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ecological solutions

ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

At:

Cae Du, Beddgelert

Consultant Report on behalf of




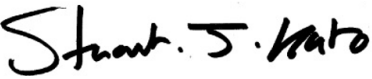
Ecoscope Ltd.

Telford Lodge, Benarth Road, Conwy LL32 8UB

t. [03335 771 402](tel:03335771402) e. info@eco-scope.co.uk w. www.eco-scope.co.uk

Registered address as above | Company Number: 08916412 | VAT Reg. No. 199 5268 44

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ecoscope Ltd was commissioned to undertake an Ecological Assessment to assess the potential impact of proposals on ecological features at Cae Du Campsite, Beddgelert, Gwynedd, Caernarfon, LL55 4NE. The proposals are for the provision of hardstanding pitches with associated infrastructure.

The below table summarises the ecological receptors at the Site, the potential impact in relation to the proposals, and recommendations, where necessary, to avoid, mitigate, and/or compensation, in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance.

Table 1 – Summary of likely impacts from proposals and recommendations

Receptor	Status	Potential Impact	Recommendation
Bats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roosting, foraging and commuting opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commuting and foraging habitat loss Unnecessary illumination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any lighting to be sensitively designed (BCT GN08/23). Construction during daylight hours. Bat box provision
Breeding birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nesting opportunity throughout the Site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active nests/young may be impacted by construction (notably within taller grassland areas) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid nesting season or SQE to survey site prior to construction.
Otter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foraging and commuting habitat within watercourse to east. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of animals being trapped in excavation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide means of escape for any excavations.
Reptiles & Amphibians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common species likely present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Injury or jilling during construction within damper areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works to follow RAMs (e.g. fingertip search and phased strimming).
Notable plants / habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floodplain meadow is of good quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further enhance floodplain meadow
Invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giant rhubarb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread of invasive species offsite. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Method Statement
Priority Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority habitat adjacent to Site (river) and floodplain meadow on site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction may cause pollution event or damage existing floodplain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Method Statement
Net Benefit for biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nesting box provision 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of bat boxes 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reptiles & amphibians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reptile/amphibian refugia 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancements to existing grasslands 	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Ecoscope Ltd was commissioned by Roberts Group Ltd ('the Applicant'), to undertake an Ecological Assessment in relation to proposals at Cae Du Campsite, Beddgelert, Gwynedd, Caernarfon, LL55 4NE ('the Site') (central grid reference: SH59844865). The Site is situated within a rural environment northeast of the town of Beddgelert, Eryri. The Site location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 PROPOSALS

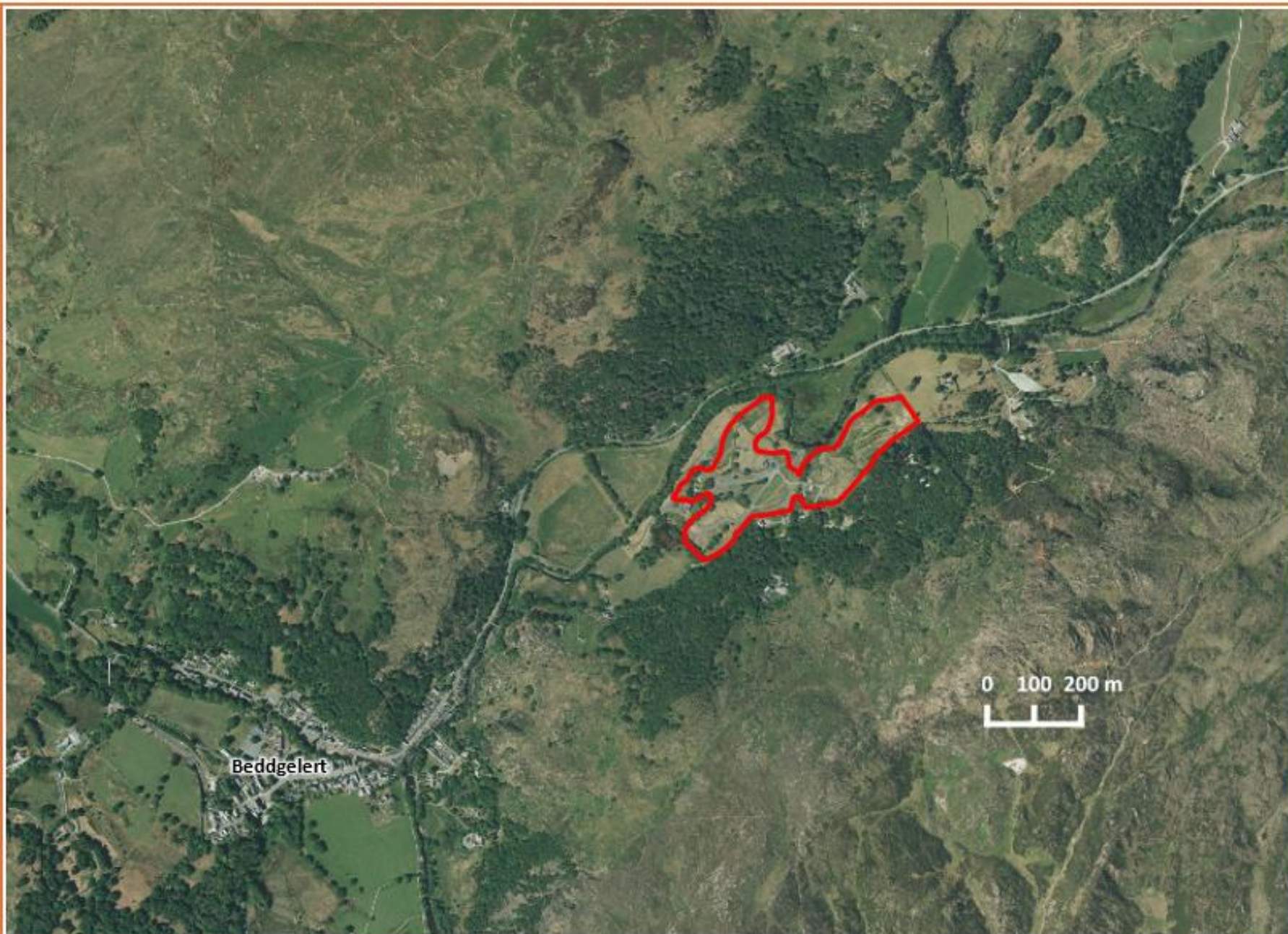
1.2.1 Forest Holidays and Roberts Group have collaborated to develop a Visitor Recreation Masterplan involving both Forest Holidays and Cae Du sites. Proposals at Cae Du are for the provision of 237 pitches, associated infrastructure and landscaping (refer to Figure 2).

1.3 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

1.3.1 This report has been prepared taking relevant statutory instruments into account; including domestic legislation such as Acts of Parliament, and Regulations to comply with European Directives. This is described in full in Appendix 7.1, and in summary as follows:

Legislation & Policy

- Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992
- Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
- Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12, February 2024)
- Local Policy (refer to 3.4)



Legend

-  Site location
-  Site boundary



Client	Robert Group
Project title	Project ID
Cae Du	ECO_1112-02
Subject	
Ecological Assessment	
Drawing number	
ECO1112-02-01EcoA_A	
Drawing date	11/02/25
Drawn by	MM



Figure 1: Site Location



Legend

Refer to masterplan by Land Studio



Client
 Project title: **Cae Du**
 Project ID: **ECO_1112-02**

Subject
 Ecological Assessment

Drawing number
 ECO1112-02-01EcoA_A

Drawing date 17/02/25
Drawn by MM



Figure 2: Proposals

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 DESK STUDY

2.1.1 The desk study involved collecting records from Cofnod and included a 2km Area of Search (Aos) from the Site. Records included:

- Protected and notable species
- Designated sites
- Non-designated sites
- Ancient woodland
- Priority Ecological Networks
- Section 7 Habitats of Principal Importance

2.2 FIELD SURVEY

Phase I Habitat Survey

2.2.1 A Site visit was carried out on the 22nd May 2024 where a Phase I habitat survey was undertaken. The survey was carried out by Mark Morgan BSc MCIEEM and Principal Ecologist. The Phase I survey involved identifying and mapping the dominant habitat types following the Phase I habitat survey methodology in accordance with JNCC 2010¹.

Dominant plant species were noted (including aliens), as were any uncommon species or species indicative of habitat types, but not all species would have been visible and there was no attempt to compile exhaustive species lists. The survey included at least 30m from the boundary to ensure badgers will not be affected.

2.2.2 Dominant plant species were noted (including aliens), as were any uncommon species or species indicative of habitat types, but not all species would have been visible and there was no attempt to compile exhaustive species lists. The survey included at least 30m from the boundary where possible to ensure badgers will not be affected.

¹ Joint Nature Conservation Committee 2010 Handbook for Phase I habitat survey: a technique for environmental audit. JNCC, Peterborough.

2.2.3 During this field survey, attention was paid to habitats and features that may provide opportunities for protected species to be present at other times of year and thus inform the recommendations for further survey where appropriate.

Ecological Assessment

2.2.4 This Assessment follows guidance from CIEEM (2018²) and complies with recommendations in BS42020³ and BS8683⁴.

Table 2 – Personnel

Name	Contribution	Qualifications
Mark Morgan	Phase I survey Mapping Reporting	Principal Ecologist. BSc. (Hons) (First-Class degree in Plant Biology), MCIEEM

2.3 CONSTRAINTS

2.3.1 There were no constraints to the survey or assessment.

² Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Managers (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine v1.2 (April 2022). Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

³ The British Standards Institution 2013 BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity - Code of practice for planning and development. Published by BSI Standards Limited 2013. ISBN 978 0 580 77917 6

⁴ The British Standards Institution 2021 BS 8683 Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain – specification. Published by BSI Standards Limited 2021. ISBN 978 0 539 01986 5

3. DESK STUDY RESULTS

3.1 SITES

Designated Sites

3.1.1 Details of Designated Sites within 2km of the proposals, including their reasons for designation, are provided in Table 3, below and shown in Figure 3.

Non-designated Sites

3.1.2 There are no Local Wildlife Sites within 2km, however, there are two Important Plant Areas:

- Meirionnydd Oakwoods IPA
- Snowdon IPA

National Parks

3.1.3 The Site sites wholly within Eryri National Park.

Table 3 – Statutory designated Sites within 2km of the proposals

Designated site name	Distance to site (m)	Reasons for designation
Meirionnydd Oakwoods and Bat Sites SAC	611	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Old sessile oak woods with ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles ● Alluvial forest with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior ● Lesser horseshoe bat
Snowdonia SAC	875	(Primary reasons for selection) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea ● Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands ● Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels ● Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) ● Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation ● Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation
Coedydd Nantgwynant SSSI	611	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Semi-natural broadleaved woodland ● Wood pasture

Designated site name	Distance to site (m)	Reasons for designation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mosses • Liverworts • Lichens
Eryri SSSI	875	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lichen and bryophyte heath • Montane heath • Dry Heath • Wet heath • Blanket bog • Flush and spring • Calcareous grassland • Tall herb and fen ledges • Vegetated scree • Broadleaved woodland communities • Inland rock with crevice vegetation • Low nutrient lakes • Acid and neutral grasslands • Fen • Rush pasture • Marshy grassland • Swamp • Bracken and scrub • Snowdon lily • Floating water-plantain • Tufted saxifrage • Killarney fern • Oblong woodsia • Alpine woodsia • Among many other lower plants of interest
Coedydd Beddgelert a Cheunant Aberglaslyn SSSI	900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sessile oak woodlands (temperate forest) • Mosses and liverworts • Lesser horseshoe bats • Soldier beetle
Meirionnydd Oakwoods IPA	611	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important plant assemblage
Snowdon IPA	875	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important plant assemblage
Abbreviations:	SPA	Special Protection Area
	SAC	Special Area of Conservation
	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
	IPA	Important Plant Area

3.2 HABITATS

3.2.1 The following Priority Habitats are recorded within 2km of the Site:

- Lowland dry acid grassland
- Purple moor grass and rush pasture
- Upland flushes, fens and swamps
- Upland heathland
- Lowland heathland
- Raised bog
- Blanket bog
- **Coastal floodplain and grazing marsh (within site boundaries)**
- Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats
- Lowland fens and reedbeds

3.3 SPECIES RECORDS

3.3.1 A summary of protected and notable species records within 2km of the Site from Cofnod, is provided in Table 4. Records dating older than 10 years have been discarded. A total of 419 individual species records were returned. Only those of relevance to the study have been included. Full records lists can be provided upon request.

Table 4 - Protected and notable species records within 1km

Common name	Latin name	Status	Relevance to study
Mammals			
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	PoBA	Potential habitat on Site.
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	CoHS WCA Sch 5 LBAP S7	Potential habitat immediately adjacent to Site.
Daubenton's bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	CoHS WCA Sch 5 LBAP S7	Potential habitat on Site, along river corridor.
Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctule</i>	CoHS WCA Sch 5 LBAP S7	Potential habitat on Site.
Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	CoHS WCA Sch 5 LBAP S7	Potential habitat on Site.
Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	CoHS WCA Sch 5 LBA S7	Potential habitat on Site.
Brown-long eared	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	CoHS WCA Sch 5 LBAP S7	Potential habitat on Site.
Lesser horseshoe	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	CoHS WCA Sch 5 LBAP	Potential habitat on Site.

Common name	Latin name	Status	Relevance to study
		S7	
Birds			
Lesser redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	UKBAP S7	Potential habitat on Site.
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	RBoCC UKBAP S7	Site is not suitable.
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	WCA Sch1	Potential habitat immediately adjacent to Site, although lack of breeding habitat present.
Tree pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	RBoCC	Potential habitat on Site.
Cetti's warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	WCA Sch1	Site is not suitable.
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	ABoCC	Site is not suitable.
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	S7 RBoCC	Potential habitat on Site.
Whooper swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	ABoCC LBAP	Potential habitat on Site.
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	S7 RBoCC	Potential habitat on Site.
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	S7 RBoCC	Site is not suitable.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	S7 ABoCC	Site is not suitable.
Pied flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	S7 LBAP ABoCC	Potential habitat on Site.
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	WCA Sch1	Potential habitat on Site.
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	S7 RBoCC	Site is not suitable.
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	LBAP	Potential habitat on Site.

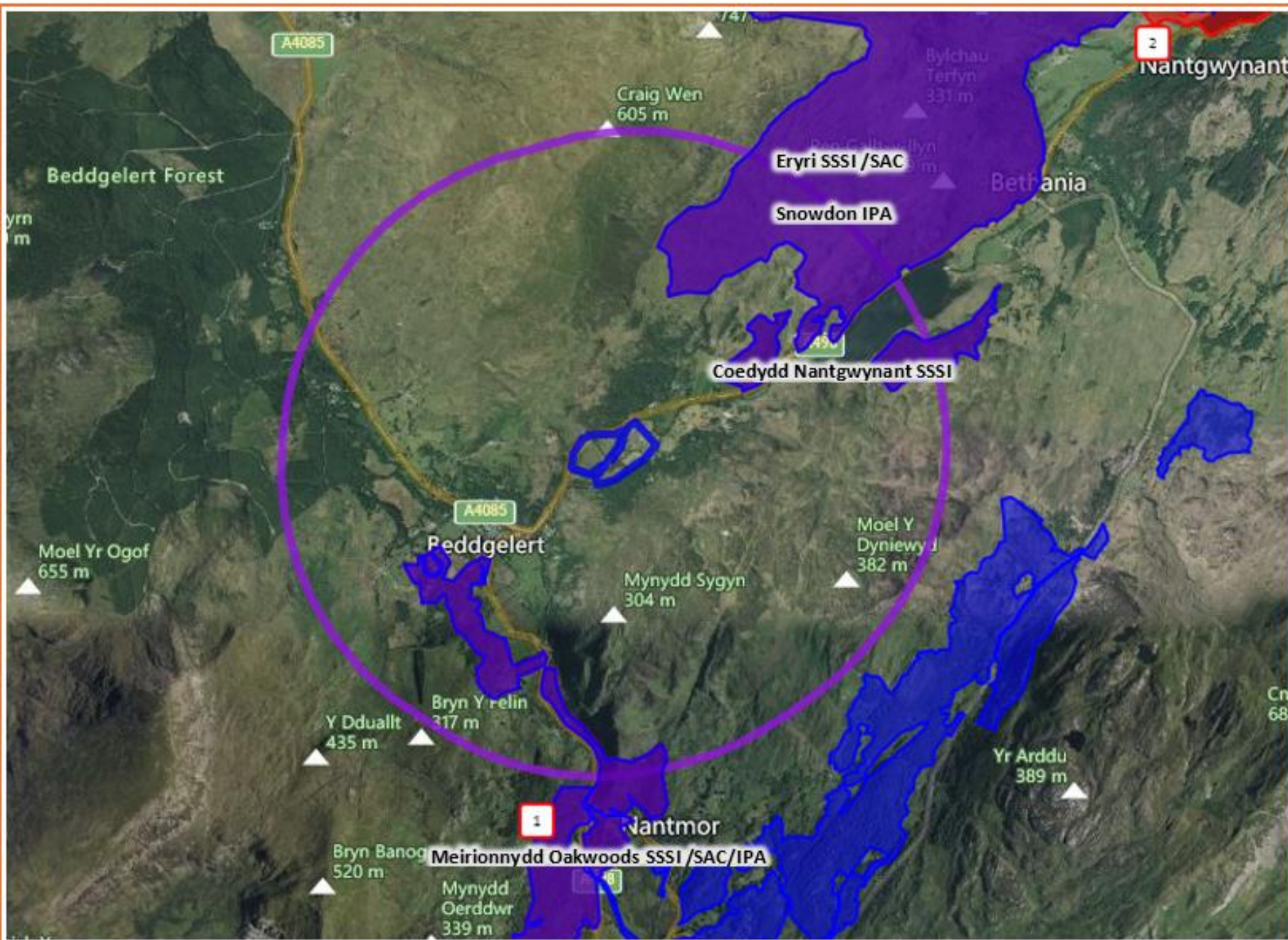
Common name	Latin name	Status	Relevance to study
		RBoCC S7	
Grasshopper warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	LBAP RBoCC S7	Site is not suitable.
Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	WCA Sch1	Site is not suitable.
Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	WCA Sch1 LBAP	Site is not suitable.
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	S7 RBoCC	Potential habitat on Site.
Spotted flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	LBAP S7 RBoCC	Potential habitat on Site.
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	LBAP S7 RBoCC	Potential habitat on Site.
Wood warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	LBAP S7 RBoCC	Potential habitat on Site.
Marsh tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	S7 ABoCC	Potential habitat on Site.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	S7 ABoCC	Potential habitat on Site.
Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	WCA Sch1 LBAP S7	Site is not suitable.
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	LBAP S7 ABoCC	Potential habitat on Site.
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	WCA Sch1 LBAP	Potential habitat on Site.





Common name	Latin name	Status	Relevance to study
		UK BAP	
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	S7 UK BAP LBAP RBoCC	Potential habitat on Site.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	WCA Sch1 ABoCC	Potential habitat on Site.
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	S7 UK BAP LBAP ABoCC	Potential habitat on Site.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	WCA Sch 1 RBoCC	Potential habitat on Site.
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	ABoCC	
Sedge warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	ABoCC	
Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	ABoCC	
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	LBAP ABoCC	
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	LBAP	Site is not suitable.
Reptiles			
Common lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	WCA Sch 5 (partial protection) LBAP S7	Potential on site.
Slow worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	WCA Sch 5 (partial protection) LBAP	Potential on site.

Common name	Latin name	Status	Relevance to study
		S7	
Grass snake	<i>Natrix helvetica</i>	WCA Sch 5 (partial protection) LBAP S7	Potential on site.
Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>	WCA Sch 5 (partial protection) LBAP S7	Potential on site.
Amphibians			
N/A			
Invertebrates			
Dark green fritillary	<i>Speyeria aglaja</i>	LBAP S7	Limited potential on Site.
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>	LBAP S7	Potential on site.
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	S7	Potential on site.
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	LBAP S7	Potential on site.
Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	LBAP S7	Potential on site.
Dusky thorn	<i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>	LBAP S7	Potential on site.
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	LBAP S7	Potential on site.
Plants			
Corn spurrey	<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	LBAP	Site is not suitable.

Common name	Latin name	Status	Relevance to study
Pale Willowherb	<i>Epilobium roseum</i>	LBAP	Potential habitat on Site.
A willowherb	<i>Epilobium montanum x obscurum = E. x aggregatum</i>	LBAP	Limited potential on Site.
Broad-leaved helleborine	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	LBAP	Potential habitat on Site.
Vervain	<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	LBAP	Potential habitat on Site.
Invasive species			
Grey squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Sch 9, P I	Potential habitat on Site. Species also present within boundaries.
American mink	<i>Neovison vison</i>	WCA Sch 9, P I	Suitable habitat adjacent to the Site.
Feral goat	<i>Capra hircus</i>	WCA Sch 9, P I	Site is not suitable.
Montbretia	<i>Crocasmia pottsii x aurea = C. x crocosmiiflora</i>	WCA Sch 9, P II	Potential habitat on Site.
Japanese knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	WCA Sch 9, P II	Potential habitat on Site.
Himalayan balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	WCA Sch 9, P II	Potential habitat on Site.
Variiegated yellow archangel	<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. argentatum</i>	WCA Sch 9, P II	Potential habitat on Site.
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	WCA Sch 9, P II	Potential habitat on Site. Species also present within boundaries.
Barnacle goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	WCA Sch 9, P I	Site is not suitable.
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	WCA Sch 9, P I	Site is not suitable.
Abbreviations:			
	WCA Sch 1	Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981	
	WCA Sch5	Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981	
	WCA Sch6	Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981	
	WCA Sch9, P I & P II	Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 – Part I (P1) & Part II (PII)	
	CoHS	Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations, 2017	
	PoBA	Protection of Badgers Act, 1992	

Common name	Latin name	Status	Relevance to study
	ABoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern, Amber	
	RBoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern, Red	
	LBAP	Local Biodiversity Priority Species	
	UK BAP	UK Priority Species	
	S7	Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (Section 7) (Priority Species)	



- Legend**
-  Site boundary (approx.)
 -  SSSI
 -  SAC
 -  IPA



Client	
Project title	Project ID
Cae Du	ECO_1112-02
Subject	
Ecological Assessment	
Drawing number	
ECO1112-02-04EcoA_A	
Drawing date	14/11/24
Drawn by	MM



Figure 3: Designated Sites

3.4 LOCAL POLICY

3.4.1 The local planning authority is Cyngor Gwynedd Council. Their local plan is the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan (AGJLDP) (currently adopted) however, a new plan is currently being drafted; Gwynedd Local Development Plan (the new Plan), which covers the period 2024 – 2039. The adopted AGJLDP contains the relevant policies to biodiversity:

- Policy PS 19 – Conserving and where appropriate enhancing the natural environment
- Policy AMG 5 – Local biodiversity conservation
- Policy AMG 6 – Protecting sites of regional or local significance

3.4.2 In addition, Cyngor Gwynedd Council have produced supplementary planning guidance on Wildlife Sites, which has been reviewed as part of this assessment.

4. FIELD STUDY RESULTS

4.1 PHASE I HABITAT SURVEY

Site Summary

- 4.1.1 The Site is an existing caravan and campsite which is comprised of a mosaic of habitats. Semi-improved acid grassland dominates, although is heavily managed as amenity grassland, with significant areas of poor marshy grassland and small parcels of poor semi-improved and semi-improved neutral grassland. Lowland deciduous woodland and scattered trees are present within and at the Site boundaries, notably along the river corridor which runs immediately adjacent to the boundaries. Hedgerows are present throughout the Site with areas of dense scrub and dense bracken cover. A large pond exists to the west of the Site and a small number of buildings exist near the centre of the Site.
- 4.1.2 Phase I map is shown in Figure 4 and **Error! Reference source not found.**, with target notes in Table 5, and a species list in Table 6. Photographs are provided in Table 7.

A1.1.1 Broadleaved woodland

- 4.1.3 Broadleaved woodland belts are predominantly situated along the river corridor, located along the northern boundary of the Site. Trees here are dominated by Sessile oak and include hawthorn, alder, silver birch, sycamore and ash. Numerous trees along the corridor offer bat roost potential for potentially small numbers or individual bats (PRF-I).
- 4.1.4 The understorey along the corridor includes patches of Bluebell, Wood anemone, Hemlock waterdropwort, Welsh poppy, Dog violet, and Lesser celandine, and Buddleia.
- 4.1.5 Scattered wooded belts within the centre of the Site appeared to be mixed semi-natural and likely planted. In addition to the above, species included Beech, Horse chestnut, Bird cherry, Large-leaved lime, and Field maple.

A2.1 Dense scrub

- 4.1.6 Patches of dense scrub are largely comprised of Bramble, Grey willow and Goat willow.

A3.1 Broadleaved scattered trees

- 4.1.7 Scattered broadleaved trees are dominated by Silver birch, with occasional Cherry, Horse chestnut, and Ash.

B1.2 Acid grassland – semi-improved

- 4.1.8 The well-managed (mown) grassland plots (TN2, TN3, TN8) are used for camping plots and/or amenity value. The grassland is neutral in places but largely tends towards acidic. Species include Annual meadowgrass, Sweet vernal, Greater plantain, Ribwort plantain, White clover, Cat's ear, Common sorrel, Dandelion, Bird's-foot trefoil, Broadleaved dock, Daisy, Creeping buttercup, among others.

B2.2 Neutral grassland – semi-improved

- 4.1.9 A small area of semi-improved neutral grassland is present towards the eastern portion of the Site. The grassland is unmanaged with a taller sward height. Species include Sweet vernal, Meadow buttercup, Ribwort plantain, Broadleaved dock, Pignut, and White clover.

B5 Marshy grassland

- 4.1.10 A large area of Marshy grassland is present to the east of the Site (TN4). The grassland appears to be reverting from previous agricultural use and has the potential to be of value. It contains c. 6-9 sp/m² with Soft rush, Compact rush, Marsh bedstraw, Cuckooflower, Ragged robin, Silverweed, Meadowsweet, Common hogweed, Cat's-ear, Ragged-robin, Creeping bentgrass, Marsh thistle, Red clover, Glaucous sedge, Lesser hoptrefoil, Perennial ryegrass, and Red fescue, among others (this area of grassland is to be left unimpacted by proposals). The marshy grassland towards the southern boundary is of lesser diversity and contains scattered scrub (Bramble), and an increase in poor indicator species, such as docks.
- 4.1.11 A large area to the northwest of the Site is dominated by rushes, Perennial ryegrass, Yorkshire fog, and docks.

B6 Poor semi-improved grassland

4.1.12 Near the central-south portion of the Site is an area of poor semi-improved grassland comprised of scattered rushes, Creeping buttercup, Broadleaved docks and Perennial ryegrass.

C3.1 Dense bracken

4.1.13 Scattered areas of dense Bracken are present along the northern boundary.

G1.3 Standing water - oligotrophic

4.1.14 A large pond is present near the centre of the Site. The pond contains limited submerged species including Pondweed, Lesser spearwort and Water lily, and peripheral emergent vegetation with Yellow iris, Grey willow, Alder.

4.1.15 Giant rhubarb, a Schedule 9, Part II invasive plant species was recorded at the pond edge at TN6 (what3words: brief.sprinkler.ridge). Canada goose, a Schedule 9, Part I invasive species was noted at the pond edge.

J1.2 – Amenity grassland

4.1.16 Heavily managed grassland verges are present along the access track leading to the Site.

J3.6 – Buildings

4.1.17 A series of buildings are present at the Site. The building at TN1, an old stone property with slate tiles, is suitable to potential roosting bats. No buildings will be impacted by proposals.

J4 – Bare ground

4.1.18 Bare ground tarmac roads and stone tracks extends= throughout the Site and form the existing caravan platforms.

Hedgerow

4.1.19 Managed hedgerows are present at the core of the Site, separating existing camping and caravan plots. Hedgerows are dominated by Field maple or Blackthorn. Scattered Sessile oak trees are present throughout the hedgerows.

Watercourses

- 4.1.20 A river corridor (the Afon Colwyn) is situated along the northern boundary. It is a fast-flowing natural river and priority habitat. The water course contains a continuous fringe of trees along its length and is considered to be an important resource for biodiversity.

4.2 PROTECTED AND NOTABLE SPECIES

Breeding Birds

- 4.2.1 Existing trees and scrub offer suitable nesting opportunity for birds. Generally, the grassland compartments are unsuitable to breeding birds, however, the taller grassland swards to the east of the Site (TN4) may offer ground nesting bird opportunity.

Bats

- 4.2.2 Trees located along the watercourse offer suitability to potential roosting bats. A single building at the centre of the Site offers bat roosting potential. However, none of these features are considered likely to be impacted by the operational phase of the proposals. Protective measures should be incorporated into the construction phase of the proposals.
- 4.2.3 The natural habitats, particularly linear features of hedgerows, watercourse, and tree belts offer high value commuting and foraging opportunity.

Badgers

- 4.2.4 No evidence of badgers was observed within 30m of the Site boundaries, although the Site is suitable to support badgers.

Otter and Water Vole

- 4.2.5 No evidence of otter (*Lutra lutra*), including holts, spraints, prints, or feeding remains, was observed during the survey although otter is considered highly likely to use the adjacent watercourse.
- 4.2.6 The watercourses surrounding and within the Site were considered unsuitable to support water vole given the rocky substrate and fast flow. No records of water vole were retrieved in the data trawl.

Reptiles & Amphibians

- 4.2.7 The Site has suitability to common reptiles to the eastern portion of the Site, where grassland habitats remain largely unmanaged. As such their presence cannot be excluded. The pond towards the centre of the Site may offer opportunities for grass snake.
- 4.2.8 Common amphibians are likely to be present within the marshy grassland habitats where damper areas persist.

Table 5 – Target notes and descriptions





Target note no.	Description
1	Old stone-built building offering potential to roosting bats. Building to remain unimpacted by proposals.
2	Well-managed semi-improved acid grassland, as described in above text, typical of existing camping spots across the Site.
3	Grassland area with existing loose stone caravan plots.
4	Extensive area of marshy grassland. The marshy grassland along the northern boundary is of the greatest diversity, adjacent to the river, and will remain unimpacted (enhanced) by proposals. The central and southern portions of the grassland towards TN4 are less diverse with poor indicator species such as docks, and is the main area of proposed works.
5	Row of Sessile oak trees, all offering PRF-I suitability to bats. To remain unimpacted by proposals.
6	Giant rhubarb. A Schedule 9, Part II, invasive species present at the pond edge.
7	A PRF-I bat suitability tree, to remain unimpacted by proposals.
8	Species-poor acid grassland. Managed but appears to not be currently used for camping.

Table 6 – Species list

Common name	Latin name	Common name	Latin name
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Annual meadow grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Welsh poppy	<i>Papaver cambricum</i>
Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	Wood avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
Sweet vernal	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>
Silverweed	<i>Argentina anserina</i>	Sessile oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>
Broad leaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolia</i>	St John's wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
Cleavers	<i>Galium asparine</i>	Male fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Marsh thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>
Common daisy	<i>Bellis perenis</i>	Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Cat's ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Pignut	<i>Conopodium majus</i>
Herb robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Guelder rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Field horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>
Common hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Hemlock waterdropwort	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Large-leaved lime	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Red campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>	Red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
Heath bedstraw	<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Marsh bedstraw	<i>Galium palustre</i>
Giant rhubarb	<i>Gunnera manicata</i>	Lesser hop-trefoil	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>
Bird's-foot trefoil		Common bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
Common ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Glaucous sedge	<i>Carex flacca</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Cut-leaved geranium	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>
Cuckoo flower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium repens</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale agg</i>	Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>
Lesser celandine	<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Ragged robin	<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>
Goat willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Wood anemone	<i>Anemonoides nemorosa</i>	Male scaly-fern	<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Ground ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
False oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>

Common name	Latin name	Common name	Latin name
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Perennial ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Hard rush	<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Wild angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>
Soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Common chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>

Table 7 – Site photographs

	
<p>Photograph 1: Group of trees within semi-improved acid grassland near centre of the Site</p>	<p>Photograph 2: Existing facilities building towards the centre of the Site</p>
	
<p>Photograph 3: An old stone building offering potential to bats near the centre of the Site (TN1)</p>	<p>Photograph 4: A typical camping plot within SI acid grassland to the northwest adjacent to the river corridor (TN2)</p>



Photograph 5: Trees along the river corridor



Photograph 6: A planted wooded belt on Site



Photograph 7: Typical camping plots throughout the Site (TN2)



Photograph 8: The river corridor, a valuable ecological resource adjacent to the Site



Photograph 9: Cut bracken and hedgerows within the camping plots



Photograph 10: Existing hardstanding and bare ground plots



Photograph 11: Semi-improved neutral grassland to the eastern portion of the Site



Photograph 12: Marshy grassland to the eastern portion of the Site (west of TN4)



Photograph 13: Ragged robin within the marshy grassland (floodplain meadow, west of TN4))



Photograph 14: An existing wall to the east of the Site within semi-improved acid grassland



Photograph 15: An existing access gate to the east of the Site



Photograph 16: Poor quality marshy grassland to the southeast of the Site



Photograph 17: A manmade drainage ditch to the east of the Site



Photograph 18: Poor semi-improved grassland plot to the southeast of the Site



Photograph 19: A row of sessile oak providing potential to bats, to be retained (TN5)



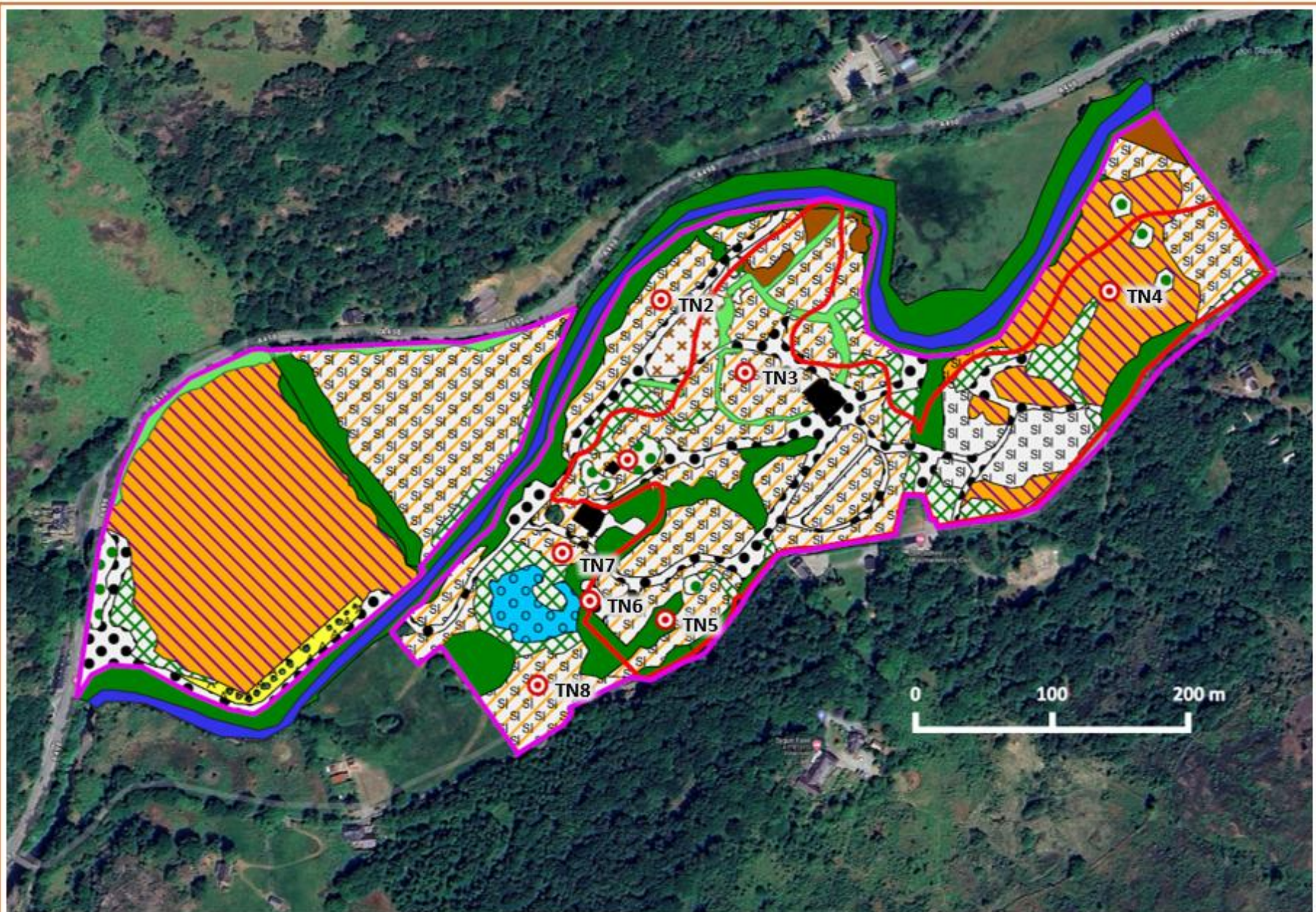
Photograph 20: The large pond to the west of the Site



Photograph 21: Giant rhubarb, an invasive species at the pond edge (TN6)

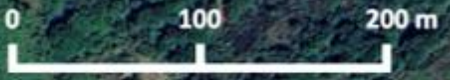


Photograph 22: Existing access within amenity grassland



Legend

- Survey area
- Site boundary
- A1.1.1 - Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
- A2.1 - Scrub - dense/continuous
- A3.1 - Broadleaved Parkland/scattered trees
- A3.3 - Mixed Parkland/scattered trees
- B1.2 - Acid grassland - semi-improved
- B2.2 - Neutral grassland - semi-improved
- B5 - Marsh/marshy grassland
- B6 - Poor semi-improved grassland
- C1.1 - Bracken - continuous
- G1.3 - Standing water - oligotrophic
- J1.2 - Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland
- J3.6 - Buildings
- J4 - Bare ground
- Hedgerow
- Watercourse
- Target Note



Client	
Project title	Project ID
Cae Du	ECO_1112-02
Subject	
Ecological Assessment	
Drawing number	
ECO1112-02-01EcoA_B	
Drawing date	11/02/25
Drawn by	MM



Figure 4: Phase I Survey

5. ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

5.1 SUMMARY OF ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS

5.1.1 A summary of ecological receptors which may be affected by proposals is provided in Table 8, below. Features and their reasons for exclusion are provided in Table 9.

Table 8 – Summary of ecological receptors, their likely impacts from proposals and recommendations

Receptor	Status	Potential Impact	Recommendation
Bats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roosting, foraging and commuting opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commuting and foraging habitat loss Unnecessary illumination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any lighting to be sensitively designed (BCT GN08/23). Construction during daylight hours. Bat box provision
Breeding birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nesting opportunity throughout the Site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active nests/young may be impacted by construction (notably within taller grassland areas) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid nesting season or SQE to survey site prior to construction.
Otter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foraging and commuting habitat within watercourse to east. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of animals being trapped in excavation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide means of escape for any excavations.
Reptiles & Amphibians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common species likely present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Injury or jilling during construction within damper areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works to follow RAMs (e.g. fingertip search and phased strimming).
Notable plants / habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floodplain meadow is of good quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further enhance floodplain meadow
Invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giant rhubarb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread of invasive species offsite. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Method Statement
Priority Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority habitat adjacent to Site (river) and floodplain meadow on site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction may cause pollution event or damage existing floodplain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Method Statement
Net Benefit for biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nesting box provision 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of bat boxes 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reptiles & amphibians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reptile/amphibian refugia 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancements to existing grasslands 	

Table 9 – Ecological features excluded from further assessment

Receptor	Reasons for omission
Designated sites	No designated sites likely to be impacted due to the distance, scale, and type of proposals (no important bat habitat likely to be lost).
Non-designated sites	Sites unlikely to be impacted due to the distance, scale, and type of proposals.
Badger	No evidence of badger at the Site.
Hazel dormouse	No records or evidence of hazel dormouse at the Site.
Great crested newt	No records or suitability to GCN at the Site.
Water vole	No records or evidence of water vole at the Site. Ditches to remain unimpacted.

5.2 BATS

Status

- 5.2.1 Foraging and commuting opportunity throughout the Site and along river corridor.
- 5.2.2 All British bat species receive full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017 (as amended)).

Unmitigated Impact

- 5.2.3 Foraging and commuting paths may be illuminated during the construction and operational phases.

Recommendations

- 5.2.4 Any lighting proposals (where necessary) should be designed in accordance with BCT GN08/23 – Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night. In particular, all natural habitats should remain unilluminated. This is of particular importance to the river corridor and woodland.
- 5.2.5 The construction process should only be undertaken during daylight hours so that illumination during construction is not required.
- 5.2.6 Bat boxes recommended further below.

5.3 BREEDING BIRDS

Status

- 5.3.1 The Site and surrounds contain extensive nesting bird opportunities within aerial vegetation, and ground nesting potential within taller grassland swards to the east (TN4).
- 5.3.2 Breeding birds nests, eggs and young protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended).

Unmitigated Impact

- 5.3.3 An active bird's nest or eggs may be damaged or destroyed or its young injured during construction should vegetation require removal.

Recommendations

- 5.3.4 Works affecting potential bird breeding habitat should take place outside the active bird breeding period (1st March – 31st August), or;
- 5.3.5 A suitably qualified ecologist should survey the area of impact immediately prior to the commencement of works. Should an active nest be found then the area should be cordoned off and left until birds area confirmed as no longer breeding and any young have fully fledged.

5.4 OTTER

Status

- 5.4.1 Off-site foraging and commuting habitat for otter within the river corridor. Otter cannot be discounted from foraging across the Site.
- 5.4.2 Otter receives full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017 (as amended)).

Unmitigated Impact

- 5.4.3 Otter may be trapped within an on-site excavation during construction.

Recommendations

- 5.4.4 Any excavations left open overnight should either be sufficiently covered or contain a ramp or means of escape.

5.5 PRIORITY HABITATS

Status

- 5.5.1 The on-site floodplain meadow/marshy grassland is a priority habitat. The floodplain meadow is to be retained.
- 5.5.2 The off-site river corridor is a priority habitat.

Unmitigated Impact

- 5.5.3 Unmitigated, the construction process may result in damage or removal of floodplain habitat.
- 5.5.4 The construction process could result in a pollution event that may impact the sensitive watercourse.

Recommendations

- 5.5.5 The construction process should be supported by a Method Statement or CEMP: Biodiversity to specify how the priority habitats will be protected during construction. This should be in accordance with BS 42020:2013.
- 5.5.6 Opportunities for the enhancement of the flood plain meadow are described further below.

5.6 INVASIVE SPECIES

Status

- 5.6.1 Giant rhubarb is present within the Site boundaries at TN6. The species is listed on Schedule 9, Part II of the WCA, 1981, making it illegal to cause the spread of the plant into the wild.

Unmitigated Impact

5.6.2 Invasive species may spread further within the Site and potentially offsite.

Recommendations

5.6.3 Where invasive species are likely to be impacted by the construction phase, an invasive species specialist should be sought to eradicate the existing stands of invasive species or to effectively deal with any contaminated material (i.e. soil) in a legal manner.

5.6.4 A CEMP or Method Statement should support the construction process to detail how the spread of invasive species will be mitigated during the construction process.

5.7 REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Status

5.7.1 Opportunity for common reptiles and amphibians is present on Site, particularly to the eastern portion.

Unmitigated Impact

5.7.2 Generally, the proposals are within pre-existing areas of well managed habitats including short grassland and hardstanding with limited risk.

5.7.3 However, common reptiles and amphibians may be killed or injured during construction in any areas where taller vegetation may be impacted by proposals, such as at TN4. Given the localised impacts and the retention of a significant portion of this habitat, the risk is considered to be low, with any potential animals likely to freely disperse to adjacent habitats.

Recommendations

5.7.4 A Method Statement detailing Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) should be provided to contractors prior to the start of works. This should include a fingertip search by a SQE and the phased removal of vegetation and the placement of reptile mats outside of the construction zone to encourage reptiles away from areas of works. Additionally, any

potential hibernacula must not be disturbed when temperatures are consistently below 5°C at night and animals are likely to be in a state of hibernation.

6. NET BENEFIT FOR BIODIVERSITY

6.1.1 Paragraph 6.4.3 of PPW requires the planning system to ensure that overall, there is a net benefit for biodiversity. This may be achieved via protecting against the loss and securing enhancements for ecosystems and ecological features.

6.1.2 The creation of hardstanding pitches and access tracks will result in the loss of existing habitat, to an approximate extent of c.6129.23m². Habitats to be impacted include:

- Semi-improved acid grassland: 3565.23m²
- Poor marshy grassland: 2563m²

6.1.3 The access track within Cae Canol and within the marshy grassland, will largely be created on an existing stone track which is currently partially vegetated and within poor quality grassland habitat. The higher quality areas of marshy grassland lie within the flood plain meadow north of these impacts, adjacent to the river, and will not be impacted by proposals.

6.2 HABITAT CREATION AND ENHANCEMENTS

6.2.1 The landscape proposals seek to provide a range of native species and habitats, with enhancements to existing grassland within the flood plain meadow, as below (refer to landscape and planting plans for full details):

Cae Du

- Meadow mixture for flood plain areas: 5312m²
- Native woodland flower mix (100% wildflower): 7624m²
- Acid grassland Mix: 2169m²
- Scrub mix (below existing woodland):833m²
- Individual tree planting: 54no.
- Native hedgerow: 57 linear metres.

Cae Canol

- Meadow mixture for flood plain areas: 5632m²
- Native woodland flower mix (100% wildflower): 4516m²
- Acid grassland Mix: 3740m²
- Scrub mix (below existing woodland):1856m²
- Individual tree planting (incl. woodland belts): 222no.

6.3 OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT

6.3.1 The planting proposed within flood plain meadows and the acid grassland parcels should be further managed in the following ways in order to maximise biodiversity value:

- Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.
- Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble) is less than 5%.
- Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.

6.3.2 Other opportunities for biodiversity enhancements exist on-site with the addition of ecological features, as follows:

- Schwegler 1FF Bat Boxes: 2no.
- Schwegler 2F Bat Boxes: 2no.
- Schwegler 1B 32mm Bird Boxes: 2no.
- Schwegler 1B 26mm Bird Boxes: 2no.
- Schwegler Open-fronted Bird Boxes: 2no.
- Pond and scrapes (refer to landscape plan)

6.3.3 In addition, pond and scrapes are provided within the landscape plan, to include dead timber and local stones. These should be designed in a way to provide reptile refugia, and hibernacula (refer to Figure 5 for design).

6.3.4 It is the authors opinion that given the significant planting and enhancements proposed on site there will be a considerable net benefit for biodiversity under the proposals.

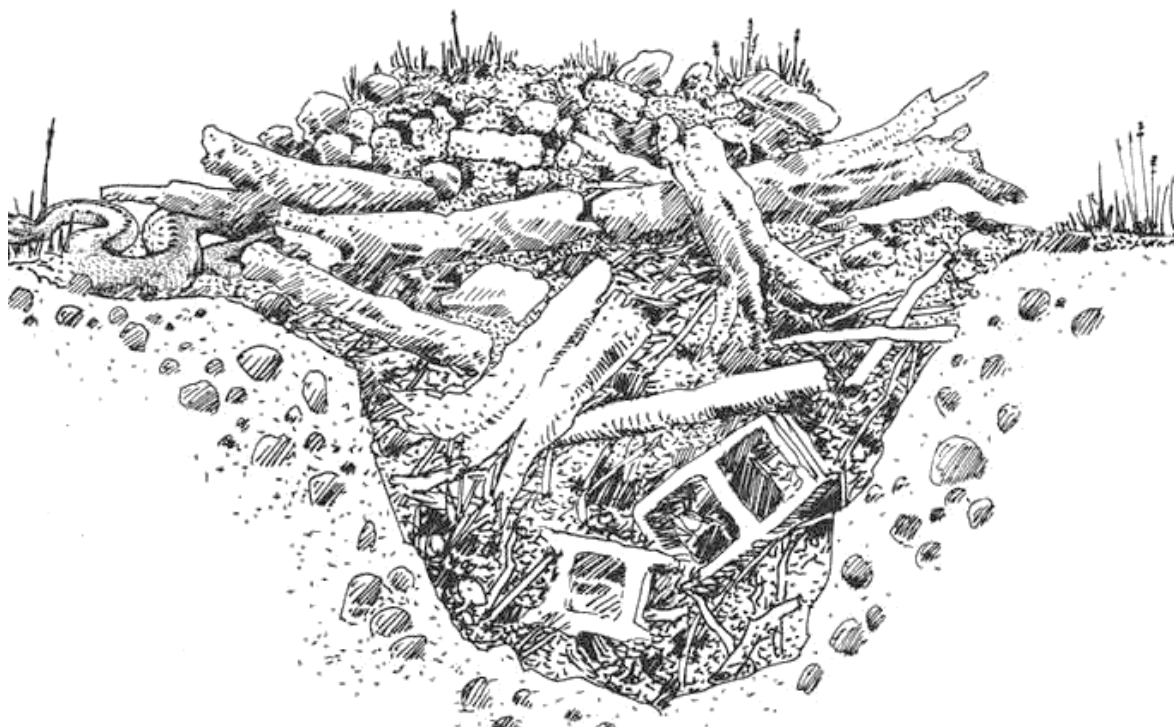


Figure 5: *Reptile refugia/hibernacula design*

7. APPENDICES

7.1 APPENDIX I: LEGISLATION

The Environment Act (Wales) 2016

7.1.1 Puts in place legislation needed to plan and manage Wales' natural resources in a more proactive, sustainable and joined-up way includes:

- Section 6 under Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (Section 6 Duty) requiring that public bodies must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so, promote the resilience of ecosystems.
- Section 7 replaces the duty in section 42 of the NERC Act 2006. The Welsh Ministers will publish, review and revise lists of living organisms and types of habitat in Wales, which they consider are of key significance to sustain and improve biodiversity in relation to Wales. The Welsh Ministers must also take all reasonable steps to maintain and enhance the living organisms and types of habitat included in any list published under this section, and encourage others to take such steps.
- Sustainable Management of Natural Resources: sets out Wales' approach to planning and managing natural resources at a national and local level with a general purpose linked to statutory principles of SMNR defined within the Act. The three main components include:
 - The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR): Sets out the state of Wales' natural resources).
 - Natural Resources Policy (NRP): Produced by Welsh Government, sets out priorities, risks and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources taking into account the findings of the SoNaRR report.
 - Area Statements: Produced by NRW to implement one or more of the priorities and opportunities outlined in the NRP at an appropriate spatial scale. They translate the high level strategic priorities while taking into account local needs, opportunities and pressures.

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

7.1.2 These Regulations consolidate the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 and amend the 2010 Regulations, and together they transpose the European Habitats Directive into domestic law. The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites' (referred to in this assessment as international or designated sites), the

protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of such.

- 7.1.3 Under the Regulations, UK competent authorities have a general duty to have regard to the EC Habitats and Birds Directives. They require competent authorities to consider or review planning permission, applied for or granted, affecting a European site, and, subject to certain exceptions, restrict or revoke permission where the integrity of the site would be adversely affected. Under Regulation 63, where any proposed plan or project is likely to have an effect on a Natural 2000 site or qualifying feature for a site, then the competent authority (normally the local planning authority) will carry out an Appropriate Assessment of those effects, referred to as a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

Species

- 7.1.4 The Regulations make it an offence (subject to exceptions) to deliberately capture, kill, disturb, or trade in the animals listed in Schedule 2, or pick, collect, cut, uproot, destroy, or trade in the plants listed in Schedule 4. However, these actions can be made lawful through the granting of licenses by the appropriate authorities. Licenses may be granted for a number of purposes (such as science and education, conservation, preserving public health and safety), but only after the appropriate authority, including the planning authority, is satisfied that there are no satisfactory alternatives and that such actions will have no detrimental effect on wild populations of the species concerned: these three elements form the basis of the three derogations 'tests' to be applied to satisfy European legislation.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act

- 7.1.5 Wales also has a key piece of overarching legislation called the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, introduced in 2015, that requires national government, local government, local health boards and other specified public bodies to carry out sustainable development and work towards objectives that contribute to seven well-being goals. Sustainable development in the Act means "the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle (i.e. not compromising the ability of future generations

to meet their needs), aimed at achieving the well-being goals. The seven wellbeing goals are:

- A Prosperous Wales
- Resilient Wales
- Healthier Wales
- More Equal Wales
- Cohesive Communities
- Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
- Globally Responsible Wales

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

7.1.6 The principle statutory instrument that governs nature conservation in England is the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended (WCA 1981).

7.1.7 The WCA 1981 consolidates and amends existing national legislation to implement the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and the Birds Directive in Great Britain. It is complimented by the Wildlife and Countryside (Service of Notices) Act 1985, which relates to notices served under the 1981 Act, and the Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended), which implement the Habitats Directive.

7.1.8 Containing four Parts and seventeen Schedules, the Act covers protection of wildlife (birds, and some animals and plants), the countryside, National Parks, and the designation of protected areas, and public rights of way.

7.1.9 Amendments to the Act have been made and there is a statutory quinquennial review of Schedules 5 and 8 (protected wild animals and plant respectively), undertaken by the country agencies and co-ordinated by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. There have been 6 reviews with the 7th commenced in 2021.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

7.1.10 There are very few Acts of Parliament that are dedicated to one species with conservation as part of the aim. This Act supplements the WCA 1981 by affording protection to badgers against disturbance and their setts against unlawful damage and destruction. It provides a licensing system to allow works to proceed in a sensitive manner.

Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000

7.1.11 The CRoW Act 2000 places a duty on Government Departments and the National Assembly for Wales to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity and maintain lists of species and habitats for which conservation steps should be taken or promoted, in accordance with the 1992 Rio Convention on Biological Diversity. The Act makes various amendments to the WCA 1981 including increasing SSSI protection, management and policing.