

Technical Report

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report

Ysgol y Hafod (Infant Site) Johnstown, Wrexham

Wynne Construction Ltd

September 2021



Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Terms of Reference	1
1.2	Site Location and Description	1
1.3	Objectives	1
2	Relevant Legislation	2
2.1	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2017	2
2.2	Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981	2
3	Methodology	4
3.1	Desk Study	4
3.2	Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey	4
3.3	Limitations	5
4	Results	6
4.1	Desk study	6
4.1.1	Statutory Designated Sites	6
4.1.2	Non-statutory Designated Sites	6
4.1.3	Species of Conservation Interest	7
4.2	Field Survey	10
4.2.1	On-site Habitats	10
4.2.2	Off-site Habitats	10
5	Evaluation and Recommendations	13
5.1	Proposed Works	13
5.2	Statutory Designated Sites	13
5.3	Habitats	13
5.4	Species	13
5.5	Invasive Species	15
6	References	16
7	Figure	17
	Appendices	18
	Appendix A. Images and Target Notes	18

Contents

Tables

Table 1:	Non-statutory sites within 2 km of the Proposed Site	6
Table 2:	Bat records within 2 km of the Site	8

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1 Introduction

1.1 Terms of Reference

In July 2021, Atmos Consulting Ltd. (Atmos) were commissioned by Wynne Construction Ltd to undertake an Extended Phase 1 Ecology Survey of land within Ysgol yr Hafod infant school site, Johnstown, hereafter referred to as the 'Site'.

As part of the works associated with the separate Ysgol Yr Hafod Junior site on Bangor Road, the existing pupils are to be relocated to this Infant site and accommodated in Portacabins on the school playing fields.

1.2 Site Location and Description

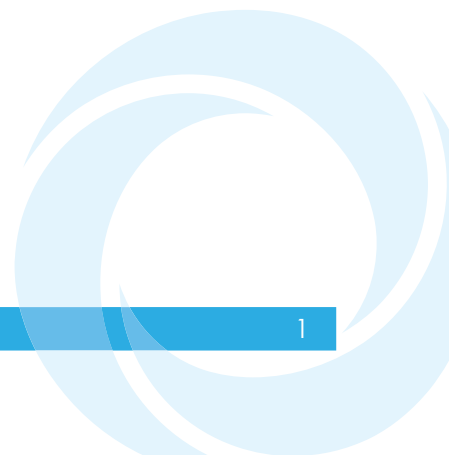
The Site is located on Melyd Road, Johnstown, Wrexham, LL14 2TB to the west of the A483 road. The site primarily exists of improved grassland playing fields bordered by species rich hedgerows, hardstanding, school buildings and smaller structures such as small wooden storage sheds.

The surrounding area consists mainly of housing estate and residential gardens.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of this study are to:

- undertake an extended Phase I habitat survey to describe the baseline ecological status of the site, including an appropriate buffer;
- to determine the potential of the site and the buffer area to support protected species;
- to make an assessment of the likely effects that development of the site could have on protected species; and
- to put forward recommendations for further ecological survey work/mitigation that may be required.



2 Relevant Legislation

2.1 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2017

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, (the Habitats Regulations) consolidate the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 with subsequent amendments. The Regulations transpose Council Directive 92/43/EEC, on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive), into national law. They also transpose elements of the EU Wild Birds Directive in England and Wales. The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites ('Natura 2000 Sites termed Special Areas of Conservation SACs or Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The Regulations designate these sites as being important for either habitats or species (listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive respectively).

2.2 Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981

National legislation for the special protection of selected species is provided in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended (WCA) and the Habitats Regulations.

Under Section 1(1) and 1(2) of the WCA, all British bird species, their nests and eggs (excluding some pest and game species) are protected from intentional killing, injury or damage. Under Sections 1(4) and 1(5), special penalties are applied to bird species included in Schedule 1 of the WCA and protection is extended for these species to disturbance to birds whilst building, in or near a nest and disturbance to dependant young. Schedule 5 provides special protection to selected animal species other than birds, through Section 9(4) of the WCA, against damage to "any structure or place which any [wild animal included in the schedule] uses for shelter and protection" and against disturbance whilst in such places.

Non-native invasive plants are listed in Schedule 9 of the WCA which makes it an offence to spread or enable them to be spread in the wild. The list includes species such as Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* and Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*.

A number of animals, known as European protected species (EPS), are provided full protection through inclusion in Schedule 2 of The Habitats Regulations. The Habitats Regulations provide protection against deliberate disturbance to those animals wherever they are present and provides tests against which the permission for a development (that may have an effect on a Schedule 2 protected species) must be assessed before permission can be given.

In addition to species protection, the WCA and Habitats Regulations also set out requirements/procedures for the notification, designation and protection of a range of statutory site designations in order to preserve important nature conservation resources.

All public authorities have a requirement to pay due regard to the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species through the Environment Wales Act (2016).

Section 7 provides a list of habitat and species that are considered to be of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in Wales.

3 Methodology

3.1 Desk Study

A review of online data was undertaken in August 2021 to gather details of statutory nature conservation designations within 2 km of the Site, e.g. Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Ramsar Sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).

The North Wales Environmental Information Centre (Cofnod) was contacted in August 2021 to obtain the following ecological data:

- Details of non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance within 2 km of the Site, e.g. areas included on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI), Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs) and Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs); and
- Details of legally protected species or otherwise notable species within 2 km of the Site. An upper data limit of 25 years was applied to the search. It must be noted that the distances of records from the site are measured from the centre of the site rather than the site boundary.

A review of Ordnance Survey maps and aerial images was also undertaken to identify the presence of waterbodies within 500 m of the Site. Great crested newts *Triturus cristatus*, which are protected together with their habitats, can travel relatively large distances between breeding ponds and terrestrial habitat. Following guidance issued by Natural England (English Nature, 2001), land within 500 m of a great crested newt breeding pond should be treated as potential great crested newt terrestrial habitat and evaluated accordingly.

3.2 Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

An extended Phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken by an experienced ecologist on the 20th August 2021. It included land within the site boundary and a 100 m buffer, where access permitted. A Phase I habitat survey is a standardised method of recording habitat types and characteristic vegetation, as set out in the Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – a technique for Environmental Audit (JNCC, 2010).

The Phase I survey method is 'extended' through the additional recording of specific features indicating the presence, or likely presence, of protected species or other species of nature conservation significance.

In addition to mapping out habitats, a series of target notes were produced to highlight features of ecological interest, or any other features that may present a potential constraint to the proposed development. Whilst not a full protected species or botanical survey, the extended Phase I method enables a suitably experienced ecologist to undertake a baseline ecological appraisal of the site that:

- Provides a preliminary evaluation of the nature conservation significance of the site and assesses the potential for impacts on habitats/species likely to represent a material consideration in planning terms; and
- Determines the scope of further specialized surveys that may be required to inform an ecological assessment.

3.3 Limitations

The extended Phase I habitat surveys were undertaken during what is considered to be the optimal time for undertaking such surveys (typically April to September, inclusive) and so timing was not considered to be a limitation.

A pond was observed within the wider survey area that was fenced off and not accessible. It was assessed from the gate which meant it was not possible to identify all aquatic plants present.

The Site was walked over by a suitably competent ecologist, no other access issues were perceived.

4 Results

4.1 Desk study

4.1.1 Statutory Designated Sites

Two statutory designated sites were found within 2 km of the Site, these were Johnstown Newt Sites Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Stryt Las A'r Hafod Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Johnstown Newt Sites SAC

Johnstown Newt Sites is located 0.3km to the east and west of the Site, separated by residential development. The Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site are great crested newt.

Stryt Las A'r Hafod SSSI

Stryt Las A'r Hafod SSSI is a 69.4ha site 0.3km to the east and west of the Site and is contiguous with the Johnstown Newt Sites above. Stryt Las A'r Hafod SSSI is of special interest for its amphibians, particularly its population of the great crested newt. The majority of water bodies at the site originated following the cessation of coal mining and quarrying for clay at the site, however others, particularly at Hafod, were specifically created for amphibian conservation purposes.

4.1.2 Non-statutory Designated Sites

The Site does not lie directly within any non-statutory designated sites. There are 18 Ancient Woodland Sites (AWS) within 2km of the Site. The closest ancient woodland site is located 0.5 km south west of the Site. There are also 4 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) within 2km of the Site, details of which can be found below.

Table 1: Non-statutory sites within 2 km of the Proposed Site

LWS name	Distance and direction from the Site	Description
Garden Fort Wood	0.8 km SW	A steep sided semi natural broad-leaved woodland dominated by beech with an understory of holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> and a ground flora of bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> and ferns throughout. There are also some areas of semi-improved neutral grassland.
Garden Wood/Rocky Wood	1.5 km SW	Semi natural broad-leaved woodland dominated by sessile oak <i>Quercus petraea</i> .
Crematorium	1.8 km N	Behind the crematorium is semi natural broad-leaved woodland with patches of parkland containing scattered trees. There are two hay meadows in front of the crematorium that are herb-rich semi-improved neutral grassland.
Erdig Estate	1.8 km NE	A National Trust Estate with woodlands, semi-improved neutral grasslands and marshes. Most of the grasslands are improved but several areas are managed for wildlife.

4.1.3 Species of Conservation Interest

Amphibians

There are over 1000 records of amphibian within 2km of the Site, predominantly due to the internationally and nationally designated nature conservation sites within this buffer. Amphibian records include smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris*, palmate newt *L. helveticus*, great crested newt, common frog *Rana temporaria* and common toad *Bufo bufo*. The most recent record of great crested newt was made on the 19/05/2021 at Hafod which is part of the Stryt Las A'r Hafod SSSI designated for the presence of great crested newts. The closest record was logged 0.3km from the site at Aberderfyn in 2019.

Plants

There are 28 species of vascular plant recorded within 2km of the Site, of these bluebell is the only species that is protected under Schedule 8 (Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981).

Invertebrates

There are 28 invertebrate records predominantly made up of beetle (Coleoptera) and butterfly records. However, there are also some records of caddis fly, dragonfly, moths, stone flies and true flies.

Although not recorded on Site, small heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*, dingy skipper *Erynnis tages*, grayling *Hipparchia semele* and wall *Lasiommata megera* have been recorded within the 2km Site buffer. Dingy skipper and grayling are listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan as priority species. The closest record of dingy skipper was 0.4km from the Site, recorded in 2003. Whereas the closest record of grayling was made 1km from the Site in 2005.

Small heath, dingy skipper, grayling and wall butterflies and the cinnabar moth *Tyria jacobaeae* are also listed under Section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. The closest record of small heath was made 1km from the Site at Bonc-yr-Hafod Picnic Mountain in 2005. There are seven records of the wall butterfly made at Bonc-yr-Hafod, with the closest record 1km from the Site in 2005. There are two records of cinnabar moth, the closest record is also the most recent and was made in 2018 at Brandie Brook, which is 0.4km from the Site.

None of the species records are of species protected under Schedule 5 (Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981).

Fish

There are five fish records of eel *Anguilla anguilla* and one record of brown sea trout *Salmo trutta*. The closest record to the site was of an eel recorded at Bonc y Hafod Country Park 0.6km from the Site in 2016; this was also the most recent record.

Reptiles

There are 11 records of reptiles within 2km of the site, these are all of grass snake *Natrix natrix*. Those closest record is 0.3 km from the site whereas the most recent record was made in 2016 at Tatham Farm which is 1.6 km from the Site.

Birds

299 bird records were returned by the data search. Of these records, those protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 are barn owl *Tyto alba*, hobby *Falco subbuteo*, kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* and peregrine *Falco peregrinus*.

Further species are listed to be of conservation concern through inclusion in UK BAP/S. 42 NERC/S7 Environment Act Wales as follows: skylark *Alauda arvensis*, bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*, cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*, yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*, reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*, herring gull *Larus argentatus*, yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava*, spotted flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*, curlew *Numenius arquata*, house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, wood warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*, dunnoek *Prunella modularis*, bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur*, starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, song thrush *Turdus philomelos* and lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

Willow tit *Poecile montana* and marsh tit *Poecile palustris* are included only under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan as priority species and black-headed gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, lesser spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*, kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, spotted flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* and tree sparrow *Passer montanus* are included only under Section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

None of the above-mentioned species were recorded on Site, but within the 2km data search buffer.

Bats

There were no bat records from within the Site boundary, but seven bat species were recorded within 2km of the Site, along with further records of unknown bats and records of bats that were not identified down to species level. An overview of the bat records within 2km of the Site can be seen below in Table 2.

Table 2: Bat records within 2 km of the Site

Species	No. of records	Most recent record	Distance of most recent record from site centre (km)	Roost records within 2km of site centre
<i>Chiroptera</i> Unknown bat	2	2018	0.4 km	1
<i>Myotis</i> Spp <i>Myotis</i> Bat Species	3	2008	0.4 km	0
<i>Myotis daubentonii</i> Daubenton's Bat	2	2008	0.4 km	0
<i>Myotis mystacinus</i> Whiskered Bat	2	2008	0.4 km	0
<i>Myotis nattereri</i> Natterer's Bat	1	2008	0.4 km	0
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i> Noctule Bat	3	2019	1.3 km	0
<i>Pipistrellus</i> Spp <i>Pipistrellus</i> Bat Species	5	2015	1.7 km	2
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	7	2019	0.2 km	1

Species	No. of records	Most recent record	Distance of most recent record from site centre (km)	Roost records within 2km of site centre
Common Pipistrelle				
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i> Soprano Pipistrelle	4	2016	1.3 km	0
<i>Plecotus auritus</i> Brown Long-eared Bat	4	2016	1.2 km	1

Badgers

The data search returned 13 records of badger *Meles meles*. The closest record to the site was of badger snuffle holes recorded at Brandie Brook 0.4km from the Site, this record was made in March 2018. This was also the most recent record.

Otter

The data search returned four records of otter *Lutra lutra* within 2km of the Site. The closest record was of roadkill 1.7km from the site. The most recent record was made in 2019 1.9km from the Site near Afon Eitha Bridge in Penrycae.

Water Vole

The data search returned three records of water vole *Arvicola amphibius* within 2km of the site. However, as all three of these records were made in 1999, these records would be considered as historic.

Other Mammals

The data search returned one record of hare *Lepus europaeus* 1.9km from the Site in 2006. There are also 21 records of hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* within 2km of the Site with the closest record being of two hedgehogs sighted in a residential garden 0.5km from the Site in 2012. There are also two records of polecat *Mustela putorius* within 2km of the Site, both made in 2014.

Non-native Invasive Species

The data search returned no records of non-native invasive species on Site, however there were ten records of non-native invasive plant species within the 2km buffer. These were; giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*, Himalayan cotoneaster *Cotoneaster simonsii*, Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, Montbretia *Crocasmia pottsii* x *aurea* = *C. x crocosmiiflora*, New Zealand pigmyweed *Crassula helmsii*, parrot's feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum*, rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*, spiked water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum* and wall cotoneaster *Cotoneaster horizontalis*. The data research also returned four records of an invasive insect, harlequin ladybird *Harmonia axyridis* with the closest record made 0.2km from the Site in 2015. There were also four records of the invasive mammal, the American Mink *Neovison vison* with the closest record made 0.7km from the Site in 2007.

4.2 Field Survey

4.2.1 On-site Habitats

The habitats recorded on Site are described below.

Semi-improved Grassland with Amenity Use

The grass fields where the portacabins will be located consists of semi-improved neutral grassland, which is mainly composed of perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne* (TN 1). Other species present in the sward include white clover *Trifolium repens*, yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* and daisy *Bellis perennis*. There was also lesser stitchwort *Stellaria graminea*, herb robert *Geranium robertianum* and common nettle *Urtica dioica* bordering the grass field along the hedgerow boundary. The area appears to be used as a playing field for the school and therefore the sward is kept short.

The field was in use as a playing field.

Hedgerows

The semi-improved grassland is bordered by species rich hedgerows containing hazel *Corylus avellana*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, dog rose *Rosa canina*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, clematis *Clematis vitalba*, ivy *Hedera helix* and buddleia *Buddleja davidii* (TN 2).

4.2.2 Off-site Habitats

Habitats recorded in the wider survey area are detailed below.

Hardstanding

Over half of the site is hardstanding that the main school buildings stand on, as well as areas of hardstanding that appear to be used for parking and as a recreational play area for the school.

Buildings

There is a large school building in the middle of the site. There is also a small wooden shed that appears to be used for storage immediately south of the proposed portacabin location on the semi-improved grass fields (TN 3).

Standing Water

There is a small pond at the southern end of the wider School site on the opposite side of the school buildings to the playing fields (TN 4). It appears to have been created for pond dipping. The pond could not be fully surveyed as it was fenced off. However, it was observed from a distance and the pond appeared to be heavily vegetated with tall aquatic vegetation growing within the waterbody, including and no standing water visible.

Scattered Trees

There are a number of scattered trees over semi-improved grassland. Some of these appear to be ornamental (ornamental birches *Betula* spp), however there were also several sizeable hawthorn trees *Crataegus monogyna* and willow *Salix* scrub within the fenced area around the pond.

Hedgerows

The hedges recorded in the wider area are very similar in character to those described above in Section 4.2.1. Protected Species

Amphibians

There is no aquatic habitat suitable habitat for great crested newt within the Site itself. The grassland of the playing field is closely cut and offers sub-optimal terrestrial habitat.

There is one small pond on site approximately 50m south at its closest point. The pond is located within managed grassland, separated from the Site by an area of hardstanding playground. At the time of survey, it was densely vegetated with thick reeds and no open water was visible.

It could potentially support breeding great crested newt, which are in the wider area due to the internationally and nationally designated sites. However, the pond itself is relatively isolated, man-made and separated from the proposed Site by sub-optimal habitat. The likelihood of great crested newt ranging onto the Site is therefore extremely low.

There are several ponds within the wider area, with the closest pond 200m to the east of the Site. However, these ponds have limited connectivity to the Site as they are separated by a railway track and residential development. Ponds within 500m to the southwest of the site have limited connectivity to the pond on Site as they are separated by residential development, several minor roads and a main road.

Bats

There were no trees or buildings within the Site itself.

In the wider survey area, the trees were largely smooth stemmed with limited features present that could constitute potential roosting sites for bats.

The school building was well maintained with no obvious roost features.

The habitat on Site is open grassland surrounded by hedgerows which would offer suitable foraging habitat and flightlines for bats. However, being located within a built-up area, nocturnal lighting levels may affect the usage of the habitats by bats.

The wider landscape provides good foraging habitat for bats. Within a kilometre radius of the Site is the Bonc yr Hafod woodlands to the east and Stryt Las park to the southwest, both of which are wooded areas with a number of ponds and rivers running through them.

Badgers

There were no badger setts or badger signs identified on Site during the survey. The Site is largely unsuitable for sett construction and badger foraging due to fenced

boundaries and high levels of disturbance, although it is likely that badgers are present in the wider area.

Birds

There were a number of common bird species incidentally recorded on Site during the survey. These were blackbird *Turdus merula*, blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, house sparrow *Passer domesticus* and magpie *Pica pica*. The only suitable nesting habitat on Site is within the hedgerows around the boundary of the playing fields. In the wider survey area, the scattered trees, hedgerows and pond could present suitable nesting habitat. The school buildings could be used by birds such as house sparrow, swallow *Hirunda rustica* and house martin but no nests or sightings were observed during the survey.

Invertebrates

Due to the fact the survey was carried out late in the summer season and on an overcast day, there were no incidental records of butterflies during the survey. The grassland habitats on the Site would be suitable for a range of invertebrate species, including those which rely on the grassland species as foodplants. However, the fact that the sward is well managed and kept short means there are fewer flowering plant species which makes it sub-optimal as a nectar source.

Otter and Water Vole

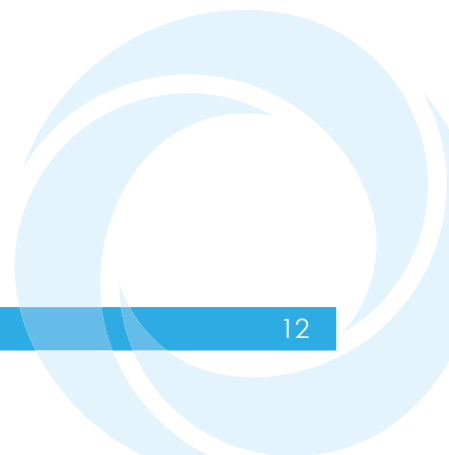
There was no suitable habitat on Site or within the wider survey area for otter or water vole, thus they are not considered further.

Reptiles

No reptiles or signs of reptiles were recorded during the survey, and generally a well-managed school such as this offers limited habitat. In particular, the Site itself is closely mown grassland which offers no shelter or cover for reptiles. The hedges and pond in the wider survey area are more favourable, however they are relatively isolated within the urban landscape. The wider rough, wet grassland and woodlands of Bonc yr Hafod are suitable habitats, but are unconnected to the Site, Reptiles are therefore not considered to be present on Site.

Invasive Species

There were no Schedule 9 (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) non-native invasive species recorded on the Site or the immediate vicinity during the survey.



5 Evaluation and Recommendations

5.1 Proposed Works

The proposed works involves the siting of temporary portacabins on the playing fields to the rear of the existing school building. There will be no ground-breaking for the installation and all vegetation will remain. The western boundary hedgerow will require pruning to allow the units to fit on the field, but will be able to regrow once the units are removed.

The playing fields are accessible from the existing hardstanding car park and access roads to the school, and no additional access is required.

The Portacabins will provide school rooms for Juniors relocated from the Junior School site on Bangor Road as it is being renovated and extended.

5.2 Statutory Designated Sites

The closest designated sites are Johnstown Newt Sites SAC and Stryt Las A'r Hafod SSSI which are 0.3km to the east and west of the Site. Both these sites are designated for their great crested newt populations. The Site itself is separated from these designated sites by a railway line and residential area and offer no suitable great crested newt habitat. This, together with the fact that the proposed portacabins are temporary and will not involve any permanent loss of habitat, means that no effects on the statutory designated sites are anticipated.

The closest non-statutory site is 0.8km north and is designated for woodland and is sufficiently distant to not be affected by the small-scale temporary proposals.

Consequently, there will not be a direct or indirect impact on any designated sites.

5.3 Habitats

The semi-improved grassland fields where the portacabins will located may be temporarily affected by the proposed works. However, the portacabins are only temporary and so will not result in the permanent loss of grassland as it will be re-instated after they have been removed. The grassland itself is of limited ecological value and thus no significant effects are anticipated.

The hedgerows which bound the Site are of comparatively greater interest and could provide habitat for breeding birds. These hedgerows will be retained and not affected by the proposals.

5.4 Species

Amphibians

Although there were great crested newt records obtained from the data search within a kilometre of the site, it is considered very unlikely that they will be present within the Site.

There is one pond within the wider survey area, but it is man-made and fragmented from other ponds within a 500m radius by residential development and a railway line to

the east and by a network of minor roads as well as a major road to the north, south and west. These barriers to movement mean that it is unlikely any great crested newt would be able to reach the site. Any other species of amphibian within the dipping pond in the wider survey area are unlikely to range on to the Site due to the short grassland and intervening hardstanding habitat.

It is therefore unlikely that great crested newt are present on the Site. Furthermore, given the temporary nature of the portacabins and fact that there will be no disturbance to the ground, no further measures for great crested newt are required during the installation or use of the portacabins.

It is recommended that as a precaution, when the portacabins are removed, an Ecologist is present in case a newt is found sheltering under the units or pathways. The portacabins will be creating sheltered covered habitat which does not already exist on the Site, and as they are present in the local area it is possible a terrestrial newt may take refuge there.

During the installation of the portacabins, all vehicles and materials must be stored and parked on the existing hardstanding, with no encroachment onto the grassland with the exception of the portacabins and associated infrastructure.

If during any time a great crested newt is discovered or suspected, works must stop and an Ecologist be called to agree a way forward.

Bats

The temporary Portacabins will have no impact on potential bat roosts in the locality as no suitable habitat is affected. The wider school site is likely to be subject to a level of night-time lighting, as well as the surrounding residential areas. Any additional lighting associated with the Portacabins is considered to be minimal and would not alter the existing foraging patterns of bats.

No further surveys or measures are required unless the plans change, such that these buildings may be affected directly or indirectly.

Badgers

There were no signs of badgers or badger setts identified during the survey and no evidence of the Site being used by foraging badgers. However, good practice construction measures are recommended and contractors should be aware of the potential presence of badger.

Birds

It is considered likely that nesting birds would be present within the Site during the breeding season (typically March to August, inclusive) and could utilise trees and the hedgerows on and around Site as a nesting habitat. The playing fields on which the Portacabins are sited is sub-optimal habitat.

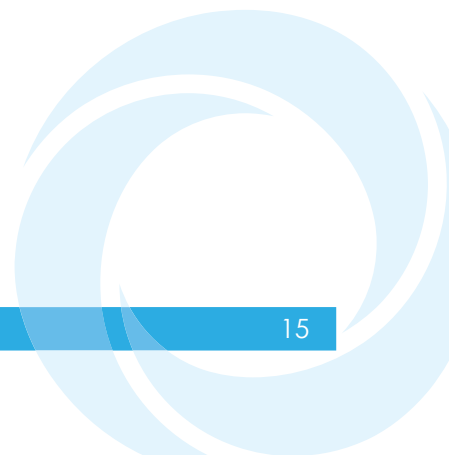
No vegetation clearance is anticipated as a result of the works. If this is necessary, it is recommended to be undertaken outside of the bird breeding season to ensure that no active birds' nests are damaged or destroyed during the works. If this is not possible then a nesting bird check will have to be carried out by a suitably experienced ecologist prior to such works. If an active nest is found, then these works would have to be delayed until the young have fledged and are no longer dependent on the nest.

Invertebrates

The Site and wider survey area offer some invertebrate habitat. The proposed temporary Portacabins will not result in any significant loss of potential foodplants, nectar sources or shelter therefore no effects are anticipated.

5.5 Invasive Species

There were no Schedule 9 (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) non-native invasive species recorded on the Site or the immediate vicinity during the survey. However, there should be vigilance during the works. Good biosecurity measures should be followed, which can include cleaning boots and wheels with a suitable disinfectant when leaving site and removing excess soil and any seeds/vegetation from boots or equipment.



6 References

English Nature (2001). Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines. English Nature.

JNCC (2010). Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – a Technique for Environmental Audit. Revised re-print. Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

7 Figure

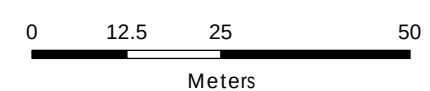


Ysgol yr Hafod



Phase 1 habitat survey results Infants site

- Key**
- Site boundary
 - Survey boundary
 - Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland (A)
 - Neutral grassland - semi-improved (SI)
 - Not accessed land
 - Scrub - dense/continuous
 - Standing water
 - Buildings
 - Hardstanding
 - Intact hedge - native species-rich
 - Fence
 - Broadleaf tree
 - Target Note



Scale @ A3:
1:1,000



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Appendices

Appendix A. Images and Target Notes

Target Note	Image	Notes
1		The regularly mown playing fields where the new portacabins are to be located, bounded by hedgerows. The playing fields consist primarily of perennial ryegrass. Other species present in the sward include white clover, yarrow, ribwort plantain, dandelion and daisy. There was also lesser stitchwort, herb robert and common nettles bordering the grass field along the hedgerow boundary.
2		The hedgerows bordering the Site were species rich and composed of hazel, elder, dog rose, blackthorn, hawthorn, clematis, ivy and buddleia. The hedgerows were an average of 2m tall and a half a metre to a metre wide, however this varied due to the number of different species present within the hedgerow.

3		The Infant school building that is located within the wider survey area set within hardstanding.
4		The 'pond dipping' pond was filled with dense aquatic vegetation consisting primarily of yellow flag iris <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> and rush <i>Juncaceae</i> spp. Surrounding the pond is long unmanaged grasses with some rosebay willowherb <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>.