

# Spectrum Ecology

## Protected Species Surveys

[enquiries@spectrumecology.com](mailto:enquiries@spectrumecology.com)

2 Porthcawl Road, South Cornelly, CF33 4RE

66 Hookland Road Porthcawl CF36 5SG

07912090514 or 07540 143784



### Visual, ground-level tree inspection & evening bat activity survey:

Eastern boundary of land adjacent to Gilfach Road, Tonyrefail, RCT, CF39 8HL

### Methodology:

The physical / visual inspection was carried out with the aid of a spot lamp, endoscope and close-focussing monocular. The evening emergence survey was carried out using Batbox Duet heterodyne / frequency division bat detectors. The surveys were conducted by Licensed bat worker Daniel Lock (Licence Number 55038:OTH:CSAB:2014) & 2 assistant surveyors. The visual inspection of the trees comprising the eastern boundary resulted in 2 being identified as having some further potential for roosting bats. The 3 surveyors were therefore able to focus the subsequent emergence surveys on these trees in particular.

This report is intended to be appended to the main document of the wider Ecological assessment of the site. For more comprehensive site details, including description of habitat, please refer to the main document.

### Results Overview:

A thorough, ground level inspection was carried out on the mature trees lining the Eastern boundary of the site. Following the ground level assessment, only 2 were considered to have potential for roosting bats. These were a standard sessile oak *Quercus petraea* located about halfway along the tree line relative to the survey site, and a mature Alder *Alnus glutinosa* located nearer the south-eastern corner.

These trees both had significant ivy cover which could potentially provide roosting opportunities to bats. Closer inspection revealed that they did not appear to have obvious splits, cracks, holes or

cavities which would provide more significant potential. These trees can therefore be characterised as having a low-medium potential for bats. They became the focus for the subsequent evening emergence survey.

Sunset was established to be at 20:45hrs. The temperature was 15°C at the start of the survey, falling to 14°C at its conclusion. The survey started at 20:30hrs and finished at 22:00hrs. The weather conditions were overcast with a light south-westerly breeze. A light rain shower occurred briefly during the early part of the survey but quickly subsided (20:40hrs – 20:44hrs). Conditions remained calm throughout the remainder of the survey.

During the course of the survey, no bats were seen to emerge from the trees in question. A Soprano pipistrelle bat was observed foraging over the northern part of the site at 21:08hrs. At 21:16hrs a myotis spp bat was observed entering the site from the east but appeared to pass over the eastern boundary trees, seemingly coming from the small woodland block or cemetery beyond the treeline boundary. The bat was observed foraging over the open area of the southern part of the site, before becoming focussed around the trees in the south eastern corner. Both of the individual bats observed appeared to eventually leave the site to the north-west.

#### **Discussion and Conclusions:**

Following the ground level inspections and subsequent emergence survey – combined with the previous site bat survey undertaken in June 2016 - the surveyors conclude that the trees along the eastern boundary of the proposed development site have a relatively low likelihood of supporting roosting bats. Two of the trees do appear to have some limited potential in the form of ivy covering sections of trunk and limbs. However the opportunities which these features present are relatively limited and unlikely to support larger numbers of bat as might be expected with the more significant maternity roosts.

The trees comprising the eastern boundary do however appear to have wider habitat potential, offering significant foraging and navigational opportunities for the local bat population. It should also be clearly understood that there are inevitable constraints when surveying and inspecting mature trees with dense canopies from ground level. However, following the thorough visual inspection supplemented by a targeted evening emergence survey, the surveyors believe a good understanding of bat usage has been obtained.

It is understood that the trees comprising the eastern boundary are to be retained as part of the proposed development. Taking this into consideration, combined with the low numbers of bats observed on both survey occasions, as well as the limited roosting potential as a whole, the constraints can be considered less significant, as the favourable conservation status of the species and local populations are likely to be maintained.

## Emergence Survey Details:

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016

**Sunset:** 20:45 hrs

**Temp:** 15 °C

**Weather conditions:** 100% cloud cover, slight westerly breeze, brief light rain shower at start of survey followed by return to calm, dry conditions.

**Evening Emergence Survey start time:** 20:30hrs

**Evening Emergence Survey end:** 22:00hrs

## Results:

- At 21:08 a Soprano pipistrelle bat was observed foraging over the northern end of the site
- At 21:16 a myotis bat was observed entering the site from the east, appearing to pass over the eastern boundary tree line from the direction of the woodland block / cemetery beyond. The bat was observed foraging over the south-eastern quarter of the site, including around the eastern boundary mature trees.

A total of 2 individual bats were observed at any one time. The bats went on to forage extensively and generally over the low growing, succession-growth trees which comprise much of the site before appearing to exit to the North West.

