HORIZON NUCLEAR POWER

WYLFA NEWYDD

ENERGY WORKING FOR BRITAIN

Wylfa Newydd Project

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Wylfa Newydd Associated Development Sites

Horizon Nuclear Power (Wylfa) Limited

Dalar Hir: Building 12 Bat Surveys 2016

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0	21/09/16	Draft for client comment.	Rhian Lewis	Iona Pearson	Nick Clark
1	04/08/17	Updated following client comments.	Jonathan Jackson	Dave Jones	Dave Jones

Contents

1. Introduction

The Park and Ride facility at Dalar Hir forms part of the Wylfa Newydd Project. The Park and Ride facility would be used during the construction phase of the Power Station to transport and manage the flow of some of the construction workforce to and from the main site.

Jacobs UK Ltd (Jacobs) were commissioned by Horizon Nuclear Power (Wylfa) Limited (Horizon) to carry out an internal building inspection bat survey and a dusk bat emergence survey on Building 12 at Dalar Hir, which was identified as having low potential to support roosting during preliminary surveys carried out by Jacobs in 2014 (Jacobs UK Ltd, 2014). The purpose of the surveys was to determine if the building is used by bats for roosting. This report details the findings of the surveys, which were completed in June 2016.

1.1 Site description

Dalar Hir (referred to as 'the site' hereafter) is an area of agricultural land situated to the north of the A55 on the Holyhead Road, northeast of Junction 4, centred on National Grid Reference SH 32989 78381. The site comprised field used for agriculture i.e. grazing pasture with hedges for field boundaries, and included the remnants of a complex of farm buildings which used to be Dalar Hir Farm. Building 12 was the one remaining building from Dalar Hir Farm, the others of which had been demolished prior to Jacobs first surveying the site. Building 12 was located to the western end of the site, as shown in Figure 1 (National Grid Reference SH 32576 78455).

1.2 Methodology

An internal building inspection bat survey of Building 12 was carried out prior to the dusk bat emergence survey. Evidence of use of Building 12 by bats, such as presence of live or dead bats or the presence of droppings and feeding remains for example, was searched for using a high-powered torch. This was completed in accordance with methodologies set out in the Bat Conservation Trust's 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines' (Collins, 2016).

A dusk bat emergence survey of Building 12 was undertaken by four ecologists in accordance with methodologies set out in the Bat Conservation Trust's 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines' (Collins, 2016). Surveyors used Elekon Batscanner bat detectors and Anabat Express recorders and were positioned to watch all sides of Building 12 for emerging bats, as shown in Figure 1.

The dusk bat emergence survey was carried out in appropriate weather conditions with dusk temperatures in excess of 10°C.

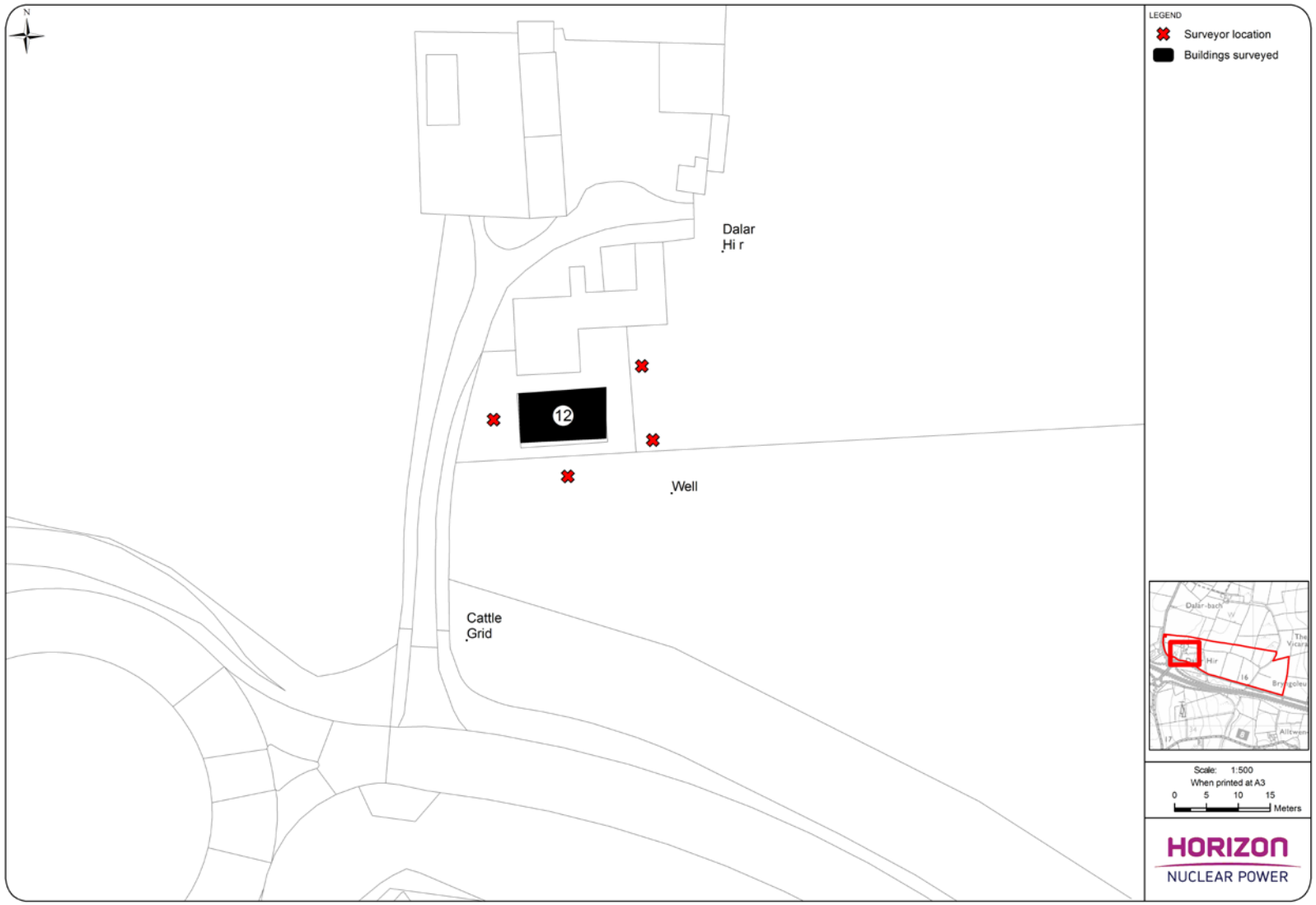
The dusk bat emergence survey commenced 15 minutes before sunset and continued until 1.5 hours after sunset to allow for the possible presence of late emerging species such as brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*) or Natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*).

Sonograms produced by the Anabat Express units were analysed using Analook software and bat species were identified based on defined parameters (Russ, 2012). These data were used to support identifications made in the field.

1.3 Limitations

There were no limitations experienced and the survey was undertaken in accordance with the best practice methodology for structures with low suitability to support roosting bats (Collins, 2016).

Figure 1: Building 12: Location of surveyors during dusk bat emergence survey



2. Results

2.1 Internal inspection

Building 12 is situated within a landscape dominated by grazing pasture. There are no habitats within the immediate vicinity of the building that are likely to be of high value for bats, such as woodland or water, although hedgerows are present.

Building 12 was unchanged from its previous condition recorded in 2014 (Jacobs UK Ltd, 2014), and still comprised of an open fronted barn (open to the north) with walls consisting of concrete blocks and wooden planks and a corrugated iron roof as shown in Plate 1. The features identified with the potential to support roosting bats during the 2014 surveys (Jacobs UK Ltd, 2014) were also unchanged. These included gaps behind wooden rafters and where gaps were present on the gable ends between the crimped metal roof and walls. As such, Building 12 still has low potential to support roosting bats.

No evidence of bats was recorded during the internal inspection.

Plate 1: Northern aspect of Building 12

2.2 Dusk bat emergence survey

No bats were seen emerging from Building 12. One pass by a noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) bat was recorded at 22.22. Survey details are provided in Table 1 and results are given in Table 2. No other passes by bats were seen or heard during the dusk bat emergence survey, or following analysis of tracks recorded using bat detectors.

Table 1: Metadata from dusk bat emergence survey

Date	Sunset time	Temperature start (°C)	Temperature end (°C)	Cloud cover (%)	Rain	Wind	Insect activity	Surveyors
21 June 2016	21.50	13.5	12.5	95	Dry	5- 6 Strong Breeze	Low	Steve Hancock Rhian Lewis Stephanie Bassett

Date	Sunset time	Temperature start (°C)	Temperature end (°C)	Cloud cover (%)	Rain	Wind	Insect activity	Surveyors
								Gabrielle Horup

Table 2: Dusk bat emergence survey results

Date	Time	Species	Number	Notes
21 June 2016	22.22	Noctule	1	Passed north to east over field south of the barn.

3. Conclusion

Building 12 was an open barn with features of low potential to support roosting bats. No evidence of bats was recorded within Building 12. A dusk bat emergence survey carried out in June 2016, which is optimal for this type of survey, both temporally and in terms of survey weather conditions, did not record any bats exiting from potential roosting features provided by Building 12. During the dusk bat emergence survey, only one bat was recorded passing by Building 12, suggesting that bat activity is likely to be very low in the area. This assertion is supported by the habitats within the immediate vicinity of Building 12 which are dominated by agricultural grassland. Although a network of boundary hedgerows is present, the landscape does not support habitats that are typically associated with high levels of bat activity, such as woodland, water, or lines of mature trees (Collins, 2016).

Based on the results of the survey, Building 12 is not considered to be a bat roost and further surveys are not considered appropriate, as per best practice guidance (Collins, 2016).

4. References

Collins, J. (2016). *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (3rd ed.). London: Bat Conservation Trust.

Jacobs UK Ltd. (2014). *Dalar Hir Bats and Barn Owl (Tyto alba) Baseline Surveys.* Unpublished report on behalf of Horizon Nuclear Power.

Russ, J. (2012). *British Bat Calls: A Guide to Species Identification.* Pelagic Publishing.