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PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

At

Ridley Wood Industrial Complex
Bryn Lane
Wrexham Industrial Estate
Wrexham
LL13 9RX

NGR: SJ 38818 50796

Prepared for:	FI Facilities Management Ltd
Written by:	Harry Fox, UES Graduate Ecologist
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	[redacted]
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

United Environmental Services Ltd (UES) was commissioned by FI Facilities Management Ltd to carry out a baseline ecological survey of Ridley Wood Industrial Complex, Wrexham Industrial Estate. A desk study and preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) survey were undertaken on 18th March 2026, including searches using the Multi Agency Geographic Information Centre (MAGIC) and North Wales Local Environmental Records Centre (NWLERC).

The PEA provides an assessment of potential ecological impacts associated with the development of the Industrial complex. The proposed development includes the change in land usage to allow storage of goods and vehicles with associated landscaping and infrastructure.

The proposed development site has an area of approximately 0.8ha and mainly comprises an area of hardstanding that was previously occupied by seven disused single storey shed / garage buildings that were demolished under a previous planning application. Other habitats present within and adjacent to the ownership boundary include modified grassland (northern boundary and south-east corner of the site), lines of trees (south of the site) and mixed scrub (eastern boundary of the site). There are three ponds present within 250m of the proposed development site, the closest of which is situated 64m west of the site. Additionally, there are 13 waterbodies present within 500m of the proposed development site.

Previous survey work, including a bat scoping survey and provision of a great crested newt (GCN) method statement, was undertaken by UES in 2024, associated with the demolition of previous buildings on site.

The results of the PEA survey in 2026 combined with the results of the desk study have highlighted the requirement for further work in relation to the following species:

- **Breeding birds** – trees and shrubs overhanging the site boundaries may support common and widespread breeding birds during the spring and summer months. Any cutting back of vegetation is to take place outside of the breeding bird season and should not be undertaken from March to August inclusive. If this is not possible and works need to take place during this period, a targeted nest survey is to be undertaken immediately prior to the works by a suitably qualified ecologist or an ecological clerk of works appointed to oversee the works.

- **Amphibians** – GCN are known to be present across Wrexham Industrial Estate, and due to the relatively close proximity of ponds there is a residual risk that they may be encountered during future development works. However, the development proposals are restricted to habitats of negligible suitability for GCN comprising sealed surface hardstanding. Therefore, it is recommended that future works are undertaken using reasonable avoidance measures to be set out in a GCN method statement; the measures detailed within the method statement will be designed to reduce the residual risk to negligible levels, and outline the procedures that should occur in the extremely unlikely event that GCN are encountered during the works.

- **Bats** – trees and shrubs overhanging the site boundaries may support foraging and commuting bats. Therefore, any proposed lighting should be designed to be wildlife friendly and avoid overspill onto vegetation along the edges of the site.

Mitigation measures, as detailed in section 4, should be adhered to.

This report should be read with appendices 1 to 8, which include results of the desk study, GIS UKHab mapping, photographs of site and relevant statutory guidance.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Author, surveyors, qualifications and scope of study area

This report is written and compiled by Harry Fox, BSc, MRes, Graduate Ecologist for United Environmental Services (UES) Ltd. Harry holds a level 4 Botanical Society for Britain and Ireland (BSBI) Field Identification Skills Certificate (FISC), which certifies him as competent to undertake phase 1 habitat surveys, UKHab and national vegetation classification (NVC) surveys.

Harry is listed as an accredited agent on the bat survey licence of Toby Hart S095644/2. As such, he has been deemed competent to undertake licensable activities such as using a torch and endoscope to survey for bats. Additionally, Harry is listed as an accredited agent on the GCN survey licence of Toby Hart S096142/1.

This report has been reviewed and approved by Tom Kenwright BSc MSc ACIEEM, UES Senior Ecologist.

Tom holds a level 6 BSBI FISC. Level 6 is only awarded in exceptional circumstances where the surveyor is a very competent professional field botanist and is of national status. Tom is licensed by Natural England to disturb, take and handle all species of bats under licence number 2023-11076-CL18-BAT (level 2) and GCNs under licence number S095290/1.

The report provides an assessment of the potential ecological impacts associated with the proposed development at Ridley Wood Industrial Complex, Wrexham Industrial Estate.

The zone of influence considered within the scope of the survey includes all land within the red line boundary. Where relevant, other ecological resources, receptors and important habitats which are spatially separate from the site are considered.

1.2 Survey objectives

UES was commissioned to conduct a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the proposed development site. This was completed in order to:

- establish baseline conditions and determine the importance of ecological features present or potentially present within the survey area;
- identify key ecological constraints to the project;
- make recommendations for design options to avoid significant effects on important ecological resources at an early stage of development planning;
- identify potential requirement for further surveys for nationally or internationally protected species which may be present on site;
- identify potential requirement for mitigation or compensation, including measures that may be required based on further surveys.

1.3 Proposed development

The proposed development includes the change in land usage to allow storage of goods and vehicles with associated landscaping and infrastructure.

1.4 Structure of the report

This report is a baseline appraisal that forms the basis for further ecological surveys and environmental impact assessments (EIA) if required. In the majority of cases the PEA will not provide all the ecological data required by the Local Planning Authority to determine an application, especially in the event that protected habitat or species issues are present or likely.

This report should be read with appendices 1 to 8, which include results of the desk study, GIS UKHab mapping, photographs of site, landscaping and lighting guidance and relevant statutory guidance.

2 METHODOLOGY

This PEA comprises a desk study and a field survey. The desk study is conducted in order to collate ecological information on species and / or habitats of interest that may be present. The field survey is conducted in order to assess the habitats and their importance, both on site and in the context of their wider surroundings.

2.1 Desk study

The following resources were used to inform the desk study:

- National – Using the UK government's MAGIC website, statutorily protected sites were scoped to a distance of 10km from the application site.

- Local – A search for protected species or otherwise notable species and local designated sites was undertaken within a 2km radius of the proposed development site by North Wales Local Records Centre (NWLERC).

2.2 Field survey

An ecological walkover survey was carried out on 18th March 2026 by Harry Fox. The purpose of the survey was to identify, record and map dominant habitat types within the development area and highlight any further species surveys that may be required based on the quality of those habitats. When conducting the surveys particular focus was concentrated on the following species and habitat features:

- amphibians
- reptiles
- badger *Meles meles*
- bats
- hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*
- hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*
- otter *Lutra lutra*
- water vole *Arvicola amphibius*
- white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*
- birds
- trees
- hedgerows
- plant communities
- invasive species.

The habitats were assessed by using the UKHab survey technique, which is a system for environmental audit widely used within the environmental consultancy field. The survey was undertaken in accordance with the methodology in the UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (UKHab Ltd, 2023) as recommended by Natural England, and the Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), 2017).

The survey area encompassed all of the land within the development footprint and the land to a distance of 30m outside it where accessible. In line with recognised guidelines, ponds were also scoped to a distance of 500m (250m radius from the survey area).

The UKHab survey methodology was extended to record any signs of habitats suitable to support protected / invasive species and any incidental observations of other noteworthy species.

2.3 Survey limitations

No significant limitations were noted at the time of survey.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Desk study

A desk study was conducted for the proposed development site and surrounding area. Statutorily protected sites were scoped to a distance of 10km. Further results of the desk study can be found at Appendix 1 – Desk study.

3.1.1 Protected sites

There are no statutorily protected sites (designated for ecological reasons) within 2km of the proposed development site. However, there are 15 statutorily protected sites within 2–10km of the site:

- Johnstown Newt Sites SAC[1]
- River Dee and Bala Lake / Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid SAC
- Afon Dyfrdwy (River Dee) SSSI[2]
- Chwarel Singret SSSI
- Cloy Brook Pastures SSSI
- Gatewen Marsh SSSI
- Llay Bog SSSI
- Old Pulford Brook Meadows SSSI
- Sontley Marsh SSSI
- Stryt Las a'r Hafod SSSI
- Vicarage Moss SSSI
- Coedwig Ffosil Brymbo Fossil Forest SSSI
- Marford Quarry SSSI
- Midland Meres & Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar[3].
- Well Rough and Long Plantation SSSI

There are also three non-statutorily protected sites within 2km of the proposed development site:

- **Wrexham Industrial Estate Wildlife Site** – located approximately 505m to the south of the proposed development site. The designation covers several sites within Wrexham Industrial Estate, including unmanaged grassland at Bryn Road, species-rich grassland and scrub mosaics at Cefn Park, and ancient broadleaved woodland at Erlas Black Wood.

- **Important Invertebrate Areas** – located approximately 1.2km to the south of the proposed development site. This designation overlaps with the Wrexham Industrial Estate Wildlife Site and identifies an area valued for its wildflower grasslands and scrub which support a range of invertebrate species.

- **Cefn Park** – located approximately 1.9km to the southwest of the proposed development site. The designation includes several broadleaved woodlands within the Cefn Park Estate. Big Wood is the largest and is dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior* with some oak, sycamore and occasional mature elm and the ground flora is diverse, supporting typical ancient-woodland indicator plants.

3.1.2 Protected species

[1] SAC – Special Area of Conservation.
[2] SSSI – Site of Special Scientific Interest.
[3] Ramsar – Designated Wetland of International Importance

The following records of protected or otherwise notable species were highlighted by the environmental records search:

- Amphibians: there are numerous records of great crested newt (GCN) from within 2km of the proposed development site and 9 records within 500m of the site. The closest record is located approximately 88m to the northwest of the site in 1993. There is also other amphibian records returned relating to smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris* common frog *Rana temporaria* and common toad *Bufo bufo*.

- [redacted]

- Bats: records of the following species were identified within 2km of the site: *Myotis* sp., brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus*, Daubenton's *Myotis daubentonii*, whiskered *Myotis mystacinus*, Natterer's *Myotis nattereri*, noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, and lesser horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros.* The closest record is a *Myotis* sp. located approximately 401m to the southwest of the site in 2016.

- Birds: various species, including several NERC Section 41, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 1, and the most recent Birds of Conservation Concern "red and amber" list species were returned from within 2km of the proposed development site.

- Hazel dormouse: no records of hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* were returned from within 2km of the proposed development site.

- Hedgehog: numerous records of hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* were returned from within 2km of the proposed development site, the closest of which is approximately 934m to the west of the site in 2017.

- Otter: a number of records of otter *Lutra lutra* were returned from within 2km of the proposed development site. The closest record was located approximately 1km northwest of the site in 2013.

- Reptiles: records of reptile species were returned from within 2km of the proposed development site. The closest record was of a common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* located approximately 607m southwest of the site in 2020.

- Water vole: no records of water vole *Arvicola amphibius* were returned from within 2km of the proposed development site.

- White clawed-crayfish: no records of white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* were returned from within 2km of the proposed development site.

3.2 Baseline conditions – Habitats

The results of the PEA are also shown on the accompanying map at Appendix 2 – UK Habitat Classification Plan. Habitats are colour-coded in accordance with the UKHab standard. A full botanical species list for each habitat is provided at Appendix 5.

Ridley Wood Industrial Complex is located on the outskirts of Wrexham Industrial Estate. The immediate surrounding area (<0.5km) is largely urban with large industrial complexes to the south and west. However, between the large industrial units there are waterbodies and areas of scrub and grassland mosaics, offering higher quality habitat. To the north and east there are numerous agricultural fields with hedge / tree lined margins.

Located adjacent to the eastern boundary and the western boundary were areas of mixed scrub; species included a *Forsythia* sp., cypress sp. *Cupressus* sp., buddleia *Buddleja davidii,* bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, ivy *Hedera helix*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, silver birch *Betula pendula* and apple sp. *Malus* sp.

A small area of modified grassland was located adjacent to the southeastern boundary of the site.

The wider surrounding area (<2km) is also largely industrial to the south. Scattered brownfield sites comprising waterbodies, scrub and grassland provide pockets of higher quality habitat.

The following principal habitat types were characterised on site:

- g4 modified grassland
- u1b developed land; sealed surface
- 33 line of trees.

3.2.1 g4 Modified grassland

A small strip of disturbed modified grassland was present along the northern site boundary, between a newly constructed site fence and the roadside. Grasses included perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne*, tall fescue *Festuca arundinacea* and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*.

Additional species included, groundsel *Senecio vulgaris*, prickly sow thistle *Sonchus asper*, germander speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, wavy bitter cress *Cardamine flexuosa*, lesser swine cress *Lepidium didymum*, sticky mouse ear *Cerastium glomeratum*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, broadleaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, smooth sow thistle *Sonchus oleraceus*, charlock *Sinapis arvensis*, bristly ox tongue *Helminthotheca echioides*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, cut leaves cranesbill *Geranium dissectum*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, and yarrow *Achillea millefolium*. (See Appendix 4 – Photographs, Photograph 1).

3.2.2 u1b Developed land; sealed surface

The majority of the site comprised hardstanding surface cover.

Ephemeral species were recorded growing between cracks in the concrete or around the internal fencelines, including sticky mouse ear *Cerastium glomeratum*, annual meadow grass *Poa annua*, dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*, *Epilobium* spp., creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, wavy bittercress *Cardamine flexuosa*, common whitlow grass *Erophila verna* and prickly sow thistle *Sonchus asper*.

Marginal species growing along the site boundaries in the southwest included hard rush *Juncus inflexus*, tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and creeping cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*. The remaining species were scattered around the peripheries of the site including white clover *Trifolium repens*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, ash saplings, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, bramble, common ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, willow sp. *Salix*

sp., herb-robert *Geranium robertianum*, toad rush *Juncus bufonius* and wood dock *Rumex sanguineus*.

3.2.3 33 Line of trees

Two lines of trees are located at the site boundaries; the first comprises a line of Lawsons cypress trees along the southern site boundary with two small diseased ash trees.

The second line of trees is located on the western site boundary and comprises alder *Alnus glutinosa* and cypress sp.

3.3 Baseline conditions – Protected species or resources

As part of the PEA, specific observations of wildlife were also recorded. Wildlife observations focused on protected species, invasive species or species of conservation concern. Habitats with potential to support protected species were noted with a view to follow up surveys if required.

3.3.1 Amphibians

GCN have been recorded in the local area. The closest record is located approximately 88m to the northwest of the site in 1993.

There are no ponds located within the site boundary, however, there are three ponds present within 250m of the proposed development site, the closest of which is situated 64m west of the site. Additionally, there are 13 waterbodies present within 500m of the proposed development site.

GCN are known to be present across Wrexham Industrial Estate, and due to the relatively close proximity of ponds there is a residual risk that they may be encountered during future development works. However, the development proposals are restricted to habitats of negligible suitability for GCN, comprising sealed surface hardstanding.

3.3.2 Reptiles

Records of reptile species were returned from within 2km of the proposed development site. The closest record was of a common lizard located approximately 607m southwest of the site in 2020.

The proposed development site mainly comprises hardstanding of negligible value to reptiles. The strip of modified grassland to the north of the site is isolated from other suitable reptile habitat and is broadly unsuitable. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that reptiles will be present onsite.

3.3.3 Badger

[redacted]

3.3.4 Bats

There are no buildings on site suitable for supporting roosting bats.

A ground level tree assessment was not undertaken during the walkover survey, but trees located along the site boundary may contain PRFs for bats. The adjacent boundary habitat may also provide commuting and foraging opportunities for bats.

3.3.5 Hazel dormouse

No records of hazel dormice were returned from within 2km of the proposed development site.

The habitats on site are unsuitable for dormice with an absence of hedgerows and key species such as hazel *Corylus avellana* and honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*. Therefore, hazel dormice are not considered to be present onsite.

3.3.6 Hedgehog

Numerous records of hedgehog were returned from within 2km of the proposed development site.

The majority of the proposed development site comprises hardstanding, the boundary habitat is considered sub-optimal for foraging and commuting opportunities for hedgehogs. Therefore, hedgehog is not considered to be present onsite.

3.3.7 Otter, water vole and white-clawed crayfish

No records of water vole or white-clawed crayfish were returned from within 2km of the proposed development site. Although there are records of otter within 2km of site, there are no watercourses within or directly adjacent to the development site. Therefore, otter, water vole and white-clawed crayfish are not considered to be present onsite.

3.3.8 Birds

Although a targeted bird survey was not conducted during the site visit, the following bird species were recorded whilst on site: song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, great tit *Parus major*, blackbird *Turdus merula*, crow *Corvus corone*, blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, pigeon *Columba palumbus*, magpie *Pica pica*, wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, and robin *Erithacus rubecula*.

Of the species mentioned above, wren and song thrush are included on the most recent Birds of Conservation Concern “amber list”.

The boundary trees and adjacent mixed scrub provide suitable nesting opportunities for breeding birds in the summer.

3.3.9 Trees

Trees may be protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), for which a check has not been undertaken.

3.3.10 Hedgerows

There are no hedgerows within the proposed development site.

3.3.11 Plant communities

No plant communities or individual species were recorded on site which are afforded statutory protection in their own right.

3.3.12 Invasive species

No non-native, invasive species were identified onsite during the walkover survey.

4 EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section provides a brief assessment of the likely impacts associated with the proposed development on the receptors identified during the walkover survey and desk study. It also includes any mitigation and compensation measures which may be required for the proposed development to proceed.

4.1 Habitats

4.1.1 Designated sites

The sites identified during the desk study were cross-referenced with the survey area relevant to this report. There are no statutorily protected sites within 2km of the proposed development site. The closest non-statutorily protected site is Wrexham Industrial Estate Wildlife Site which is located approximately 505m to the south of the proposed development site.

Given the distances from the site and the scale of development, it is considered unlikely that the proposed development will have any direct or indirect impact on these or any other local designated sites.

4.2 Species

4.2.1 Bats

Bats may use adjacent habitat for foraging and commuting purposes.

Construction impacts

Inappropriate lighting of boundary vegetation could result in the severing of commuting corridors used by bats as well as the loss of foraging habitats.

Mitigation

Any external lighting installed as part of the development should be designed to be wildlife friendly and avoid overspill onto vegetation along the edges of the site (see Appendix 7 – External lighting guidance).

Operational impacts

No operational impacts identified.

4.2.2 Birds

Scrub and tree habitats adjacent to the site boundaries could support breeding birds.

Construction impacts

Arboricultural works of vegetation overhanging the site boundaries could result in the direct loss of nests, any individuals within the nests and of available nesting territories if conducted during the breeding season.

Mitigation

Arboricultural works are to take place outside of the breeding bird season and should not be undertaken from March to August inclusive. If this is not possible and works need to take place between this period, a targeted breeding bird nest scoping survey should be conducted by a suitably qualified ecologist immediately prior to the works, or an ecological clerk of works appointed to oversee the works.

Compensation and enhancement

If extensive areas of vegetation are to be removed, consideration should be given to providing replacement habitat for foraging and nesting birds by incorporating tree, shrub or scrub planting as part of the landscaping proposals.

Species are to be native, of local provenance or to have a proven benefit to biodiversity. Further information can be found at Appendix 6 – Landscape design for birds.

Operational impacts

Excessive removal or pruning of boundary vegetation should be avoided to maximise the growth and plant matter available to wildlife. Pruning should be left until late winter to leave seeds and berries for wintering wildlife and to ensure no impact on breeding and nesting birds.

4.2.4 Great crested newts

GCN are known to be present across Wrexham Industrial Estate, and due to the relatively close proximity of ponds there is a residual risk that they may be encountered during the works.

Construction impacts

Construction activities without mitigation could result in direct harm, injury and / or death to individuals.

Mitigation

The development proposals are restricted to habitats of negligible suitability for GCN, such as concrete and tarmac. Therefore, it is considered appropriate for works to proceed under reasonable avoidance measures, set out in a method statement which would reduce the

residual risk to negligible levels, and outline the procedures that should occur in the extremely unlikely event that GCN are encountered during the works.

Operational impacts

No operational impacts have been identified.

5 CONCLUSION

The proposed development site has an area of approximately 0.8ha and mainly comprises an area of hardstanding that was previously occupied by seven disused single-story shed / garage buildings that were demolished under a previous planning application. Other habitats present within and adjacent to the ownership boundary include modified grassland (northern boundary and south-east corner of the site) and mixed scrub (eastern boundary of the site). There are three ponds present within 250m of the proposed development site, the closest of which is situated 64m west of the site. Additionally, there are 13 waterbodies present within 500m of the proposed development site.

The PEA has highlighted potential issues with the following ecological receptors on or adjacent to site: bats, birds and GCN. Provided these issues are addressed in accordance with the recommendations detailed in this report, the development may proceed without adversely impacting the aforementioned ecological receptors.

6 REFERENCES

CIEEM (2017). *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal* (Second Edition).

DEFRA (2019). *MAGIC* [online]. Available at: http://magic.defra.gov.uk/.

Welsh Government (2024). *Planning Policy Wales*. Welsh Government, Cardiff.

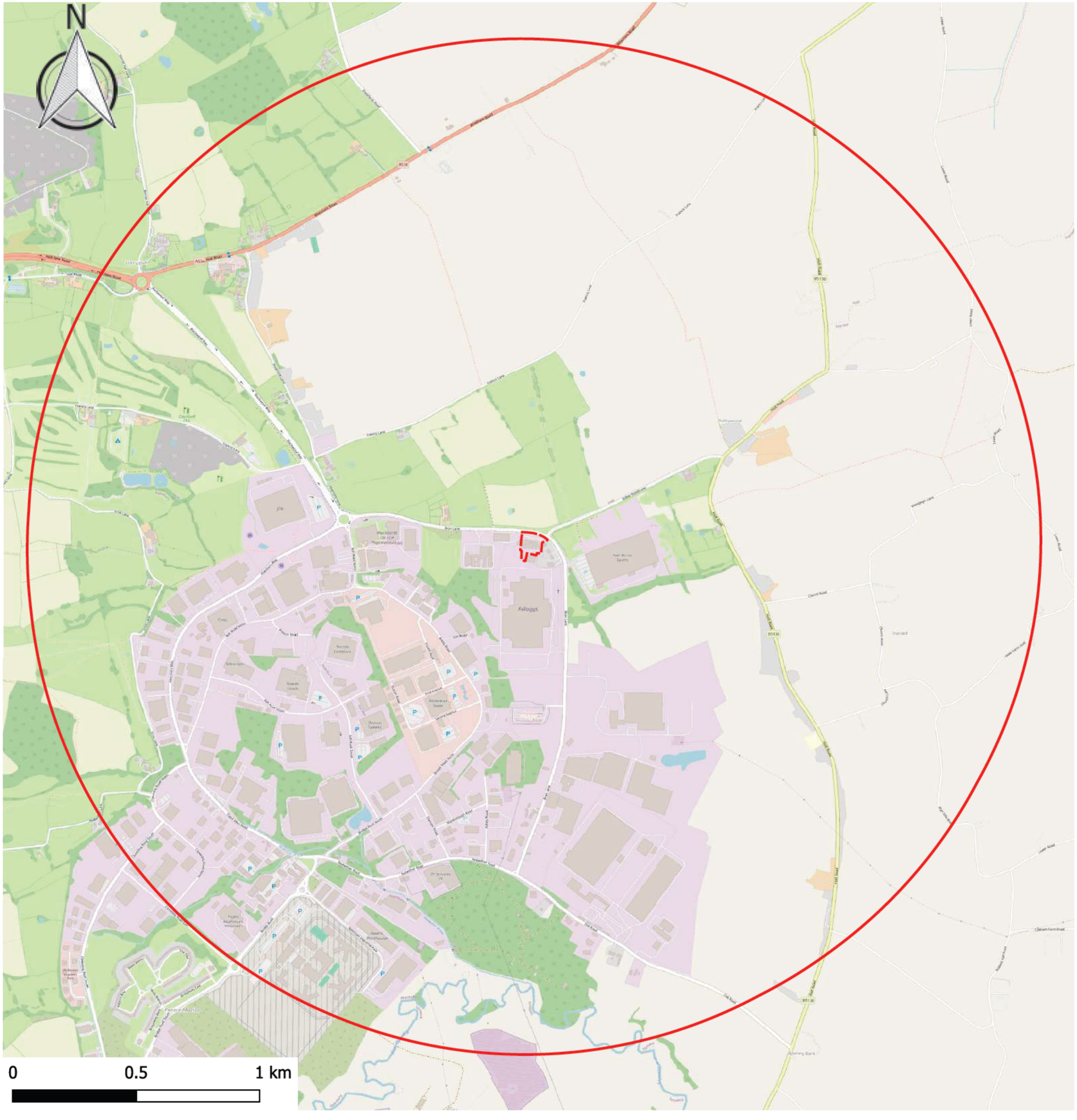
UKHab Ltd (2023). *UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0.* Available at: *https://www.ukhab.org.uk*).

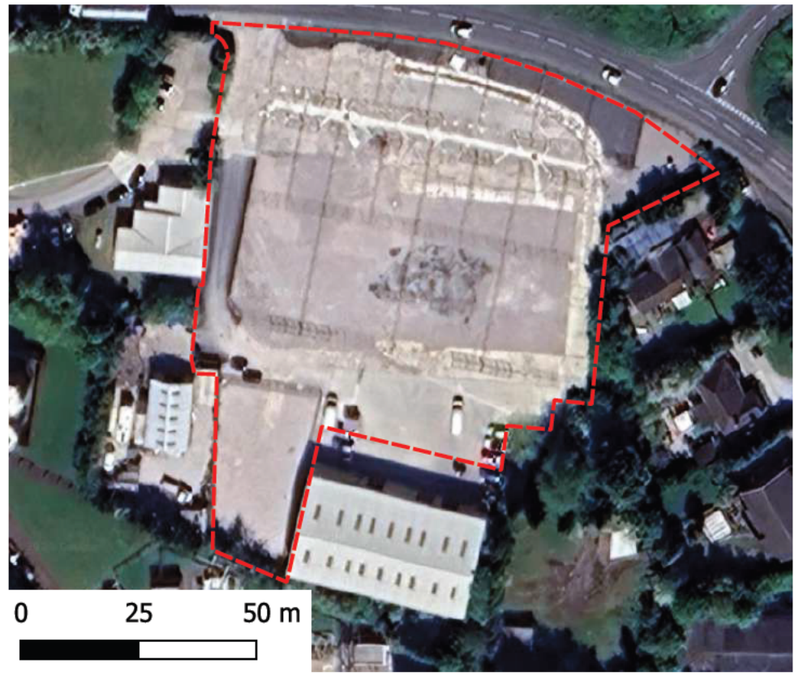
APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Desk study

Statutorily Designated Sites - 2km Buffer

Site: Ridley Wood Industrial Complex
NGR: SJ 38818 50796
Author: Harry Fox
Date: 23/04/26





Key

- LNR
- NNR
- SSSI
- RAMSAR
- SPA
- SPA
- 2km Buffer
- Development boundary

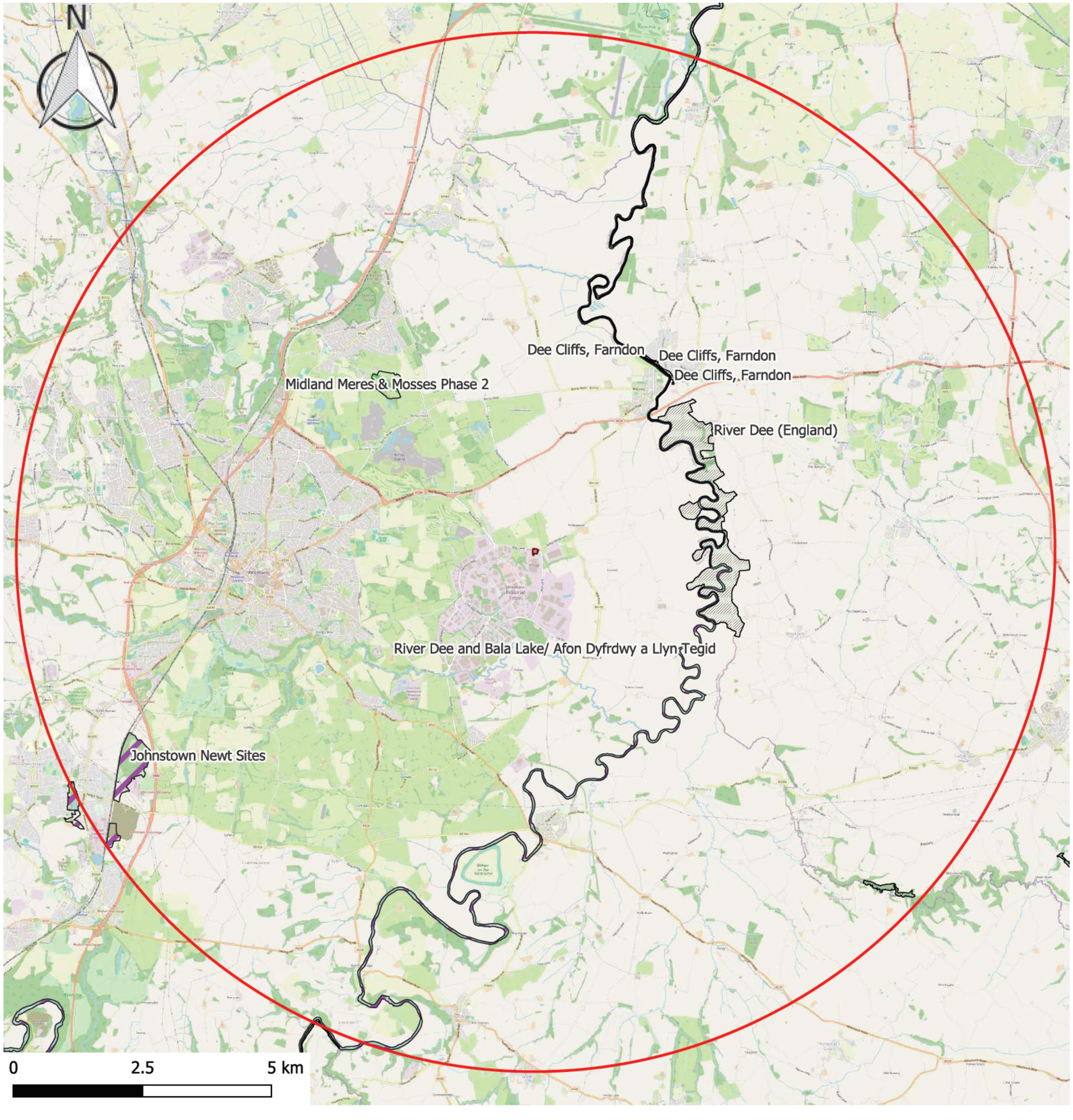
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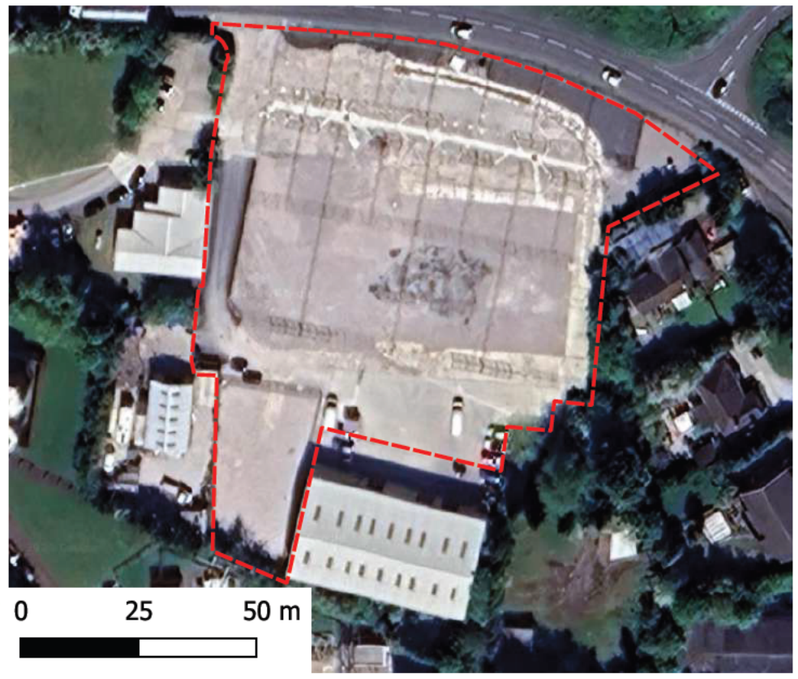
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Statutorily Designated Sites - 10km Buffer

Site: Ridley Wood Industrial Complex
NGR: SJ 38818 50796
Author: Harry Fox
Date: 23/04/26





Key

- LNR
- NNR
- SSSI
- RAMSAR
- SPA
- SPA
- 10km Buffer
- Development boundary

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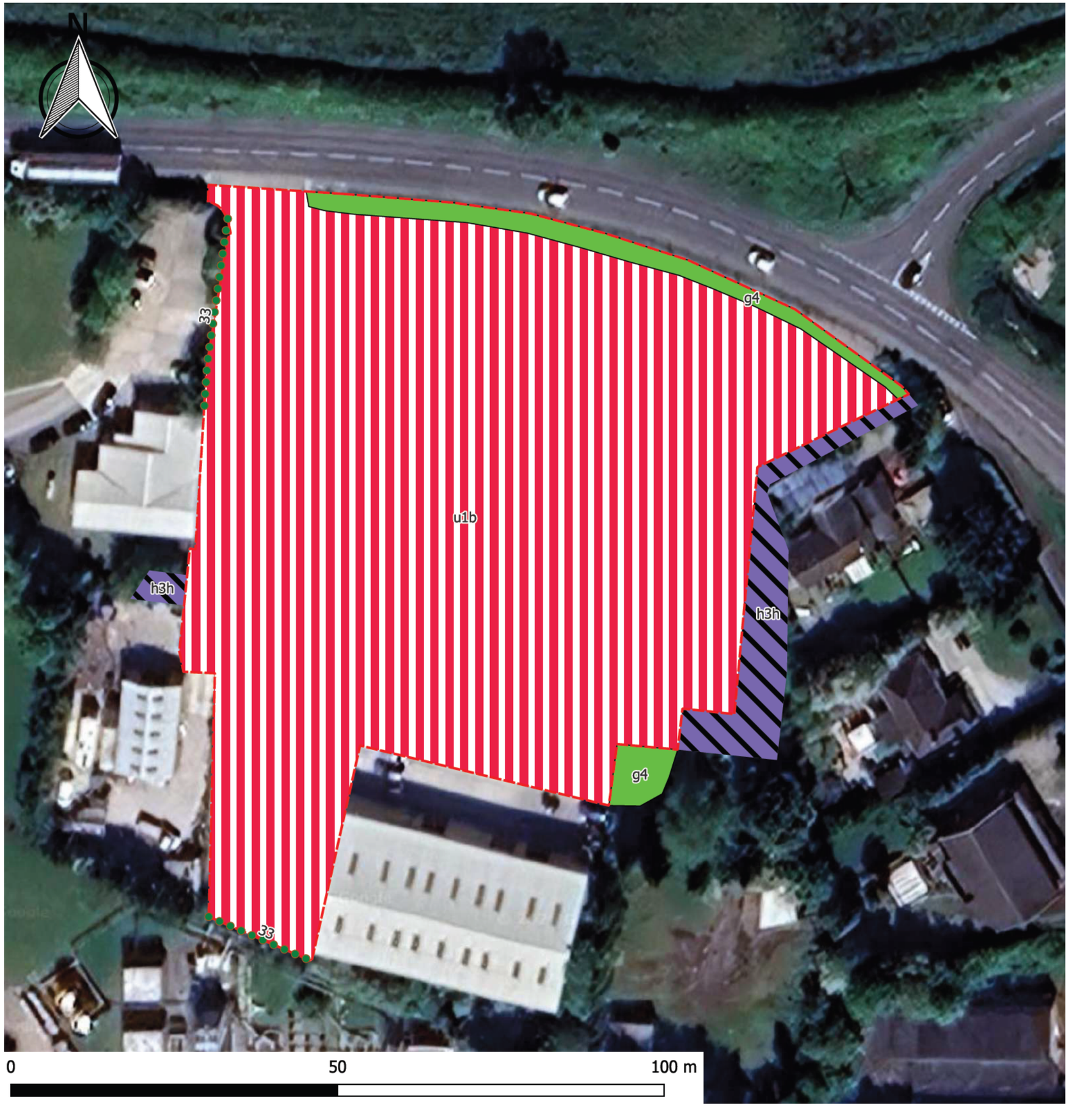
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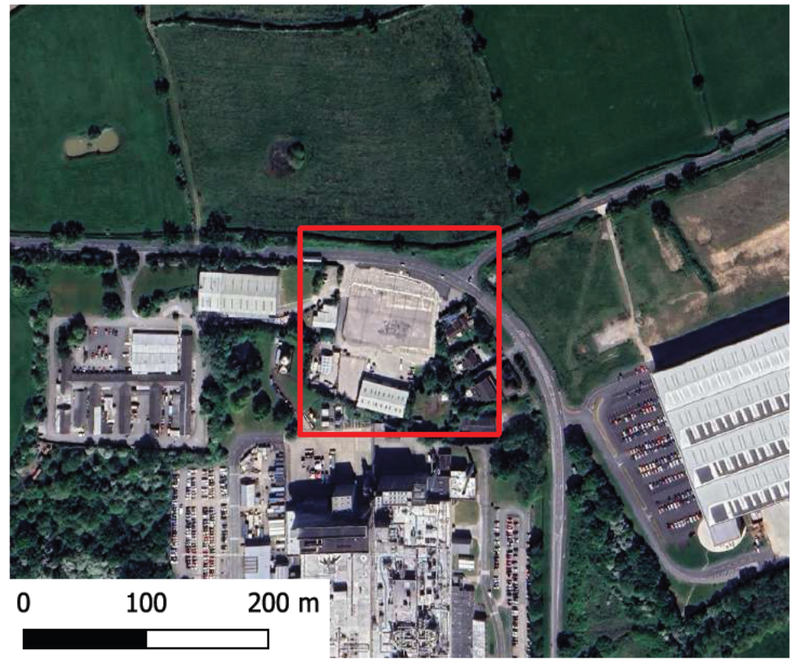
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Appendix 2 – UK Habitat Classification Plan

UK Habitat Classification Plan

Site: Ridley Wood Industrial Complex
NGR: SJ 38832 50802
Author: Harry Fox
Date: 23/04/2026





Key

- g4 - modified grassland
- h3h - mixed scrub
- u1b - developed land. sealed surface
- 33 - line of trees
- Survey boundary

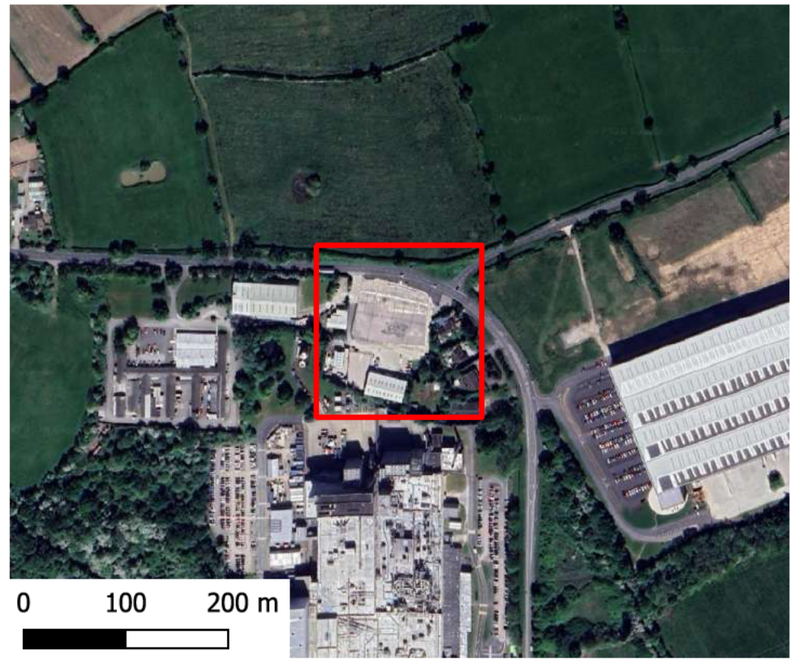
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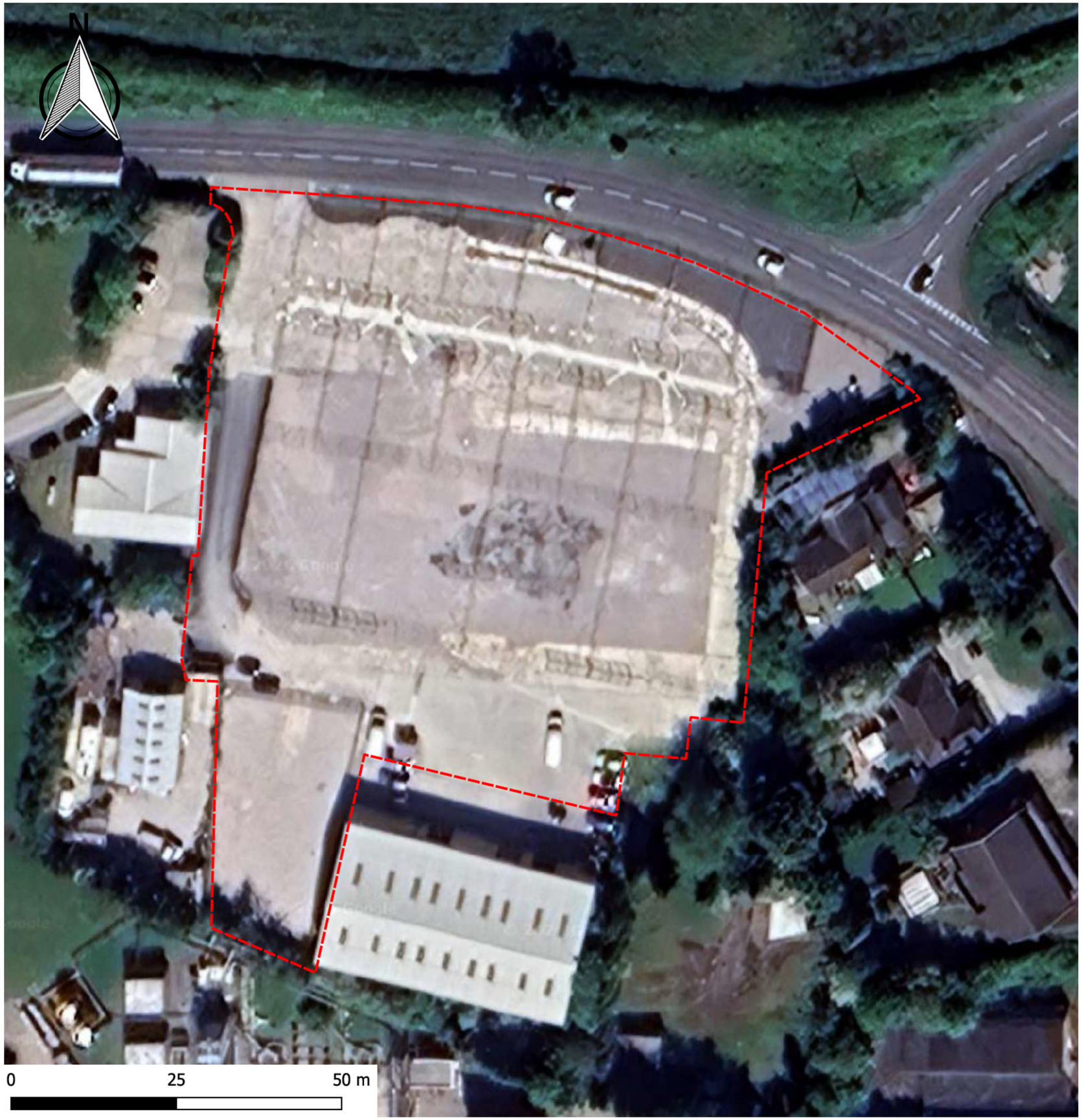
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Appendix 3 – Aerial photographs

Aerial Photography

Site: Ridley Wood Industrial Complex
NGR: SJ 38832 50802
Author: Harry Fox
Date: 23/04/2026





Key

Survey boundary

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Appendix 4 – Photographs



Photograph 1 – Site entrance facing southward, showing general conditions of site.


Photograph 2 – Southern section of site, facing west.



Photograph 3 – Northern section of site, facing east.



Photograph 4 – Grassland running along the northern site boundary, facing east.



Photograph 5 – Offsite scrub along the eastern site boundary, showing overhanging vegetation.



Photograph 6 - Offsite scrub, on the west of site.



Photograph 7 – Offsite grassland, southeast of site.



Photograph 8 – Line of trees 1.



Photograph 9 – Line of trees 2.

Appendix 5 – Botanical species list

Scientific Name	Common Name
Cerastium glomeratum	Sticky mouse-ear
Poa annua	Annual meadow grass
Taraxacum officinale agg.	Dandelion
Epilobium sp.	Willowherb
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping bent
Cirsium vulgare	Spear thistle
Cardamine flexuosa	Wavy bittercress
Erophila verna	Common whitlowgrass
Sonchus asper	Prickly sow-thistle
Juncus inflexus	Hard rush
Deschampsia cespitosa	Tufted hair-grass
Potentilla reptans	Creeping cinquefoil
Trifolium repens	White clover
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort plantain
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble
Jacobaea vulgaris	Common ragwort
Salix sp.	Willow
Geranium robertianum	Herb-Robert
Juncus bufonius	Toad rush
Rumex sanguineus	Wood dock
Lolium perenne	Perennial ryegrass
Festuca arundinacea	Tall fescue
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire fog
Senecio vulgaris	Groundsel
Veronica chamaedrys	Germander speedwell
Lepidium didymum	Lesser swine-cress
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved dock
Sonchus oleraceus	Smooth sow-thistle
Sinapis arvensis	Charlock
Helminthotheca echioides	Bristly oxtongue
Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved cranesbill
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow
Chamaecyparis lawsoniana	Lawson's cypress
Alnus glutinosa	Common alder
Cupressus sp.	Cypress

Appendix 6 – Landscape design for birds

SPECIES	F	SIZE				LOCATION			SOIL MOISTURE	BENEFITS TO WILDLIFE
		T	S	M	L	H	W	Su/Sh		
TREES										
Alder*	D				Y			Su	M	Seed food for birds
Beech*	D			Y	Y	Y		Su	D	Seed food for birds
Birch*	D		Y	Y	Y			Su	D	Seed food for birds
Bird cherry *	D			Y	Y			Su	D	Food for birds, flowers attract insects
Crab apple*	D		Y	Y	Y			Su	D	Food for birds, flowers attract insects
English oak*	D				Y			Su	D	Food for birds, insects and mammals, nesting sites
European larch*	D				Y			Su	M	Seed food for birds
Holly*	E		Y	Y	Y	Y		Su	D	Fruits eaten by birds, food plant of holly blue butterfly
Juniper*	E							Su	D	Shelter and nest sites, fruits eaten by thrushes
Lime*	D				Y	Y		Su	D	Seed food for birds
Rowan*	D			Y	Y			Su	D	Fruits eaten by birds
Scot's pine*	E				Y			Su	D	Seed food for birds
Swedish whitebeam	D		Y	Y	Y			Su	D	Food for birds, flowers attract insects
Wild cherry*	D			Y	Y			Su	D	Food for birds, flowers attract insects
Yew*	E		Y	Y	Y	Y		Su	D	Food for birds, nesting sites
SHRUBS										
Barberry	B	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Su	D	Good shelter and nest cover for birds, berries may provide food
Blackthorn*	D			Y	Y	Y		Su	M	Attracts insects, food for birds, nesting sites
Buckthorn*	D			Y	Y	Y		Su/Sh	D	Food plant of brimstone butterfly, fruits eaten by birds
Butterfly bush	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Su	D	Attracts insects
Californian lilac	E			Y	Y	Y	Y	Su	D	Flowers attractive to various insects
Dogwood*	D			Y	Y	Y		Su	D	Food for birds, winter stem colour
Elder*	D		Y	Y	Y	Y		Su	D	Food for birds
Escallonia	E			Y	Y	Y		Su	M	Flowers attractive to various insects, tolerant of salt - good in coastal areas
Field maple*	D		Y	Y	Y	Y		Su	D	Good source of insect food for birds
Firethorn	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Su	D	Berries popular with many bird species
Flowering current	D		Y	Y	Y			Su	D	Early flowers attractive to insects
Forsythia	D		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Su	D	Early flowers attractive to insects
Garria	E	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Su	D	Winter catkins, early cover for nesting birds
Goat willow*	D	Y	Y	Y	Y			Su	D	Catkins attractive to bees, good source of insect food for birds
Gorse*	E			Y	Y	Y		Su	D	Early flowers attractive to insects, good protection for birds
Rhytismatales	E			Y	Y	Y		Su	D	Good cover, tolerant of salt - good in coastal areas
Guelder-rose*	D			Y	Y	Y		Su	D	Food for birds & insects
Hawthorn*	D		Y	Y	Y	Y		Su	D	Flowers attractive to insects, fruits eaten by birds, good shelter and nesting site
Hazel*	D	Y		Y	Y	Y		Su	D	Food for birds, insects and mammals, nesting sites
Laurel-leaved vibumum	E		Y	Y	Y			Su	D	Early flowers good for insects, good cover for birds

Lavender	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Su	D	Flowers attract many insects, seeds popular with finches
Lilac	D		Y	Y	Y			Su	D	Flowers attractive to insects
Oregon grape	E		Y	Y	Y			Su/Sh	M	Early flowers good for insects
Pheasant berry	E			Y	Y			Su	D	Berries popular with many bird species
Privet*	E		Y	Y	Y	Y		Su	D	Flowers attract butterflies, produces berries
Rose	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Su	D	Fruits of some varieties attractive to birds
Rosemary	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Su	D	Flower attract many insects
Shad bush	D		Y	Y				Su	M	Flowers attract insects, early forming berries good for thrushes
Snowberry	D			Y	Y	Y		Su/Sh	D	Flowers attractive to bees, fruits attractive to birds, dense stems provide cover
Spindle*	D		Y	Y	Y			Su	D	Berries eaten by birds, but poisonous to mammals
Tamarix	D			Y	Y	Y		Su	D	Flowers attractive to various insects, tolerant of salt - good in coastal areas
CLIMBERS & RAMBLERS										
Bramble*	D		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Su/Sh	D	Food for birds, insects and mammals, nesting sites
Clematis	D	Y	Y	Y	Y			Su	D	Nesting sites
Honeysuckle*	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Su/Sh	D	Attractive to insects, good nesting site, food for birds
Ivy*	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Su/Sh	D	Attractive to insects, good nesting site, food for birds
Rose	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Su	D	Fruits of some varieties attractive to birds
Winter jasmin	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Su	D	Early flowers attractive to insects
Wisteria	D	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Su	D	Attractive to insects, good nesting site

KEY			
*	Native (NB: some varieties are cultivars or non-native)	**Location**	H = may be used as a hedge plant
F	D = Deciduous		W = may be used as a wall shrub
Foliage type	E = Evergreen		Su = Sunny borders
	B = Both		Sh = Shade tolerant
Size	T = Terraces & balconies		Su/Sh = Grows in partial shade
Suitable for garden sizes	S = Small garden (</= 6m x 4m)	**Soil mositure**	D = Well drained
	M = Medium gardens (</= 12m x 6m)		M = Moist
	L = Large gardens (> 12m x 6m)		W = Wet soil

Appendix 7 - External lighting guidance

Lighting scheme in relation to bats

The two most important features of street and security lighting with respect to bats are:

1. The UV component. Low or zero UV installations are preferred to reduce attraction of insects to lighting and therefore to reduce the attraction of foraging bats to these areas.

2. Restriction of the area illuminated. Lighting must be shielded to maintain dark areas, particularly above lighting installations, and in many cases, land adjacent to the areas illuminated. The aim is to maintain dark commuting corridors for foraging and commuting bats. Bats avoid well lit areas, and these create barriers for flying bats between roosting and feeding areas.

UV characteristics:

Low

- Low pressure Sodium Lamps (SOX) emit a minimal UV component.
- High pressure Sodium Lamps (SON) emit a small UV component.
- White SON, though low in UV, emit more than regular SON.

High

- Metal Halide lamps emit more UV than SON lamps, but less than Mercury lamps
- Mercury lamps (MBF) emit a high UV component.
- Tungsten Halogen, if unfiltered, emit a high UV component
- Compact Fluorescent (CFL), if unfiltered, emit a high UV component.
- Variable
- Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) have a range of UV outputs. Variants are available with low or minimal UV output.
- Glass glazing and UV filtering lenses are recommended to reduce UV output.

Street lighting

- Low-pressure sodium or high-pressure sodium must be used instead of mercury or metal halide lamps. LEDs must be specified as low UV. Tungsten halogen and CFL sources must have appropriate UV filtering to reduce UV to low levels.
- Lighting must be directed to where it is needed and light spillage avoided. Hoods must be used on each lamp to direct light and contain spillage. Light leakage into hedgerows and trees must be avoided.
- If possible, the times during which the lighting is on overnight must be limited to provide some dark periods. If the light is fitted with a timer this must be adjusted to reduce the amount of 'lit time' and provide dark periods.

Security and domestic external lighting

The above recommendations concerning UV output and direction apply. In addition:

- Lighting should illuminate only ground floor areas. Light should not leak upwards to illuminate first floor and higher levels.
- Lamps of greater than 2000 lumens (150 W) must not be used.
- Movement or similar sensors must be used. They must be carefully installed and aimed, to reduce the amount of time a light is on each night.
- Light must illuminate only the immediate area required, by using as sharp a downward angle as possible. Light must not be directed at or close to bat roost access points or flight paths from the roost. A shield or hood can be used to control or restrict the area to be lit.
- Wide angle illumination must be avoided as this will be more disturbing to foraging and commuting bats as well as people and other wildlife.
- Lighting must not illuminate any bat bricks and boxes placed on buildings, trees or other nearby locations.

Taken from the Bat Conservation Trust

Appendix 8 – Planning and statutory context

STATUTORY AND PLANNING CONTEXT

Ecological assessments

Ecological assessments play an important part within the planning context; they include an initial assessment which highlights any specific interests of a site. From the initial site assessment, the surveyor assesses the suitability of habitats within the site to support protected species and makes recommendations for further survey works if required. The following paragraphs provide a brief interpretation of the legislative protection that is relevant to the findings of this report.

Habitats

Section 7 of the Environment Act (Wales) places a duty on Welsh Ministers to publish, review and revise lists of types of habitats and species in Wales which they consider are of key significance to sustain and improve biodiversity. The Welsh Ministers must also take all reasonable steps to maintain and enhance the habitats published in these lists,and encourage others to take such steps.

Amphibians

<u>Great crested newts</u>

Great crested newts (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* and their habitat (aquatic and terrestrial) are afforded full protection by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. If both national and international legislation are taken together, it is an offence to:

- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or capture GCN
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb GCN in such a way to be likely to significantly affect:
    - their ability to survive, breed, reproduce, rear or nurture their young
    - their ability to hibernate or migrate
    - their local distribution or abundance
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly take or destroy the eggs of GCN
- Damage or destroy breeding sites or resting places of GCN
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb sheltering GCN, or obstruct access to their resting place
- Keep, transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange any live or dead GCN, any part of GCN or anything derived from GCN

Penalties for offences include unlimited fines (formerly up to £5000), plus up to six months imprisonment, for each offence committed.

GCN are also protected by the Protection of Animals Act 1911, which prohibits cruelty and mistreatment. Releasing a GCN in such a way as to cause undue suffering may be an offence under the Abandonment of Animals Act 1960.

In addition to the above, there are various statutory provisions relating to the transport of animals, designed to ensure their welfare. GCN are also listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

It is important to identify the presence of GCN individuals and also to identify suitable habitat on sites so that legal obligations regarding this species can be observed. If a survey identifies the presence of GCN on the site, an assessment of the population size class is required. This can then inform a mitigation scheme, which would need to be developed in liaison with the local Natural Resources Wales (NRW) team, and which minimises direct threats to newts and compensates for any loss of habitat. A licence issued by NRW is required for the legal implementation of a mitigation scheme.

An NRW mitigation licence application requires a Mitigation Method Statement and a Reasoned Statement of Application. The Mitigation Method Statement contains details of the proposed mitigation works. The Reasoned Statement needs to provide a rational and reasoned justification as to why the proposed development meets the requirements of the Conservation (National Habitats & c.) regulations 1994, namely Regulations 44(2)(e), (f) or (g), and 44(3)(a).

Other amphibians

More common British amphibians, such as common frog *Rana temporaria*, common toad *Bufo bufo*, smooth newt *Triturus vulgaris* and palmate newt *Triturus helveticus* are protected only by Section 9(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This section prohibits sale, barter, exchange, transporting for sale and advertising to sell or to buy.

The above named species are also listed as UK Species of Conservation Concern. Due to general declines in most British amphibian species in recent years, many local authorities require amphibian surveys as a planning condition, or as part of environmental information submitted as part of a planning application, even where the presence of GCN is ruled out.

Natterjack toad *Bufo calamita* and pool frog *Pelophylax lessonae* are also offered the same level of protection as GCN, through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Natterjack and common toad are also listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Water bodies that support all five (more common) species of British amphibians in high numbers, may be afforded protection in local plans, as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), or a similar equivalent, for sites of local importance. A site may require statutory protection as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Reptiles

Common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*, slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*, grass snake *Natrix natrix* and adder *Vipera berus* are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). They are listed as a Schedule 5 species therefore part of Section 9(1) and section 9(5) apply. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 also strengthens their protection. It is offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly kill or injure any of the species listed above
- Sell, offer, advertise or transport for sale a live or dead animal of the species listed above

If a proposed development is likely to have an impact on these reptiles the local statutory nature conservation organisation must be consulted.

Sand lizard *Lacerta agilis* and smooth snake *Coronella austriaca* receive full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Read together, it is an offence to:

- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or capture any sand lizards or smooth snakes
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb sand lizards or smooth snakes in such a way to be likely to significantly affect:
    - their ability to survive, breed, reproduce, rear or nurture their young
    - their ability to hibernate or migrate
    - their local distribution or abundance
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly take or destroy the eggs of such an animal
- Damage or destroy breeding sites or resting places of such animals
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb sheltering sand lizards or smooth snakes, or obstruct access to their resting place
- Keep, transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange any live or dead sand lizards or smooth snakes, any part of such an animal or anything derived from such an animal

Penalties for offences include unlimited fines (formerly up to £5000), plus up to six months imprisonment, for each offence committed.

All reptile species (except for smooth snake) are also listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Badger

European badgers *Meles meles* and their habitat are protected under The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and are also included on Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and Appendix III of the Bern Convention. The legislation affords badgers protection against deliberate harm or injury making it an offence to:

- Wilfully kill, injure, take, possess or cruelly ill-treat a badger (or attempt to do so)
- To interfere with a sett by damaging or destroying it
- To obstruct access to, or entrance of, a badger sett
- To disturb a badger whilst it is occupying a sett

Penalties for offences include unlimited fines (formerly up to £5000), plus up to six months imprisonment, for each offence committed.

Works that disturb badgers whilst they are occupying a sett are illegal without a licence. Disturbance can occur even without direct interference or damage to the sett in question. In general, the following activities are likely to require a licence:

- Use of heavy machinery or significant earth moving within 30m of a sett
- Use of lighter machinery (usually any wheeled vehicles) within 20m of a sett
- Any digging, chain saw use or scrub clearance within 10m of a sett

Hazel dormouse

Hazel dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius* are offered full protection through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. If both national and international legislation are taken together, it is an offence to:

- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or capture dormice
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb dormice in such a way to be likely to significantly affect:
    - their ability to survive, breed, reproduce, rear or nurture their young
    - their ability to hibernate or migrate
    - their local distribution or abundance
- Damage or destroy breeding sites or resting places of dormice
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb sheltering dormice, or obstruct access to their resting place
- Keep, transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange any live or dead dormouse, any part of a dormouse or anything derived from a dormouse

Penalties for offences include unlimited fines (formerly up to £5000), plus up to six months imprisonment, for each offence committed.

Dormice are also listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Bats

In the United Kingdom, all species of bat and their roosts are afforded full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (known as the "Habitats Regulations"). The Wildlife and Countryside Act is the domestic implementation of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention) and was amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or capture a bat
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat while it is occupying a structure or place that it uses for shelter or protection
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place that a bat uses for shelter or protection (even if the bat is not present at the time)
- Keep, transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange any live or dead bat, any part of a bat or anything derived from a bat

Under UK law, a bat roost is *any structure or place which any wild [bat] … uses for shelter or protection*. As bats often reuse the same roosts, legal opinion is that a roost is protected whether or not the bats are present at the time of the activity taking place.

Penalties for offences include unlimited fines (formerly up to £5000), plus up to six months imprisonment, for each offence committed.

If an activity is likely to result in any of the above offences, a licence can be applied for to derogate from the protection afforded. These licences must provide appropriate mitigation and are issued by NRW.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 also lists the following bat species as species of principle importance under Section 7:

- Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*
- Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii*
- Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*
- Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*
- Soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*
- Brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*
- Greater horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*
- Lesser horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros*

Birds

All wild birds, their nests and young are protected throughout England and Wales by the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is illegal to kill, injure or take any wild bird, or damage or destroy the nest or eggs of breeding birds. The legislation applies to all bird species, common and rare.

In addition to the protection afforded to all wild birds, more vulnerable species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act receive enhanced protection when breeding. Schedule 1 species, including their dependent young, are protected from intentional or reckless disturbance whilst at or near the nest, in addition to the protection afforded the more common species.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 offers further protection to the nests of some species that regularly re-use their nests, even when the nests are not in use.

The leading governmental and non-governmental conservation organisations in the UK have reviewed the population status' of 244 UK bird species. "Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the Red List for Birds" is the most recent publication summarising their findings. Three lists, Red, Amber and Green, have been produced based on the most up-to-date evidence available and criteria include conservation status at global and European levels and, within the UK: historical decline, trends in population and range, rarity, localised distribution and international importance. These lists are a valuable resource when considering conservation priorities.

Trees

Trees may be protected on an individual or group level through a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). In order to carry out works to trees with a TPO, prior written consent must be obtained from the Local Planning Authority. Trees may also be protected through a condition of planning consent or designated conservation areas.

Hedgerows

The Hedgerow Regulations are made under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995 and came into operation on 1st of June 1997. They aim to protect important hedgerows in the countryside by controlling their removal through a system of notification to the Local Planning Authority.

A hedgerow can only be considered for classification as "important" if it, or the hedgerow of which the section belongs to is over 20m in length (or which meets a hedgerow at either end) and has existed for 30 years or more.

Plants

Schedule 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) lists a number of plant species which are protected under Section 13 of the same legislation. As such, it is an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly pick, uproot or destroy a plant, or any seeds or spores attached to it, which is listed on Schedule 8
- Keep, transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange any live or dead wild plant on Schedule 8, any part of the plant or anything derived from the plant

Penalties for offences include unlimited fines (formerly up to £5000), plus up to six months imprisonment, for each offence committed.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 extends European legislative protection to a further subset of plants. It is therefore an offence to pick, collect, cut, uproot, destroy or trade any plant listed in Schedule 4 of these Regulations, unless the appropriate licence is first obtained.

A large number of species of vascular plants, lichens, algae, fungi, mosses, stoneworts and liverworts are also protected through planning policy as species of principal importance, as required under Section 7 of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016.

Invasive Plant Species

A number of invasive, non-native plant species are listed under Schedule 9 (Part II) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The most commonly encountered listed species in ecological surveys are Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*, Montbretia *Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora* and variegated yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. argentatum*. Section 14(2) of this Act makes it an offence to *plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild* any plant listed on Schedule 9 (Part II). These provisions are necessary to prevent the establishment of non-native species which may be detrimental to our native wildlife.

A number of invasive, non-native plants species are listed under Schedule 2 (Part II) of the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019. The most commonly encountered listed species in ecological surveys are Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* and giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*. Section 3 of this Act make it an offence to *plant* or *otherwise causes to grow in the wild* any plant which is listed on Schedule 2 (Part II). These provisions are necessary to prevent the establishment of non-native species which may be detrimental to our native wildlife.

Soil or plant material contaminated with non-native and invasive plants can cause ecological damage and may be classified as controlled waste. It is an offence to keep, treat or dispose of waste that could harm the environment or human health. If there is any doubt, contact the local authority or Environment Agency.

Japanese knotweed has an extensive root system and new plants can regenerate rapidly from the smallest fragments of rhizomes. Material containing this species is classed as “controlled waste” under the Environmental Protection Act (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991. The disposal of such waste requires all involved parties to follow a strict code of practice and maintain adequate records regarding their conduct.

Otter

European otter *Lutra lutra* are offered full protection through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. If both national and international legislation are taken together, it is an offence to:

- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or capture otters
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb otters in such a way to be likely to significantly affect:
    - their ability to survive, breed, reproduce, rear or nurture their young
    - their ability to migrate
    - their local distribution or abundance
- Damage or destroy breeding sites or resting places of otters
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb sheltering otters, or obstruct access to their resting place
- Keep, transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange any live or dead otter, any part of an otter or anything derived from otter

Penalties for offences include unlimited fines (formerly up to £5000), plus up to six months imprisonment, for each offence committed.

Otters are also listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Water vole

Water voles *Arvicola amphibius* are protected by the provisions of Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take water vole
- Possess or control live or dead water vole or any part of a water vole
- Intentionally or recklessly damage destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place which a water vole uses for shelter or protection, or disturb water vole using such a place
- Sell, offer, advertise or transport live or dead water voles for sale

Licences are available from NRW to allow activities that would otherwise be an offence, including:

- Scientific or educational purposes
- For the purposes of ringing or marking
- Conserving wild animals or introducing them into particular areas
- Preserving public health or public safety
- Preventing the spread of disease
- Preventing serious damage to any form of property or to fisheries

Penalties for offences include unlimited fines (formerly up to £5000), plus up to six months imprisonment, for each offence committed.

Water voles are also listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

White-clawed crayfish

White-clawed crayfish *Austropotomobius pallipes* are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). They are listed as a Schedule 5 species therefore part of Section 9(1) and section 9(5) apply. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 also strengthens their protection. It is offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly kill or injure white-clawed crayfish
- Sell, offer, advertise or transport for sale a live or dead white-clawed crayfish

If a proposed development is likely to have an impact on white-clawed crayfish then the local statutory nature conservation organisation must be consulted.

Penalties for offences include unlimited fines (formerly up to £5000), plus up to six months imprisonment, for each offence committed.
Their inclusion on the EC Habitats Directive allows areas to be designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) for the presence of white-clawed crayfish. Such a designation brings legal protection under the Conservation of Habitats Regulations 2017, this includes how the site is managed and what development can occur on and in proximity to these sites.

White-clawed crayfish are also listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Planning Policy

National planning guidance is issued in the form of Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12 - 2024). The most relevant sections are included in Chapter 6: Distinctive and Natural Places. This chapter details the policies on issues such as the protection of trees, woodlands, species, and designated sites. The document is free and available to view online.