Tregarth 8 Maes Trannon
Trefeglwys, SY17 5PS

Proposed extension

Bat Survey

For: Allyson Whitticase

25 June 2021

Gerald Longley Ecological Consultants
© www.geraldlongley.co.uk

CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background – Gerald Longley

Gerald Longley Ecological Consultants (GLEC Ltd) has been commissioned to undertake a Bat Survey at Tregarth, 8 Maes Trannon Trefeglwys, SY17 5PS (Grid reference SN9683390247). Gerald Longley has two decades of experience of wildlife surveying and, prior to working as an independent ecological consultant, held posts as Conservation Officer with Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust and Head of Shrewsbury Countryside Unit.

1.2 Background – This survey

The development proposal covers work to extend. The request for this bat survey comes from the client's need to ensure that if the building is being used by protected species, notably bats or nesting birds, their conservation needs are met and the law is not broken.

Under the law, a bat roost is any structure or place used for shelter or protection. "Structure" could be any building, wall, well, cave or mature tree. Bats use many roost sites and feeding areas throughout the year. These vary according to bat age, condition, gender and species, as well as season and weather. Since bats tend to re-use the same roosts for generations, the roost may be protected whether the bats are present or not. A full citation of the law with regard to bats and birds is given in the Appendices.

1.3 Report Summary

Tregarth, 8 Maes Trannon Trefeglwys, SY17 5PS
Bat Survey

A Bat Survey based on Bat Conservation Trust guidelines (BCT, 2016) was carried out by GLEC Ltd at Tregarth, 8 Maes Trannon Trefeglwys, SY17 5PS. The survey consisted of a thorough daytime inspection followed by one evening and two pre-dawn bat activity surveys between 26 May and 25 June 2021. The development proposal covers work to extend up above an existing attached garage.

A Preliminary Roost Assessment had also been carried out previously 25 April 2021 where small numbers of old bat droppings were found inside the attic. It was this that triggered the need for full surveys. During these (June 2021) surveys with new attic searches and three activity surveys found no new bat droppings in the attic or anywhere else inside or out.

Despite bat droppings being found inside the attic in the early Preliminary Roost Assessment no bats were recorded entering or emerging from the building during any of the activity survey visits. Common and soprano pipistrelle bats were recorded foraging near the building over gardens and the road - proving bats were active but not using this building.

No bird nests were recorded on or in the building.

These surveys establish that the building is not currently being used by bats and there is no constraint to the proposed extension works in relation to bats.

It is recommended that:

1. The apparent absence of bats roosting in the building indicates there is no ecological constraint to the extension works as proposed with regard to bats. If they were to go ahead without mitigation, it is very unlikely that bats would be negatively affected. If bats are discovered during development works then Natural Resources Wales (NRW) or a suitably qualified ecologist must be contacted for advice. Works must cease and an EPS licence may be required to allow work to continue.

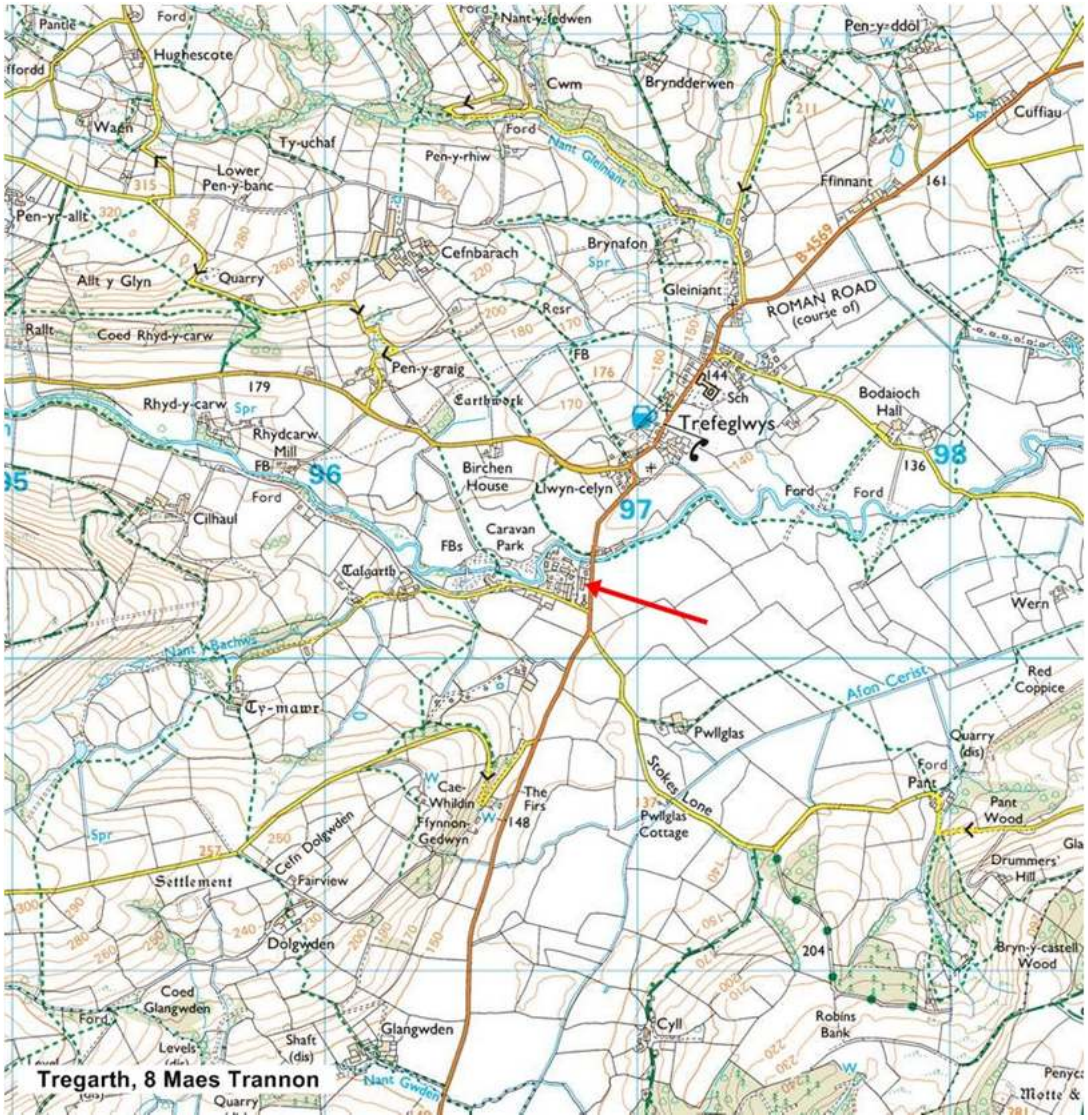
2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims of the survey

- To establish the actual or likely presence or absence of bat roosts and/or bat species in the building.
- To establish the presence of any nesting birds in or on the building.
- To make recommendations accordingly.

2.2 Desk Study

The 1:25000 Ordnance Survey map covering the site, and aerial photos accessed from the internet, were scrutinised to initially assess the wildlife value of the proposed development site and surrounding habitat at a crude level. This looked for any semi-natural habitat that may be of value to wildlife, for example ponds, hedges, parkland, wetland, and woodland with interconnecting habitat links. Searches were made on MAGIC and the NBN Atlas for statutory designated sites coincident with or adjacent to the area of search and existing records of the keynote species within two kilometres.



2.3 Site Surveys

Surveys were designed by Gerald Longley using standard techniques based on the guidance and information in the Bat Conservation Trust Bat Survey Guidelines (2016). The surveys of the building consisted of a thorough daytime inspection followed by one evening and two pre-dawn bat activity surveys. See the Appendices for a full list of equipment used. The pre-dawn bat detector surveys looked for possible re-entry into the building by bats and the evening activity surveys looked for emergence from the building. The visits also provided checks to assess whether nesting birds used the building. The surveyors were Gerald Longley (Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Licence no. S089602/1) all dates, Mary Thornton (NRW licence no. SO87511/1) 26 May and 17 June 2021, and Lindsay Barton 24 June.

The external and internal survey of the building included an assessment for potential for nesting birds and bats and a search for evidence, such as pellets, dead bats, prey remains, droppings, urine marks and staining. Close-focusing binoculars were used immediately below potential roost areas. Droppings around the bases of and/or stuck to walls, on shelves, wall plates, purlins, etc. were searched for with the aid of a high-powered torch. Holes and cracks in the walls, purlins, beams etc. and behind any cladding were inspected with the colour video endoscope where they could be safely reached.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Desk Study

No specific records of bats were found for the site itself and no statutory protected wildlife sites were coincident with the site.

Relatively recent records for soprano pipistrelle (2009), brown long-eared (2010). Daubenton's (2010) and common pipistrelle (2017) bats were found for the same ten kilometre grid square as the site and the 10k grid squares to the east and southeast of the 10k grid square the site was in. Less recent records (1990) for Natterer's bats were also found for the ten kilometre grid square southeast of the 10k grid square the site was in.

There were no SSSIs within 2km of the site.

It should be noted that the lack of records for a particular species in a particular location does not confirm that the species is absent.

3.2 Site Surveys

The building
The house, built in the 1980s, was a brick and block cavity walled building with a wooden truss, pitched roof with artificial slate and bitumastic felt beneath. It had an attached singe garage on the north elevation.

Around the building there few potential access points for bats with no gaps evident anywhere except at the tops of the East and West gable under the barge boards.

The surroundings
The building was in a small estate with a garden area to the rear. It was close to other modern houses in the village, mostly with small gardens. There were no good native hedges or large trees nearby. The River Trannon passes through the village with some riparian bat foraging habitat. The wider landscape was one of mixed agriculture with grass fields, hedgerows, trees and some ponds: foraging habitat for bats.

Daytime inspection – 26 May 2021
No bats or signs of bats were found on the outside of the building. During the Preliminary Roost Assessment in April 2021 small numbers (approximately 30) of small, fine textured droppings, typical of pipistrelle species of bat, were found in the attic. Droppings were scattered in ones and twos on the insulation below the wall and stuck in cobwebs on the blocks of the gable wall. These had been hovered up by the owner afterwards and during this survey in May/June 2021 no droppings were now present or recorded during these surveys.

No birds or bird nests were found on or in the building.

First evening survey
26 May 2021 – 21.09 to 22.40 (sunset 21.17 BST)
A mild, dry evening with a light south-westerly breeze. 13°C to 10°C. 6/8 oktas cloud cover. The surveyors were placed so as to view all elevations of the building.

From 21.46 until the end of the survey, occasional common pipistrelle bat (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) (45 KHz) and soprano pipistrelle bat (Pipistrellus pygmaeus) (55 KHz) passes and feeding buzzes were recorded over the garden and the road to the form and rear of the house.

No bats were recorded emerging from the building.

Dawn survey
17 June 2021 – 03.30 to 05.10 (sunrise 04.50 BST)
A warm, humid, still morning. 15 °C to 14°C. 8/8 oktas. The surveyors were placed so as to view all elevations of the building.

From 03.48 until 04.00, a small number of common and soprano pipistrelle passes were recorded along the road on the north side of the building and over the garden to the south.

No bats were recorded entering the building.

Second dawn survey
25 June 2021 – 21.22 to 22.48 (sunset 21.41 BST)
A warm, still, very humid morning. 14°C to 14°C. 8/8 oktas. The surveyors were placed so as to view all elevations of the building.

From 03.52 until 04.25, a small number of common and soprano pipistrelle passes were recorded along the road on the north side of the building and over the garden to the south.

No bats were recorded emerging from the building.

See also 7.0 SITE PICTURES

3.3 Constraints of this survey

As with all wildlife surveys conducted, the data collected is only a representation of the species and species presence markers found during the actual dates of the survey. There are other seasons and many species are mobile or transitory.

The temperature for the end of the evening survey was slightly cool at 10°C, however, this was not untypical for the season, which had seen some relatively low temperatures for this time, and the same species of bats was recorded in the same places as on the other surveys. It was not considered that the slightly lower temperature on one survey made a significant difference to the results or subsequent recommendations of this report.

Evidence for some crevice-dwelling bats, e.g. *Myotis* species, can be difficult to find. Brown long-eared bats are notoriously difficult to pick up on a bat detector as they call very quietly or not at all. They are also difficult to see during evening emergence, as it is getting very dark when they emerge. All counts of bats should be regarded as good estimates rather than precise numbers.

3.4 Interpretation/evaluation of survey results

There were few obvious accesses into the building for bats, however there were small gaps under barge boards especially at the at the apex of the east and west gables.

There was good and reasonably extensive foraging habitat for bats close to the building and in the surrounding area notably with the river Trannon close by.

Small numbers of old bat droppings were found in the attic confirming that bats had been present in the past during a Preliminary Roost Assessment before the active period for bats in April 2021.

In this a full survey of three activity surveys in the height of the bat survey season recorded no new bat droppings in the attic or elsewhere and no bats were recorded entering or emerging from the building during the three activity surveys. It was concluded that the building was not being used by bats.

These surveys establish that the building is not currently being used by bats and there is no constraint to the proposed extension works in relation to bats.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The apparent absence of bats roosting in the building indicates there is no ecological constraint to the extension works as proposed with regard to bats. If they were to go ahead without mitigation, it is very unlikely that bats would be negatively affected. If bats are discovered during development works then Natural Resources Wales (NRW) or a suitably qualified ecologist must be contacted for advice. Works must cease and an EPS licence may be required to allow work to continue.

5.0 REFERENCES

1. Mitchell-Jones, A.J. (2004) Bat mitigation guidelines. English Nature.

2. Collins, J. (ed) (2016) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London

3. Mitchell-Jones, AJ. and McLeish, A.P. (eds) (2004) Bat Workers' Manual (3rd Edition). JNCC.

4. Schofield, H.W. (2008) The Lesser Horseshoe Bat Conservation Handbook. Vincent Wildlife Trust.

5. Russ, J. (2012) British Bat Calls: A Guide to Species Identification. Pelagic.

6. Bats: surveys and mitigation for development projects https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bats-surveys-and-mitigation-for-development-projects

7. Bat Conservation Trust (2010) Bat species information sheets http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/uk_bats.html

8. Howard, J. et al (2009) Bats in Traditional Buildings. English Heritage, National Trust and Natural England.

9. Natural England (2011) TIN092 Bat Roosts and Timber Treatment Products.

10. Stone, E.L. (2013) Bats and lighting: Overview of Current Evidence and mitigation. Bristol University

11. GLEC Ltd (May 2017) Info sheet 07: Bats and Lighting

12. ILP (2018) Guidance note 8/18: Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK

13. Lintott, P. and Matthews, F. (2018) Reviewing the evidence on mitigation strategies for bats in buildings: informing best-practice for policy makers and practitioners. CIEEM, UWE and University of Exeter

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Relevant Legislation

Bats – Legislation
All British bat species receive legal protection in the United Kingdom under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) (as amended). The WCA 1981 was amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000. All British bat species are listed under Schedule 5 of the 1981 Act, and is therefore subject to the provisions of Section 9, which makes it an offence to:
• Intentionally kill, injure or take a bat
• Possess or control any live or dead specimen or anything derived from a bat
• Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection
• Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place which a bat uses for shelter or protection
• Sell, offer for sale, possess or transport for the purpose of sale or publish advertisements to buy or sell a bat

Bats are also included on Annex IV of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. As a result of the UK ratifying this directive, all British bats are also protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. It makes it an offence to:
• Deliberately capture or kill a bat.
• Deliberately disturb a bat in such a way as to be likely to significantly affect i) the ability of any significant group of animals of that species to survive, breed or rear or nurture their young, OR ii) the local distribution of that species.
• Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a bat.

Under the law, a roost is any structure or place used for shelter or protection. This could be any structure, for example any building or mature tree. Bats use many roost sites and feeding areas throughout the year. These vary according to bat age, condition, gender and species, as well as season and weather.

Birds - Legislation

Under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to intentionally kill, injure, handle or remove any wild bird (with the exception of a few pest species); take or damage a nest whilst in use or being built; and take or destroy eggs. A person is not guilty of any offence if their action was the incidental result of a lawful activity and could not have been reasonably avoided.

A higher level of protection is afforded to those birds listed in Schedule 1 of the Act. It is an offence to disturb Schedule 1 species whilst it is building or sitting on a nest, in addition to damaging or destroying their nests or eggs.

It is not an offence to disturb non-Schedule 1 species whilst they are building a nest or sitting on it. However, an offence may be committed if the bird is driven away from a nest by prolonged disturbance which results in the failure of eggs or death of dependent young.

6.2 Field equipment used for the survey:

Escort mini temperature data logger
Silva compass
Leica 8 x 42 close-focusing binoculars
Cluson Clubman 1 Million candle-power lamps
Access Cam Pro-Sight colour video endoscope (1m probe)
Telescopic mirror
Suunto clinometer
3.8-metre extendable ladder
8m extendable ladder
Anabat SD2 bat detectors with GPS and HP iPaq PDAs (active monitoring)
AnalookW v3.7w (bat data analysis software)
Anapocket v2.5b (bat data analysis software)
Kaleidoscope v1.12 (sound analysis software)
Batbox Duet bat detector (frequency division and heterodyne bat detector)
SSF2 Bat – bat detector
Two-way radios

7.0 SITE PICTURES

West gable and garage (to be extended upwards).
No bat emrgence/entry