Local Development Plan
Ecological Site Assessments in Monmouthshire
2021

1 Introduction

To inform the allocation and deliverability of candidate sites through the LDP process in line with relevant policy and legislation, Monmouthshire County Council requires the submission of baseline ecological information. This methodology has been prepared in order to ensure that there is a consistent approach to this submission and that the quality of the information provided is adequate.

Site Appraisals shall be presented in a report and describe the existing ecological value of the proposed LDP sites, principally based on botanical survey but with consideration of other potential Protected or Priority species that may be present. Sites must be also assessed for their potential to qualify wholly or in part as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) using the Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife Sites in South Wales adapted for Monmouthshire (Available on the Monmouthshire County Council Website).

Following the site appraisal, an evaluation of status or potential impact on the biodiversity of the site must be made and classified as either: High, Medium or Low value. This status will be quality assured and checked by Monmouthshire County Council through the Candidate Sites Assessment Process prior to the Deposit Plan.

Information gathered from the Monmouthshire County Council Connectivity Assessment (available on the Monmouthshire County Council Website) will also need to be used to help inform the overall value of the proposed LDP Candidate Sites.

In accordance with policy and legislation, site appraisals shall include ecological enhancements that could be delivered through development including ecological connectivity opportunities in line with the 'Dear CPO' letter dated 23/10/2019[1] .

In addition to this, GIS (Geographical Information Systems) data in the format of shape files should be provided to provide visual representation of the ecological status of each site. (A guidance note on this requirement is available on the LDP webpages relating to the ecological site assessments of Candidate Sites on the MCC website.)

1 https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-11/securing-biodiversity-enhancements.pdf

If you have prepared an ecological site assessment in 2019 or 2020 in line with this methodology, it can be used for your submission in 2021.

2 Requirements for LDP Candidate Site Assessment

Due to the large number of candidate sites proposed, Monmouthshire County Council requires a consistent approach to ecological data gathering and summarisation. All Appraisals must comply with the CIEEM Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and be undertaken and reviewed by CIEEM members only. All appraisals must include a summary sheet to be used by the LPA (template included at the end of this document). **The LDP should be based on robust evidence and our expectation is that this guidance is followed.**

It is strongly recommended that ecological information is submitted during the second call for candidate sites in late 2021.

2.1. Desk-Based Study

The desk based study shall be based on the following as a minimum:

- A 1km SEWBReC data search for Protected and Priority Species
- A 1km SEWBReC data search for existing designations including SACs, SPA, Ramsar site, SSSIs, Local Wildlife Sites, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. This must include 'reasons for designation' for LWS/SINCs.
- Review of relevant ecological information available for the candidate site via NRW Wales Environmental Information portal[2]
- Use of the Ancient Woodland Inventory to identify woodland designations ASNW, PAWS etc.
- Identification of whether the site falls within the Juvenile Sustenance zone[3] for the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC*
- Review of any previous walkover undertaken for the adopted LDP – information is available on the MCC LDP webpages
- Review of the Monmouthshire Ecological Connectivity Assessment[4] to assess the context of the candidate site in providing ecological connectivity- information is available on the MCC LDP webpages

2 https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/wales-environmental-information/?lang=en
[3] Lesser horseshoe roost Juvenile Sustenance Zone = within 600m of a maternity roost (SSSI)
Greater horseshoe roost Juvenile Sustenance Zone = within 1km of a maternity roost (SSSI)
[4] Ecological Connectivity Assessment of Settlements in Monmouthshire Report, 2010

- Appraisals will be expected to consider any relevant ecological records that have been previously generated by studies to inform planning undertaken on or near the sites.
- Consideration of net benefit for biodiversity that could be delivered through development

2.2. Field Assessments

The optimum period for the assessment of biodiversity and habitats is between the months of April -July. Sites to be surveyed according to the methodology detailed in the 'Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey' . The following details and features must also be noted:

- Habitats present and features of nature conservation interest including Priority Habitat (Section 7 Habitat[5])
- Protected or Priority (Section 7) species - signs indicating presence and potential for the habitat to support such
- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation – assessment of the condition of the site with respect to its potential to qualify as a SINC
- Consideration of all hedgerows in the context of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.
- Veteran trees - presence of over-mature trees
- Consideration of the value of the site in terms of habitat connectivity
- Consideration of opportunities for delivery of net benefit for biodiversity and ecosystem resilience through development
- Requirements for further ecological survey.

2.3. Expertise of consultants

The information will need to be prepared and reviewed by an appropriately experienced ecologist that is a member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

2.4. Biodiversity Evaluation

Using the results of the desk-based survey and field assessments, an evaluation of status or impact of the biodiversity of the site shall be made and classified as either: High, Medium or Low value.

[5] Environment (Wales) Act 2016

2.5. Site of Importance for Nature Conservation Identification

Local Development Plan Candidate Sites must be assessed against the criteria in the '*Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife Sites in South East Wales*' which have been adapted for Monmouthshire.

3. Summary of Outputs

The following will be expected to submitted to the LPA during the call for sites in 2021.

3.1 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR)

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR) in accordance with the CIEEM Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal / Guidelines for ecological report writing.

3.2 Site summary form

A Site Summary Form shall be completed for each Candidate Site based on both field survey and desk-based assessments. A blank Site Detail Form and accompanying explanatory notes are provided in Annexes 1 & 2.

3.3 Site Values

For all sites, the **overall value** for biodiversity will need to be defined (see evaluation criteria below). Monmouthshire County Council may adjust this value depending on further ecological survey and evidence prior to the Deposit Plan.

3.4 SINC Assessment

Candidate sites/parts of sites must be considered for the potential for them to be of SINC quality. If the site, or part of the site meets the SINC criteria, please contact the LPA Biodiversity and Ecology team to discuss how data shall be presented. Designation will be thereafter undertaken by the SINC expert panel[6].

3.5 GIS information

The ecological status of the site will need to be digitised using GIS (Geographical Information Systems) in the format of shape files. A guidance note and template GIS shape file will be available on the Monmouthshire LDP website on the LDP page relating to the ecological site assessments of Candidate Sites. This shall include the format that digitisation will need to take.

[6] SINC Expert Panel includes Monmouthshire County Council, Gwent Wildlife Trust, Natural Resources Wales and Monmouthshire Meadows Group.

4. Evaluation Criteria

Sites must be evaluated using the following criteria drawn together using the methodology for the adopted Local Development Plan, Ratcliffe Criteria[7] and Local Wildlife Site guidelines[8]. The evaluation will be checked and quality assured by Monmouthshire County Council. **Deliberate underestimation of ecological value could jeopardise the sites inclusion in the deposit plan.**

HIGH (Red)

- Candidate Site includes land designated as SAC/SPA/Ramsar/SSSI
- Site within the Juvenile Sustenance Zone[9] of a Wye Valley Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC Maternity roost SSSI
- Site wholly designated as Local Wildlife Site/SINC/ASNW
- Site identified as Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) quality during field assessment
- Site is in the majority (>50%) composed of Priority Habitat(s) (Section 7) Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- Site of existing value for connecting semi-natural habitats in the landscape which is considered to be critical in the context of a protected species or protected site
- Protected species recorded on site to an extent that development will not be possible

MEDIUM (Orange)

- Site close / adjacent to a SAC/SPA/Ramsar/SSSI/LWS/SINC/ASNW
- Site habitat(s) close to SINC quality but threshold for designation not reached
- Part of the site includes habitats that meet LWS / SINC threshold
- An already designated LWS/SINC present within a candidate site of overall lower biodiversity value

[7] Ratcliffe, 1977
[8] South Wales Wildlife Sites Partnership, 2004 (as amended)
[9] Lesser horseshoe roost Juvenile Sustenance Zone = within 600m of a maternity roost (SSSI)
Greater horseshoe roost Juvenile Sustenance Zone = within 1km of a maternity roost (SSSI)

- Presence of Priority Habitat (Section 7) within the candidate site (except hedgerow)
- 'Important' hedgerow/s present
- Veteran / over mature tree(s) present
- Site of existing value for connecting semi-natural habitats in the landscape as identified in the ecological connectivity assessment and/or during field surveys.
- Protected species recorded / reasonable likely to be found on site but unlikely to prevent development if appropriate mitigation and compensation provided
- Site within the Juvenile Sustenance Zone[10] of a Horseshoe Maternity roost (not designated).

LOW (Green)

- Site not near any protected sites SAC/SPA/Ramsar/SSSI/LWS/ANSW
- Site assessed as not of SINC quality
- Limited or no features of biodiversity interest
- No priority habitats on site (with the exception of hedgerows)
- Site of very limited value for connecting semi-natural habitats in the landscape
- No protected species on or near site

[10] Lesser horseshoe roost Juvenile Sustenance Zone = within 600m of a maternity roost
Greater horseshoe roost Juvenile Sustenance Zone = within 1km of a maternity roost

Annex 1

Reference No: CS/0000

Site General Information	
Name: Wonastow Road, Monmouth	Grid Reference: SO 49073 12007
Current land use & management: Six fields with a mixture of improved and poor semi-improved grassland, bounded by managed hedgerows with scattered trees.	Size: Approx. 11ha
Proposed use: Residential.	Form Completed by: Lindsay Taylor Consultant Ecologist Tyler Grange
Overall Site Evaluation: MEDIUM	

Site Summary Table

Statutory Designated Site(s)	**No**	Section 7 Habitat(s)	**Part**
SAC Juvenile sustenance zone	**No**	Protected Species	**Poss**
Non-statutory Designated Site(s)	**Adj**	Section 7 Species	**Poss**
SINC Recommendation	**No**	Ecological Connectivity	**Conn**
SEWBReC unique data code: Ref. 0190-204			

Statutory Designated Sites

Is the site within or adjacent to an International or European Designated Site? (Special Protection Area, Ramsar Site or Special Area of Conservation) *(Underline the relevant designation)*

Whole of site	
Part of site	
Directly adjacent/within 250m buffer	
Within 500m buffer	
Within 1km buffer	
No	✓

Is the site within or adjacent to a Nationally Designated Site? (National Nature Reserve or Site of Special Scientific Interest) *(Underline the relevant designation)*

Within	
Part of site	
Directly adjacent/within 250m buffer	
Within 500m buffer	
No	✓

Juvenile sustenance zones - Is any part of the site within 1km of a greater horseshoe bat roost SSSI or within 600m of a lesser horseshoe bat roost SSSI?

Greater Horseshoe	
Lesser Horseshoe	
Distance from roost (m)	
No	✓

Non Statutory Designated Sites

Is the site within or adjacent to a pre-designated Locally Designated Site? (Local Wildlife Site / Site of Importance for Nature Conservation or Ancient Semi Natural Woodland)

Within	
Part of site	
Directly adjacent/within 250m buffer	
Within 500m buffer	✓
No	

List All Relevant Statutory and Non Statutory Designated Sites identified by the desktop study:

River Wye, SAC, SSSI (1.5km from site);

Wye Valley Woodlands, SAC (4.5km from site);

Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites, SAC (8.9km from site);

St Dial's and Holywell Wood, SINC (200m from site);

Wonastow Field, SINC (300m from site);

Talocher Court Fields, SINC (670m from site);

Part of Ash Wood, SINC (900m from site);

Parkapella Wood, SINC (1.1km from site);

Croft-y-Bwla, SINC (1.3km from site); and

River Trothy, SINC (1.8km from site).

SINC Recommendation

Is the whole site or part of the site of SINC (LWS) quality? *(underline whole or part as appropriate)*

Yes ☐ Whole ☐ Part ☐

Qualifying criteria ☐

Borderline ☐

No ☑

Has the Monmouthshire County Council Biodiversity & Ecology Team been contacted to discuss what further information may be required?

Yes: ☐ No: ☑

Date: ☐

Priority Habitats and Important Features

Phase 1 Habitat	Wales Priority Habitat (Section 7)	% of whole site
Hedgerows	Yes	
Broadleaved trees	Yes	
Buildings and hardstanding	No	
Amenity grassland	No	
Improved grassland	Yes	
Species-poor semi-improved grassland	Yes	
Tall ruderal	Yes	
Scrub	No	
Ponds (wet ditch)	Yes	

Are there any **veteran trees or over-mature trees** on site?

Yes [X] No [ ]

If 'Yes' how many and what species? One veteran oak tree

Does the site have any **hedgerows**?

Species-rich (high) potential Hedgerow Regs Quality	N/A	Length (m)
Species-poor (medium) Has some potential	2520	Length (m)

Species-poor (low) Single species dominant AND Gappy	N/A	Length (m)
No		

Does the site have any **water features** present?

Ponds	
Steams	
Ditches	1
Other:	
No	

Ecological Connectivity

Adjacent Land Uses & Habitats

Managed grassland with hedgerows surrounding the site. Further to the north and south there are arable fields, large woodland areas to the west and north-west and the town of Monmouth to the east.

Does the site have any ecological connectivity value to either adjacent habitat or the wider landscape?

Critical connectivity: [ ] Existing Connectivity [X] No connectivity: [ ]

Connectivity Opportunity: [X]

Net Benefit for Biodiversity

What ecological enhancements can be delivered by the scheme to provide a net benefit for biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience?

The most valuable habitats, i.e trees, hedgerows, ditch, could be retained and protected with transitional planting buffers. Those along the wet ditch and hedgerows could be incorporated into the green infrastructure by creating linear parks of native/ecologically beneficial species which could be sympathetically managed to enhance the biodiversity value of the site.

The removal of discrete sections of hedgerow is likely, however public open spaces can be designed to incorporate a variety new planting which will form part of the green infrastructure and could be enhanced through the use of native and ecologically beneficial species which would more than compensate for discrete habitat loss. This could extend to enhancing the grassland areas with wildflower seeding, optimising the site for invertebrates.

New planting around the ditch could be enhanced into wetland areas or sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and thus utilised as part of a blue/ green infrastructure network allowing adequate drainage/attenuation. These areas will also provide enhanced habitats for species that may not currently use the site.

Existing habitats could be enhanced through gapping up of hedgerows and infill planting, creating further ecological benefits and increasing biodiversity.

The creation of a linear park along the ditch will create valuable habitat for *inter alia* birds, invertebrates, bats and other wildlife. Access for future residents could be encouraged through an informal mown path.

The linear park could be linked to a wider network of green infrastructure within the development, which could be multi-functional, delivering biodiversity, amenity, aesthetic and drainage benefits. This should form continuous corridors for wildlife movement and can include retained and newly created habitats which should be managed and monitored.

Use of native/ecologically beneficial species where possible in the landscape designs to provide new opportunities for fauna and enhance connectivity.

Bird, bat, and dormouse boxes could be installed at appropriate locations on the site (to be built into the building designs wherever possible) and log piles and hibernacula provided to benefit reptiles, invertebrates and small mammals.

A Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) to maximise the biodiversity potential of retained and new habitats.

Further surveys for protected/notable species will be required to determine presence/ likely absence, however it is considered that, providing the above enhancements and recommendations are met, the illustrative plans show that an overall net benefit in biodiversity can be achieved.

Protected Species

Have protected species been recorded at the site / reasonably likely to be present at site?

Confirmed [ ] Reasonably likely [X] No and unlikely to be present [ ]

List Species: SEWBReC record	Evidence of presence on site (seen directly or field signs)	Potential to be present on site (habitat and location mean that it is likely)

Two records for great created newts *Triturus cristatus*	No evidence	Suitable terrestrial habitat. If GCN present in ponds within 500m of the site, then GCN presence would be likely on site.
Eight records for badger *Meles meles*	Latrine on site	Suitable foraging habitat within the grassland and along the hedgerows.
Six species listed on the Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) amber list including reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*, kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, dunnock *Prunella modularis*, kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, black-headed gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* and bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula.*	No evidence	Suitable habitats within grassland, tees and hedgerows.
13 species listed on the Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) red list including house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, grey partridge Perdix perdix, linnet *Linaria cannabina*, redwing *Turdus iliacus*, lesser spotted woodpecker *Dryobates minor*, yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*, willow tit *Poecile montanus*, marsh tit *Poecile palustris*, fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*, lesser redpoll *Acanthis cabaret* and skylark *Alauda arvensis.*	No evidence	Suitable habitats within grassland, tees and hedgerows.
Two records for hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*	No evidence	Suitable habitat within hedgerows
Five records for hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*	No evidence	Suitable habitat within hedgerow bases
11 records for otter *Lutra lutra*	No evidence	Suitable habitat along wet ditch which links to a lake further to the west.
No records for water vole *Arvicola amphibious*	No evidence	Suitable habitat along wet ditch
	No evidence	

One record for slow worm *Anguis fragilis* and four records for common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*		Suitable habitat along hedgerows and within tall ruderal
Bats: Lesser Horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros* Greater Horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii* Brown long eared bat *Plecotus auritus* Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii* Nathusius's Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii* Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri* Noctule *Nyctalus noctula* Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus* Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* Western Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus* Whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus*	No evidence	Suitable habitats and features on site to support roosts, and foraging and commuting bats.

Priority Species

Are there records for Priority (Section 7) Species (not included above)?

Yes ☐ Potential ☐ No ☒

List Species: SEWBReC record	Evidence of presence on site (seen directly or field signs)	Potential to be present on site (habitat and location mean that it is likely)

Conclusions

What additional ecological surveys/assessments will be required?

To determine if the site could be allocated for the purpose identified	Prior to the submission of planning application to influence site design etc. Great crested newt surveys of off-site ponds and badger, bat, dormouse, water vole, otter, reptile, breeding and wintering birds surveys.

Summary of potential biodiversity constraints

Hedgerows at all field boundaries Wet ditch on site Veteran tree with high bat roosting potential Other trees with low and moderate bat roosting potential Areas of tall ruderal suitable for reptiles

Recommended avoidance / mitigation / compensation measures

Retain habitats of ecological importance (boundary hedgerows with trees/ditch) where possible. Avoid direct impacts to retained habitats/immediately off-site trees by creating buffer zones (new planting; management of grassland buffers for wildlife). Avoid impacts to nocturnal species potentially present (bats, dormouse, great crested newt) by sensitive lighting design and keeping existing dark zones.

Summary of net benefit for biodiversity to be delivered through development including ecological connectivity opportunities

Annex 2: Notes to Accompany Site Detail Form

Monmouthshire County Council reserve the right to amend any Site Detail Form upon detailed consideration of the site and quality assurance of the information submitted. Full justification of this adjustment will be recorded by the LPA.

Site General Information

Site reference number, name, National Grid Reference, size (ha) and proposed use. 'Current Use & current management' describes the use of the site at the time of surveying and how it appears to be managed.

Overall Site Evaluation

To be completed based upon Section 4 of this guidance. One of the evaluation categories can be chosen i.e. **High** / **Medium** / **Low**. This evaluation could be subject to change upon consideration of the site and quality assurance by Monmouthshire County Council.

Summary Table

The summary table gives a quick reference guide to the ecological constraints of the site. Protected sites are considered on page ii of the form. The summary needs to show an existing protected site (**yes**), adjacent sites within 250m (**adj**) adjacent sites within 500m (**adj**) and no protected sites within 500m (**no**). Note that development can potentially affect protected sites that are further than 500m away.

The potential for consideration of horseshoe bat SAC juvenile sustenance zones is considered on page ii of the form. The summary should address whether the site falls within the site buffers (**yes**) or not (**no**).

Non-statutory sites are considered on page iii of the form. The summary needs to show an existing site (**yes**), adjacent sites within 250m (**adj**) adjacent sites within 500m (**adj**) and no protected sites within 500m (**no**).

SINC recommendation is shown on page iv of the form. The table indicates whether the whole site is recommended for SINC designation (**yes**), part of the site is recommended for SINC designation (**part**), the site may meet the criteria following further survey and examination (borderline site – **bord**), or the site is not recommended for SINC designation (**no**).

Wales Priority Habitat (Section 7) is considered according to the table on page v of the form. This shows whether these habitats cover over 50% of a site (**yes**), less than 50% of a site (**part**) or are not present (**no**).

Projected and Priority species are considered on page vii of the form. Presence (**yes**), reasonable likelihood of presence / possible presence (**poss**) and likely absence (**no**) of Protected and Priority species are indicated in the summary table.

Ecological connectivity is considered on page vi of the form. The summary table indicates the importance of that connectivity from critical (**crit**)**,** some (**conn**), to no connectivity (**no**).

Statutory Designated Sites

The information regarding designated sites shall be obtained via SEWBReC. Some interpretation of that data will need to be undertaken to establish the proximity of sites to Juvenile Sustenance Zones for horseshoe bats associated with the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC (maternity roost SSSIs). The juvenile sustenance zone for Greater

Non Statutory Designated Sites

The information regarding SINCs/LWS sites shall be obtained via SEWBReC (site name and reason for designation). Detailed site designation forms (recommended for sites within 250m of the Candidate Site) will be available from Monmouthshire County Council (SINCs) and Gwent Wildlife Trust (LWS).

Designated ancient woodland is defined as ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) – areas that have been wooded since at least 1600. ASNW is listed on Ancient Woodland Inventory 2011 and

available on the Lle website. However, in Monmouthshire, a large number of ASNW are designated as SINC and shall therefore be generated during the above data search.

SINC Recommendation

This section indicates whether the whole site or part of the site meets the criteria for SINC designation in Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife Sites in South Wales adapted for Monmouthshire. The criterion under which the site qualifies shall be noted. The LPA Biodiversity & Ecology Officers should be contacted for relevant templates and to discuss the value of the site / part of the site.

Priority Habitats and Important Features

Habitats as defined by the Phase 1 survey guidelines and Wales Priority Habitat (defined as those listed as Section 7 Habitats of Principal Importance for Conserving Biological Diversity in Wales under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016) shall be listed in the table. A % value for the habitat types shall be listed.

This information will also be demonstrated on the GIS shape files submitted to the LPA (see separate guidance).

Guidance for assessment of the importance of hedgerows and veteran/over mature trees is included in Annex 3 & 4.

Ecological Connectivity

Sites shall be assessed for existing value for connecting semi-natural habitats in the landscape using Ecological Connectivity Assessment and/or during field surveys. Both habitats and species need to be considered. Opportunities for delivery of habitat connectivity to be listed under the Enhancements section on page viii of the form.

Net Benefit for Biodiversity

Sites shall be assessed for opportunities to deliver net benefit for biodiversity by reviewing desk study information and during field assessments. Both habitats and species need to be considered. A summary of opportunities shall be provided in the site detail form with more information provided in ecological assessments and masterplans as the schemes come forward.

Protected species

These tables indicate the presence or potential presence of protected species, based on SEWBReC records, the desk survey and field survey results. Species with protection or designation at several levels are listed under their highest degree of protection only.

Field signs and sightings are those recorded during the Phase 1 habitat survey.

Potential presence is based on the habitats on and adjacent to the site, the ecology of the species, and knowledge of the species distribution.

Protected Species are defined as those species listed on Schedules 2 and 4 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 or species listed under Schedules 5 and 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) or the Protection of Badgers Act, 1992. Species protected from sale only are excluded.

Wales Priority Species are defined as those listed as species of Principal Importance for Conserving Biological Diversity in Wales under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Conclusions

Additional surveys and assessments are listed. These are based on the potential presence of protected species as detailed on page vii of the form. Any surveys that may be necessary prior to the allocation of the site should be identified e.g. horseshoe bat surveys

Potential constraints are summarised, based on the findings of the desk-based assessment and field survey, as recorded in previous sections.

Recommendations for mitigation and net benefit for biodiversity are suggested. These are intended as an indication only, as further survey will be needed to inform mitigation, and the design and purpose of the development will determine ecological impacts and influence mitigation and enhancement possibilities. Reference can be made to the Ecological Connectivity Assessment where appropriate.

Annex 3: Hedgerow Classification

HIGH: Species-rich containing at least five native woody species in a 30 metre sample. Consider features such as banks, ditches, standing trees, ground flora associated and connecting hedges/woodland areas.

Four woody species are recorded and other features are considered important. This would include, potential dormouse habitat.

MEDIUM: Less than five native woody species in a 30 metre stretch, without other features present.

Less than four native woody species, with other features present

LOW: Less than four native woody species, without other features present. Gappy hedges, newly planted.

Annex 4: Veteran and Over Mature Tree Classification

HIGH: Veteran trees >3.7m circumference, 1.3m from base (to include native and non-native species)

Large over-mature trees >2m circumference, or estimated to be over 200 years old, which exhibit characteristics such as dead wood, rot hollows and bracket fungi. To include native and non-native species.