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SURVEYS, INSPECTIONS, REPORTS

FORMER RUGBY CLUB WAEN RHUDDLAN RHYL DENBIGHSHIRE LL18 5RS

Bat Surveys

- The Cofnod (Local Ecological Records Centre) website was accessed (www.cofnod.org.uk) and a Cofnod Data Request [E07584] was made for a data search for Priority Species and designated wildlife sites within a 1km radius of the site. There are records of Myotis, Noctule and Pipistrelle spp. bats within 1km radius of the survey site according to the data search.
- Some low quality trees will need to be felled, to facilitate the proposed development, which will result in some habitat loss on site. New tree and hedge planting will mitigate for any loss of habitat. The tree felling is unlikely to have a significant effect on bat flight lines.
- Some of the trees to be removed may have potential for roosting bats. These trees will be visually inspected from the ground (May-Sept) to identify any Potential Roost Features [PRFs](e.g. cracks/splits/cavities/loose dead bark). If PRFs are identified, a further climbing inspection, utilising a torch and endoscope, will be carried out to determine if any bats, or evidence of recent bat use are present and to assess the potential of the PRF for roosting bats. If bats (or evidence of recent use) are present, or if the PRF has potential for roosting bats, further emergence surveys (May-Sept) will be carried out, utilising digital bat detectors (Anabat Walkabout), to determine if any bats are roosting in the trees.
- If bats are discovered roosting in any of the trees (therefore a known roost), an application for a NRW Derogation licence will be submitted, with details of appropriate mitigation/methodology.
- The predicted impact of the proposed development on bats is low, provided that appropriate mitigation measures are implemented and that Reasonable Avoidance Measures are followed, in order to minimise the impact on locally recorded bats.



PRO3755



UK/I 0343A

Reasonable Avoidance Methods

Site Induction

- As part of the site induction process, all staff working on site will be made aware of the potential presence of bats within the immediate landscape, and their status as a UK Protected Species. Bats are protected in the UK under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2010.
- The toolbox talk will set out what measures are being implemented to avoid affecting bats.
- Contractors will be instructed to cease work in the unlikely event that they discover a bat within the site, and to contact a licenced ecologist and NRW (Buckley Office). Contact details will be displayed alongside the photographic identification sheets.
- A site log should be kept to ensure that all these precautionary measures are implemented, with dates and names of who implemented them.

General Recommendations

- Timing of the development works is crucial. The optimum time for work potentially involving bats is 1st October -1st May.

Tree work where bat roosts have been identified

- Reasonable avoidance measures should be taken, to avoid disturbance to possible roosting bats.
- If the surveys identify a bat roost in one of the trees, before any work commences, an NRW derogation licence must be obtained to destroy a bat roost, to avoid an offence being committed.
- As compensation, tree-hollow type wood-crete bat boxes should be installed in some of the nearby trees, at a height of 3-4m, to avoid predation by cats. Suggested bat boxes are a Miramore Wood Stone Bat Box, Schwegler 2FN Bat Box 55, or a Schwegler 1FS Colony Bat Box 95. The bat boxes should be orientated between South and West, so they benefit from maximum solar radiation, to provide suitable warm conditions for bats.
- The tree works should be directly supervised by a licensed bat worker. The tree should be reduced in height, limb by limb until any defects are encountered.
- The areas of the tree that have defects should be sectioned in 600mm lengths and lowered to the ground using a rigging rope and slings. If a MEWP is used, the sections should be severed using the industry standard hand-held overlapping cut technique, carefully placed in the platform and lowered to the ground.
- Once safely on the ground, each length should be examined from the top for presence of roosting bats. This operation should be continued until all potential areas are removed from the tree.
- If single individual bats are found within the tree, these should be removed where possible, and trans-located to a secure site, such as a bat box that could be installed in the locality. If a larger breeding group is encountered, advice from the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) should be sought before further works proceed. In all cases any bats encountered should be notified to NRW, detailing the species, numbers and what action has been taken.
- Where possible (and practical), any branch/trunk section containing a roost site should be retained and secured by ratchet straps at a similar height and orientation in one of the adjacent trees to be retained.

