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Subject 2020 Bat Survey Results at Dowlais, Project Name A465 Heads of the Valley Dualling
Merthyr Tydfil Section 5 & 6 - Dowlais Top to Hirwaun

Attention [REDACTED] (WG)

Date 22 September 2021

Copies to

Summary report of bat surveys at Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil in 2020

1. Introduction

Jacobs UK Ltd. was commissioned by the Welsh Government to carry out pre-construction phase bats surveys for the A465 Heads of the Valleys Dualling Sections 5 and 6 – Dowlais Top to Hirwaun scheme. These were in order to inform any European Protected Species (EPS) licence applications the successful Bidder Consortium would need to submit to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) during the construction phase.

This memo report summarises the findings of the Jacobs bat surveys undertaken in the Dowlais area, including locations along Llewellyn Street, Pant Road, Victoria Street, the rear of Wern Street and the public footpath between Victoria Street and Wern Street, Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil during the bat active season, between June – July 2020.

2. Methodology

Ground based assessments were initially undertaken by suitably experienced / licenced bat ecologists in February 2020 in the Dowlais area, focussing on Llewellyn Street, Pant Road, Victoria Street, the rear of Wern Street and the public footpath between Victoria Street and Wern Street.

These assessments were based on the methodology in the Bat Conservation Trusts Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 3rd edition (Collins, 2016). Where access was possible, buildings were inspected externally to assess the suitability for bat roosts, such as suitable access points and roosting locations in warm, sheltered areas where minimal disturbance would occur. Access features would include raised/missing roof tiles, lifted flashing and gaps around the roof such as under soffit boxes, fascias and gables ends where there is clear egress into attic spaces or little used outbuildings.

Back-tracking surveys were undertaken in the Dowlais area in summer 2020, after buildings had been identified as having the potential to host roosting bats during the February 2020 ground-based assessments.

Surveys were conducted by a team of two surveyors, which had at least one member who was an experienced bat surveyor, who were equipped with full spectrum bat detectors (Anabat Walkabouts, Tittle Scientific) that record bat call data.

Back-tracking surveys were carried out in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trusts Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 3rd edition (Collins, 2016), and comprised of dusk and dawn surveys. Survey dates and type are presented in Table 2.1.

Dusk surveys commenced 15 minutes prior to sunset and ended when it was too dark to observe bats, approximately 1.5hrs after sunset. Dawn surveys commenced two hours before sunrise and ceased when bats stopped being active, usually approximately 15 minutes after sunrise.

When bats were observed on the surveys, surveyors would either move in the opposite direction of their flight at dusk or in the same direction of their flight at dawn in order to track their movements from and to their roost, respectively.

Table 2.1: Bat surveys undertaken on Llewellyn Street, Pant Road, Victoria Street and the public footpath between Victoria Street and the rear of Wern Street.

Survey Date	Survey Type
17/02/2020-28/02/2020	External ground-based assessments
01/06/2020	Dusk back-tracking
29/06/2020	Dusk back-tracking
29/07/2020	Dusk back-tracking
30/07/2020	Dawn back-tracking

3. Results

No bat roosts were observed in the buildings located on Llewellyn Street, Pant Road, Victoria Street, the rear of Wern Street and the public footpath between Victoria Street and Wern Street during these surveys.

A summary of the bat species encountered commuting or foraging during surveys on Llewellyn Street, Pant Road, Victoria Street, the rear of Wern Street and the public footpath between Victoria Street and Wern Street is presented in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Bat species encountered during bat tracking surveys undertaken on Llewellyn Street, Pant Road, Victoria Street and the public footpath between Victoria Street and the rear of Wern Street.

Survey Date	Species Encountered	No. of passes	Notes
01/06/2020	Common pipistrelle	2	Observed commuting over Pant Road and Llewellyn Street.
29/06/2020	Common pipistrelle	9	Observed commuting/foraging over Llewellyn Street.
29/07/2020	No bats encountered	0	No bats encountered during survey.
30/07/2020	Common pipistrelle	4	Observed commuting over Pant Road and Llewellyn Street.