



Bat Scoping Survey

Pentre Bach Site

November 2017



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V&C Properties
Scoping Survey
(Bats)
Heol Pentre Bach
Gorseinon
October 2017

Monitoring Date: 2nd October 2017

Project Number: P2017127-2

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Date of Report/Completion: 23rd October 2017

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Document Control Sheet

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Job Number: P2017127-2

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**Heol Pentre Bach
Gorseinon**

**Scoping Survey 2017
(Bats)**

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1. Introduction

1 Introduction

- 1.1 ESP Environmental Limited was commissioned by V&C (SW) Ltd. to carry out a Phase 1 Habitat survey, on a parcel of land adjacent to Heol Pentre Bach, Gorseinon, Swansea. The purpose of the survey was to assess the conservation value of the site, to identify the presence of rare or endangered species and to identify any habitats or features that warrant further investigation or that would constitute any constraints to any planned development and to make recommendations for further, more detailed investigation as appropriate.

The survey was carried out in accordance with the scope of work as detailed in our proposal PC/170906, dated 4th September 2017. The survey was carried out on the 2nd October 2017.

1.2 Site Location

The site is located approximately 80m west of Heol Pentre Bach Gorseinon, Swansea, adjacent to a site already in the process of development.

The site is located in the Gorseinon area of Swansea approximately 9.25 km North/West of Swansea City Centre. National Grid reference: 5798, 6291 (at approximate centre of site). The site Comprises of 1.6 hectares of former agricultural semi improved land that has been reclaimed by nature. A large section (approximately 50m sq) in the centre of the site has been stripped to form a storage compound for the adjacent development site off Heol Pentre Bach. The area is bordered by a hedgerow consisting of mature trees and an understory of tall herb and shrubs.

The survey was carried out by Paul Court. Paul is a Chartered Biologist and a member of the Society of Biology. He is considered to be a competent person in this discipline.

2. Scoping Survey Findings

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- 2.1 An initial daytime site walkover as part of the ecological appraisal known as a “scoping survey” was carried out with the aim of identifying the potential value of the habitat for bats. Information gained from the scoping survey is a pre-requisite to identify the type and intensity of any further in-depth surveys. During the survey site features were observed to identify those most likely to be of value for bats and their potential as bat roosts or hibernacula. Landscape elements are also taken into account such as mature trees, hedgerows and watercourses. These are used for commuting and foraging.

It is difficult to prove that the site will not be used by bats as a roost as there is a potential for use with most old mature trees, particularly those that are ivy covered or possess fissures and crevices.

- 2.2 The survey is based on data gathered on a one day scoping visit. The survey was carried out in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines methodologies. No areas of potential bat roosts were entered or disturbed.

3. Recommendations

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The habitat variation found within the survey area would suggest that it is suitable for bats. All UK bat species warrant special protection and should be encouraged in this area.
- 3.2 It is recommended that a bat survey is carried out on the site by a licensed bat surveyor. The survey should include the inspection of the mature trees in the hedgerow, using a heterodyne bat detector to listen for chattering of bats inside the roost. These instrument measures frequencies between 10 kHz to 130 kHz and converts ultrasonic sound into audible sound that can isolate the specific frequency detected allowing the particular bat species to be identified. Evening observation with bat detectors would identify emergence of bats from their roosts and during foraging activities.
- 3.3 To fully assess an area for bats it would be necessary to contact the Bat Conservation Trust and ascertain if there were any records of bats known in this area.
- 5.1 Any future proposed site development should be designed to offer maximum consideration for bats, there is an opportunity to incorporate an element of conservation that will be sympathetic to bats as part of the site's ethos.
- 5.2 Measures should be taken to ensure that the impact of construction machinery and the risk of pollution from sources such as run-off from plant or machinery are minimized.