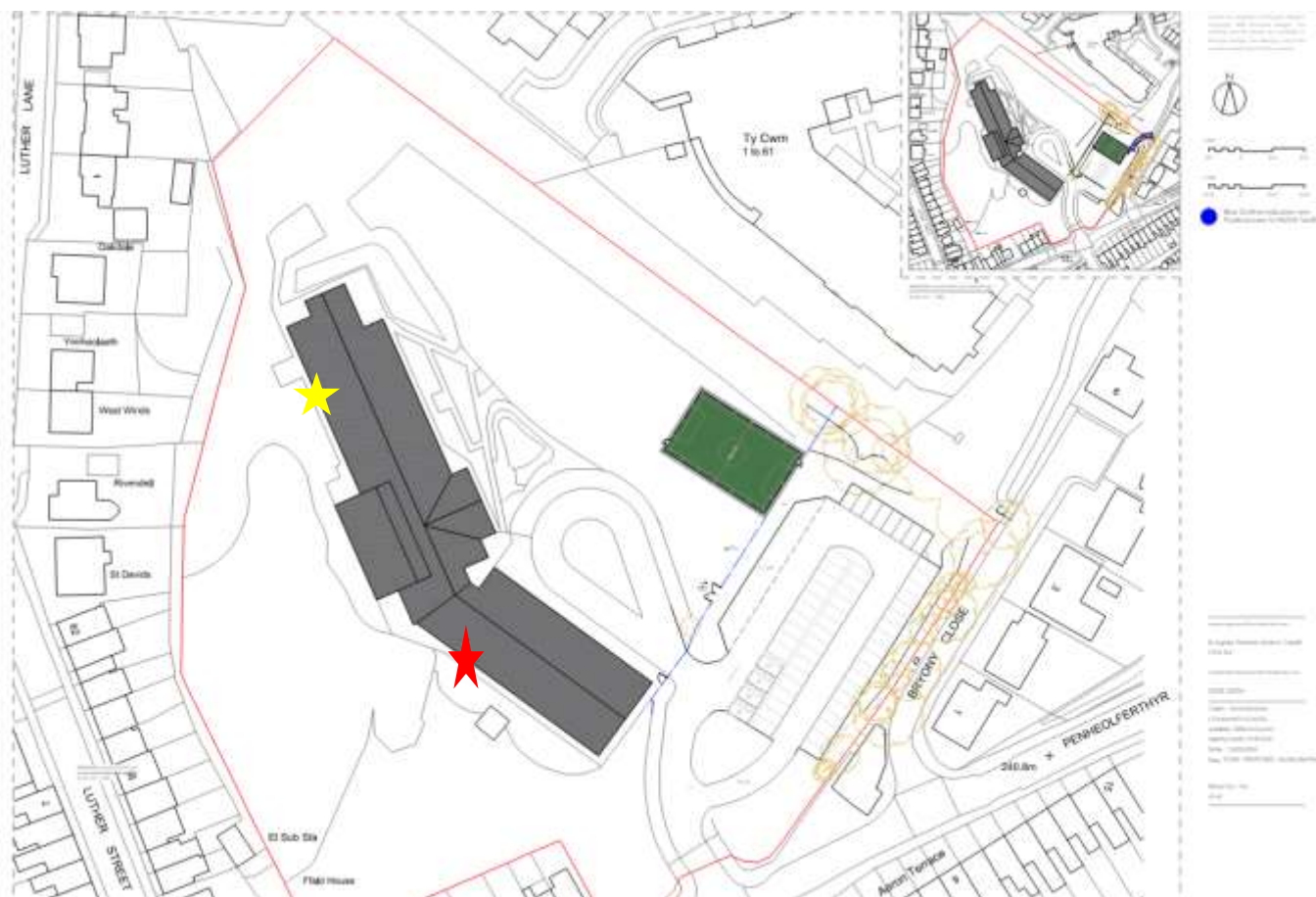


Figure 3: Location of bat (starred red) and bird boxes (starred yellow)

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

Beth Evans

Director/Principal Ecologist

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APPENDIX A- ASSESSMENT AGAINST POLICY -PLANNING POLICY WALES: STEPWISE APPROACH AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT

On the 11th October 2023, ahead of PPW12 being published, the new Chapter 6 came into force with immediate effect.

Net benefit must be secured via planning applications using the step-wise approach, including the acknowledgement of off-site compensation measures and the need to consider enhancement and long-term management. Green Infrastructure Statements will be used to demonstrate the step wise approach. The following information will be used in order to show compliance with policy.

Proposed Development: Proposed MUGA with fencing and flood lights

Site description: Hard standing area within a school with a tree line to the north that leads to scrub and broad-leaved woodland.

Surrounding Area description: The site is immediately adjacent to existing residential development. The wider landscape is made up of further residential development, associated infrastructure, intertwined with grassland, tree corridors and broad-leaved woodland.

Development Impacts: Loss of hard standing. Indirect impacts as a result of site lighting if not appropriately mitigated for.

Step wise approach

Step 1- Avoidance- Impacts have been avoided as far as possible by siting the MUGA on existing hard standing.

Step 2- Minimise- Impacts have been minimised by retaining all vegetation on the site and again erecting the MUGA on hard standing.

Step 3- Mitigate/Restore- Lighting impacts will be mitigated by ensuring that all lighting is in line with the ILP guidance. The lights will be turned off no later than 6pm with suitable bat habitat kept unlit (northern boundary).

Step 4- Compensation on site- Not required. The only habitat due to be affected by the construction process is hard standing.

Biodiversity Enhancements Proposed

A sparrow terrace and a bat box will be mounted on the south western elevation of the school as per figure 3 above. The sparrow terrace will be the following <https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-woodstone-house-sparrow-nest-box>

The bat box will be the following https://www.nhbs.com/low-profile-woodstone-bat-box?bkfno=210689&ca_id=1495&adlocale=uk&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwx-CyBhAqEiwAeOcTdVQi9WLKZuqpfBLZM2BTwXrEjYT_v8hf0f0MPpAP_8S3H8nKzFivtBoC2U8QAvD_Bw

The proposed scheme acknowledges the requirement to achieve a Net Benefit for Biodiversity and from the beginning this has been built into the planning of the project. It is recognised that the footprint of the scheme removes a limited amount of vegetation (trimming only) and the removal of an existing stone wall. Whilst the positive effects of replacing the existing collapsing wall are acknowledged, the applicant aims to deliver biodiversity enhancements at the local scale by offering the enhancements stated above on the site.

As result of the ecological measures within this report, it is expected that there will be a demonstrable net benefit for biodiversity. The vegetated habitats to be impacted have been identified as being of relatively low value, with impacts adequately mitigated on-site and net gain being achieved within the site.

