

LEWIS HOUSE – ABP NEWPORT PRELIMINARY ROOST ASSESSMENT (PRA) AND ACTIVITY SURVEYS FOR BATS



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LEWIS HOUSE – ABP NEWPORT

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is a brief summary of findings and recommendations of the Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) and activity surveys for bats undertaken on behalf of Associated British Ports (hereafter referred to as the client / ABP) at outbuildings designated as Lewis House, Associated British Ports, East Way Road, Newport, NP20 2UW. The report should be read in its entirety for full details of the surveys.

- The initial PRA 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 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 110m to the 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 110m and 750m to the north-east. 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 does offer some commuting and foraging opportunity for bats. A small parcel of scrub / woodland is however located between the aforementioned railway line and immediately adjacent to the western side of Lewis House, which may offer some commuting and foraging opportunity for bats. The general habitat surrounding the survey buildings consists largely of hardstanding, owing to the site's industrial use;
- The PRA was undertaken on Friday 1st August 2025;
- The survey consisted of the inspection of a number of buildings affixed to one another, consisting of; a single-two-storey brick building with a flat roof, a single-storey brick building with a flat roof, and a steel framed and clad warehouse with a steel clad roof, the roof of which extends over the single-storey brick building, subsequently acting as the primary roof of this building too. Subsequently, the survey building possesses two interior roof voids owing to the presence of this additional roof. These buildings in conjunction are designated as the former Lewis House complex;
- Numerous potential access/egress points to the building interiors were recorded during the survey. These include; Gaps around roller shutter door at (SE) of building and in (S) wall of steel framed warehouse, damage to glass windows along (N) side and open windows around building, damaged / missing brickwork in (SE) corner of building, gap behind fascia board on (N) side of single-storey brick building, damaged / missing fascia board on (S) aspect of two-storey brick building, gaps under and between corrugated steel roof sheets, gap above extent of interior brick wall at (E) side of steel framed warehouse, enabling access to roof void and gaps around timber roof features and intersections with masonry / cladding, all of which enable the potential free access/egress of bats to the respective building interiors in these locations;
- The survey building provides some Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) for crevice and void-dwelling / free-hanging bats, particularly due to the presence of interior dark voids between the steel clad secondary roof

and flat roof of the single-storey brick building. PRFs for bats identified during the survey include; Timber roof features in voids above building, gaps between intersections of timber framework making up roof of the buildings, intersections between timber framework of roof and masonry / cladding, cracks / missing bricks within the exterior brickwork of the survey buildings, gaps behind / damage to / missing timber fascia boards, void between exterior steel cladding and interior brick wall within steel framed warehouse, open and well-connected nature of void above single-storey brick building, and steel-framed warehouse interiors;

- Direct evidence of bats was identified during the PRA, whereby 10 – 20 droppings were recorded within the building interior during the survey, with an additional single dropping also being identified at the south-east exterior of the building beneath a potential access/egress point for bats. Potential smudging (indicative of bats) was also identified on the timber features in this location;
- As such, 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 building and direct evidence of bats being identified within the building during the PRA, the building was assessed to have **low (confirmed roost)** potential to support roosting bats;
- Based upon the results of the PRA, it was recommended that **a minimum of 1 roost characterisation 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 active roosts are confirmed to be present;
- An initial dusk emergence survey was subsequently undertaken on Tuesday 16th September 2025;
- In total, **6 bats were identified to emerge from the survey buildings, with these consisting entirely of common pipistrelles (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)**, which were observed to emerge from both the vicinity of the south-eastern roller shutter door, and from the northern aspect of the building;
- Following the results of the initial dusk emergence survey, the recommendation was made that a second dusk emergence survey of the building should be undertaken, to gain further information regarding the roosting bats within the building, and to determine whether any additional species are also utilising the survey buildings for roosting purposes;
- A second dusk emergence survey was subsequently undertaken on Thursday 25th September 2025;
- **A total of 4 bats were identified to emerge from the survey buildings, with these consisting of 3 common pipistrelle and 1 soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)**, which were again observed to emerge from the vicinity of the south-eastern roller shutter door, and from the northern aspect of the building;
- **A single common pipistrelle was observed to re-enter the survey building** via damaged brickwork in the south-eastern corner of the building during the second emergence survey;
- Based upon the results of the preliminary roost assessment and subsequent activity surveys, the survey building is a **confirmed non-breeding summer day and night roost for soprano and common pipistrelle**;
- No further survey effort is recommended as the findings allow an accurate assessment of the status of bats and the characterisation of roost types within the survey building to be made;
- **A European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) will be required from NRW to proceed with the works.** This will be accompanied by a dedicated **bat mitigation and compensation strategy**, which will be appropriate to the scale and scope of the proposed development works;
- 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 a building designated as Lewis House, ABP Newport, East Way Road, 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 former Lewis House complex.

The OS grid reference for the approximate centre of the survey building is ST 31551 86058.

The building is located within Newport docks; therefore, the surrounding area consists primarily of industrial buildings, offices and temporary cabins.

North Dock is located approximately 115m to the west of the survey buildings, whilst the immediate surroundings of the survey buildings consist primarily of hardstanding.

The site is bound by East Way Road, which runs along the eastern boundary of the site, beyond which additional industrial units are located. The main site access and associated security gate meanwhile 25m to the north-east of the survey building. A railway line runs adjacent to the western site boundary.

The River Usk is located approximately 110m to the east of the survey building, and connectivity from the survey buildings to better foraging habitat further afield is generally poor. A small parcel of woodland is however located between the aforementioned railway line and immediately adjacent to the western side of Lewis House, which may offer some commuting and foraging opportunity for bats. A large electricity pylon is situated immediately adjacent to the north-western section of the survey buildings.

The wider landscape of the area consists of a combination of pastoral fields and associated hedgerows, with Newport Wetlands being located approximately 3km to the south-east of the site, whilst significant industrial sites including a landfill and Cogent Power are located approximately 1km west and 1.1km to the east of the survey building respectively. Newport city centre is located approximately 1.5km 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, such as within the adjacent parcel of scrub to the west of the survey buildings.

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

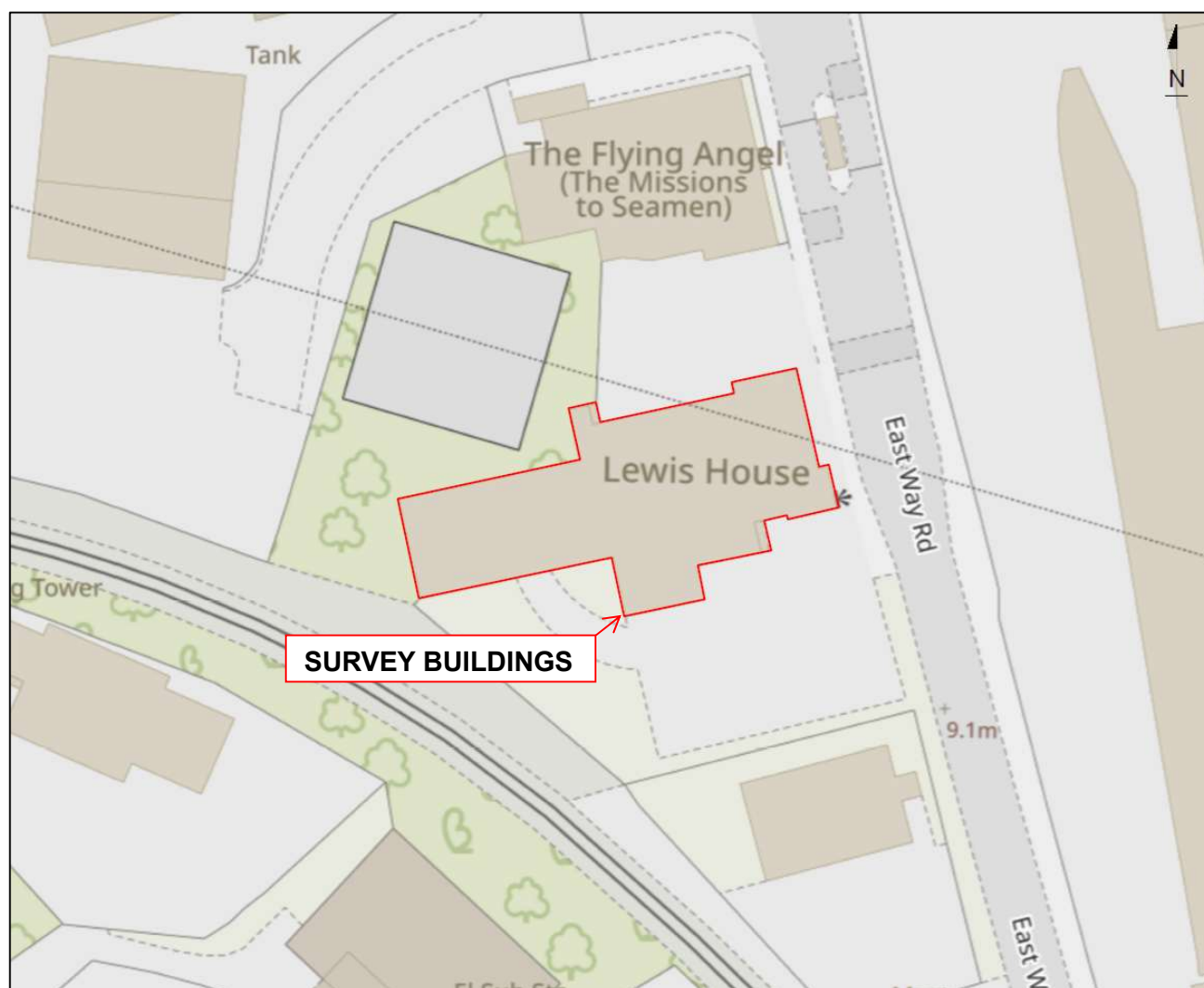
3.1 Site Details

The approximate centre of the survey buildings is located at Grid Reference ST 31551 86058 and the site address is listed below: -

Lewis House
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 preliminary roost assessment, 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.

No significant survey 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

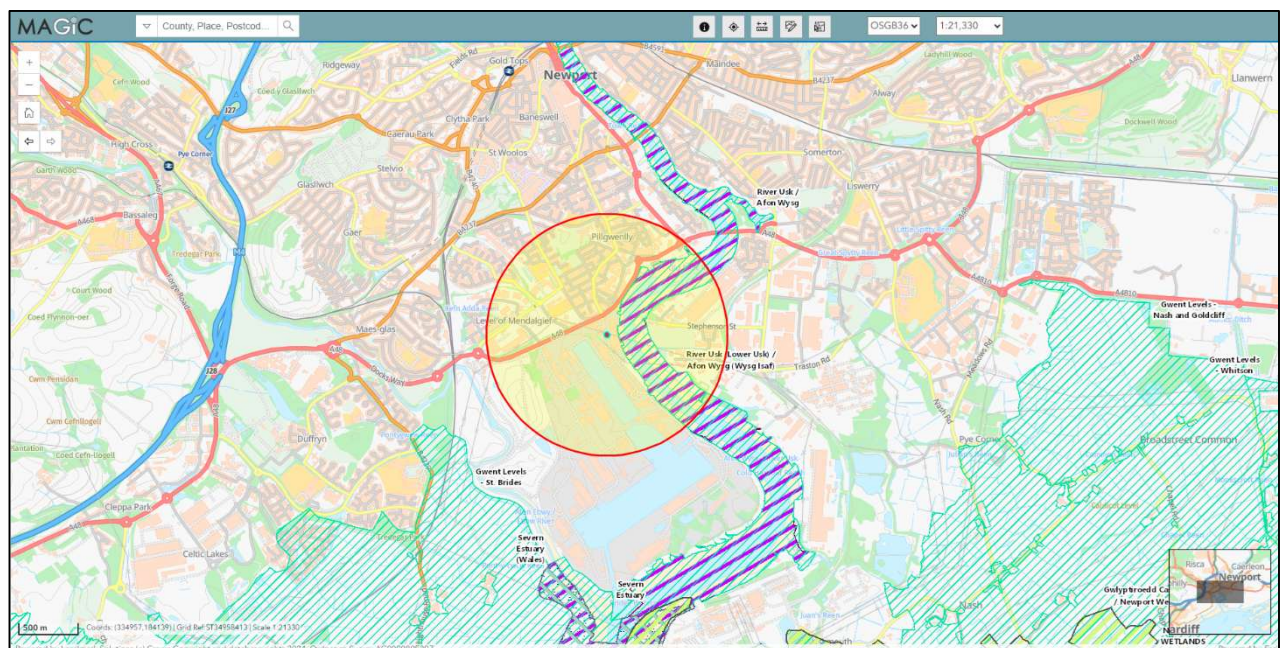
4.4.1 Statutory Designated Sites

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 relating 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) – 0.11km E;
- River Usk (Lower Usk) – Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – 0.11km E.

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 110m to the 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, approximately 750m to the north-east.

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 a number of structures which have been affixed to one another, to make up single complex designated as the former Lewis House buildings.

The buildings are comprised of a detached industrial and office complex of mixed single and two-storey construction, built primarily of traditional brickwork under a series of corrugated steel sheet and flat roofs.

The survey buildings are situated on a level, rectangular site with hardstanding and vehicular access to the front (south) and rear (north) of the buildings. The immediate surroundings consist largely of hardstanding and industrial units / associated infrastructure, owing to the location of the building on an active port.

The building complex comprises of two principal sections, namely an older two-storey brick office building fronting East Way Road, affixed to which is a single-storey brick warehouse/workshop section extending to the

rear. An additional corrugated steel warehouse is also located to the west, the roof of which extends over the aforementioned single-storey brick building.

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

Figure 3 – Two-Storey Brick Section of Bld.



Figure 4 – Single-Storey Brick Section of Bld. (N) Aspect



Figure 5 – Single-Storey Brick Section of Bld. (S) **Figure 6 – Steel Framed Warehouse (Left of Image)**



Figure 7 – Two-Storey Brick Section of Bld. (N)



Figure 8 – Two-Storey Brick Section of Bld. (S)



The external walls of the single-storey and two-storey sections of the offices / workshops are constructed of traditional facing brickwork in stretcher bond style. Although much of the mortar and brickwork was observed to be in generally good condition, some signs of weathering and localised erosion were recorded, particularly at lower levels where rising damp and vegetation growth appear to have taken hold.

Small cracks and breaks in the brickwork were also recorded along the south-eastern corner of the building, and these were assessed to be of sufficient size to be utilised by crevice-dwelling bats.

The roof of the main two-storey office section of the building is flat in design, and has been finished with a bituminous felt or similar. The single storey warehouse and workshop areas meanwhile are covered with shallow-pitch corrugated steel sheeting, supported on a timber frame (as visible from the interior survey of the building).

The roof of the steel warehouse at the west has been constructed so as it proceeds over the brick single-storey section of the building. Subsequently, a void is present beneath the corrugated steel roof and flat ceiling of the building which may be utilised by both crevice and void-dwelling bats. The corrugated steel sheeting is single-skinned in nature, and no void is subsequently present between the roof sheets as would be the case of a double-skin.

The roof of the building was observed to be in generally excellent condition during the survey however, with no visible areas of damage being identified which may permit access/egress for bats to the building interior via these avenues.

The building possesses half-round steel gutters and downpipes, many of which were observed to be rusted and in a poor state of disrepair during the PRA.

A number of predominantly single-glazed windows are present around both the single and two-storey brick sections of the building. The windows have been set in steel frames, which were observed to be in a moderate state of disrepair, with some rusting and flaking of paint being recorded across much of the building. A number of broken panes were also recorded, particularly along the northern aspect of the single-storey brick section of the building, which may permit access/egress for bats to this section of the survey building.

The numerous windows around the survey subsequently mean that the Ground Floor and 1st Floor interiors are well-lit by natural light during the day, reducing these sections of the buildings' potential to be utilised as a day roost for bats.

The single-storey brick section of the building has been constructed from brickwork to approximately two-thirds wall height, surmounted by a cladding band of corrugated steel panels. Small gaps behind these corrugated panels were assessed to provide some roosting opportunity and potential access/egress to the building interior via these avenues.

The doors of the building are a combination of UPVC and steel single pedestrian access doors set in UPVC and steel frames, whilst 2 large roller-shutter doors are also present on the southern side of the building, with one being situated within the southern wall of the steel framed warehouse, and another in the south-eastern wall of the single-storey brick section of the building.

Large gaps are present around the tops of the roller shutter doors, which may permit access to both the steel framed warehouse and single-storey brick section of the building. Furthermore, damaged brickwork was recorded in the vicinity of the south-eastern roller shutter door, which may provide PRFs and or access/egress to the building interior in this location for crevice-dwelling bats.

Additional gaps are present around areas in which timber framework joins the walls of the survey building, particularly in the vicinity of the roller shutter door at the south-east of the building. Furthermore, suspected smudging was recorded around the timber in this location, and a bat dropping identified beneath this feature, suggesting that this area of the building is utilised as either a PRF or potential access/egress points by bats.

The brick sections of the building possess exposed timber fascia boards. The fascia boards on the northern side of the building were in a generally fair condition, although a gap was identified behind this fascia board which may permit access/egress to the loft void situated beneath the corrugated steel sheet roof, or may be utilised as a PRF by crevice-dwelling bats.

Significant damage was recorded to the timber fascia board on the southern side of the building however. Missing sections of the fascia board within this location were assessed to enable the potential access/egress for crevice dwelling bats to PRFs which may be situated beneath the flat roof of the building in this location.

Potential roosting features for bats identified on the building exterior, along with potential access/egress points for bats to the building interior are visible in Figures 9 – 14 below: -

Figure 9 – Gap above Roller Shutter Door to Eastern Steel Warehouse May Permit Access/Egress for Bats



Figure 10 – Damaged / Missing Timber Fascia Board at (SE) of Building May Permit Access/Egress for Bats to Interior & Associated PRFs



Figure 11 – Gap Behind Timber Fascia Board on (N) Side of Building May Permit Access/Egress for Bats to Interior & Associated PRFs



Figure 12 – Gaps Behind Steel Cladding and Brick Wall May Offer Some Roosting Potential for Crevice-Dwelling Bats, and May Permit Access/Egress to Building Interior Via these Locations



Figure 13 – Gap and Potential Smudging Where Timber Framework Meets Wall in vicinity of Roller Shutter Door at (SE) of Survey Building



Figure 14 – Bat Dropping Identified Beneath Potential Access/Egress Point as visible in Figure 14, Suggests this Feature is being Utilised by Bats



4.5.2 Building Interiors

Single and Two-Storey Brick Buildings

The interior of the single-storey brick warehouse possesses high-level metal-framed windows along its northern elevation, allowing a large level of natural light to enter the main internal space. The interior walls are constructed from brick, with some areas of internal render, and the floor of the building is constructed from concrete.

The interior brickwork and render is in generally good condition, with limited areas of damage being recorded which may be utilised by roosting bats.

Photographs of the interior of the survey building are visible in Figures 15 – 16 below: -

Figure 15 – View of Main Interior Room and Ceiling of Single-Storey Brick Building



Figure 16 – Damaged Window Pane along (N) Wall of Single-Storey Brick Structure May Permit Access



The main internal space is largely open-plan and uncluttered, with smooth, hard surfaces throughout. A series of diamond-web steel beams run across the ceiling space, creating limited ledges and narrow crevices along the junction between the trusses and the roof sheeting.

The steel girders were assessed to offer some roosting potential for free-hanging bats, whilst small gaps around the intersections of the girders with the building masonry were assessed to offer some roosting potential for crevice-dwellers.

The high level of natural light within the building interior reduce the building's potential to be utilised as a day roost (at least within well-lit areas), and the open nature of the building and variable atmospheric conditions reduce the likelihood of the building being suitable to support either a hibernation or maternity roost.

The interior of the flat roofed two-storey brick building meanwhile was also surveyed during the PRA. This section of the building appears to have formally been utilised as an office block, and the walls and ceilings within this section of the building were in excellent condition, with no damage being recorded which may be utilised by bats.

It should be noted that direct evidence of bats in the form of droppings was identified along the interior walls of the large open room present in the single-storey brick structure. No evidence of bats was identified within the two-storey brick building, however.

A small covered access point is located along the southern wall of the main room of the single-storey brick structure, and this grants access to a small void / loft space which is present along the southern side of the building.

Photographs of this loft space / void are visible in Figures 17 – 20 below: -

Figure 17 – View from ‘Loft’ to Main Room of Single-Storey Brick Building, Looking (N)



Figure 18 – View inside ‘Loft’ Along Southern Side of Survey Building, Looking (SW)



Figure 19 – View inside ‘Loft’ Along Southern Side of Survey Building, Looking (E)

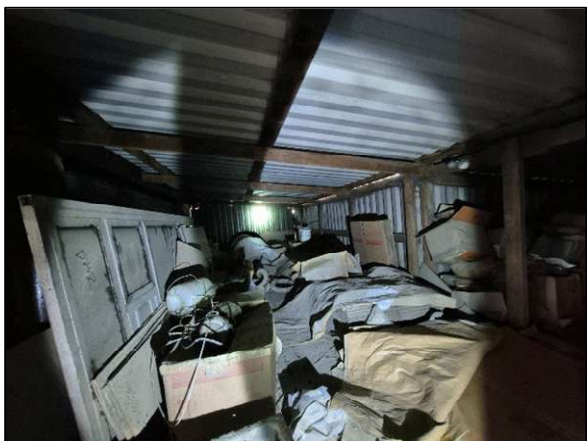


Figure 20 – Light Ingress from Gaps Under Corrugated Roof Sheets May Permit Access/Egress for Bats



As discussed, the loft / void above the southern section of the survey single-storey brick building is accessible via a covered access point in the southern wall of the main interior room of the building. The roof of the loft is constructed from single-skinned corrugated steel roof sheets which have been overlaid onto a timber framework.

The void is of low height, and partially filled with stored materials, including cardboard, plastic sheeting, pallets, and discarded equipment. Surfaces throughout are heavily dusted, with a notable accumulation of cobwebs, indicating minimal disturbance over an extended period.

The space is dark, with only minor light ingress visible through narrow gaps between corrugated sheets and wall junctions. These gaps were assessed to be of sufficient size to enable both crevice and void-dwelling bats to enter the interior void space to access potential roosting features situated within.

The loft was warm during the survey, owing to having being constructed from steel sheets and the survey being undertaken on a warm, sunny day in August. Owing to the nature in which the void has been constructed, it is likely therefore that the interior space is subject to large temperature variables, and does not possess a stable or consistent enough atmosphere to be utilised as a maternity or hibernation roost. There is the potential for the loft to be utilised for transient or day roosting by smaller numbers of bats, however.

This is due to the fact that the structure offers a range of small crevices and linear gaps between the timber beams, corrugated roof panels and interior masonry of the building, which may be utilised by roosting bats, and

particularly crevice-dwellers. The dark, enclosed and rarely disturbed nature of the loft increase its likelihood to be utilised by small numbers of bats, with the range of small crevices within the timber and corrugated roof junctions acting as PRFs for crevice-dwelling species. The presence of dust and cobwebs further suggest the space is infrequently accessed, which could enhance its suitability for occasional roosting.

It should be noted however that no obvious signs of bat use (droppings, feeding remains, staining, smudging etc.) were recorded within this void/loft space inspection, although the dense clutter and restricted access mean that small-scale evidence could easily have remained undetected, particularly given evidence of bats was identified within the adjacent large open room and outside of the building.

Steel Framed Warehouse

The interior of the steel framed warehouse to the west meanwhile consists of a single large room. Three of the four interior walls of the warehouse are constructed from single-skinned corrugated steel sheeting, which has been overlaid onto a steel framework onto which the single-skinned corrugated sheet roofing has been set.

The roof of the building possesses numerous translucent skylights, which subsequently means that the interior of the warehouse is very well lit by natural light during the day, reducing this section of the building's potential to be utilised as a day roost.

The fourth interior wall of the warehouse meanwhile has been constructed from brick, and an approximate 1-1.5m gap is present above the extent of the brick wall, over which the roof of the warehouse continues over the main structure of the single-storey brick building which was also assessed during the PRA.

Subsequently, a void is present above the northern section of the single-storey brick structure, which is not visible from the interior of the building, owing to the void having been partitioned off from the rest of the building.

The interior of the steel framed warehouse is visible in Figures 21 – 22 below: -

Figure 21 – (W) Steel Clad Wall of Steel Framed Warehouse, Looking (W)



Figure 22 – (E) Brick Wall of Steel Framed Warehouse, Looking (E)



The interior of the warehouse is open and spacious in nature, with no internal partitioning. Potential roosting features within the main warehouse itself are limited, although the building could be used opportunistically as a night roost should conditions allow.

The brick wall at the eastern end of the building meanwhile offers some additional roosting potential, particularly between the edge of the brick wall and the corrugated steel cladding, whereby a small void of sufficient size to potentially be utilised by crevice-dwellers is present. The condition of the brickwork and masonry itself is in generally excellent condition however, with limited areas being observed in which crevice-dwelling bats may be able to roost.

As discussed, a void is present above the extent of the brickwork along the eastern side of the building.

Photographs of the interior void space are visible in Figures 23 – 26 overleaf: -

Figure 23 – Gap above Extent of Brick Wall, Opens Out into Void above (N) Section of Single-Storey Brick Building



Figure 24 – Void Interior above Single-Storey Brick Building, Looking (E)



Figure 25 – Void Interior above Single-Storey Brick Building, Looking (E)

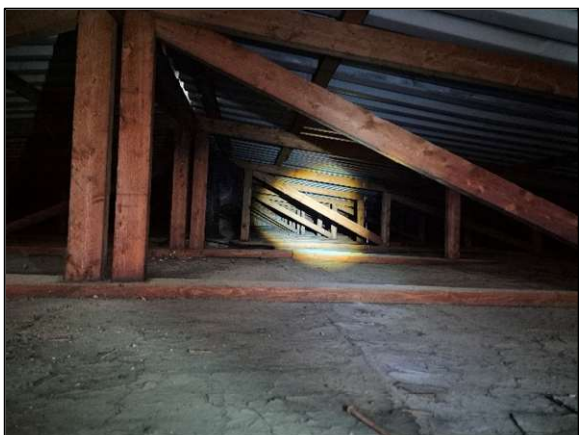


Figure 26 – Void Interior above Single-Storey Brick Building, Looking (E)



Subsequently, the primary potential roosting features for bats within the steel framed warehouse are situated within the void above the extent of the brick wall at the west of the building.

Timber framework is present within the void, onto which the steel roof sheets of the main warehouse have been set. The void continues along the whole length of the single-storey brick building, and terminates at the end of the building, beyond which the two-storey brick building is situated.

The void offers some potential roosting features for bats, with these primarily being associated with gaps between intersecting timber features, which may be suitable for crevice-dwelling bats. It should be noted that the void space was not surveyed in its entirety due to safety concerns; however of the areas that were accessible, no evidence of roosting bats was found.

The open-ended nature of the void, along with it being constructed from metal sheeting mean that the temperature within the void is likely to change significantly during the day and at night. Subsequently the void is not thought to be suitable to support a maternity or hibernation colony, but the features identified within the void were assessed to provide some roosting potential for individual or opportunistic bats, potentially as a day or night roost.

Small areas of light ingress were recorded in some areas, whereby lifted steel panels were identified (as visible in top right of Figure 25). Subsequently it is likely that the void is directly accessible for bats from the building exterior, whilst bats are able to potentially enter the void via the main warehouse interior, via the large gap above the extent of the brick wall.

As such, although the PRFs identified within the survey building are unlikely to be utilised by a larger number of bats, the PRFs along with numerous potential access/egress points mean that the building possesses some potential to support roosting bats.

Furthermore, direct evidence of bats in the form of droppings was identified within both the interior and exterior of the survey building during the PRA, and subsequently the results of the PRA indicate that Lewis House is a confirmed roost for 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.

Evidence of bats was identified during the PRA. Further information is provided below: -

- **Droppings Identified within Main Ground Floor Interior of Single-Storey Brick Building** – a small number of droppings (10 – 20) were identified scattered throughout the main Ground Floor interior of the single-storey brick building. The droppings were well-spread throughout the buildings, particularly along the interior wall edges.
- **Droppings Identified at (SE) Building Exterior** – An additional single dropping was also recorded in the vicinity of the roller shutter door at the south-east (exterior) of the building (as visible in Figure 14). The dropping appeared to be situated beneath a potential access point to the building interior for bats;
- **Potential Smudging on Timber Cladding around (SE) Roller Shutter Door** – Some potential smudging was identified on timber cladding in the vicinity of the roller shutter door at the south-east exterior of the building (as visible in Figure 13), which may indicate a potential access point into the building interior / PRF.

No additional evidence of bats was recorded throughout the rest of the building interiors or building exterior during the PRA.

4.5.4 Potential Access for Bats

Numerous potential access/egress points for bats to the building interiors were recorded during the PRA. Potential access points and their respective locations within the buildings are outlined in further detail below:-

- **Gaps around Roller Shutter Door at (SE) of Building and in (S) Wall of Steel Framed Warehouse** – The survey building possesses 2 roller shutter doors, with these being situated in the south-eastern corner of the building, and set within the southern wall of the steel framed warehouse. Gaps are present at the top of both roller shutter doors which are of sufficient size to enable both crevice and void-dwelling bats to access the building interiors in each respective location;
- **Damage to Glass Windows along (N) Side and Open Windows around Building** – Small areas of damage to <5 window panes on the northern side of the single-storey brick building were recorded during the survey, which may permit access/egress for bats to the main Ground Floor interior room of this building. Furthermore, a small number of open windows were also recorded during the PRA, with these being situated on the two-storey brick building and on the southern side of the single-storey building, enabling the potential access/egress of bats to the respective building interiors in each location;
- **Damaged / Missing Brickwork in (SE) Corner of Building** – An area of missing brickwork was recorded in the south-eastern corner of the building in the vicinity of the roller shutter door. The missing brickwork exposed an interior void in this location, which may be utilised by crevice-dwelling bats as a PRF;
- **Gap behind Fascia Board on (N) Side of Single-Storey Brick Building** – A gap is present behind the timber fascia board on the northern side of the single-storey brick building. The gap behind the fascia board was assessed to potentially enable the access/egress of bats to PRFs situated within, or to the void situated above the single-storey brick building (between the extension of the roof of the steel framed warehouse and the flat roof of the building single-storey brick building);
- **Damaged / Missing Fascia Board on (S) Aspect of Two-Storey Brick Building** – An area of damage / missing timber fascia board is situated on the southern side of the two-storey, flat roofed brick building. The

missing fascia board may permit access/egress of opportunistic individual bats to the limited PRFs situated within;

- **Gaps Under and Between Corrugated Steel Roof Sheets** – Numerous gaps are present beneath and between the corrugated steel sheets which make up the roof of the building in a number of locations. The gaps are of sufficient size to enable both void and crevice-dwelling bats to enter the building interior in each location and this includes potential access into both of the roof voids and associated PRFs identified during the PRA;
- **Gap Above Extent of Interior Brick Wall at (E) Side of Steel Framed Warehouse, Enabling Access to Roof Void** – A large gap is present above the entirety of the brick wall which makes up the eastern wall of the steel framed warehouse / western wall of the single-storey brick building, which permits free access/egress for bats to the void situated in this location. Furthermore, bats are able to freely access the steel framed warehouse, owing to a gap above the roller shutter door, and are subsequently able to enter the void via the aforementioned gap above the extent of the brick wall;
- **Gaps around Timber Roof Features and Intersections with Masonry / Cladding** – Gaps are present where timber roof features intersect with the masonry and cladding of the survey building. These gaps are of sufficient size to enable crevice-dwelling bats to access PRFs situated within.

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 number of potential access / egress points to 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 Features in Voids above Building** – A number of exposed timber roof support features, including rafters and ridge beams were identified within the 2 voids identified during the survey, which may be suitable for crevice and void-dwelling bats. Although the timber framework making up the roof features of the buildings was also identified to provide some limited roosting habitat for free-hanging bats, the interior of the building is open and exposed in nature, reducing the building's potential to be utilised consistently and by a larger number of bats;
- **Gaps between Intersections of Timber Framework Making up Roof of the Buildings** – Small gaps are present between intersecting timber features making up the framework of the roof of the building. The gaps were assessed to be of sufficient size to be utilised by small numbers of crevice-dwelling bats;
- **Intersections between Timber Framework of Roof and Masonry / Cladding** – Gaps are present around areas whereby the timber framework making up the roof of the building intersects with the respective masonry and cladding features of the building, both within the interior voids and external areas of the building (such as that visible in Figure 13). These gaps offer potential roosting opportunity for crevice-dwelling bats;
- **Cracks / Missing Bricks within the Exterior Brickwork of the Survey Buildings** – Some cracks and missing bricks were recorded within the exterior brickwork making up the building, particularly within the vicinity of the roller shutter door to the south-east, whereby the cracks open up into a void behind the brickwork. The cracks were inspected for evidence of bats with none being found, however, the cracks and small voids were assessed to be of sufficient size to support crevice-dwelling bats;
- **Gaps Behind / Damage To / Missing Timber Fascia Boards** – A gap is present behind the timber fascia board on the northern side of the single-storey brick section of the building, which was assessed to be of sufficient size to support crevice-dwelling bats. Furthermore, a damaged / missing timber fascia board on the southern side of the two-storey brick section of the building was also assessed to enable opportunistic individual bats to enter timber features beneath the flat roof within this location, should external conditions dictate;

- **Void between Exterior Steel Cladding and Interior Brick Wall within Steel Framed Warehouse** – Voids are present between exterior steel cladding of the steel framed warehouse, and the interior western extent of the brick walls making up the single-storey brick section of the building, over which the steel framed warehouse roof extends. These voids were assessed to be of sufficient size to support small numbers of crevice-dwelling bats;
- **Open and Well-Connected Nature of Void Above Single-Storey Brick Building, and Steel-Framed Warehouse Interior** – A large gap is present above the extent of the brick wall at the eastern side of the steel framed warehouse. Subsequently, any bats which are able to enter the warehouse interior are able to enter the void above the single-storey brick building, and access and associated PRFs situated within.

The survey concluded that; given that evidence of bats was identified during the PRA along with the observed presence of PRFs within the building interiors, in conjunction with potential access/egress points to these features, **the survey buildings possess a low (confirmed roost) potential to support roosting bats.**

4.5.6 Surrounding Habitat

The buildings are situated on an active port, and subsequently, the majority of the surroundings consist of dock infrastructure and associated industrial units.

A small area of scrubby woodland is located immediately adjacent to the western side of the survey buildings, beyond which railway lines are situated. North Dock is also located approximately 115m to the south-east of the survey buildings. The remaining immediate surroundings of the survey buildings consist primarily of hardstanding, whilst the eastern boundary of the site is bound by East Way Road, which serves as the main access road into the ABP Newport site.

These habitats were assessed to provide generally low suitability for bats, although there is likely some foraging opportunity due to the invertebrate interest identified within these areas. It should be noted however, that roosting opportunities for bats within the surrounding habitat is limited.

Although connectivity between the surrounding habitats to better foraging habitat elsewhere are generally poor (from the perspective of green linkages such as hedgerows, tree lines, continuous green corridors etc.), the River Usk (SAC & SSSI) is located approximately 110m to the east of the survey building.

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, and subsequently, bats may utilise the riparian zones of the Usk to commute from the site to better foraging habitat further away from the survey area.

With the above being said, the surrounding habitat on the whole has been assessed to provide low suitability for bats, due to its isolated nature and poor connectivity.

The wider landscape of the area consists of a combination of pastoral fields and associated hedgerows, with Newport Wetlands being located approximately 3km to the south-east of the site, whilst significant industrial sites including a landfill and Cogent Power are located approximately 1km west and 1.1km to the east of the survey building respectively. Newport city centre is located approximately 1.5km to the north of the site.

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 buildings at Lewis House 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 (confirmed roost)** potential to support roosting bats.

Direct evidence of bat use in the form of droppings was identified within the main Ground Floor room of the single-storey brick section of the building, whilst an additional dropping and suspected smudging was also identified in the vicinity of the roller-shutter door at the south-eastern exterior of the building.

Furthermore, numerous potential access/egress points for bats to the building interiors are present, particularly and the building interiors were concluded to be of sufficient size to potentially support void-dwelling bats.

Although numerous PRFs for bats were identified during the survey, the PRFs were identified to be of generally poor quality, reducing the likelihood that the building is being utilised on a regular basis, or by a larger number of bats, particularly with respect to void-dwellers. The buildings were assessed to provide some potential to support crevice-dwelling species however.

The PRA concluded that the survey buildings possess some potential to be utilised by bats, for example as either a day or night roost.

The buildings were however concluded as being unlikely to be suitable for a maternity or hibernation roost, largely due to a lack of consistent internal temperature, and no evidence was identified during the PRA which would support the presence of either of these roost types.

5.3 Recommendations

The survey building was assessed as having **low (confirmed roost)** potential to support roosting bats, and, due to evidence of bats being identified during the PRA, **roost characterisation 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 sufficient to provide additional information to categorise the roost and determine which species are utilising the survey buildings.

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: -

- Roost characterisation surveys will be required in the form of **a minimum of one dusk emergence survey** to categorise the roost identified within the building and to determine which species are 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.

6.0 ROOST CHARACTERISATION SURVEYS

The PRA had previously concluded that the survey buildings possess **low (confirmed roost)** 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 evidence of bats in the form of droppings was identified during the PRA.

Further to the result of the PRA, it was determined that **the buildings should be subjected to a minimum of one roost characterisation dusk emergence survey** to enable the numbers and species of bats which are utilising the buildings to be determined.

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 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 16th September 2025 by Steve Owen; a licenced bat surveyor (NRW Licence no: **S093409/1**) who was assisted additional experienced ecologists.

Further to the results of the initial dusk emergence survey, a second dusk emergence survey was also undertaken on 25th September 2025.

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 ultra-sonic 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 surveys were undertaken within the optimal time of year to undertake activity surveys (May – September), with the surveys having been undertaken on 16th September and 25th September 2025 respectively.

Weather conditions in the preceding days had been fine, whilst the conditions on the days of each 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 surveys 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 significant limitations to the activity survey works.

6.4 First Activity Survey for Bats – Dusk Emergence Survey, 16/09/25

An initial dusk emergence survey was undertaken on Tuesday 16th September 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 – First Activity Survey Details

	Dusk Emergence Survey
Date	16/09/25
Weather Conditions	15°C, 100% cloud cover, wind Beaufort Scale 1, no rain throughout survey.
Sunset	19.24
Start time	18.54
Finish time	21.24

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 N aspect of Lewis House;
- **Anabat Express 16** – this detector remained in a static location, facing toward the SE aspect of Lewis House;
- **Echo Touch Pro 2** – each surveyor had a dedicated detector to identify emerging, foraging and commuting bats.

Observations made during the survey are listed in Table 2 overleaf: -

Table 2 – First Activity Survey Results

Record Number	Time	Description
n/a	18.54	SURVEY START
1	19.30	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>) observed to emerge from top of wall adjacent to roller shutter door on south-eastern side of building;
2	19.40 -19.50	2x common pipistrelle observed to emerge from top of wall on northern side of building;
3	19.41	Common pipistrelle observed foraging along northern side of survey building, before flying south above Lewis House;
4	19.46	Common pipistrelle observed foraging above Lewis House;
5	19.48	Common pipistrelle observed to emerge from top of wall on northern side of survey building;
6	19.52	Common pipistrelle observed commuting from north to south above Lewis House;
7	19.55	Noctule (<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>) detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
8	20.02	Noctule detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
9	20.03	Common pipistrelle detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
10	20.04	Noctule detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
11	20.08	Common pipistrelle observed commuting from east to west at south of survey building;
12	20.15	Common pipistrelle detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
13	20.16	Common pipistrelle observed commuting from south-west to north-east at south of survey building;
14	20.18	Noctule detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
15	20.19	Common pipistrelle observed commuting from north to south above Lewis House;
16	20.22	Common pipistrelle observed commuting from north-east to south-west above Lewis House;
17	20.23	Common pipistrelle observed to emerge from brickwork in vicinity of roller shutter door at south-east of survey building;
18	20.26	Common pipistrelle observed foraging above north-eastern corner of Lewis House;
19	20.27	Brown long-eared (<i>Plecotus auritus</i>) observed commuting from east to west at south of survey building;
20	20.28	Common pipistrelle observed commuting from east to west at south of survey building;
21	20.29	Common pipistrelle observed commuting from north to south above survey building;
22	20.31	Common pipistrelle observed foraging in loops south of survey building;
23	20.33	Common pipistrelle detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
24	20.34	Common pipistrelle detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
25	20.37	Common pipistrelle observed foraging in loops south of survey building;
26	20.39	Noctule detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
27	20.40	Brown long-eared observed commuting from south to north above Lewis House;
28	20.41	Common pipistrelle observed to emerge from above roller shutter door on south-eastern corner of building;
29	20.47	Common pipistrelle observed to commute from east to west along north of survey building;
30	20.52	Noctule detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
31	20.54	Noctule detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
32	20.58	Noctule detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
33	21.04	Noctule detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
34	21.05	Noctule detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
n/a	21.24	SURVEY END

6.5 Summary of First 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 first dusk emergence surveys is provided below: -

- A total of **6 bats were observed to emerge from the survey building**, with 3 bats emerging from the (N) aspect of Lewis House, and an additional 3 bats emerging from the vicinity of the roller shutter door and associated brickwork at the (SE) corner of the building. **The survey building is therefore a confirmed bat roost;**
- Bats suspected to have emerged from the survey building consisted exclusively of **common pipistrelle**;
- Bat abundance on the survey night was relatively high, with a total of 34 bats being identified during the survey. Foraging activity was largely focussed along the north and south of the survey building;
- Bats recorded during the activity survey consisted of 3 distinct species, namely; common pipistrelle, noctule and brown long-eared;
- 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 110m to the east, and the parcel of scrub adjacent to the western side of the survey buildings offer some commuting and foraging opportunity for bats.

6.6 Second Activity Survey for Bats – Dusk Emergence Survey, 25/09/25

Based upon the results of the initial dusk survey undertaken on 16th September 2025, the recommendation was made that an additional dusk emergence survey should be undertaken in order that the confirmed roost within the building could be further categorised, and to identify whether additional species are utilising the survey building.

A second dusk emergence survey was subsequently undertaken on 25th September, 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 3 – Second Activity Survey Details

	Dusk Emergence Survey
Date	25/09/25
Weather Conditions	14°C, 0% cloud cover, wind Beaufort Scale 1-2, no rain throughout survey.
Sunset	19.02
Start time	18.32
Finish time	21.02

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 overleaf: -

- **Anabat Express 15** – this detector remained in a static location, facing toward the N aspect of Lewis House;
- **Anabat Express 16** – this detector remained in a static location, facing toward the SE aspect of Lewis House;
- **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 4 – Second Activity Survey Results

Record Number	Time	Description
n/a	18.32	SURVEY START
1	18.59	Noctule (<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>) detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
2	19.12	Noctule detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
3	19.19	Noctule detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
4	19.23	Soprano pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>) observed to emerge from brickwork on south-eastern corner of survey building;
5	19.35	Noctule detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
6	19.39	Noctule detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
7	19.41	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>) detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
8	19.43	Common pipistrelle suspected to emerge from upper wall on northern side of survey building, before foraging at south of building;
9	19.49	Common pipistrelle observed foraging along southern side of Lewis House;
10	19.59	Common pipistrelle detected on heterodyne, but not observed;
11	20.01	Common pipistrelle observed to emerge from top of roller shutter door on south-eastern side of survey building;
12	20.07	Common pipistrelle observed commuting from west to east at northern side of survey building;
13	20.11	Common pipistrelle observed to emerge from masonry adjacent to roller shutter door on south-eastern corner of survey building;
14	20.12	Common pipistrelle observed to re-enter survey building, whereby it was seen to fly into the brickwork from which No. 4 was observed to emerge.
n/a	21.02	SURVEY END

6.7 Summary of Second Activity Survey

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

- A total of **4 bats were observed to emerge from the survey building**, with 3 of these emerging from the vicinity of the roller shutter door at the (SE) of the building, with a single bat also emerging from the upper wall on the northern side of the single-storey brick building. **An additional bat was also observed to re-enter the building** during the survey;
- Bats observed to have emerged from the survey building include **1 soprano pipistrelle and 3 common pipistrelles**;
- Bat abundance on the survey night was much lower during the second survey, with only 14 bats being recorded. This could be potentially due to the temperature lowering (but still remaining above 10°C) toward the end of the survey period;
- A total of 3 bat species were recorded during the activity survey, and these include; common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and noctule;
- A common pipistrelle, was observed to re-enter the building at 20.12, whereby it entered the damaged section of brickwork previously identified as a PRF on the south-eastern exterior of the building in the vicinity of the roller shutter door.

7.0 PRA AND DUSK EMERGENCE SURVEYS – DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Summary of Survey Effort

7.1.1 Preliminary Roost Assessment Summary

The survey buildings at Lewis House 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.

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.

Direct evidence of bats in the form of droppings and potential smudging was also identified both within the interior of the survey building (Ground Floor of main interior room of single-storey brick building) and externally (single dropping and smudging in the vicinity of the roller shutter door at the south-east of the building), confirming that the building is being utilised by roosting bats.

Due to the presence of PRFs within the buildings along with numerous potential access/egress points to these features and direct evidence of bats being identified during the PRA, the survey building's potential to support roosting bats was classified as **low (confirmed roost)**.

As a result of the above, the recommendation was made that roost categorisation surveys should be undertaken in order to categorically determine the presence/absence of bats within the buildings, and in order to 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 Surveys Undertaken in September 2025

An initial roost characterisation survey (in the form of a dusk emergence survey) was undertaken on 16th September 2025 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.

Based upon the results of the initial dusk emergence survey, the recommendation was made that the building should be subjected to a second survey, to ensure that sufficient information relating to bat roosts within the survey building was obtained.

Subsequently, a second dusk emergence survey was undertaken at Lewis House on 25th September 2025.

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

- The buildings and their condition offered several opportunities for bat occupation and roosting potential;
- The building is 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 high number of bat calls were recorded during the initial emergence survey, with numbers dropping significantly during the second survey. A total of 34 bats were recorded during the 1st dusk emergence survey, with 14 bats being recorded during the second. A total of 4 species were recorded over the 2 surveys, with these consisting of; common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, noctule and brown long-eared;
- A total of **6 confirmed individual bats consisting of a single species** were recorded to emerge from the building during the first survey with these consisting entirely of **common pipistrelles**;
- A total of **4 confirmed individual bats across at 2 species** were recorded to emerged from the building during the second survey, with these consisting of **3 common pipistrelles and 1 soprano pipistrelle**;

- A single bat was observed to re-enter the building during the second emergence survey. This record consisted of a common pipistrelle, which re-entered the building via damaged brickwork on the south-eastern side at 20.12, potentially due to external temperatures dropping (although remaining above 10°C);
- Based upon the results of the preliminary roost assessment and subsequent activity surveys, the survey building is a **confirmed summer non-breeding day roost and night roost for a small number (<10) of both soprano pipistrelle and common pipistrelle**;
- **The building is now a confirmed bat roost. No work that could affect the bat roost is permitted by law, without the permission and/or under licence from Natural Resources Wales, including any works to the roof. Direct illumination of the building is also not permitted, as this could constitute disturbance**;
- The emergence surveys did not identify a maternity roost. Based upon the evidence gained during the PRA and subsequent emergence surveys, the bats using the building as a roost are likely to be males or non-breeding females;
- The conditions encountered within the survey buildings were not considered suitable to offer either significant maternity or hibernation potential for bats;
- No evidence of nesting bird use of the building was observed during the surveys. However, all building / 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 any active nests become vacant;
- If careful consideration is made to incorporate improved roosting conditions into the proposals, the project could offer ecological gain for resident bats which have been identified to be utilising the survey building. New roost creation will subsequently be required to accommodate crevice-dwelling species of bats. 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 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;
- If planning / demolition consent is approved, the developer must apply for an EPSL to commence with the works. This typically takes approximately 30 working days to be issued. This licence would have to offer a methodology to ensure that any roosting sites are maintained or replaced and preferably enhanced in the new build, and the project undertaken in a way which minimises any risk to bats. An ecological clerk of works will be appointed and retained for the duration of the project;
- A detailed external lighting plan will be required to minimise any external light disturbance to the bats using the building and surrounding area.

To conclude, the survey buildings are a **confirmed summer non-breeding day roost for a small number (<10) soprano pipistrelle and common pipistrelle**, based upon the evidence gathered during the PRA, roost characterisation surveys and data obtained from static monitors within the survey building.

Subsequently, a detailed mitigation strategy will be required to ensure the proposals have minimal impact on bats which utilise the building, and generate a Net Benefit for Biodiversity at the site.

Furthermore, **a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) will be required**, including a mitigation strategy approved by NRW, prior to commencement of the works.

7.2 Potential Impact of Proposals

The proposed works will likely directly impact upon the confirmed bat roost within Lewis House, and these potential impacts include: -

- Destruction of a summer non-breeding soprano pipistrelle and common pipistrelle day roost;
- Roost obstruction and possible entrapment with injury and death through the closure of bat access/egress points to interior PRFs;
- Noise and vibration disturbance to surrounding areas during the demolition works.

It is not feasible to avoid the above impacts to bats by modifying the programme of works. As such, in order to proceed with the development proposals, a bat mitigation licence must be granted by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) prior to the commencement of any impactful works.

The implementation of an appropriate bat mitigation and compensation strategy is thought to be sufficient to ensure that the impacts to bats as a result of the proposals are minimised, and that the favourable conservation status of the species of concern is maintained.

The mitigation strategy will pose constraints upon the proposals, which will likely include timing constraints upon the commencement of works, restrictions upon the use of certain building materials and provision of compensatory roost features to ensure that roosting opportunity for bats is not minimised as a result of the proposals.

7.3 Mitigation Strategy

The results of the surveys have identified that a small number of crevice-dwellers (common and soprano pipistrelle) are utilising the building as a summer non-breeding day roost.

As such, the following sections outline the mitigation recommendations made to minimise the impact of the proposals on protected species which are utilising the survey building, and to improve the conservation status of the site for both bats and nesting birds. The recommendation is subsequently made that these mitigation methods are adopted within a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) application which will be required prior to the commencement of the proposals.

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.

In order to comply with both Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales and the Environment Act (Wales) 2016, a Net Benefit for Biodiversity will be required as part of the development proposals. This will consist of: -

- 4 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 will be created by fitting 4 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 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 are to be installed in retained trees to the north east of the survey buildings.

Any nesting bird mitigation will not be suited on the south 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 in the nearby vicinity of the survey buildings

All mitigation must be placed in areas in which future development is not proposed. The finalised location of any compensatory mitigation is to be approved as part of an EPSL which must be submitted prior to commencement of the demolition works.

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.

Lighting considerations should also be included within the EPSL application, prior to commencement of the proposals.

7.4 Recommendations

A European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) will be required from NRW to proceed with the works.

This will be accompanied by a dedicated **bat mitigation and compensation strategy (as informed by this report)**, which will be appropriate to the scale and scope of the proposed development works.

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.

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APPENDIX A

Drawings



Site Boundary

Job:

Associated British Ports, Newport - Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Lewis House

Title:

Survey Building Red Line Boundary

Date: October 2025

Scale: NTS

Drawn by: SO

Checked by: ER



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Drawing No: 238-03-19.D04

Revision No:

Date: 13/10/2025



Notes:			A3
Survey Building			
Key	Bat Identified	Time	Comments
—	BAT 01 - C. Pip	19:30	Observed to emerge from wall top by roller shutter at (SE)
—	BAT 02 - 2x C. Pip	19:40 19:50	Observed to emerge from wall top at (N) of bld.
—	BAT 03 - C. Pip	19:41	Foraging along (N) side of Lewis House
—	BAT 04 - C. Pip	19:46	Foraging above Lewis House
—	BAT 05 - C. Pip	19:48	Observed to emerge from wall top at (N) of bld.
—	BAT 06 - C. Pip	19:52	Commuting from (N) to (S) above Lewis House
—	BAT 07 - N. Noc	19:55	Heard not seen
—	BAT 08 - N. Noc	20:02	Heard not seen
—	BAT 09 - C. Pip	20:03	Heard not seen
—	BAT 10 - N. Noc	20:04	Heard not seen
—	BAT 11 - C. Pip	20:08	Commuting from (E) to (W) at (S) of Lewis House
—	BAT 12 - C. Pip	20:15	Heard not seen
—	BAT 13 - C. Pip	20:16	Commuting from (SW) to (NE) at (S) of Lewis House
—	BAT 14 - N. Noc	20:18	Heard not seen
—	BAT 15 - C. Pip	20:19	Commuting from (N) to (S) above Lewis House
—	BAT 16 - C. Pip	20:22	Commuting from (NE) to (SW) above Lewis House
—	BAT 17 - C. Pip	20:23	Observed to emerge from brickwork at (SE) of Bld.
—	BAT 18 - C. Pip	20:26	Foraging above (NE) corner of Lewis House
—	BAT 19 - B.L.E	20:27	Commuting from (E) to (W) at (S) of Bld.
—	BAT 20 - C. Pip	20:28	Commuting from (E) to (W) at (S) of Bld.
—	BAT 21 - C. Pip	20:29	Commuting from (N) to (S) above Lewis House
—	BAT 22 - C. Pip	20:31	Foraging in Loops at (S) of Survey Building
—	BAT 23 - C. Pip	20:33	Heard not seen
—	BAT 24 - C. Pip	20:34	Heard not seen
—	BAT 25 - C. Pip	20:37	Foraging in Loops at (S) of Survey Building
—	BAT 26 - N. Noc	20:39	Heard not seen
—	BAT 27 - B.L.E	20:40	Commuting from (S) to (N) above Lewis House
—	BAT 28 - C. Pip	20:41	Observed to emerge above Roller Shutter at (SE) of Bld.
—	BAT 29 - C. Pip	20:47	Commuting from (E) to (W) at (N) of Bld.
—	BAT 30 - N. Noc	20:52	Heard not seen
—	BAT 31 - N. Noc	20:54	Heard not seen
—	BAT 32 - N. Noc	20:58	Heard not seen
—	BAT 33 - N. Noc	21:04	Heard not seen
—	BAT 34 - N. Noc	21:05	Heard not seen

Job:

Associated British Ports, Newport - Preliminary Roost Assessment and Activity Survey for Bats, Lewis House

Title:

First Dusk Emergence Survey Results - 16th September 2025

Date:

October 2025

Scale:

NTS

Drawn by:

SO

Checked by:

EP

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Drawing No:

238-03-19.D05

Revision No:

Date:

29/10/25



Notes:

A3

Survey Building

Key	Bat Identified	Time	Comments
—	BAT 01 - N. Noc	18:59	Heard not seen
—	BAT 02 - N. Noc	19:12	Heard not seen
—	BAT 03 - N. Noc	19:19	Heard not seen
—	BAT 04 - S. Pip	19:23	Observed to emerge from Brickwork at (SE) of bld.
—	BAT 05 - N. Noc	19:35	Heard not seen
—	BAT 06 - N. Noc	19:39	Heard not seen
—	BAT 07 - C. Pip	19:41	Heard not seen
—	BAT 08 - C. Pip	19:43	Observed to emerge from Wall Top at (N) of bld.
—	BAT 09 - C. Pip	19:49	Foraging along (S) of Lewis House
—	BAT 10 - C. Pip	19:59	Heard not seen
—	BAT 11 - C. Pip	20:01	Observed to emerge from Roller Shutter at (SE) of bld.
—	BAT 12 - C. Pip	20:07	Commuting from (W) to (E) at (N) of Lewis House
—	BAT 13 - C. Pip	20:11	Observed to emerge from Masonry at (SE) of bld.
—	BAT 14 - C. Pip	20:12	Observed to return to Brickwork at (SE) of bld.

Job:
Associated British Ports, Newport - Preliminary Roost Assessment and Activity Survey for Bats, Lewis House

Title:
Second Dusk Emergence Survey Results - 25th September 2025

Date: October 2025

Scale: NTS

Drawn by: SO

Checked by: EP



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Drawing No: 238-03-19.D06

Revision No:

Date: 29/10/25

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.

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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

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- [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
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1.3 Site name

River Usk/ Afon Wysg

1.4 First Compilation date 1998-03	1.5 Update date 2015-12
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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/uksi/2010/490/contents/made).

2. SITE LOCATION

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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

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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 FI			134.55	0	G	D			
1140 FI			123.9	0	G	D			
1330 FI			29.04	0	M	D			
3260 FI			29.04	0	M	B	C	B	C
9130 FI			4.84	0	G	D			
9180 FI	X		21.3	0	G	D			
91A0 FI			12.58	0	G	D			
91D0 FI	X		2.9	0	G	D			

91E0 B	X		43.56	0	G	D				
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- **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

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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)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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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 (Glaucopuccinellietalia 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
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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