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Gwersyllt Park Cricket Club
Proposed New Buildings
Green Infrastructure Statement

7th September 2026



Report by: Ben Box

Client: Gwersyllt Cricket Club

Planning Authority: Wrexham County Borough Council

Grid Reference: SJ 32160 54130 (Approximate Site Centre)

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1. Introduction

Cambrian Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Gwersyllt Cricket Club to produce a Green Infrastructure Statement for proposed works at Gwersyllt Cricket Club, Wrexham.

It is proposed to develop a plot of land adjacent to the existing cricket club with the construction of a large external cover, new entrance and associated parking.

The relevant Planning Authority is Wrexham County Borough Council which requires a Green Infrastructure Statement to be submitted in support of the application.

The proposed development is located to the northeast of the village of Gwersyllt at Grid Reference: SJ 32160 54130 (Approximate Site Centre).

2. Methodologies

The Preliminary Ecological Assessment (PEA) was carried out by Arbtech in March 2026. For full details of methodology used during the site surveys, please refer to this PEA.

The above report was then referred to for the production of this Green Infrastructure Statement which was written by Ecologist Ben Box (Bat Licence No.: S095274/2, Great Crested Newt Licence No.: S096607/2). Ben is a qualifying member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), holds bat and great crested newt survey licences from NRW and has been working with Cambrian Ecology since 2022. Prior to holding his own bat licence, he was an accredited agent on the bat licence of Chris Hall (S095271/1). Chris has been working as an independent ecologist for 20 years and has held a bat licence from CCW/NRW for 30 years. He is an associate member of CIEEM.

3. Results

For the full results of the initial site surveys please refer to the relevant PEA report (Arbtech, 2026). The results of this report are summarised below –

- The site sits within 2km of seven priority habitats including traditional orchards, lowland meadow and purple moor grass and rush pasture.

- The site sits within 2km of two statutory protected sites in the form of the Llay Bog Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the Alyn Waters Local Nature Reserve.
- It was concluded that habitat connectivity between the survey site and the above protected habitats and sites is good.
- It was concluded that due to the limited scale of the works, the above sites and habitats will not be negatively impacted.
- The habitats to be impacted are "Other woodland: broadleaved" and "Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface".
- Recommendations were provided to mitigate for habitat loss including the removal of the lowest area of habitat possible to facilitate the development and the fencing off of retained woodland habitat. Plans also show extensive mitigatory tree planting at the site.
- No Invasive, Non-Native Species (INNS) were recorded at the site.
- The works will not impact on any potential bat roosts within buildings.
- The works have some potential to have a limited negative impact on roosting bats associated with trees. To mitigate for this, tree felling will comply with a Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) which includes measures such as the provision of bat boxes prior to felling and the soft felling of any trees with Potential Roosting Features (PRFs).
- The site is likely to support commuting and foraging by bat species, a sensitive lighting scheme is therefore recommended.
- It is concluded that the works are highly unlikely to negatively impact on great crested newts; (*Triturus cristatus*).
- Common amphibian species may be present on occasion in the woodland habitat to be affected. A PWMS will be implemented to mitigate for any potential negative impact on amphibians. Recommendations include timing restrictions on clearance works, the supervised removal of any rubble piles present and the correct storage and disposal of potentially harmful chemicals.
- The woodland habitat to be impacted has some potential to support reptile species. A PWMS will be implemented to mitigate for any potential negative impact on reptiles. Recommendations include timing restrictions on clearance works and the covering of any excavations overnight.
- The works have the potential to result in the disturbance of nesting birds and the loss of nesting habitat.
- To mitigate for any potential negative impact on nesting birds, habitat clearance will take place outside the bird nesting period and new planting will ensure long-term nesting opportunities are retained on the site. The use of bird boxes in the biodiversity enhancement scheme is also recommended.
- [redacted] precautionary measures were however recommended. These included an additional survey [redacted] three months or more passes between the initial survey and ground works commencing, the [redacted]
- There is no potential impact on riparian animals.

- There is no significant potential for hazel dormice; (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) to be present on the site. Precautionary measures including timing restrictions on habitat clearance to avoid the dormouse hibernation period are recommended.
- The works are considered to be inconsequential to local invertebrate populations.
- Precautionary measures including searches of dense vegetation prior to clearance and the covering of excavations will ensure that any negative impact on other small mammals is avoided.

4. Green Infrastructure Statement

Under Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales 12, Planning Authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. It is a priority for developments in Wales to consider ecosystem resilience and green infrastructure in the development of enhancement schemes.

For full details of proposed mitigation measures, please refer to the PEA report (Arbtech, 2026).

Many habitats and associated species are dependent on habitat connectivity to allow the freedom of movement of both animal and plant species between habitats to avoid problems such as genetic 'bottlenecking'. Habitat fragmentation and the resulting isolation of populations can be problematic for species which rely on a 'metapopulation dynamic'.

In this case, the following habitat features, species and potential issues have been identified with regard to the proposed development's relationship with the wider landscape:

- The woodland habitat present on and adjacent to the site offers significant green infrastructure and connectivity to other habitats and protected sites present in the wider landscape.
- Significant mitigatory tree planting on a three-for-one basis will ensure that there is no overall loss of woodland habitat on the site. This will ensure that green infrastructure on the site is retained.
- Lighting guidance will ensure that habitat connectivity is retained.

Table 1 below shows how the 'step-wise' approach has been implemented in order to achieve the goals of Chapter 6 of the Planning Policy Wales (Updated 2023). To find details of PWMS and mitigation measures, please refer to the initial PEA report carried out by Arbtech (2026).

Table 1- How the stepwise approach will be implemented on this development.

Step-Wise Step-	**How the step has been implemented**
1 - Avoid	Any potential negative impact on protected habitats and sites within the surrounding landscape will be avoided due to the limited scale of the proposed works.

	Any negative impacts as the result of biosecurity concerns will be avoided as no INNS were recorded on the site. Any potential negative impacts on roosting bats associated with buildings will be avoided as no buildings are to be impacted. The implementation of the PWMS will ensure that any potential negative impact on amphibian or reptile species is avoided. Timing restrictions on habitat clearance works will ensure that negative impact on nesting works as the result of disturbance will be avoided. [redacted]. The implementation of a precautionary working method will ensure that any negative impact on dormice is avoided. The implementation of a precautionary working method will ensure that any negative impact on other small mammals is avoided.
2 – Minimise	Any potential negative impact on bats as a result of habitat fragmentation will be avoided through the implementation of a sensitive lighting scheme.
3 – Mitigate	Any potential negative impact on roosting bats associated with tree will be mitigated against through strict adherence to the PWMS.
4 – Onsite compensate	Loss of woodland habitat will be compensated for onsite via extension new tree planting on a three-for-one basis. Any potential negative impact on roosting bats associated with trees will be compensated for onsite via the provision of new bat boxes. New planting and the provision of bird boxes on the site will ensure that any loss of bird nesting opportunities is compensated for onsite.
5 – Offsite compensate	N/A

5. References

Bat Conservation Trust (2018) Bats and artificial lighting in the UK.

Environment (Wales) Act (2016)

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Gwersyllt Cricket Club (Arbch, 2026)

6. Appendices

6.1 Site Photographs




Above and below – habitat to be affected.







Above and below – habitat to be affected.






Above and below – habitat to be affected.





Above and below - habitat to be affected.