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| Subject | P/25/0151 - Erection of residential annexe - Y Goedwig, Cardiff Road, Treharris | Date | 30/07/25 |
| Ref | | | |
| Author | BE | | |
| Reviewed | BE | Date | 17/09/25 |
| Approved | BE | Date | 17/09/25 |

BE Ecological Ltd visited Y Goedwig, Cardiff Road, Treharris to undertake a brief walk over of the site for planning permission to erect a residential annexe. As part of the works, the drive will be extended and the retaining wall pushed back to accommodate it.

The building is a typical flat roof single skin garage. The roof comprises of asbestos and tin sheets. The wall plates are able to be seen from the interior of the building in places, the rest have the sheet material sitting on them so there is no gap present. The roof is unlined. Whilst there are some gaps beneath fascias, they are generally heavily cobwebbed with the underside able to be viewed. The garage is currently used for storage and is falling into a state of disrepair. No bats or evidence of bats or birds was noted throughout the survey. It is considered that providing the garage is dismantled in line with a method statement that no further surveys are required.

Presence/absence surveys were not deemed necessary. As the building is single skinned, any cracks would be visible and not concealed. There is no cavity present. As described above, those areas where there are suitable gaps for bats could be inspected. There was no restricted access to the building. It is very unlikely that evidence of bats had washed away, we have had the driest summer for some time and there had not been rain for a long time. There was no evidence of the garage being cleaned prior to survey. The garage had debris present on the floor, along with debris on the walls and cobwebs present. The work will be undertaken in line with a method statement and in the extremely unlikely event that bats are discovered, all works will cease and NRW consulted to avoid any offences being committed.



Plate 1- interior of garage



Plate 2- example of fascia and damage



Plate 3- metal strip/fascia where the gap beneath can be viewed



Plate 4- heavily cobwebbed fascia in places

The area where the annexe will be situated comprises of hard standing and early successional vegetation such as dock, thistle, grasses and rosebay willowherb on top of what appears to be crushed stone. It is possible that small numbers of reptiles may be present within this area, however, these are likely to be limited to small numbers of slow worm or common lizard should any be present



Plate 2- Area where annexe will be sited

The area of ground where the retaining wall will be repositioned currently comprises of bracken which has been strimmed to ground level. There is some ivy coverage on the wall and some dumped materials.



Plate 3- retaining wall

The client does not wish to manage the adjacent land to restore the ancient woodland.

Enhancements will be included within the design and GI statement. It is proposed to create 8no. flower beds within the curtilage to the front (south) of Y Goedwig, provide a large wildflower area to the south of the annexe, a pond to the south of Y Goedwig, as well as provide a native hedgerow along the western edge of the access leading to the site. This hedgerow will include native species of trees such as hazel, oak and holly

AI clearance will be undertaken in line with the method statements contained herein

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

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APPENDIX A- Method Statements

Reptiles and birds

1. All clearance will be supervised by a suitably experienced ecologist until such time as the ecologist states that direct supervision is not necessary.
2. The ecologist will be on call for the duration of clearance works.
3. All above ground vegetation and brash removal will preferentially be undertaken during the winter months i.e. between November and February inclusive. If this is not possible, all areas to be cleared must be subject of a finger-tip search by an ecologist immediately prior to and during any clearance work;
4. Should evidence of breeding birds, in particular nests, be recorded, no clearance may be undertaken within 5m of any nest site until such time as the nest is vacated naturally.
5. No spraying of vegetation to be carried out. Vegetation will be maintained close to ground using repeated cutting only. 1x Habitat pile will be added to an area on site remaining unaffected by the development. Materials already onsite (e.g., brash, logs) will be used to create the habitat pile.
6. Woody vegetation will be cleared (ONLY IF NECESSARY) to ground level using a chainsaw with all arisings stacked in unaffected areas NOT on areas of tall vegetation (over 300mm). Where necessary, stumps and roots will only be removed by machine (under ecological supervision) once the above ground clearance is complete.
7. All woody vegetation will be checked by the ecologist prior to cutting for the presence of bird nests.
8. Vegetation will be cut in three phases. The first phase will reduce the vegetation height to 150mm; the second will reduce it to ≈50mm; the third phase will reduce the height to as close to ground level as possible. All cuts will have a period of 24 hours between each cut. Vegetation will be raked and removed off site to ensure no additional habitat is added.
9. All vegetation cutting will be directional. This ensures that any animals present will be pushed from the site into retained land
10. After clearance, if the vegetation is allowed to regrow above 150mm high, it will be cut and raked as described above.
11. Where hibernaculum potential is identified by the supervising ecologist, all ground breaking including brash, log piles, stumps and root removal) will only be cleared during the

active season (March-October) while day time temperatures are consistently over 12°C for a period of at least seven days prior as otherwise hibernating reptiles may be killed or injured as a result of inconsistent (low) temperatures (during the day and night) and/or low prey availability. Potential hibernacula will only be dismantled by hand unless the supervising ecologist gives the approval for machine dismantling.

12. 1 If a bird's nest is observed on the site, the ecologist will assess it to determine whether or not it is active, the species concerned, the lifecycle state of any occupants and provide advice on next steps.

13. If reptiles are observed within the clearance area during the works, a decision on how to deal with them will be made on site in light of the conditions on site at the time and the state of the animals themselves. There are two options for dealing with them:

It may be possible to leave the animals alone to find their own way into cover, depending on where they are seen, what they are doing and their apparent activity levels; or

14. Should conditions allow, capture and translocate the animals to a safe area within retained land

Bats and birds (building)

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. Before any work commences, the building will be checked by the ecologist for the presence of bats and birds. If a birds nest is found, all works will cease until the young have left the nest of their own accord.

4. All suitable bat roosting features will need to be removed by hand (metal sheets) and inspected by the onsite bat ecologist.

5. 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.

6. 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

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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.

7. If bats or their signs are found, a EPS licence may be required before works can legally resume.