BAT SURVEY REPORT

HOOVER SITE, MERTHYR TYDFIL

For:

WALTERS

Project: Hoover Site, Merthyr Tydfil		
Project Number	K001	
Title	Bat Survey Report	
Document Number	K001- Bat Activity Report-V1.1	
Client	Walters	
Issue Date	29/09/2025	
Prepared by:	David Price - Consulting Ecologist 29/09/2025	

Executive summary

Site	1The immediate surrounding landscape is mainly industrial and commercial units. In the wider surrounding area there are residential areas, fields and wooded areas. The Cardiff to Merthyr railway line is adjacent to the west of the site. The River Taff is located on the far side of the railway line approximately 30m to the west of the site boundary. The town of Merthyr Tydfil is located to the northwest.
Protected Spp (Bats)	Species composition is dominated by low numbers of common and soprano pipistrelles, with rare recordings of Noctule bats.
Conclusion	Given the results of the survey, it is considered that the redevelopment of the site has the potential to greatly improve the site suitability for bats.

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION

Background

1.1 Sylvan Ecology were commissioned to carry out *a Bat Activity Survey* for a proposed development at *Hoover Site, Merthyr Tydfil.*

Ecological Context

1.2 The site lies approximately 2km to the southeast of Merthyr Tydfil. All associated land for the proposed development (herein referred to as the site) is located at:

- central OS grid reference: SO 05768 04156;
- nearest post code: CF48 4TU.

1.3 The immediate surrounding landscape is mainly industrial and commercial units. In the wider surrounding area there are residential areas, fields and wooded areas. The Cardiff to Merthyr railway line is adjacent to the west of the site. The River Taff is located on the far side of the railway line approximately 30m to the west of the site boundary. The town of Merthyr Tydfil is located to the northwest.

Aims of Study

1.4 The aims of the study are to:

- determine the potential impacts on any bat roost from the proposed works; and
- outline the mitigation strategy, which will be required to minimise impacts on bats within the site and to comply with any legal requirements, identify requirements for any additional ecological surveys needed to determine potential ecological impacts.

2 METHODOLOGY

Bat Activity Transects

2.1 Surveys were carried out in accordance with the standards set in best practice guidance. The surveys were conducted under optimal conditions by suitably experienced ecologists.

2.2 The activity surveys comprised walking a route to encompass all areas impacted within the site. The following methodology was used:

- transect route around the site was decided upon,
- start 15 min before sunset and continue for 2 hr after;
- walk a section (taking time to do so),
- visual sightings were also noted, including flight behaviour where possible.

Automated Survey

2.3 Three automated detectors were deployed at three, boundary, woody habitats onsite and left in situ for a minimum of five consecutive nights from Apr - October.

Equipment

2.4 Transect surveys were undertaken with two Elekon Batlogger Ms, the unmanned static detectors were Elekon Batlogger S2 detectors. Where applicable, the bat echolocation calls were analysed using *Bat Explorer* software.

3 RESULTS

Bat Activity Transects

3.1 The tables below contain a summary of the survey results. The results are illustrated in the maps below.

Table 1: Transect results

Date	Visit	Spp	Recordings
23rd May 2025	Dusk	*Pipistrellus pygmaeus* *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	10 5
17th July 2025	Dusk	*Pipistrellus pygmaeus* *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	12 4
5th Sep 2025	Dusk	*Pipistrellus pygmaeus* *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	14 1

Observations

3.2 Activity on site was relatively low and restricted to four main areas of site; the carpark to the north of site on the eastern side of Merthyr Road (area A), the patch of scrub to the north of site (area B), the area of vegetation around the cricket pavilion (area C) and to the west of Merthyr Road along the eastern site boundary (area D).

Area A

3.3 No activity was recorded in area A during the spring survey, during the summer two common pipistrelle bats were observed commuting south, individual soprano pipistrelle bats were recorded foraging at site, it could have been the same bat. During the autumn survey, a single common pipistrelle was recorded commuting north, individual soprano pipistrelle bats were recorded foraging at site, it may have been the same bat.

Area B

3.4 In both the spring and summer surveys a small number of common and soprano pipistrelle were observed foraging over scrub. The number of bats was low with only one common pipistrelle and two soprano

pipistrelle observed. During the autumn survey two soprano pipistrelle bats were recorded foraging at site.

Area C

3.5 During the spring survey, individual soprano and common pipistrelle bats were observed foraging along the boundary vegetation at site, no more than one bat was observed at any time and its possible it may have been the same bat circling the area. During the summer and autumn survey, soprano pipistrelle bats was observed foraging on the boundary habitat, again only one bat was observed at any time.

Area D

3.6 Individual soprano pipistrelle bats were observed commuting north and south along the road during all visits. No more than two passes were recorded on any visit.

Static - Automated survey

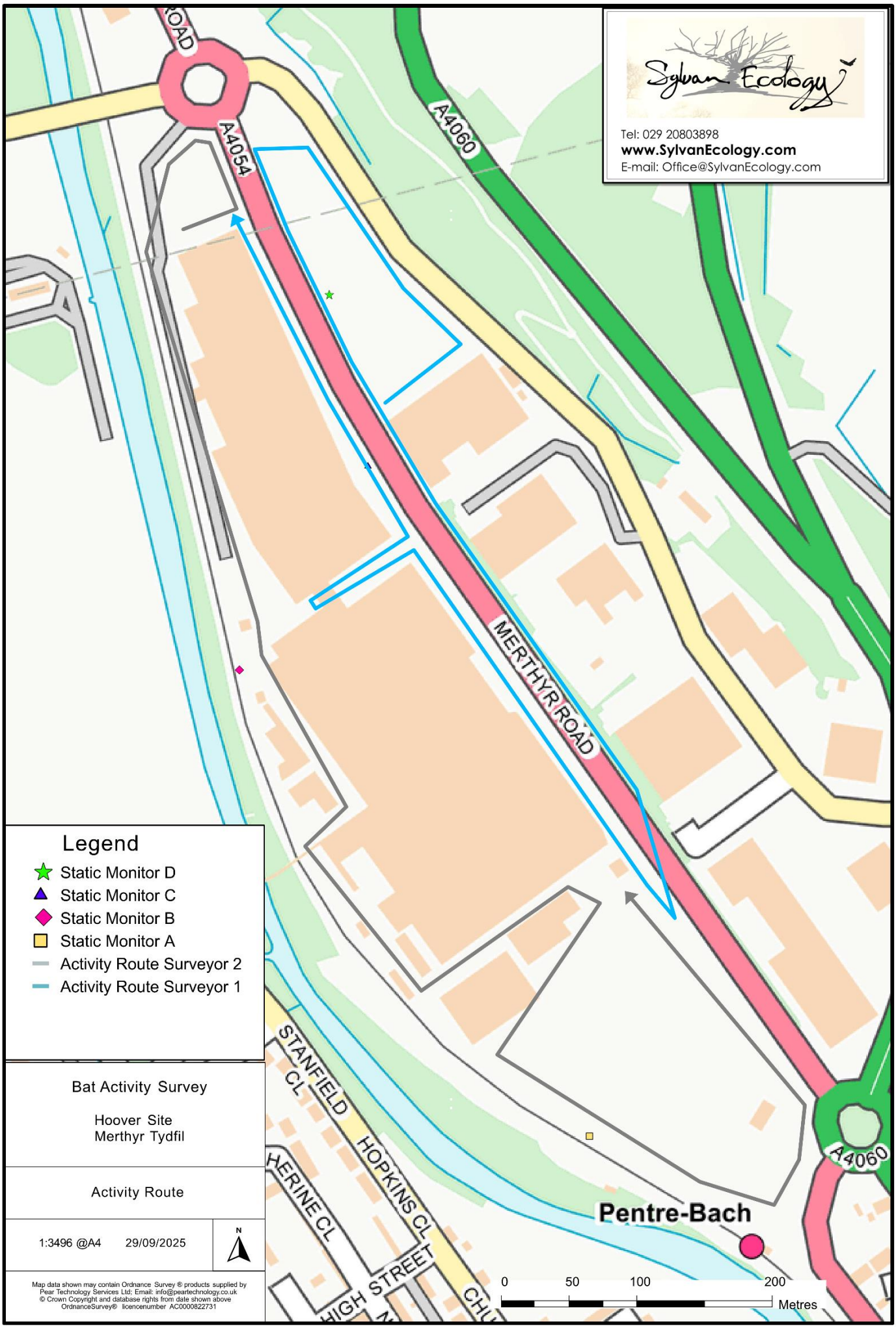
3.7 Four static detectors were placed on boundary habitat at Points A, B, C and D (see Fig 1), and left in situ for a minimum of five suitable nights. Automated surveys were undertaken in May, July and September. The detector at Point D was stolen in July, no further detectors were deployed at this location. The table below contains a summary of the survey results.

Table 2: Static detector results

Visit	Survey Location	Results	Spp
May	Point A	Total passes per night, over five nights: 1. 25 2. 34 3. 35 4. 32 5. 36	Total spp count: Pipistrellus pygmaeus: 128 Pipistrellus pipistrellus: 33 Nyctalus noctule: 1
May	Point B	Total passes per night, over five nights: 1. 5 2. 0 3. 0 4. 2 5. 4	Total spp count: Pipistrellus pygmaeus: 11
May	Point C	Total passes per night, over five nights: 1. 5 2. 11 3. 17 4. 4 5. 20	Total spp count: Pipistrellus pygmaeus: 57
May	Point D	Total passes per night, over five nights: 1. 75 2. 77 3. 63 4. 52 5. 76	Total spp count: Pipistrellus pygmaeus: 196 Pipistrellus pipistrellus: 144 Nyctalus noctule: 3
July	Point A	Total passes per night, over five nights: 1. 43 2. 44 3. 51 4. 21 5. 45	Total spp count: Pipistrellus pygmaeus: 130 Pipistrellus pipistrellus: 74
July	Point B	Total passes per night, over five nights: 1. 0 2. 0 3. 1	Total spp count: Pipistrellus pygmaeus: 1

		4. 0 5. 0	
July	Point C	Total passes per night, over five nights: 1. 9 2. 8 3. 9 4. 7 5. 1	Pipistrellus pygmaeus: 34
July	Point D	Detector Stolen	
Sep	Point A	Total passes per night, over five nights: 1. 57 2. 53 3. 21 4. 11 5. 57	Total spp count: Pipistrellus pygmaeus: 157 Pipistrellus pipistrellus: 42
Sep	Point B	Total passes per night, over five nights: 1. 3 2. 2 3. 9 4. 0 5. 8	Total spp count: Pipistrellus pygmaeus: 22
Sep	Point C	Total passes per night, over five nights: 1. 11 2. 6 3. 0 4. 2 5. 2	Total spp count: Pipistrellus pygmaeus: 21
Sep	Point C	Detector not deployed	

3.8 Maps detailing the results of the survey are shown below.



Sylvan Ecology
Tel: 029 20803898
www.SylvanEcology.com
E-mail: Office@SylvanEcology.com

Legend

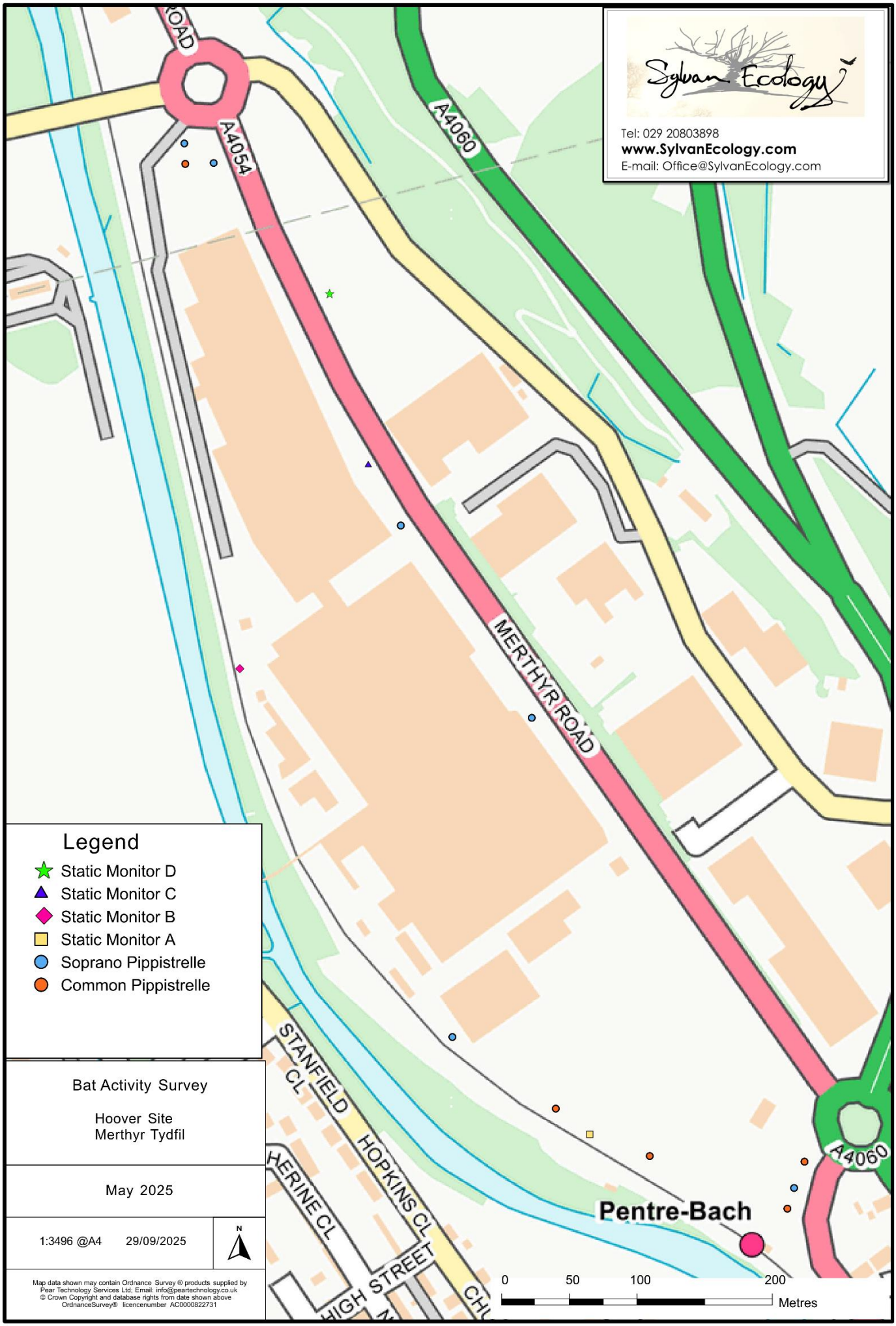
- Static Monitor D
- Static Monitor C
- Static Monitor B
- Static Monitor A
- Activity Route Surveyor 2
- Activity Route Surveyor 1

Bat Activity Survey

Hoover Site
Merthyr Tydfil

Activity Route

1:3496 @A4 29/09/2025



Sylvan Ecology
Tel: 029 20803898
www.SylvanEcology.com
E-mail: Office@SylvanEcology.com

Legend

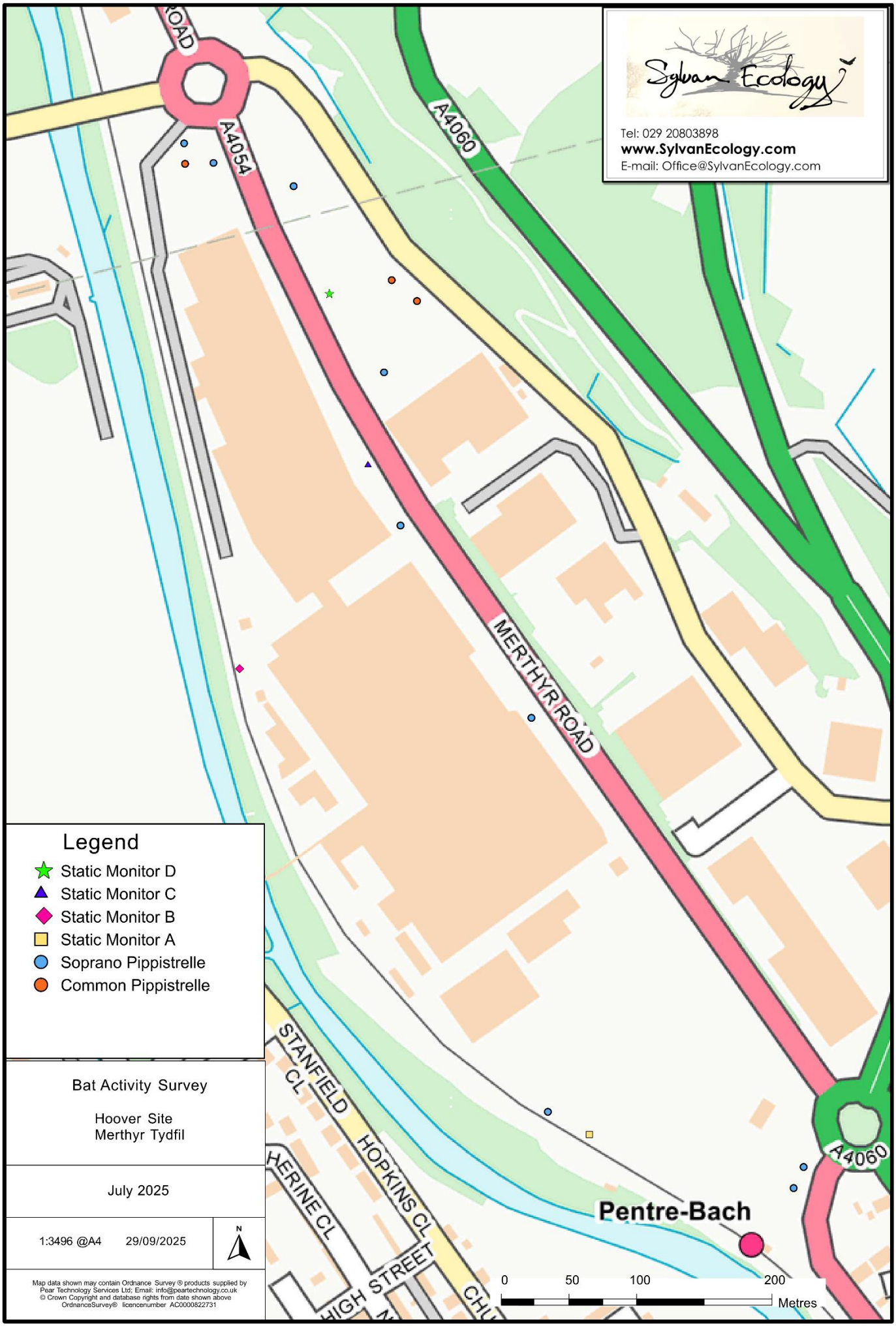
- Static Monitor D
- Static Monitor C
- Static Monitor B
- Static Monitor A
- Soprano Pippistrelle
- Common Pippistrelle

Bat Activity Survey

Hoover Site
Merthyr Tydfil

May 2025

1:3496 @A4 29/09/2025



Sylvan Ecology
Tel: 029 20803898
www.SylvanEcology.com
E-mail: Office@SylvanEcology.com

Legend

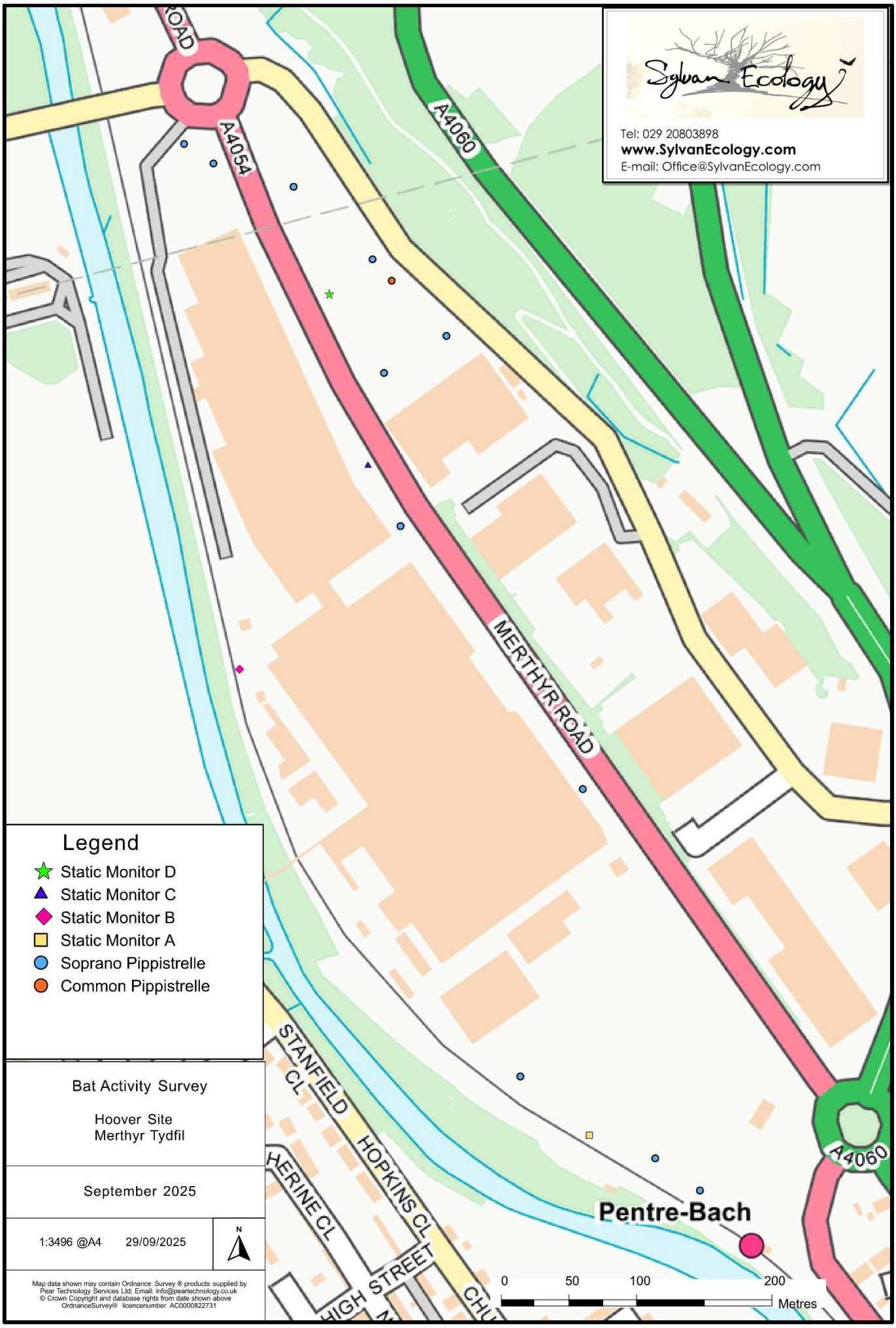
- Static Monitor D
- Static Monitor C
- Static Monitor B
- Static Monitor A
- Soprano Pippistrelle
- Common Pippistrelle

Bat Activity Survey

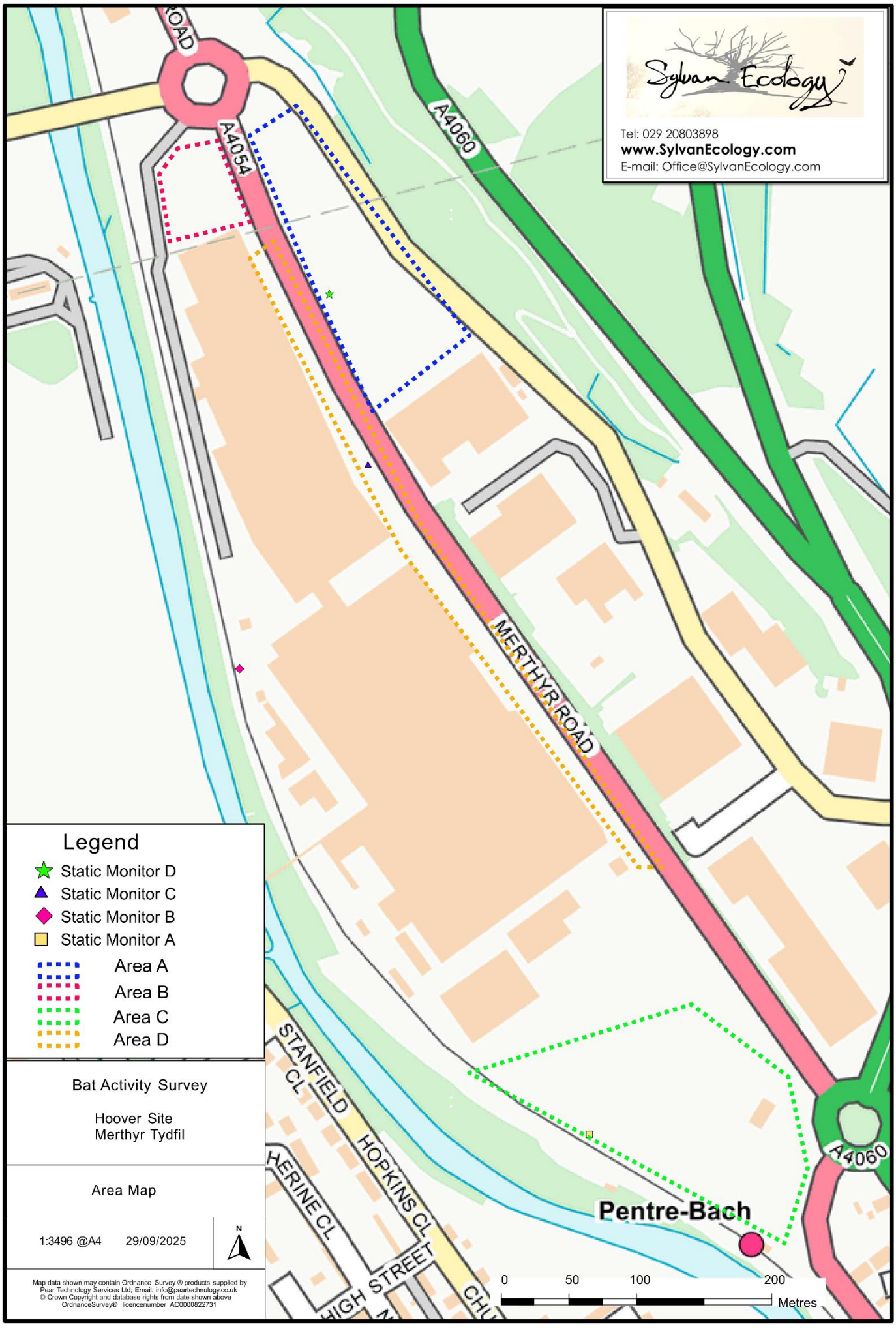
Hoover Site
Merthyr Tydfil

July 2025

1:3496 @A4 29/09/2025



Sylvan Ecology
Tel: 029 20803898
www.SylvanEcology.com
E-mail: Office@SylvanEcology.com



Sylvan Ecology
Tel: 029 20803898
www.SylvanEcology.com
E-mail: Office@SylvanEcology.com

4 EVALUATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The surveys conducted have confirmed that the site is used by three species of bat. Species composition is dominated by common and soprano pipistrelles, with low numbers of Noctule bats.

4.2 The limited number of bats observed on site can be attributed in part to suboptimal habitat conditions within the application area, elevated levels of light pollution, a substantial gull population, and the continued operation of half of the site.

4.3 It's believed that a sensitive redevelopment of the site has the potential to greatly improve the sites suitability for bats. A habitat enhancement plan, including recommendations for lighting is detailed in the PEA.

5 REFERENCES

Altringham, J.D. (2003) *British Bats*. Harper Collins, London.

Bat Conservation Trust, 2012. *Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines.* Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Bat Conservation Trust, 2009. *Determining the potential ecological impact of wind turbines on bat populations in Britain.* Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Mitchell, A.J., 2004. *Bat Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature, Peterborough.

Stone, E.L. (2013) Bats and lighting: Overview of current evidence and mitigation guidance

Bat Conservation Trust, 2021. *The National Bat Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2020.* Bat Conservation Trust, London

Ecology & Arboriculture

www.SylvanEcology.com