Ecological Impact Assessment at

Gwel y Dyffryn,

Garth Road, Garth,

Trevor LL20 7UR

Grid Ref. SJ 2590 4271

On 20th December 2024

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1. Summary

The purpose of the report is to assess the potential ecological impacts of a proposed development at Gwel y Dyffryn, Garth Trevor and advise on any mitigation measures to comply with local planning policy and government legislation.

The proposed scheme involves the construction of a dwelling with associated access

The site and adjacent land were examined to establish the presence of or evidence of use by protected species of animals. None was found. The site is suitable for foraging and commuting bats and birds.

A lighting plan should be designed in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust guidelines: https://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/
Tree planting is required to ensure adequate compensation and a bat and bird box incorporated into the new dwelling to provide Net Biodiversity Benefit in accordance with legislation.
Trees should not be felled between the beginning of March and the end of September to avoid disturbance to any nesting birds.

If the recommended mitigation measures are taken there should be no net loss of nesting sites, nor any danger of harm to any species.

2. Introduction

Susan Worsfold BSc (Hons) ACIEEM is an experienced wildlife surveyor, licensed bat worker and voluntary bat roost visitor. Registration number CLS0895 2015-12555-CLS-CLS (CL15 Bat Roost Visitor Level 1) and registration number CLS 0895 2015-12556-CLS-CLS (CL18 Bat Survey Level 2) (Natural England) and S086005/1 (Natural Resources Wales);
Licensed great crested newt worker, registration number 2016-19947-CLS-CLS (NE) and S086057/1 (NRW)
This report was commissioned by Spencer Cullis for the client.
The site comprises an area of domestic garden.
The proposed scheme involves construction of a new dwelling with associated access.
The purpose of the report is to identify and address any significant ecological effects which are likely to occur as a result of the proposed development. This is necessary to comply with local planning policy and government legislation and avoid any offence being committed. Also, to describe any compensation, mitigation and enhancement measures which should be taken.

3. Methodology

3.1. Scope of the Assessment

The report incorporates an extended phase 1 habitat survey, searching for use or potential use by any rare, threatened, endemic and non-native invasive species which might be associated with such a site in accordance with:
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and listed in:
Schedule 2. European protected species of animals
Schedule 5. European protected species of plants
The protection of Badgers Act 1992
Protected species which might be associated with such a site include bats, owls and other breeding birds. The area around the site might be used by badgers, dormice, amphibians and reptiles, and might contain protected plant species.
The visual assessment of the site was carried out in accordance with CIEEM guidelines (CIEEM 2017) on 20th December 2024 by Susan Worsfold BSc (Hons) ACIEEM.

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3.2. Desk Study

Wrexham Planning Portal was consulted for a review of previous ecological surveys carried out in the area. Magic Maps was consulted for the presence of designated sites and protected habitats. Maps of the site and surrounding environment were examined to identify any nearby waterbodies suitable for use by great crested newts within an influencing distance of the site.

3.3. Field Survey

The site was examined to establish the presence of any protected species or habitats, and for evidence of use by protected species of animals. Trees were assessed for suitability for use by bats and birds. The site and surrounding habitat was examined for signs of use by badgers and dormice. The variety of plant species was mapped according to the convention of Phase 1 habitat surveys as described by the JNCC (2010). Photographs were taken of all relevant areas. The visual assessment of the site was carried out in accordance with CIEEM guidelines (CIEEM 2017) on 20th December 2024 by Susan Worsfold BSc (Hons) ACIEEM.
Photographs were taken of all areas and those of relevance are shown in the appendices.

4. Baseline Ecological Conditions/Results

4.1 Designated Sites

The nearest designated sites are Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains (SAC) and Ruabon / Llantysilio Mountains and Minera (SSSI) 1 km north west and River Dee and Bala Lake (SAC) and River Dee (SSSI) 1 km south east.

4.2 Habitats

Site: The area of the site to be affected is approximately 0.1 ha. It is in a rural village location and forms part of the garden of the existing dwelling. Boundaries are conifer hedge, which will remain. There were two small ornamental former fish ponds at the southern end of the site. There were numerous conifers, other trees and mature shrubs in the garden, as well as several conifers at the southern end where access is proposed and a large pine near the proposed site of the new dwelling. There was an area of scrub at the northern section which was formerly used for chickens. Adjacent land: Arable, pastoral, part residential. Nearest woodland 200 m east. Llangollen canal 500 m north.. There is a good network of hedgerows surrounding the site. There are no other ponds shown on maps or visible within 250 m.

4.3 Species and Species Groups

Invertebrates
The site has limited value for use by invertebrates and none were seen at the time of the survey.

Amphibians and Reptiles
None seen. There are no suitable ponds within 250 m.

Birds
The hedges and trees on site and those adjacent could provide food and shelter for birds and also nesting potential. Two blackbirds were seen at the time of the survey.

Bats
The site is suitable for use by foraging and commuting bats.

Badgers
[redacted]

Plants
Grasses, rhododendron, conifers, pine, buddleia, bramble, primula, burdock, mosses, herb robert, sow thistle, dandelion.

No species of conservation value or Schedule 9 species were seen on site. No rare or threatened species of plants were found on site or near the site.

5. Description of the Development

The proposed scheme involves the construction of a new dwelling with associated access. This will involve the removal of some short grass and seven conifers.

6. Assessment of Effects and Mitigation Measures

Designated Sites:
It is not considered that the proposal will have any significant impact on any designated sites due to the low impact of the project and distance from the sites.

Habitats:
No priority habitat is affected by the proposal. Seven conifers will be removed. This will need to be done between the beginning of March and the end of August to ensure no nesting birds are harmed.

Species:
Birds
Trees should not be felled between the beginning of March and the end of August to ensure no nesting birds are harmed.

Bats
There is not considered to be any threat to the conservation status of bats or danger of harm to individuals. None of the trees to be lost possessed any potential roost features. The site is suitable for foraging and commuting bats. Lighting should be in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust guidelines: https://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/

Reptiles and Amphibians
No reptiles or amphibians should be in any significant danger of harm due to the work. The ponds are too small to support any breeding populations of amphibians.

Plants
21 trees will need to be planted to replace those lost. The majority of these will be in the disused area to the north. The rest will be planted in other areas of the garden. These will be a mixture of native species such as field maple (*Acer campestre*) crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*)

Residual Effects
No significant residual effects anticipated.

7. Compensation

n/a

8. Net Biodiversity Benefit

An integrated crevice dwelling bat box to be incorporated into the south west side of the new dwelling. Further information is given in the bat box information pack available at https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/bat-boxes.
An integrated bird box suitable for small birds such as robin, blackbird, tit species and sparrow to be incorporated into the north east side of the garage or annex:
House Sparrow Terrace - Wooden (or woodcrete) nest box with 3 sub-divisions to support 3 nesting pairs. To be placed under the eaves. Entrance holes: 32mm diameter. Dimensions: H310 x W370 x D185mm. Also suitable for tits, redstarts and spotted flycatchers. Place at least 2 m from the ground.

9. Ecological Constraints

None identified.

10. Monitoring

Not considered necessary.

11. Conclusions

If the recommended mitigation and enhancement measures are taken there will be a net gain in biodiversity and no net loss of roosting or nesting sites, nor any danger of harm to any species.

12. Bibliography

Bat Conservation Trust available at: http://www.bats.org.uk

BCT and ILP Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting available at: https://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/

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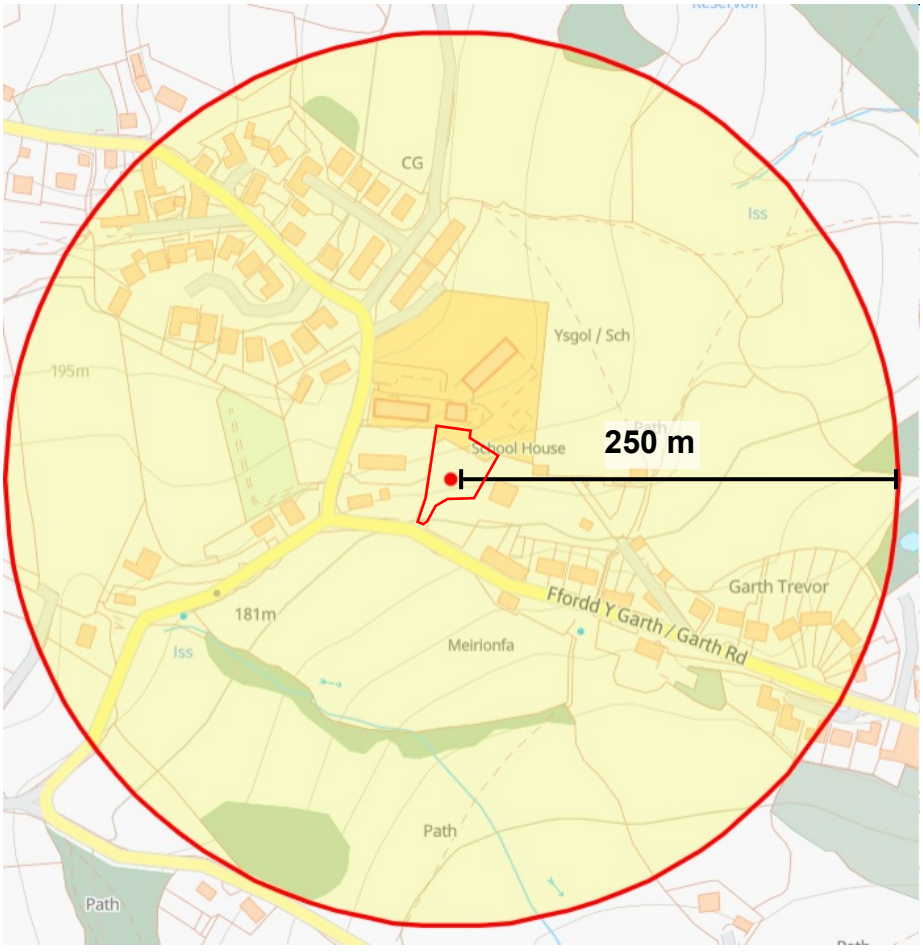
Wildlife and Habitat Conservation available at: https://www.gov.uk/topic/environmental-management/wildlife-habitat-conservation

Wrexham Council Planning Portal available at: http://planning.wrexham.gov.uk/Planning/lg/GFPlanningSearch.page

Appendix 13.1: Aerial Photograph



Appendix 13.2: Designated Sites and Zones of Influence



Appendix 13.3: Photographs



View from the south



View from the north





Ornamental ponds

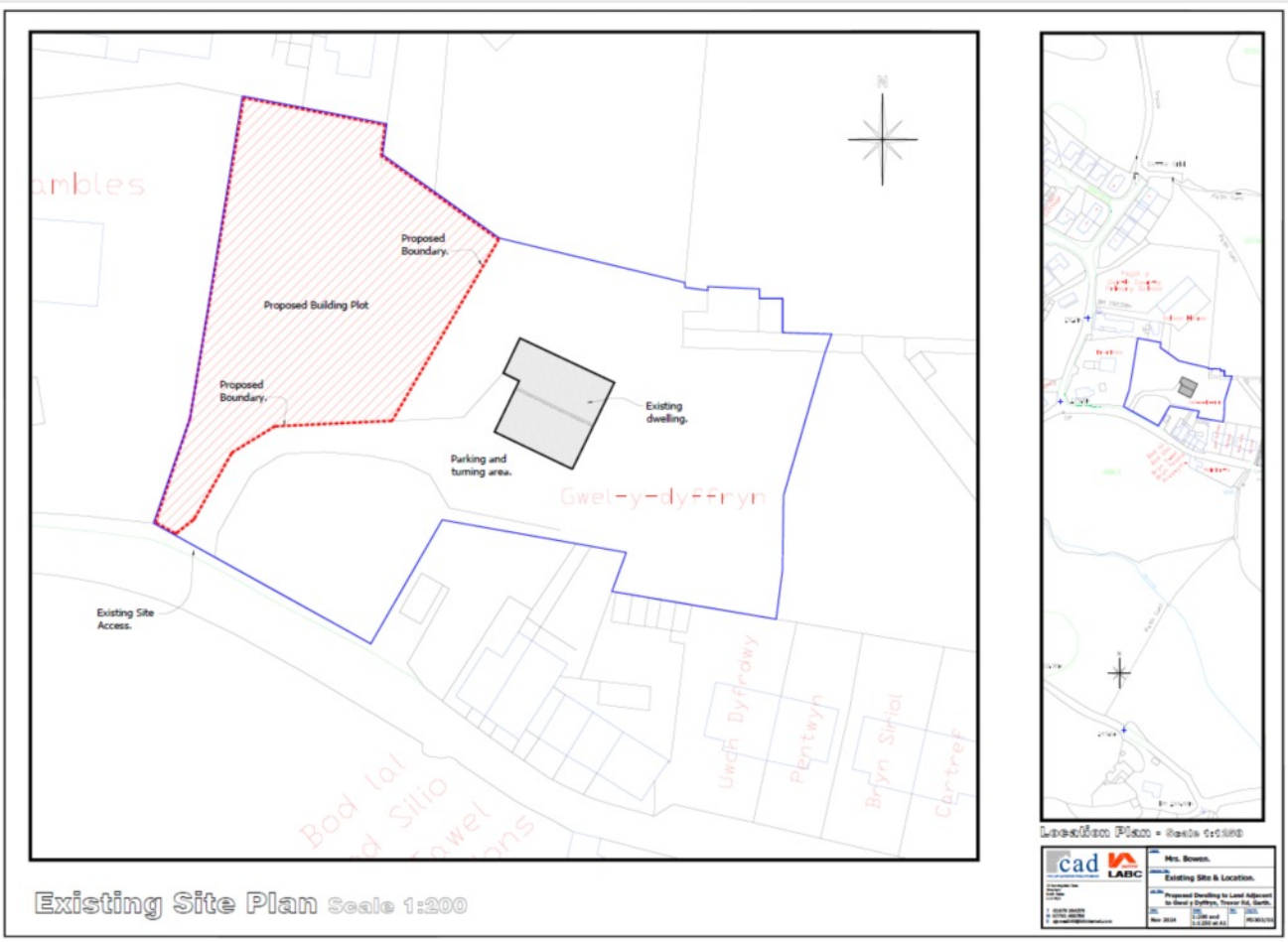
Appendix 13.3: Photographs



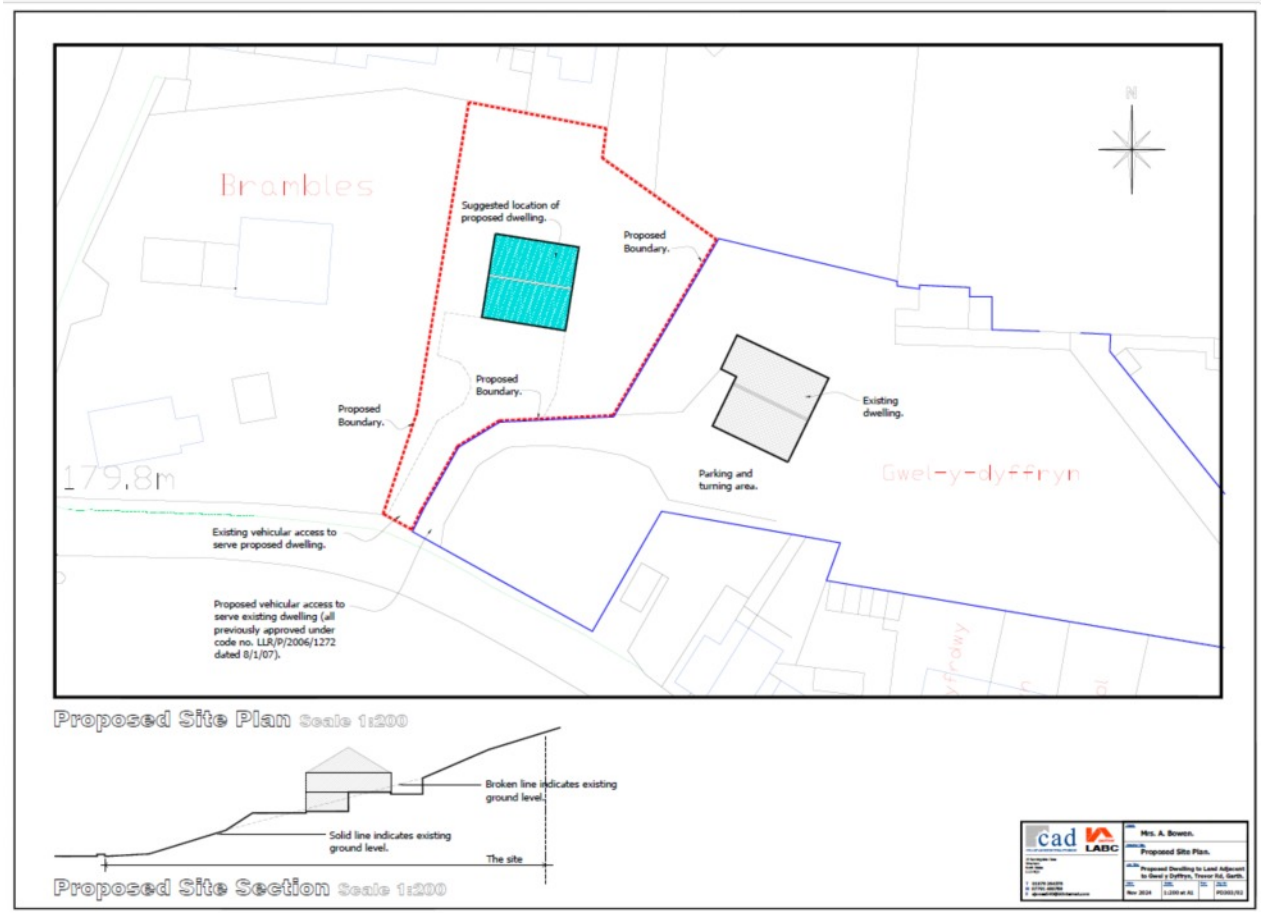




Appendix 13.4: Site Plan as Existing



Appendix 13.4: Site Plan as Proposed



Appendix 13.5: Legislation Relating to Birds

All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected. It is an offence to intentionally:

- kill, injure or take any wild bird,
- take, damage or destroy the nest of a Golden Eagle, White-tailed Eagle or Osprey (even if disused),
- take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built,
- take, damage or destroy an egg or any wild bird,
- possess any live or dead wild bird or the egg of any wild bird, or any derivative

Many rare birds are listed on Schedule 1, which makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

- disturb a Schedule 1 bird while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or
- disturb dependent young of such a bird

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) issues licences for specific purposes, so that you can undertake legitimate work without breaking the law. See ‘Bird licensing’ for more information.