

PURE ECOLOGY

SAE Ib – Land off Green Moor Lane, Magor Monmouthshire NP26 3DB

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and LDP
Ecological Site Assessment



August 2021



Client	DJ&P Newland Rennie
Job name	Land off Green Moor Lane, Magor
Report title	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and LDP Ecological Site Assessment
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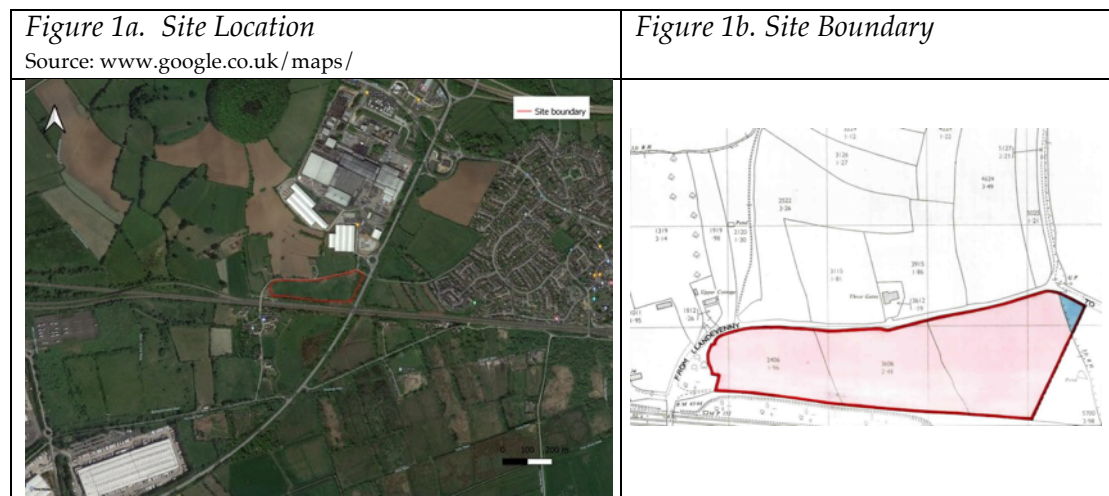
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1 Introduction

1.1 Site Description

The 'Land off Green Moor Lane' (Ref. SAE1b) hereafter referred to as the 'Site', is situated in the village of Llandevenny, c.0.4km south west of Magor, at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference ST 41370 87063. The Site consists of a single field, located in a triangle of land formed by intersection of the railway (running along its southern boundary) and the A4810. The houses and fields of Llandevenny lie to the south west of the Site. Figure 1a below shows the location of the Site, and Figure 1b shows the Site boundary.



1.2 Purpose of Report

A representation is being made under Monmouthshire County Council's Second Stage Call for Sites, to retain the allocation of the 'Land off Green Moor Lane (Ref. SAE1b)' within the Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2018 – 2033.

The purpose of this report is to provide accompanying ecological baseline information for the 'Land off Green Moor Lane' required by Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) for the candidate site applications.

1.3 Scope of Study

MCC has provided guidance methodology (MCC, 2021a & b) to ensure that there is a consistent approach to the submission for each candidate site and that the quality of the information provided is adequate.

The assessment uses a purpose-designed methodology based upon the JNCC Phase 1 habitat survey method (JNCC 2010), modified to provide additional information in relation to notable species and habitats. The survey and reporting methods were

designed to provide an evidence base of ecological data to inform the preparation, appraisal and examination of the Local Development Plan by MCC.

As required by MCC, the Site was also assessed for its potential to qualify as Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) using the Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife Sites in South Wales (SWWP 2004) and a subsequent update produced by MCC and GWT (GWT 2009).

2 Methodology

2.1 Desk Study

The Site was subject to a desk-based assessment using historical records, existing protected sites data and aerial photographs, as listed below. Information regarding records of protected and priority species was obtained from the South East Wales Biological Records Centre (SEWBrEC) for a 1km buffer surrounding the Site. Desk-based assessments for sites used the following sources of information:

- A 1km SEWBrEC data search for Protected and Priority Species
- A 1km SEWBrEC data search for existing designations including Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Ramsar site, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). This must include 'reasons for designation' for LWS/SINCs.
- Use of the Ancient Woodland Inventory to identify woodland designations Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW), Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) etc.
- Identification of whether the Site falls within the Juvenile Sustenance zone 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 to assess the context of the candidate site in providing ecological connectivity-information is available on the MCC LDP webpages.
- Consideration of any relevant ecological records that have been previously generated by studies to inform planning undertaken on or near the sites.

2.2 Field Survey

A Phase 1 habitat survey was carried out on 19th August 2021 by Dominic Hill (Student CIEEM) following standard methodology (JNCC 2010). This involved walking over the Site and mapping the habitats present using standard habitat classification.

The survey methodology was extended in the field to gather information as specified in the MCC guidance as follows:

- Habitats present and features of nature conservation interest including Priority Habitat.
- Protected species or Priority species (under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016) - signs indicating presence and potential for the habitat to support such species.
- Sites 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 / ecosystem resilience using best available guidance.
- Requirements for further ecological survey.

2.3 Assessment Outputs

2.3.1 Biodiversity Assessment and Evaluation Criteria

Using the results of the desk-based survey and field assessments, the Site was evaluated using standard evaluation classifications of High, Medium or Low (See Appendix 1). Where present, species or habitat features that should be retained or protected by way of their legal or otherwise notable status were identified. A proforma provided by MCC (Appendix 2) was completed, which summarizes the value of the site, and using the information gathered, an overall evaluation score of High Medium or Low was assigned to the Site.

2.3.2 SINC Designation

All sites were assessed against the criteria in the Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife Sites in South East Wales (SWWP 2004) including the revised SINC guidelines established for Monmouthshire (GWT, 2009). Recommendations for SINC designation were based on the presence of qualifying habitats or species identified during the desk and field survey.

2.3.3 GIS Information

Data gathered in the field was input to GIS using QGIS to produce four layers as specified in the guidance document provided by MCC (MCC, 2019a). This information is provided separate to this report, but a summary Phase 1 map is provided in Appendix 3.

3 Baseline Ecological Conditions

3.1 Designated Sites

3.1.1 Statutory Designated Sites

The Site lies c.50m north of the Gwent Levels - Redwick and Llandeenny SSSI which covers an area of 940ha of reclaimed wetland consisting of pastures bounded by reens. The Gwent Levels are an example of one of the most extensive areas of reclaimed wet pasture in Great Britain, and the reens are rich in plant species and communities and support a diverse vertebrate assemblage.

Magor Marsh SSSI lies c.850m to the east of the Site. It is a remnant of the once extensive fenlands near the coast and is an important breeding ground for water and marsh birds.

3.1.2 Non-statutory Designated Sites

There are six locally-designated non-statutory local wildlife sites known as 'Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation' (SINC) within the 1km radius search area. These are set out in Table 1 below with their approximate distance from the Site. Where available from SEWBRc, information on the interest features of these SINCs is listed.

Table 1. SINC with 1km of the Site

SINC	Interest	Proximity
Land at Barecroft Common	<i>No information</i>	364m South
Barecroft Fields	<i>No information</i>	401m South
Bowkett Field, Barecroft	<i>No information</i>	402m South
Upper Cottage Pond	<i>No information</i>	458m North-west
Bluehouse Farm	Tall mosaic of species-rich damp and dry grassland habitats, enclosed by ditches and reens.	520m South-east
Wilcrick Fort West	Unimproved neutral grassland on slopes.	752m North-west

3.2 Habitats

The following description of habitats should be read with reference to the Phase 1 Habitat Plan in Appendix 3. The photographs referred to in the text can be found in Appendix 4.

The Site is a single field of agriculturally improved pasture (TN1, Photo 1) that was being grazed by horses at the time of the survey. The boundaries of the Site consist of

post and wire fencing on all sides apart from the south which has a tall metal railway boundary fence. There is a hedgerow of varying quality growing along its northern boundary. There is a very small patch of tall ruderal vegetation (TN6) in the south-eastern corner of the Site, where vegetation has grown around the base of an electricity pylon.

3.2.1 Improved Grassland

The grassland is dominated by perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne* with occasional cock's-foot *Dactylus glomerata*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and patches of nettle *Urtica dioica*. Sward length is approximately 10-20cm with areas that are closely grazed and taller stands of less palatable species throughout the Site.

3.2.2 Trees

Trees are present only in the northern boundary hedgerow. The largest of these trees are two oaks *Quercus robur* (TN5, Photo 5) and three elms *Ulmus sp.* but none are ancient or support veteran features.

3.2.3 Hedgerows

The north boundary of the field (Photo 4) is marked by fencing and a hedgerow of variable quality that is c.390m long. There are gaps, trees and sections of species-rich hedge along its length. At TN2 (Photo 2) is a 174m section of species-rich hedge that is composed of oak, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, field maple *Acer campestre* blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, wild rose *Rosa sp.* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*. Further west along the north boundary the hedge has become defunct (TN4, Photo 3) and is composed mostly of bramble *Rubus fruticosus agg.*, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and nettle with some individual hawthorn and elder bushes. There is a small distinctive area of hedgerow along the eastern edge of the northern boundary (TN4, Photo 4) which is species poor, consisting mainly of willow field maple, blackthorn, and hawthorn.

When assessed in its entirety the northern boundary hedgerow qualifies as 'Important' under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, on account of its species richness.

3.3 Protected Species

3.3.1 Bats

SeWBRc returned 12 records of bats from within the search area. The data did not include any maternity roosts or hibernation sites, and the only roost record is from droppings indicating a lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* night roost. Most of the records were over 1km from the Site: the closest two records were of a noctule *Nyctalus noctula* recorded 950m away and a lesser horseshoe recorded 974 km away.

Only one tree on the Site has an obvious potential feature that may be suitable for bat roosts: a callus roll on a large oak in the northern hedgerow (TN5, Photo 5). However,

the dense canopy and high ivy cover on several of the trees in the hedgerow may conceal other features with bat roost potential. The northern hedgerow may also be utilized by commuting and foraging bats, although connectivity with other foraging habitats appears limited from analysis of aerial photographs.

3.3.2 Great Crested Newt

SeWBReC does not hold any records of great crested newts *Triturus cristatus* from within the search radius. There are no ponds on Site or any apparent on OS maps or aerial photographs within 250m of the Site. The Site is also effectively isolated from dispersal by great crested newts from the east or south by the road and railway. It is concluded that great crested newts are predicted to be absent from the Site.

3.3.3 Dormouse

SEWBReC does not hold any records of dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* within the search radius.

The single hedgerow on the Site is a discrete feature and is disconnected from any other farmland hedgerow in the surrounding countryside. Furthermore, the hedgerow is not connected to any woodland in the wider landscape that would provide ecological pathway for dormice to the Site. This hedgerow in isolation does not form a viable dormouse habitat and it is concluded that the species is likely to be absent from the Site.

3.3.4 Water vole

SEWBReC provided 389 sets of records of water vole *Arvicola amphibius* (i.e data sets of water vole records for 389 locations or features, such as a reed bed). The closest record to the Site is located 415m away and relates to a set of ten records dating between 2014 and 2016.

The records indicate that water vole are widespread within the reeds of the Gwent Levels. However, as there are no reeds (or other suitable wetland habitats) for water vole on or adjacent to the Site and therefore the species can be considered absent.

3.3.5 Reptiles

SEWBReC provided two records of reptiles (grass snake *Natrix natrix* and adder *Vipera beris*). The closest record is of a grass snake recorded 359m away in 2020.

The close-grazed grassland of the Site is unsuitable habitat for reptiles. However, the railway line immediately to the south of the Site provides opportunities for reptile populations to be present and changes to the grassland management could allow animals to disperse on to the Site. For example, if the grassland sward is allowed to grow tall and/or become tussocky mobile species such as grassland may occur.

It is concluded that the Site is not a core habitat for a population, but low numbers of animals could be present at the periphery, and the possibility of reptiles being present in the future cannot be entirely discounted.

3.3.6 *Breeding birds*

The northern boundary hedgerow offers nesting opportunities for a variety of common bird species that occur in farmland. However, the grassland is too heavily grazed to provide cover for ground nesting species.

3.3.7 *Badger*

No recent records of badger *Meles meles* were included in the SEWBRc dataset. No evidence of the species was noted on the Site.

4 Evaluation

The evaluation of ecological features on the Site is based on the Evaluation Criteria set out by MCC (MCC, 2021) and corresponds with the assessments given in the Site Summary Form in Appendix 1.

4.1 Designated Sites

4.1.1 *Statutory Designated Sites*

The Site is adjacent to the Gwent Levels Redwick and Llandeenny SSSI and has been rated as **High** because it is a nationally important designated area for wildlife.

The Site itself does not include any of the special interest features for which the SSSI is notified – specifically there are no reens on or adjacent to the Site. Development of the Site would therefore not necessarily be detrimental to the special interest of the SSSI, provided that indirect impacts could be avoided.

4.1.2 *Non-statutory Designated Sites*

The Site lies within 500m of four SINC and 1km of two SINC and has been rated as **Medium** because the surrounding landscape supports several locally important areas and habitats for wildlife.

4.1.3 *SINC Evaluation*

The Site does not meet the SINC criteria for locally designated sites. The improved grassland that makes up the bulk of the Site does not meet the selection criteria (GWT, 2009) for a SINC and the habitat present do not have potential to support important populations of notable or protected species. The Site is therefore rated **Low** for this category.

4.2 Habitats

The improved grassland within the Site is a common and widespread habitat and is not listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The improved grassland has Low ecological value.

The northern boundary hedgerow accounts for approximately 6% of the total habitat coverage of the Site. It is species-rich that qualifies as an 'Important' hedgerow under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 and is listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. On this basis it would be rated as having High ecological value.

Overall, the habitats are rated as **Medium** because the predominant Low value improved grassland and relatively limited extent of the High quality hedgerow.

4.3 Protected Species

4.3.1 Bats

The foraging and commuting resources for bats because the Site contains improved grassland and hedgerow is rated as **Low** on the basis that it is predicted to support a relatively low invertebrate biomass. The habitats are unremarkable in the wider landscape context, which supports higher quality semi-natural habitats associated with the statutory and non-statutory designated sites and woodlands.

The Site contains limited roosting opportunities for bats. There is only one tree with a potential roost feature. However, the presence of a bat roost potential trees means there is potential for these protected species to be present on Site. This results in a rating of **Medium** for this feature.

4.3.2 Reptiles

The Site is sub-optimal for reptiles because the grassland lacks structural diversity and there is limited scrub cover for ground dwelling animals. The proximity of suitable reptile habitat associated with the railway line has been considered and within the context of the wider countryside the Site has been rated **Low** because of the low probability reptiles may be present.

4.3.3 Breeding Birds

The hedgerow offers nesting habitat for breeding birds, but is unremarkable in the wider context and therefore has no significant value for farmland species. The hedgerow has been given a rating of **Low** for breeding birds.

4.3.4 Other Protected and Priority Species

The hedgerow provides an opportunity for hedgehog to be present, but the distribution of the species within the Site is predicted to be limited by the extent of this resource. Habitats for hedgehog are given a rating of **Low**.

4.4 Connectivity

The A4810 road is adjacent to the east side of the Site, impeding ecological connectivity in this direction. The hedgerow along the northern boundary is relatively isolated as is not connected to the wider farmland network or other woodland/ scrub habitats, such as the adjacent railway line. Connectivity is rated as **Low** because the Site does not significantly contribute to 'landscape permeability' for wildlife in the local area.

4.5 Overall Rating

Using the criteria provided by MCC, the Site meets the High biodiversity value criteria based on its proximity to the Gwent Levels SSSI. However, the Site does not include any features that might support the special interest features of the SSSI and is not hydrologically connected to the SSSI by adjacent reens, or other waterbodies.

The agriculturally improve habitats within the Site have Low ecological value and important features such as the hedgerow and potential bat roost trees are limited in extent. This is anticipated to enable opportunities for ecological mitigation to be incorporated in to the scheme design to reduce adverse effects of development on wildlife. In conclusion, the overall Site rating is **Medium** on the basis that the Site has low ecological value but is in an environmentally sensitive area.

5 Recommendations

5.1 Further Survey Work

This study has been carried out to establish the suitability of the Site to be retained as an allocation within the RLDP. It is expected that a full Ecological Assessment Report (EAR) will be prepared for planning application, which will provide a mitigation strategy to alleviate adverse effects identified by the ecological impact assessment. Baseline information in this report and the subsequent EAR can be used to help guide development design proposals that is expected to deliver biodiversity net gain the proposed update to planning requirements in the Environmental Bill to introduce a mandatory 10% biodiversity net gain for planning approval.

Based on the information gathered in this study a survey to establish whether any of the trees on Site are supporting bat roosts will be required prior to planning approval.

6 References

SWWWT (2005) *Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife Sites in South Wales*

GWT (2009) *Revisions to Selected Sections of the Guidelines for the selection of Wildlife Sites in South Wales to Give Special Regard for Monmouthshire.*

JNCC (2010) *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey - a technique for environmental audit.*
JNCC Revised reprint JNCC, Peterborough.

MCC (2019a) *Local Development Plan Ecological Site Assessments in Monmouthshire 2019/20*

MCC (2019b) *Local Development Plan Ecological Site Assessments in Monmouthshire 2019/20. GIS Guidance Note.*

Appendix 1. Site Evaluation Criteria

HIGH (Red)

- Candidate Site includes land designated as SAC/SPA/Ramsar/SSSI
- Site within the Juvenile Sustenance Zone 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
- 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 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

Appendix 2. Site Summary Form

Annex 1

Reference No: SAE1b

Site General Information																							
Name: <i>Land Off Green Moor Lane</i>		Grid Reference: <i>ST 41370 87063</i>																					
Current land use & management: <i>Grazing/agricultural.</i>		Size: <i>3.091 ha</i>																					
Proposed use: <i>Retention with RLDP</i>		Form Completed by: <i>Dominic Hill</i>																					
Overall Site Evaluation: HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW																							
Site Summary Table <table border="1"><tbody><tr><td>Statutory Designated Site(s)</td><td>Adj</td><td>Section 7 Habitat(s)</td><td>Part</td></tr><tr><td>SAC Juvenile sustenance zone</td><td>No</td><td>Protected Species</td><td>Poss</td></tr><tr><td>Non Statutory Designated Site(s)</td><td>Adj</td><td>Section 7 Species</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>SINC Recommendation</td><td>No</td><td>Ecological Connectivity</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">SEWBReC unique data code:</td></tr></tbody></table>				Statutory Designated Site(s)	Adj	Section 7 Habitat(s)	Part	SAC Juvenile sustenance zone	No	Protected Species	Poss	Non Statutory Designated Site(s)	Adj	Section 7 Species	No	SINC Recommendation	No	Ecological Connectivity	No	SEWBReC unique data code:			
Statutory Designated Site(s)	Adj	Section 7 Habitat(s)	Part																				
SAC Juvenile sustenance zone	No	Protected Species	Poss																				
Non Statutory Designated Site(s)	Adj	Section 7 Species	No																				
SINC Recommendation	No	Ecological Connectivity	No																				
SEWBReC unique data code:																							

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:

SSSIs

Gwent Levels – Redwick and Llandeenny (50m)

Magor Marsh (850m)

Wildlife Sites/SINCs

Land at Barecroft Common (364m)

Barecroft Fields (401m)

Bowkett Field, Barecroft (402m)

Upper Cottage Pond (458m)

Bluehouse Farm (520m)

Wilcrick Fort West (752m)

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
Improved Grassland		93%
Species-rich hedgerow	✓	4%
Species-poor defunct hedgerow	✓	1%
Species-poor hedgerow	✓	1%
Tall Ruderal		1%

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

Yes ☐

No ☒

If 'Yes' how many and what species?

Does the site have any **hedgerows**?

Species-rich (high) potential
Hedgerow Regs Quality

274	Length (m)
-----	------------

Species-poor (medium)
Has some potential

	Length (m)
--	------------

Species-poor (low)
Single species dominant AND Gappy

96	Length (m)
----	------------

No

☐

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

Ponds

☐

Streams

☐

Ditches

☐

Other:

☐

No

☒

Ecological Connectivity

Adjacent Land Uses & Habitats

The A4810 runs adjacent to the east side of the site and there is a railway line to the south. The public highway to Llandeenny defines the remaining northern/western boundary. As such the Site lies within a discrete triangle and the hedge along the northern boundary only links to buffer planting along the railway and A4810. Connectivity value is therefore considered to be low.

Whilst there is potential to improve the hedgerow itself by gapping up, options to improved connectivity are limited given surrounding roads/railway.

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

Critical connectivity: ☐

Existing Connectivity ☐

No connectivity: ☒

Connectivity Opportunity: ☐

Protected Species

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

Confirmed ☐ Reasonably likely ☒ 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)
None	None	1 x tree with potential bat roost feature.

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. <i>Roped access survey of trees with bat roost potential.</i>
--	--

Summary of potential biodiversity constraints

Site lies adjacent to a SSSI
Potential for bat roosts in one tree
Section 7 habitat (species – rich hedgerow present)

Recommended avoidance / mitigation / compensation measures

Detailed drainage plan will be required at an early stage to assess impacts on wetland habitats such as the SSSI reens.
Retain trees
Lighting Plan designed to retain dark wildlife corridors of movement around the periphery of the Site.
Appropriate mitigation if tree found to support roosting bats.
Careful site clearance with respect to potential for reptiles along railway line (precautionary).

Enhancements that could be delivered through development including ecological connectivity opportunities

Opportunities to improve and extend existing hedgerow resource on site.
Creation of wildlife corridor along retained hedgerows – with wildlife-friendly hedgerow management and retained tall grass and scrub corridor.
Bat and Bird boxes
Wildlife-friendly landscaping

Appendix 3. Phase 1 Habitat Plan



- ① Target notes (1-6)
- Trees
- Intact hedge - native species-rich
- Intact hedge - species-poor
- - - Defunct hedge - species-poor
- Hedge with trees - native species-rich
- Fence
- I Improved grassland
- ▨ Tall ruderal

0 25 50 m

PURE ECOLOGY

DATE: 20/08/2021
 PROJECT: Land off Geen Moor Lane, Magor
 REF.: 893_2021
 CREATOR: D. Hill
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Phase 1 Habitat Survey

Appendix 4. Photographs

<i>Photo 1 – Grazed improved pasture</i>	<i>Photo 2 – Northern boundary - species rich hedgerow</i>
	
<i>Photo 3 – Northern boundary - defunct hedgerow</i>	<i>Photo 4 – Northern boundary - species-poor hedgerow</i>
	
<i>Photo 5. Oak callus roll</i>	
	