

PURE ECOLOGY

CS0037 – Land South of Usk Road
Monmouthshire
NP4 0AN

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and LDP
Ecological Site Assessment

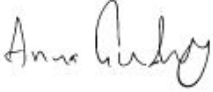


November 2019

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Client	DJ&P Newland Rennie
Job name	689 CS0037 Land South of Usk Road
Report title	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
Reference	<u>688 CS0037 Rep 04-11-19</u>

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Table of Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	SITE DESCRIPTION	1
1.2	PURPOSE OF REPORT	1
1.3	SCOPE OF STUDY	2
2	METHODOLOGY	3
2.1	DESK STUDY	3
2.2	FIELD SURVEY	3
2.3	OUTPUTS	4
3	BASELINE ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS	5
3.1	DESIGNATED SITES	5
3.2	HABITATS	5
3.3	PROTECTED SPECIES	6
4	EVALUATION	9
4.1	DESIGNATED SITES	9
4.2	HABITATS	9
4.3	PROTECTED SPECIES	9
4.4	CONNECTIVITY	10
4.5	OVERALL RATING	10
5	RECOMMENDATIONS	10
5.1	FURTHER SURVEY WORK	10
6	REFERENCES	12
	APPENDIX 1. SITE SUMMARY FORM	13
	APPENDIX 2. PHASE 1 HABITAT PLAN	23
	APPENDIX 3. PHOTOGRAPHS	25
	APPENDIX 4. SITE EVALUATION CRITERIA	27

1 Introduction

1.1 Site Description

The 'Land South of Usk Road' (LDP site number CS0037), hereafter referred to as the 'Site', is situated on the southern edge of Penperlleni, 5km northeast of Pontypool at Ordnance Survey grid reference SO 32016 04283. The Site consists of a single field, with a boundary of hedges, trees, fences, and with a stream running along its eastern and southern side. The A4042 (Usk Road) runs adjacent to the north- western side of the Site and there is a recently built housing estate site on the eastern side of the Site. To the south is pastoral farmland. Figure 1 below shows the location of the Site.

Figure 1. Site Boundary Source: www.google.co.uk/maps/



1.2 Purpose of Report

The 'land South of Usk Road' is being put forward as a 'candidate site' for 'development, redevelopment and/or protection' for inclusion in the Monmouthshire Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP), which will be adopted at the end of 2021/beginning of 2022.

Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) requires that each of the candidate site applications is submitted with accompanying baseline ecological information. The

purpose of this report is to provide that information for the 'Land South of Usk Road'.

1.3 Scope of Study

Monmouthshire County Council has provided guidance methodology (MCC, 2019a & 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).

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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 SEWBRc for a 1km buffer surrounding each site. Desk-based assessments for sites used the following sources of information:

- A 1km SEWBRc data search for Protected and Priority Species
- A 1km SEWBRc 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.
- Use of the Ancient Woodland Inventory to identify woodland designations ASNW, 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

2.2.1 Phase One Habitat Survey

A Phase 1 habitat survey was carried out on 28th August 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. A Phase 1 habitat map was produced (Appendix 2) illustrating the findings of the survey. Numbered Target Notes (TN) shown on the map are cross referenced with the descriptive text in Section 3.2.

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 (Section 7).
- Protected or Priority (Section 7) species - signs indicating presence and potential for the habitat to support such
- 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 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 4). 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 1) 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 necessary provided separate to this report, but a summary Phase 1 map is provided in Appendix 2.

3 Baseline Ecological Conditions

3.1 Designated Sites

3.1.1 Statutory Designated Sites

There are no statutory designated sites for nature conservation within 1km of the Site.

3.1.2 Non-statutory Designated Sites

There are seven 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. No information on the special interest of these sites was provided by SEWBRcC.

Table 1. SINC's with 1km of the Candidate Site

SINC	Location
Goytre House Wood	c.0.4kmNW
Land west of Fairfield, Penperlleni	c.0.5kmN
Ynys-y-pica Wood	c.0.6kmE
Poultry Houses Wood	c.0.6kmE
Springfield	c.0.7kmE
Chapel Lane Meadow	c.0.9kmNE
Capel Ed Lane/ Wern Fawr	c.1kmNE

3.2 Habitats

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

The Site consists of a single roughly triangular field of semi-improved neutral and marshy grassland bounded by hedgerows to the north-west and east and woodland along the southern boundary. There are also two defunct hedgerows crossing the Site. There is a stream bordering the southern boundary, and the A4042 defines the north-western edge of the Site.

3.2.1 Grassland

The field consists semi-improved neutral grassland (Photo 1) dominated by Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, bent grasses *Agrostis* spp. and perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, with broad-leaved species including meadow-vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, buttercup *Ranunculus* sp. and ragwort *Senecio jacobaea* also occasionally present. To the north of the site the grassland is drier, with patches of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* present throughout, particularly towards the margins. The species composition is evenly distributed across the site and the grass was uncut at the time of survey which meant a tall sward length of c.60cm. At the southern end of the Site the grassland is wetter (Photo 2). It has a similar composition of grassland species to that above, but with abundant soft rush *Juncus effusus*.

3.2.2 Trees

There is a band of trees flanking the stream (see Section 4.2.4 below) along the southern boundary of the Site (Photo 4). Alder *Alnus glutinosa* and willow *Salix spp.* predominate. There are two veteran trees within the tree line, an alder in the southern corner of the Site and a pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* (Photo 3) further north as marked on the map in Appendix 2. There are also 14 over-mature trees present along the stream at the southern boundary of the site, all of which are alder.

3.2.3 Hedgerows

Hedgerows are present along the north-western and north-eastern boundaries of the Site and are accompanied by a post and wire post fence. The north-eastern hedgerow (Photo 5) measures c.3m high and c.2m wide and is thick with bramble *Rubus fruticosus agg.* and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*. It is composed of a large number of woody species including hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, field maple *Acer campestre*, willow species *Salix spp.*, wild rose *Rosa sp.*, elder *Sambucus nigra* and holly *Ilex aquifolium*. The hedgerow bordering the A4042 to the north-west (Photo 4) measures c.4m high and c.3m wide. It is moderately species rich (with 5 species in a sample 30m section) and includes hawthorn, blackthorn and ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. There are two defunct hedgerows (Photo 7) that cut across the Site, both of which consist mostly of hawthorn and are tall, very gappy and thick with bramble *Rubus fruticosus agg.* and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*.

The species rich boundary hedgerow to the north-east of the Site qualifies as 'Important' under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, this is due to its species richness: it has 10 species in a sample 30 section. The hedgerow to the north-west and the internal hedgerow do not have the requisite number of species or accompanying features to qualify.

3.2.4 Watercourses

A tree-lined stream defines the entire southern boundary of the Site. It is c.1-2m wide and c.0.2-3m deep, with slow running water and thick vegetation including fool's watercress *Apium nodiflorum* and amphibious bistort *Persicaria amphibia* along its bottom and marginal species including water mint *Mentha aquatica* along its banks.

3.3 Protected Species

3.3.1 Bats

The data search from SEWBSReC returned 111 records from the 1km search area. Nine species of bats were recorded: The data is summarized in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Summary of Bat Data within 1km of the Site

Species	Number of records: Min. distance from site	Most recent record
Common pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	31 records: 3 records on site, along northwestern hedgerow	2014
Soprano pipistrelle <i>P. pygmaeus</i>	30 records: 3 records on site, along northwestern hedgerow	2008
Lesser horseshoe <i>Rhinolophus. hipposideros</i>	1 record: 0.75kmNW	2016
Whiskered / Brandts aggregate <i>Myotis mystacinus/brandtii</i> agg.	3 records: 0.56kmN	2008
Daubentons <i>M. daubentonii</i>	24 records: 0.14kmW	2005
Brown long-eared <i>Plecotus auritus</i>	2 records: 0.24kmW	2015
Noctule <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	18 records: 0.04kmNE	2013
Leisler's Bat <i>N. leisleri</i>	2 records: 0.48kmNW	2013

The records include a roost of two lesser horseshoe bats c. 0.75km north-west of the Site, and a hibernation roost in a hibernation box dating from 2013 of 20 noctule and four Leisler's bats c. 0.48km to the north-west of the Site. The closest data (2005) was a set of six records dating from 2005 of common and soprano pipistrelle recorded roaring along the north-west boundary hedgerow of the Site. All other records were of single bats either commuting or foraging.

The Site is not within a Juvenile Sustenance zone for the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.

The veteran and over-mature trees that grow along the southern boundary of the site have features that could be utilized by roosting bats, such as rot holes and cracks where branches have snapped. The Site also offers foraging and commuting opportunities for bats in its grassland and boundary habitats.

3.3.2 Great Crested Newt

There are no records of great crested newts *Triturus cristatus* held by SEWBRcC within 1km of the Site. There are no ponds on site, but examination of OS maps

revealed three ponds within 250m of the Site. One of these is on the opposite side of the A4042, which is likely to provide a significant barrier to dispersal. The other two are on the newly developed land immediate to the east of the Site. One is a natural pond located c. 70m away, the other is a newly created attenuation feature c. 120m away. If great crested newts used these ponds to breed, they could potentially occur in the habitats of the Site in their terrestrial phase.

3.3.3 Dormouse

SEWBREC does not hold any records of dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* within 1km of the Site. The Site is disconnected from the woodland in the wider countryside by the A4042 road to the north-west and by urban development and a railway line to the east, which converge c. 1.5km south of the Site. Given this lack of connectivity, it is considered unlikely that dormice would be present on the Site.

3.3.4 Otter

SEWBReC provided three records of otter *Lutra lutra*, the closest being 0.46km north-west of the Site. No signs of otter were discovered on Site and the streamside habitats are not suitable for an otter holt. However otters may commute along the boundary stream and could occasionally cross the Site.

3.3.5 Water vole

There are no records of water vole *Arvicola amphibia* from within the 1km search area, but SEWBReC does hold one record of a sighting in 2009 from c. 1.7km south of the Site indicating that they are present in the watercourses of the locality. The stream that forms the southern boundary of the Site does not appear to be well connected to other water courses: OS maps show it terminating c. 60m to the east and c. 160m to the west. However, the presence of water vole in the stream should be considered as a possibility.

3.3.6 Reptiles

SEWBReC does not hold any records of reptiles from within the 1km radius search area. However, a Phase 1 habitat survey report by David Clements Ecology (2013), which relates to land currently being developed to the immediate east of the Site, reports a low number of grass snake *Natrix natrix* and slow worm *Anguis fragilis* along the hedgerow bottoms and stream belt which directly connects to the northern hedgerow and stream along the south boundary of the site. Given the confirmed presence of reptiles on adjacent land, it is possible that reptiles may also be present in the hedgerows and wooded stream habitats of the site.

3.3.7 Breeding birds

SEWBReC provided several records of Priority bird species from within the search area. The hedgerows and trees around the Site offer nesting opportunities for a range of common farmland and garden birds including Priority species such as house sparrow *Passer domesticus*.

3.3.8 *Badger*



3.3.9 *Other Priority Species*

SeWBREC returned one record for hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* dating from 2006 located c. 32km east of the Site. There are four records of polecat *Mustela putorius* within the search area, the closest being c.0.48km west of the Site. These are both Section 7 species.

4 Evaluation

The evaluation of ecological features on the Site is based on the Evaluation Criteria set out by MCC (MCC, 2019) and corresponds with the assessments given in the Site Summary Form in Appendix 1.

4.1 Designated Sites

4.1.1 *Statutory Designated Sites*

There are no Statutory designated sites within 1km of the Site and has been rated as **Low** on this basis.

4.1.2 *Non-statutory Designated Sites*

The Site lies within 500m of Land west of Fairfield, Penperlleni SINC and Goytre House Wood SINC, and has been rated as **Medium** on this basis.

4.1.3 *SINC Evaluation*

The Site does not meet the selection criteria (GWT, 2009) for a SINC. The grassland does not have the requisite number of species, and the other habitats do not qualify. The Site is therefore rated **Low** for this category.

4.2 Habitats

The grassland is semi-improved, and as such is of little intrinsic ecological value. However, there are species rich hedgerows present that make up approximately 10% of the total habitat coverage of the Site. These are Section 7 habitats, and the north-east boundary hedgerow qualifies as an Important Hedgerow according to the ecological criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations. There are also two veteran trees on Site. On the basis of the presence an Important hedgerow and of veteran trees, the site is rated **Medium**.

4.3 Protected Species

4.3.1 *Bats*

The presence of trees with features that could support roosting bats means that there is potential for bats to be present on site. This results in a rating of **Medium**. The

habitats on site also have potential to provide foraging and commuting resources for bats.

4.3.2 Great Crested Newts

The presence of ponds within 250m of the Site flags up the potential for great crested newts to be present. There is therefore potential for great crested newts to be present in the terrestrial habitats of the Site and a rating of **Medium** is given.

4.3.3 Otter and Water Vole

Water vole could potentially be present in the stream, and otter may occasionally commute along it, but are unlikely to be resident. Because of the potential presence of water vole on Site, a rating of **Medium** is given.

4.3.4 Reptiles

The existence of confirmed records of reptiles from adjacent land to the east (David Clements Ecology, 2013), and the presence of suitable habitats on Site, including the hedgerows and streamside habitats means that the presence of reptiles on Site is reasonable possible. A rating of **Medium** has therefore been given.

4.3.5 Breeding Birds

The hedgerows and trees of the Site offer nesting habitat for breeding birds, but are unremarkable in the wider context. A rating of **Low** is given.

4.3.6 Other Priority Species

Hedgehogs and polecats could potentially be present, particularly around the margins of the Site. However, the habitat is unremarkable in the wider context and a rating of **Low** is given.

4.4 Connectivity

The Site lies within an 'island' of semi-natural land demarcated by the railway line to the east and the A4042 to the west, which converge c. 1.5km to the south of the Site. So, whilst there are some wooded linkages between the Site and the land to the south, there is little connectivity to the wider landscape. On the basis that there is 'some' connectivity a rating of **Medium** is given.

4.5 Overall Rating

Using the criteria provided by MCC, to assess the overall biodiversity rating of the site, it is concluded that the site rates as **Medium**.

5 Recommendations

5.1 Further Survey Work

This study has been carried out to establish the suitability of the site to be brought forward as a candidate site in the replacement LDP. It is expected that a full PEA would be drawn up to accompany any subsequent planning application for the Site,

at which point a full evaluation of potential impacts on ecological receptors that is informed by detailed design plans for the site can be carried out. However, based on the information gathered in this study, it is likely that the following further survey work would be required.

- If any of the trees along the stream that have potential to support roosting bats were to be affected by future development, bat tree surveys would be necessary to establish their usage by bats.
- Reptile Survey – given confirmed presence on land adjacent to the Site.
- eDNA survey of ponds in neighbouring land to east, if permissible, if presence of great crested newts on Site cannot otherwise be scoped out.

6 References

David Clements Ecology LTD (2013) *Land south of School Lane, Penperlleni, Goytre, Monmouthshire.*

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 Summary Form

Annex 1

Reference No: CS/0037

Site General Information																							
Name: Land south of Usk Road		Grid Reference: SO32016 04283																					
Current land use & management: Long grass, uncut. Used as pasture for sheep grazing.		Size: 3.4 Hectares																					
Proposed use: Extension to existing settlement, housing.		Form Completed by: Dominic Hill																					
Overall Site Evaluation: HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW																							
Site Summary Table <table border="1"><tbody><tr><td>Statutory Designated Site(s)</td><td>No</td><td>Section 7 Habitat(s)</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>SAC Juvenile sustenance zone</td><td>No</td><td>Protected Species</td><td>Possible</td></tr><tr><td>Non Statutory Designated Site(s)</td><td>Within 500m</td><td>Section 7 Species</td><td>Possible</td></tr><tr><td>SINC Recommendation</td><td>No</td><td>Ecological Connectivity</td><td>Some</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">SEWBSReC unique data code: Ref: 0190-324</td></tr></tbody></table>				Statutory Designated Site(s)	No	Section 7 Habitat(s)	No	SAC Juvenile sustenance zone	No	Protected Species	Possible	Non Statutory Designated Site(s)	Within 500m	Section 7 Species	Possible	SINC Recommendation	No	Ecological Connectivity	Some	SEWBSReC unique data code: Ref: 0190-324			
Statutory Designated Site(s)	No	Section 7 Habitat(s)	No																				
SAC Juvenile sustenance zone	No	Protected Species	Possible																				
Non Statutory Designated Site(s)	Within 500m	Section 7 Species	Possible																				
SINC Recommendation	No	Ecological Connectivity	Some																				
SEWBSReC unique data code: Ref: 0190-324																							

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:

Goytre House Wood SINC, Land west of Fairfield, Penperlleni SINC both <500m from the 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
Semi-improved Grassland		60%
Marshy Grassland		20%
Species-poor hedgerow	✓	2%
Species-rich hedgerow	✓	8%
Woodland		15%

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

Yes ☒

No ☐

If 'Yes' how many and what species?

1 *Quercus sp.* and 1 alder *Alnus glutinosa*
14 over mature alders

Does the site have any **hedgerows**?

Species-rich (high) potential

Hedgerow Regs Quality

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

Species-poor (medium)

Has some potential

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

Species-poor (low)

Single species dominant AND Gappy

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

No

☐

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

Ponds	☐
Streams	☒
Ditches	☐
Other:	☐
No	☐

Ecological Connectivity

Adjacent Land Uses & Habitats

Connectivity to the west and north of the site is limited by the A4042 (Usk Road) which runs adjacent to the site. To the east of the site there is a residential development, and the town of Penperlleni. Some connectivity exists to the arable and pasture farmland to the south through hedgerows, but any habitat connectivity beyond this is limited by the convergence of the A4042 and the railway line coming together from the west and east further to the south of the site.

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: SEWBRc 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)
No	No	Bats: Several trees on Site with potential to support roosting bats.
No	No	Great crested newts: Ponds within 250m of the site.
No	No	Water voles: Stream provides suitable habitat, although it is disconnected from wider watercourse network, so potential is low.
No –	No	Reptiles: presence confirmed on adjacent land to east (Clements 2013) so may also be present on Site.

Priority Species

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

Yes

☐

Potential

☐

No

☒

List Species:

Evidence of presence on
site (seen directly or field
signs)

Potential to be present on site
(habitat and location mean
that it is likely)

SEWBSReC record

--	--	--

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. Bat surveys of trees (if affected). Reptile surveys. eDNA survey of nearby ponds for GCN if cannot be otherwise scoped out. .
--	--

Summary of potential biodiversity constraints

Potential for bat roosts in trees.

Potential for reptiles – particularly in boundary features.

Important hedgerow on north-eastern boundary.

Potential for water vole in stream

Potential great crested newt particularly in boundary habitats.

Recommended avoidance / mitigation / compensation measures

Retain species rich hedgerows and wooded margins of stream.

Drainage plan will to demonstrate no impacts to water quality of stream.

Working method statement for careful site clearance with respect to reptiles/GCN

Lighting designed to retain dark corridors of movement around the periphery of the Site.

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 2. Phase 1 Habitat Plan



Legend

- Over mature tree
- Veteran tree
- Defunct hedge - species-poor
- Intact hedge - native species-rich
- Running water
- Marshy Grassland
- SI Semi-improved neutral grassland

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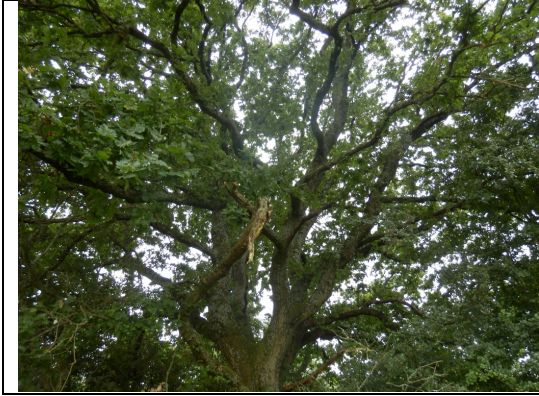
DATE: 08/11/2019
PROJECT: CS0037 - Land
South of Usk Road
REF.: 688_2019
CREATOR: D. Hill
APPROVED: A. Gundrey

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Phase 1 Habitat Survey

Appendix 3. Photographs

<i>Photo 1. Neutral semi-improved grassland</i>	<i>Photo 2. Marshy grassland</i>
	
<i>Photo 3. Veteran Oak</i>	<i>Photo 4. Stream</i>
	

<i>Photo 5. North-western hedgerow</i>	<i>Photo 6. Eastern hedgerow (important)</i>
	
<i>Photo 7. Defunct gappy hedgerow</i>	
	

Appendix 4. 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