

# **Land at Dyfed Powys Police Headquarters, Llangunnor, Carmarthen**

## **Ecological Impact Assessment**

June 2025

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## Quality Assurance – Approval Status

This document has been prepared and checked in accordance with  
 Waterman Group's IMS (BS EN ISO 9001: 2015, BS EN ISO 14001: 2015 and BS EN ISO 45001:2018)

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Revision		Status	
Pnn	Preliminary (shared; non-contractual)	S1	Coordination
Cnn	Contractual	S2	Information
		S3	Review & Comment
		S4	Review & Authorise
		S5	Review & Acceptance
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## 1. Introduction

Waterman Infrastructure & Environment Ltd (Waterman IE) have been commissioned by CBRE Ltd on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys ("the client") to undertake An Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA to accompany a planning application at Land at Dyfed Powys Police Headquarters, Llangunnor, Carmarthen (hereafter referred to as the 'Site').

### 1.1 Site Setting

The Site (**Figure 1**) is approximately 0.96 hectares (Ha) in area and centred on Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SN 4295 1928. The Site is located within the south of the grounds of the Dyfed-Powys Police Headquarters.

The Site comprises an area of regularly managed semi-improved / other neutral grassland together with scattered immature trees, hedgerow and an area of native shrubs / scrub. The Site is immediately bordered by an access road to the north-west, further areas of regularly managed semi-improved grassland and buildings to the north, Hoel Llangynnwr to the south; and area of unmanaged marshy grassland to the south-east and east.

Beyond this, this Site sits within a largely rural landscape with the town of Carmarthen located further west.

### 1.2 Background and Development Proposals

Proposals for the Site comprise the provision of Photovoltaic Panels (PVP) and Battery Storage at Dyfed Powys Police Headquarters (DPP HQ) (herein after referred to as the proposed 'Development').

### 1.3 Previous Ecological Assessments

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was produced for the Site by Focus Environmental Consultants in 2024<sup>1</sup> (**Appendix A**), which comprised the following tasks:

- Ecological Data Search;
- Field Survey;
- Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus* Habitat Suitability Index; and
- Day Time Bat Walkover including a Ground Level Tree Assessment.

It should be noted that since the undertaking of the 2024 PEA the redline boundary for the Site has changed, with the current redline boundary shown in **Figure 1**.

### 1.4 Objectives of this PEA

This EclA provides an evaluation of the importance of ecological features present within the identified Zone of Influence (Zoi) and assesses the potential effects that the Development may have on any such features identified. Required environmental measures have also been set out to allow for appropriate mitigation and enhancement of the Site as part of the scheme design.

This EclA includes the results of the 2024 PEA, and an updated Field Survey undertaken in April 2025.

The purpose of this EclA is to:

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<sup>1</sup> Focus Environmental Consultants (2024): Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (inc. Third Party Data Search). Field 1 – Dyfed-Powys Police Estate HQ, Carmarthen. Ref. 3011

- Identify any Important Ecological Features (IEFs) present at the Site and within the identified Zol.
- Provide an assessment of any significant ecological effects associated with the Development, both during construction and operation, upon those IEFs which have been identified.
- Set out environmental measures in line with the Mitigation Hierarchy<sup>2</sup> required to ensure compliance with relevant planning policies and nature conservation legislation (**Appendix B**), and to address any potentially significant ecological effects.
- Provide an assessment of the significance of any residual effects.

It should be noted that all final mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures to be implemented as part of the proposed Development are to set out within a standalone Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Plan (EMEP).

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<sup>2</sup> BS 42020:2013 Clause 5.2



## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Scope of the Assessment

The scope of this EclA is based on current guidelines as set out by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)<sup>3</sup>. Consideration is applied to identifying IEFs within the Zol, as detailed below. If IEFs are identified they have been subject to evaluation.

### 2.2 Zone of Influence

The Zol is the area(s) over which ecological features may be impacted by the biophysical changes caused by the Development.

Based on the scale and nature of the Development, it has been assessed that the Zol arising from these works is as follows:

- 500m for waterbodies;
- 2km for notable habitats and species<sup>4</sup>, and non-statutory designated sites;
- 2km for statutory (National) designated sites;
- 20km for statutory (International and European) designated sites.

### 2.3 Important Ecological Features

As referenced in industry guidance, IEF's that are anticipated to be affected by the proposed Development have been identified and subject to assessment. In this report, designated sites, habitats and species that fall into the categories in **Table 1** have been identified as being ecologically important and/or legally protected/controlled.

Table 1: Geographical Scale of Important Ecological Feature Categories

Geographical Level of Importance	Category
International	<p>Statutory designated sites: Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar sites (including candidate SACs and proposed SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites) within England.</p> <p>A viable area of a habitat type listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive, or smaller areas of such habitat essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole.</p> <p>Regularly occurring populations of a species, large enough in number to be of international importance where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The loss or degradation of these populations would adversely affect the conservation status or distribution of the species at this geographic scale; or</li> <li>• The population forms a critical part of a wider population at an international level; or</li> <li>• The species is at a critical phase of its life cycle at this scale.</li> </ul>
National	<p>Statutory designated sites: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserves (NNR).</p> <p>Ancient Woodland.</p>

<sup>3</sup> CIEEM (2018): Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

<sup>4</sup> Habitats of Principal Importance (HoPI) and Species of Principal Importance (SoPI) listed under Section 42 (S42) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006; priority habitats and species as listed the South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan (SGBAP) habitat action plan (HAP) or species action plan (SAP).

Geographical Level of Importance	Category
Regional/County	<p>A viable area of a Habitat of Principal Importance (HoPI) as listed on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006<sup>5</sup>, or smaller areas of such habitat essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. Resident, or regularly occurring, populations of species, significant at an International, European, UK or National level where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The loss of these populations would adversely affect the conservation status or distribution of the species at a national level; or</li> <li>• The population forms a critical part of a wider population at this scale; or</li> </ul> <p>The species is at a critical phase of its life cycle at this scale.</p>
District/Borough	<p>Local Nature Reserves (LNR).</p> <p>Habitat areas which meet the published selection criteria for county site designations, but which are not themselves designated as such.</p> <p>Species – as per National level but where the loss of these populations would negatively affect the conservation status or distribution of the species at a <b>regional/county</b> level and where populations/species are critical at the <b>regional/county</b> scale.</p> <p>This may include locally significant populations of a species and areas of habitat listed in a County BAP on account of its regional rarity or localisation (i.e. London Environment Strategy (LES)<sup>6</sup>).</p> <p>Non-statutory designated wildlife sites of district/borough value.</p> <p>Species – as per <b>Regional/County</b> level but where the loss of these populations would negatively affect the conservation status or distribution of the species at a <b>district</b> level and where populations/species are critical at the <b>district/ borough</b> scale.</p> <p>This may include locally significant populations of a species and areas of habitat listed in a District/Borough BAP on account of its regional rarity or localisation (i.e. The Carmarthenshire Nature Recovery Action Plan (CNRAP)<sup>7</sup>).</p>
Local	<p>Non statutory designated sites of local value.</p> <p>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>Areas of habitat considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource within the local context (e.g. species-rich hedgerows, ponds etc.). It may also include sites that retain other elements of semi-natural vegetation that due to their size, quality or the wide distribution of such habitats within the local area are not considered for local designations.</p> <p>Populations/assemblages of species that appreciably enrich the biodiversity resource within the local context. Populations of county level important species that are not threatened or rare in the county and are not integral to maintaining those populations.</p>
Site	<p>Habitats and/or species that are of limited ecological importance due to their size, species composition or other factors. Areas of heavily modified or managed vegetation of low species diversity.</p> <p>Low or moderate numbers of common and widespread species.</p>

<sup>5</sup> ODPM (2006) 'Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act'

<sup>6</sup> Greater London Authority (2018): London Environment Strategy

<sup>7</sup> Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership (2020): The Carmarthenshire Local Nature Recovery Plan. Nature in Carmarthenshire ...our approach for local action 2020 – 2030

Geographical Level of Importance	Category
Legislation	<p>Species included on Schedules II and IV of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended);</p> <p>Species included on Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), excluding species that are only protected in relation to their sale (Section 9[5] and 13[2]); and</p> <p>Badgers, which are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.</p>

## 2.4 Ecological Data Search

The aim of the ecological data search is to collate existing ecological records for the Site and adjacent areas. Obtaining existing records is an important part of the evaluation process, as it provides additional information that may not be apparent during a site survey.

An ecological desk study was undertaken by Focus Environmental Consultants in April 2024 (**Appendix A**), during which all records of protected species, and/or other notable fauna and flora within 2km of the Site were requested from the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre (WWBIC).

Records of statutory and non-statutory sites designated (as referred to in **Table 1**) for their nature conservation value within 2km of the Site were also requested from WWBIC. A further search for important statutory European designated sites was conducted within a buffer of 20km from the Site using Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)<sup>8</sup>.

In addition, to add further detail on ecology resources at the Site and local area, the following tasks were also undertaken by Sabre Ecological Services Ltd in May 2025:

- A search for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zones / Buffer Zones via DataMapWales;
- A review of lists of Priority Habitats and Species listed under Section 7 (S7) of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016;
- A review of lists of Local Priority Habitats and Species listed under the CLNRP;
- A review of available spatial datasets for Priority Habitats and protected species available from DataMapWales; and
- A review of OS mapping and aerial (including historic) photography<sup>9</sup> of the Site and immediately adjacent land, including ponds and watercourses within 500m of the Site.

## 2.5 Field Survey

An experienced ecological consultant from Focus Environmental Consultants undertook a field survey in accordance with the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017 2nd Edition), the UK Habitat Classification system (UKHab Ltd (2023), and the Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey (JNCC, 2010). The survey method was extended to include a search for notable and/or legally protected fauna ('important ecological features' with reference to CIEEM, 2018). Full details of the methodology used is provided within **Appendix A**.

<sup>8</sup> Magic.defra.gov.uk. (2014). *Magic*. [online] Available at: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>.

<sup>9</sup> Google Earth [Accessed September 2024]

In addition to the above, an update Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the Site was undertaken by Sabre Ecological Services Ltd on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 using the Joint Nature Conservancy Council (JNCC, 2010)<sup>10</sup> standard 'Phase 1' survey technique. The Phase 1 Habitat Survey methodology was 'Extended' by undertaking an assessment of the Site to support protected and notable faunal species. All habitat types within the Site were mapped (**Figure 1**) with target notes where appropriate. Where access allowed, adjacent habitats were also considered to assess the Site within the wider landscape, and to provide information with which to assess possible impacts of the proposed Development.

The Field Surveys of the Site were conducted under conditions deemed appropriate for survey.

## 2.6 Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index

In conjunction with the 2024 Field Survey the pond located approximately 0.06km north of the Site was assessed by Focus Environmental Consultants using the Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index (HSI)<sup>11</sup>. An HSI is a numerical score where 0 indicates unsuitable habitats and 1 indicates optimal habitats.

## 2.7 Daytime Bat Walkover

As part of the Field Surveys a DBW was also undertaken to assess and record any habitats suitable for bats to roost, commute and forage on Site and within the surrounding areas based on criteria detailed in **Table 2** and **Table 3** respectively. A number of factors were considered, including the presence of features suitable for use by roosting bats, proximity to foraging habitats or cover, and potential for disturbance. Notes were made relating to relevant characteristics of features providing potential access points and roosting opportunities (i.e. Potential Roosting Features (PRFs)).

Table 2: Bat Habitat Suitability of the Site - Assessment Criteria (Collins, J. 2023)

Potential Suitability	Description – Potential Flight Paths and Foraging Habitats
<b>None</b>	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of the year (i.e. no habitats that provide continuous lines of shade/protection for flight-lines or generate/shelter insect populations available to foraging bats).
<b>Negligible</b>	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flight-paths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
<b>Low</b>	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of bats as flight-paths such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat.
	Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
<b>Moderate</b>	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for flight-paths such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens.
	Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
<b>High</b>	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flight-paths such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge.

<sup>10</sup> JNCC. (2010): Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey. Nature Conservancy Council

<sup>11</sup> Oldham R. S. et al (200): Evaluating the suitability of habitat for the Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*). Herpetological Journal 10 (4), 143-155

Potential Suitability	Description – Potential Flight Paths and Foraging Habitats
	High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland.
	Site is close to and connected to known roosts.

### 2.7.1 Ground Level Tree Assessment

The GLTAs was based on industry guidelines at the time of the survey (Collins, J. 2023). The GLTAs included a visual inspection (including the use of binoculars and torches where appropriate) of the exterior each tree for evidence of bat use. Evidence of, or the potential for, utilisation of the trees by bats was determined through the presence of the following field signs:

- Bat droppings (which can accumulate under an established roost);
- Oil (from fur) and urine stains; and
- Scratch marks.

Table 3: Tree Suitability for Roosting Bats Guidelines (Collins, J. 2023)

Potential Suitability	Description
PRF	A tree with at least one PRF present.
FAR	Further Assessment Required to establish if PRFs are present in the tree.
NONE	Either no PRFs in the tree or highly unlikely to be any.

## 2.8 Invasive Non-Native Plant Species

The list of invasive non-native species (INNS) of plant included on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is extensive and such species are found in a range of different habitat types.

As part of the Field Surveys the Site was also searched for the presence of common INNS of plant where access was possible (see limitations section). Species searched for included Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*, giant knotweed *Fallopia sachalinensis*, hybrid knotweed *Fallopia baldschuanica*, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*, buddleia *Buddleja davidii*, cotoneaster *Cotoneaster* sp., Virginia creeper *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, tree of heaven *Ailanthus altissima* and false acacia *Robinia pseudoacacia*.

## 2.9 Important Ecological Feature Assessment

Data gathered as part of this EclA has been used to identify potential IEFs (i.e. those designated at a geographical scale of local level or above, or legally protected, as listed in **Table 1**) that are anticipated to be affected by the Development within the identified Zol(s).

However, not all the IEFs within the Zol have the potential to be significantly affected by the proposed Development, or the legislation pertaining to them to be contravened. Therefore, where features are

unlikely to be affected by the proposed Development, or where any effects that impact IEFs are unlikely to be significant, for the reasons<sup>12</sup> listed below, such features have been scoped out of the assessment:

- No pathway of effect has been identified, for example the feature is sufficient distance from the Site or there is the presence of a barrier between its location and the Site<sup>13</sup>; or
- The feature is of insufficient biodiversity conservation value within the Zol, due to its quality, extent or population size<sup>14</sup>.

For all remaining features scoped into the assessment, the pathway of effect (e.g., habitat loss, lighting, noise etc.) and potential impact of this on the feature has been identified.

## 2.10 Impact Assessment

The value of each specific IEF has been assigned a geographic frame of reference, i.e. International and European value being the most important, followed by national, regional, metropolitan/county/vice-county, district, borough, local value and 'Site'. Where necessary, the Zol for each IEF has also been re-assessed (from that used to collect the ecological data search information) based on the information collated from any additional assessments (i.e. further surveys for roosting bats) and full details of the Development impacts.

Value judgements are based on various characteristics that can be used to identify IEFs. These include site designations (such as SSSIs), or for undesignated features, the size, conservation status (locally, nationally or internationally), and the quality of the ecological feature. In terms of the latter, 'quality' can refer to habitats (for instance if they are particularly diverse, or a good example of a specific habitat type), other features (such as wildlife corridors or mosaics of habitats) or species populations or assemblages.

Value judgements are also based on the Ecologist's academic and professional qualifications, in addition to experience of undertaking similar assessments.

The assessment of the potential effects of the proposed Development are assessed within the Zol. Effects can be positive, negative or insignificant. Negative effects can include:

- direct loss of habitats;
- fragmentation and isolation of habitats; and
- disturbance to habitats and species.

Negative and positive effects on nature conservation features have been characterised based on predicted changes as a result of the proposed Development. In order to characterise the effects on each feature, the assessment takes account of the following parameters:

- extent;
- duration;
- timing;
- frequency; and

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<sup>12</sup> Positive or negative effects on ecological features that have the potential to influence a planning decision are considered to be significant

<sup>13</sup> Whilst the Zol of potential effects arising from the development is up to 2km from the Site, the ecological Zol (within which the feature could be affected) for each feature may vary and for some features may be much less, e.g. great crested newts generally move up to a maximum of 500m from a breeding pond and movement can be restricted by barriers such as busy roads and fast flowing rivers

<sup>14</sup> E.g. whilst a Priority Species such as skylark *Alauda arvensis* or house sparrow *Passer domesticus* is of National importance (Table 2), the impact of development on individual or a small population of such a species, which are generally commonly found, is unlikely to be assessed as significant

- reversibility.

In line with the Guidelines, where an effect occurs on a receptor of Site value or lower, such effects are deemed to be non-significant.

## 2.11 Constraints and Limitations

Whilst it is noted that the ecological data search requested from WWBIC from Focus Environmental Consultants is greater than 1-year in age, given the small intervening timescales between the ecological data search becoming greater than 1-year in age and the production of this EclA, together with the nature and extent of the proposed Development and findings of the Field Surveys, this is not considered to significantly affect the results of this EclA.

Limitations associated with the undertaking of the 2024 PEA are detailed within **Appendix A**.

All other contractors, designers and the client should be aware of the following: The design recommendations within this report are assessed to be the most effective ecological solution at this stage of the project. No other pre-construction information has been provided, obtained or referred to during the preparation of this report (including, but not limited to, services information, geotechnical reports and ordnance reports). In deciding whether and how to progress with this project, it will be incumbent upon the client, designers and contractors to obtain and refer to relevant pre-construction and maintenance information, as required by the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations to ensure compliance.



### 3. Results

#### 3.1 Ecological Desk Study

##### 3.1.1 Statutory Designated Sites

The Site is not subject to any statutory designations for nature conservation. Eight sites designated under the National Site Network (previously referred to as European designated Natura 200 sites), are located within 20km of the Site, with a total of four Nationally designated sites (SSSIs) located within 2km of the Site.

The Site does not fall within buffer zones (i.e. within 300m) of any SSSIs, as shown on Data Map Wales<sup>15</sup>.

Table 4: Summary Statutory Designated Sites

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Description
River Tywi	SAC	0.9km North-West	<p>The SAC is designated because of the presence of a large spawning population of Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i> and abundant otter populations. The river also supports a variety of other fish species and is home to a diverse range of plant and animal species. The river's natural features, including its meandering course and the extensive shingle banks, are important for birds, invertebrates, and fish.</p> <p>There are no direct connections between this statutory designated site and the Site itself.</p>
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries	SAC	2.3km West	<p>The Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC is a large site encompassing the estuaries of the Rivers Loughor, Tâf and Tywi (coastal plain estuaries) and the Gwendraeth. There are extensive areas of intertidal mudflats and sandflats with large areas of these flats dominated by bivalves.</p> <p>The Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC is a multiple interest site which has been selected for the presence of ten marine features. For the qualifying habitats and species the SAC is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>• Atlantic saltmeadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i></li> <li>• <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand</li> <li>• Large shallow inlets and bays</li> <li>• Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</li> <li>• Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i></li> <li>• Twaite shad</li> </ul> <p>and to support a significant presence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i></li> <li>• Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></li> <li>• Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></li> </ul>

<sup>15</sup> Data Map Wales (2021): WOM21 Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) / Special Area of Conservation (SAC) 100/300m Buffer

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Description
			There are no direct connections between this statutory designated site and the Site itself.
Cernydd Carmel	SAC	13.7km East	Cernydd Carmel is situated immediately south of the village of Carmel in south Carmarthenshire. A diverse range of habitats is represented, including woodland, grassland, heathland and bog. Of particular interest is the seasonal lake – or turlough, which is the primary reason for the selection of this site.
			There are no direct connections between this statutory designated site and the Site itself.
Caenau Mynydd Mawr	SAC	15km East	This is the only SAC selected to represent the marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> and Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils <i>Molinia caerulea</i> in Carmarthenshire, and it is one of the major strongholds for the marsh fritillary in Wales and the UK. The Molinia meadows, characterised by the NVC type M24 <i>Molinia caerulea</i> – <i>Cirsium dissectum</i> fen-meadow, occur within a mosaic of more extensive stands of Molinia (M25), along with smaller areas of wet heath, acidic and dry neutral grassland.
			There are no direct connections between this statutory designated site and the Site itself.
Carmarthen Bay Dunes	SAC	15.5km South-West	Designated due to its dune habitat features including, whorl snail <i>Vertigo sp.</i> , petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> and fen orchid <i>Liparis loeselii</i> .
			There are no direct connections between this statutory designated site and the Site itself.
Carmarthen Bay	SPA	15.5km South-West	Carmarthen Bay SPA was the first fully marine SPA classified in the UK. The site was classified for wintering common scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> . Carmarthen Bay is one of the most important wintering sites in Britain and Ireland for this species.
			There are no direct connections between this statutory designated site and the Site itself.
Bristol Channel Approaches	SAC	18km South-West	The Bristol Channel Approaches SAC lies along the southwest coasts of Wales and England and is designated for the protection of harbour porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> .
			There are no direct connections between this statutory designated site and the Site itself.
Burry Inlet	SPA & Ramsar	19km South	The Burry Inlet SPA & Ramsar regularly supports large numbers of overwintering wildfowl and waders that feed in the saltmarshes and on the intertidal areas and is the most important wholly Welsh estuary for overwintering waterfowl and is particularly significant for oystercatcher.
			There are no direct connections between this statutory designated site and the Site itself.

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site (km)	Description
River Tywi	SSSI	0.9km North-West	<p>An actively eroding river meandering across a wide flood plain which is composed of alluvium, glacial sands and gravels. This has resulted in extensive shingle banks being formed. These are important for birds and invertebrates, and the river is also of special interest for its fish species and otters, and in its lower reaches for its saltmarsh vegetation.</p> <p>There are no direct connections between this statutory designated site and the Site itself.</p>
Glan Pibwr Stream Section	SSSI	1.6km South	<p>Glan Pibwr is of particular importance as it is regarded as the 'type locality' for part of the Lower Ordovician sequence of South Wales.</p> <p>There are no direct connections between this statutory designated site and the Site itself.</p>
Allt Penycloed Stream Section	SSSI	1.6km South-East	<p>This stream section provides important exposure of a sequence of fossil-bearing sandstones and muds which were deposited in deep-water marine conditions some 500 million years ago.</p> <p>There are no direct connections between this statutory designated site and the Site itself.</p>
Bishops Pond	SSSI	1.98km North-East	<p>This is the best example of an ox-bow lake in west Wales. It is especially notable for its reed sweet-grass <i>Glyceria maxima</i> swamp. This is a rare and distinctive vegetation type in Wales, largely confined to the Tywi valley and the coastal flats of south Wales.</p> <p>There are no direct connections between this statutory designated site and the Site itself.</p>

### 3.1.2 Non-Statutory Designated Sites

No Local Nature Reserves occur within 2km of the Site, and it is noted that no Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's) have been formally identified within Carmarthenshire, however it remains an objective of the authority to actively explore their designation.

### 3.1.3 Ancient Woodland

A total of 18 areas of Ancient Woodland (comprising 9 areas of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland and 9 Restored Ancient Woodland Sites) are present within 2km of the Site. The nearest area of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland is present 0.25km north-west of the Site, with the nearest area of Restored Ancient Woodland Site present 0.55km north of the Site.

### 3.1.4 Notable / Priority Habitats

Four HoPIs listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 are present within 2km of the Site as set out below.

- Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture (the nearest of which is located approximately 0.2km west of the Site);
- Lowland Fen and Reedbed (the nearest of which is located approximately 1.5km north-east of the Site);
- Rivers (the nearest of which is the River Tywi located approximately 0.9km north-west of the Site); and
- Traditional Orchards (the nearest of which is located approximately 1km east of the Site).

### 3.1.5 B-Lines

The Site itself falls within a Buglife B-Line.

### 3.1.6 Ponds and Watercourses

A total of two ponds are present within 500m of the Site. The first of these ponds is present approximately 0.06km north of the Site and is a SUDs waterbody. The Second pond is located approximately 0.45km north of the Site.

A small flowing stream is present approximately 0.06km north of the Site and is connected to the above SUDs pond. Several drains are also present within 500m, several of which appear to connect to the above stream.

### 3.1.7 Protected and Other Notable Species

Records of legally protected or otherwise notable species of flora and fauna within 2km of the Site as provided within the 2024 PEA (**Appendix A**) are summarised in **Table 5** below. Full results can be obtained from the data providers but cannot be presented in this report as a result of copyright.

Table 5: Summay of Data Search records of flora and fauna within 2km of the Site

Species	Category of Importance	Approximate Distance of closest record from the centre of the Site (km)
<b>Bats</b>		
Common pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Hab Regs, WCA, SoPI	Common pipistrelle – 0.6km North-West
<i>Myotis</i> sp.	Hab Regs, WCA	
Daubenton's bat <i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Hab Regs, WCA	
Noctule bat <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Hab Regs, WCA, SoPI	
Brown Long-eared <i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Hab Regs, WCA, SoPI	
Natterer's bat <i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Hab Regs, WCA	
Greater Horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Hab Regs, WCA, SoPI	
Whiskered bat <i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	Hab Regs, WCA	

Species	Category of Importance	Approximate Distance of closest record from the centre of the Site (km)
<b>Amphibians</b>		
Great Crested Newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Hab Regs, WCA, SoPI	1.1km West
<b>Reptiles</b>		
	WCA, SoPI	10 records returned, nearest being common lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i> 0.45km (no direction provided)
<b>Hazel Dormice</b> <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>		
	Hab Regs, WCA, SoPI	1.2km South-East
<b>Badger</b> <i>Meles meles</i>		
	PBA	0.4km (no direction provided)
<b>Otter</b> <i>Lutra lutra</i>		
	Hab Regs, WCA, SoPI	1.1km (no direction provided)
<b>Hedgehog</b> <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>		
	SoPI	Not provided
<b>Invertebrates</b>		
	SoPI	Total of 28 records returned. Nearest being cinnabar moth <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i> 1.2km north.
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b> <i>Larus fuscus</i>		
	LES	0.44km north-east
<b>Fish</b>		
European Eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	SoPI, LES	0.57km south-east
<b>Plants</b>		
Jersey Cudweed <i>Gnaphalium luteoalbum</i>	WCA	0.36km north

Hab Regs - Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

WCA – Schedule 1, 5 or 8 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

PBA – Protection of Badgers Act 1992

SoPI – Species of Principal Importance under The Environment (Wales) Act 2016

## 3.2 Field Survey

### 3.2.1 Habitats (2024 Field Survey)

The following habitat types were identified on and adjacent to the Site during the 2024 PEA:

- Semi-improved / Other Neutral Grassland;
- Hedgerow;
- Scattered Trees;
- Scrub / Native Shrubs.

A summary of those habitats recorded as part of the 2024 PEA is provided below with full details provided within **Appendix A**.

Other than a difference in habitats falling within / outside of the Site, due to a change to the redline boundary, no significance changes to the above habitats were recorded as part of the 2025 update Phase 1 Habitat Survey. However, in addition to the above habitats an area of marshy grassland was also recorded adjacent to the Site. A description of this habitat together with any additional information recorded for the above habitats during the 2025 update Phase 1 Habitat Survey is also provided below.

The habitat descriptions given below should be read in conjunction with **Figure 1** which includes target notes, the 2024 PEA (**Appendix A**) and the photographs (Plates) presented in **Appendix C**.

#### Semi-improved / Other Neutral Grassland

The Site comprises, and is bordered by, an area of regularly managed semi-improved / other neutral grassland. The grassland was waterlogged during the 2024 Field Survey and damp underfoot during the update 2025 Field Survey. This together with the presence of several species associated with wetter habitats including lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, soft rush *Juncus effusus*, cuckoo flower *Cardamine Pratensis*, marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica* and meadow sweet *Filipendula ulmaria* suggests that the Site is generally damp in nature. In some areas there appeared to be +/- 20% soft rush suggesting that the grassland may have historically comprised marshy grassland.

A full list of those species recorded within the grassland as part of the 2024 PEA is provided within **Appendix A**, with additional species recorded during the 2025 Field Survey including water figwort *Scrophularia umbrosa*, glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*, black knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, creeping cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, and common cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*.

#### Hedgerow

A hedgerow which is managed to approximately 2.2m in height and 2m (at the time of the 2025 Field Survey) is present along the south-western Site boundary.

The hedgerow is dominated by blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and in addition to hazel *Corylus avellana* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* recorded during as part of the 2024 PEA, willow *Salix* sp. and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* were also recorded during the 2025 Field Survey. No additional species were recorded within the ground layer during the 2025 Field Survey (refer to **Appendix A** for species list).

This hedgerow is considered to meet the environmental criteria<sup>16</sup> to qualify as a HoPI under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, however is not considered to be classified as 'Important' under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

#### Scattered Trees

A total of 13 immature scattered trees, including Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* and oak *Quercus* sp., are present within the Site, mostly associated with the Site boundaries.

#### Scrub / Native Shrubs

A small area of managed native scrub / scrub, which appeared to be managed at the time of the 2025 Field Survey is present within the north-east of the Site. Species recorded within this area during the 2025 Field Survey comprised goat willow *Salix caprea*, hazel, hawthorn, birch *Betula* sp., oak, blackthorn and bramble.

A larger area of unmanaged native scrub / scrub (and trees) is present to the south-east of the Site, outside of the Site boundary. This area is dominated by goat willow with elder, hazel and conifer (Scots pine) trees also recorded as part of the 2024 PEA.

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<sup>16</sup> BRIG (ed. Ant Maddock) (2008): UK Biodiversity Action Plan; Priority Habitat Descriptions (Updated Dec 2011).  
<https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/2728792c-c8c6-4b8c-9ccd-a908cb0f1432/UKBAP-PriorityHabitatDescriptions-Rev-2011.pdf>

### 3.2.2 Habitats (2025 Field Survey)

In addition to the above, the following habitats were also noted during the 2025 Field Survey.

#### Marshy Grassland

A large area of marshy grassland dominated by soft rush is present to the south-east and north-east of the Site, outside of the Site boundary. Additional species recorded within this area at the time of the 2025 Field Survey comprise creeping cinquefoil, cuckoo flower, creeping bent, broadleaved dock, common hogweed, spear thistle, Yorkshire fog, glaucous sedge, great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, common reed *Phragmites australis*, goat willow, bramble, meadowsweet, and ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*.

### 3.2.3 Protected and Other Notable Fauna and Flora

On review of the ecological data search and based on the results of the 2024 Field Survey the 2024 PEA provided an assessment on the potential of the Site to support:

- Great Crested Newt;
- Bats;
- Birds;
- Reptiles;
- Hazel Dormice;
- Badgers;
- Riparian Mammals;
- Other Notable Mammals;
- Invertebrates;
- Notable Plants; and
- Invasive plant species.

A summary of the assessments made are provided below with full details provided within **Appendix A**.

Based on the results of the 2025 Field Survey, no additional protected or other notable fauna and flora are considered to be required to be assessed and no changes to the assessments within the 2024 PEA made, though additional information has been provided where appropriate.

The descriptions given below should be read in conjunction with **Figure 1** which includes target notes, the 2024 PEA (**Appendix A**) and the photographs (Plates) presented in **Appendix C**.

#### Great Crested Newt

There are no suitable breeding habitats for great crested newt (or other amphibian species) on or directly adjacent to the Site. Whilst records for great crested newt were returned from approximately 1.1km west of the Site, the Site is separated from this record by main roads. In addition, the SUDs pond located approximately 0.06km north of the Site is separated from the Site itself through the presence of buildings and infrastructure associated with the Dyfed-Powys Police Estate and is understood to frequently dry out (contractor communication as part of the 2024 PEA) and is therefore unlikely to provide suitable conditions for supporting a breeding amphibians. This pond was also assessed as having 'Poor' suitability for supporting great crested newts as a result of the HSI undertaken in support of the 2024 PEA (**Appendix A**).

The remaining pond present approximately 0.45km north of the Site is also separated from the pond 0.06km north of the Site through the presence of buildings and infrastructure associated with the Dyfed-Powys Police Estate as well as any further ponds within the local area by main roads. The stream located



approximately 0.06km north of the Site, and which separates these ponds, was also considered to be a barrier for dispersal as part of the 2024 PEA.

Due to its managed nature and lack of suitable areas for shelter / protection and breeding the habitats within the Site offer largely sub-optimal habitat for amphibians, though the hedgerow present to the south-west of the Site may offer some suitable terrestrial habitat for great crested newts and provides a potential dispersal corridor.

#### Bats

No buildings are present on Site and the GLTAs did not record any features suitable for supporting roosting bats within those trees present within the Site. Consequently, these trees have been assigned a roosting suitability of '**NONE**'.

Due to its managed nature and their age, the grassland present on Site and immature trees are likely to offer opportunistic foraging for bats only, with the adjacent hedgerow, native scrub / shrubs and marshy grassland offering greater foraging and commuting opportunities for bats.

Given that the Site is located within and connected to a rural wider landscape with arable and pasture fields present in the immediate surrounding area, the Site is assessed to be of 'Moderate' suitability for foraging and commuting bats.

#### Birds

No birds were noted on Site during the 2025 Field Survey, with blackbird *Turdus merula*, robin *Erithacus rubecula* and wood pigeon *Columba palumbus* noted during the Field Survey in 2024.

Due to its managed nature the grassland on Site offers opportunistic foraging for common bird species only and little potential, if any, for ground nesting birds. Notwithstanding this, the immature trees, hedgerow and native scrub / shrubs provide suitable foraging and nesting opportunities for common species of bird.

#### Reptiles

The habitats present on Site are sub-optimal for supporting reptiles, though the hedgerow may act as a movement corridor. The larger area of native scrub / shrubs to the south-east and marshy grassland to the south-east and north-east do however provide suitable habitat for supporting common reptile species, both of which are located outside of the Site boundary.

#### Hazel Dormice

The majority of habitats present on Site are unsuitable for supporting hazel dormice. Whilst the hedgerow present along the south-western boundary provides some potential for supporting this species it has limited connectivity to other suitable habitats within the local area, being at the far south-eastern end of the hedgerow only. Whilst not absolute, Hoel Llangynnwyr is also likely to act as a barrier to dispersal from potentially suitable habitats to the south of the Site.

#### Badger

No setts or evidence of badger activity was recorded on or within the vicinity of the Site during both the 2024 and 2025 Field Surveys. Whilst the Site provides suitable foraging habitat on an opportunistic basis, it is unlikely to be suitable for sett building due to its wet nature.

### Riparian Mammals

The Site provides no suitable habitat for supporting riparian mammals. Though potentially suitable for foraging and commuting, no evidence of any riparian mammals was noted along the stream to the north of the Site during the 2024 and 2025 Field Surveys, which is also considered to lack suitable habitats for resting and/or breeding.

### Other Notable Mammals

The Site offers some, albeit limited, opportunities for mammals typical of a rural environment, such as hedgehog, fox *Vulpes vulpes*, field vole *Microtus agrestis* and small mustelid species e.g. weasel *Mustela nivalis* and stoat *Mustela erminea*.

### Invertebrates

Although the Site falls within a Buglife B-Line, due to its managed nature the grassland present on Site provided limited opportunities for invertebrates. Invertebrates are however likely to utilise the adjacent hedgerow and areas of native scrub / shrubs, as well as the pond located to the north of the Site.

### Notable Plants

No protected or notable plants were noted during the 2024 and 2025 Field Surveys.

### Invasive Non-Native Species of Plant

No INNS were noted during the 2024 and 2025 Field Surveys.

## 4. Assessment

Based on the results of the 2024 PEA, 2025 Field Survey and information received to date this EclA has identified Priority Habitat in the form of the hedgerow which is present on Site as being an IEF with the potential to be significantly affected. All other ecological features have been scoped out of assessment.

**Table 6** identifies the importance of each ecological feature in terms of its geographical level in accordance with **Table 1** and provides further detail as to the evaluation of the ecological features along with the rationale for scoping them in or out of this EclA.

Table 6: Ecological Features Scoped In / Out of Further Assessment

Ecological Feature	Category of Importance	Geographical Value	Scoped In/Out of further Assessment	Rationale
<b>Statutory Designated Sites</b>	SAC, SPA, Ramsar, SSSI	National to International	Out	<p>The stream which is located approximately 0.06km north of the Site connects to the River Tywi SAC &amp; SSSI approximately 1.31km downstream. This stream is separated from the Site through intervening habitats largely in the form of buildings as well as hardstanding.</p> <p>Given the above distances and intervening habitats, together with the small scale and nature of the proposed Development (as well as the construction methodologies associated with such developments), it is considered that there would be no credible pathway for direct or indirect effects to occur to the River Tywi SAC &amp; SSSI, or any other statutory designated sites.</p>
<b>Non-statutory Designated Sites</b>	SINC	District / Borough to Local	Out	<p>No SINC's have been formally identified within Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>No significant impacts anticipated from the proposed Development.</p>
<b>Ancient Woodland</b>	Ancient Woodland	National	Out	<p>No pathway of direct or indirect effect upon Ancient Woodland has been identified due to distance from Site, intervening habitats and nature and scale of the proposed Development.</p> <p>No significant impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed Development.</p>
<b>Priority Habitats – (Hedgerow)</b>	HoPI	National	Out	<p>The hedgerow along the south-western boundary of the Site is to be retained as existing. However, this</p>

Ecological Feature	Category of Importance	Geographical Value	Scoped In/Out of further Assessment	Rationale
				hedgerow has the potential to be directly affected through encroachment during the undertaking of works.
<b>Priority Habitats - Other</b>	HoPI	District/Borough to National	Out	<p>No pathway of direct or indirect effect upon other Priority Habitats has been identified due to distance from Site, intervening habitats and nature and scale of the proposed Development.</p> <p>No significant impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed Development.</p>
<b>Other Habitats</b>	N/A	Site	Out	<p>Those habitats present on and adjacent to the Site are both locally and nationally common and are therefore assessed to be of Site value only.</p> <p>No significant impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed Development.</p>
<b>Great Crested Newt</b>	Hab Regs, WCA, SoPI.	Site	Out	<p>The Site is sub-optimal for supporting amphibians and the pond 0.06km north regularly dries out and has been assessed as 'poor' quality for supporting great crested newts, with no records for great crested newts returned from the ecological data search.</p> <p>No significant impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed Development.</p>
<b>Bats</b>	Hab Regs, WCA, SoPI	Site	Out	<p>No buildings are present on Site and the GLTAs did not recorded any features suitable for supporting roosting bats. Whilst the Site is assessed to be of 'Moderate' suitability for foraging and commuting bats, areas of greater quality and extent for foraging and commuting bats are abundant in the local area. The on-Site habitat of greatest value to foraging and commuting bats (i.e. the hedgerow) is also to be retained as existing and it is understood that no additional night lighting is to be provided as part of the proposed Development.</p>

Ecological Feature	Category of Importance	Geographical Value	Scoped In/Out of further Assessment	Rationale
				No significant impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed Development.
<b>Birds</b>	WCA, SoPI	Site	Out	<p>The immature trees, hedgerow and native scrub / shrubs provide suitable foraging and nesting opportunities for common species of bird, only. Any population(s) are likely to be of insufficient size or diversity to be of significant ecological value.</p> <p>Whilst the small area of native scrub / scrub within the north-east of the Site is proposed to be removed to facilitate the proposed Development, areas of greater quality and extent for foraging and nesting birds are abundant in the local area.</p> <p>No significant impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed Development.</p>
<b>Reptiles</b>	WCA, SoPI	Site	Out	<p>The habitats present on Site are sub-optimal for supporting reptile species.</p> <p>No significant impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed Development.</p>
<b>Hazel Dormice</b>	WCA, SoPI	Site	Out	<p>The habitats present on Site are unsuitable for supporting hazel dormice and the hedgerow along the south-western boundary of the Site is to be retained as existing and it is understood that no additional night lighting is to be provided as part of the proposed Development.</p> <p>No significant impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed Development.</p>
<b>Badgers</b>	PBA, SoPI	Site	Out	<p>No setts or evidence of badger activity was recorded on or within the vicinity of the Site during both the 2024 and 2025 Field Surveys.</p> <p>No significant impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed Development.</p>
<b>Riparian Mammals</b>	WCA, SoPI	Site	Out	<p>The Site provides no suitable habitat for supporting riparian mammals and no evidence of riparian mammals was noted along the stream to the north</p>

Ecological Feature	Category of Importance	Geographical Value	Scoped In/Out of further Assessment	Rationale
				of the Site during the 2024 and 2025 Field Surveys. No significant impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed Development.
<b>Other Notable Mammals</b>	WCA, SoPI	Site	Out	The Site offers some, albeit limited, opportunities for mammals typical of a rural environment. Any population(s) are likely to be of insufficient size or diversity to be of significant ecological value. No significant impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed Development.
<b>Invertebrates</b>	WCA, SoPI	Site	Out	Due to their managed nature habitats present on Site provided limited opportunities for invertebrates. Any population(s) are likely to be of insufficient size or diversity to be of significant ecological value. No significant impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed Development.
<b>Notable Plants</b>	WCA, SoPI	Site	Out	No protected or notable plants were noted during the 2024 and 2025 Field Surveys. No significant impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed Development.
<b>Invasive Non-Native Species of Plant</b>	WCA	Site	Out	No INNS were noted during the 2024 and 2025 Field Surveys. No significant impacts anticipated as a result of the proposed Development.

An assessment of those IEFs scoped into assessment is provided below, along with mitigation measures that will ensure that all adverse effects as a result of the Proposed Development are negated.

#### 4.1.1 Priority Habitats (Hedgerow)

Whilst it would be retained as existing, the hedgerow present along the south-western boundary of the Site has the potential to be adversely affected by the proposed Development as a result of encroachment during the construction phase. This has the potential to result in a **direct, permanent adverse** effect of **minor** significance at the **Local** level upon a receptor of **National** value.

To mitigate for this direct impact standard good practice protection measures should be implemented and detailed within a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the Site (refer to **Section 5**

below). As a result of the implementation of such measures, the residual effect upon this hedgerow would be '**not significant**'.



## 5. Mitigation, Compensation and Enhancement Measures

The below sections set out those mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures required to be implemented in order to ensure that the proposed Development is carried out in accordance with environmental good practice together with relevant planning policy and legislative requirements (**Appendix B**).

It should be noted that all final mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures to be implemented as part of the proposed Development are to set out within a standalone Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Plan (EMEP).

### 5.1 Mitigation Measures

#### 5.1.1 Construction Phase

##### Construction Environmental Management Plan

In line with environmental good practice, and to mitigate those potential adverse effects identified in Section 4 above, a number of general protection measures should be adopted to allow the proposed Development to be constructed whilst minimising adverse impacts on retained habitats and the species they support, both on Site and within the local area. Such measures should be included within a CEMP and be implemented as part of Site preparation and construction activities. Measures that should be incorporated within the CEMP comprise:

- The Contractor will ensure that all those working on the Site are aware of their obligations in relation to ecological legislation;
- The use of British Standards Best Practice Guidelines to reduce disturbance resulting from noise, surface run-off and vibration (including piling) during construction works;
- Careful siting and appropriate bunding of storage facilities for fuel and hazardous materials;
- Delivery of oils and fuels to be supervised at all times;
- Dust build up to be avoided and any stockpiled materials to be covered or stored within a contained area to enable run-off to be treated;
- Use of drip trays when filling smaller containers from tanks or drums to avoid spillage entering the ground or drainage systems;
- Works to be undertaken during daylight hours only. If night lighting is required, this is to be as minimal as possible and directed away from any semi-natural habitats, particularly the hedgerow, trees and native shrubs / scrub;
- The hedgerow, trees and native shrubs / scrub should be appropriately protected as necessary in accordance with BS 5837:2012 - "Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations", or as recommended by an arboricultural consultant.
- Use of appropriate fencing as necessary to protect any other retained habitats on Site and within the local area from encroachment.
- The removal of any habitats of value to nesting birds such as, should be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season (March to August inclusive). However, if works cannot be undertaken outside the breeding bird season an experienced ecologist will be deployed to carry out an inspection at least within 48 hours prior to the clearance. If an occupied nest is detected, an appropriate buffer zone will be created around the nest (to be determined by the ecologist), and clearance of this area delayed until the young have fledged.

- Any small areas of taller vegetation requiring removal must be gradually reduced in height to allow resident wildlife to disperse. Vegetation should be reduced to 75-100mm and subsequently cut and maintained at a height of c.50mm.
- Any open pipework or trenches left overnight shall be capped or have a ramp / scaffolding board placed within them to prevent faunal species from becoming trapped. Trenches should be checked at the start of each working day and an ecologist notified if any faunal species are found.
- Should any protected or notable species be found, or are suspected of being present, during the undertaking of preparation and construction activities, works shall cease and an ecologist notified for further advice.

### 5.1.2 Operational Phase

Should any additional night lighting be required as part of the proposed Development a sensitive / wildlife friendly strategy should be developed to allow nocturnal species, such as foraging and commuting bats, to continue to utilise those habitats present on and within the vicinity of the Site. The lighting strategy should be designed in accordance with the BCT and ILP Guidance Note GN08/23<sup>17</sup>.

## 5.2 Compensation Measures

### 5.2.1 Habitats

Whilst the majority of habitats present on Site are to be retained as part of the proposed Development, the overshadowing of the solar panels upon the semi-improved / other neutral grassland may lead to a decrease in condition / lowering of species diversity. Given that no significant effects have been predicted upon this grassland as a result of the proposed Development, no compensation measures are considered to be required in this instance.

The small area of native scrub / shrubs within the north-east of the Site are proposed to be removed to facilitate the proposed Development. The loss of this area could be compensated for through the provision of native scrub / shrub and / or native woodland planting elsewhere on Site.

### 5.2.2 Protected and Other Notable Fauna and Flora

No protected or other notable faunal and flora have been identified as IEFs and no compensation measures with regard to such species is considered to be required in this instance.

## 5.3 Enhancement Measures

In accordance with relevant planning policies and legislation (**Appendix B**), the following measures should be considered to enhance the Site and / or adjacent areas within the Client's ownership for biodiversity.

### 5.3.1 Habitats

Enhancements for habitats could include:

- Areas of retained semi-improved / other neutral grassland beyond the solar panels could look to be enhanced through light scarification and over-seeding with a native wildflower mix. These areas could then be placed on an appropriate cutting regime (i.e. cut annually in late spring and late autumn) and

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<sup>17</sup> BTC & ILP (2023): Guidance Note 08/23. Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night.

managed as wildflower areas. Arisings should look to be removed after each cut and could be used to create grass / habitat piles elsewhere.

- The area of unmanaged marshy grassland to the present to the south-east and north-east of the Site east could be enhanced through plug planting with native species including birds-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, black knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*.
- Any other types of soft landscaping should include native species and species of benefit to biodiversity.

### 5.3.2 Protected and Other Notable Fauna and Flora

Enhancements for protected and other notable species could include:

- Provision of at least one bird box, such as Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Box or similar, erected either on buildings or suitable trees or poles within the Client's ownership. Bird boxes should be erected at least 3m in height and face south-east to north-east.
- Provision of at least one bat box, such as Schwegler 1FF Bat Box or similar, erected either on buildings or suitable trees or poles within the Client's ownership. Bat boxes should be erected at least 3m in height and face south-west to south-east and avoid areas of night lighting.
- Given that the Site falls within a Buglife B-line, creation of wildflower areas and plug planting the area of marshy grassland would also provide host plants for invertebrates, with devil's-bit scabious being of value to marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia* which occurs within the wider area.
- To provide additional habitat for invertebrates and reptiles at least two log-piles created from untreated timber could be created. Log-piles should look to be a minimum of 1.5m x 1.5m x 1.5m in size.

## 6. Conclusions

This EclA has identified Priority Habitat in the form of the hedgerow which is present on Site as being an IEF that could be subject to negative effects as a result of the proposed Development. Should appropriate mitigation measures as set out within a CEMP be adopted, the resulting residual effect would be 'not significant'. All other ecological features have been scoped out of assessment.

Additional mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures have also been set out in order to ensure that the proposed Development is carried out in accordance with environmental good practice together with relevant planning policy and legislative requirements.

All final mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures to be implemented as part of the proposed Development are to set out within a standalone Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Plan (EMEP).

It should be noted that this EclA is relevant to the legislation detailed in **Table 1** and **Appendix A** at the time of writing. If there are any changes to legislation prior to the proposed Development being completed, the advice within this report may require amending / updating in line with any legislative updates.

If there is a significant period between this EclA and the proposed Development commencing, the ecological value of the Site may change, and the Site should therefore be subject to update survey.

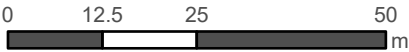
## Figures

Figure 1: Habitat Features Plan (Ref. 21567105-WAT-XX-XX-GS-N-750001)





- Site Boundary
- Marshy Grassland
- Other Neutral Grassland
- Native Shrubs
- Hedgerow
- Tree



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Figure Title	Figure 1: Habitat Features Plan
Figure Ref	21567105-WAT-XX-XX-GS-N-750001
Date	June 2025
File Location	WIE21567-105@_GIS\21567105-WAT-XX-XX-GS-N-75



## **Appendices**

### **A. 2024 PEA – Focus Environmental Consultants**

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## **B. Summary of Relevant Planning Policy and Wildlife Legislation**

### **Planning Policy**

#### **Planning Policy Wales Edition 12 (2024)**

The primary objective of Planning Policy Wales (PPW)<sup>18</sup> is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

Section 6.4.4 states *“It is important that biodiversity and resilience considerations are taken into account at an early stage in both development plan preparation and when proposing or considering development proposals.”* it further goes on to state that *“All reasonable steps must be taken to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems and these should be balanced with the wider economic and social needs of business and local communities. Where adverse effects on the environment cannot be avoided or mitigated, it will be necessary to refuse planning permission.”*

#### **Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (2009)**

Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning<sup>19</sup> states that: *“Biodiversity, conservation and enhancement is an integral part of planning for sustainable development. The planning system has an important part to play in nature conservation. The use and development of land can pose threats to the conservation of natural features and wildlife.”*

#### **Future Wales: The National Plan 2040**

Future Wales<sup>20</sup> is the national development framework for Wales and has development plan status. It sets the direction for development in Wales to 2040. It is a development plan with a strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system, including developing strong ecosystems.

#### **Policy 9 – Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure states:**

*‘To ensure the enhancement of biodiversity, the resilience of ecosystems and the provision of green infrastructure, the Welsh Government will work with key partners to:*

- identify areas which should be safeguarded and created as ecological networks for their importance for adaptation to climate change, for habitat protection, restoration or creation, to protect species, or which provide key ecosystems services, to ensure they are not unduly compromised by future development; and*
- identify opportunities where existing and potential green infrastructure could be maximised as part of placemaking, requiring the use of nature-based solutions as a key mechanism for securing sustainable growth, ecological connectivity, social equality and well-being.’*

Planning authorities should include these areas and/or opportunities in their development plan strategies and policies in order to promote and safeguard the functions and opportunities they

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<sup>18</sup> Welsh Government (2024): Planning Policy Wales. Edition 12. February 2024.

<sup>19</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2009): Planning Policy Wales. Technical Advice Note 5: NATURE CONSERVATION AND PLANNING. September 2009.

<sup>20</sup> Welsh Government (2021): Future Wales. The National Plan 2040

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provide. In all cases, action towards securing the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity (to provide a net benefit), the resilience of ecosystems and green infrastructure assets must be demonstrated as part of development proposals through innovative, nature-based approaches to site planning and the design of the built environment.

### Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2018-2033

The Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP)<sup>21</sup> sets out proposals and policies for the future use of all land within the County (excluding the part contained within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park) and is part of the development plan framework for Wales.

Preparation of the Revised LDP commenced in January 2018. On 31 January 2025, the Planning Inspectors who are conducting the Examination issued a letter Opens in a new tab to the Council instructing the requirement to find additional housing sites to be identified within the Revised LDP. The Council has undertaken that exercise, and we are now undertaking a consultation on those additional sites for comment.

Until the Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2018-2033 is adopted, the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2006-2021 (see below) remains the main policy document upon which planning decisions are based.

Notwithstanding the above, those policies of relevance to the Site in relation to nature conservation and biodiversity are set out below:

**Policy PSD1: Effective Design Solutions: Sustainability and Placemaking** states *inter alia* that:

*'Development proposals shall demonstrate effective delivery of site-specific design and sustainability objectives. Development shall deliver quality design solutions which are appropriate to the specific site, local area, and nature of development.'*

*Proposals shall clearly demonstrate: ...*

*b) High-quality design solutions which deliver: ...*

- 2. efficient use of site area, whilst maximising the retention, protection and integration of existing landscape and ecological elements and features, as Green and Blue Infrastructure assets. ...*

*d) Quality landscapes design solutions which:*

- 1. maximise opportunities for; enhancement to the quality and extent of existing; and the creation of new, landscape and ecological elements and features, as Green and Blue Infrastructure assets. ...*

*h) That design solutions are deliverable for the lifetime of the proposed development through effective maintenance and management proposals*

*i) It includes, where applicable, provision for the appropriate management and eradication of invasive species.'*

**PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network** states:

*'Development proposals shall demonstrate effective Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) design solutions which:*

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<sup>21</sup> Carmarthenshire County Council (2023): Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan. Revised 2018-2033. Second Deposit February 2023.

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1. *Maximise retention, protection, and integration of existing GBI assets and prioritise those of highest value, quality, and condition within and on the development site boundaries;*
2. *Deliver overall enhancement to the value, quality, and condition; and extent, diversity, and connectivity of the GBI network within and on the development site boundaries;*
3. *Deliver effective integration and maximise connectivity with existing GBI assets adjacent to the development site boundaries and with the wider GBI network;*
4. *Maximise opportunities to achieve multi-functionality by integrating GBI functions to deliver combined objectives which benefit Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainability, Health and Wellbeing, Sense of Place, and Economy; and,*
5. *Include long-term management and maintenance proposals to ensure that effective GBI design solutions are deliverable for the lifetime of the proposed development.*

*Planning applications will require submission of surveys and assessments appropriate to the site and nature of development, to establish a baseline for GBI design solutions.*

*All planning applications for major developments will be required to submit a Green Infrastructure Statement to demonstrate how GBI design solutions have been considered and accommodated as part of the proposed development.'*

**Policy PSD4: Green and Blue Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows** states:

*'Proposals for development shall:*

1. *Maximise retention, protection, and integration of existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows and prioritise those of highest value, quality, and condition within and on the development site boundaries through iterative site layout design which avoids potential impacts;*
2. *Minimise potential impacts to retained trees, woodlands and hedgerows through site specific design, method statements and protection measures.*
3. *Provide appropriate compensation planting for unavoidable loss of trees, woodlands, and hedgerows to deliver overall enhancement to extent and cover. Opportunities for translocation of existing hedgerows should be considered where feasible;*
4. *Provide sufficient space and rooting volume within site layout and in relation to adjacent land uses to enable effective growth of existing and newly planted trees, woodlands, and hedgerows to maturity and to avoid potential challenges to retention for the lifetime of the development;*
5. *Identify and deliver management works to improve the value, quality and condition of existing trees, woodlands, and hedgerows within and on the development site boundaries; and*
6. *Deliver additional planting of trees, woodlands, and hedgerows appropriate to the site and development type that will deliver both long term landscape benefits and net benefits for biodiversity.'*

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**Policy NE2: Biodiversity** states:

*'Development proposals must maintain and enhance biodiversity in accordance with Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.*

*Proposals will not be permitted where they would result in an adverse impact on priority species and habitats, and features of recognised importance to the conservation of biodiversity, except where it can be demonstrated that:*

- i. All adverse impacts are addressed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy;*
- ii. Where this is not feasible, ensure sufficient compensatory measures are put in place which address all potential adverse impact upon biodiversity resulting from the proposals; and*
- iii. In exceptional circumstances, where the reasons for the development and/or land use change clearly outweighs the need to safeguard the biodiversity and nature conservation interests of the site. Development proposals must not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally, and must provide net benefits for biodiversity.'*

**Policy NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness** states:

*'Development proposals will be expected to maintain and enhance ecological corridors, networks, and features of distinctiveness. Proposals which include provision for the retention and appropriate management of such features will be supported.*

*Proposals that result in an adverse effect on the connectivity or integrity of ecological corridors, networks or features of distinctiveness will only be permitted where:*

- 1. All adverse impacts are addressed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy;*
- 2. Where this is not feasible, ensure sufficient compensatory measures are put in place which address all potential adverse effects upon biodiversity resulting from the proposals; and*
- 3. In exceptional circumstances, where the reasons for the development and/or land use change clearly outweighs the need to safeguard the biodiversity and nature conservation interests of the site.*

*Development proposals must not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally, and must provide net benefits for biodiversity.'*

## **Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2006-2021**

The Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2006-2021 sets out the Authority's policies and proposals for the future development and use of land until the Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2018-2033 is formally adopted.

Those policies of relevance to the Site in relation to nature conservation and biodiversity are set out below:

**Policy GP1: Sustainability and High Quality Design** states *inter alia* that:

*'Development proposals will be permitted where they accord with the following:*

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- f. *It retains, and where appropriate incorporates important local features (including buildings, amenity areas, spaces, trees, woodlands and hedgerows) and ensures the use of good quality hard and soft landscaping and embraces opportunities to enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity;*
- i. *It includes, where applicable, provision for the appropriate management and eradication of invasive species.'*

**Policy EQ4 Biodiversity** states:

*'Proposals for development which have an adverse impact on priority species, habitats and features of recognised principal importance to the conservation of biodiversity and nature conservation, (namely those protected by Section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and UK and Local BAP habitats and species and other than sites and species protected under European or UK legislation) will not be permitted, except where it can be demonstrated that:*

- a. *The impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated, acceptably minimised or appropriately managed to include net enhancements;*
- b. *There are exceptional circumstances where the reasons for the development or land use change clearly outweighs the need to safeguard the biodiversity and nature conservation interests of the site and where alternative habitat provision can be made in order to maintain and enhance local biodiversity.'*

## **Biodiversity Action Plans**

### **UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework**

The Environment Departments of all four governments in the UK work together through the Four Countries Biodiversity Group. Together they have agreed, and Ministers have signed, a framework of priorities for UK-level work for the Convention on Biological Diversity. Published on 17 July 2012, the 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework'<sup>22</sup> covers the period from 2011 to 2020. This now supersedes the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP)<sup>23</sup>. However, many of the tools developed under UK BAP remain of use, for example, background information about the lists of priority habitats and species. The lists of priority species and habitats agreed under UK BAP still form the basis of much biodiversity work in the countries.

Although the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework does not confer any statutory legal protection, in practice many of the species listed already receive statutory legal protection under UK and / or European legislation. In addition, the majority of Priority national (Welsh) BAP habitats and species are now those listed as Habitats of Principal Importance (HoPI) and Species of Principal Importance (SoPI) listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, which supersedes those previously listed under Section 42 of the NERC Act 2006. For the purpose of this report, habitats and species listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 are referred to as having superseded the NERC Act 2006 and UK BAP.

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<sup>22</sup> JNCC and DEFRA (on behalf of the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group) (2012): UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.

<sup>23</sup> HMSO (1994): Biodiversity The UK Action Plan.

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## Local Biodiversity Action Plan

As part of the action plan process, Local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) have been produced by most Councils in the UK. The Carmarthenshire Nature Recovery Action Plan (CNRAP)<sup>24</sup>. The CNRAP has a focus on ecological resilience with connectivity as a central theme. This is part of a vision to restore and create better connected networks of habitats within the county, as well as networks of information sharing to inform action by a range of participants.

## Legislation

Specific habitats and species receive legal protection in England under various pieces of legislation, including:

- The Environment (Wales) Act 2016<sup>25</sup>;
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)<sup>26</sup>;
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended)<sup>27</sup>;
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006<sup>28</sup>;
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992<sup>29</sup>
- Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996<sup>30</sup>

Further details of legislation in respect of legally protected and notable fauna of relevance to the Site are provided below;

## Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems duty under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 replaces the biodiversity duty in the NERC Act 2006 which required that public authorities must have regard to conserving biodiversity.

The Environment Act enhances the current NERC Act duty to require all public authorities, when carrying out their functions in Wales, to seek to “*maintain and enhance biodiversity*” where it is *within the proper exercise of their functions*. In doing so, public authorities must also seek to “*promote the resilience of ecosystems*”.

## Amphibians

Common species of amphibian (smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris*, palmate newt *L. helveticus*, common frog *Rana temporaria* and common toad *Bufo bufo*) are partially protected by the WCA 1981 (as amended). This prohibits the trade (i.e. sale, barter, exchange, transporting for sale and advertising to sell or to buy) of these species.

Great crested newts are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It is an offence to:

- deliberately kill, injure, disturb or capture them.

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<sup>24</sup> Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership (2020): The Carmarthenshire Local Nature Recovery Plan. Nature in Carmarthenshire ...our approach for local action 2020 – 2030

<sup>25</sup> Welsh Government (2016): The Environment Act. Schedule 7A

<sup>26</sup> HMSO (2019) The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

<sup>27</sup> HMSO (1981) 'Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)'

<sup>28</sup> ODPM (2006) 'Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)'

<sup>29</sup> ODPM (1992) 'The Protection of Badgers Act'

<sup>30</sup> HMSO. (1996). *Wild Mammals (Protection) Act*.

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- deliberately take or destroy their eggs.
- damage or destroy their breeding sites and resting places (even if GCN are not present).
- possess, control or transport them (alive or dead).

It is also an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to intentionally or recklessly:

- disturb GCN while they occupy a structure or place used for shelter or protection.
- obstruct access to a place of shelter or protection.

## Badger

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992<sup>31</sup> aims to protect badgers from persecution, rather than being a response to an unfavourable conservation status. As well as protecting the animal itself, the 1992 Act makes the intentional or reckless destruction, damage or obstruction of a badger sett an offence. Under this legislation it is an offence to:

- intentionally capture, kill or injure a badger.
- damage, destroy or block access to their setts.
- disturb badgers in setts.
- treat a badger cruelly.
- deliberately send or intentionally allow a dog into a sett.
- bait or dig for badgers.
- have or sell a badger, or offer a live badger for sale.
- have or possess a dead badger or parts of a badger (if obtained it illegally).
- mark or attach a marking device to a badger.

A sett is defined by law as “any structure or place which displays signs indicating current use by a badger”.

In addition, the intentional elimination of sufficient foraging area to support a known social group of badgers may, in certain circumstances, be construed as an offence by constituting ‘cruel ill treatment’.

## Bats

All bat species are designated and protected as European Protected Species (EPS). EPS are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Under this legislation it is an offence to:

- deliberately kill, injure, disturb or capture them.
- damage or destroy their breeding sites and resting places (even when bats are not present).
- possess, control or transport them (alive or dead).

Bats are also protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Under this legislation it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

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<sup>31</sup> ODPM (1992): The Protection of Badgers Act

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- disturb bats while they occupy a structure or place used for shelter or protection.
- obstruct access to a place of shelter or protection.

## Birds

The level of protection afforded to birds under the law varies from species to species. A few game and pest species may lawfully be hunted and killed, usually under licence, whilst the rarest species are listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and are protected by special penalties for offences.

Statutory protection is given to all nesting birds in the UK under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird, take, damage or destroy its nest whilst in use or being built, or take or destroy its eggs. In addition to this, for species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb birds while they are nest building, or at or near a nest with eggs or young, or to disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

## Hazel Dormice

Hazel dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius* are under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It is an offence to:

- deliberately kill, injure, disturb or capture them.
- damage or destroy their breeding sites and resting places.
- possess, control, transport (alive or dead).

It is also an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to intentionally or recklessly:

- disturb hazel dormice while they occupy a structure or place used for shelter or protection.
- obstruct access to a place of shelter or protection.

## Otter

Otter *Lutra lutra* are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It is an offence to:

- deliberately kill, injure, disturb or capture them.
- damage or destroy their breeding sites and resting places (even if otters are not present).
- possess, control or transport them (alive or dead).

It is also an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to intentionally or recklessly:

- disturb otters while they occupy a structure or place used for shelter or protection.
- obstruct access to a place of shelter or protection.

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## Reptiles

Smooth snake *Coronella austriaca* and sand lizard *Lacerta agilis* are protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It is an offence to:

- deliberately kill, injure, disturb or capture them.
- deliberately take or destroy their eggs.
- damage or destroy their breeding sites and resting places.
- possess, control or transport them (alive or dead).

For smooth snakes and sand lizards, it is also an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to intentionally or recklessly:

- disturb them while they occupy a structure or place used for shelter or protection.
- obstruct access to a place of shelter or protection.

Other native reptiles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to kill or injure:

- adders *Vipera berus*.
- grass snakes *Natrix natrix*.
- common lizards *Zootoca vivipara*.
- slow worms *Anguis fragilis*.

## Terrestrial and Aquatic Invertebrates

The majority of invertebrate species are not legally protected. However, a total of seventy-two terrestrial and aquatic invertebrate species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Certain species of invertebrate, including the marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*, are also protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

## Water Vole

Water voles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is an offence to intentionally:

- kill, injure or take them.
- possess or control them (alive or dead).

It is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

- damage or destroy a structure or place used for shelter or protection.
- disturb them in a place used for shelter or protection.
- obstruct access to a place used for shelter or protection.

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## Invasive Non-Native Species

A number of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) of plant are listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This makes it an offence to plant or otherwise cause any listed species to grow in the wild. In addition, any soil or plant material containing these species is classed as controlled waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

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## **C. Photographs**



Plate 1 – Semi-improved / Other Neutral Grassland



Plate 2 – Hedgerow

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Plate 3: Immature Trees



Plate 4 – Managed Native Scrub / Shrub

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Plate 5 – Unmanaged Native Scrub / Shrub



Plate 6 – Marshy Grassland

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