



13 November 2023

Penzance Cricket Club
c/o Treve Laity (trustee)
Golden Meadow
Gulval
Penzance
TR18 3BD

Ref Bat and nesting bird survey at Penzance Cricket Club

On 13 November 2023 a potential bat roost appraisal (PRA) was carried out at a building forming part of Penzance Cricket Club (SW46673096). The aims of the survey were to assess the potential for the structure to support roosting bats and to search for any evidence of use, as well as to assess its suitability to support nesting birds. This was to inform a planning application to demolish the building and to erect a marquee in its place. The Cornwall Council ecology trigger list specifies that a “short written statement produced by a suitably qualified consultant” may be produced to report on findings.

The survey was carried out by Mark Tunmore (Natural England license number 2015-14995-CLS-CLS), who has been a licensed bat worker since 2008 and has worked extensively upon development projects in Cornwall and other parts of the UK. The assessment followed the national bat survey guidelines (Collins, 2023), which involved searching for potential roost features and evidence of bats.



Pavilion



Apartment

The structure proposed for demolition was block-built with smooth rendered walls. It consisted of a small pavilion without a roof, adjoining a flat-roofed apartment. A small wooden shed was also present within the area of the pavilion. All structures were devoid of any suitable crevices or possible bat roost structures and there was no possible access to the interior of the building for bats.

The potential of the site for roosting bats is categorized using the terms specified in *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists* (Collins, 2023), assigning suitability to one of four categories specified below.

- Negligible. Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.
- Low. A structure with one or more potential roost sites that may be used by individual bats opportunistically but which does not provide appropriate conditions to be used regularly or by large numbers of bats.
- Moderate. A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats but is unlikely to support a roost of high conservation value.
- High. A structure with one or more potential roost sites with obvious suitability for use by large numbers of bats on a more regular basis.

Using the above system, the structure is assessed as holding negligible potential for bats. No further bat surveys are required and work can proceed with caution. In the unlikely event that a roosting bat is discovered during the work it should be left in situ, work stopped and contact made with the bat ecologist for further advice.

A precautionary approach to nesting birds must be adopted during building works. Birds may nest between March and September inclusive and if any nests are found within 5m of the works then activity must cease until nesting has finished. No evidence of nesting birds was found, however, and there is no potential for birds to nest within the structure proposed for demolition.

Under the Environment Act recently passed into law (HM Government, 2021) there is a legal requirement for all development requiring planning permission to deliver at least a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). Provision is made for this in terms of planning policy under NPPF (2021) in the Cornwall Local Plan (Cornwall Council 2016). Best practice guidance for developers is provided in the Cornwall Planning for Biodiversity Guide (Cornwall Council, 2018). It is possible to make specific provision for wildlife within new accommodation by the incorporation of dedicated roosting / nesting features.

It is recommended that a Schwegler 1FE Bat Access panel with backplate is erected on the wall of the adjacent building, away from light sources and at approximately 3–4m height.

The findings of this statement are valid for 18 months and may require updating if works do not take place within this period.

REFERENCES

Collins, J. (ed.), 2023. *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (3rd edition). Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Cornwall Council, 2016. <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/adopted-plans/>

Cornwall Council, 2018. *Cornwall Planning for Biodiversity Guide* <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/adopted-plans/cornwall-planning-for-biodiversity-guide>

HM Government, 2021. The Environment Act.

Yours sincerely,



