

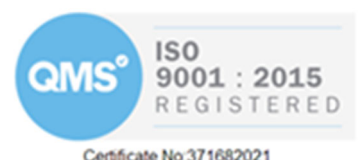
PORT OFFICE – ABP NEWPORT PRELIMINARY ROOST ASSESSMENT (PRA) AND ACTIVITY SURVEY FOR BATS



Prepared for: **Matthew Moore**

By: **Steve Owen**

Date: **October 2025**



DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

PROJECT:	Port Office – ABP Newport
TITLE:	Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) and Activity Survey for Bats

PROJECT REF:	238-03-19-25
REPORT No.:	238-03-19.R4

PREPARED BY:

S Owen:



APPROVED BY:

E Ryan:



Version	Date	Amendments
Original	October 2025	

This report, and information or advice which it contains, is provided by ExCAL solely for internal use and reliance by its Client in performance of ExCAL's duties and liabilities under its contract with the Client. Any advice, opinions, or recommendations within this report should be read and relied upon only in the context of the report as a whole. The advice and opinions in this report are based upon the information made available to ExCAL at the date of this report and on current UK standards, codes, technology and construction practices as at the date of this report. Following final delivery of this report to the Client, ExCAL will have no further obligation or duty to advise the Client on any matters, including development affecting the information or advice provided in this report. This report has been prepared by ExCAL in their professional capacity as Environmental Consultants. The contents of this report do not, in any way, purport to include any manner of legal advice or opinion. This report is prepared in accordance with the terms and conditions of ExCAL's contract with the Client. Regard should be had to those terms and conditions when considering and/or placing any reliance on this report. Should the Client wish to release this report to a Third Party for the party's reliance, ExCAL may, at its discretion, agree to such release provided that:

- ExCAL's written agreement is obtained prior to such release and,
- By release of the report to the Third Party, that Third Party does not acquire any rights, contractual or otherwise, whatsoever against ExCAL and ExCAL, accordingly, assume no duties, liabilities or obligations to that Third Party, and
- ExCAL accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage incurred by the Client or for any conflict of ExCAL's interests arising out of the Clients' release of this report to the Third Party.

PORT OFFICE – ABP NEWPORT

PRELIMINARY ROOST ASSESSMENT (PRA) AND ACTIVITY SURVEY FOR BATS

Contents	Page
1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
2.0 INTRODUCTION	2
2.1 Brief	3
2.2 Objectives	3
2.3 Site Context	3
2.4 Proposed Development	3
2.5 Legislation	3
2.6 Limitations	4
3.0 SITE LOCATION	5
3.1 Site Details	5
4.0 PRELIMINARY ROOST ASSESSMENT	6
4.1 Desk Study	6
4.2 Field Survey	6
4.2.1 Preliminary Roost Assessment for Bats	6
4.3 Preliminary Roost Assessment Survey Limitations	7
4.4 Desktop Study	7
4.4.1 Statutory Designated Sites	7
4.4.2 Non-Statutory Designated Sites	8
4.4.3 Ancient Woodland	8
4.5 Preliminary Roost Assessment for Bats	8
4.5.1 Building Exteriors	8
4.5.2 Building Interiors	11
4.5.3 Signs of Bats	16
4.5.4 Potential Access for Bats	16
4.5.5 Potential Features for Bats	17
5.0 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	18
5.1 BCT Good Practice Guidelines	18
5.1.1 Suitability of Proposed Development Sites for Bats	18
5.1.2 Presence/Absence Surveys for Bats	18
5.1.3 Roost Characterisation Surveys	18
5.2 Discussion	19
5.2.1 Preliminary Roost Assessment Summary	19
5.3 Recommendations	19
6.0 PRESENCE / ABSENCE SURVEYS	21
6.1 Activity Surveys	21
6.2 Analysis	21
6.3 Survey Limitations	21
6.4 Activity Survey for Bats – Dusk Emergence Survey, 20/08/25	22
6.5 Summary of Activity Survey	23
7.0 PRA AND DUSK EMERGENCE SURVEY – DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	24
7.1 Summary of Survey Effort	24
7.1.1 Preliminary Roost Assessment Summary	24
7.1.2 Summary of Dusk Emergence Survey undertaken in August 2025	24
7.2 Potential Impact of Proposals	25
7.3 Mitigation Strategy	25
7.3.1 Mitigation Strategy Details	25
7.3.2 Mitigation Location Details	26
7.3.3 Lighting	26
7.4 Recommendations	27
8.0 REFERENCES	28
APPENDIX A	Drawings
APPENDIX B	Citations of Designated Sites

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is a brief summary of findings and recommendations of the Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) and activity survey for bats undertaken on behalf of Associated British Ports (hereafter referred to as the client / ABP) at the Port Office buildings at the ABP Newport site, Alexandra Docks, Newport, NP20 2UW. The report should be read in its entirety for full details of the survey.

- The survey comprised of an internal and external inspection of the buildings to assess their potential to support roosting bats, and identify whether any evidence of bats within the survey buildings was present;
- The proposed development consists of the demolition of the existing buildings to enable a new development at the site;
- These proposals will result in the potential disturbance and/or destruction of bat roosts if these are present within the survey buildings. Furthermore, noise and vibration from the works may cause disturbance if bats are roosting within different parts of the building or within wider areas of the site;
- Local Record Searches were undertaken using Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs 'MAGIC' geographic mapping software and the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales 'DataMapWales' in order to determine the importance of the site from a biodiversity perspective in the context of its surroundings, and to determine the site's proximity to statutory designated sites (if present) within a 1km radius of the survey area;
- The data search returned 2 records of statutory sites within 1km of the survey site. Both records relate to the River Usk, which is located approximately 60m to the north-east of the site, and which is classified as both a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- A total of 2 records of non-statutory designated sites (in the form of a Special Landscape Area (SLA) and Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)) were also returned during the search, with these being located approximately 60m to the north-east and 550m to the north respectively. There are 0 ancient woodlands within 1km of the site;
- Connectivity between the site and better foraging habitat further afield is generally poor, although the nearby River Usk and a parcel of scrubby woodland does offer some commuting and foraging opportunity for bats. The habitat surrounding the survey buildings consists largely of hardstanding and car parking, owing to the site's industrial use;
- The PRA was undertaken on Friday 1st August 2025;
- The survey consisted of the inspection of two buildings, namely the main survey building (a 2-storey brick building with slate hipped roofs) and a flat-roofed extension (also constructed from brick with cladding on the western side, but possesses a flat corrugated steel sheet roof) which is affixed to the north-western side of the main survey building;
- The main survey building is generally L-Shaped / rectangular in shape, with approximate dimensions of 22m x 15.5m, whilst the affixed extension is approximately square in shape, of approximate 12m x 12m dimension;
- The main survey building possesses 2 standalone lofts, whilst no loft is present within the flat roofed affixed extension;
- Numerous potential access/egress points to the building interiors were recorded during the survey. These include; gaps behind fascias and decorative brickwork on main roof of building, a small number of slipped / lifted slates on main roof of building, a small number of open windows across main survey building and a broken fascia board on (NE) section of building, all of which enable the potential free access/egress of bats to the respective building interiors in these locations;
- A number of Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) for bats were identified during the survey. These include; timber roof & loft features within main survey building and north-eastern standalone lofts, brick chimney

breast / walls in loft spaces, small amount of missing mortar beneath ridge tiles of main survey building, gaps between roof tiles and felt underlay within north-eastern standalone loft and small gaps behind and damage to steel and timber fascias. It should be noted however that the survey buildings are not thought to provide sufficient space, shelter, protection or possess the suitable conditions to be used on a regular basis by larger numbers of bats;

- All interior and exterior areas of the survey buildings were accessible and subsequently surveyed during the walkover assessment. **No evidence of bats was identified during the PRA;**
- As such, although no evidence of bats was identified within the survey buildings, due to the presence of PRFs being identified within the building interior, in conjunction with numerous potential access/egress points for bats being recorded around the buildings, the survey buildings were assessed to have **low** potential to support roosting bats;
- Based upon the results of the PRA, it was recommended that a minimum of 1 presence / absence survey in the form of a dusk emergence survey should be undertaken in order to assess how bats utilise the survey buildings, and determine species type and numbers if roosts are indeed present;
- A single dusk emergence survey was subsequently undertaken on Tuesday 19th August 2025;
- **No bats were identified to emerge from the survey buildings during the dusk emergence survey;**
- Based upon the results of the PRA and subsequent activity survey, the survey buildings are not thought to be utilised for roosting purposes by bats, and subsequently **the proposed demolition works are unlikely to impact detrimentally upon bats;**
- No further survey effort is recommended as the findings allow an accurate assessment of the status of bats and the characterisation of the survey building to be made;
- The recommendation is however made that artificial nesting and roosting boxes are erected on mature trees to be retained in the wider port area in order to maintain the favourable conservation status of both nesting birds and bats at the site;
- Full mitigation recommendations are made in Section 7.0 of this report.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Brief

ExCAL Limited was commissioned by Associated British Ports (hereafter referred to as the client / ABP) to undertake a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) for bats at the Port Office buildings, Alexandra Docks, Newport, NP20 2UW.

The survey buildings are scheduled for demolition, to facilitate a future new development at the site.

2.2 Objectives

The purpose of the survey was to assess the buildings' potential to support roosting bats, and to identify any Potential Roosting Features (PRF's) on or within the buildings which may be utilised by bats.

Furthermore, the buildings were also subjected to a thorough internal and external inspection to determine whether they have historically been / continue to be actively used by bats.

2.3 Site Context

The survey buildings are situated within the grounds of ABP Newport Docks, and are located at the Port Office buildings.

The OS grid reference for the approximate centre of the survey buildings is ST 31864 85584.

The buildings are located within Newport docks; therefore the surrounding area consists primarily of industrial warehouses, offices and temporary cabins. The immediate surroundings of the survey buildings consist primarily of hardstanding, with a car park being situated to the east and north.

The survey building is further bound by East Way Road, which runs along the western and southern sides of the building, beyond which W.E. Dowds Shipping and North Dock are situated, approximately 55m and 110m to the south-west respectively.

The River Usk is located approximately 60m to the north-east of the survey buildings, and a moderately sized area of scrubby woodland is situated between the aforementioned car park to the north and east, and the river. Connectivity from the survey buildings to better foraging habitat further afield is generally relatively poor, although the aforementioned River Usk and scrub may offer some commuting and foraging opportunity for bats.

The wider landscape of the area consists of a combination of pastoral fields and associated hedgerows, with Newport Wetlands being located approximately 2.3km to the south-east of the site, whilst significant industrial sites including a landfill and Cogent Power are located approximately 0.9km south-west and 0.6km north-east of the survey building respectively. Newport city centre is located approximately 2km to the north of the site.

2.4 Proposed Development

The proposed development consists of the demolition of the existing buildings in order to enable a new development to occur at the site. These works will result in the potential disturbance and destruction of bat roosts if these are present within any areas of the buildings.

Furthermore, noise and vibration from the works may cause disturbance if bats are roosting within different parts of the building or within wider areas of the site.

2.5 Legislation

All UK bat species and their roosts are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). All bats are also included in Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (Habitats Regulations), which defines "European protected species of animals".

The combined legislation makes it illegal to: -

- Intentionally kill, injure or capture bats;
- Deliberately disturb bats (whether in a roost or not);
- Damage, destroy or obstruct access to bat roosts;
- Possess or transport a bat or any part of a bat, unless acquired legally; and
- Sell, barter or exchange bats, or parts of bats.

As a signatory to the Bonn Convention (Agreement of Bats in Europe) the UK is also required to protect their habitats, requiring the identification and protection from damage or disturbance of important feeding areas.

2.6 Limitations

This report has been prepared for the benefit of the client and its contents should not be relied upon by others without the written authority of ExCAL Ltd. Unauthorised third party use of this report is done so at the parties' own risk and ExCAL Ltd owe these parties no duty of care or skill.

3.0 SITE LOCATION

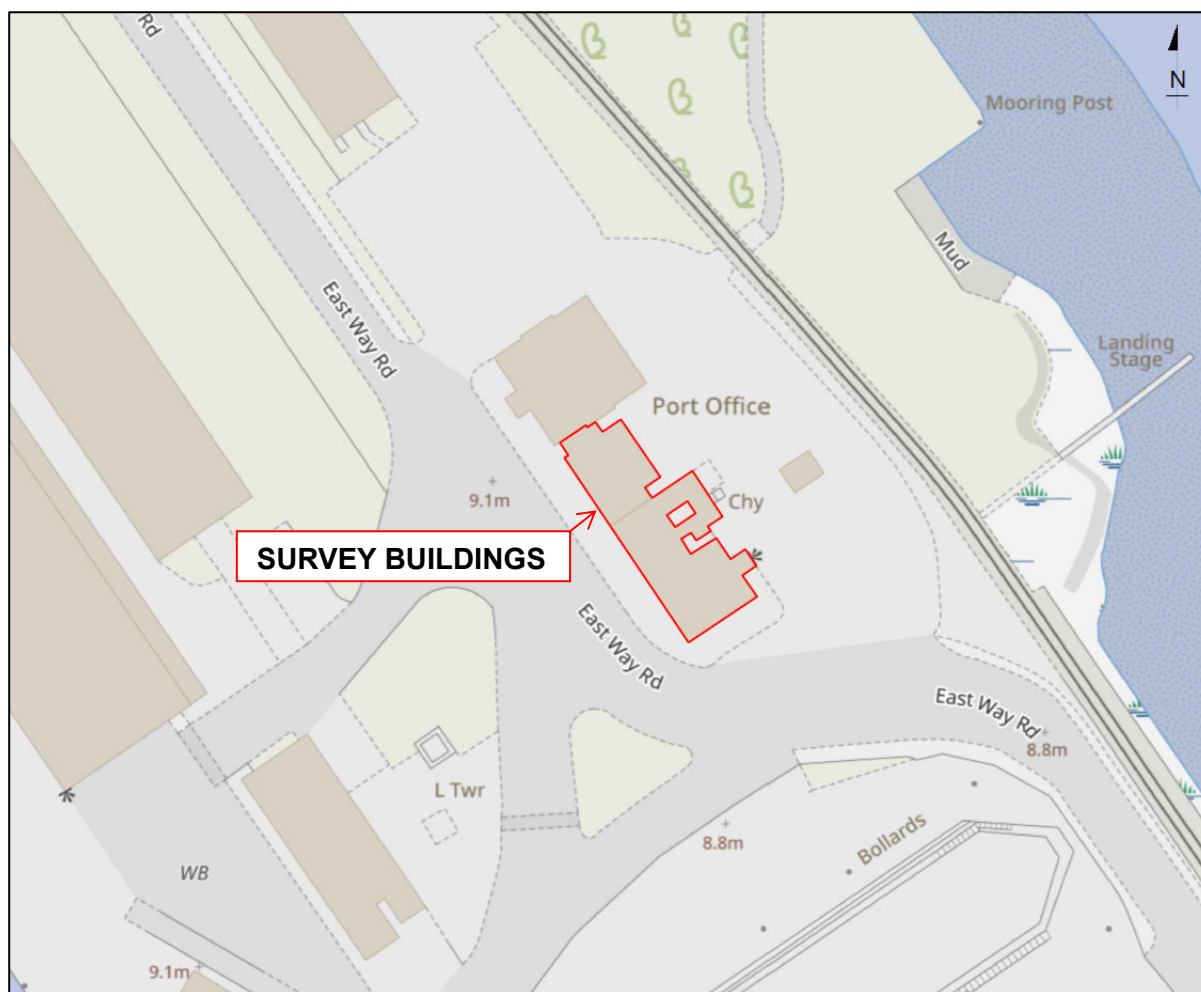
3.1 Site Details

The approximate centre of the survey buildings is located at Grid Reference ST 31864 85584 and the site address is listed below: -

Port Office Buildings
Associated British Ports
East Way Road
Newport
NP20 2UW.

The location of the survey buildings is visible in Figure 1 below: -

Figure 1 – Survey Buildings



4.0 PRELIMINARY ROOST ASSESSMENT

This report has been designed to comply with the British Standard Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development – BS 42020:2013 (BSI, 2013); the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing, Second Edition (CIEEM, 2017) and Bat Conservation Trust – Bat Survey Guidelines, Fourth Edition (Collins, J. 2023).

The buildings were subjected to an internal and external inspection to assess their potential to support roosting bats.

4.1 Desk Study

Local Record Searches were undertaken using Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs 'MAGIC' geographic mapping software and the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales 'DataMapWales' resource in order to determine the importance of the site from a biodiversity perspective in the context of its surroundings, and to determine the site's proximity to statutory designated sites within a 1km radius of the survey area (if present).

4.2 Field Survey

The buildings were surveyed both externally and internally for evidence of (and potential for) bats. The survey was undertaken by Steve Owen, a licenced surveyor (NRW Licence no: **S093409/1**) on 1st August 2025.

The external inspections were undertaken during daylight hours from ground level. The interior of the buildings were also surveyed extensively for evidence of bats and for potential access/egress points for bats. All interior areas of the buildings were accessible during the survey, and the buildings possess no loft spaces.

4.2.1 Preliminary Roost Assessment for Bats

During the PRA, the following evidence was sought: -

- The presence of potential access and egress routes for bats into and out of likely roosting sites and evidence of the use of such potential access points by bats such as scattered droppings, urine staining or scratching around entrances;
- Corpses or skeletons;
- Feeding remains;
- Bat droppings;
- Likely commuting routes and nearby habitat assessment for potential use by bats;
- Any other signs of use by bats including the presence of bats themselves.

In addition the overall site and its associated wider surroundings were also evaluated for the potential to support commuting and/or foraging bat species.

The internal inspections were undertaken during daylight hours and were aided by the use of a high-powered torch. All areas accessible to bats were searched for evidence of bats, including droppings and feeding remains.

Internal signs of roost access and egress points were also sought out during the survey, examples of these could include; light shining into internal building spaces from the exterior of the building or damage to any internal roof linings.

Bats regularly utilise specific areas within buildings which were searched as a priority for any bat fields signs. Examples of these are outlined below: -

- Dividing walls;
- Underneath ridge beams;
- Beneath hip joints and junctions;
- Timber/wall joints;
- Voids between blockwork;
- Staining above/around gaps;

- Droppings around gaps.

Roosting bats and signs of their presence are not always visible, so any potential bat roosting locations were also noted during the survey.

4.3 Preliminary Roost Assessment Survey Limitations

External and internal inspections for bats can be undertaken at any time of year. The survey was conducted using the recommended equipment and was led by a licenced bat worker. Furthermore, all interior and exterior areas of the survey building were accessible.

No significant limitations were noted during the survey and as such, no limitations were recorded which may have impacted the robustness of the results of the PRA for bats.

4.4 Desktop Study

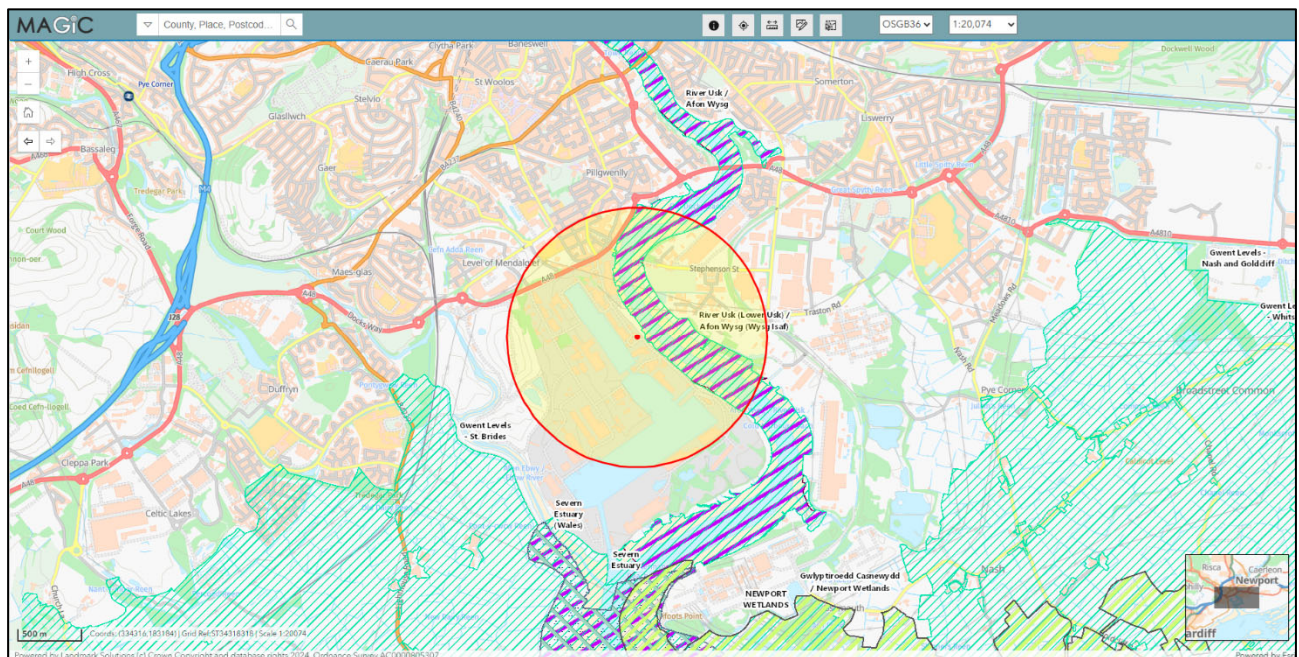
4.4.1 Statutory Designated Sites

The desk study sought to identify records of statutory and non-statutory designated sites within 1km of the survey area.

In total, 2 records of statutory designated sites were returned within 1km of the proposed development site, with both of these pertaining to the River Usk.

The 1km buffer area along with the site location is visible in Figure 2 below: -

Figure 2 – 1km Buffer Area Search Record for Statutory Designated Sites (Adapted from MAGIC)



Details of statutory designated sites within 1km of the survey area are outlined below: -

- River Usk – Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – 0.06km NE;
- River Usk (Lower Usk) – Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – 0.06km NE.

River Usk (SAC & SSSI) – Citation

The River Usk comprises a large, linear ecosystem which acts as an important wildlife corridor, an essential migration route and key breeding area for many nationally and internationally important species.

The Usk is of special interest as a fine example of a river running over sandstones and for its associated plant and animal communities. Its character spans a wide range of types from an upland, base-poor stream to a large lowland river with extensive tidal reaches. Its overall diversity is a product of its underlying geology, soil type, adjacent land-use and fluvio-geomorphological regime.

With respect to bats, the frequent tree cover located along the length of the of the lower River Usk provides valuable feeding and roosting habitats for several bat species including Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*). Full citations are available for review in Appendix B – Citations of Designated Sites.

4.4.2 Non-Statutory Designated Sites

The Newport Local Development Plan (LDP) mapping resource was utilised in order to determine whether any non-statutory designated sites are located within 1km of the survey building.

The desk study subsequently returned 2 records of a non-statutory ecologically designated site within 1km of the survey area.

The first of these records consists of the River Usk Special Landscape Area (SLA), with this being located approximately 60m to the north-east of the survey buildings. The second record meanwhile consists of an unnamed Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) located adjacent to the eastern side of the River Usk 550m to the north.

SLAs represent a non-statutory designation which was identified following a formal assessment of the landscape qualities of the county. In this regard their designation seeks to utilise 'outstanding' categorisations supported where appropriate by those classified as 'high'.

Whilst not intended to necessarily preclude development, it is intended to reflect the emphasis placed upon the term 'special' in their definition. The design of developments should be sensitive enough to ensure that the scheme makes a positive contribution to the landscape. In this regard, proposals will be expected to show that they will not have an unacceptable impact on their specific distinctive features or characteristics of the SLA.

Although there are no protections afforded to SINC's as a result of their designation, they often contain nationally rare, threatened or priority species and habitats, therefore playing a critical role in conservation of the UK's natural heritage.

The non-statutory designated sites located within 1km of the proposed development site suggest that the habitats surrounding the site are likely ecologically rich in nature and in turn likely support protected or priority species.

4.4.3 Ancient Woodland

There are no ancient woodlands within 1km of the survey site.

4.5 Preliminary Roost Assessment for Bats

4.5.1 Building Exteriors

The survey consisted of the inspection of two distinct buildings on site. These are outlined below: -

- **Main Survey Building (MSB)** – The main survey building consists of a brick, irregularly shaped (although generally L-Shaped / rectangular) building of approximate 22m x 15.5m dimension. The building is currently occupied, and is being used as office space. The main building possesses slate pitched roofs, of which there are 2 distinct sections, with the main roof of the building being L-Shaped in design, with an additional smaller standalone hipped roof being present in the north-eastern corner of the building. A smaller, flat-roofed extension is affixed to the main survey building, on the north-western side;
- **Flat Roofed Extension** – As per the above, an additional flat-roofed extension is affixed to the north-western side of the building. Also constructed from brick, this extension has been clad on the western side with decorative white cladding. The extension is square in shape, measuring approximately 12m x 12m in width and length, and possesses a flat roof constructed from corrugated steel roofing sheets.

Photographs of the survey buildings are visible in Figures 3 – 8 below: -

Figure 3 – (W) Aspect of MSB Looking (NE)



Figure 4 – (S) Aspect of MSB, Looking (N)



Figure 5 – (SE) Corner of MSB, Looking (W)



Figure 6 – (NE) Corner of MSB, Looking (S)



Figure 7 – (W) Aspect of Flat Roofed Extension



Figure 8 – (E) Aspect of Flat Roofed Extension



Main Survey Building

The main survey building consists of a 2-storey brick building of approximate 22m x 15.5m dimension, and is visible in Figures 3 – 6 above.

The building is currently occupied and is being utilised as office space. As stated, the building has been constructed from brick, with decorative brickwork arches being situated above the windows and doors of the building, whilst additional decorative brickwork is present at the top of the walls in place of fascia boards /

soffits. The masonry and associated mortar of the building was observed to be in generally excellent condition during the survey, with no significant areas of damage being recorded around the entirety of the main survey building which could be utilised by either crevice or void-dwelling bats.

A small timber soffit and fascia board is however present on the north-eastern side of the building. Both of these timber features were identified to be in generally good condition, with no areas of damage being recorded which may be utilised by bats.

Although the main survey building is roughly L-Shaped / rectangular in design, the building is irregularly shaped and subsequently possesses 2 distinct roofs. The first of these roofs is situated on the southern and western sides of the building, which possesses adjoining hipped roofs creating a single large L-Shaped roof, whilst an additional smaller hipped roof is also located on the north-eastern side of the building.

Both of these roofs have been constructed from what appears to be slate or concrete / asbestos composite tiles, and although in generally good condition, a small number of lifted and slipped tiles were recorded which were assessed to be of suitable size to potentially support crevice-dwellers and/or permit access/egress to the building interior(s) via these areas.

Furthermore, both roofs possess half-round ridge tiles which are of the same material type as the roof tiles of the building. The ridge tiles were observed to be in generally good condition, and no missing tiles were observed across both roofs of the main survey building during the walkover survey. Small sections of missing mortar were observed beneath some of the ridge tiles however, and these gaps were assessed to be of sufficient size to act as PRFs or potential access/egress points to the building interior for crevice dwellers within these locations.

The main survey building possesses numerous UPVC framed windows across both floors, along all aspects of the building. The windows were observed to be in generally excellent condition and well-sealed, with no broken window panes or gaps around the frames being recorded which could permit access/egress to the building interior for bats. A small number of windows were however observed to be open during the survey which may permit access to bats to the building interior in these respective locations, however these are typically closed upon completion of the working day when the building is vacated. The roofs of the main survey building do not possess any skylights.

The interior of the main survey building across both the Ground Floor and 1st Floor levels is subsequently well-lit by natural light during the day, and these areas of the building are also occupied, significantly reducing these areas of the building's potential to be utilised as a day roost. The main survey building does however possess 2 distinct enclosed loft spaces, within which numerous PRFs for bats are present, and are subsequently more likely to be utilised by bats for roosting purposes.

Access to the interior of the survey building is gained via a number of pedestrian doorways. The main access to the building is via a doorway on the ground floor of the southern side of the building, with an additional Ground Floor doorway also being present on the eastern side. Additional access can be gained via a rear external steel stairwell, which proceeds up to 1st Floor Level on the eastern side of the survey building. The doorways are constructed from UPVC, which was observed to be in excellent condition, with no damaged areas being identified which may permit the access/egress of bats to the building interior via these avenues.

The main survey building possesses 3 chimneys across the main roof. The chimneys are constructed from brick, which was observed to be in generally good condition, and although a small amount of damage was recorded to the brickwork in some locations, the damaged areas are not suitable to support bats for roosting purposes.

Lead flashing is present across many areas of the roof. The flashing was observed to be in generally good condition, however, some lifting was observed of some of the flashing present in the north-eastern corner of the building, which was assessed to potentially be of suitable size for crevice-dwelling bats to utilise for roosting purposes.

Flat Roofed Extension

As discussed, an additional structure was also surveyed during the PRA, with this being situated immediately to the north-west of the main survey building. The second building is also constructed from brick in a similar

manner to the main survey building, however, the western side of the building has been clad with a decorative white covering, onto which the ABP company logo has been set.

The exposed brickwork on the northern and western sides of the building was observed to be in excellent condition, with no damage being identified which may be utilised by bats during the survey.

The extension building possesses a flat roof, which has been constructed from single-skinned trapezoidal steel sheeting which has likely been set over a flat roof encapsulated with roofing felt.

This section of the building also possesses steel fascias, and the condition of both the steel roof sheeting and fascias was observed to be excellent, with no lifting or other suitable features for bats being recorded. A small gap is present behind the steel fascias however, which was assessed to provide some limited roosting potential for crevice dwellers, although this gap is shallow and does not permit access/egress to the building interior via these locations.

The flat roofed extension possesses numerous UPVC framed windows on the north-eastern and south-western sides of the building, and subsequently the building interior is very well-lit during daytime hours across both the Ground Floor and 1st Floor of the building. The windows and associated glass panes were observed to be undamaged and well-sealed, and subsequently bats are not able to enter the building interior via these avenues. A steel external staircase is situated between the flat roofed extension and an adjacent building to the north-west which was not included as part of this PRA.

The roofs of both survey buildings are visible in Figures 9 & 10 below: -

Figure 9 – Roof of MSB in Picture Background



Figure 10 – Roof of Flat Roofed Extension



The exterior of the flat roofed extension provides little in the way of roosting opportunity for bats, and was subsequently concluded to possess negligible potential to support roosting bats.

4.5.2 Building Interiors

Main Survey Building

As discussed, the interior of the main survey building is currently being utilised as office space across both floors. The Ground Floor and 1st Floor levels are very well-lit by natural light during the day, owing to the presence of numerous windows along most aspects of the building.

Subsequently, the interior of the building is not thought to be suitable at Ground Floor or 1st Floor level to be utilised as a day roost for bats.

As such, the main emphasis of the interior survey of the main survey building was within the lofts of the building, of which, the building possesses 2, namely; 1 large L-shaped loft across the main roof of the building (split into southern and northern Sections) designated as the **Main Loft**, and a smaller loft on the north-eastern side of the building, designated as the **Standalone (NE) Loft**.

Photographs of the Main Loft and associated access points are visible in Figures 11 – 22 below and overleaf: -

Figure 11 – Access Point to (N) Section of Main Loft of Main Survey Building



Figure 12 – (N) Section of Main Loft of MSB, Looking (NE)



Figure 13 – (N) Section of Main Loft of MSB, Looking (NW). Light Ingress visible To the Right, which May Permit Access/Egress for



Figure 14 – Gap Around (E) Side of Chimney Breast Enables Access to (S) Section of Main Survey Building Loft



Figure 15 – Gap Around (W) Side of Chimney Breast Enables Access to (S) Section of Main Survey Building Loft



Figure 16 – Light Ingress via Gaps Present on (N) Side of Loft, May Permit Access/Egress for Bats to (N) Section of Loft Interior

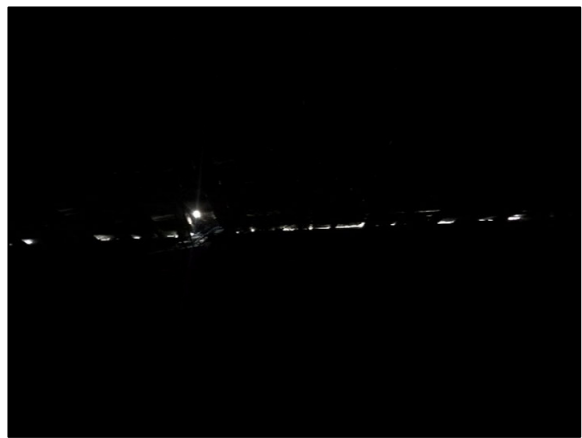


Figure 17 – Access Point to (S) Section of Main Loft of Main Survey Building



Figure 18 – (S) Section of Main Loft of MSB, Looking (SW)



Figure 19 – (S) Section of Main Loft of MSB, Looking (SW)



Figure 20 – (S) Section of Main Loft of MSB, Looking (SE)



Figure 21 – (S) Section of Main Loft of MSB, Looking (NW). The Loft is L-Shaped, and Connects to the (N) Section via this Location



Figure 22 – Underside Roof Detail of (S) Section of Main Loft. The Roof Tiles in this Location have been Set Directly onto Timber Battens, with No Felt Underlay Present



The interior space of the Main Loft of the Main Survey Building is accessible via two loft hatches within the ceiling at 1st Floor Level (above the suspended ceiling situated in each location), with each loft hatch permitting access to different areas of the loft (namely a northern and southern section). The loft is L-Shaped in design and consists of 1 single space, with each section of the loft being accessible via gaps present around a brick chimney in the northern section of the loft.

The southern section of the loft is supported by a large timber king post and associated trusses, whilst the roof is supported by a combination of timber rafters and purlins, onto which additional timber battens have been overlaid.

A single timber king post meanwhile also supports the northern section of the loft, although this post does not possess associated struts. The roof in the northern section of the building is however also set on timber rafters, purlins and battens. A number of timber floor joists are present throughout both sections of the loft.

The direct underside of the roof tiles of the building were visible from the loft interior, as these have been directly affixed to timber battens. No felt underlay (or similar) is present beneath the tiles, and subsequently, no void is present between the tiles and any aforementioned underlay in which crevice-dwelling bats may be able to roost.

With the above being said, the fact that no membrane is present between the roof tiles and interior loft means that any damage to the roof tiles of the building would subsequently permit the access/egress of bats directly into the loft interior via these damaged areas, and bats would not need to crawl in order to achieve access to interior spaces.

Two chimneys are present within the main loft of the building, with one each being situated within the northern and southern sections of the loft. The chimneys have been constructed from brick, and the brickwork and mortar was observed to be in good condition across both chimneys, with no significant areas of damage being recorded which may be utilised by crevice-dwelling bats. Gaps above the extent of the brickwork of the chimneys within the main loft of the survey building were however assessed to be of sufficient size in which crevice-dwellers may potentially roost.

The floor of the loft has been covered with fibreglass insulation for the most part, and the loft interior was observed to be very warm during the survey, owing to a combination of this insulation and exposed roof tiles from the loft interior. As such, the loft of the building is not thought suitable to support hibernating bats during the winter months, where bats require cooler temperatures. The loft does however offer some potential to be utilised as a day roost for crevice-dwelling species.

The numerous timber features within the main loft of the building were assessed to provide potential roosting opportunity for both free-hanging and crevice-dwelling bats.

Potential roosting features within these areas include; timber rafters, purlins and battens, which are both directly suitable for free-hanging bats, whilst small gaps between intersections of these features with one another, and where timber features intersect with the masonry of the building are also suitable for crevice-dwelling bats.

Further to the above, a number of potential access/egress points for bats was recorded to the main loft of the main survey building. Light ingress was visible in a number of locations, primarily along the northern wall of the northern section of the main loft, whilst additional light ingress was recorded within the southern section of the main loft, primarily along the eastern and southern walls. The gaps appear to be at the extent of the fascia boards / decorative brickwork within these locations, and no significant damage to any roof tiles was recorded.

These gaps were assessed to be of sufficient size to enable crevice-dwelling bats to access the interior loft locations via these avenues.

It should be noted however that all interior loft spaces were inspected for evidence of bats, including gaps around the timber framework of the roof and building masonry during the survey. No evidence of bats was recorded in or around these areas, and similarly no evidence of bat use was recorded throughout the entirety of the main loft of the building.

An additional standalone loft is present toward the north-eastern side of the main survey building. The loft is accessed via a small loft hatch from the 1st Floor interior room at this side of the building, and the loft is isolated from the previously discussed Main Loft.

Photographs of the loft access and loft interior are visible in Figures 23 – 26 overleaf: -

Figure 23 – Access Point to Standalone Small Loft at (NE) of Building



Figure 24 – (NE) Standalone Loft Interior, Looking (SW)



Figure 25 – (NE) Standalone Loft Interior, Looking (NE)



Figure 26 – Detail of Underside of Roof. Although Most of the Roof Tiles are Overlaid Directly onto Battens, Some Roof Felt Underlay is Present in Some Areas



The interior of the north-eastern standalone loft is similar to that recorded in the main loft of the main survey building. The roof of the building has been constructed from timber features, onto which the slate tiles of the building have been set directly in most locations.

Small areas of roofing felt were however recorded within this loft, and it is likely that a small gap is present between the roof tiles of the building and the interior underlay, which may be utilised by crevice-dwelling bats should they be able to gain access to this area (via damaged or slipped exterior roof tiles, for example).

A brick wall is present at the south-western side of the loft, whereby the roof of this section of the building connects with the masonry of the main survey building itself. The brick wall was observed to be in excellent condition during the survey, with no areas of damage being recorded which may be utilised by crevice-dwelling bats.

With the above being said, intersections between the timber framework of the roof were assessed to provide potential roosting opportunity for crevice dwellers, and both the main loft and the north-eastern standalone loft were determined to be of sufficient size to enable void-dwelling bats to roost within.

It should be noted however that no light ingress was recorded within the small standalone loft at the north-east of the building, and no potential access/egress points for bats to the loft interior were also recorded.

Furthermore, no evidence of bats (in the form of feeding remains, droppings, live or dead bats, smudging, urine staining etc.) was identified throughout either the main loft or north-eastern standalone loft during the walkover

assessment, and additionally, no evidence of bats was identified throughout any of the building interiors during the PRA.

Furthermore, the survey building is subjected to high levels of light, noise and disturbance on a day-to-day basis, owing to its location on a busy port along with continued use by human activity, and these features significantly reduce the likelihood of bats utilising the property, particularly at Ground Floor and 1st Floor level.

All interior spaces of both the main loft and standalone north-eastern loft (including between timber intersections, intersections between timber and masonry etc.) were inspected extensively for signs of bat use during the PRA, with no evidence being identified.

However, suitable potential roosting features for bats were recorded within both surveyed lofts, and potential access/egress points for bats to these features was recorded within the main loft of the building.

Subsequently, although no evidence of bats was identified during the PRA, there is the potential that bats could access the interior lofts of the survey building to access potential roosting features situated within. As such, **the main survey building was assessed to possess low potential to support roosting bats.**

Flat Roofed Extension

The interior of the flat roofed extension was also surveyed during the PRA. All interior areas of the building are currently occupied and actively still being used by ABP, and this building does not possess a loft space or suitable potential roosting features which may be utilised by bats.

The interior spaces of the flat roofed extension are very well-lit during the day by both artificial and natural light, owing to the rooms being utilised for a number of purposes, including office space, changing rooms, toilets and a canteen.

No suitable access/egress points to the interior of the flat roofed extension were recorded during the PRA, and similarly, no evidence of bats was recorded throughout either of the building interiors or exteriors during the walkover assessment.

The flat roofed extension was subsequently concluded to be unsuitable to support roosting bats, and potential roosting features across the building were limited. Subsequently, **the flat roofed extension was concluded to possess negligible potential to support roosting bats.**

4.5.3 Signs of Bats

The survey buildings were inspected for evidence of bats including but not limited to; feeding remains, droppings, smudging, staining and other evidence during the PRA.

No evidence of bats was identified during the PRA.

4.5.4 Potential Access for Bats

A small number of potential access/egress points for bats to the building (loft) interiors and associated PRFs were recorded during the PRA walkover survey.

Potential access areas and locations within the buildings are outlined in further detail below:-

- **Gaps Behind Fascias / Decorative Brickwork on Main Roof of Building** – Small gaps are present behind the decorative brickwork / fascias on the main survey building, as evidenced by light ingress from the loft interior, enabling the potential access/egress of bats to the loft interiors via these locations;
- **Small Number of Slipped / Lifted Slates on Main Roof of Building** – A small number of slipped / lifted slates were recorded on the main roof of the building which may permit access to crevice-dwelling bats to the main loft interior via these locations, particularly where the roof terminates above fascias / decorative brickwork;

- **Small Number of Open Windows Across Main Survey Building** – A small number of open windows were recorded across the survey building which may permit access/egress to the building interior for both crevice and void-dwelling bats via these areas. The windows are however closed upon the end of the working day however, and are subsequently unlikely to permit access/egress for bats during the night;
- **Broken Fascia Board on (NE) Section of Building** – A timber fascia board with some evidence of rot was recorded on the north-eastern side of the building, which may permit access/egress for bats in this location.

4.5.5 Potential Features for Bats

The interior of the building was inspected thoroughly for suitable features for bats and any evidence of bat use.

As discussed, a small number of potential access / egress points to the main loft of the building are present which may allow bats to enter the building interior and access potential roosting features identified during the survey.

Potential roosting areas identified within the buildings include: -

- **Timber Roof & Loft Features within Main Survey Building and North-Eastern Standalone Lofts** – A number of exposed timber roof support features, including rafters, joists and framework were identified within the main loft and standalone north-eastern loft during the survey. These features may be suitable for both free-hanging and crevice-dwelling bats. Areas in which these features intersect with the brickwork of the building were also assessed to provide potential roosting opportunity for crevice-dwelling bats, where small gaps are present;
- **Brick Chimney Breast / Walls in Loft Spaces** – Small brick chimney breasts are present within the main loft of the building, whilst the standalone north-eastern loft also possesses a brick wall at the south-western end. Although in generally good condition, small gaps above the extent of the walls were recorded which may be suitable for crevice-dwelling bats;
- **Small Amount of Missing Mortar Beneath Ridge Tiles of Main Survey Building** – Small sections of missing mortar were observed beneath some of the ridge tiles on the roof of the main survey building, and these gaps were assessed to be of sufficient size to act as PRFs for crevice-dwelling bats;
- **Gaps between Roof Tiles and Felt Underlay within North-Eastern Standalone Loft** – Although the majority of the roof tiles of the building across all areas have been overlaid directly onto timber battens, a small amount of roofing felt is present beneath the tiles of the north-eastern standalone loft. A small gap is likely present between the roof tiles and the felt underlay in this location, which could potentially be utilised by crevice-dwelling bats if they are able to gain access to this area via any unrecorded areas of damage;
- **Small Gaps Behind and Damage To Steel and Timber Fascias** – The flat roofed extension possesses steel fascias which were observed to be excellent condition during the survey with no damage being recorded. A small gap is present behind the fascia boards however, and although it is shallow, it could be used opportunistically by individual bats should conditions dictate. Furthermore, a timber fascia on the north-eastern section of the building was damaged, enabling the potential access/egress of crevice-dwelling bats to potential roosting features situated within.

The survey concluded that; although no evidence of bats was identified during the PRA, the observed presence of PRFs within the building interiors, in conjunction with potential access/egress points to these features means that **the survey buildings possess an overall low potential to support roosting bats.**

5.0 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 BCT Good Practice Guidelines

5.1.1 Suitability of Proposed Development Sites for Bats

Table 4.1 within the BCT Good Practice Guidelines state the following guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats, based on the presence of habitat features within the landscape, to be applied using professional judgement: -

- **None:** - No habitat features on site likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of the year (complete absence of crevices / suitable shelter);
- **Negligible:** - No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats, however a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion;
- **Low:** - A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger number of bats; (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation);
- **Moderate:** - A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat, but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only, such as maternity and hibernation);
- **High:** - A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger number of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts e.g. maternity or classic cool/sable hibernation site.

5.1.2 Presence / Absence Surveys for Bats

Furthermore, BCT Good Practice Guidelines state that further surveys (particularly presence/absence surveys) are required if: -

- The preliminary roost assessment has not ruled out the reasonable likelihood of a roost being present (because there are locations with potential for bats to roost undetected in concealed cracks, crevices or voids), but no definitive evidence of the presence of bat roosts has been recorded;
- Potential roost features inspection survey has identified moderate and high suitability potential roost features, but no definitive evidence of the presence of bats has been established;
- A comprehensive inspection survey is not possible due to restricted access, but features are present with a reasonable likelihood of supporting bats;
- There is a risk that evidence of bat use may have been removed by weather or human activities.

The aims of these surveys would be to determine the presence or absence of bats at the time of the survey and the need for further surveys and/or mitigation.

If sufficient areas of a structure have been inspected and no evidence found, then further surveys may not be appropriate.

However, if there is a reasonable likelihood that bat roosts could be present and particularly if there are areas inaccessible for survey, then further surveys may be required proportionate to the circumstances encountered.

5.1.3 Roost Characterisation Surveys

Where evidence of bats has been established during a PRA (for example, where droppings are found), roost characterisation surveys in the form of dusk emergence surveys should be undertaken.

The aim of roost characterisation surveys and dusk emergence surveys is to establish: -

- Are bat roosts present or likely to be absent;
- Which bat species use the site for roosting;
- How many bats do these roosts support;
- Where are the bat roost access points;
- Where are the bat roosts;
- At what times of the year are bats present, and how does use change seasonally;
- What types of bat roost are present;
- What flight-lines do the bats use after emerging from the roost has been identified during a PRA.

By answering the above questions, a licenced ecologist will be able to undertake an impact assessment, and design a mitigation, enhancement and monitoring strategy where relevant.

The level of survey effort required to collect the relevant information to design an impact assessment and associated mitigation strategy is site-specific, and appropriate surveys should be repeated until the above information has been collected. Appropriate methods and equipment should be used to minimise the number of repeat visits however, and effort should always be proportionate to impact.

Where presence of bats is established during a PRA, but roost characterisation surveys have not recorded any bat presence, it may be necessary to carry out further surveys at alternative times of the year.

It should be noted however that further surveys may provide no return, and it may be necessary to proceed with the information collected from both the PRA and surveys undertaken to date in this instance.

5.2 Discussion

5.2.1 Preliminary Roost Assessment Summary

The Port Office Buildings were surveyed in detail on 1st August 2025 to assess their potential to support roosting bats.

The PRA concluded that the survey building possesses a **low** potential to support roosting bats.

A number of PRFs for bats were identified during the survey, with these being particularly located within the 2 standalone lofts of the building. Furthermore, potential access/egress points to the building and loft interior(s) were recorded during the survey, and the lofts of the building were concluded to be of sufficient size to potentially support void-dwelling bats.

It should be noted however that no evidence of bats was identified during the walkover survey after a thorough search of all interior and exterior areas of the buildings.

The PRA concluded therefore that, although no evidence of bats was identified, the survey buildings possess some potential to be utilised by bats, for example as either a day or night roost.

The building was however concluded as being unlikely to be suitable to support a maternity or hibernation roost however, and no evidence was identified during the PRA which would support the presence of either of these roost types.

5.3 Recommendations

The survey buildings were assessed as having **low** potential to support roosting bats, and subsequently, the recommendation is made that **presence / absence surveys** in the form of **dusk emergence surveys** will be required in order to establish how bats are utilising the survey building.

The methodology of the surveys requires a suitably qualified surveyor to visit the property at dusk to listen for and record bats via the use of a bat detector, and watch for bats emerging from roosts where present within the building.

The recommendation is subsequently made that a **minimum of one dusk emergence survey** should be undertaken in order to provide additional information regarding the survey buildings, and to further determine whether the buildings are being utilised by bats.

The timing of the survey should be undertaken during the optimal time of May to September with respect to bats.

As a result, the following measures are recommended with regard to the building: -

- Presence / absence surveys will be required in the form of **a minimum of one dusk emergence survey** to determine whether the building is being utilised by bats, and to gather additional information regarding said species should they be utilising the building for roosting purposes. This will inform any further survey work where required, and will enable appropriate mitigation relative to the proposals and species to be designed, which will inform an EPSL application (as appropriate).

6.0 PRESENCE / ABSENCE SURVEYS

The PRA had previously concluded that the survey buildings possess **low** potential to support roosting bats, due to the buildings possessing a number of PRFs which may be used opportunistically by both crevice and void dwelling bats.

Furthermore, a number of potential access / egress points to these roosting features were also recorded, and although no evidence of bats was identified during the PRA, the potential does exist for bats to enter interior roosting features via these access and egress points.

Further to the result of the PRA, it was determined that **the buildings should be subjected to a minimum of one presence / absence dusk emergence survey** to determine whether the buildings are being utilised by bats, and enable the numbers and species of bats which are utilising the buildings to be determined if present.

The results of the survey will then be used to inform appropriate mitigation which will be required to enable the proposals whilst minimising any detrimental impact on bats.

The dusk emergence survey therefore aims to provide further evidence to support or contradict the conclusions of the PRA report in order to inform whether further survey work is required and ultimately determine if and how bats utilise the buildings for roosting purposes.

The results will also enable necessary mitigation to be designed in order to facilitate the proposals at the site whilst minimising the impact on roosting bats.

6.1 Activity Surveys

An initial dusk emergence survey was undertaken on 19th August 2025 by Steve Owen; a licenced bat surveyor (NRW Licence no: **S093409/1**) who was assisted by additional experienced ecologists.

Visual observations were supported by the use of ultra-sonic bat detectors. A combination of frequency division and real time expansion hand-held detectors (Anabat Express, Echo Meter Pro 2 & Heterodyne) were used, which detect ultrasonic bat calls.

Dusk emergence surveys using bat detectors are techniques used for locating roosts and gauging general bat activity in the area, and in this instance to determine whether the buildings within the survey area support roosting bats. The technique is based on the following principles: -

- The earlier a bat is observed at sunset, then the closer the roost (species dependent) is likely to be in relation to the surveyor's location;
- Bats fly away from their roost at sunset and the property was observed for emerging bats.

6.2 Analysis

Bat echolocation calls were analysed using Analook software and bat species identified by comparison of sonograms with a reference of echolocation call parameters and library of known echolocation calls. Echolocation calls were assigned to species level where possible. Where this was not deemed possible, identification to genus level was made.

6.3 Survey Limitations

The emergence survey was undertaken within the optimal time of year to undertake activity surveys (May – September), with the survey having been undertaken on 19th August 2025.

Weather conditions in the preceding days had been fine, whilst the conditions on the day of the survey were optimal.

The emergence survey provides a snapshot of the bat activity within the survey area at the time of survey itself. However, the survey results are considered to provide a realistic picture of the bat activity within the survey area, and best practice survey guidelines were followed.

Bat surveys undertaken using bat detectors are inherently biased as bats with louder calls (such as the *Nyctalus* species) will be recorded at a greater distance (and therefore more frequently) than species which use quiet calls such as *Plecotus* spp.

Long-eared bat (*Plecotus* spp.) is a species that generally only emerges in full darkness and which has a very quiet echolocation call, generally not detectable in the open if more than 2-3 m from the bat detector. As a result, long-eared bats are difficult to detect during activity surveys and it is likely this species is under-recorded during such surveys.

Species identification by sonogram is limited (to a certain extent) by similarities in call structure. In addition, all bats can modulate their calls according to the habitats they are navigating, their behaviour and the information they require at the time. This imposes limitations on reliable analysis particularly between species in the genera *Plecotus*, *Myotis* and *Nyctalus*.

No rainfall occurred during the survey and the weather conditions were considered to be optimal to undertake activity surveys, with low wind speeds and a temperature which remained above 10°C throughout the duration of the activity.

The above survey limitations are unavoidable, and it is considered that they have not affected the robustness of the survey results for the purpose of this study. Therefore, it is considered that there were no limitations to the activity survey works.

6.4 Activity Survey for Bats – Dusk Emergence Survey, 20/08/25

A dusk emergence survey was undertaken on Tuesday 20th August 2025.

The dusk survey commenced 30 minutes before sunset and continued for 2 hours after sunset. Details of the survey are provided in Table 1 below: -

Table 1 - Activity Survey Details

Dusk Emergence Survey	
Date	19/08/25
Weather Conditions	14°C, 80% cloud cover, wind Beaufort Scale 1, no rain throughout survey
Sunset	20.26
Start time	19.56
Finish time	22.26

Two Anabat Express detectors were set up for the survey, with an additional two Wildlife Acoustics Echo Touch Pro 2 bat detectors also being utilised.

Details are available below: -

- **Anabat Express 15** – this detector remained in a static location, facing toward the NE aspect of The Port Office Buildings;
- **Anabat Express 16** – this detector remained in a static location, facing toward the SW aspect of The Port Officer Buildings;
- **Echo Touch Pro 2** – each surveyor had a dedicated detector to identify emerging, foraging and commuting bats.

Observations made during the survey are listed below: -

Table 2 – Activity Survey Results

Record Number	Time	Description
n/a	19.56	SURVEY START
1	20.47	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>) detected on heterodyne, but no visual observation made;

2	20.56	Common pipistrelle detected on heterodyne, but no visual observation made;
3	21.25	Common pipistrelle detected on heterodyne, but no visual observation made;
4	21.27	Noctule (<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>) detected on heterodyne, but no visual observation made;
5	21.38	Common pipistrelle detected on heterodyne, but no visual observation made;
6	21.41	Noctule detected on heterodyne, but no visual observation made;
7	21.47	Noctule detected on heterodyne, but no visual observation made;
n/a	22.26	SURVEY END

6.5 Summary of Activity Survey

Acoustic analysis of the Anabat Express bat detector was undertaken using Analook Insight software, allowing the full frequency of the bat call to be analysed in greater detail.

Furthermore, the Echo Touch Pro 2 detector enables live readouts of the species encountered during the survey to be made.

A number of bat calls were recorded over the duration of the survey, and these calls were analysed against the observations made by the surveyor, and the sonographs utilised to aid with the identification of bats to species level. The analysis of these data also validates the observations made by the surveyor at the same time both visually and on the heterodyne detectors.

A summary of the findings of the dusk emergence surveys is provided below: -

- **No bats were observed to emerge from the survey building;**
- Activity around the site was very limited. No bats were directly observed during the survey, and a total of 7 calls were detected over the survey;
- Bat abundance on the survey night was subsequently extremely low, likely due to a lack of suitable foraging habitat in the immediate vicinity of the survey buildings;
- A total of 2 bat species were recorded during the activity survey, with these consisting of common pipistrelle, and noctule;
- Commuting opportunity between the survey site and higher quality feeding habitat further afield is generally poor, although the River Usk and associated riparian zone situated approximately 60m to the north-east offers some commuting and foraging opportunity for bats.

7.0 PRA AND DUSK EMERGENCE SURVEY – DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Summary of Survey Effort

7.1.1 Preliminary Roost Assessment Summary

The Port Office Buildings were assessed as having the potential to support roosting bats due to the presence of a number of PRFs for both void and crevice-dwelling bats being identified within the building interiors during the PRA, particularly within the interior lofts.

Furthermore, a number of potential access points to the building interiors were recorded, which have the potential to enable bats to freely access the PRFs located within the buildings.

No evidence of bats was identified throughout the interior of the survey building.

Although no evidence of bats was identified during the PRA, due to the presence of PRFs within the buildings along with potential access/egress points to these features being identified during the PRA, the survey building's potential to support roosting bats was classified as **low**.

As a result of the above, the recommendation was made that presence/absence surveys should be undertaken in order to categorically determine the presence/absence of bats within the buildings, and if/where bats may be present, to further identify which species utilise the buildings, their likely numbers, and roost locations, type and access points.

Subsequently, the recommendation was made that **a minimum of one dusk emergence survey should be undertaken** in order to determine the above information.

7.1.2 Summary of Dusk Emergence Survey Undertaken in August 2025

A single roost characterisation survey (in the form of a dusk emergence survey) was undertaken to fully assess the status of bats at the survey building and inform of constraints upon the proposed project. The survey was undertaken during the peak bat survey period and in accordance with current best practice bat survey guidelines.

The building was subjected to a dusk emergence survey on 19th August 2025.

A summary of the findings is provided below: -

- The buildings and their condition offered some opportunities for bat occupation and roosting potential;
- The buildings are located in an area with generally poor ecological connectivity for bats to the surrounding environment, although the nearby River Usk offers good foraging and commuting opportunity for a number of different species of bat;
- A very low number of bat calls were recorded during the emergence survey, with a total of 7 bats being recorded, consisting of 2 bat species (common pipistrelle and noctule);
- **No bats were observed to emerge from the Port Office Buildings during the dusk emergence survey;**
- Based upon the results of the preliminary roost assessment and subsequent activity surveys, the proposed demolition works are unlikely to impact upon bats detrimentally, and the recommendation is made that **no further survey effort is required with respect to bats;**
- Although no evidence of nesting bird use of the building was observed during the surveys, all demolition works should, wherever possible, be completed outside of the bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) to minimise the impact on nesting birds. Where works are scheduled within the nesting bird season, these must be preceded by a site visit by a suitably qualified ecologist in order to determine whether the building is being actively used by nesting birds. No works will be permitted to commence until any identified active nests become vacant;

- If careful consideration is made to incorporate improved roosting conditions into the proposals, the project could offer ecological gain for bats and nesting birds. The incorporation of new roosting facilities (bat tubes and/or boxes for crevice-dwelling bats & bird boxes for nesting birds etc.) will offer a Net Benefit for Biodiversity (NBB) for bats and nesting birds in the local vicinity. As such, the recommendation is made that the creation of new roosting features are incorporated into the proposals. The installation of these features can be achieved at very little expense and with limited impact to the schedule of works.

To conclude, based upon the evidence gathered during the PRA and dusk emergence survey, bats are not thought to be roosting within the Port Office Buildings, and the proposed demolition works may commence with no restrictions with respect to bats.

7.2 Potential Impact of Proposals

The proposed demolition works are unlikely to impact detrimentally on bats.

With the above being said, the implementation of appropriate bat and nesting bird mitigation and compensatory roosts / nests would help to achieve a Net Benefit for Biodiversity at the site, and will ensure that the favourable conservation status of both species is maintained.

7.3 Mitigation Strategy

The following sections outline the mitigation recommendations made to improve the conservation status of both bats and nesting birds at the proposed development site.

7.3.1 Mitigation Strategy Details

The following section recommends mitigation in order to maintain and enhance the site's potential to support both crevice and void-dwelling bats along with nesting birds.

Where planning permission may be required to facilitate the proposals, a Net Benefit for Biodiversity strategy may be required as part of these proposals in order to comply with both Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales and the Environment Act (Wales) 2016.

This could consist of the installation of the following at the site: -

- 2 no. Schwegler 1FF Bat Boxes to be installed on retained trees on site;
- 2 no. Nestbox Company Large Bird Nest Box to be installed on retained trees on site;
- 2 no. Schwegler 1B Nest Box to be installed on retained trees on site.

If any of the above products / enhancements are not available, then further advice must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist regarding a suitable replacement product / proposal.

Crevice-dweller Mitigation

Additional new roosting for bats can be created by fitting 2 no. Schwegler 1FF Bat Boxes on trees to be retained as part of the proposals.

These are to be fitted as high as possible on a suitable tree, and care must be taken to leave the access/egress slot at the bottom exposed for access. Where practical, all bat features should be located far enough from any windows to avoid any direct light spill, at least a minimum of 2 metres away.

The installation will be dependent on permissions from the LPA and must be undertaken by a licenced ecologist.

The above methods are relatively unintuitive in nature, and are an effective way at improving the site's long-term potential to support crevice-dwelling bats.



It is important to ensure that there is to be no direct illumination of any roost exit points. Any external lighting will be controlled by passive infrared.

The installation of any bat mitigation features is to be undertaken under supervision by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Nesting Bird Mitigation

2 no. Nestbox Company Large Nestbox (or similar) and 2 no. Schwegler 1B Nest Boxes can also be installed on retained trees present on site.

Any nesting bird mitigation will not be suited on a southern elevation as this may experience excess heat from the sun.

Direct and prolonged illumination of the buildings, especially near any roost entry points or bird boxes must be avoided as this will cause disturbance.



On occasions the suggested mitigation can be in short supply. Mitigation should subsequently be ordered as soon as is practicable in order to avoid potential supply issues during the construction phase.

If supply is depleted, advice should be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist on a suitable replacement prior to the purchase.

7.3.2 Mitigation Location Details

The proposed mitigation should be installed on mature trees to be retained on site or incorporated within any new structures which may be constructed in place of the building to be demolished.

Mitigation must not be placed within locations on site in which future development is anticipated, in order to protect any species which may nest or roost within these features from harm in the future.

7.3.3 Lighting

The potential impacts of lighting during and post-development on bats must be considered. The lighting of all areas of the site both during and post-development must be designed to avoid any impacts on bats.

Light spill onto sensitive areas which have the potential to be used by commuting and foraging bats should be limited to levels of 1 lux or less (where possible), with no directed light onto hedges or trees, or enhancement roost features.

Suggestions for achieving this and for mitigating the lighting impact on bats are outlined in the best practice guidance developed by the Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) document 'Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night' (Guidance Note GN08/23) (2018) which was chaired by the Bat Conservation Trust Bats (BCT).and Lighting in the UK (BCT, 2007). These include: -

- Using low or high pressure sodium lights instead of mercury or metal halide lamps;
- Directing lighting to where needed and avoiding spillage, and design luminaires appropriately using hoods, cowls, shields etc. to avoid spillage;
- Any proposed roadways, footways and car parks should where possible be lit using bollards to keep the light below head height (~1.5m);
- Using lighting modelling programs to indicate where the light spill will occur if appropriate;
- Using the minimal level of lighting required to comply with guidance such as Institute of Lighting Engineers Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light (2005);
- Using movement sensors or timers on security lighting;
- Not using a lamp greater than 150W for security lighting.

Any lights associated with on-site buildings must be angled or screened to minimise light spill up onto the soffits/eaves, and on any newly installed roost openings.

7.4 Recommendations

No further survey work is recommended with respect to bats.

The recommendation is however made that nesting bird and bat boxes should be installed on retained trees on site, as per Section 7.3 of this report.

The installation of these features will help the demolition proposals achieve a Net Benefit for Biodiversity at the site, by providing new nesting and roosting opportunities for bats and birds respectively.

8.0 REFERENCES

Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals (2018). Guidance Note 08/18: Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK. ILP, Rugby.

Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals (2023). Guidance Note 08/23: Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night. ILP, Rugby.

CIEEM (2017) *Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing, Second Edition*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

Collins, J. (2024) *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition)*. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

DEFRA Magic Mapping Resource (2025) Biodiversity Information. *magic.defra.gov.uk*. Available: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx>

HM Government (2010) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. HM Government.

Mitchell-Jones, A.J., & McLeish, A.P. Ed., (2004), 3rd Edition Bat Workers' Manual, JNCC.

Welsh Government & Natural Resources Wales, DataMapWales (2025) Biodiversity Information. *datamapwales.gov.wales*. Available: <https://datamap.gov.wales/>

APPENDIX A

Drawings



Site Boundary

Job:

Associated British Ports, Newport - Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Port Office

Title:

Survey Building Red Line Boundary

Date: October 2025

Scale: NTS

Drawn by: SO

Checked by: ER

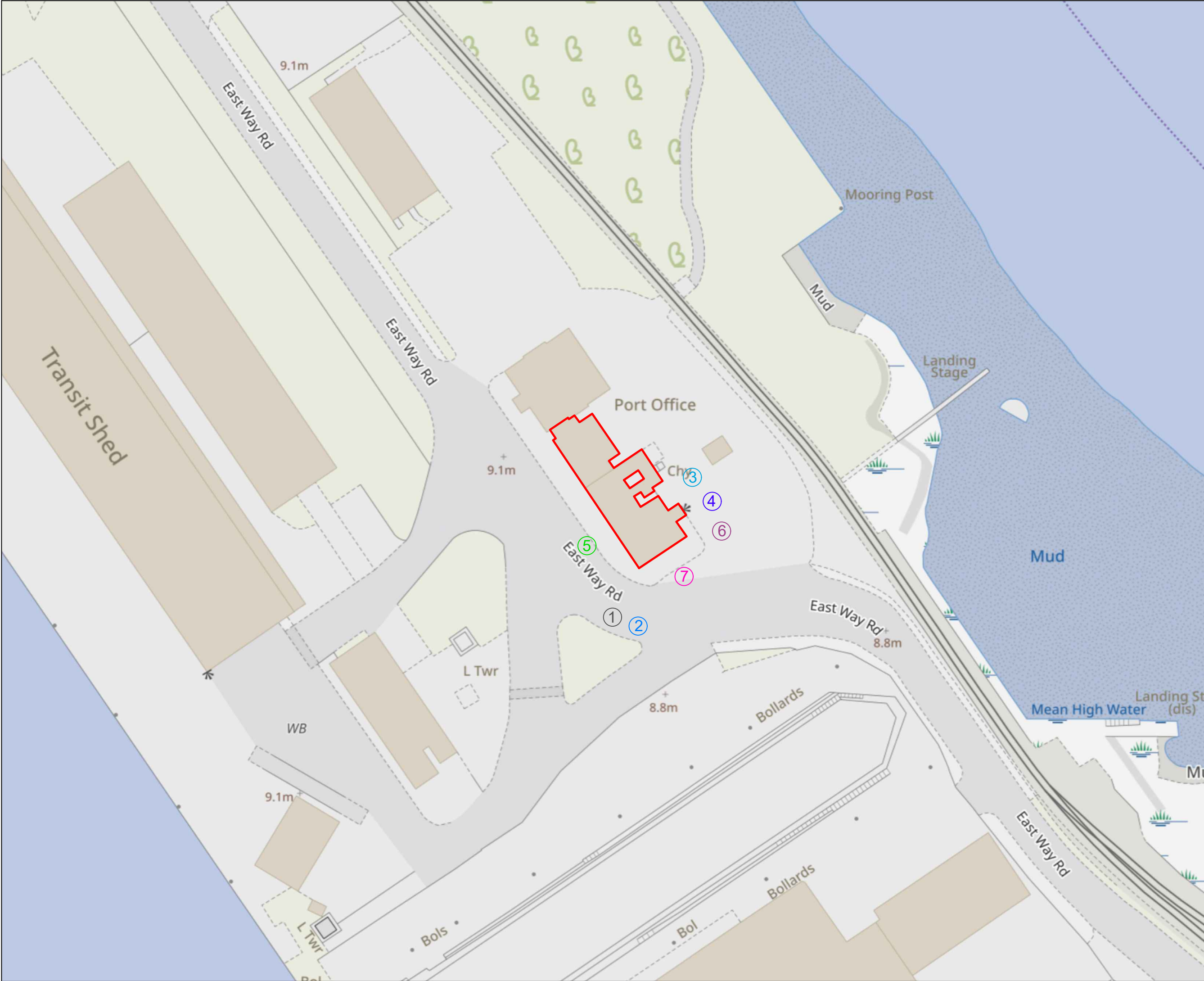


ExCAL House,
Capel Hendre Ind. Est.
Ammanford
Carmarthenshire
SA18 3SJ
Tel: 01269 831606
Fax: 01269 841867
Website: www.excaluk.com
E-mail: info@excaluk.com

Drawing No: 238-03-19.D07

Revision No:

Date: 13/10/2025



Notes:

A3

Survey Building

Key	Bat Identified	Time	Comments
—	BAT 01 - C. Pip	20:47	Heard not seen
—	BAT 02 - C. Pip	20:56	Heard not seen
—	BAT 03 - C. Pip	21:25	Heard not seen
—	BAT 04 - N. Noc	21:27	Heard not seen
—	BAT 05 - C. Pip	21:38	Heard not seen
—	BAT 06 - N. Noc	21:41	Heard not seen
—	BAT 07 - N. Noc	21:47	Heard not seen

Job:

Associated British Ports, Newport - Preliminary Roost Assessment and Activity Survey for Bats, Port Office

Title:

Dusk Emergence Survey Results - 19th August 2025

Date:

October 2025

Scale:

NTS

Drawn by:

SO

Checked by:

EP

ExCAL



ExCAL House,
Capel Hendre Ind. Est.
Ammanford
Carmarthenshire
SA18 3SJ
Tel: 01269 831606
Fax: 01269 841867
Website: www.excaluk.com
E-mail: info@excaluk.com

Drawing No:

238-03-19.D08

Revision No:

Date: 13/10/25

APPENDIX B

Citations of Designated Sites

**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

MONMOUTHSHIRE/NEWPORT

**RIVER USK (LOWER USK)/
AFON WYSG (WYSG ISAF)**

Date of Notification: 1996

National Grid References: SN 239239- ST317837

O.S. Maps:

1:50000 Sheet Numbers:	160, 161, 171
1:10000 Sheet Numbers:	ST 38 SW, ST 30 SW ST 38 NW, ST 30 SE ST 39 SW, ST 30 NE ST 39 SE, ST 30 NW ST 39 NE, SO 31 SW SO 21 SE

Site Area: 543.9 ha

Description:

River Usk

The River Usk comprises a large, linear ecosystem which acts as an important wildlife corridor, an essential migration route and key breeding area for many nationally and internationally important species. The Usk is of special interest as a fine example of a river running over sandstones and for its associated plant and animal communities. Its character spans a wide range of types from an upland, base-poor stream to a large lowland river with extensive tidal reaches. Its overall diversity is a product of its underlying geology, soil type, adjacent land-use and fluvio-geomorphological regime.

The River Usk is one of the largest rivers in Wales. From its source to its confluence, the main channel is over 120 kilometres long, and drains a catchment of 1358 km². Rising at an altitude of 500 metres on Mynydd Ddu on the Carmarthenshire/Powys border, the Usk flows eastwards along the northern scarp of the Brecon Beacons, turning south below Abergavenny and meandering down through Monmouthshire to its confluence with the Severn Estuary below Newport.

River Usk (Lower Usk) (Abergavenny - Newport)

The River Usk (Lower Usk) is a rare example of a large mesotrophic lowland river which has not been subject to significant modification by man. Of particular significance to the river's morphology and biology are the extensive deposits of fluvio-glacial and alluvial material in the Usk valley between Abergavenny and Newport. The Lower Usk has developed a wide floodplain with a complex and active system of meanders, cut-off and back channels which

contribute to the biological interest and diversity of the site.

The main plant communities present are those that are characteristic of rivers running over hard and soft sandstones with changing base status merging into brackish waters in its lowest reaches.

The river shows a clear downstream succession in plant communities due in part to the rapid transition from mesotrophic to nutrient rich in its lower reaches and increasing salinity as it nears its confluence with the Severn Estuary.

The invertebrate fauna is characteristic of a large lowland river. Of special interest are the crane flies associated with silty river margins in the vicinity of Newbridge on Usk. The fish fauna is of international significance including several rare and scarce species and there is an expanding population of otters *Lutra lutra*. Several scarce higher plant species occurring along the river's tidal reaches are also of special interest.

Whilst not a special feature of the site, there is a good range of breeding birds associated with riverine habitats.

The SSSI incorporates adjacent areas of riparian habitat which directly support the special interest of the river. These include woodlands dominated by alder *Alnus glutinosa* and willows *Salix spp.*, marshy grassland, stands of tall herb, swamp and fen vegetation, salt-marsh and coastal grassland.

Geology and Topography

The catchment of the Lower Usk is predominantly low lying, the eastern part of the Brecon Beacons and South Wales Coalfield Massif being the most significant upland areas within it. The River Usk (Lower Usk) is thus lowland in character, meandering across a floodplain up to 3 km across and falling from 100m AOD at Abergavenny to sea level over a distance of 68 km.

Between Abergavenny and Llanfair Kilgeddin, the river flows over the marls, mudstones and sandstones of the Raglan and St Maughan's beds of the Lower Old Red Sandstone Series. The river bed of the Lower Usk is however, also strongly influenced by the extensive fluvio-glacial and alluvial deposits between Abergavenny and Usk. At Llanfair Kilgeddin the river initially follows the line of the Pontypool Road Fault separating the Lower Old Red Sandstone rocks in the north-west from the older limestones and mudstones of the Ludlow (Silurian) series in the south. As the river crosses onto the more resistant Silurian Ludlow Series it has cut down to the bedrock in a number of places creating a rock based channel that is in marked contrast to the silt and gravel based channel upstream.

Above Usk, the valley narrows cutting through the resistant limestones and marls of the Ludlow Series to form the Llanbadoc Gap. Below this point the river again flows over the marls, mudstones and sandstones of the Raglan and St Maughan's beds until it crosses onto the Triassic Keuper Marls at Newport Docks. The great depth of alluvial and glacial deposits within the valley from Llanbadoc Gap to the River's confluence with the Severn Estuary means that the underlying geology has little direct influence on the river.

The Lower Usk has a relatively natural fluvio-geomorphic regime and has remained relatively free from straightening, widening or deepening schemes. The section of the river between Caerleon and Usk is particularly active with migrating meanders depositing shingle point bars and islands and cutting vertical earth cliffs. The pattern of meander loops along the entire length of the river from Abergavenny to Newport is complex, steep outer slopes contrasting with shallow slip-off slopes. Large abandoned meander loops such as the one at Llanfihangel Gobion indicate the former course of the River Usk as it flowed across and created its floodplain. Oxbow lakes and active back channels remain adjacent to the river in places.

Flora

In its middle and upper reaches the river channel is characterized by the frequent occurrence of floating and submerged plants including water crowfoot and water milfoils *Myriophyllum spp.* Aquatic macrophytes disappear below the tidal limit at Newbridge on Usk although emergent species are able to tolerate the transition zone between brackish and freshwater conditions.

Riverside rocks and boulders are characterised by a flora of mosses, such as *Amblystegium fluviatile*, *Cinclidotus fontinalioides*, *Fontinalis antipyretica*, *Rhynchostegium riparioides* and *Thamnobryum alopecurum*, liverworts, such as *Chiloscyphus polyanthus*, *Conocephalum conicum*, and *Marchantia polymorpha*, the filamentous alga *Lemanea fluviatilis* and lichens of the genera *Verrucaria*.

Marginal vegetation is dominated variously by reed canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*, branched bur reed *Sparganium erectum*, common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris* and lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis* with a variety of other species including brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*, water forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides*, water mint *Mentha aquatica* and yellow cress *Rorippa spp.* Below Newbridge the upper mud banks of the river are colonized by saltmarsh species such as sea aster *Aster tripolium*, saltmarsh-grass *Puccinellia spp.* and scurvygrass *Cochlearia spp.*

Characteristic riverbank plants include stinging nettle *Urtica dioica*, great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* and Indian balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*. Locally the river bank vegetation can be more diverse and supports species such as common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and comfrey *Symphytum spp.*. Occasionally inundated grassland along the tidal reaches is dominated by couch grass *Elytrigia repens* and supports regionally rare species including bulbous foxtail *Alopecurus bulbosus*, marsh-mallow *Althaea officinalis* and marsh helleborine *Epipactis palustris*.

The river banks are frequently lined with willows and alder. In addition, there are larger areas of woodland adjacent to the river dominated by these species or by sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior*.

The River Usk (Lower Usk) floodplain retains a number of important geomorphological features and associated wetland habitats. In particular at Llanvihangel Gobion, south of Abergavenny, a large cut off meander has areas of standing water, emergent and marshy vegetation and shingle. The areas of standing water support diverse still water plant communities dominated by Canadian waterweed *Elodea canadensis* with frequent broad-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton natans*, sweet-grasses *Glyceria spp.*, fool's water-cress *Apium nodiflorum*, pink water-speedwell

Veronica catenata and common water-plantain *Alisma plantago aquatica*, together with by stands of common spike-rush, rushes *Juncus spp.* and lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*.

Mammals

The common otter *Lutra lutra* is widespread along the length of the river where appropriate bankside cover exists. The frequent tree cover provides valuable feeding and roosting habitats for several bat species including Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*.

Birds

The River Usk (Lower Usk) supports a wide range of riverside breeding birds such as sand martin *Riparia riparia* and kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* nesting in eroding earth cliffs. Yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava*, grey wagtail *M. cinerea* and dipper *Cinclus cinclus* occur with increasing frequency above the tidal limit at Newbridge. In addition marsh warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* breeds in riparian habitat along the river banks. The cut-off meander at Llanfihangel Gobion is an important area for wintering and passage migrants including teal *Anas crecca*, greenshank *Tringa nebularia* and green sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*.

Fish

The river has a wide range of migratory and non-migratory fish species. The most abundant coarse fish include chub *Leuciscus cephalus*, roach *Rutilus rutilus* and dace *Leuciscus leuciscus* which, together with the bullhead, are the most widely distributed fish along the river.

The rare river lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* and twaite shad *Alosa fallax* and the very rare allis shad *Alosa alosa* all migrate from the Severn Estuary and spawn at various localities in the river. Large numbers of elvers *Anguilla anguilla* migrate up the river with spring tides.

The Usk is a notable game fish river with species including brown trout *Salmo trutta fario*, sea trout *Salmo trutta trutta* and Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*, the latter migrating up along the lower river, in order to reach spawning grounds in the headwaters and tributaries of the River Usk (Upper Usk). The river also supports an important population of the non-migratory brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*.

Invertebrates

The lower Usk has important assemblages of craneflies including rare and scarce species such as *Limonia omissinervis*, *Erioptera limbata* and *Rhabdomastix hilaris*, *Gonomyia abbreviata* and *Cheilotrichia imbuta*. The rare mayfly *Potamanthus luteus* can be found in the river and there are also localised populations of the Atlantic stream crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*, an endangered species in Europe.

Remarks:

The site supports the following habitats and species covered by the EC Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna:

Common otter *Lutra lutra* - Annex II and IV
Allis shad *Alosa alosa* - Annex II and V
Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* - Annex II and V
Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* - Annex II
River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* - Annex II and V
Bullhead *Cottus gobio* - Annex II
Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* - Annex II and V
Atlantic stream crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* - Annex II and V

Otter and Atlantic stream crayfish are also listed in schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended.

*This document is **NOT** a definitive legal version and has been formatted, updated and partially edited for use on the CCW Web site. This document should not be used in any legal proceedings, public enquiry or any other hearing or appeal. If you require a full legal copy of the document please contact CCW in writing.*

STANDARD DATA FORM for sites within the 'UK national site network of European sites'

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are classified and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated under:

- the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales (including the adjacent territorial sea) and to a limited extent in Scotland (reserved matters) and Northern Ireland (excepted matters);
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) in Scotland;
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland; and
- the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in the UK offshore area.

Each SAC or SPA (forming part of the UK national site network of European sites) has its own Standard Data Form containing site-specific information. The information provided here generally follows the same documenting format for SACs and SPAs, as set out in the [Official Journal of the European Union recording the Commission Implementing Decision of 11 July 2011 \(2011/484/EU\)](#).

Please note that these forms contain a number of codes, all of which are explained either within the data forms themselves or in the end notes.

More general information on SPAs and SACs in the UK is available from the [SPA homepage](#) and [SAC homepage](#) on the JNCC website. These webpages also provide links to Standard Data Forms for all SAC and SPA sites in the UK.

<https://jncc.gov.uk/>



NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE UK0013007
SITENAME River Usk/ Afon Wysg

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [1. SITE IDENTIFICATION](#)
- [2. SITE LOCATION](#)
- [3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION](#)
- [4. SITE DESCRIPTION](#)
- [5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS AND RELATION WITH CORINE BIOTOPES](#)
- [6. SITE MANAGEMENT](#)

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code UK0013007	Back to top
----------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------

1.3 Site name

River Usk/ Afon Wysg

1.4 First Compilation date 1998-03	1.5 Update date 2015-12
--	-----------------------------------

1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation: Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Address: Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House City Road Peterborough
PE1 1JY

Email:

Date site proposed as SCI: 1998-03

Date site confirmed as SCI: 2004-12

Date site designated as SAC: 2004-12

National legal reference of SAC designation:

Regulations 11 and 13-15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/490/contents/made>).

2. SITE LOCATION

[Back to top](#)

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

-3.013888889

51.79583333

967.97

0.0

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

Region Name

UKL2	East Wales
UKL1	West Wales and The Valleys

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (100.0%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

[Back to top](#)

3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A B C D	A B C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
1130 0			134.55	0	G	D			
1140 0			123.9	0	G	D			
1330 0			29.04	0	M	D			
3260 0			29.04	0	M	B	C	B	C
9130 0			4.84	0	G	D			
9180 0	X		21.3	0	G	D			
91A0 0			12.58	0	G	D			
91D0 0	X		2.9	0	G	D			

91E0 B	X		43.56	0	G	D				
-----------	---	--	-------	---	---	---	--	--	--	--

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered
- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation)

3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

Species					Population in the site						Site assessment			
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D.qual.	A B C D	A B C		
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Gl
F	1102	Alosa alosa			p				P	DD	C	C	C	C
F	1103	Alosa fallax			p				P	DD	A	B	C	A
I	1092	Austropotamobius pallipes			p				P	DD	D			
F	1163	Cottus gobio			p				P	DD	B	B	C	B
F	1099	Lampetra fluviatilis			p				P	DD	B	A	C	A
F	1096	Lampetra planeri			p				P	DD	B	B	C	A
M	1355	Lutra lutra			p	11	50	i		M	C	B	C	B
I	1029	Margaritifera margaritifera			p				P	DD	D			
F	1095	Petromyzon marinus			p				P	DD	B	B	C	B
M	1303	Rhinolophus hipposideros			p				P	DD	D			
F	1106	Salmo salar			p				P	DD	A	C	C	A

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see [reference portal](#))
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1 General site character

[Back to top](#)

Habitat class	% Cover
N03	4.5
N07	3.8
N14	2.0
N16	10.1
N02	26.8
N08	3.4
N23	2.1
N06	37.9
N09	8.0
N10	1.4
Total Habitat Cover	99.99999999999999

Other Site Characteristics

1 Terrestrial: Soil & Geology: alluvium, mud, nutrient-rich, limestone, basic, neutral, shingle, sandstone, acidic, peat, clay, nutrient-poor, sediment
 Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: valley, floodplain, coastal, lowland, upland, island 3 Marine: Geology: mud 4 Marine: Geomorphology: estuary

4.2 Quality and importance

Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Petromyzon marinus for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Lampetra fluviatilis for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Lampetra planeri for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Alosa alosa for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Alosa fallax for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Salmo salar for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Cottus gobio for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Lutra lutra for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
M	I01		B
H	A04		I
L	B07		B
H	H01		B
L	H05		O
H	J02		I
M	B02		B
M	J03		I

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
M	J03		I

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification, T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

The Natural Resources Wales weblink below provides access to information on its designated sites. Detailed information about this Natura 2000 site can be accessed via the Management Plan link provided in Section 6.2. See also the 'UK Approach' document for more information (link via the JNCC website).

Link(s): <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/protected-areas-of-land>
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

[Back to top](#)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
UK04	100.0				

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

[Back to top](#)

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Natural Resources Wales
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

☒ Yes	Name: RIVER USK / AFON WYSG Link: https://www.naturalresources.wales/media/673384/River_Usk%20SAC%20core%20plan.pdf
☐ No, but in preparation	
☐ No	

EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC) AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below generally follow those explained in the [official European Union guidelines for the Standard Data Form](#) (also referencing the relevant page number).

1.1 Site type

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	SPA (classified Special Protection Area)	53
B	cSAC, SCI or SAC (candidate Special Area of Conservation, Site of Community Importance, designated Special Area of Conservation)	53
C	SPA area/boundary is the same as the cSAC/SCI/SAC i.e. a co-classified/designated site (Note: this situation only occurs in Gibraltar)	53

3.1 Habitat code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	57
1130	Estuaries	57
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	57
1150	Coastal lagoons	57
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	57
1170	Reefs	57
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	57
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	57
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	57
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	57
1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	57
1320	Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)	57
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucio-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	57
1340	Inland salt meadows	57
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)	57
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	57
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")	57
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	57
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with Empetrum nigrum	57
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea)	57
2160	Dunes with Hippophya• rhamnoides	57
2170	Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae)	57
2190	Humid dune slacks	57
21A0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	57
2250	Coastal dunes with Juniperus spp.	57
2330	Inland dunes with open Corynephorus and Agrostis grasslands	57
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)	57
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea	57
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.	57
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	57

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	57
3170	Mediterranean temporary ponds	57
3180	Turloughs	57
3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation	57
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	57
4020	Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix	57
4030	European dry heaths	57
4040	Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with Erica vagans	57
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	57
4080	Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub	57
5110	Stable xerothermophilous formations with Buxus sempervirens on rock slopes (Berberidion p.p.)	57
5130	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	57
6130	Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae	57
6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	57
6170	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	57
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	57
6230	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)	57
6410	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	57
6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	57
6510	Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)	57
6520	Mountain hay meadows	57
7110	Active raised bogs	57
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	57
7130	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	57
7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	57
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	57
7210	Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae	57
7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	57
7230	Alkaline fens	57
7240	Alpine pioneer formations of the Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae	57
8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	57
8120	Calcareous and calcshist scree of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietalia rotundifoliae)	57
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8240	Limestone pavements	57
8310	Caves not open to the public	57
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	57
9120	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robur-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)	57
9130	Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests	57
9160	Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the Carpinion betuli	57
9180	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, scree and ravines	57
9190	Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains	57
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	57
91C0	Caledonian forest	57
91D0	Bog woodland	57
91E0	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	57
91J0	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	57

3.1 Habitat representativity (abbreviated to 'Representativity' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent representativity	57
B	Good representativity	57
C	Significant representativity	57
D	Non-significant presence representativity	57

3.1 Relative surface

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	58
B	> 2%-15%	58
C	≤ 2%	58

3.1 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Conservation' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	59
B	Good conservation	59
C	Average or reduced conservation	59

3.1 Global assessment (abbreviated to 'Global' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	59
B	Good value	59
C	Significant value	59

3.2 Population (abbreviated to 'Pop.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	62
B	> 2%-15%	62
C	≤ 2%	62
D	Non-significant population	62

3.2 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Con.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	63
B	Good conservation	63
C	Average or reduced conservation	63

3.2 Isolation (abbreviated to 'Iso.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Population (almost) Isolated	63
B	Population not-isolated, but on margins of area of distribution	63
C	Population not-isolated within extended distribution range	63

3.2 Global Grade (abbreviated to 'Glo.' or 'G.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	63
B	Good value	63
C	Significant value	63

3.3 Other species – essentially covers bird assemblage types

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
WATR	Non-breeding waterbird assemblage	UK specific code
SBA	Breeding seabird assemblage	UK specific code

BBA	Breeding bird assemblage (applies only to sites classified pre 2000)	UK specific code
-----	--	------------------

4.1 Habitat class code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
N01	Marine areas, Sea inlets	65
N02	Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	65
N03	Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes	65
N04	Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair	65
N05	Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	65
N06	Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	65
N07	Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	65
N08	Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	65
N09	Dry grassland, Steppes	65
N10	Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	65
N11	Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	65
N14	Improved grassland	65
N15	Other arable land	65
N16	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	65
N17	Coniferous woodland	65
N19	Mixed woodland	65
N21	Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas)	65
N22	Inland rocks, Screes, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	65
N23	Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites)	65
N25	Grassland and scrub habitats (general)	65
N26	Woodland habitats (general)	65

4.3 Threats code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A01	Cultivation	65
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	65
A03	Mowing / cutting of grassland	65
A04	Grazing	65
A05	Livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing)	65
A06	Annual and perennial non-timber crops	65
A07	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals	65
A08	Fertilisation	65
A10	Restructuring agricultural land holding	65
A11	Agriculture activities not referred to above	65
B01	Forest planting on open ground	65
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use	65
B03	Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth	65
B04	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry)	65
B06	Grazing in forests/ woodland	65
B07	Forestry activities not referred to above	65
C01	Mining and quarrying	65
C02	Exploration and extraction of oil or gas	65
C03	Renewable abiotic energy use	65
D01	Roads, paths and railroads	65
D02	Utility and service lines	65
D03	Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions	65
D04	Airports, flightpaths	65
D05	Improved access to site	65
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation	65
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	65

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
E03	Discharges	65
E04	Structures, buildings in the landscape	65
E06	Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities	65
F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture	65
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	65
F03	Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.)	65
F04	Taking / Removal of terrestrial plants, general	65
F05	Illegal taking/ removal of marine fauna	65
F06	Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above	65
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities	65
G02	Sport and leisure structures	65
G03	Interpretative centres	65
G04	Military use and civil unrest	65
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	65
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)	65
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	65
H03	Marine water pollution	65
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	65
H05	Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges)	65
H06	Excess energy	65
H07	Other forms of pollution	65
I01	Invasive non-native species	65
I02	Problematic native species	65
I03	Introduced genetic material, GMO	65
J01	Fire and fire suppression	65
J02	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	65
J03	Other ecosystem modifications	65
K01	Abiotic (slow) natural processes	65
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession	65
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	65
K04	Interspecific floral relations	65
K05	Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression	65
L05	Collapse of terrain, landslide	65
L07	Storm, cyclone	65
L08	Inundation (natural processes)	65
L10	Other natural catastrophes	65
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions	65
M02	Changes in biotic conditions	65
U	Unknown threat or pressure	65
XO	Threats and pressures from outside the Member State	65

5.1 Designation type codes

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
UK00	No Protection Status	67
UK01	National Nature Reserve	67
UK04	Site of Special Scientific Interest (GB)	67
UK05	Marine Conservation Zone	67
UK06	Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area	67
UK86	Special Area (Channel Islands)	67
UK98	Area of Special Scientific Interest (NI)	67
IN00	Ramsar Convention site	67
IN08	Special Protection Area	67
IN09	Special Area of Conservation	67