
Parc Cybi - Zone 1

on behalf of The Conygar Investment Company PLC

Ecological Assessment



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SUMMARY

This report has been prepared by Avian Ecology Ltd., on behalf of The Conygar Investment Company PLC. It provides an assessment of potential ecological effects associated with the proposed construction of an 80 bed hotel on a plot of land within Zone 1 of the Parc Cybi mixed use development, Holyhead, Anglesey.

This report presents baseline information on habitats and ecological features both within the Study area and the immediate surrounding area. The potential presence of protected species and habitats and sites of nature conservation interest is identified.

The Assessment has been informed by a desk study and Extended Phase 1 habitat survey incorporating habitat assessments for protected species including bats, water voles, badgers, amphibians and reptiles.

The Study area comprises a part of an improved grassland field to the south of the A55 North Wales Expressway, Holyhead, Anglesey. The plot is part of the wider Parc Cybi development, originally consented pursuant to Outline Planning permission 19C842A/EIA. No designated sites are located within close proximity of the Proposed Development, with the nearest 1.74km west: Holy Island Coast SPA/SAC/SSSI.

As a precaution, a series of Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) will be implemented during the construction phase of the Proposed Development to minimise any potential for harm to amphibians, reptiles or other species. No evidence of badger setts was found, however a pre-construction check and construction best practices measures are recommended in relation to badgers. .

With the implementation of these measures, the potential for adverse impacts on protected and notable species or habitats is considered to be negligible.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background & Scope

1.1.1 This report has been prepared by Avian Ecology Ltd. on behalf of The Conygar Investment Company PLC, and provides an assessment of ecological effects in relation to the proposed construction of an 80 bed hotel on a plot of land within Zone 1 of the Parc Cybi mixed use development, Holyhead, Anglesey.

1.1.2 The Application Site, is defined as the red-line boundary as shown on **Figure 1**. The blue boundary on **Figure 1** depicts the landownership and the Study area.

1.1.3 The objectives of the Assessment are to:

- Provide baseline information on the current habitats and ecological features both within the Application Site and in the immediately surrounding area;
- Identify the proximity of any designated sites for nature conservation interest and provide an assessment of any potential effects the Proposed Development may have on these;
- Identify the presence or potential presence of any protected species or habitats and provide an assessment of any potential effects the Proposed Development may have on these; and,
- Provide recommendations for further pre-construction checks and / or mitigation measures, if required, and provide an outline of proposed habitat enhancements, if applicable.

1.1.4 The Assessment has been informed through a desk based review of relevant ecological information and an Extended Phase 1 habitat survey.

1.1.5 The Assessment refers to relevant legislation, planning policy and guidance as appropriate.

1.2 Site Overview

1.2.1 The Application Site as shown by the red-line boundary in **Figure 1** is located off the A5153, south of Junction 2 of the North Wales Expressway A55. The Study area predominantly comprises grazed pasture surrounded by fences and stone walls. The surrounding fields are similar in structure, all earmarked for future development under the wider Parc Cybi outline planning permission (Ref: 19C842A/EIA).

1.3 Legislative Framework, Planning Policy and Guidance

1.3.1 Reference has been made to the following key pieces of legislation, planning policy and guidance listed in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1: Key legislation, planning policy and guidance.

European
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (hereafter referred to as the ‘Habitats Directive’); and, • Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of wild birds (codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended) (hereafter referred to as the ‘Birds Directive’).
National
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, as amended (hereafter referred to as the ‘Habitat Regulations’); • The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); • Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; • Protection of Badgers Act 1992; • The Environment (Wales) Act 2016; • Hedgerow Regulations 1997; • Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); • The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); • ‘Birds of Conservation Concern 4’ (Eaton <i>et al.</i>, 2015)¹; • The United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP); • BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development.
Local
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglesey Biodiversity Action Plan.

1.3.2 The ‘UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework’ succeeds the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) and ‘Conserving Biodiversity – the UK Approach’. The lists of priority species and habitats agreed under UK BAP still form the basis of much biodiversity work and are therefore considered within this report in the context of the objectives of the Biodiversity Framework. BAPs identify habitats and species of nature conservation priority on a UK (UK BAP) and Local (LBAP) scale. UK BAPs formed the basis for statutory lists of priority species and habitats in England under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, which replaces Section 42 (Wales) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, and so are also relevant in the context of this legislation.

¹ Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Brown, A., Hearn, R., Lock, L., Musgrove, A., Noble, D., Stroud, D. and Gregory, R (2015). Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. *British Birds*, 108, pp708-746.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desktop Study

- 2.1.1 A desktop study was undertaken to identify any known existing features or species of ecological importance within the study area (as defined below).
- 2.1.2 The desk study included a review of relevant policy and guidance and sought to identify any statutory designated sites for nature conservation through a review of the JNCC and Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)² Websites. A 2km search radius was adopted for all statutory designated sites.
- 2.1.3 Biological records were also obtained from the North Wales Environmental Information Service (Cofnod) for all protected and notable species and non-designated sites within a 2km radius from Grid Reference: SH252810.
- 2.1.4 Reference was made to Ordnance Survey maps of the wider area and online aerial images (www.google.co.uk/maps) in order to determine any features of nature conservation interest in the wider area.

2.2 Field Survey

Extended Phase I Habitat Survey

- 2.2.1 The Extended Phase 1 habitat survey and walkover surveys were undertaken by C. Baldock MRes ACIEEM, a surveyor with extensive experience in the completion of habitat surveys. Surveys were undertaken on 14th February 2017 and comprised all land within the landownership boundary (the 'Study area')
- 2.2.2 The methodology employed was based-upon that outlined in the 'Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey' (JNCC, 2010) whereby all habitats within the study area are mapped and described using a series of 'Target Notes' (TNs) to provide an overview of the study area.
- 2.2.3 The survey included searches for potential for water voles and badgers. Ponds or other waterbodies within or adjacent to the Study area were inspected in order to assess their potential to support great crested newts in accordance with the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) methodology (following Oldham *et al.*, 2000).

Limitations

- 2.2.4 An Extended Phase 1 habitat survey does not constitute a detailed botanical survey or faunal species list or provide a full protected species survey but, enables competent ecologists to ascertain an understanding of the ecology of the Study area in order to:
- Broadly identify the nature conservation value of the Study area and assess the significance of any potential impacts on habitat/species recorded; and/or,
 - Confirm the need and extent of any additional specific ecological surveys that are required to identify the true nature conservation value of the Study area (if any).
- 2.2.5 The survey visit was undertaken in February and therefore not within the optimal period for botanical surveys (approximately April to September). However, due to the lack of notable or

² <http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/MagicMap.aspx>.

extensive habitats present, the survey could adequately identify and describe study area conditions and no constraints to the survey were experienced.

3 BASELINE

3.1 Designated Sites for Nature Conservation

- 3.1.1 A review of MAGIC confirmed that the Site is not located within any statutory designated site for nature conservation. Three statutory designated sites were identified within approximately 2km of the Study area as shown on **Figure 1**.
- 3.1.2 Beddmanarch-Cymyran SSSI is located 1.7km south east and is designated for the large areas of seagrass (unusual marine flowering plants) and areas of saltmarsh. These support a wide range of wintering water-birds, especially ringed plover *Charadis hiaticula*, greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator* and goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*. At both the northern and southern end are areas of rare dune heathland and the whole site supports a range in scarce plants such as sea lavender *Limonium humile*, dwarf rush *Juncus capitus* and golden samphire *Limbarda crithmoides*.
- 3.1.3 Tre Wilmot SSSI, SPA and SAC is located c1.7km north and east and supports a maze of rock ridges and intervening marshy ground with wet heath and mire with marsh gentian *Gentiana pneumonanthe*, pillwort *Pilularia globulifera* and three-lobed water crowfoot *Ranunculus tripartitus*. Chough *Pyrhcorax pyrrhocroax* feed in areas of short vegetation around rock outcrops or on recently burnt ground. Also supports European dry heaths.
- 3.1.4 The Holy Island Coast / Glannau ynys Gybi SSSI, SPA and SAC is noted for its biological, botanical and ornithological value. On the Northern peninsula at Southstack provides nesting ledges for a large colony of guillemots *Cepphus grylle*, razorbills *Alca torda* and a few puffins *Alca arctica*. The "mountain" and the separate area of Penrhosfeilw Common support one of the largest tracts of coastal Atlantic heathland in Wales, with silver studded blue butterfly *Plebejus argus*, chough and spotted rock rose *Tuberaria guttata*. Glannau Ynys Gybi SSSI, along with Tre Wilmot SSSI, forms the Glannau Ynys Gybi Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for its sea cliffs and coastal heaths. Glannau Ynys Gybi SSSI, Trewilmot SSSI and Glannau Rhoscolyn SSSI encompass the Glannau Ynys Gybi Special Protection Area SPA for its breeding chough.

Table 3.1: Non-statutory designated sites.

Site	Distance and Direction	Interests
Rhostir Mynydd Celyn	1.35km W	This site consists of enclosed pastures with a number of low rock outcrops. Grassland forms a mosaic with areas of dry and wet heath amongst bare rock on the outcrops. The dry mosaic dominated by heather <i>caulina vulgaris</i> , bell heather <i>Erica cinera</i> and western gorse <i>Ulex galli</i> gives way, in the hollows amongst the rocks, to wet mosaic dominated by creeping willow <i>Salix repens</i> , cross-leaved heath <i>Erica tetralix</i> and purple moor-grass <i>Molinia cerula</i> . In these areas there are several colonies of marsh gentian. This plant occurs locally on Anglesey and has no other known sites in Wales. The botanical interest in the lower part of the original site has been destroyed by tipping and this no longer forms part of the revised site (Removed in 93/4).
Cors Pont Hwfa	1.68km NW	A shallow pool with a reed bed, tall fen vegetation and marshy grassland. The open water at the centre has fragmented areas of

Site	Distance and Direction	Interests
		<p>amphibious bistort <i>Polygonum amphibium</i> and club-rush <i>Schoenoplectus spp.</i> with common water-plantain <i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i> near the wide margin of rushes and sedges. The marshy grassland is species-rich and has nodding bur-marigold and greater spearwort <i>Ranunculus lingua</i>, both of very local distribution on Anglesey, amongst purple loosestrife <i>Lythrum salicaria</i>, lesser spearwort <i>Ranunculus flammula</i> water mint <i>Metha aquatica</i> and marsh cinquefoil <i>Potentilla palustris</i>. As the grassland becomes better drained areas dominated by meadowsweet <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> give way to areas of yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i> and herbs such as yarrow <i>Achillea millefolium</i>, common knapweed, self-heal <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> and yellow rattle <i>Rhinanthus minor</i>.</p> <p>The rare water violet is recorded from this site. Breeding birds recorded include little grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>, moorhen <i>Rallidae chloropus</i>, coot <i>Fulica atra</i> and sedge warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenbaenus</i>.</p>
Arrfordir Bwth Corwgl	1.68km S	<p>A strip of rocky coastland with a mosaic of coastal grassland and coastal heath with areas of bare rock. The site is divided into three parts. The coastal grassland has frequent red fescue <i>Festuca ruba</i>. The areas of heath are small with dominant heather and bell heather and locally abundant western gorse. Cross leaved heath is rare. There are some damper areas with occasional purple moor-grass and glaucous sedge.</p>

3.2 Habitats and Flora

- 3.2.1 The habitats within the Study area are presented in **Figure 1**, with Target Notes (TNs) described in **Table 3.2**.
- 3.2.2 The Application Site forms part of a wider mixed use planning scheme located on southern edge of Holyhead, Anglesey. Parts of the scheme have already been constructed including a road and the Roadking Holyhead Transport Café and the general character of the land is open pastoral land within a semi-urbanised setting. The A55 lies to the northeast and a shopping complex lies beyond this, and the recently constructed Parc Cybi Road just beyond the southwestern boundary.
- 3.2.3 The Study area comprised part of a single field, the main body of which supported improved grassland. The field was bound by post and wire fences and dry stone walls. The fence along the southwestern margin of the Study area was also marked by occasional boundary stones (of modern construction) which had been placed. Landscape planting was present along the north western boundary and along the verge of the A55 motorway to the northwest.
- 3.2.4 The grassland sward within the Study area was subject to sheep-grazing and approximately 10cm in height, with patchy soft rush *Juncus effusus* cover. A species-list is provided as TN2. A linear section beyond the fencing was protected from grazing and consequently the grassland had a taller sward c. 30cm in height with a greater density of thistles and scattered bramble cover lined the stone wall along the northern boundary, with occasional hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* trees present. A small area of more species-rich semi-improved grassland was present in the far north western corner (TN3).
- 3.2.5 Planted broadleaved woodland along the north-western and south-eastern edges of the field was composed of young ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, alder *Alnus glutinosa*, birch *Betula sp.*, oak *Quercus sp.*,

hazel *Corylus avellana*, and blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, 2-3m in height. The ground flora included willowherb species, broadleaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, nettle *Urtica dioica*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, soft rush and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.

- 3.2.6 The planted broadleaved woodland along the southern verge of the A55 lay on the far side of a tarmacked footpath which was lined by stone walls and supported ash, birch, gorse and willow *Salix* sp. trees and had an impenetrable understorey of bramble cover around its margins. Soft rush and herb robert *Geranium robertianum* were also present within the woodland flora

Table 3.2: Target notes

Target Note Number	Comment
TN1	Small ephemeral pool formed by c. 5cm deep depression with standing water with no discernible banks, supporting grassy vegetation with soft rush <i>Juncus effusus</i> surrounding it. The grassy vegetation and shallow water depth suggest that the depression is dry for most of the year and it is considered unsuitable for breeding amphibians.
TN2	Grassland sward under moderate grazing pressure, improved with very limited herbaceous cover. Patches of soft rush was present, mostly around the margins of the field. Species included perennial rye-grass <i>Lolium perenne</i> , white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> , Yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i> , creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , common bent <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> , creeping bent <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> and cuckooflower <i>Cardamine pratensis</i> . The sward beyond the fencing to the north had been left to grow to c. 30cm tall and was tussocky with scattered thistles and hogweed <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> .
TN3	Area with a higher diversity of plants (fenced off from grazing) including black knapweed <i>Centaurea nigra</i> , compact rush <i>Juncus conglomeratus</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> , hedge cranesbill <i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i> , selfheal <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> , Cock's-foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> , broadleaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , gorse <i>Ulex europaeus</i> and oxeye daisy <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> .
TN4	Mammal path leading around the enclosed wooded area.

- 3.2.7 The data search with Cofnod returned records of the following species within 2km, none were returned from within the Application Site of Study area:

Table 3.2: Protected and notable flora records returned from desk study.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Protection
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft Shield-fern	Locally important
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Sea Pink	LBAP
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> x <i>lepidus</i> = <i>B. x pseudothominei</i>	Lesser Soft-brome	LBAP, Locally important
<i>Carex acuta</i>	Slender Tufted-sedge	LBAP, Locally important
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	Common Centaury	RD1(UK)
<i>Centaureum littorale</i>	Seaside Centaury	RD2(UK), LBAP.
<i>Crambe maritima</i>	Sea-kale	LBAP
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	Needle Spike-rush	LBAP, Locally important
<i>Erigeron acris</i>	Blue Fleabane	LBAP, Locally important
<i>Erodium maritimum</i>	Sea Stork's-bill	LBAP, Locally important
<i>Erodium moschatum</i>	Musk Stork's-bill	RD2(UK), LBAP, Locally important
<i>Euphorbia portlandica</i>	Portland Spurge	RD2(UK), LBAP.
<i>Fumaria purpurea</i>	Purple Ramping-fumitory	BAP, RD2(UK), S7, WVP, LBAP

Scientific Name	Common Name	Protection
<i>Gentiana pneumonanthe</i>	Marsh Gentian	RD2(UK), WVP, LBAP
<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	Corn Marigold	RD1(UK), LBAP
<i>Hottonia palustris</i>	Water-violet	WVP, Locally important
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	WCA8, LBAP.
<i>Hypericum linariifolium</i>	Toadflax-leaved St John's-	RD1(UK), RD2(UK), WVP, LBAP
<i>Kickxia elatine</i>	Sharp-leaved Fluellen	LBAP, Locally important
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough Hawkbit	Locally important
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax	Locally important
<i>Meconopsis cambrica</i>	Welsh Poppy	RD2(UK), LBAP
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	LBAP
<i>Mentha suaveolens</i>	Round-leaved Mint	RD1(UK), RD2(UK), WVP
<i>Mibora minima</i>	Early Sand-grass	RD2(UK), LBAP
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Common Broomrape	Locally important
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Common Broomrape	Locally important
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain	Locally important
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Sea Radish	LBAP, Locally important
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow-rattle	LBAP
<i>Sparganium erectum subsp.</i>	Branched Bur-Reed	WVP
<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	Corn Spurrey	RD1(UK), WVP, LBAP
<i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>	Autumn Lady's-tresses	RD1(UK), LBAP
<i>Trifolium ornithopodioides</i>	Bird's-foot Clover	LBAP, Locally important
<i>Ulex gallii</i>	Western Gorse	LBAP
<i>Valerianella dentata</i>	Narrow-fruited Cornsalad	RD1(UK), WVP, LBAP
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose	Locally important
<i>Vicia sativa subsp. nigra</i>	Narrow-leaved Vetch	WVP
<i>Viola lactea</i>	Pale Dog-violet	BAP, RD1(UK), RD2(UK), S7, LBAP
<i>Viola tricolor subsp. curtisii</i>	Seaside Pansy	RD1(UK), WVP, LBAP
<i>Zostera (Zostera) marina</i>	Eelgrass	Bern, RD1(UK), RD2(UK), LBAP
<i>Zostera (Zosterella) noltei</i>	Dwarf Eelgrass	RD1(UK), RD2(UK), LBAP
<i>Microcalicium arenarium</i>	Microcalicium arenarium	RD2(UK)
<i>Belonia incarnata</i>	Belonia incarnata	RD1(Wales)
<i>Callome multipartita</i>	Callome multipartita	RD2(UK), LBAP
<i>Massjukiella polycarpa</i>	Massjukiella polycarpa	S7
<i>Megalaria laureri</i>	Laurer's Catillaria	BAP, RD1(UK), WCA8
<i>Normandina pulchella</i>	Normandina pulchella	RD2(UK)
<i>Parmotrema perlatum</i>	Parmotrema perlatum	S7, LBAP
<i>Pertusaria chiodectonoides</i>	Pertusaria chiodectonoides	RD1(Wales), RD2(UK)
<i>Punctelia reddenda</i>	Punctelia reddenda	RD1(Wales), S7
<i>Pyrenula nitidella</i>	Pyrenula nitidella	RD1(UK)
<i>Ramalina fastigiata</i>	Ramalina fastigiata	S7, LBAP
<i>Teloschistes flavicans</i>	Golden hair-lichen	BAP, RD1(UK), RD1(Wales), S7,
<i>Tylothallia biformigera</i>	Tylothallia biformigera	RD2(UK)
<i>Zwackhia prosodea</i>	Zwackhia prosodea	BAP, RD1(UK), RD1(Wales),
<i>Zwackhia viridis</i>	Zwackhia viridis	RD1(UK)
<i>Bryum donianum</i>	Don's Thread-moss	RD2(UK), Locally important.
<i>Hygroamblystegium humile</i>	Constricted Feather-moss	RD1(Wales), RD2(UK), LBAP,

RD1(UK): Red Data Book listing for the UK based on IUCN guidelines, RD2(UK): Red Data Book listing for the UK not based on IUCN guidelines, RD1(Wales): Red Data Book listing for Wales based on IUCN

guidelines, WVP: IUCN Threat Listing of Welsh Vascular Plants, WCA8: Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 8 (Plants which are protected).

3.2.8 Invasive species included:

Table 3.3: Invasive species records.

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	New Zealand Pigmyweed
<i>Crocasmia pottsii x aurea = C. x crocosmiiflora</i>	Montbretia
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Canadian Waterweed
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Himalayan Balsam
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Rhododendron
<i>Spartina anglica</i>	Common Cord-grass
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese Knotweed

3.3 Fauna

3.3.1 The Study area and adjacent land was searched for signs of badger activity. No conclusive signs were observed, however a well-worn mammal track was present around the edge of the woodland along the verge of the A55.

3.3.2 The presence of an artificial sett had been reported in the vicinity of the Application Site; however this was not located during survey. The wooded area along the road verge was largely fenced off with a stone wall and surrounded by impenetrable bramble cover so it was not possible to search this thoroughly. The Study area was carefully searched and no signs were observed.

Bats

3.3.3 Records of common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus* and noctule *Nyctalus noctula* were returned.

3.3.4 The woodland landscaping around several of the Study area margins provides suitable opportunities for foraging bats and connectivity with the wider landscape. The pastoral field within which the Application Site is located supports a low floral diversity and is of limited interest for foraging bats.

3.3.5 No features with potential to support roosting bats were present within the Application Site or wider Study area.

Badger

3.3.6 Numerous records of badger were returned from Cofnod and a review of existing data from the wider Parc Cybi development identified an artificial badger sett immediately bordering the northern boundary of the Application Site. Records suggest the sett has only been periodically inhabited.

3.3.7 The Extended Phase 1 habitat survey included an extensive search for badger activity and for the sett location; however, no evidence of activity was recorded. The reported artificial sett was located on land outside the Study area and a high bank of bramble scrub separated the Application Site boundary and the most probable location of the artificial sett which obscured views.

Water vole / otter

- 3.3.8 A single record of water vole was returned and four records of otter *Lutra lutra*. Three of the otter records related to roadkill, with a single record in 2016 of an otter near to Holyhead Golf Course.
- 3.3.9 No suitable ditches or watercourses providing habitat for otter or water voles were present within the Study area.
- 3.3.10 There was a drainage ditch which had been constructed along the verge of the roundabout to the southwest, which supported some bulrush *Typha latifolia*, this was almost dry at the time of survey and sub-optimal in term of water vole and otter habitat. No signs of water vole or otter were observed along this drainage ditch

Hazel Dormouse

- 3.3.11 Hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* is not present within Anglesey3.

Birds

- 3.3.12 The Study area is likely to support a suite of common and widespread species, typical of the region. During field survey, the following species were observed or heard: common gull *Larus canus*, carrion crow *Corvus corone*, lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*, magpie *Pica pica*, blackbird *Turdus merula*, wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, goldcrest *Regulus regulus* and chaffinch *Fingilla coelebs*.

Table 3.3: Bird Records

Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Brent Goose	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	Mediterranean Gull
<i>Anser anser</i>	Greylag Goose	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Arctic Tern
<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Garganey	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich Tern
<i>Anas strepera</i>	Gadwall	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Black Guillemot
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Pochard	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Guillemot
<i>Aythya marila</i>	Scaup	<i>Alca torda</i>	Razorbill
<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Puffin
<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Eider	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Cuckoo
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Shelduck	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl
<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Common Scoter	<i>Apus apus</i>	Swift
<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Red-breasted	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Kingfisher
<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark
<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Swallow
<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	Manx Shearwater	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Sand Martin
<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Black-throated Diver	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	House Martin
<i>Gavia immer</i>	Great Northern Diver	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock
<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Red-throated Diver	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Black Redstart
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Cormorant	<i>Phoenicurus</i>	Redstart
<i>Phalacrocorax</i>	Shag	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Stonechat
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Wheatear
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Goshawk	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Ring Ouzel
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Kestrel	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Red Kite	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Whitethroat

Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Water Rail	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Goldcrest
<i>Haematopus</i>	Oystercatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Spotted Flycatcher
<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	Dotterel	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow Warbler
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Coal Tit
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Curlew	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Long-tailed Tit
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Hooded Crow
<i>interpres</i>	Turnstone	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Redshank	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow
<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Goldfinch
<i>Hydrocoloeus</i>	Little Gull	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Linnet
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Common Crossbill
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Lesser Black-backed	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Snow Bunting
<i>Larus marinus</i>	Great Black-backed	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Woodcock
<i>Pyrhhorcorax</i>	Chough		

Amphibians

- 3.3.13 Records of common toad *Bufo bufo*, common frog *Rana temporaria*, palmate newt *Lissotriton helveticus* and great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* were returned. The great crested newt record was over 1km west of the Application Site.
- 3.3.14 No ponds are present within the Study area. A shallow ephemeral pool was present within the wider field, but this was only c. 5cm in depth and would therefore be anticipated to be dry for the majority of the year. It was therefore considered unsuitable for breeding amphibians.
- 3.3.15 A damp roadside ditch was present to the south of the roundabout. This was almost dry at the time of survey but may be subject to fluctuating water levels due to management and supported wetland species such as bulrush. This waterbody was subject to a Habitat Suitability Index in accordance with the methodology outlined in the ARG UK Advice Note 5₄ as originally developed by Oldham *et al.*, 2000. The pond scored 0.62, indicating that it was of 'average' suitability for great crested newts *Triturus cristatus*.

Reptiles

- 3.3.16 Three records of slow worm were returned, one 500m north of the Application Site on the northern side of the A55. The young planted trees and tussocky grassland around the field margins provide the highest value for reptiles, although the Application Site was generally of limited interest with the improved grassland offering limited cover or foraging opportunities.

3.4 Invasive Non-native Species

- 3.4.1 No invasive species were recorded during the field survey.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Designated Sites for Nature Conservation

- 4.1.1 The Application Site does not form part of any statutory designated site for nature conservation.
- 4.1.2 The Application Site lies near to the Beddmanarch-Cymyran SSSI, Tre Willmot SSSI/SAC/SPA and Glannau Ynys Gybi SAC/SPA/SSSI but does not support any habitat that is functionally linked to any of the designated sites.
- 4.1.3 The Application Site lacks any habitat that would be used by mobile species that are qualifying features of these designated sites (in particular wetland and coastal birds which have very specific requirements). The Proposed Development would have no discernible effect in terms of habitat loss or fragmentation, or any loss of foraging resources.
- 4.1.4 No direct or indirect ecological effects are predicted upon any statutory designated site.
- 4.1.5 The Application Site is also not located within or adjacent to any non-statutory designated site for nature conservation. Three Local Wildlife Sites were identified during the desk study; these were primarily notified for their habitats. All three sites are located at distances (over 1.3km) and with no clear pathways for effects; the LWS are highly unlikely to be directly or indirectly affected by the Proposed Development.

4.2 Habitats and Flora

- 4.2.1 There are no habitats of biodiversity importance within the Application Site and no protected or notable plant species were recorded during the Extended Phase 1 habitat survey. No impacts upon such habitats or species would be expected to occur. The majority of habitat loss will include improved, species-poor grassland with the exception of a small area of semi-improved neutral grassland and scrub. No Habitats of Principal Importance in Wales will be affected by the proposals.
- 4.2.2 Indirect effects on immediately bordering habitats will be avoided through the implementation of standard pollution control measures to prevent pollution and run-off occurring during the construction phase, in line with Natural Resources Wales' guidelines and the installation of tree protection fencing.

4.3 Bats

- 4.3.1 Bats and their breeding and resting sites are protected in the UK under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations (as amended). It is an offence to:
- deliberately capture, injure or kill bats;
 - damage or destroy a breeding or resting place;
 - obstruct access to their resting or sheltering places;
 - possess, sell, control or transport live or dead bats, or parts of them; and/or
 - intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat while it's in a structure or place of shelter or protection.
- 4.3.2 No features were present within the Application Site or wider Study area that would offer bat roost (resting places or shelter potential).
- 4.3.3 Habitats present within the Application Site, largely comprising species poor grassland provide very limited foraging potential the majority of bat species. Direct habitat loss associated with the Proposed Development would be anticipated to have a negligible effect on local bat populations.

- 4.3.4 Nearby habitats including the planted broadleaved woodland and scrub vegetation may provide habitat for foraging bats but this will remain directly unaffected by the current proposal within the Application Site.
- 4.3.5 Depending on the positioning of lighting units, habitats around the periphery of the Application Site have some (low) potential to be affected by light spill and therefore affect foraging behaviour and commuting routes, albeit at a very local level. The locality is already subject to lighting from roads; nearby industrial facilities etc. Lighting from the Proposed Development will be directed into the Application Site, focused on operational areas, and light spill into adjoining habitat will be minimised as far as practicable within the design. Therefore, any new lighting associated with the Proposed Development is unlikely to result in any discernible increase to overall light levels.
- 4.3.6 The development is therefore not considered likely to affect the favourable conservation status of any bat species.

4.4 Badger

- 4.4.1 No setts were identified within or immediately adjacent to the Application Site; however there is a reported artificial sett on adjacent land but this was not located during the Phase 1 habitat survey. Therefore, badgers are likely to be locally present and may utilise the habitats within the Application Site on occasion as foraging habitat. There was a well-worn path but no conclusive evidence of badger activity at the time of survey but activity may be more prevalent during the spring and summer periods.
- 4.4.2 The artificial badger sett is potentially located within 30m of the Proposed Development boundary but the sett was considered likely inactive at the time of the Phase 1 habitat survey due to the lack of evidence of activity (although this could not be confirmed). It is recommended that prior to construction commencing, a pre-construction check of the artificial sett and all boundary areas for badger setts will be completed by a suitably qualified ecologist. If evidence of an active badger sett is found within 30m of the working area, then measures to ensure no harm or damage ensue will be implemented in accordance with the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.
- 4.4.3 Measures should also be implemented during construction to safeguard any badgers (and other wildlife) that may use the Application Site during non-operational hours. Any excavations left overnight should be covered or fitted with a mean of escape to prevent badgers becoming trapped. Any open pipes should be capped and all material should also be stored safely in a secure compound.

4.5 Birds

- 4.5.1 If construction works are completed outside of the breeding bird season (generally 01st March to 31st August), the Proposed Development will have no discernible effects on breeding birds given the size of the Application Site and its negligible value to any bird species. No species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) are considered likely to be present.
- 4.5.2 All wild birds, their nests and eggs in the UK are protected under the provisions of Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under Part 1, Section 1 it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take any wild bird; or take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or eggs of any wild bird. In addition to the protection afforded to all wild birds, species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), are afforded further protection. Under Part 1, Section 1 it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb a species listed on Schedule 1 whilst it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or to disturb their dependent young.

- 4.5.3 If vegetation removal works to the Application Site boundaries are unavoidable during the breeding season, potential nesting areas should be inspected by a suitably experienced ecologist prior to works commencing. Only when the ecologist is satisfied that no offence will occur under the legislation will works be permitted to proceed.
- 4.5.4 The construction phase of the development would not cause additional disturbance to qualifying species of Tre Willmot SPA and Glannau Ynys Gybi SPA due to the distance between the sites (1.7km) and presence of busy roads and village's in-between. Habitats within the Application Site are unsuitable for coastal and wetland birds associated with the designated sites and not considered to be present. Indirect effects to the designations will therefore not occur.
- 4.5.5 Once constructed the Proposed Development will not generate significant levels of noise and disruption over and above existing background levels, to which local bird populations are already likely to be habituated in this industrialised/urban locality. Breeding, foraging and movement of birds in and along adjoining habitats will therefore be unaffected.

4.6 Amphibians and Reptiles

- 4.6.1 No ponds or wetland habitat will be directly or indirectly affected by the Proposed Development. Nearby ditches will be protected from indirect pollution or runoff during construction through the implementation of standard control measures in line with Natural Resources Wales guidelines. Amphibian and reptile populations (including great crested newts if present in the locality) are not considered to be at risk from the Proposed Development due to lack of suitable habitat.
- 4.6.2 The Application Site offers negligible foraging habitat or refuge area for amphibians or reptiles, but the boundary scrub and semi-improved grassland habitats provide increased interest. As a precaution, a series of Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) will be implemented during the construction period to avoid inadvertent harm to individual amphibians or reptiles. These measures will include a Method Statement for works and a Toolbox Talk to guide the careful removal of vegetation as part of the construction phase. A summary RAMs statement is included as **Appendix 2**.

4.7 Other species

- 4.7.1 No other species are considered pertinent in relation to the Proposed Development.

5 SUMMARY - ECOLOGY PRIORITY MATRIX

Feature	Status / Legal Protection	Recommended Further Actions	Recommended Mitigation / Enhancement Measures
Designated Sites	Statutory/Non-statutory	n/a	Best practice construction methods in accordance with NRW guidelines, including pollution prevention measures.
General Habitat	n/a	n/a	Best practice construction methods in accordance with NRW guidelines, including pollution prevention measures.
Bats	WCA, Habitat Regs. 2010	n/a	Lighting focused away from boundary habitats to minimise light spill to foraging and commuting corridors.
Badgers	Protection of Badgers Act 1992	Pre-construction search for badger setts	Adoption of best practice construction methods (see 4.4.3)
Birds	Annex 1, WCA, S7, UKBAP	n/a	Vegetation clearance to avoid breeding season, or preceded by nest checks by ecologist if not.
Reptiles and Amphibians	WCA, Habitat Regs. 2010	n/a	Reasonable Avoidance Measures during construction (see Appendix 2)
Other Species	S7, UKBAP	n/a	n/a

Ecology Priority Matrix Key

BHS – Biological Heritage Site

Annex 1 – Listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive

WCA – Listed on Schedule 1, 5, 8 or 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Habitat Regs. 2010 – Listed on Schedule 2, 3, or 4 of the Habitats Regulations

S7 – Species listed on Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

UK/LBAP – UK/Local Biodiversity Action Plan

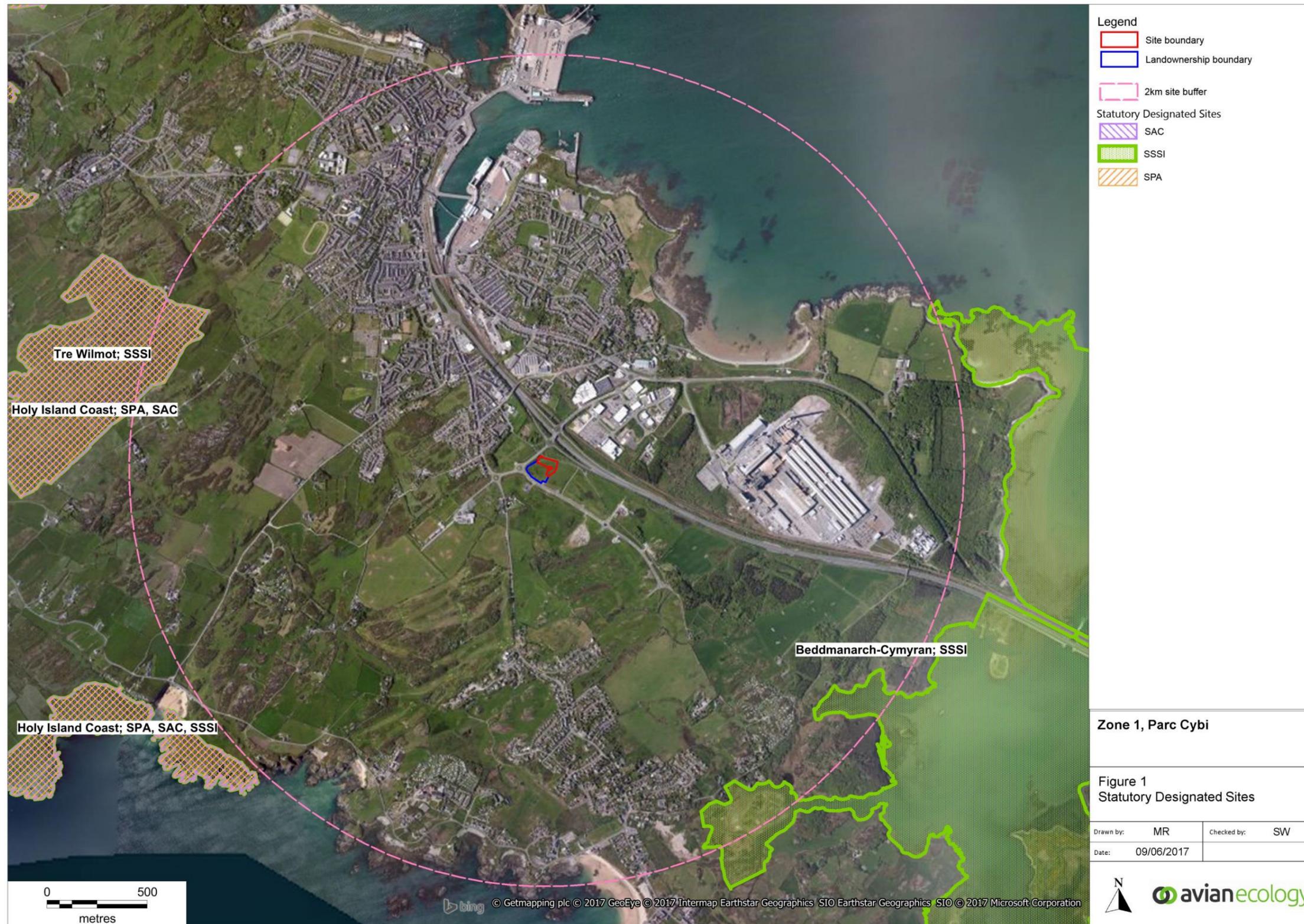
FIGURE 1

Designated Site Locations

FIGURE 2

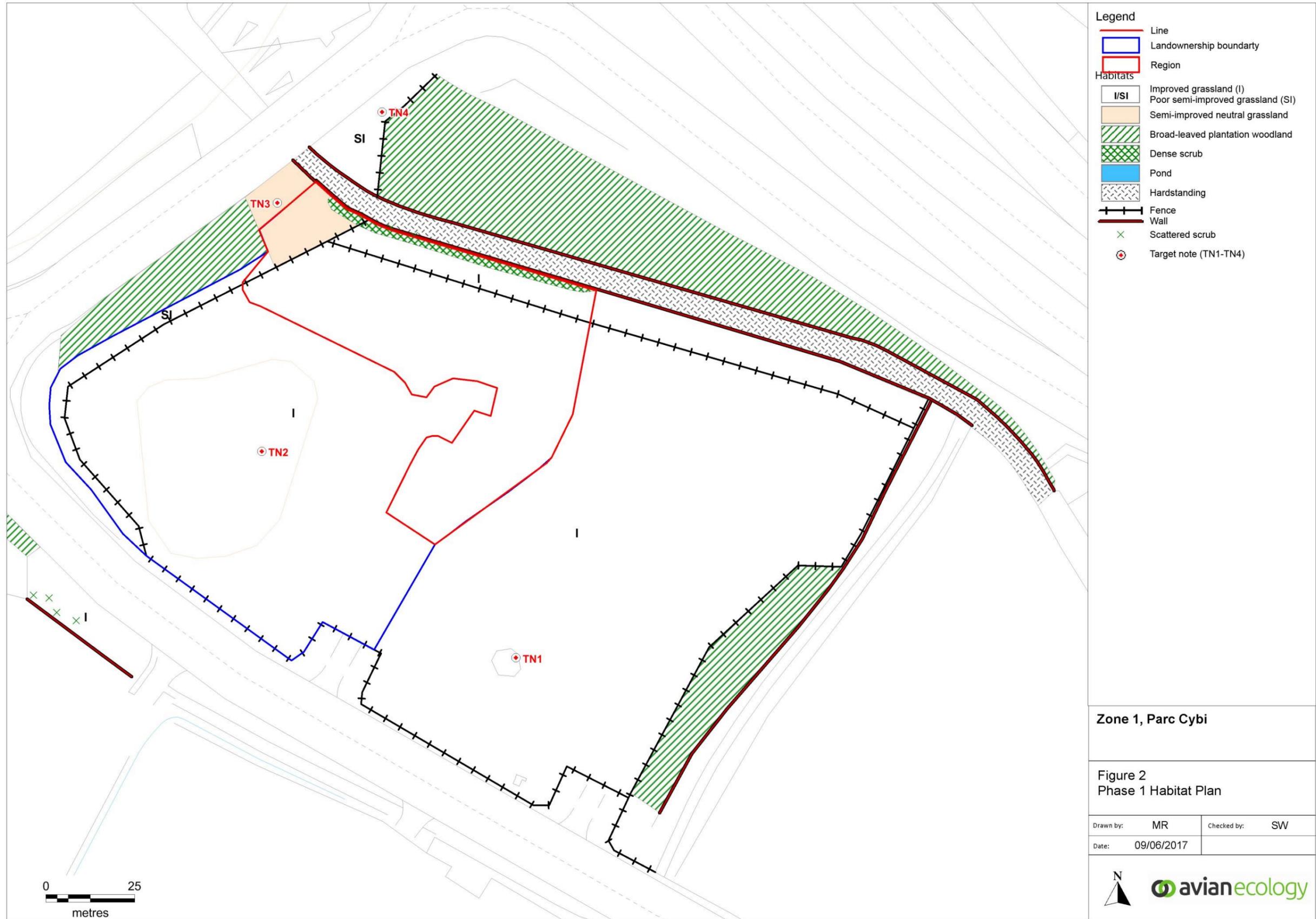
Phase 1 Habitat Survey

FIGURE 1 – STATUTORY DESIGNATED SITES



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FIGURE 2 – HABITAT PLAN



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APPENDIX 1: Photographs



Ephemeral pool at TN1.



Dry-stone wall.



Improved grassland sward (TN2).



Neutral semi-improved
grassland (TN3).



Mammal path (TN4)



Tarmacked path to north.

APPENDIX 2: Outline Reasonable Avoidance Measures: Amphibians and Reptiles

Legislation

Great crested newts (GCN) are European Protected Species (EPS) and they and their habitat are fully protected under national (Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)) and European law (The Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)). The combined legislation makes it illegal to:

- intentionally or deliberately capture, kill or injure a great crested newt;
- intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used for shelter and protection including resting and breeding places, whether occupied or not;
- deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb a great crested newt when in a place of shelter;
- possess a great crested newt, or any part of it, unless acquired lawfully;
- sell, barter, exchange or transport or offer for sale great crested newts or parts of them.

Anyone carrying out activities which may affect EPS must consider the presence of EPS, their breeding sites and resting places. Good practice guidance is available from Natural England, which advises on assessing for the presence of EPS, and the possible impact of operations (including strategies for avoiding committing offences). If an offence cannot be avoided, then a derogation licence should be sought from Natural Resources Wales.

Common reptile species namely the common lizard, slow-worm, grass snake and adder are protected against killing, injuring and sale.

Method Statement Objectives

This Application Site is unlikely to support any protected species, however a precautionary approach is being adopted in line with good practice. The objectives of this method statement are therefore to:-

- Avoid committing an offence under the above legislation; and,
- To ensure that the favourable conservation status of the species concerned is maintained.

Any construction-related activities within the Application Site, such as vegetation clearance or bund removal in areas of suitable amphibian or reptile habitat may potentially affect individual animals. The Method Statement below details measures to be implemented to ensure these objectives are achieved. If these measures are followed then both objectives will be achieved without the need for a derogation license from Natural Resources Wales.

Method Statement

This Method Statement should be followed for the minor works within the Application Site, which may affect the surrounding terrestrial habitat. Minor or short term destructive or disturbance works (e.g. bund removal) will also follow this Method Statement.

The following measures will be adopted throughout the construction period of the proposed development:

- Site operatives will be informed by 'tool box' talk at the start of the construction period on ecological responsibilities and what to look out for during development works.
- Site operatives will keep a watching brief throughout the construction phase; especially during initial ground clearance operations.
- Between March and October inclusive (when amphibians and reptiles are active) the following measures will be implemented:
 - Should any trenches and excavations be required, these should be covered, if not an escape route for animals that enter the trench must be provided, especially if left open overnight. Ramps should be no greater than of 45 degrees in angle. Ideally, any holes should be securely covered.
 - All excavations left open overnight or longer should be checked for animals prior to the continuation of works or infilling.
 - Any excavated material should be placed on boards or sheeting to reduced damage to the grass sward (if present). If left overnight this material should be searched prior to being used as infill.
- If a great crested newt is found, work must **stop immediately** and contact should be made with a licensed, qualified ecologist, who will liaise with Natural Resources Wales.