

# Protected Wildlife and Buildings

Guidelines for Property Owners and Developers



J.J. Kazanow / Bat Conservation Trust

- What wildlife is protected?

- How may finding protected wildlife affect my building plans?

- How do I know if I have protected wildlife?

- How can I encourage wildlife?



## What types of wildlife are found in buildings?

You could expect to find any of the following wildlife in a building:

**Bats:** Many of the 9 species that live in North Wales.

**Birds:** Such as the barn owl, swallow, house martin, swift, house sparrow, spotted flycatcher, robin, blue tit and many more.

Other animals that may use buildings include solitary and social bees and wasps, and also reptiles and amphibians, which may use walls of buildings and the surrounding area.



## Legally protected wildlife

Many animals that use our buildings are in decline and to help maintain the diversity of wildlife in the UK, many of them are protected by both UK and European law. This means that:

**Bats:** All species of bat in the UK are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010. Therefore it is illegal to kill, injure or disturb any bat and to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place that a bat uses for shelter or protection (this generally means their roosts) even if bats are not present at the time.

**Birds:** It is usually illegal to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird as well as to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built (under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981). Some bird species, such as the Barn Owl receive further protection (under the same Act) and it is an offence even to disturb these birds whilst they are building or using nests if this is done intentionally.

If you suspect any of the above laws are being broken please contact the **North Wales Police** on the non emergency incident line: **101** (from within North Wales) or **0300 330 0101**.

## What signs can I look out for?

Whether you are applying for planning permission or not, the same laws for wildlife protection apply. Before starting any works or submitting an application you should have a look to assess whether any wildlife is present.

### Here are some signs to look out for:

**1. Barn owls** may leave white streaks of droppings (white wash) down roof timbers and walls and often leave feathers and pellets (grey regurgitated remains of prey) that are about the size of an adult's thumb. Their nests consist of a layer of pellets on a flat enclosed area such as between bales, on a dry water tank, on a loft or attic floor or inside a chimney.



**2. Swallows & house martins** build their nests within roof spaces, such as on or under beams and ledges, or outside under the eaves. They enter the building through a hole under the eaves, under the soffit board, through broken slates or through open doors or windows. Even if the nests are inaccessible, the birds are easily seen when they are flying to and from the nest sites. Buildings may also provide opportunities for other nesting birds, so you should look out for signs of nesting.



**3. Bats** may be very small and tucked away anywhere within the structure of a building without you knowing. They may be found under slates, soffits, and eaves, in wall cavities or may use the gable end, windowsill, fascia board, porch or cellar. Other than seeing the bats, the most obvious signs of their presence are their droppings which look like mouse droppings, but crumble easily and contain insect remains.

## How does this affect me?

If you are thinking of carrying out any kind of renovation project (such as treatment of timber in a loft, re-roofing a house, garage or out-building, converting a barn or demolition of a building) you should be aware of the animals that may be affected. The earlier that you contact the relevant authority the sooner any survey work or modifications can be incorporated into your work schedule.

- A database of biological records are held at Cofnod - North Wales Environmental Information Service. You can, for a small fee, ask for a search of this database to see if there is a history of protected species at the development site. This may be done by the planning authority for those seeking planning permission.

- Where protected species are known or likely to be present you may need to employ a professional ecologist to carry out an ecological survey and assess the impacts of your proposals.

- If protected species are found at a site then some modifications may be needed. These may include:

- a small entrance for the wildlife to access the building;
- providing alternative nest sites or installing a nesting box/platform for the wildlife to use;
- works being restricted to a particular time of year.

- For those seeking planning permission: if protected species are present your application will need to show how the protected species and their habitat would be protected during and after the development. Without such details it may not be possible to consider the application.

- If European protected species, such as bats are found, you will need to apply for a licence from the Welsh Government to disturb these animals.

- Further details about all the above can be obtained from the Local Planning Authority (see next page).

- If any protected wildlife is found once building works have started, you should inform the **Countryside Council for Wales** immediately (**Tel: 01248 385500**).

Penalties for infringing protected species legislation can be severe, with heavy fines and/or imprisonment.

## What can I do to encourage wildlife in my building?

There are many ways in which you can help conserve wildlife by making minor modifications to your building. Some suggestions are made below:

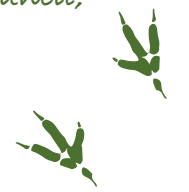
- Encourage swallows to nest by providing a flat nesting platform high up inside a suitable building. Placing a plastic sheet under the nest collects the droppings.
- Artificial nests are commercially available for house martins. These are mounted on a board and fixed outside the eaves of a roof.
- Both old and modern barns and out-buildings can be adapted to be barn owl friendly, for example by including a small barn owl loft with a window, or installing a barn owl box.
- Bats may be encouraged by providing bat boxes, but better still, buildings can be adapted to ensure bat access by using 'bat bricks' and small dormer entrances.
- Responsible management of adjacent land will also be vital for the animals both during and after renovation works. Wildlife can be encouraged by maintaining and enhancing features like hedgerows, ponds, mature trees and rough grassland.

These organisations can provide further information on making your building more wildlife friendly:

RSPB: [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)  
 Bat Conservation Trust: [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)  
 Barn Owl Trust: [www.barnowltrust.org.uk](http://www.barnowltrust.org.uk)  
 National Trust: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)  
 Action for Swifts: [www.actionforswifts.com](http://www.actionforswifts.com)

For further information about anything in this leaflet, please contact:

Conwy County Borough Council,  
 Countryside Service,  
 The Heath,  
 Llanfairfechan,  
 LL33 0PF  
 Tel: 01492 575310  
 Email: [cg.cs@conwy.gov.uk](mailto:cg.cs@conwy.gov.uk)

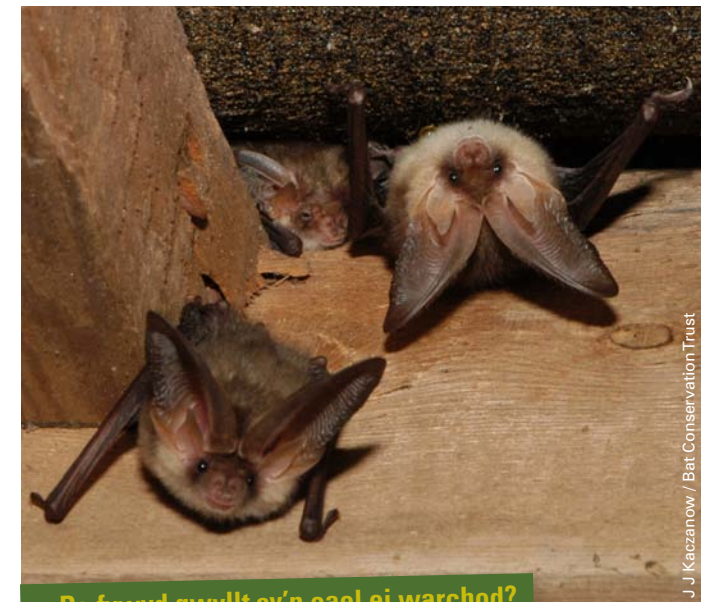


May 2012



# Bywyd Gwyllt sy'n cael ei Warchod ac Adeiladau

Canllawiau i Berchnogion Eiddo a Datblygwyr



J.J. Kazanow / Bat Conservation Trust

- Pa fywyd gwyllt sy'n cael ei warchod?

- Sut fydd dod o hyd i fywyd gwyllt sy'n cael ei warchod yn effeithio ar fy nghynlluniau adeiladau?

- Sut fydda i'n gwybod os oes gen i fywyd gwyllt sy'n cael ei warchod?

- Sut alla i hybu bywyd gwyllt?



## Pa fath o fywyd gwyllt sydd i'w cael mewn adeiladau?

Gallwch ddisgwyl dod o hyd i'r bywyd gwyllt a ganlyn mewn adeiladau:

**Ystlumod:** Nifer o'r 9 rhywogaeth sy'n byw yng Ngogledd Cymru.

**Adar:** Fel y dylluan wen, y wennol, gwennol y bondo, gwennol ddu, aderyn y to, gwybedog mannog, robin, titw tomos las a llawer mvwy.

Anifeiliaid eraill sy'n defnyddio adeiladau yw gwenyn a gwenyn meirch unigol a cymdeithasol, a hefyd ymlusgiaid ac amffibiaid, a fydd efallai'n defnyddio waliau adeiladau a'r ardal o gwmpas.



## Bywyd gwyllt sy'n cael ei warchod yn gyfreithiol

Mae sawl anifail sy'n defnyddio ein hadeiladau'n lleihau o ran niferoedd. I helpu i gadw lefel amrywiaeth o fywyd gwyllt y DU mae llawer ohonynt yn cael eu gwarchod gan ddeddfau'r DU ac Ewrop.

**Ystlumod:** Mae pob rhywogaeth o ystlumod yn cael eu gwarchod gan y Ddeddf Bywyd Gwyllt a Chefn Gwlad 1981, a'r Rheoliadau Gwarchod Cynefinoedd a Rhywogaethau 2010. Felly mae'n anghyfreithlon lladd, anafu neu aflonyddu ar unrhyw ystum neu rwystro mynediad i unrhyw le sy'n cael ei ddefnyddio gan ystum fel lloches neu fan cysgodi (sef eu man clwydo, fel arfer) hyd yn oed os nad yw'r ystumod yno ar y pryd.

**Adar:** Mae'n anghyfreithlon fel arfer i ladd, anafu neu ddal unrhyw aderyn gwyllt yn fwriadol, yn ogystal â chymryd, difrodi neu ddinistrio nyth unrhyw aderyn gwyllt pan fo'n cael ei ddefnyddio neu'n cael ei adeiladu (dan Ddeddf Bywyd Gwyllt a Chefn Gwlad, 1981). Mae ambell i rywogaeth o adar wedi'u gwarchod ymhellach, fel y dylluan wen (dan yr un Ddeddf) ac mae'n drosedd hyd yn oed aflonyddu'n fwriadol ar yr adar hyn pan fyddant yn adeiladu eu nythod neu'n eu defnyddio.

Os ydych yn amau fod rhywun yn torri'r deddfau uchod, ffoniwch **Heddlu Gogledd Cymru** - llinell ar gyfer achosion nad ydynt yn rhai brys: **101** (o fewn Gogledd Cymru) neu **0300 330 0101**.

## Pa arwyddion gallaf edrych amdanynt?

Mae'r un deddfau'n berthnasol ar gyfer gwarchod bywyd gwyllt os ydych yn gwneud cais am ganiatâd cynllunio ai peidio. Cyn dechrau unrhyw waith, neu gyflwyno cais, dylech edrych i weld os oes bywyd gwyllt yno.

## Dyma rai arwyddion i chi chwilio amdanynt:

**1.** Mae'n bosibl y bydd y **dylluan wen** yn gadael ei baw yn strimyn gwyn ar brennau'r to a'r waliau ac mae'n gadael plu a phelenni (gweddillion llwyd ysglyfaeth a chwydwyd) tua maint bawd oedolyn. Mae'r nyth yn cynnwys haen o belenni ar fan gwastad wedi ei amgáu, fel rhwng byrnau neu ar danc dŵr sych, neu ar lawr groglofft neu atig, neu hyd yn oed tu mewn i simnai.



**2.** Mae'r **wennol a gwennol y bondo** yn adeiladu eu nythod yng ngofod y to, ar drawstiau neu oddi danynt ac ar silffoedd neu'r tu allan o dan y bondo. Maent yn dod i mewn i adeilad drwy dwll dan y bondo, dan y bargodion, dan drawst y bondo, drwy lechi sydd wedi'u torri neu drwy ddrysau a ffenestri a adawyd ar agor. Hyd yn oed os nad oes modd cyrraedd y nythod, gallwch weld yn rhwydd ble maent yn hedfan iddo ac ohono. Gall adeiladau gynnig cyfleoedd i adar eraill, dylech felly gadw golwg allan am arwyddion o nythu.



**3.** Mae **ystlumod** yn gallu bod yn fach iawn ac maent yn gallu swatio unrhyw le mewn adeilad, heb i chi wybod amdano. Gallwch ddod o hyd iddynt o dan y llechi, y bondo, yn y wal geudod neu gallant ddefnyddio talcenni'r tŷ, silffoedd ffenestri, astell dywydd, y porth neu'r seler. Ar wahân i weld yr ystumod, yr arwydd amlycaf o'u presenoldeb yw eu baw, sy'n edrych fel baw llygod, ond sy'n briwsioni'n rhwydd ac sy'n cynnwys olion trychfilod.

## Sut mae hyn yn effeithio arna i?

Os ydych yn meddwl gwneud gwaith adfer (fel trin prennau'r groglofft, ailddoi'r tŷ, garej neu adeilad allanol, addasu ysgubor neu ddymchwel adeilad) dylech fod yn gyfarwydd â'r anifeiliaid all gael eu heffeithio. Dylech gysylltu â'r awdurdod perthnasol yn gynnar, fel bo modd cynnwys unrhyw waith archwilio neu newidiadau i'r rhaglen waith.

- Mae cronfa ddata o gofnodion biolegol yn cael ei chadw yn Cofnod - Gwasanaeth Gwybodaeth Amgylcheddol Gogledd Cymru. Am dâl bychan gallwch ofyn am gael chwilio'r gronfa hon i weld a oes hanes o rywogaethau sy'n cael eu gwarchod ar safle'r datblygiad. Gall yr awdurdod cynllunio wneud hyn i'r rhai sy'n gofyn am ganiatâd cynllunio.
- Os oes rhywogaethau a warchodir ar y safle, neu os yw'n debygol eu bod yno, efallai bydd rhaid i chi gyflogi ecolegydd proffesiynol i gynnal arolwg ecolegol ac asesu effaith eich ceisiadau.
- Os ydych yn canfod rhywogaethau a warchodir ar y safle, efallai bydd angen newid rhywfaint ar y cynllun. Gall hyn gynnwys:

- agoriad bychan i fywyd gwyllt gael mynediad i'r adeilad;
- darparu safleoedd nythu eraill, neu osod blwch nythu / silff ar gyfer bywyd gwyllt;
- cyfyngu'r gwaith i adeg benodol y flwyddyn.

- Os ydych yn gwneud cais am ganiatâd cynllunio, ac os oes rhywogaeth a warchodir ar y safle, bydd angen i'r cais ddangos sut fydddech yn diogelu'r rhywogaeth a'i gynefin yn ystod y gwaith ac ar ôl hynny. Heb y manylion hyn efallai na fydd modd ystyried y cais.
- Os ydych yn canfod unrhyw rywogaethau a warchodir gan Ewrop, fel ystumod, bydd angen i chi wneud cais am drwydded gan Lywodraeth Cymru i darfu ar yr anifeiliaid.
- Mae rhagor o fanylion am yr uchod i'w cael gan eich awdurdod cynllunio lleol (gweler y dudalen nesaf).
- Os ydych yn canfod bywyd gwyllt a warchodir ar ôl dechrau gwaith adeiladu, dylech roi gwybod i **Gyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru** ar unwaith drwy **Ffonio: 01248 385500**.

Gall y cosbau am dorri deddfwriaeth rhywogaethau a warchodir fod yn llym, gyda dirwyon trwm ac/neu garchar.

## Beth allaf ei wneud i hybu bywyd gwyllt yn fy adeilad?

Mae nifer o wahanol ffyrdd i chi helpu i ddiogelu bywyd gwyllt drwy wneud mân newidiadau i'ch adeilad. Dyma rai awgrymiadau i chi:

- Annog gwenoliaid i nythu drwy osod silff nythu gwastad yn uchel y tu mewn i adeilad. Gosodwch gynfas blastig dan y nyth i gasglu'r baw adar.
- Mae nythod artiffisial ar gael i'w prynu ar gyfer gwennol y bondo. Maent yn cael eu gosod ar ford a'u gosod y tu allan i fondo.
- Mae modd addasu hen ysguboriau, ysguboriau newydd ac adeiladau allanol i fod yn addas ar gyfer y dylluan wen, drwy osod croglofft fechan gyda ffenestr neu osod blwch nythu tylluan wen.
- Gallwch ddenu ystumod trwy osod blychau iddynt, ond gwell fyth fyddai addasu adeiladau i sicrhau bod ystumod yn gallu cael mynediad iddynt drwy ddefnyddio 'briciau ystumod' a mynedfeydd to bychan.
- Mae rheolaeth gyfrifol o dir cyfagos yn hanfodol ar gyfer anifeiliaid yn ystod y gwaith adnewyddu ac ar ôl hynny. Gallwch annog bywyd gwyllt drwy gadw a gwella nodweddion fel gwrychoedd, pyllau, coed aeddfed a glaswelltir garw.

Mae rhagor o wybodaeth sut i wneud eich adeilad yn lle addas ar gyfer bywyd gwyllt ar gael oddi wrth y mudiadau a ganlyn:

Cymdeithas Brenhinol Gwarchod Adar (RSPB): [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)  
Ymddiriedolaeth Gwarchod Ystumod (Bat Conservation Trust): [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)  
Ymddiriedolaeth y Dylluan Wen (Barn Owl Trust): [www.barnowltrust.org.uk](http://www.barnowltrust.org.uk)  
Yr Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)  
Ymgrych y Wennol Ddu (Action for Swifts): [www.actionforswifts.com](http://www.actionforswifts.com)

I gael rhagor o wybodaeth am unrhyw beth ar y daflen hon, cysylltwch â:

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy,  
Gwasanaeth Cefn Gwlad,  
Yr Heath, Llanfairfechan,  
LL33 0PF  
Ffôn: 01492 575310  
E-bost: [cg.cs@conwy.gov.uk](mailto:cg.cs@conwy.gov.uk)

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