11 PENTRE TAI, RHIWDERIN, NEWPORT

BAT INSPECTION SURVEY

OCTOBER 2025

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11 Pentre Tai, Rhiwderin, Newport

Bat Survey Report

Document control

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DISCLAIMER

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is proposed to extend and refurbish Petre Tai, Rhiwderin, Newport.

An initial bat inspection survey was undertaken in September 2025 in order to inform a planning application to extend the property. The results indicated that the building is of negligible potential for roosting bats and as such further surveys were not recommended.

A European Protected Species Licence will not be required along with mitigation and compensation prior to any works commencing on the building.

No evidence of breeding birds was found on the exterior of the building.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

BE ECOLOGICAL LTD was commissioned by the client to undertake an initial bat inspection survey of Pentre Tai for a planning application to extend the property.

The surveys were undertaken in line with the current guidance on standards for bat surveys (Bat Conservation Trust, 2023[1]).

1.2 Site description

The property subject of this survey is located at 11 Pentre Tai, Rhiwderin,

The property is a bungalow beneath a rosemary tile hipped roof with the main ridge running from north to south. Fascias where present are of uPVC.

The building is rendered on all elevations and generally in good order. There is a small flat roofed extension to the rear.

There are a small group of trees present at the rear of the property. These lead to the wider landscape that comprises of broad-leaved woodland.

1.3 Proposed development

It is proposed to extend and refurbish the property.

2 LEGISLATION & POLICIES

2.1 Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) provides safeguards for European Protected Species (those listed under Annex IV Habitats Directive). With regards to bats, this makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately (or recklessly in Scotland) capture, injure or kill a bat
- Deliberately (or recklessly in Scotland) disturb a bat in a way that would (significantly in Scotland) affect its ability to survive, breed or rear young (or hibernate or migrate in England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or (significantly in England, Wales and Scotland) affect the local distribution or abundance of the species.
- Damage or destroy a roost (this is an 'absolute' offence)
- Possess, control, transport, sell, exchange or offer for sale/exchange any live or dead bat or any part of a bat

2.2 Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is the legislation for England and Wales for nature conservation, making it an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat at a roost
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a roost

2.3 PLANNING POLICY WALES (EDITION 12, FEBRUARY 2024)

The following sections are relevant

6.2.8 The role of development as part of a spatial approach will be two fold. Planning authorities firstly must ensure that development avoids and then minimises impact on biodiversity and ecosystems and secondly that it provides opportunities for enhancement within areas identified as important for the ability of species to adapt and/or to move to more suitable habitats.

6.2.9 Planning authorities must encourage the appropriate management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna ….. and other statutory and non-statutory designated sites. The features concerned are those which, because of their linear and continuous structure or their function as 'stepping stones' or 'wildlife corridors', are essential for migration, dispersal or genetic exchange. The protection and creation of networks of statutory and non-statutory sites and of the landscape features which provide links from one habitat to another can make an important contribution to developing resilient ecological networks and securing a net benefit for biodiversity and in doing so improve the quality of the local place and its ability to adapt to climate change.

6.2.12 A green infrastructure statement should be submitted with all planning applications. This will be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed and will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal.

6.4.3 ….. Recognising that development needs to take place and some biodiversity may be impacted, the planning system should ensure that overall there is a net benefit for biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, resulting in enhanced well-being. Addressing the consequences of climate change should be a central part of any measures to protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems. secure the maintenance and enhancement of ecosystem resilience and resilient ecological networks by improving diversity, extent, condition, and connectivity.

6.4.4 It is important that biodiversity and ecosystem resilience considerations are taken into account at an early stage in both development plan preparation and when proposing or considering development proposals. ……. Where adverse effects on biodiversity and ecosystem resilience cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated/restored, and as a last resort compensated for, it will be necessary to refuse planning permission.

6.4.5 Planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This means development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species (not including non native invasive species), locally or nationally and must work alongside nature and it must provide a net benefit for biodiversity and improve, or enable the improvement, of the resilience of ecosystems…….

6.4.11 Planning authorities must follow a step- wise approach to maintain and enhance biodiversity, build resilient ecological networks and deliver net benefits for biodiversity by ensuring that any adverse environmental effects are firstly avoided, then minimized, mitigated, and as a last resort compensated for…….

6.4.12 Having worked iteratively, in line with Figure 12, through the stages of the step-wise approach below, and providing evidence in the Green Infrastructure Statement that the step-wise approach has been followed, a scheme of enhancements must be provided to ensure a net benefit for biodiversity. Where biodiversity enhancement proportionate to the scale and nature of the development is not proposed as part of an application, significant weight will be

given to its absence, and unless other significant material considerations indicate otherwise, it will be necessary to refuse permission…….

6.4.15 (2). When all locational, siting and design options for avoiding damage to biodiversity have been exhausted, applicants, in discussion with planning authorities, must seek to minimise the initial impact on biodiversity and ecosystems……

6.4.15 (5). Each stage of the step-wise approach must be accompanied by a long term management plan of agreed and appropriate avoidance, minimisation, mitigation/restoration and compensation measures alongside the agreed enhancement measures. The management plan should set out the immediate and on-going management of the site, future monitoring arrangements for all secured measures and it should clearly identify the funding mechanisms in place to meet the management plan objectives. The management plan must set out how a net benefit for biodiversity will be achieved within as short a time as possible and be locally responsive and relevant to local circumstances.

6.4.15 (6) Finally, where the adverse effect on biodiversity and ecosystem resilience clearly outweighs other material considerations, the development should be refused.

6.4.16 Potential applicants should not conduct any pre-emptive site clearance works before submitting a planning application as this can make it more difficult for a development proposal to secure a net benefit for biodiversity. Where a site has been cleared prior to development its biodiversity value should be deemed to have been as it was before any site investigations or clearance took place. A net benefit for biodiversity must be achieved from that point.

6.4.31 Although non-statutory designations do not have a statutory process for their protection, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, Local Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves, and Regionally Importance Geodiversity Sites make a vital contribution to delivering an ecological network for biodiversity and resilient ecosystems, and they should be given protection in development plans and the development management process. Non-statutory sites can form the core of a vital network of threatened habitats, play an essential role in protecting, maintaining, connecting and restoring biodiversity and contribute to nature recovery and a net benefit for biodiversity. Before authorising development likely to damage a local wildlife designation, planning authorities should give notice of the proposed operation to the local authority Ecologist and third sector environmental organisations. In all cases a written opinion must be secured from the local authority Ecologist……

6.4.35 The presence of a species protected under European or UK legislation, or under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal which, if carried out, would be likely to result in disturbance or harm to the species or its habitat and to ensure that the range and population of the species is sustained.

6.4.42 Permanent removal of trees, woodland and hedgerows will only be permitted where it would achieve significant and clearly defined public benefits. Where individual or groups of trees

and hedgerows are removed as part of a proposed scheme, planning authorities must first follow the step-wise approach as set out in paragraph 6.4.15. Where loss is unavoidable developers will be required to provide compensatory planting (which is proportionate to the proposed loss as identified through an assessment of green infrastructure value including biodiversity, landscape value and carbon capture). Replacement planting shall be at a ratio equivalent to the quality, environmental and ecological importance of the tree(s) lost and this must be preferably onsite, or immediately adjacent to the site, and at a minimum ratio of at least 3 trees of a similar type and compensatory size planted for every 1 lost.…….

6.4.43 Ancient woodland, semi-natural woodlands, individual ancient, veteran and heritage trees and ancient hedgerows are irreplaceable natural resources, and have significant landscape, biodiversity and cultural value. Such trees, woodlands and hedgerows are to be afforded protection from development which would result in their loss or deterioration unless very exceptionally there are significant and clearly defined public benefits; this protection must prevent potentially damaging operations and their unnecessary loss…..

6.8.1 There is a need to balance the provision of lighting to enhance safety and security to help in the prevention of crime and to allow activities like sport and recreation to take place with the need to:

•protect the natural and historic environment including wildlife and features of the natural environment such as tranquillity;

2.4 BUILDING WITH NATURE

Applicants should consider standards for development design “Building with Nature” which can be found at www.Buildingwithnature.org.uk

2.5 PLANNING POLICY WALES SEPTEMBER 2009 (TECHNICAL ADVICE NOTE 5: NATURE CONSERVATION AND PLANNING)

Section 6.2.1 – the presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a local planning authority is considering a development proposal, that, if carried out, would be likely to result in disturbance or harm to the species or its habitat.

Section 6.2.2 – It is essential that the presence or otherwise of protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development, is established before the planning permission is granted.

2.6 ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016 - THE BIODIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY

The Environment (Wales) Act became law on 21st March 2016 and replaces the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. It puts in place legislation to enable Wales' resources to be managed in a more proactive, sustainable and joined up manner and to form part of the legislative framework necessary to tackle climate change. The Act supports the Welsh Governments wider remit under the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 so that Wales may benefit from a prosperous economy, a healthy and resilient environment and vibrant, cohesive communities. Caerphilly County Borough Council as a public body has obligations under section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to demonstrate how the Local Authority will "seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems".

The intention is to ensure that in carrying out their functions, public authorities will:

•Place biodiversity as a natural and integral part of policy and decision making within public bodies, embedding it in its plans, policies and projects and day-to-day activities

•Address biodiversity decline through positive actions that will result in maintenance or enhancement of our biodiversity

•Develop ecosystem resilience through maintaining and enhancing biodiversity

The reporting associated with the Section 6 duty will report against the 6 NRAP objectives (see section on Nature Recovery Plan, below)

A resilient ecosystem is one that is healthy and functions in a way that is able to address the pressures and demands that are placed on it, and is able to meet current social, economic and environmental needs whilst being able to also provide the same benefits for future generation. A resilient ecosystem is the cornerstone of the "Resilient Wales" goal in the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.

2.7 STATE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT (SONARR)

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 [EWA] requires Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to publish a State of Natural Resources Report1 (SoNaRR); to provide information on the current state of our natural resources to enable Welsh Ministers to set priorities for action at the national level. The Authority is required to have regard to the findings of this report in exercising its functions.

The SoNaRR report, finalised in September 2016 recommends a proactive approach to building resilience and for the first time links the resilience of Welsh natural resources to the well-being of the people of Wales. This Report will underpin Natural Resources Policy.

The economic and social benefits that a fully functioning environment can provide to human society include agricultural production, forestry, building materials, tourism and leisure, energy generation, flood prevention, pollination services for crops, clean water, clean air and healthy soils. The SoNaRR report spells out the major threats to the proper functioning of ecosystems in Wales, which include:

•Climate change

•Land use change

•Over exploitation of natural resources; and

•Nutrient enrichment and pollution

2.8 NATURE RECOVERY PLAN

The Welsh Government launched the Nature Recovery Plan2 (NRP) which sets out its commitment to biodiversity in Wales and how Wales will address the Convention on Biological Diversity's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the associated Aichi biodiversity targets in Wales. The Nature Recovery Action Plan links to and complements The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment Act (Wales) 2016.

The NRP highlights the issues that we need to address and the objectives for action to show how, in Wales we can address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss. Specifically through:

•Putting nature at the heart of decision making

•Increasing the resilience of our natural environment

•Taking specific action for habitats and species

The Nature Recovery Plan consists of three parts:

Part 1: Sets out the position with regard to biodiversity in Wales

Part 2: actions identified to support biodiversity, (The Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP)

Part 3: Under development: The Nature Recovery Framework

1.https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/the-state-of-natural-resources-report-assessment-of-the-sustainable-management-of-natural-resources/?lang=en

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Survey Objectives

- To carry out an initial bat inspection survey along with the recommended activity surveys
- To present the above details and if necessary recommendations for mitigation, future research and compensation within this report.
- To carry out a scoping survey for breeding birds

3.2 Survey Summary

- The bat survey comprised of one part:
- Part 1- Initial bat inspection survey

3.3 Surveyor Information

The survey was run by Beth Evans. Beth is the owner of BE ECOLOGICAL LTD and has a postgraduate degree in Environmental Biology: Conservation & Resource Management, specialising in British bats. Beth has six years' experience of ecological surveys, both in a small scale and large multi-disciplinary context. Beth also holds Natural Resources Wales and Natural England bat licences to disturb and handle bats.

3.4 Internal & External Inspection

An initial inspection survey was carried out on 23rd September 2025 to search all buildings, both externally to identify potential bat roosting areas and signs of bat use including; live bats, dead bats, droppings, urine staining, grease marks and discarded prey items. The buildings and all areas/items of interest were recorded and photographed. Extension ladders/steps were used to safely access roof areas and fascia boards etc; where no safe access was available the survey was conducted using, close focus binoculars and/or a high powered lamp.

4 RESULTS

4.2 Inspection survey

4.2.1 External survey results

The survey carried out by BE Ecological Ltd revealed no droppings or evidence of bats on the exterior of the building.

There are a small number of gaps present beneath the odd slipped tile, however, on closer inspection, due to the style of tile, this does not allow access into the roof space. Conditions are likely too unstable beneath the lifted edges for roosting.

There are no gaps beneath fascias and the ridge and hip tiles are in good condition.

4.2.2 Internal survey results

There is a large roof void above the property, the void is boarded and lined with bitumen felt. The roof is of a simple hipped roof construction.

The roof void is relatively clean and well maintained. There has been an issue with rats in the past and a small number of droppings were noted.

The chimney has been removed leaving a light ingress' into the void, however, this has been sealed entirely with plastic from the outside.

No bats or evidence of bats was found in this location.

5.0 Identified Roosts

The property was not identified as a bat roost.

6.0 Conclusion

The property has not been identified as a bat roost. Suitable roosting locations for bats do not appear to present within the shed due to its architectural style.

If at any point plans deviate from what has been agreed, BE Ecological Ltd must be consulted. A method statement has been provided below. This must be followed in order to protect bats in the unlikely event they are discovered during the works.

A licence from Natural Resources Wales will not be required unless bats or evidence of bats are found during the works. If at any point bats or evidence of bats is found, all works must cease, BE Ecological contacted and NRW consulted. Further surveys and/or a licence may be required prior to works recommencing.

7.0 Breeding Birds

No breeding birds were noted on the exterior nor the interior of the building.

8.0 INTERPRETATION & IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 Active season usage

The property has not been identified as a bat roost.

8.2 Hibernation season usage

It is unlikely that bats will make use of the property in the winter due to a lack of thermal mass.

8.3 Breeding birds

No evidence of breeding birds was identified.

8.4 Ecological Impacts of development

The impacts of the development have been assessed using the current information of the proposed works. Should any changes be made to the proposed works, the assessment will need to be reviewed and amended as necessary. As it stands it is unlikely that the proposed works will have any impact on roosting bats providing that a method statement is followed and all work is undertaken in line with supervision.

9.0 MITIGATION/COMPENSATION/ENHANCEMENT

One of the following bat boxes will be integrated within the most southern or eastern elevation of the building.

https://www.nhbs.com/ib-vl-05-vivara-pro-build-in-woodstone-batbox?bkfno=252213&ca_id=1495&adlocale=uk&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=231032408&gbraid=0AAAAAD_IBbgy0T-UkBLRSeTNRWdcp_Vrn&gclid=CjwKCAjwlOrFBhBaEiwAw4bYDfe3F8do1atW5dzUrG6xO28zlXIGjOG6DS2LiMDtEwEJYQL46H8gTxoCHecQAvD_BwE

One of the following bird boxes will be integrated into the most western or northern elevation of the building.

https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-woodstone-house-sparrow-nest-box?bkfno=238831&ca_id=1495&adlocale=uk&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=231032408&gbraid=0AAAAAD_IBbgy0T-UkBLRSeTNRWdcp_Vrn&gclid=CjwKCAjwlOrFBhBaEiwAw4bYDZd19ONkG03ylZNLG4lcFYof7Erl0DPruTm8BoPLETCl81Lp8QUAcRoCsIwQAvD_BwE

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Timing

It is considered that the building is not a bat roost and therefore works can be undertaken at any time of year.

10.2 Timber/roofing materials

N/A.

10.3 Lighting

N/A

10.4 Bat Licensing

N/A

10.5 Supervision

Supervision will be required for the removal of the roof.

11.0 REFERENCES

Bat Conservation Trust. (2023) *Bat Surveys - Good Practice Guidelines.* Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. & McLeish, A.P. (2004) *The bat workers' manual (3rd Edition).* Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. (2004). *Bat Mitigation Guidelines*. Natural England

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (HMSO).

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) (as amended) (HMSO).

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (HMSO).

APPENDIX A- SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Plate 1- example of tightly fitting tiles and flat roof

Plate 2- example of tightly fitting fascias

Plate 3- southern elevation of property

Plate 4- sealed area where a chimney has been removed

Plate 5- tightly fitting tiles

Plate 6- rear of property

Plate 7- photograph of roof void

Plate 8- photograph of roof void

APPENDIX B METHOD STATEMENT (NON-LICENSED)

1. A suitably licenced and experienced ecologist will be on site/call for the duration of the Works.

2. Every contractor/worker will be provided with a copy of this Method Statement and the contact details of an ecologist and Natural Resources Wales.

3. Before any work commences, the building will be checked for the presence of bats and birds.

4. All features will need to be removed by hand and inspected by the contractors

5. The tiles will also need to be removed manually, one at a time, with the bed and underside inspected for bats/sign of bats by the contractors before moving onto the next.

6. A licensed bat ecologist will be on call for 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.