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Former Nags Head, Bettisfield
Proposed Residential Development
Landscape & Environmental Management Plan
16th March 2026



Report by: Heaven Kyriacou, Ben Box & Chris Hall ACIEEM

Client: Gurjit Mahal

Planning Authority: Wrexham County Borough Council

Grid Reference: SJ 46029 35375 (approximate site centre)

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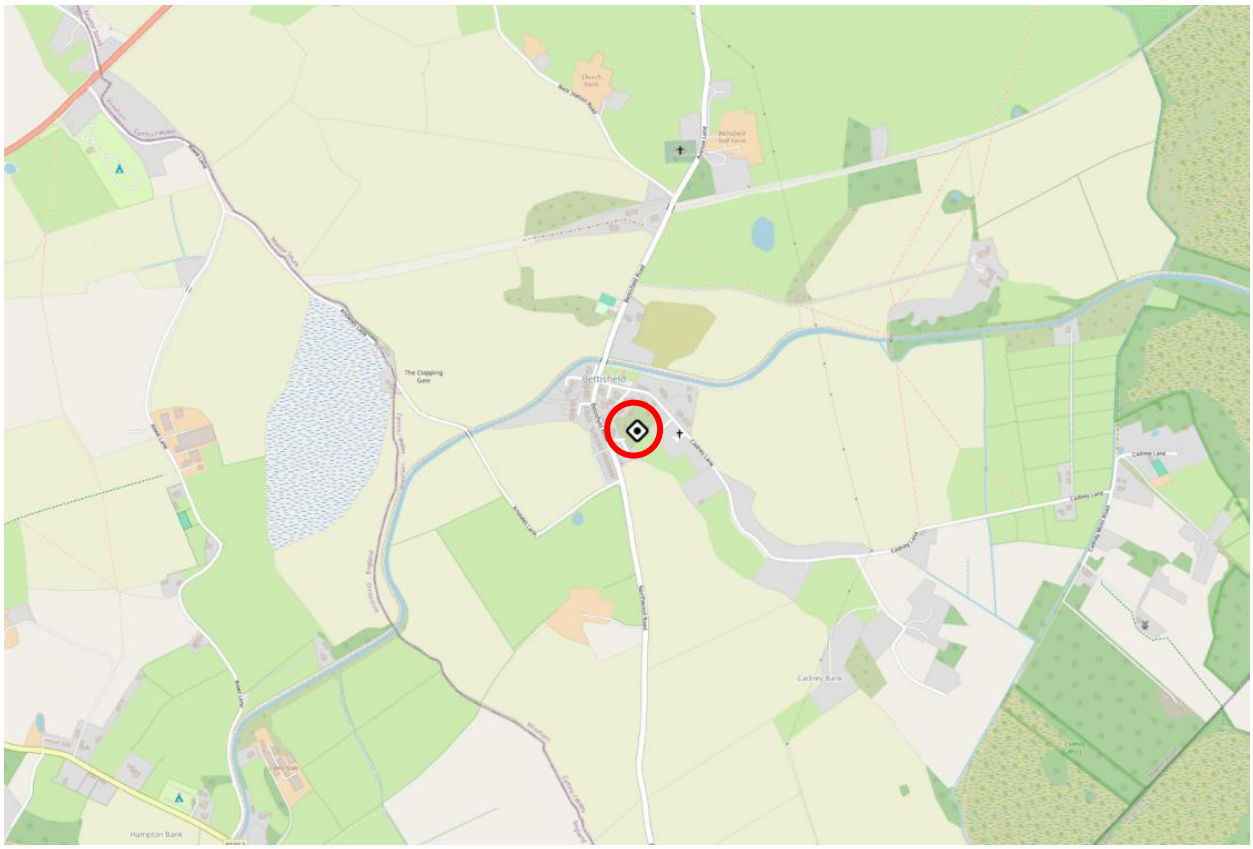


Fig. 1: Site Location.

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1. Introduction

Cambrian Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Gurjit Mahal to produce a Landscape Environmental Management Plan (LEMP) in relation to proposed works at the Former Nag's Head, Road from Cambrian View to Back Station Road, Bettisfield, SY13 2LJ.

It is proposed to develop the site with the erection of four dwellings and associated infrastructure (see Figure 2). Planning consent has not yet been granted, the LEMP produced for the site will be submitted with the planning application.



Fig. 2: The proposed layout of the development.

A Great Crested Newt & Protected Species Ecological Survey Report containing a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan and Green Infrastructure Statement (Cambrian Ecology Ltd, 2025) has previously been produced.

The survey revealed that the habitats on the site include degraded improved grassland, dense scrub, tall ruderal vegetation, scattered willow; (*Salix spp*) scrub, vegetated spoil bunds, standing water and wet modified bog with ephemeral ponds.

The development site is restricted to the southeast of the site and is made up of areas of degraded improved grassland, dense scrub and tall ruderal vegetation. There is also tall ruderal vegetation, vegetated spoil bunds, scattered willow scrub, wet modified bog with ephemeral ponds and a small group of broadleaved trees to the northeast with this area to be the focus of this report (see Figure 3). This area will be required to be securely fenced off with a locked gate with no public access. The gate will need to be large enough to enable access for plant and management machinery. A significant area of the habitats present on site will not be impacted by the works including the scattered willow scrub, areas of dense scrub, areas of tall ruderal vegetation, the vegetated spoil bunds and the wet modified bog with ephemeral ponds. No invasive non-native species (INNS) were recorded onsite (see Figure 4).

GCN survey work was required prior to the submission of a planning application for the works which included a presence and absence survey along with a population size class assessment. One torching and one bottle trapping survey were positive for GCN with one male and one female recorded, this generates a population class estimate of small. Smooth/Palmate newts; (*Lissotriton spp*) and common frogs; (*Rana temporaria*) were also recorded. One water shrew; (*Neomys fodiens*) was also recorded on the site. Both the eDNA survey and the egg searches were negative.

The proposed location of the new housing development is in an urban location within the town of Bettisfield at Grid Reference SJ 46029 35375 (approximate site centre).



Fig. 3: A map of the site showing the approximate proposed development area (red) and the approximate proposed enhancement and modification area (blue).

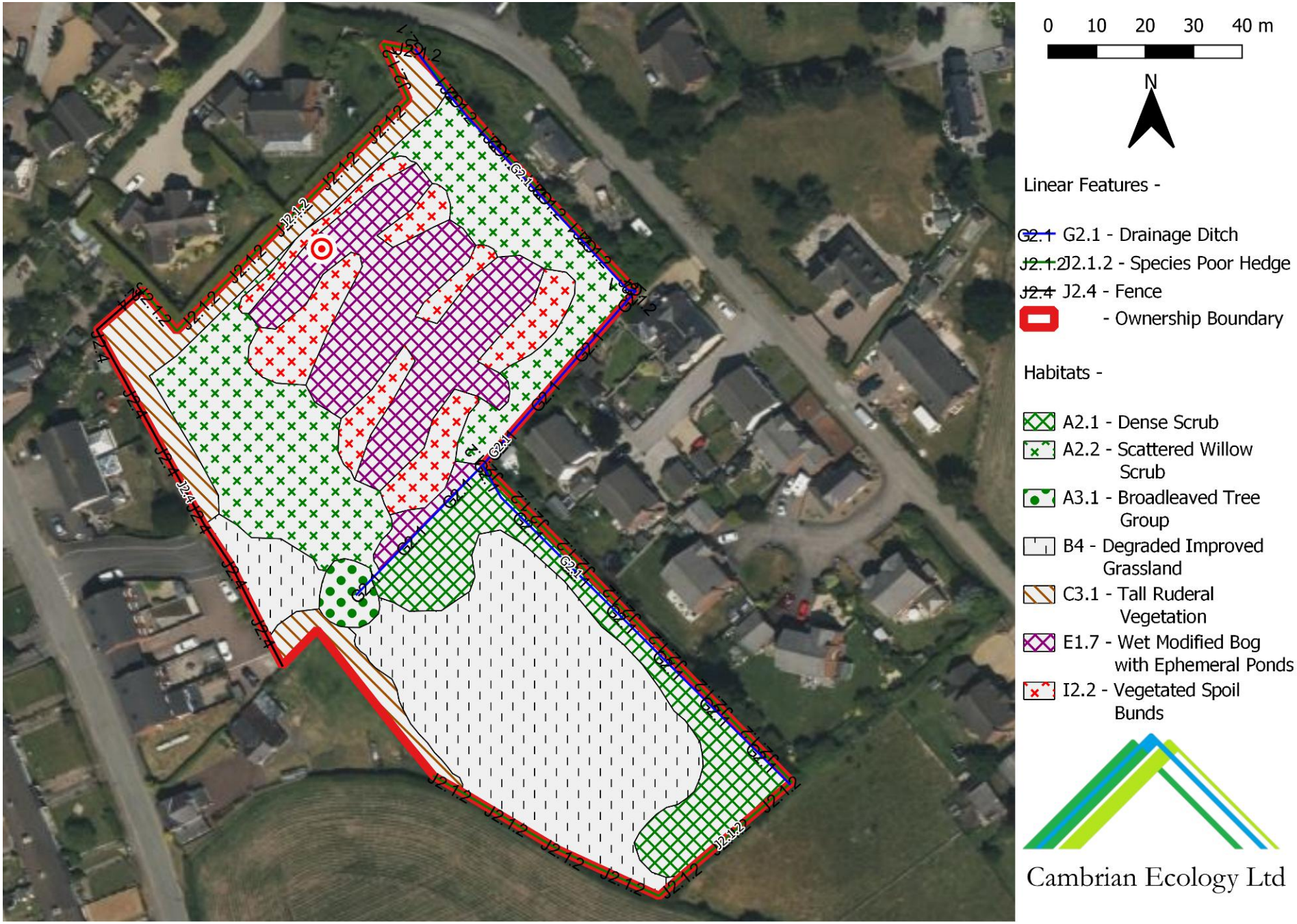


Fig. 4: Phase 1 habitat survey map.

2. Aims of the LEMP

The LEMP is intended to illustrate how the retained habitat will be modified and enhanced to the benefit of the protected species onsite, to provide guidance regarding management of the site and will aim to cover the following points –

- Retention, enhancement and management of a wildlife corridor around the site in the form of hedgerow planting and management and buffer zones.
- Retention and management of an area of willow scrub.
- Construction and management of the ponds and scrapes.
- Management of meadow areas to be put under favourable management for wildflowers.
- INNS prevention and biosecurity measures.
- Ongoing monitoring.

3. Hedgerow & Wildlife Corridor

3.1 Existing Hedgerow & Wildlife Corridor

Hedgerows are currently present along some of the site boundaries (see Figure 5). These features are to be retained along with a buffer zone of at least 3m between these features and the wooden fence marking the boundary of the new dwelling's gardens in order to provide a further wildlife corridor.

If needed, this buffer zone can be cut on an annual basis to a height of no less that 30cm during the winter in order to prevent it from developing into dense scrub.

3.2 New Hedgerow & Wildlife Corridor

New hedgerows will be planted around the boundaries that are currently missing this feature with the exception of one boundary where hedge planting is not appropriate due to bund construction. This is to improve habitat connectivity on the site (see Figure 5).

New hedgerow planting should be planted in a double staggered row with five plants per linear meter. The hedgerows should be made of the following composition of native species of benefit biodiversity-

- 20% hazel; (*Corylus avellana*)
- 25% hawthorn; (*Crataegus monogyna*)
- 15% rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)
- 15% elder; (*Sambucus nigra*)
- 15% holly; (*Ilex aquifolium*)
- 10% field maple; (*Acer campestre*)

3.2.1 *Establishing New Plants-*

The location of all new planting will be clearly marked on a plan submitted to support any planning permission application.

All plants must be securely protected from any livestock or rabbits.

If 'tree tubes' are used, these should be one of the readily available biodegradable products.

Any plant casualties within the first 5 years must be replaced.

To ensure that the new planting does not have to compete with other vigorous plant species, ground preparation must include the eradication of deep-rooted perennial weeds.

It is recommended that small, bare rooted plants are used as these become established more easily.

Bare root planting must take place in autumn/winter when the plants have dropped their leaves.

Watering during dry weather in the first 12 months is recommended as this can significantly reduce the number of casualties.

3.3 Management of Hedges

Hedges should be managed on a staggered basis with no more than 50% of the hedgerows on the site being cut in any one year and with any one section of hedgerow not being cut more frequently than every other year. This will ensure that at least half of the hedgerows on the site will be allowed to grow sufficiently to provide dense cover for nesting birds each nesting season. Additionally, many hedgerow species only produce fruit on the previous year's growth. Staggered cutting ensures that high yields of fruit are produced by the hedgerows, offering a valuable food source to a variety of taxa. All vegetation should be piled within a designed onsite composting area located away from the waterbodies to ensure there is no nutrient enrichment as a result of the decomposition of any vegetation (see Figure 6). This will provide an additional onsite habitat which can be used by many species including GCN as hibernacula/refugia and for grass snakes as egg laying sites. As this area fills up, arising will likely be required to be disposed of offsite via the local green waste/composting facilities.

Any cutting of the hedgerows should be carried out outside of the bird nesting season (1st March – 31st August) to ensure no disturbance to nesting birds.

3.4 Fencing

Any new fencing around the site including for the new properties must be hedgehog permeable. This can be achieved by either installing hedgehog gates in the form of a 13cm x 13cm hole in each length of fence or by using hedgerow boundaries only. If hedgehog gates are used, a sign must be installed above each gate instructing residents not to block access.

3.5 Lighting

In order to ensure that the wildlife corridor is able to continue to serve its purpose, the following restrictions regarding external lighting must be adhered to –

- Avoid illumination of all site boundaries and enhancement and modification area.
- The illumination used will be 'Light Emitting Diodes' (LEDs).
- The illumination will all be directional and downward facing which is easily achieved when using LEDs. There must be no upward illumination which could impact on potential roosts.
- All luminaires will lack any UV component.
- Luminaires with a 'warm white' spectrum should be used, (ideally <2700 Kelvin) to reduce blue light component.
- Luminaires should feature peak wavelengths higher than 550nm to avoid the light component most disturbing to bats.
- The primary aim of any lighting scheme must be to ensure no illumination of the boundaries of the site.

Where lighting is required in proximity to the wildlife corridor, additional planting/fencing may be required in order to shelter this feature from high levels of artificial light at night.

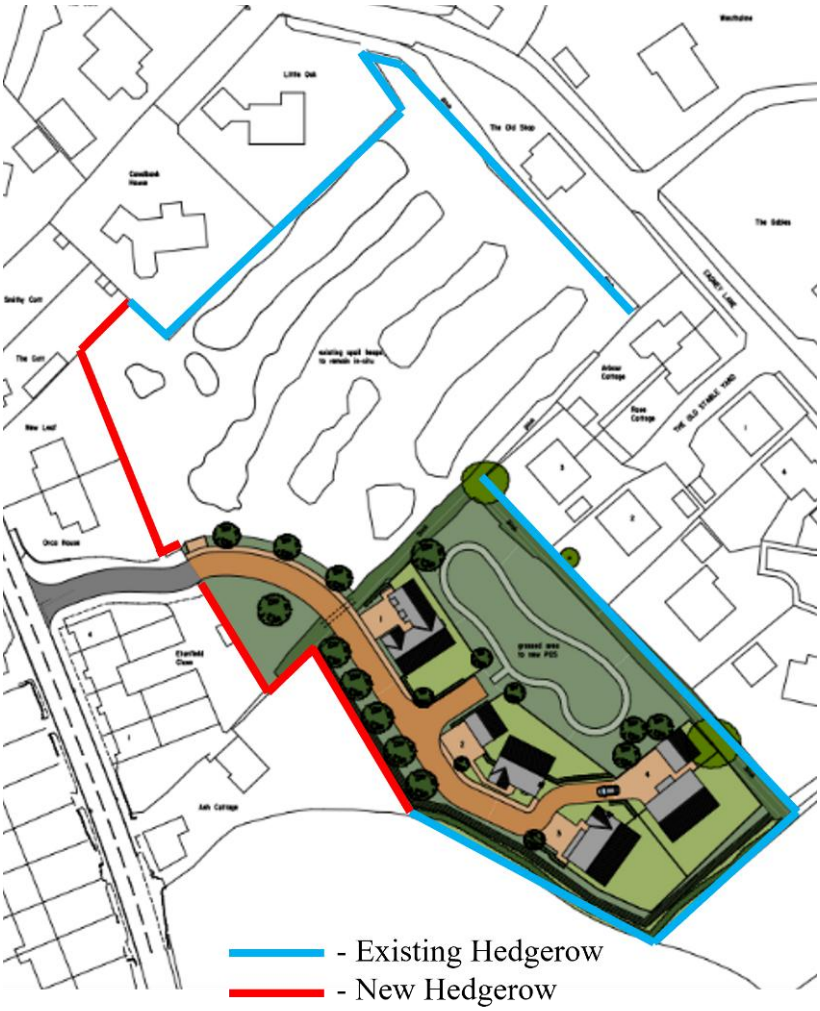


Fig. 5: Location of existing and proposed new hedgerow planting.

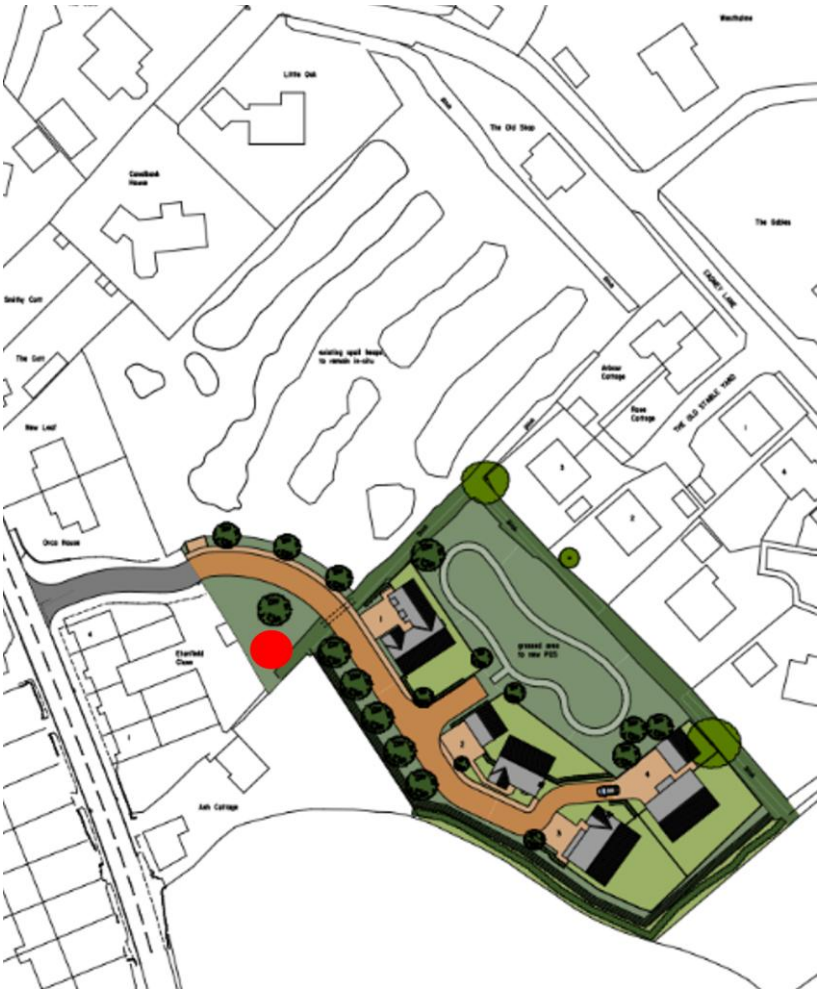


Fig. 6: Location of the proposed designed onsite composting area (red circle).

4. Pond and Scrape Management

The site historically comprised of improved grassland. From inspection of historical aerial photography, the variation of habitats present seems to have developed sometime between 2012 and 2018 when the site was partially excavated to below the water table, resulting in the formation of vegetated bunds and the wet modified bog area with ephemeral ponds (see Figure 4). During the visits in 2025 for the GCN surveys there was a prolonged period of no rain which affected the water level onsite, although even during that period there was still standing water present in places. Large areas of the water were also often covered in duckweed and other vegetation. GCN require open areas of water not clogged with vegetation for breeding and courtship behaviour. Currently areas of open water are lacking onsite for large periods of the year.

Three large, improved ponds will be created across the site in the locations of the existing ephemeral ponds as these are the areas currently holding the most water. In addition to the larger ponds, a number of shallower scrapes should also be made around the site to create a complex of more ephemeral ponds (see Figure 7). Access paths will need to be maintained to ensure that ongoing surveying is possible.

If these features are managed and designed correctly, they have the potential to provide a significant positive impact for biodiversity on the site by providing a supply of standing water for a variety of taxa as well as offering valuable habitat for taxa such as amphibians and invertebrates.

4.1 Design

This ponds should be at a depth between 1.2 - 1.5m at their deepest point. It is vitally important that the ponds are profiled in such a way that at least one side has a gentle gradient. This will allow amphibians to access and exit the pond safely during breeding and dispersal and will ensure any animals drinking from the pond, such as hedgehogs, do not get trapped in the pond and drown.

It will be necessary to line all of the ponds to ensure they hold water. The ponds should not be planted as aquatic and emergent plants will colonise the site naturally over time. Spoil removed during excavations as well as spoil removed during the ground works phase in the development area should be used to create tall bunds between the newly excavated ponds and the drainage ditches. This is to prevent the ponds from linking with the ditches at times of high rainfall and so prevent fish known to be present in the ditches and connected canal from accessing the GCN ponds.

A bank gradient of approximately 45° would also make these banks suitable for burrowing by water voles; (*Arvicola aquaticus*), a species known to be present in the locallity and with which this site has habitat connectivity making it suitable for occupation by dispersing young animals, (Strachan et all 2011).

These scrapes should measure at least 1m in width, the length of the current wet bog areas and must be dug to a depth of no more than 50cm. The scrapes should be profiled to ensure at least one end consists of a shallow gradient to allow east entry and exit by amphibians and escape for other taxa should they fall in. The presence of the current wet bog and ephemeral ponds in this area suggests that the soil will hold water, however, if the scrapes do not hold water naturally, then they will be required to be lined. The scrapes should not be planted, this will allow native freshwater plant life to colonise the features naturally.

A breeding female GCN will lay about 250 eggs per season, each egg individually deposited, typically on the submerged leaf of a marginal plant, under water and often close to the surface (Froglife, 2001). To encourage breeding of newt species onsite including GCN prior to ponds being colonised by aquatic vegetation, egg strips should be used during the GCN egg laying season (March-June). The egg strips must be made from a biodegradable biofilm e.g cornstaech which will naturally breakdown within ~100 days. These are put into the pond and left submerged, these are then used by newts as a place for egg laying (Freshwater Habitats Trust, 2023). It'd be preferable to use an opaque or dark coloured material, so the newt eggs are not easily visible to predators.

4.2 Ongoing Management

The ponds and scrapes may require ongoing management to ensure that exposed standing water is retained and the pond is not choked by vegetation. Vegetation should be removed as required to ensure that at least 50% of the pond’s surface is unvegetated, any such removal must take place in

the winter, outside of the time period when amphibians are most likely to present (1st February – 31st October). Any material removed must be piled next to the pond for at least 24hrs following removal to allow any animals present to return to the pond. Following this, all material must removed from the site and composed, this will ensure there is no nutrient enrichment of the pond caused by the decomposition of this material.

It may also be necessary to cut back terrestrial vegetation around the pond. Terrestrial vegetation on the banks of ponds will require control on an annual basis to ensure that no more than 40% of the ponds surface is shaded. The habitat to the southwest and northeast will be managed as wildflower meadows (see Figure 8), this will ensure that the ponds are not subject to overshadowing or nutrient enrichment from vegetation in these areas. Any significant vegetation overhanging the pond should be removed to ensure that the ponds' surface is not overshadowed and to reduce nutrient enrichment caused by plant matter falling into the ponds. All vegetation should be piled within a designed onsite composting area located away from the waterbodies to ensure there is no nutrient enrichment as a result of the decomposition of any vegetation (see Figure 6). This will provide an additional onsite habitat which can be used by many species including GCN as hibernacula/refugia and for grass snakes as egg laying sites. As this area fills up, arising will likely be required to be disposed of offsite via the local green waste/composting facilities. Any cutting of the hedgerows or scrub should be carried out outside of the bird nesting season (1st March – 31st August) to ensure no disturbance to nesting birds.

It will be a requirement that Wild Ground can complete two GCN torching surveys per year to monitor the current populations and provide data to the national GCN monitoring programme overseen by National Recourses Wales. An early visit will be required to allow removal of duckweed prior to the commencement of the torching surveys. It may be necessary to re-excavate scrapes in the future to ensure their ongoing functionality. All surveys will take place within the GCN active season (March – June).

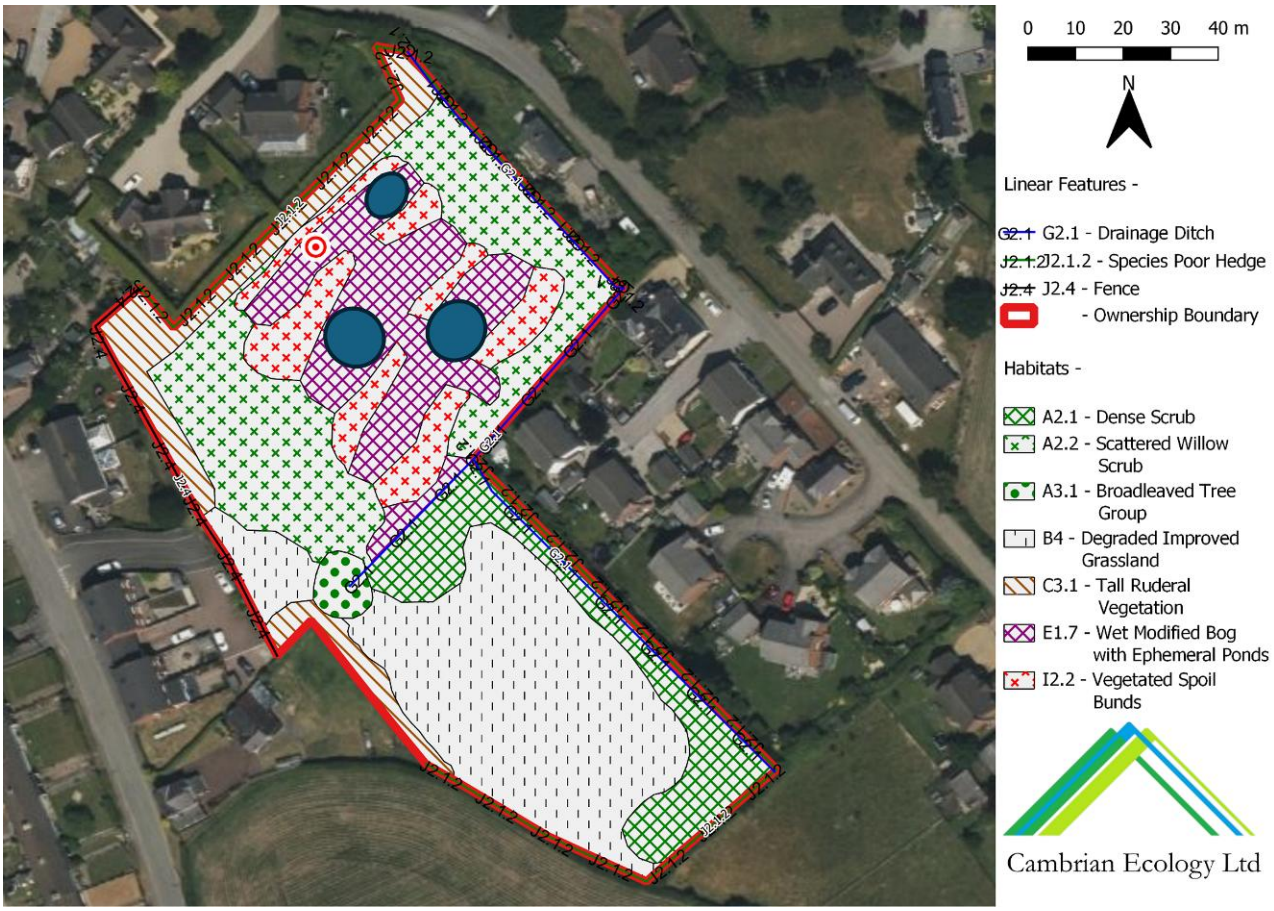


Fig. 7: Location of the three new ponds and areas for scrapes (wet modified bog).

5. Meadow Management

It is recommended to clear current areas of willow scrub within the ownership boundary (see Figure 8) and put these areas under a favourable wildflower meadow management regime in order to create an area of high floristic diversity for invertebrates and create optimal foraging habitat for GCN. Any clearance of the willow scrub should be carried out outside of the bird nesting season (1st March – 31st August) to ensure no disturbance to nesting birds.

In order to avoid injury or death of individual animals during clearance of any degraded improved grassland, dense scrub/willow scrub and tall ruderal vegetation it is recommended that any clearance of these habitats are carried out in accordance with the 'Precautionary method of working for reptiles, common toads, hedgehogs, badgers and nesting birds' (Biodiversity Specification #1, Building with Nature, 2022) which is given in Section 10.1. This should be supervised by a suitably experienced and licensed ecologist and completed during the GCN active season (February – October) when the newts are more likely to be in the ponds and not hibernating.

Ground preparation will be very important, particularly if locations are present where deep-rooted perennial plants such as broadleaved dock are present. If not eradicated, these very robust plants will out-compete the more desirable species contained within the new seed mix. All deep-rooted perennials must therefore be eradicated prior to sowing.

Prior to sowing, the ground will require cultivation to produce a fine 'tilth' which should then be firmed to produce a flat surface.

Care must be taken during the ground preparation phase to ensure the root plates of existing retained trees are not damaged.

Following ground preparation, the meadow area should be sown with a native coastal wildflower seed mix. The usual sowing rate for wildflower meadows is 4g/m² in a landscaping situation. Spring and autumn are the optimal times for sowing as the seed bed is less likely to dry out during these periods. Do not cover the seed as many wildflowers require light to trigger germination. Rolling is however beneficial as this ensures good contact between the seed and the soil.

Most of the species in a wildflower mix are perennial and can take a few years to become established. It is, however, likely that in the first year there will be a vigorous growth of annual plants arising from the seedbank. This can look temporarily unsightly, but these annual plants will provide shelter for the germinating perennial plants in the seed mix. A first cut can then be carried out in August. All vegetation should be piled within a designed onsite composting area located away from the waterbodies to ensure there is no nutrient enrichment as a result of the decomposition of any vegetation (see Figure 6). This will provide an additional onsite habitat which can be used by many species including GCN as hibernacula/refugia and for grass snakes as egg laying sites. As this area fills up, arising will likely be required to be disposed of offsite via the local green waste/composting facilities. From Year 2, a standard wildflower meadow management regime can be established.

Wildflower meadows require ongoing management to ensure that they do not degenerate into rough grassland. Mowing and the removal of arisings, to prevent enrichment of the soil, are key components of this management. The long-term aim must be to continually reduce the high nutrient levels which favour the coarser grasses to the detriment of the flowering plant species. It is also essential that this is carried out at the appropriate time of year to allow for seed production and dispersal.

- Cut down growth to 70-100mm from early September. Remove all arisings to prevent enrichment of the soil.
- Retain one fifth of the area uncut as this will provide nesting and hibernation opportunities for invertebrates over winter. This retained area should be alternated every winter.
- Continue to lightly mow the remaining area as required over the winter months, removing the clippings each time.
- No mowing to be carried out from March – September.
- It is recommended that a composting area is established for the disposal of the mowing as this will also provide a valuable habitat.

For future management conservation grazing would be preferable over mechanical management. This is the use of livestock to manage natural habitats, boosting biodiversity by mimicking historical grazing patterns of wild herbivores. If so, areas of importance including the ponds and scrapes will

need fencing off from the livestock using fencing which is permeable to small native mammal species.

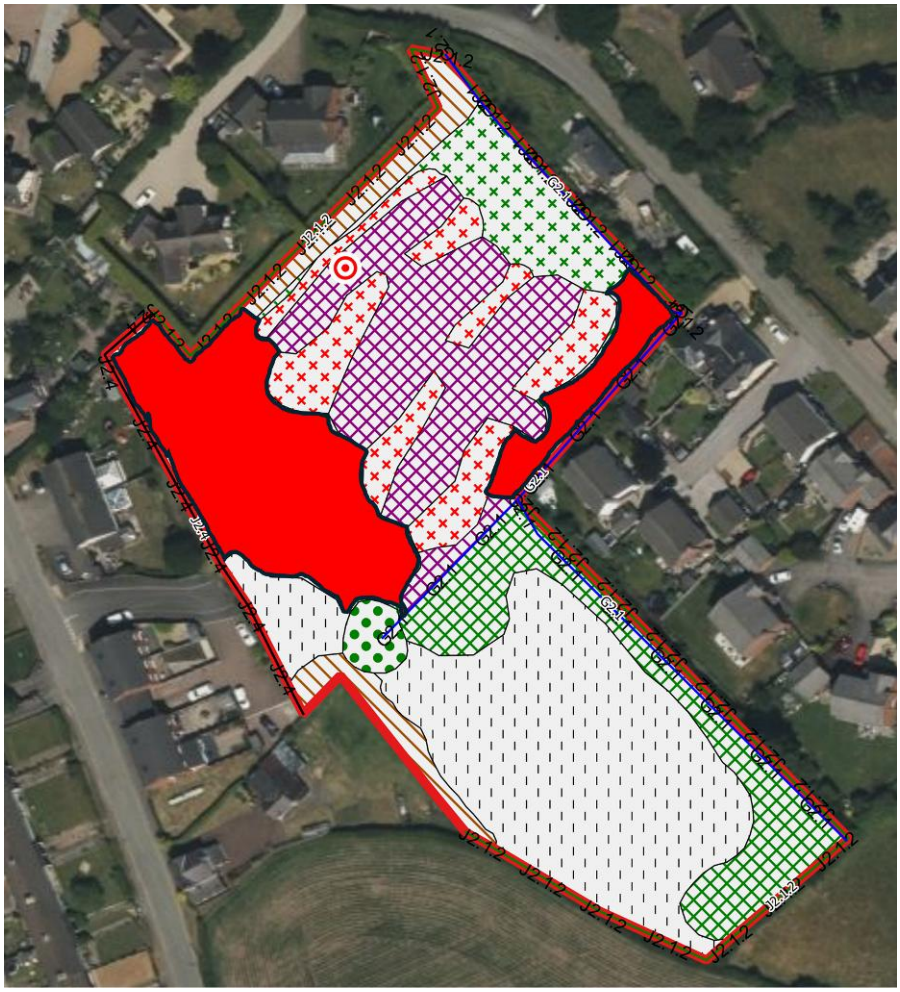


Fig. 8: Areas of willow scrub to be cleared and put under a favourable wildflower meadow management regime (red).

6. Willow Scrub Management

Further colonisation by the scrub will be controlled by following the guidance for the hedgerows/wildlife corridors within Section 3 and meadow management within Section 5. An area of willow scrub is to be retained at the northeast edge of the site (see Figure 9), this area must be managed to prevent the willow spreading out across the site and to prevent growth from becoming too tall and overshadowing the ponds as it is fast growing. Willow scrub supports a high diversity of insects, birds and small mammals by offering dense shelter, foraging areas, and nesting sites.

6.1 Management

Managing willow scrub involves rotational coppicing in winter (autumn/winter, ideally early February) to maintain structural diversity, aiming for a mix of heights (2–4m) and open areas to maximize wildlife value. Rotational coppicing involves cutting different areas of scrub on a rotation to maintain a mix of young and mature vegetation. Control excessive spread by cutting or pulling,

ensuring all cuttings are removed or burned, as willow resprouts easily from the branches. Any such work should be carried out outside of the bird nesting season (1st March – 31st August) to ensure no disturbance to nesting birds.

This management regime would also be beneficial to any water voles which may colonise the area in the future.

The conservation grazing mentioned above in Section 5 can be used to suppress new willow growth within areas outside its boundary.

This habitat should not be allowed to expand beyond its new boundaries as this would result in a loss of meadow habitat. To facilitate this, it may be appropriate to demarcate the current boundaries of this feature with a low, post fence. Habitat outside of the post fence should then be treated as wildflower meadow and managed as such.

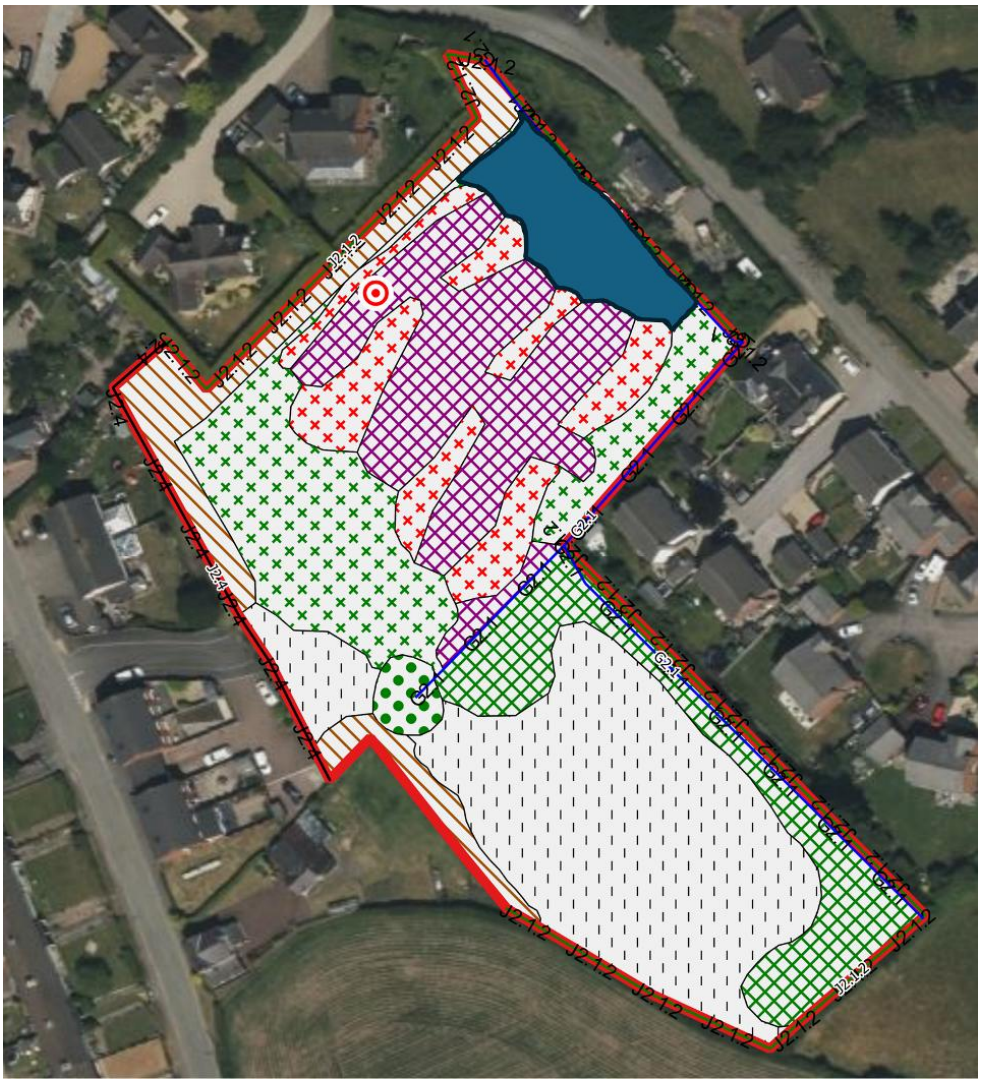


Fig. 9: Area of willow scrub to be retained and put under management (blue).

7. INNS Prevention & Biosecurity Management

The enhancement and modification area will be required to be securely fenced off with a locked gate with no public access (see Figure 3). The gate will need to be large enough to enable access for plant and management machinery. Anyone accessing the site will require authorisation and must adhere to strict biosecurity measures to avoid any INNS spreading onto the site which is currently clear of INNS.

7.1 Plants/Animals

It is vital to prevent the spread of non-native species between waterbodies. Invasive species can threaten and kill our native plants and animals by competing for resources and spreading disease. This can be from plant fragments and/or seeds and eggs or individuals of animals.

7.2 Disease

When working in freshwater habitats it is important to protect amphibians from infections caused by fungi, and other pathogens that harm or kill them and to prevent the spread of other diseases. The potential for new diseases to arrive and spread in the UK is high if protocol is not followed. Tiny numbers of pathogens present on materials like damp equipment and boots can often be enough to spread these diseases.

7.3 Cleaning Protocol

When coming out of a waterbody equipment and clothing must be checked for live organisms, plant fragments or seeds. Wet/dry mud must be scraped off all footwear and equipment with a stiff brush. All clothing, equipment and footwear must be cleaned and washed thoroughly. Equipment (e.g. footwear) must be disinfected in either a bleach solution (diluted with water to produce a 4% solution) or Virkon (10mg/ml, as per supplier's instructions). All clothing and equipment must be dried, as some species can survive for days in damp environments. UV from sunlight can help to kill organisms, equipment must be left to air dry completely in a sunny location where possible before using at the next site. A fresh pair of gloves must be used between waterbodies and sites. Please see step by step instructions below:

1. Use brush to scrub off any debris, plant fragments, mud etc.
2. Rinse with water (pond water will suffice).
3. Soak in bleach solution for at least 5 minutes, or Virkon for at least one minute (5 minutes where *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* is suspected).
4. Rinse with clean water.
5. If possible, allow to dry for before next use. (This is not always possible on sites with multiple water bodies).
6. Keep field equipment inside plastic bags during transit and storage (after thorough drying) to reduce the chance of transmitting pathogens.

7.4 Material, Tools and Machinery

Material brought onto the site as part of the construction phase could cause infestation of the site, eventually leading to the potential spread of invasive species onto the site. Where possible avoid the import of topsoil or other material that could be contaminated. Topsoil and other material must come from a reputable source.

Plant parts and/or seeds could be introduced via mud on tools, boots, tyres, plant and machinery. All boots, tools, tyres, plant and machinery or any other possible transmission vector must be thoroughly cleaned prior to accessing the site. Facilities for cleaning boots etc should be provided before entering the site and site hygiene should be strictly enforced.

8. Ongoing Monitoring

Ongoing monitoring should take place at the site in the first summer following the completion of the works and should repeat on an annual basis until the following goals have been achieved –

- Hedgerows have been planted around the boundaries of the site, and a wildlife corridor has maintained.
- Hedgerows have been put under the appropriate management regime as described in Section 3 above.
- Willow scrub habitat at the northeast of the site has been retained at its current extent, has not spread beyond its current parameters and, if necessary has been fenced off with a low wood post fence.
- The ponds and scrapes have been created as per the specification given in Section 4.1 above and has been placed under the appropriate management regime described in Section 4.2 above.
- The terrestrial habitat surrounding the new ponds has been placed under the appropriate management regime described in Section 4.2 above.
- Torching surveys have established that GCN numbers have increased and breeding is taking place onsite.
- The areas designated within the enhancement and modification area have been placed under the appropriate management regime for wildflower meadows described in Section 5 above.
- There has been a marked increase in floristic diversity within the wildflower meadow habitats.
- No INNS have colonised the site after works have been completed.

Ongoing, long-term monitoring of GCN numbers will be required as a condition of any development licence issued by NRW and may also be a condition of an planning consent issued.

9. References

Cambrian Ecology Ltd (2025) Great Crested Newt & Protected Species Survey Report, Former Nags Head, Bettisfield

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

Environment Wales Act (2021)

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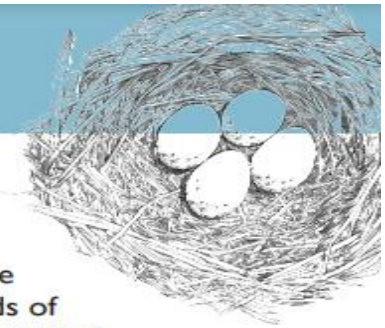
PondNet Newt egg strip methods, Freshwater Habitats Trust (2023)

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10. Appendices

10.1 Guidance for Sensitive Habitat Clearance

Precautionary method of working for reptiles, common toads, hedgehogs, badgers and nesting birds **Biodiversity Specification #1**



This is a summary document to outline the precautionary working practices for protected species (reptiles, common toads, badgers, hedgehogs and nesting birds), on sites where there is a low risk of the species being present and when the local planning authority (LPA) considers the precautionary measures to be applicable. This is not a legal document and does not include all information on wildlife protection and legislation.

The purpose of this document is to set out a method of working for sites where:

- Suitable features (such as rough grassland, hedgerows, trees, scrub and previously developed sites) for reptiles, common toads, badgers, hedgehogs and nesting birds are present, but are very limited in extent, and are likely to be affected by development, or;
- The risk of reptiles, common toads, hedgehogs, badger and nesting birds being present and affected by development proposals is unlikely but cannot be ruled out.
- Reptiles, common toads, hedgehogs, badgers and nesting birds can be found in a range of habitats. Where the LPA considers it appropriate, developers must adhere to the following specific requirements, depending on the suitability for particular species/ species groups.

Precautionary measures:

1. The site owner/site manager will ensure that anyone (including sub-contractors) undertaking construction, demolition and landscaping (both creation and management), is made aware of the potential for the site to support protected species, where to expect them, their protected status and the procedure to follow in the unlikely event that protected species are discovered during works. Where applicable, this advice will be given through site inductions, tool box talks (such as CIRIA toolbox talks) or similar. A copy of this Precautionary Method of Working will be kept on site and available for inspection at all times.

2. Should any protected species (i.e. common toads, reptiles, birds, hedgehogs and badger) be discovered during construction or other works on site, which are likely to be affected by the development, works will cease immediately. The owner/ site manager will then seek the advice of a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist and works will only proceed in accordance with the advice they provide. The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) provides further guidance and advice on finding a suitably qualified ecologist.



In implementing the planning permission and related works, the following methods of working will be adopted:

3. Any vegetation clearance (i.e. removal of trees, scrub, hedgerows) or works to buildings shall not commence until a careful check for nesting birds has been completed, particularly during the main breeding season (months of March to August). If bird nests are found then works in the area must stop until the chicks have fledged the nest.

4. All clearance works (i.e. clearance of log piles, debris, rough grass etc.) will be undertaken when common reptiles and amphibians are likely to be fully active i.e. during the April to September period.

5. Clearance of dry stone walls, logs, brash, stones, rocks or piles of similar debris will be undertaken carefully and by hand.

6. Clearance of tall vegetation will be undertaken using a strimmer or brush cutter with all cuttings raked and removed the same day. Cutting will only be undertaken in a phased way which may either include:

Cutting vegetation to a height of no less than 30mm, clearing no more than one third of the site in any one day or;

Precautionary method of working for reptiles, common toads, hedgehogs, badgers and nesting birds **Biodiversity Specification #1**



Cutting vegetation over three consecutive days to a height of no less than 150mm at the first cut, 75mm at the second cut and 30mm at the third cut;

7. Following removal of tall vegetation, using the methods outlined in point 5, remaining vegetation will be maintained at a height of 30mm through regular mowing or strimming to discourage common reptiles and amphibians from returning.

8. Ground clearance of any remaining low vegetation (if required) and any ground works will only be undertaken following the works in point 5) above.

9. Any trenches left overnight will be covered or provided with ramps to prevent animals falling into the trenches and being trapped. Excavations left overnight should be checked prior to filling. Any open pipes left overnight will be covered.



10. Any building materials such as bricks, stone etc. will be stored on pallets to discourage reptiles from using them as shelter. Any demolition materials will be stored in skips or similar containers rather than in piles on ground.



For further information on the relevant protected species and legislation, please refer to the website links below:

https://www.arc-trust.org/legislative-protection-for-the-uks-herpetofauna

https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/wildlife-and-the-law/wildlife-and-countryside-act/

https://www.mammal.org.uk/species-hub/full-species-hub/discover-mammals/species-hedgehog/

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/badgers-protection-surveys-and-licences

Further information about protected species and development including their ecological requirements, protection and the planning development system can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england



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Helping create better places for people and wildlife in line with the BwN green infrastructure standards. http://buildingwithnature.org.uk/

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Forest of Dean DISTRICT COUNCIL

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

10.2 Review Table

Name	**Task**	**Date**
Heaven Kyriacou	Author	16.03.2026
Ben Box	Review	19.03.2026
Chris Hall	Proofreading	23.03.2026
Heaven Kyriacou	Amended	29.04.2026