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# Case Study: Welsh Passivhaus

Biodiversity: Bats & Low/Zero Carbon Buildings







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- KGunnell@bats.org.uk
- Bere Architects would like us to make some suggestions for bat provision in the Passivehouses they are doing in Wales.
- I think this is a great opportunity to try showcase some of the suggestions from Carol's book,
- will be on show for 6 months to a year and monitored.
- Luckily the houses have lofts which are outside the airtightness barrier.
- These would obviously make a great space for bats as long as we ensure access.
- Obviously we can make the usual recommendations in terms of access points, height and lighting





- I was wondering if you wouldn't mind looking at the attached drawings quickly
- See if there is something more novel,
- they might spark some specific ideas.
- preferably from the book,
- that we could also suggest?
- Unfortunately, they need this info by next week!



<sup>12</sup>fw Futureworks Housing: View of two and three bedroom houses from North. <mark>rearchitects</mark> 73 Poets Road London N5 2SH tel +44 (020) 7359 4503 fax +44 (020)7424 5572 email bere@bere.co.uk

### bere:architects



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East Elevation 1:50

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West Elevation 1:50

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- I have studied the drawings and photographs of the Welsh Passivhaus and have the following observations:
- The trussed roof makes flying in the roof impractical so no need to encourage those bats that want flying space.



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## **Roof Roost Access**

- The eaves has a generous slot 30mm (currently closed by insect screen perforated metal)
- There is a 32mm batten zone to gain access to the back of the fascia
- There is a 100 mm ventilation/rafter zone to the attic space



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## **Roof Roost Conditions**

- The drawings of the roof is illustrated with a green roof which may excluded some heat
- The building has slate so it is probably warmer inside
- I do not know which membrane they have used at slate batten level.



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## **Roof Eaves Roost?**

- There is room for a roost at eaves but there may be too much light from the eaves gap
- It is already built so not practical to change anything at this stage







## There little scope for adding a box behind the cladding without compromising the U value of the walls.

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## **Climbing/hanging surface:**

- dense wood fibre thermal insulation board
  - vertically behind the cladding
  - which may cause tangles
  - but may also break under force thus freeing the claws (guesswork)
- glass mineral wood insulation quilt
  - cut on site by site labour to form slope
  - I think this is impractical as a climbing surface
- glass mineral wood insulation quilt

   uncut rolls to ceiling of attic

## Material choice:

- I think both materials are impractical surfaces to gain access to the attic to any bat or bird box
- adding provision for roosts at this late stage is risky and impractical



## However another opportunity?

- The photos of the gable shows a discrete opening (for maintenance?) to the attic space
- I think we need to explore with bere:architects what has been provided and how that can be adapted/extended for access and roosts.

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 But access flight paths between detached houses on a street and probably fence/hedges between may make this an impractical roost as well.



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## The stone wall at ground floor walls is too low to provide roosts with practical access.

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## **Verge crevice?**

- gable wall at the ridge
- add tapered battens and weatherboarding
- to outer surface of existing weatherboarding
- It will almost disappear except for a shadow line
- Bats will crawl up into gap



## To be fair

- Bere Architects approached BCT some time before
- the advice received was discouraging
- So opportunities were lost for both bats and architects
- We hope the new book will help to avoid this ever occurring again

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## Another GreenSpec CPD file to download soon See www.sceibd.com/brianspecman

24/09/2010







- This is a cut down version of the original file to give you a sample of the whole
- It's the front end of the file with the middle and rear end deleted
- Go to <u>www.GreenSpec.co.uk</u> to down
   load the whole file
- You will find a large number of other files there to BrianMurphy WelshPassivhaus







- These files are created by generalists with a big dollop of green flavour
- These files are updated from time to time
- We are not experts so from time to time these file may get out of date or may be wrong.
- If you feel that we have got it wrong please let us know so we can put it right.









- Brian Murphy BSc Dip Arch (Hons+Dist)
- Architect by Training
- Specification Writer by Choice
- Greening up my act since 1999
- Founder of <u>www.greenspec.co.uk</u>
- E <u>BrianSpecMan@aol.com</u>
- Twitter: http://twitter.com/brianspecman
- Scribd: <u>www.scribd.com/brianspecman</u>
- Facebook:

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