

Hello Francesca, the buildings to be demolished seem to be clad and roofed with corrugated metal sheeting, and this is not normally conducive to roosting bats. Roofs such as this are subject to wide temperature fluctuations, getting too hot in summer and too cold in winter for bats to tolerate. Also the structures appear in some parts to be open to the elements, so not providing the protection that roosting bats require. There may be some night-time feeding perches within these barns, but this does not justify asking for a bat survey in my view. Instead we should attach our bat advisory note as below.

Birds may be nesting in these structures, and the Applicant should be reminded to avoid disturbance to nesting birds which are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: Part 1, 1(1)(b), whereby it is an offence to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built. In addition, for Schedule 1 birds such as Barn Owls it is an offence to disturb any wild bird while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young, or to disturb dependent young of such a bird.

A small bird box is proposed as a token biodiversity enhancement, but in my view this is inadequate in these circumstances. Instead, a Barn Owl nest box should be incorporated into the north-facing aspect of one of the new buildings, as this species is likely to be prevalent in this location. In addition, because bats are also likely to be present, a bat roosting box should be incorporated into the southerly aspect of one of the buildings.

I do not have any other ecological concerns in relation to this proposal.

Matt

Bat Advisory Note

Bats often roost in houses and other buildings, and work on these buildings may disturb a bat roost. All bats and their roosts are protected against disturbance under UK and European legislation. If works are planned on a building in which bats are known to be roosting, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) must be contacted for advice.

If work has already commenced and bats are found, or if any evidence that bats are using the site as a roost is found, work should cease and NRW should be contacted immediately.

Where there is a likelihood that bats are present, or where bats are found to be present, a suitably qualified and experienced ecological consultant should be contracted to provide an assessment of the impact of the proposed works, and undertake bat surveys if necessary.

Where bats or their roosts are present, no works of site clearance, demolition or construction should take place unless a licence to disturb these species and/or their roosts has been granted in accordance with the relevant legislation. Otherwise, a prosecution may result.

NRW can be contacted at:-

**Natural Resources Wales, Tŷ Cambria, 29 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0TP,
0300 065 3000**

Bat Conservation Trust can be contacted at:-

**5th Floor, Quadrant House, 250 Kennington Lane, London, SE11 5DR, 0845
1300228**