Client – Jeremy Bassett

Site – Land at Llewelyn Road

Reference - 20250047

Location – Coedpoeth, Wrexham

Central Grid Reference – SJ 29122 51994

Date – 4th July 2025

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)

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Table of Contents

1. Summary 2
2. Introduction 3
2.1. Confidentiality 3
2.2. Purpose 3
2.3. Site Description and Location 3
2.4. Proposals 4
3. Methodology 5
3.1. Desk study 5
3.2. Field survey 5
3.3. Limitations/Constraints 5
4. Results and Interpretation 7
4.1. Designated Sites 7
4.2. Habitats 7
4.3. Fauna 10
4.4. Invasive Non-Native Plant Species 15
5. Recommendations 17
6. Net Benefit for Biodiversity (NBB) 19
7. References 20
Appendix I: Habitat Map 21
Appendix II: Target Notes 22
Appendix III: Species Lists 24
Appendix IV: Development Plans 25
Appendix V: Planning Policy and Species Legislation Summary 27

Disclaimer

This report has been prepared by Switch Ecology Ltd for the sole use of the commissioning party. The report may not be relied upon by any other party without written agreement from Switch Ecology.

In line with Chartered Institute of Environmental and Ecological Management (CIEEM) recommendations the findings of this survey are deemed valid for 18 months from the date of the survey.

1. Summary

Purpose	Planning permission is being sought for the construction of a stable block and hard standing yard on an area of land off Llewelyn Road in Coedpoeth. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the area of land was commissioned to support the application for planning permission.
Results	The grassland on site is regularly and historically grazed with agricultural species being dominant in the sward. The hedgerows along the site boundaries are Habitats of Principal Importance. The ecological receptors present on site include: ○ Designated sites in the surrounding area, ○ Records of amphibians in the wider surrounding area with low value habitats present on site, ○ Badgers present on land immediately adjacent to the site, ○ Potential roosting opportunities for bats in a tree on the site boundary, ○ Foraging opportunities for bats on site and in the surrounding area, ○ Habitats suitable to support a range of bird species on site, ○ Habitats suitable to support hedgehogs on site, ○ Japanese knotweed on land immediately adjacent to the site.
Recommendations	○ Modify the recently installed fence lines to allow badgers and other mammals access throughout the surrounding area, ○ Carry out all works within 30m of the culvert used by badgers under a Reasonable Avoidance Method Statement, ○ Implement precautionary working methods for badgers and other mammals, ○ Implement a sensitive lighting scheme during the development, including dark buffers to the hedgerow, or carry out surveys prior to the development, ○ Monitor the Japanese knotweed to ensure there is no encroachment on the site.
NBB	Due to the low ecological value of the current grassland, it is considered that the proposals, which include native planting and will also provide nesting opportunities for bird species, notably swallow, will have an overall benefit for biodiversity on the site.

2. Introduction

2.1. Confidentiality

2.1.1. This report contains information on the location of badger (*Meles meles*) setts, which is considered sensitive, and should therefore be treated as confidential. Should this report need to go into the public domain any such sensitive information should be redacted.

2.2. Purpose

2.2.1. Planning permission is being sought for the construction of a stable block and hard standing yard on an area of land off Llewelyn Road in Coedpoeth.

2.2.2. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the area of land was commissioned to support the application for planning permission.

2.3. Site Description and Location

2.3.1. The site comprises an area of existing grazing pasture off Llewelyn Road in Coedpoeth, extending to 1.98 hectares (ha).



Figure 1: Showing the area covered by this survey.

2.3.2. The land immediately surrounding the site comprises Llewelyn Road to the east, an extension of the field that supports the land to the west, further grazing pasture to the south and an area of rough grazing pasture to the north.

2.3.3. The wider surrounding area comprises the town of Coedpoeth to the south with further urban land associated with the town of Brynteg to the east. To the north and west the land comprising open countryside, including a mixture of grazing pasture and areas of woodland.



Figure 2: Showing the site in context with the wider surrounding area.

2.4. Proposals

2.4.1. Planning permission is being sought for the construction of a stable block and hardstanding area on the land.

2.4.2. No plans are currently available showing the proposals for the site and therefore no plans have been included in Appendix IV of this report.

3. Methodology

3.1. Desk Study

3.1.1. A desk study was carried out in order to identify existing records of protected or notable species or habitats within 2km of the survey area.

3.1.2. Records of locally designated sites and existing records of protected species were requested from Cofnod.

3.1.3. The MAGIC website was searched for records of statutory or non-statutory sites within 2km of the survey area.

3.1.4. The area within 500m of the site was searched for waterbodies using publicly accessible mapping including Ordnance Survey, Google Earth and the MAGIC website.

3.2. Field Study

3.2.1. A field survey of the site was undertaken on by Steven Whitcher (MCIEEM) on the 17th June 2025. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was carried out in accordance with the industry standard and mapped using UKHab 2.0 Classifications (*2023*).

3.2.2. The weather at the time of the survey was fine and clear with a light breeze (BWS-1) and a temperature of 21°C.

3.2.3. During the survey all habitats were noted, including dominant species, mapped and notable ecological features were target noted.

3.2.4. The survey also looked for evidence of protected or notable fauna species or invasive non-native plant species and followed specific survey guidelines, where applicable, including:

- Checking all buildings, trees and structures for bat roosting potential in line with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines, 4th edition (*Collins 2023*), BTHK Bat Roosts in Trees (*BTHK 2018*) and BRHK Bat Roosts in Rock (*BRHK 2021*).
- Assessing all accessible ponds within 500m of the surveyed area using the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment criteria (*Oldham et al. 2000*).
- Assessing the habitats on site for their suitability to support protected or notable species, including but not limited to, badgers (*Harris et al 1989*), water voles (*Strachan et al 2011*), otters (*Channin, 2003*), crayfish, nesting birds (*BBS,BTO*), reptiles (*Froglife 1999*), hedgehogs and hazel dormice.

3.3. Limitations/Constraints

3.3.1. This survey was carried out to CIEEM methodologies and therefore provides an overview of the habitats present on the site with dominant, notable or indicator species within those habitats noted. As such the species lists included are intended to be sufficient to confidently assess habitat condition but are not intended to provide an exhaustive list of all species present.

3.3.2. The survey was carried out during June, when vegetation levels are high and foliage is present on trees. The presence of vegetation restricted the view of some areas of the site and was therefore considered a constraint to specific areas of the survey, but not a significant constraint to the overall survey findings.

4. Results and Interpretation

4.1. Designated Sites

4.1.1. Cofnod returned records of one statutory and fourteen non-statutory sites within the 2km search area, although no sites within or immediately adjacent to the surveyed site.

Table 1: Statutory sites within 2km

Site Name	Designation	Reason for Designation	Location
Coedwig Ffosil Brymbo Fossil Forest	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Geological	1.5km north

Table 2: Non-statutory sites within 2km.

Site Name	Designation	Reason for Designation	Location
Afon Gwenfro	Local Wildlife Site (LWS)	Habitats: Woodland, grassland, scrub, running water	100m south
Plas Mostyn Mawr	LWS	Habitats: Grassland, scrub	750m west
Roseburn Fields	LWS	Habitats: Grassland	950m west
Cae Plasmostyn Bach	LWS	Habitats: Grassland	1km northwest
Higher Berse Marsh	LWS	Habitats: Grassland, woodland, standing water, swamp	1.1km southeast
New Broughton Meadow	LWS	Habitats: Grassland	1.3km southeast
The Smelt	LWS	Habitats: Grassland, woodland, bracken	1.3km southwest
Mount Zion	LWS	Habitats: Grassland, scrub, standing water	1.5km north
Glascoed Wood	LWS	Habitats: Grassland, woodland	1.75km northwest
New Brighton	LWS	Habitats: Heath, bracken, scrub, grassland	1.8km southwest
Nant Mill Bat Sites	LWS	Species: Bats	1.8km south
Big Wood	LWS	Habitats: Woodland	1.8km south
Brymbo Pony Fields	LWS	Habitats: Grassland, scrub	1.8km northeast
Moss Valley	LWS	Habitats: Grassland, woodland	1.9km east

4.1.2. Due to the location of the designated sites and the small-scale nature of the proposed works it is considered unlikely that the proposed development will have an impact on the sites, either directly or indirectly.

4.2. Habitats

4.2.1. Cofnod returned several records of ancient woodland within the 2km search area, although no records within or immediately adjacent to the site, the closest areas of ancient woodland are located 150m to the west and 180m to the south.

4.2.2. Cofnod returned records of several Section 7 Habitats of Principal Importance within the 2km search area, although no records within or immediately adjacent to the site. The closest record refers to an area of traditional orchard to the east of the site, on the opposite side of Llewelyn Road.

4.2.3. The habitats present within the surveyed area are outlined below and shown on the plan in Appendix I of this report. Appendix III includes species lists for each habitat.

4.2.4. g4-103 Modified grassland – horse grazed (1.98ha)

4.2.4.1. The site comprises an area of grazing pasture on a gentle south facing hillside. The field has historically been grazed by sheep but has recently been purchased and is now being utilised to graze horses.

4.2.4.2. At the time of the survey the grassland was separated into three fields that were being grazed on rotation by three horses.



Figure 3: Looking northwest across the grassland.



Figure 4: Looking southwest across the grassland.

4.2.4.3. The grassland sward was generally short throughout all of the fields and was found to be dominated by agricultural grass species, including perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*), meadow grass (*Poa sp.*) and timothy (*Phleum pratense*), with occasional common forbs also present throughout the area, including buttercup (*Ranunculus sp.*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) and daisy (*Bellis perennis*). The grassland displayed occasional areas of bare earth, in gateways and along fence lines.

4.2.4.4. To the south of the field a narrow margin of grassland has been fenced off due to the presence of two electricity pylons in the field boundary. The fenced areas display a similar range of species although the sward is longer due to the areas not being grazed.



Figure 5: The fenced margin to the south of the field.



Figure 6: The ungrazed grassland under the pylons.

4.2.5. h2a Native hedgerow (256m)

4.2.5.1. Native hedgerows, a Habitat of Principal Importance, extend along the eastern and northern site boundaries.

4.2.5.2. The hedgerow to the east comprises a 155m length of hedgerow extending along Llewelyn Road. The hedgerow is established with no signs of management. Trees are present to the east of Llewelyn Road, but not within the hedgerow along the site boundary.



Figure 7: Looking south along the hedgerow.



Figure 8: Looking north along Llewelyn Road.

4.2.5.3. The hedgerow displays a range of woody native species, sufficient to be considered species rich, with the species including blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*).

4.2.5.4. The understory along the hedgerow includes a range of species, including indicators of ancient woodland, such as dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*). Other species including ivy (*Hedera helix*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and bramble (*Rubus frutisosus*).

4.2.5.5. The hedgerow along the northern site boundary comprises a 101m length of hedgerow extending along a footpath. The hedgerow varies in the level of disturbance/management it has been subjected to, with the eastern end of the hedgerow being established with little sign of management whereas the western end of the hedgerow displays signs of occasional management, with cut material present along the hedgerow.



Figure 9: Looking west along the hedgerow.



Figure 10: Looking east along the hedgerow.

4.2.5.6. The species present in the hedgerow include hawthorn, goat willow (*Salix caprea*), blackthorn and broom (*Cytisus scoparius*). The ground flora along the hedgerow is dense and includes bramble, ivy, and nettle.

4.2.6. h2a-11 Native hedgerow – hedgerow with trees (91m)

4.2.6.1. To the south of the site a native hedgerow and trees, a Habitat of Principal Importance, extends along the site boundary. The hedgerow is split in two places due to the presence of the electricity pylons.



Figure 11: Looking east along the hedgerow.



Figure 12: Looking west along the hedgerow.

4.2.6.2. The hedgerow comprises hawthorn, hazel, holly and dog rose (*Rosa canina*) with the understory dominated by nettle.

4.2.6.3. The trees present comprise a single mature oak (*Quercus sp.*) (T4) within the surveyed area, although the hedgerow continues to the west, with further trees present.

4.2.7. u1e Built linear feature (510m)

4.2.7.1. Since the change of use to horse grazing several post and wire mesh stock fences have been erected along the site boundaries and to separate the site into three field. The main fence that crosses the site follows the line of a public footpath that is present within the surveyed site.

4.3. Fauna

4.3.1. Amphibians

4.3.1.1. Cofnod returned abundant records of amphibians within the 2km search area, although no records specific to the surveyed site or the immediate surrounding area. The closest records refer to the presence of common toad (*Bufo bufo*) along Hoel Offa, 300m to the north and smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) in a garden pond in Coedpoeth, 350m to the south. The closest existing records of great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) are located 1.5km to the north at Brymbo Steelworks.

4.3.1.2. No ponds are present within the surveyed site and no ponds are shown within 500m of the site on maps of the area, although garden ponds may be present at Hoel Offa, to the north and within Coedpoeth, to the south.

4.3.1.3. The surveyed site provides a low value terrestrial habitat for amphibians due to the current and historic grazing activity on the land and the lack of suitable refugia. The hedgerows may provide some suitable refugia, although no amphibians were encountered during the site survey.

4.3.1.4. The proposed works are the creation of a stable area and hard standing yard on the field. Due to the low value terrestrial habitat on site and the lack of aquatic habitat in the immediate surrounding area, the impact on amphibians is considered likely to be negligible.

4.3.2. Badgers

4.3.2.1. , although no records specific to the surveyed site or the immediate surrounding area. The closest records refer to the presence of badger setts in areas of woodland in the areas surrounding the site.

4.3.2.2. No badger setts were identified within the surveyed site



Figure 13: The badger sett, viewed from the site.



Figure 14: One of the badger sett entrances.

4.3.2.4.

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4.3.2.5.

4.3.2.6. The culvert displayed a small spoil heap with no signs of water flowing through the culvert. The other end of the culvert was not identified within the vegetation on the other side of the pylon and therefore the purpose and historic use of the culvert is not known.

4.3.2.7.

. The use of the culvert will depend on the extent of the culvert, although due to the other end of the culvert not being visible it is considered likely



Figure 15: The animal path under the boundary to the north.



Figure 16: The culvert.

4.3.2.8. The proposed works lie in excess of 20m from the culvert and are therefore unlikely to have a direct impact on the culvert. Any extension of the culvert is considered likely to extend along the site boundary/hedgerow and will also remain unaffected by the proposed works, which will not include deep excavations.

4.3.2.9. Animal paths were identified leading under the boundary fence to the north of the site and up the bank from Llewelyn Road, to the east (T2), implying that badgers utilise the wider surrounding area.

4.3.2.10. No foraging activity was noted within the grazing fields during the survey, although the new fence lines installed on the site extended to the ground, limiting badger movements.

4.3.2.11. If the fences on the site are modified to allow badgers continued access across the site the impact on foraging badgers is considered likely to be negligible.

4.3.3. Bats

4.3.3.1. Cofnod returned abundant records of bats within the 2km search area, although no records specific to the surveyed site or the immediate surrounding area. The closest records refer to the presence of an unidentified species of bat at Cae Merfyn, 500m to the northeast and common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) at Prospect Drive, 750m to the southwest.

4.3.3.2. The only building on the site comprises a mobile field shelter, that was present to the northwest of the field at the time of the survey. The building comprises a single skin wooden shelter with a sloping corrugated roof. The building was considered to be unsuitable for roosting bats.

4.3.3.3. A mature oak tree was identified in the hedgerow along the southern boundary of the site (T4). The tree displayed dense foliage and therefore a thorough ground assessment for Potential Roost Features (PRF) was not carried out, although due to the tree species and age it was considered likely that PRF were present. Due to the limitations of the survey the tree was assessed to provide FAR (Further Assessment Required) potential to support roosting bats.



Figure 17: The mobile field shelter.



Figure 18: The mature oak tree.

4.3.3.4. The land within the surveyed site was considered to provide a moderate value foraging and commuting habitat for bats due to the presence of hedgerows along the site boundaries that provide connectivity into the wider surrounding area.

4.3.3.5. A thorough assessment of the foraging and commuting activity on and around the site was not carried out as part of the survey.

4.3.4. Birds

4.3.4.1. Cofnod returned abundant records of birds within the 2km search area, although no records specific to the surveyed site or the immediate surrounding area. The closest records refer to the presence of several bird species 500m to the south at Coedpoeth. The species records of swift (*Apus apus*), a red list species under the UK Bird of Conservation Concern (BoCC).

4.3.4.2. The grassland within the site was not considered a suitable nesting habitat for birds but does provide some foraging opportunities. The hedgerows along the site boundaries provide opportunities for a range of bird species, for nesting and foraging, and the field shelter was also considered to provide a suitable nesting habitat for some bird species, although no nests were identified within the building at the time of the survey.

4.3.4.3. The proposed works will not have an impact on the areas of suitable nesting habitat, impacting a small area of grassland only. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that the proposed works will have an impact on nesting or foraging birds. The presence of the stable buildings is considered likely to have a positive impact on birds, through the provision of nesting opportunities for some bird species.

4.3.5. Crayfish

4.3.5.1. Cofnod did not return any existing records of crayfish species within the 2km search area.

4.3.5.2. No watercourses flow within or immediately adjacent to the site, with the closest comprising the River Gwenfro, which lies 180m to the south. Therefore, there will be no impact crayfish species during the proposed works.

4.3.6. Hedgehogs

4.3.6.1. Cofnod returned occasional records of hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) within the 2km search area, although no records specific to the surveyed site or the immediate surrounding area. The closest records refer to the presence of the species at St Albans Heights, 350m to the east.

4.3.6.2. The site provides opportunities for hedgehogs to seek shelter, in the hedgerows, and to forage, in the grassland, although the new fence lines create barriers to the movement of the species. No hedgehog field signs were identified during the site survey.

4.3.6.3. The proposed works will impact a small area of grassland, with no impact on habitat suitable for hedgehogs to seek shelter. Therefore, if measures are put in place during the works to allow hedgehogs access through the new fence lines the impact on hedgehogs is considered likely to be negligible.

4.3.7. Invertebrates

4.3.7.1. Cofnod returned occasional records of invertebrate species within the 2km search area, although no records specific to the surveyed site or the immediate surrounding area. The closest records refer to the presence of dark giant horsefly (*Tabanus sudeticus*) 500m to the south and small heath butterfly (*Coenonympha pomphilus*) 750m to the east.

4.3.7.2. The habitats on site provide opportunities for invertebrate species although no high value habitat considered likely to support significant invertebrate communities were identified. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that the proposed works, which will cause the loss of a small area of grazed grassland, will have an impact on invertebrate communities in the area.

4.3.8. Otters

4.3.8.1. Cofnod returned occasional records of otter (*Lutra lutra*) within the 2km search area, although no records specific to the surveyed site or the immediate surrounding area. The closest records refer to the presence of the species along Afon Clywedog 1.5km to the south.

4.3.8.2. No watercourses are present within or immediately adjacent to the surveyed site with the closest watercourse comprising the River Gwenfro, 180m to the south. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that the otters will utilise the habitats on site or be impacted by the proposed works.

4.3.9. Reptiles

4.3.9.1. Cofnod returned occasional records of reptiles within the 2km search area, although no records specific to the surveyed site or the immediate surrounding area. The closest records refer to the presence of slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*) at Bryn Onn, Coedpoeth, 1.3km to the southwest.

4.3.9.2. The site was considered to provide a generally low value for reptiles, although the grassland provides some basking opportunities, due to the short sward with areas of bare ground. No reptiles were encountered during the site survey.

4.3.9.3. The proposed works will impact on a small area of grassland and therefore it is considered unlikely that the works will have an impact on reptiles.

4.3.10. Water Voles

4.3.10.1. Cofnod did not return any existing records of water vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) within the 2km search area.

4.3.8.2. No watercourses are present within or immediately adjacent to the surveyed site with the closest watercourse comprising the River Gwenfro, 180m to the south. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that the water voles will utilise the habitats on site or be impacted by the proposed works.

4.4. Invasive Non-Native Plant Species

4.4.1. Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) was identified growing under the pylons along the footpath to the north of the site. The plant was dominant around the base of the pylons although occasional stands were present along the footpath, within 10m of the site boundary.



Figure 19: Japanese knotweed under the pylon.



Figure 20: Further areas of Japanese knotweed.

4.4.2. Japanese knotweed spreads through rhizomes present in the soil under the plant, which can extend for 7-10m from the plant to a depth of 2m.

4.4.3. The proposed works are located to the south of the site, well away from the areas of Japanese knotweed. Therefore, there is no risk of the Japanese knotweed being spread during the proposed works.

5. Recommendations

5.1. Designated Sites

5.1.1. There will be no impact on designated sites during the proposed works and therefore there are no recommendations specific to designated sites.

5.2. Habitats

5.2.1. The proposed works are small scale works impacting a small area of grassland only, with no impact on the native hedgerows along the site boundaries. Therefore, there are no recommendations specific to the habitats present on site.

5.3. Fauna

5.3.1. Badgers and other mammals

5.3.1.1. It is recommended that the fence lines that have been installed are modified to include opportunities for badgers and other mammals to access throughout the site. The modifications should either comprise the base of the fence line being lifted off the ground, or holes at least 250mm in diameter being created at regular intervals along the bottom of the fence lines.

5.3.1.2. The proposed stables and yard are located within 30m with Figure 21 showing an overlay of the proposals with 10m, 20m and 30m buffers to the culvert. It is recommended that a Reasonable Avoidance Method Statement (RAMS) is put in place to cover all works that are located within 30m of the culvert.



Figure 21: The culvert, including 10m, 20m and 30m buffers and the site layout.

5.3.1.3. It is recommended that any excavations created during the works have at least one sloping side, to allow any animals that may become trapped to escape.

5.3.2. Bats

5.3.2.1. It is recommended that any lighting utilised on the site is designed in a low impact manner, in line with the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Good Practice Guidelines (*2023*). The design of the lighting should ensure there is no light spill onto the mature oak tree or associated hedgerow along the southern boundary of the site.

5.3.2.2. If it is not possible to restrict the site lighting and retain a dark buffer to the hedgerow and oak tree it is recommended that further surveys are carried out, in line with the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Good Practice Guidelines (*2023*), to establish whether roosting bats are present in the oak tree and whether the hedgerow is utilised as a foraging and commuting corridor.

5.4. Invasive Non-Native Plant Species

5.4.1. It is recommended that the presence of the Japanese knotweed is monitored to ensure that the plant species does not encroach on the site.

6. Net Benefit for Biodiversity (NBB)

6.1. The proposals will remove 0.056ha of grazed modified grassland to create a stable block, tack store and an associated hard standing yard and access road. The area currently provides limited opportunities for biodiversity due to the grazed nature of the grassland present.

6.2. During the construction of the yard an area of rain garden will be created along the southern edge of the yard using native plant species, including soft rush (*Juncus effuses*), pendulous sedge (*Carex pendula*), tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and bugle (*Ajuga rapens*). The rain garden will be designed to filter the run-off from the yard.

6.3. Additional to the rain garden species of native shrub and tree species will be planted adjacent to the parking areas to screen the site from Llewelyn Road. The tree and shrub species will include locally sourced native species, such as silver birch (*Betula pendula*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).

6.4. No manure heap will be present on site with all manure placed directly into a trailer that will be regularly removed from the site.

6.5. Due to the low ecological value of the current grassland, it is considered that the proposals, which include native planting and will also provide nesting opportunities for bird species, notably swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), will have an overall benefit for biodiversity on the site.

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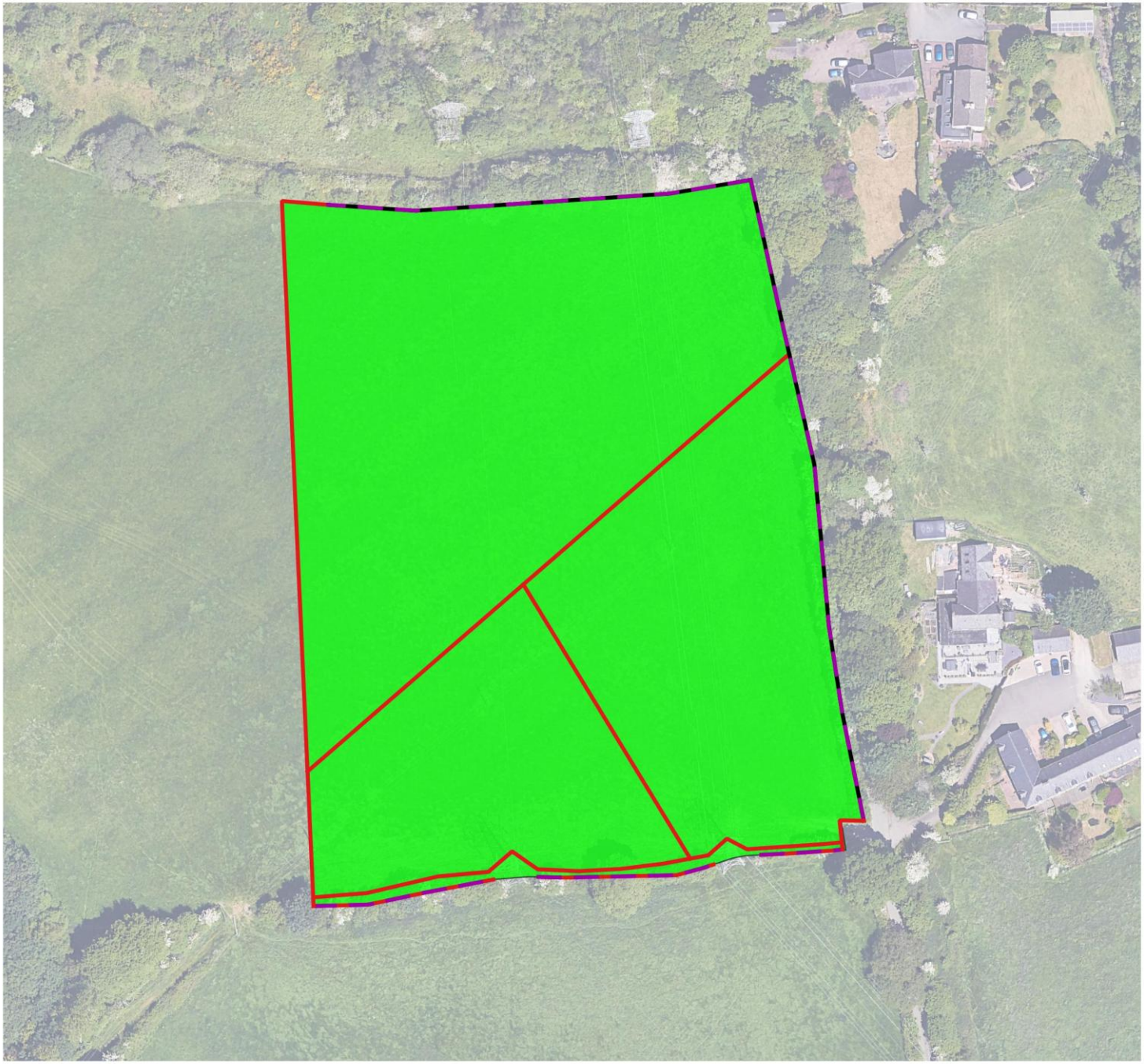
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Appendix I: Habitat Map

Site - Land at Llewelyn Road
Reference - 20250047

Habitats

- g4-103 Modified grassland - horse grazed

Linear Habitats

- h2a Native hedgerow
- h2a-11 Native hedgerow - hedgerow with trees
- u1e Built linear feature

0 30 60 m



switchecology

Appendix II: Target Notes

Site - Land at Llewelyn Road
Reference - 20250047

Site boundary

Target Notes

T1 - Japaese knotweed

T2 - Animal path

T4 - Oak tree with potential to support roosting bats

0 30 60 m

Appendix II: **Target Notes**

T1	Japanese knotweed, an invasive non-native plant species.	
T2	Animal paths along the site boundaries.	
T3		
T4	A mature oak tree with potential to support roosting bats.	
T5		

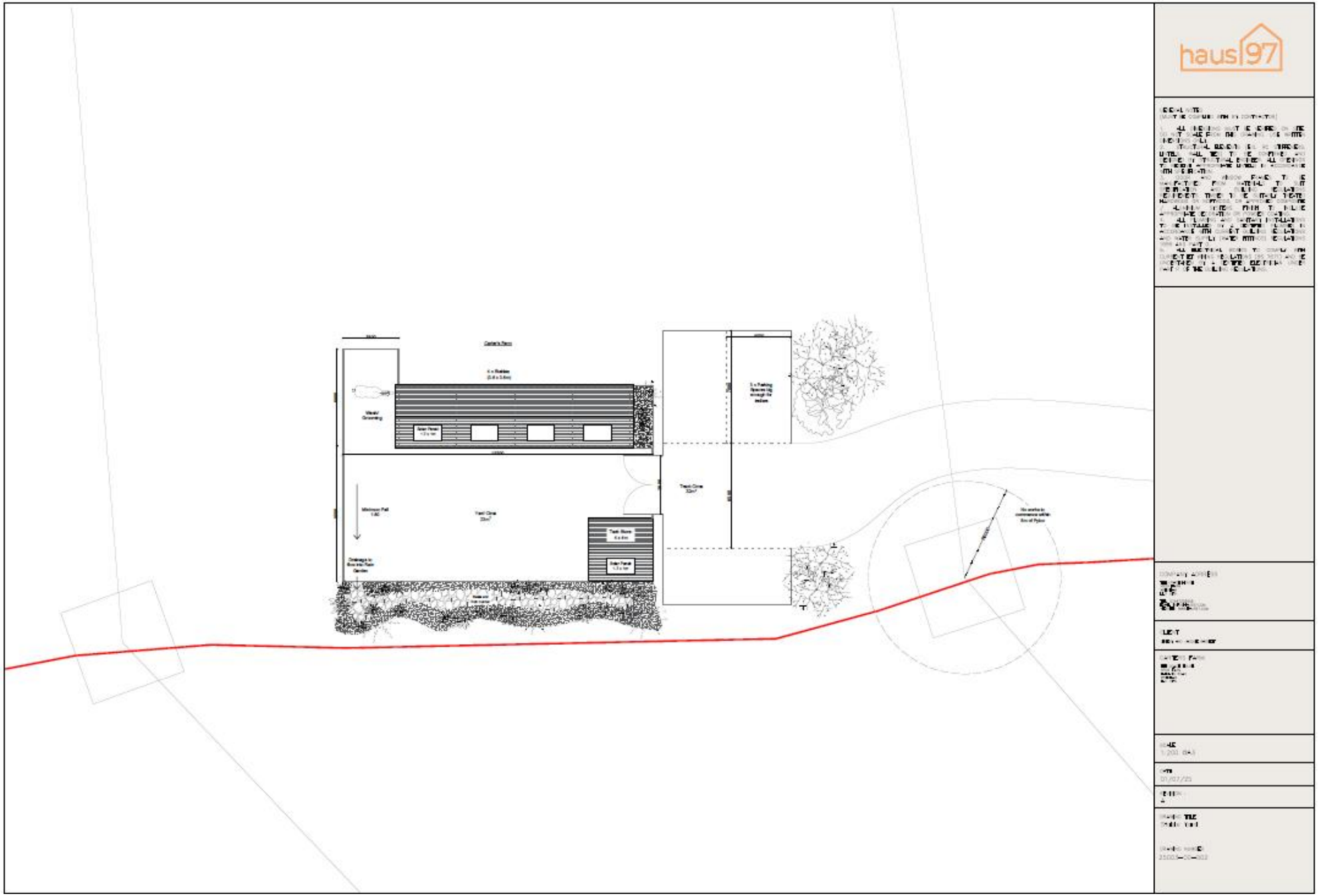
Appendix III: **Species Lists**

g4-103 Modified grassland – horse grazed	
Species Present	DAFOR Assessment
Perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*)	F
Crested dogstail (*Cynosurus cristatus*)	F
Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*)	A
Meadow grass (*Poa sp.*)	F
Cocks foot (*Dactylis glomerata*)	R
False oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*)	R
Timothy (*Phleum pratense*)	O
Buttercup (*Ranunculus sp.*)	A
Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)	O
Dock (*Rumex sp.*)	O
Vetch (*Vicia sp.*)	R
Thistle (*Circium sp.*)	O
Daisy (*Bellis perennis*)	R
Greater plantain (*Plantago major*)	R

h2a Native hedgerow	
Species Present	DAFOR Assessment
Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)	O
Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)	F
Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)	R
Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)	O
Oak (*Quercus sp.*)	R
Dog rose (*Rosa canina*)	O
Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)	O
Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)	O
Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)	F
Elder (*Sambucus nigra*)	O
Nettle (*Urtica dioica*)	O
Dogs mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*)	O
Ivy (*Hedera helix*)	O
Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*)	O

h2a-11 Native hedgerow – hedgerow with trees	
Species Present	DAFOR Assessment
Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)	F
Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)	F
Dog rose (*Rosa canina*)	O
Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)	O
Nettle (*Urtica dioica*)	A

Appendix IV: **Development Plans**





Appendix V: **Planning Policy and Species Legislation Summary**

1. Planning Policy

1.1. Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. The primary objective of PPW is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. Section 6.4 relates to biodiversity and ecological networks.

1.2. Paragraph 6.4.3 states:

'The planning system has a key role to play in helping to reverse the decline in biodiversity and increase the resilience of ecosystems, at various scales, by ensuring appropriate mechanisms are in place to both protect against loss and secure enhancement.'

1.3. Paragraph 6.4.11 states:

'Planning authorities must follow a step-wise approach to maintain and enhance biodiversity, build resilient ecological networks and deliver net benefits for biodiversity by ensuring that any adverse environmental effects are firstly avoided, then minimised, mitigated, and as a last resort compensated for. Enhancement must be secured by delivering a biodiversity benefit primarily on site or immediately adjacent to the site, over and above that required to mitigate or compensate for any negative impact.'

2. Legislation Summary

Site	Legislation
Locally Designated Sites	Locally designated sites are not covered by any statutory legislation but are protected by local development plans.
Statutory Sites	Statutory sites are protected in different ways depending on the reason for the sites designated with sites being covered by legislation including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Habitats Directive.
Species and Habitats or Principal Importance	Species and habitats of principal importance are covered by the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006.

Species	Legislation	Offences include
Badgers	Protection of Badgers Act 1992	○ Wilfully kill, injure, take, possess or cruelly ill-treat a Badger, or attempt to do so; ○ To intentionally or recklessly interfere with a sett (this includes disturbing Badgers whilst they are occupying a sett, as well as damaging or destroying a sett or obstructing access to it).
Bats	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	○ Deliberately kill, injure or capture a bat; ○ Deliberately disturb bats; ○ Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a bat. ○ Obstruct access to any structure or place which any bat uses for shelter or protection; or ○ Disturb any bat while occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose.

Birds	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	○ Intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird; ○ Intentionally take, damage or destroy a nest of any such bird whilst it is in use or being built; or ○ Intentionally take or destroy an egg of any such bird.
Crayfish	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	○ Obstruct access to any structure or place which a crayfish uses for shelter or protection; or ○ Disturb a crayfish while occupying a place which it uses for that purpose.
Great Crested Newts	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	○ Intentionally or deliberately capture, injure, kill, or disturb the species; ○ Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or disturb a GCN in a place of shelter or protection, or obstruct access to such a place; or ○ Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place.
Hazel Dormice	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	○ Deliberately capture, injure or kill a dormouse; ○ Deliberately disturb dormice; ○ Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a dormouse ○ Obstruct access to any structure or place which a dormouse uses for shelter or protection; or ○ Disturb a dormouse while occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection
Otters	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	○ Deliberately capture, injure or kill any wild otter; ○ Deliberately disturb wild otters; ○ Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of an otters. ○ Disturb an otters while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection; or ○ Obstruct access to such a place.
Red Squirrels	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	○ Kill, injure or take a red squirrel; ○ Damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place which a red squirrel uses for shelter or protection; or ○ Disturb a red squirrel while it is occupying a structure or place which is used for that purpose.
Reptiles (non EPS)	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	○ Intentionally kill or injure a reptile.
Water Voles	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006	○ Intentionally capture, kill or injure water voles; ○ Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or block access to their places of shelter or protection; or ○ Disturb water voles while occupying a place of shelter used for that purpose.

Local authorities therefore have a duty to consider protected species as a material consideration when assessing planning applications. The ODPM Government Circular 06/2005 states: *'It is essential that the presence or otherwise of protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development, is established before the planning permission is granted, otherwise all relevant material considerations may not have been addressed in making the decision.'*