Ben Jones Ecology
10 Oldford Rise
Welshpool
Powys
SY21 7SZ

L BJ23-022.1

13 December 2023

Mr Steve Williams
Streetwise Training
Llay Hall Industrial Estate
Cefn-y-Bedd
Wrexham
LL12 9YG

ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REGARDING RETROSPECTIVE CHANGE OF USE.

Streetwise Training has an area of Llay Hall Industrial Estate for forklift driver training, which was cleared and formed into its current state after 2020. Analysis of historic aerial imagery shows the site being green in June 2020. Discussion with the client and neighbouring business owners suggest the site was overgrown with ruderal and weeds, including dense bramble. The aerial imagery at the time concurs, with low lying greenery rather than trees evident in the historic satellite views.

The site currently supports cleared areas and trackways used to train forklift drivers. Amongst these tracks and around the exterior there are mature trees and vegetated slopes.



Figure 1. Track up to training area



Figure 2. Cleared area

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Figure 3. Storages and skips



Figure 4. Drone view showing training areas and surrounding trees

The habitat lost by clearance is generally of low ecological value. Connectivity around the site has been retained, and mature trees are still present. Historic views compared to present views suggest no mature trees were removed, though some smaller trees may have been cleared.

The eastern boundary is currently a heras panel fence separating site from the surrounding trees. The client is keen to plant a native species hedgerow along this boundary. Plants to be used for this will include locally sourced native species. These will be planted in accordance with BS3936 (part 1, 1992, Nursery Stock, Specifications for trees and shrubs). Planting will occur between November and April depending on the timing of the development.

Table 1. New hedge planting scheme

Common Name	*Latin Name*	Distribution (%)
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	35%
Blackthorn	*Prunus spinosa*	35%
Hazel	*Corylus avellana*	10%
Holly	*Ilex aquifolium*	10%
Wild Service Tree	*Sorbus torminalis*	10%

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Table 2. Fruiting plant enhancement

Common Name	*Latin Name*
Crab Apple	*Malus sylvestris*
Wild Cherry	*Prunus avium*
Wild Pear	*Pyrus communis*



Figure 5. Eastern boundary to be planted with a hedge

No further clearance work is anticipated, and the habitats lost are thought unlikely to be of significant ecological value. The proposed planting on site boundaries will go some way to replacing the lost habitat value. There is opportunity to further enhance for wildlife by erecting artificial bat and bird boxes around site in the mature trees.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

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Name	Membership of associations/ experience	Licenses
Ben Jones BSc(hons) MSc	Senior Consultant MCIEEM Ben has a degree in Marine and Freshwater biology and a Master's degree in "Managing the Environment". He has 8 years' experience conducting environmental appraisals and phase 2 surveys for bats and newts in England and Wales. As a member of the CIEEM he is bound by professional conduct.	Holder of survey licenses for bats and newts in England and Wales. <u>England:</u> Bats - 2017-29112-CLS-CLS GCN - 2016-25209-CLS-CLS <u>Wales:</u> Bats – S091847/1 GCN – S091242/1
Logan Maggs BSc(hons) Of Barns Ecology	Senior Consultant Logan has a degree in Conservation and Land Management. He has over 10 years' experience conducting environmental appraisals and phase 2 surveys for bats and newts in England and Wales.	Holder of survey licenses for bats and newts in England and Wales. <u>England:</u> Bats - 2016-24901-CLS-CLS GCN - 2017-29218-CLS-CLS <u>Wales:</u> Bats – S091096/1