

kite ecology

**Extended Phase 1 and Protected
Species Survey**

**Land to the south of Cleggars Park,
Lamphey, Pembrokeshire**

**Mr C Bruncker, Mr A Bruncker, Mr J Irvine,
Ms J Bickerton & Ms J Boddington**

**Final Report
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This report, and the information contained in it, is intended to be valid for a maximum of 12 months from the date of the survey, providing no significant baseline changes have occurred.

Project number	Report number	Revision number	Date of issue
1927	001	Draft	03062020
1927	001	Updated to include plans	08072020
1927	001	Final	15072020

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 An extended phase 1 and protected species survey of land to the south of Cleggars Park, Lamphey, Pembrokeshire were commissioned by Hayston Developments & Planning Ltd, on behalf of Mr C Brunner, Mr A Brunner, Mr J Irvine, Ms J Bickerton and Ms J Boddington in relation to a planning application. Under the current proposals, the land would be developed for housing.
- 1.2 A walkover survey of the site was carried out on 19th and 21st May 2020 when it was surveyed for evidence of use by protected species including badgers, bats, birds and reptiles as these were considered the species most likely to utilise the site. Habitats on site were also recorded. All surveys were completed by a suitably licensed and experienced ecologist.
- 1.3 No evidence of protected species was found on site. The site comprises an improved agricultural field which has recently been cut. The hedgerows surrounding the site are species rich, but are well maintained as boundary features.
- 1.4 While there was no evidence of protected species on site, the development should be used as an opportunity to improve the biodiversity of the site. It is considered unlikely that the development would impact on the biodiversity of the area.

2 Introduction and site description

- 2.1 An extended phase 1 and protected species survey of land to the south of Cleggars Park, Lamphey, Pembrokeshire were commissioned by Hayston Developments & Planning Ltd, on behalf of Mr C Brunner, Mr A Brunner, Mr J Irvine, Ms J Bickerton and Ms J Boddington in relation to a planning application. Under the current proposals, the land would be developed for housing. The centre of the site is located at OSGR SS01519998.
- 2.2 The survey relates to a section of an agricultural field located to the south of Cleggars Park (Figure 1). The field is accessed via an existing gateway between two existing properties on the western boundary. The extent of the survey is shown in Figure 1 with a panoramic view of the site in Figure 2.

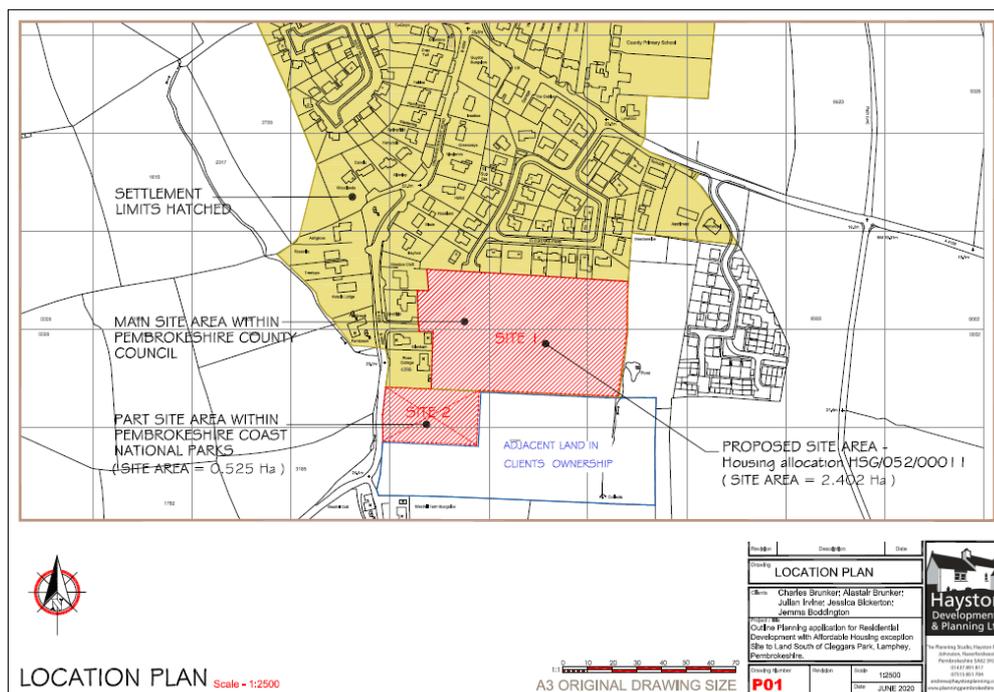


Figure 1. Survey area.



Figure 2. Panoramic photograph of the site taken south eastern corner facing north westwards.

2.3 Unless the client indicates otherwise, all species records will be submitted to the relevant biological records centre.

3 Desk study and survey methodology

3.1 General

A walkover survey of the site was carried out on 19th and 21st May 2020 when it was surveyed for evidence of use by protected species including badgers, bats, birds and reptiles as these were considered the species most likely to utilise the site. Habitats on site were also recorded. The weather during the surveys was cloudy (100% cover), with south westerly winds of Force 2, an average temperature of 14°C. All surveys were undertaken by a suitably licensed ecologist who is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and

Environmental Management and a Chartered Environmentalist. Surveys and reports have been completed following accepted guidelines and in accordance with CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing (2015) and BS 42020:2013 *Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development.* (2013).

3.2 Desk study

3.2.1 A data search for a radius of 2km was commissioned from the West Wales Biological Information Centre.

3.2.2 Aerial photographs

Google Earth was used to identify any important landscape features surrounding the site.

3.2.3 Designated sites

The Multi-Agency Geographic Information website (www.magic.gov.uk) was used to identify the presence of any protected sites within 2km of the survey area.

3.3 On site surveys

3.3.1 Phase 1

A Phase 1 habitat survey was carried out following the standard field methodology set out in the *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – A Technique for Environmental Audit*, Joint Nature Conservation Committee 1990 (2003 edition).

3.3.2 Badgers

The site, and where possible, a radius of 30 metres from the site boundary was searched for badger setts. Sett entrances are recognised by entrances c.300mm wide and c.200mm high and tend to have large accumulations of earth outside. Other signs searched for included 'snuffle holes' (holes dug by badgers when searching for invertebrates), 'dung pits' (small pits in which badgers deposit their faeces) and 'day nests' (nests of bedding material made by badgers for sleeping above ground).

3.3.3 Bats

3.3.3.1 Trees

Any trees were assessed for their potential use by roosting bats. Features such as peeling bark, woodpecker holes, splits and cracks were recorded. Trees were classed as being of low, medium or high bat potential depending on their suitability.

3.3.4 Birds

Any birds seen or heard on site during the survey were recorded.

3.3.5 Reptiles

The habitat was assessed for its potential use by reptiles with any suitable habitat or features also being recorded.

3.3.6 Other species

Incidental records of any other species seen or heard on site during the survey were also recorded.

4 Results

4.1 Data search

There are over 17,000 individual species records within a 2km radius of the site. The most relevant of these relate to bat roosts 180m to the north and include common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and brown long eared *Plecotus auritus*. Further bat records for Whiskered/Brandt's *Myotis mystacinus/brandtii*, greater horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and lesser horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros* existing within 2km of the site. Over 16000 of the records relate to *Lepidoptera* records at three sites within 2km of the site. The species records are summarised on Figure 3.

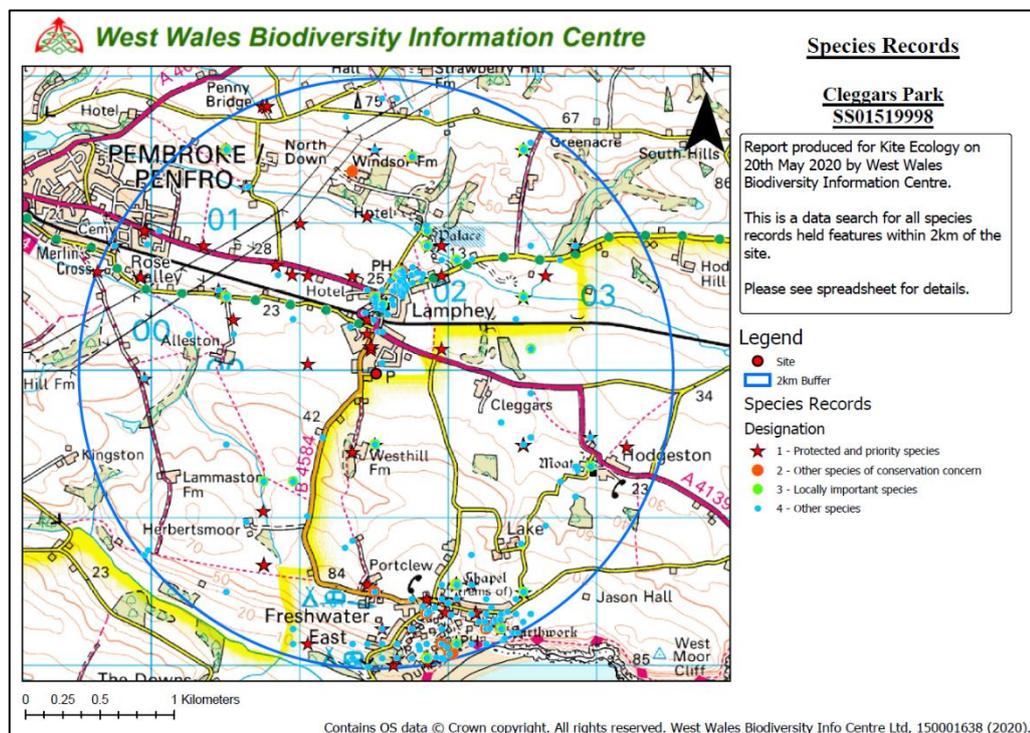


Figure 3. Summary of species records within a 5km radius of the site.

4.2 Aerial photographs

Situated to the south of the village of Lamphey, there are existing properties along the northern and western boundaries, with additional agricultural fields to the south and west. The hedgerows surrounding the fields continuous as boundary features, linking the site with the surrounding habitat of mixed agriculture. The surrounding habitats are visible in Figure 4.

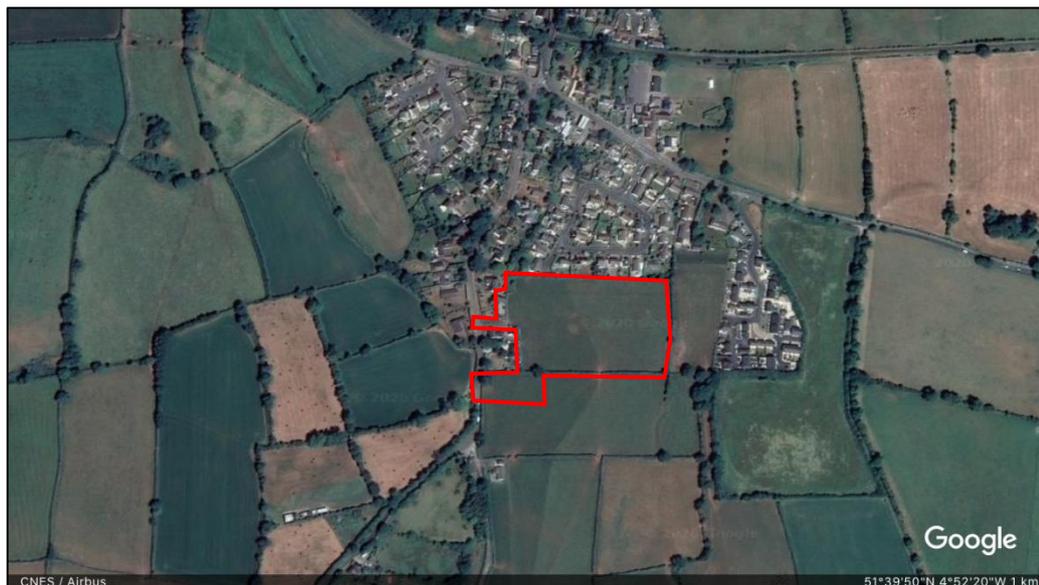


Figure 4. Aerial photograph of the site in relation to the surrounding habitats.

4.3 Designated sites

The site is 1.2km to the north of Freshwater East Cliffs to Skrinkle Haven Site of Special Scientific Interest which also forms part of the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC. It is also 1.2km to the north of Freshwater East Local Nature Reserve and the small section of field to the south west, is located within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. The designated sites are summarised in Figure 5.

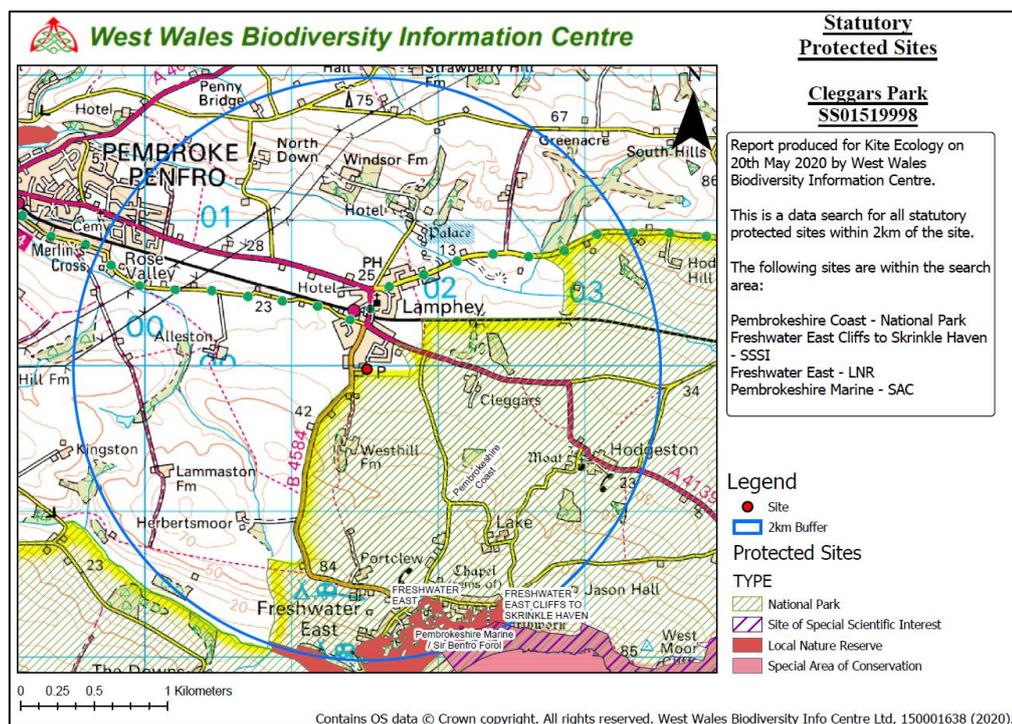


Figure 5. Designated sites in relation to the site.

4.4 On site surveys

4.4.1 Phase 1

4.3.1.1 H1 – western boundary of northern field

A retaining wall dividing the houses to the west from the agricultural field (Figure 6). There were occasional patches of bramble *Rubus fruticosus agg.* along the boundary walls.



Figure 6. H1 - western boundary of northern field.

4.3.1.2 H2 – northern boundary

A hedgerow c.2.5m high and 1.5m wide, which includes hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, elder *Sambucus nigra* and holly *Ilex aquifolium*. There hedgerow also includes bramble, ivy *Hedra helix*, nettle *Urtica dioica*,

red campion *Silene dioica*. As a boundary feature, the hedgerow has been well maintained on the southern (field) side. The hedgerow is shown in Figure 7.



Figure 7. H2 – northern boundary hedgerow.

4.3.1.3 H3 – eastern boundary

A hedgerow c.3m high and 2.5m wide, which includes hawthorn, blackthorn, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, sycamore, elder and holly. There hedgerow also includes bramble, ivy, nettle, red campion. As a boundary feature, the hedgerow has been well maintained on the western side. The hedgerow is shown in Figure 8.



Figure 8. H3. Eastern boundary hedgerow.

4.3.1.4 H4 – southern boundary

A hedgerow c.2m high and 1.5m wide, which includes hawthorn, blackthorn, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, sycamore, elder and holly. There hedgerow also includes bramble, ivy, nettle, red

campion. As a boundary feature, the hedgerow has been well maintained on both elevations. The hedgerow is shown in Figure 9.



Figure 9. H4. Southern boundary hedgerow.

4.3.1.5 H5 - *Western boundary of southern field*

A hedgerow c.2m high and 1.5m wide, which includes hawthorn, blackthorn, ash, sycamore, elder and holly. There hedgerow also includes bramble, ivy, nettle, red campion. As a boundary feature, the hedgerow has been well maintained on both elevations (western elevation adjacent to the road). The hedgerow is shown in Figure 10.



Figure 10. H5. Western boundary hedgerow of the southern field.

4.3.1.6 *Grassland*

The main section of the field (Figure 11) is improved grassland which has recently been cut. The grass appears to have been dominated by perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne*, but also included Timothy *Phleum pratense*, rough meadow grass *Poa trivialis*, crested dogs tail

Cynosurus cristatus, clover *Trifolium sp.*, broad leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius* and common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*.



Figure 11. Overview of the northern field facing north eastwards.

The habitats are summarised in Figure 12.



Figure 12. Phase 1 habitat map.

4.3.2 Badgers

There was no evidence of badgers on site, or within a 30m radius of the boundary.

4.3.3 Bats

4.3.3.1 Trees

There are two mature ash trees in H3 and H4 (shown on Figure 12). Neither of the trees had features suitable for roosting bats. Both were classed as being of low Bat Roosting Feature potential. It is however likely that the site would be used by foraging and commuting bats.

4.3.4 Birds

House sparrow *Passer domesticus*, collared dove *Streptopelia decaocto*, blackbird *Turdus merula*, woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* and crow *Corvus corone* were all seen or heard on site during the survey. It is likely that the hedgerows are used by nesting birds at appropriate times of year.

4.3.5 Reptiles

The uniformly short sward height of the vegetation on site makes it very unlikely to be used by reptiles.

4.3.10 Other species

No other species were recorded.

5 Limitations to surveys

- 5.1 The results and recommendations of the report are based on findings as they were at the time of the survey. Kite Ecology cannot be held responsible for any base line changes to the site that have occurred since the survey was carried out that may have any effect on the results and recommendations.

6 Legislation and planning policy

6.1 Designated sites

Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Special Scientific Interest are strictly protected through both European Directives and UK legislation including the conservation and Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

6.2 Bats

All species of bat and their breeding sites or resting places (roosts) are protected under the Conservation and Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence for anyone intentionally to kill, injure or handle a bat, to possess a bat (whether live or dead), disturb a roosting bat, or sell or offer a bat for sale without a licence. It is also an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter, whether they are present or not.

6.3 Birds

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

6.4 Reptiles

Common lizard, slow-worm, adder and grass snake are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which makes it illegal to intentionally kill or injure these animals.

6.5 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 40 of the NERC Act places a 'Biodiversity Duty' on local planning authorities as far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions. This replaces Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.

6.6 Technical Advice Notes 5

TAN 5 gives advice to local authorities on development control issues for Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). It also covers the selection and designation of non-statutory nature conservation sites, such as local nature reserves, and the protection of species, commons and greens.

6.7 Local Development Plan

Policy GN.37 (Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity) from the Pembrokeshire Local Development Plan states:

'All development should demonstrate a positive approach to maintaining and, where ever possible, enhancing biodiversity. Development that would disturb or otherwise harm protected species or their habitats, or the integrity of other habitats, sites or features of importance to wildlife and individual species, will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where the effects are minimised or mitigated through careful design, work scheduling or other appropriate measures.'

6.8 Local Development Plan

Policy 11 (Protection of Biodiversity) of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Local Development Plan states that:

'Development that would disturb or otherwise harm protected species or their habitats or the integrity of other habitats, sites or features of importance to wildlife and individual species including Local Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats will only be permitted where the effects will be acceptably minimised or mitigated through careful design, work scheduling or other measures.'

also of relevance is Policy 15 of the LPD, 'Conservation of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park', which states that:

Development will not be permitted where this would adversely affect the qualities and special character of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park by:

a) causing significant visual intrusion; and/or,

- b) being insensitively and unsympathetically sited within the landscape; and/or*
- c) introducing or intensifying a use which is incompatible with its location; and/or*
- d) failing to harmonise with, or enhance the landform and landscape character of the National Park; and/or*
- e) losing or failing to incorporate important traditional features.*

7 Discussion and key recommendations

7.1 Designated sites

The proposed development lies adjacent to existing residential developments. A small section of the proposed development lies within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (H3 and H4 act as the boundary). However, as the site is adjacent to proposed developments, it is very unlikely to impact on the designations.

7.2 Habitats

7.2.1 The proposed development relates to the construction of new dwellings (shown on Figure 13). This will inevitably lead to the loss of the improved grassland, therefore any planting should utilise locally sourced, native species in all gardens and landscaping. Hedgerows could be used to demarcate property boundaries as these can also act as natural wildlife corridors.



Figure 13. Proposed development.

7.3 Bats

7.3.1 Habitats

Given that there are a number of known roosts in the area for a variety of species (pers comm.), it is very likely that the habitat would be used by foraging and commuting bats. Of particular importance are the hedgerows. Under the proposals, the existing boundary features are to remain unaffected. All lighting must be hooded and downward facing and positioned to avoid shining directly onto the features such as woodland edges and hedgerows. The lighting should also be PIR sensitive LED type which have a much more directional lighting range. An example is shown in Figure 14.



Figure 14. Example of PIR LED light.

7.4 Birds

Any scrubby vegetation or tree removal will be restricted to the period between late August and early March in any year to avoid the bird nesting season. If it is necessary to carry out such work during the bird nesting season then initial works will be conducted carefully, and the presence of birds and their active nests checked for immediately before and throughout vegetation removal. If an active nest is discovered, then work in that area will cease and the nest protected until the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active.

8 Additional recommendations

8.1 Hedgerows

8.1.1 Management

- only cut each hedge every 2 years; this reduces maintenance and labour costs, creates a bushier hedge for wildlife and allows flower and berry production in the intervening years.
- hedges with slow growing species, such as hawthorn, can be cut on a 3 year cycle.
- do not cut back to the same height repeatedly, raising the cutting height each time will avoid placing the hedge under stress and allow it to regenerate more vigorously.

- cut hedges to a variety of shapes and sizes; “A” shaped hedges provide good stock proofing and shelter, create song posts for birds and enable hedgerow trees to develop if left untopped.
- leaving 1-2 metre (or wider) verges of tall grass by hedges provides nesting habitat for birds and protects hedgerows from pesticide or fertiliser spray drift.
- hedges can be trimmed, laid and coppiced from September to February but try and cut as late in the winter as possible so wildlife can take advantage of the nuts and berries produced in the autumn.

8.2 Enhancements

8.2.2. Birds

Bird boxes should be incorporated into the scheme to enhance the nesting potential of the site. Nest boxes which can be incorporated into the fabric of buildings themselves are recommended (Figure 15), although these should be sited high up on walls (immediately below the wall plates or soffit boxes) and avoid being positioned above windows or doors. These should be included on 20% of all buildings on site.



Figure 15. Example of a bird box which can be built into new buildings.

8.2.3 Bats

Measures to allow bats to utilise the new buildings would enhance the roosting potential of the site. Such measures could include the incorporation of 'bat tubes' (Figure 16). These are prefabricated boxes which are built into the external wall structure. It is recommended that bat tubes are included on 20% of the new buildings (but different ones to the bird boxes). They should be positioned at least 3m above ground, but avoid being positioned above windows or doors.



Figure 16. Example of a bat tube.

9 Conclusions

While there was no evidence of protected species on site, there are records in the area for a number of mobile species which may on occasion utilise the site. It is considered unlikely that the development would impact on the biodiversity of the area.

10 References

Bat Conservation Trust (2016). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines. 3rd Edition. Bat Conservation Trust, London.

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Harris, S and Yalden, D.W. eds (2008). Mammals of the British Isles (4th Edition). The Mammal Society.

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. & McLeish, A.P. (2004). Bat Workers' Manual (3rd Edition). Joint Nature Conservancy Committee, Peterborough

Mitchell- Jones, A.J. (2004). Bat Mitigation Guidelines. English Nature, Peterborough.

Rose, F. (2006). The Wildflower Key – How to Identify wild flowers, trees and shrubs in Britain and Ireland.

Welsh Assembly Government (2009) Technical Advice Note 5, Nature Conservation and Planning.

APPENDIX 1

Further information on European Protected Species licences from Natural Resources Wales

The Welsh Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred under regulation 44(2)(e-g) & 44(3)(a-b) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations (as amended), has authority to issue licences for the following purposes:

- Preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment;
- Preventing the spread of disease;
- Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other forms of property or to fisheries; to allow people to carry out activities which would otherwise be illegal;

Provided that:

- that there is no satisfactory alternative; *and*
- that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

Although the licence is applied for and, if successful, issued in the name of the developer, a suitably experienced and licensed ecologist must assist with the completion of the forms and the design of the accompanying method statement.

It should be noted that Natural Resources Wales licenses are legally binding documents, and the method statement will be attached to any licence issued. It is the responsibility of the licence holder to ensure that the method statement is adhered to.