

# **Appendix J**

## **Bat Survey – Sept 2015**

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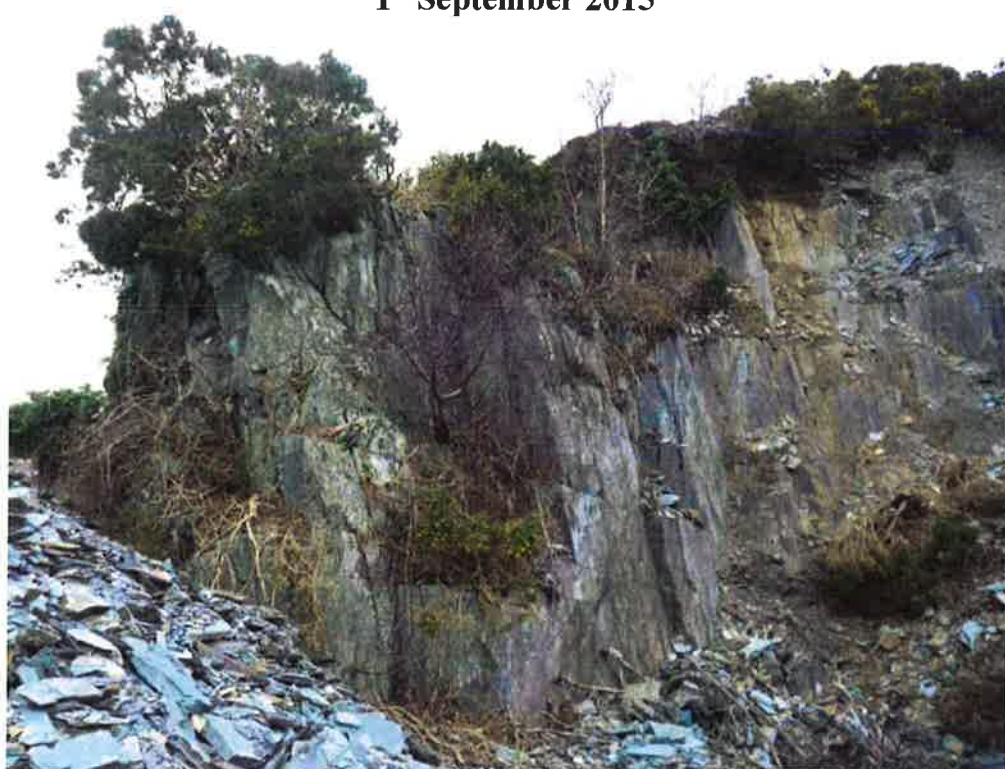


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**Ty Mawr West Quarry, Nantlle  
Bat Survey**

**1<sup>st</sup> September 2015**



<b>Report by:</b>	Kate Williamson
<b>Client:</b>	Dave Roberts, Watkin Jones Group, Llandegai Industrial Estate, Bangor, LL57 4YH
<b>Planning Authority:</b>	Gwynedd Council
<b>Grid Reference:</b>	SH 496 523

**Cambrian Ecology Ltd/ Ty Mawr West Quarry/ Bat Survey/ 01.09.15**

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## **BAT SURVEY:-**

**Ty Mawr West Quarry  
Nantlle  
Gwynedd**

**1<sup>st</sup> September 2015**

### **1 Summary**

- A full suite of bat surveys was conducted on the site in 2010
- Results of the 2010 work recorded 7 species during remote Anabat surveys of the site, but only a single common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) roosting within a crevice in a stone wall.
- The 2015 proposals involve the storage of amounts of inert soil material and bat surveys were carried out to ensure that there would be no impact on roosting bats in that area.
- Two emergence surveys were carried out; 10<sup>th</sup> June and 31<sup>st</sup> August.
- No bats were recorded emerging from any crevices in the rock faces adjacent to the proposed inert material storage site. Small numbers of both common and soprano pipistrelles (*P. pygmaeus*) were recorded foraging in the area during the surveys and a noctule bat (*Nyctalus noctula*) pass overhead during the June survey.
- The proposed storage of inert soil material on this site is not judged to have any impact on bats, either roosting, foraging or commuting past the area. Therefore, no mitigation or compensation measures are recommended in this instance.

### **2 Introduction**

Cambrian Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Dave Roberts of Watkin Jones Group to conduct a bat survey of an area within the working quarry at Ty Mawr West, to accompany an application to store inert soil material within one of the quarry voids and an associated access track.

An initial site visit was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 with officers from Gwynedd Council; Emily Meilleur (Senior Biodiversity Officer) and Dafydd Gareth Jones (Senior Minerals and Waste Planning Officer), Mr Ellis Jones (site owner), Dave Roberts (Watkin Jones Group), Rod Gritten (Gritten Ecology) and Kate Williamson (Cambrian Ecology Ltd). At this meeting it was agreed on the methodology below for the bat survey work.

### **3 Methodology**

Two emergence surveys were carried out during the season; 10<sup>th</sup> June and 31<sup>st</sup> August. The first survey was carried out by Chris Hall (Licence No 59784:OTH:CSAB:2014) and Kate Williamson (Licence No 60821:OTH:CSAB:2014). Chris has been working as an independent ecologist for 10 years and has held a bat license from the Countryside Council for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales) since 1996. Chris is also an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management, (CIEEM). Kate has been working as an independent ecologist for the last five years and has held a licence from Natural Resources Wales since 2004 and is a full member of CIEEM. The second survey was carried out by Kate Williamson and an assistant. The assistant, Dan Schwarzbaum, has previous experience of carrying out bat surveys with Cambrian Ecology Ltd since 2014.

Objectives of the surveys:

- Identify any crevice-dwelling species roosting within features in the adjacent rock faces
- Assess the potential of the adjacent habitats to support bat species
- Assess the levels of potential disturbance and loss of roosting opportunities due to the proposed works
- Make recommendations for mitigation/compensation or any further survey work required in order to comply with current legislation.
- Identify any other protected species issues associated with the development proposals

All crevices and other likely roosting areas were methodically searched for signs of bat occupation, such as droppings, feeding remains or the animals themselves. Where possible a Voltcraft BS-10 USB endoscope was used to investigate any accessible cracks or crevices within the stonework. A Cluson Clulite Clubman CB2 torch was used to examine cracks and crevices out of reach and to search for signs of bat occupation.

Weather conditions were appropriate for the surveys.

10<sup>th</sup> June - dusk temperature 15.0 degrees, a light breeze and 10% cloud cover. Sunset was at 21.42.

31<sup>st</sup> August – dusk temperature 14.5 degrees, no breeze and 30% cloud cover. Sunset was at 20.09

‘Bat Box Duet’ bat detectors were used to pick up the echo-location calls of any bats present, the identity of which was then confirmed using computer analysis of Anabat recordings.

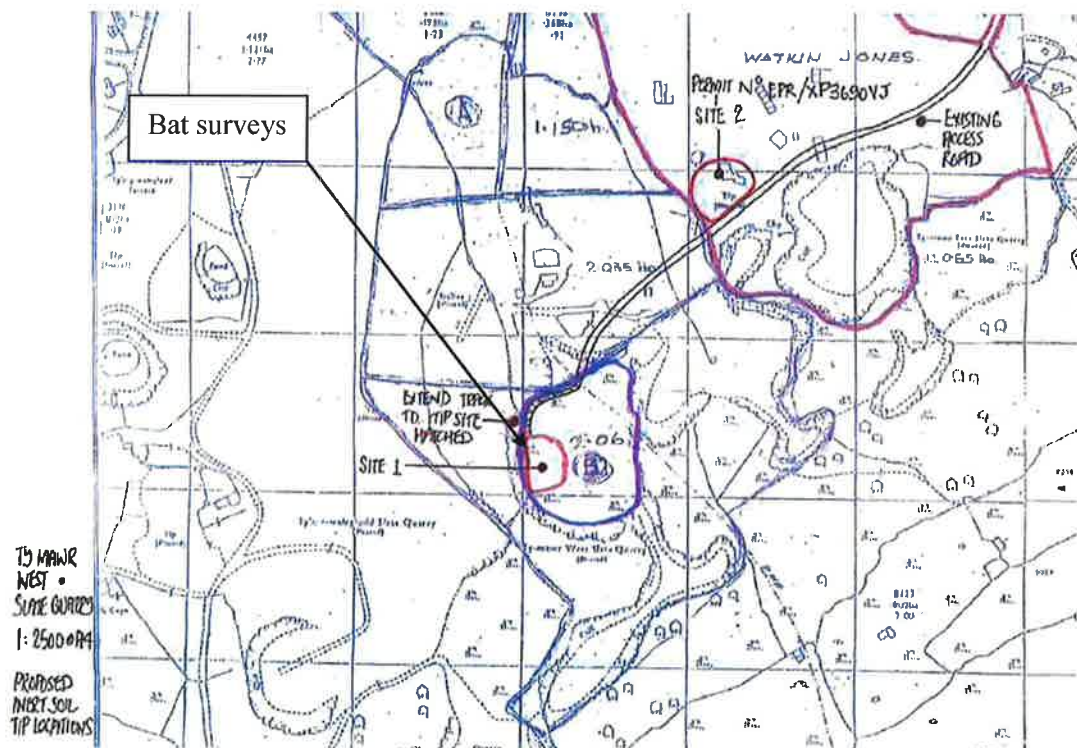
The surveys continued until at least an hour after sunset to allow for the possible presence of late emerging species such as long eared bats; (*Plecotus auritus*) or Natterers bats; (*Myotis nattereri*). They were abandoned once it became too dark to identify any crevices.

In accordance with the guidelines from CIEEM, the presence of any other protected species was also recorded. In particular, this building was searched for signs of breeding birds, including droppings, old nests and feeding pellets.

#### 4. Site Description

See photos in Appendix 1

Ty Mawr West is a working quarry on the outskirts of the village of Nantlle. There are extensive slate workings in the area. The proposed site for the storage of inert soil material is within a recently worked quarry hole, with existing access along most of the route.



#### 5 Results

##### 5.1 Bats

Both the emergence surveys conducted on the site were negative and there were very few crevices identified within the adjacent rock face that offered any potential for roosting bats.

Soprano and common pipistrelles were recorded foraging in small numbers during the surveys but these bats were not observed emerging from any crevices in the survey area. Noctule bats; (*Nyctalus noctula*) were recorded foraging high overhead during the June survey, but this almost exclusively tree roosting species was also not associated with the rock faces being surveyed.

## **6 Survey Limitations**

Bats are highly mobile animals and some species move roosts on a regular basis, especially individual male and non-breeding females. It is often possible to find signs of bat occupation outside of the time that they are resident, in the form of droppings and feeding remains, however, these dissipate over a period ranging from a few days to several months. Many species are crevice-dwelling and signs may be impossible to find. An accurate assessment of the potential of an area/structure to support bats is therefore important to establish the need for further survey work and precautionary mitigation measures.

## **7 Ecological Impacts**

Both the surveys carried out at the proposed inert soil storage site in Ty Mawr West quarry were negative. There is excellent foraging habitat within the revegetated, older quarry holes, as well as many potential roosting crevices. The faces immediately adjacent to the proposed works offer very little roosting potential and it is judged highly unlikely that bats will be present in this area at any time of the year. For that reason, no mitigation or compensation measures are recommended and it is not judged that the works will have any impact on roosting bats of any species.

## **8 Conclusions**

It is concluded that although it is impossible to rule out the possibility that individual bats could be present within the rock faces adjacent to the proposed works due to the nomadic nature of individual, crevice-dwelling bats, it is considered highly unlikely. There are excellent roosting opportunities within extensive rock faces in other parts of the site. No bats were recorded emerging from this area during either of the surveys in 2015 and only a single common pipistrelle from another part of the site during far more extensive survey work conducted in 2010.

The proposed storage of inert soil materials will not have any impact on foraging or commuting animals and will not disturb or destroy any actual or potential bat roosts.

## **9 Mitigation & Recommendations**

No mitigation or compensation measures are recommended as it is considered that the proposed works will not have any impact on foraging, commuting or roosting bats of any species. However, if any evidence of bats is found during the course of the works, work must stop and Natural Resources Wales, (NRW) must be contacted as they may require a licence to be issued to complete the works. Mitigation measures would then need to be put in place to compensate for any loss of roosts. It is, however, considered highly unlikely that this will occur in this particular case.

## **10 Legal Implications**

Bats are protected under UK law by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and also under European law by the Habitat and Species Regulations 2010. Under these laws it is an offence to deliberately kill or injure a bat, to disturb a bat or to damage, destroy or block access to a roost. Bat roosts are protected under these laws whether the animals are present at the time of survey or not. Natural Resources Wales, (NRW) are empowered to issue licences to carry out work to bat roosts for reasons of overriding public interest. Failure to obtain a licence to carry out works on a bat roost could result in a criminal offence being committed.

## **11 Appendices**

### **11.1 Photos of the site proposed for storage of inert materials.**











**Cambrian Ecology Ltd/ Ty Mawr West Quarry/ Bat Survey/ 01.09.15**



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Received:	
ACTION	COPY

Mr Dafydd Gareth Jones  
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c/o Planning Department/ Adran Cynllunio  
Cyngor Gwynedd Council  
Ffordd y Cob  
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Date: 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Dear Mr Jones,

**Cals i sefydlu ystorfa dros dro i gadw prlddoedd anadwelthiol sydd i'w hadennill er lles  
defnydd adfer ar gyfer y dyfodol**

**Application to establish a repository for the temporary storage of inert soils for future  
recovery and beneficial use in restoration**

**Chwarel Ty Mawr West Slate Quarry, Talysarn, LL54 6BA**

Thank you for consulting us on the above application, which we received on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

We have no objection to the application, but have the following comments:

#### **Waste Management**

The activity as proposed is likely to require an Environmental Permit to authorise the importation and storage of waste material. It is strongly recommended that the applicant seeks pre-permit-application advice before submitting an application for an Environmental Permit. The applicant should contact Rhys Thomas, within the local Waste Regulation Team on 0300 065 3765 to arrange pre-application discussion. Further information is also available on the following links:

<https://naturalresources.wales/apply-for-a-permit/waste/waste-permitting/?lang=en>  
<https://naturalresources.wales/apply-for-a-permit/waste/waste-exemptions/?lang=en>

The applicants should ensure that appropriate pollution prevention measures are implemented on site.

We are satisfied with the content of the Waste Planning Assessment, and agree with its conclusions.

#### **Protected Species**

We consider the ecological survey and assessment to have been carried out to a satisfactory standard, and agree with the conclusions.

The site has been subject to ecological survey and assessment in respect of statutory protected species by Cambrian Ecology Ltd (2015). We consider that this assessment has been carried out to a satisfactory standard and we therefore concur with the conclusion. The results of the survey confirmed no presence of bats within the location of the proposed work.

All species of bat and their roosts are protected under the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); the EC Habitats and Species Directive (as implemented by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)). The proposal is unlikely to cause disturbance to bats and/or loss or damage to roosts.

We consider the proposal will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the favourable conservation status of the bat populations present at this site.

Please note that we have not considered possible effects on all local or regional interests, including those relating to the upkeep, management and creation of habitat for wild birds. Therefore, you should not rule out the possibility of adverse effects on such interests, which would be relevant to your Authority's general duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity, as set out in section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006). This advice includes any consideration of the planned provision of "linear" and "stepping stone" habitats.

To comply with your Authority's duty under section 40 of the NERC Act, to have regard to conserving biodiversity, your decision should take account of possible adverse effects on such interests. We recommend that you seek further advice from your authority's internal ecological adviser and/or third sector nature conservation organisations such as the local wildlife trust, RSPB, etc. The Wales Biodiversity Partnership's web site has guidance for assessing proposals that have implications for section 42 habitats and species ([www.biodiversitywales.org.uk](http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk)).

## **Landscape**

The site lies within the Nantlle Valley landscape of outstanding historic interest and 180m to the north-west of the boundary of Snowdonia National Park.

The proposal is to use a central area of the former Ty Mawr east quarry to deposit 10,000m<sup>3</sup> of sub-soil arising from the owner's construction activity elsewhere, over an 8 year period. During which time soil 1m deep would be spread across the quarry floor and grass seeded to support agricultural grazing after use.

We consider the activities associated with the operational works and final restoration after use would not be visually apparent from the frontage of the site with the B4418. One public footpath on the boundary of the National Park 180m to the south east has the potential to allow public views down on to the quarry and of the site. Activity and storage of soil associated with the proposal is however unlikely to look at odds with the industrial character and scale of the site.

Significant adverse change to the visual character of quarry, the wider sense of the historic landscape and views from the edge of Snowdonia National Park are therefore unlikely to occur.

Yn gywir / Yours' faithfully,



**Mr. GARETH THOMAS**

**Swyddog Cyswilt Cynllunio / Planning Liaison Officer**

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cc: Watkin Jones Group, Llandygai