

c/o Richard Miller
RH Properties
Castleton Baptist Chapel
Newport Road
Castleton
Cardiff
CF3 2UR

Wildwood Ecology Limited
The Lodge
Caerphilly Business Park
Van Road
Caerphilly
CF83 3GG

029 2002 2320

info@wildwoodecology.com
www.wildwoodecology.com

23/01/2020

Dear Richard,

Re: WWE20018 - Cramic Way, Port Talbot

Introduction

Wildwood Ecology were commissioned to undertake a walkover survey of Cramic Way, Port Talbot, to update the current ecological status of the site following previous surveys undertaken by Wildwood Ecology in 2014. The preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) in 2014 was undertaken in relation to the submission of a planning application for the construction of a number of office buildings on the site. Reptile surveys (as recommended in the 2014 PEA) were also undertaken in 2015, no reptiles were recorded during the survey.

The walkover survey was led by Julie Player and was undertaken on the 15th January 2020. The survey timings and weather conditions during the survey can be seen in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Survey weather conditions

Date	Conditions				Personnel * = licence holder
	Temp Max [°C]	Cloud cover [Oktas]	Wind speed [Beaufort]	Rain	
15/01/2020	9	7	2	Intermittent heavy showers	Julie Player

Limitations and assumptions

The field survey will not produce a comprehensive list of plants and animals as this will be limited by factors that influence their presence (e.g. activity and dormancy periods). An assessment can however be made of the habitats within the survey area, their nature conservation value and potential to support protected or priority species.



Heritage
Trust
Network
Corporate Supporter



WINNER OF THE CIEEM 'SMALL CONSULTANCY OF THE YEAR' AWARD 2019-2020

Company Registration No. 6646654 Registered in England & Wales
Registered Office: Queen Anne House, 66 Cricklade Street, Cirencester GL7 1JN

No other limitations were encountered, or assumptions made during the field survey and it is considered that with the access gained and recording undertaken an accurate assessment of the site's ecological value has been made.

Summary of results 2014

A summary of the PEA and reptile survey results undertaken in 2014-2015 and the PEA plan (Figure 1) are outlined below:

- The on-site habitats had limited ecological value, with no significant established vegetation able to support a wide range of floral or faunal species. Overall, the ecological value of the Site was assessed as low.
- No nearby protected sites were considered likely to be affected by the Development.
- Habitats recorded when surveying included hard standing, scrub, and ephemeral short perennial.
- It was considered that the site was suitable to support reptiles and nesting birds.
- No reptiles were recorded as part of the reptile survey undertaken in 2015.
- It was recommended that habitat onsite suitable to support nesting birds (i.e scrub) was cleared outside of nesting bird season. If this was not possible a breeding bird survey would be required prior to vegetation clearance.
- No further surveys were recommended for bats, European otter, European badger, dormouse, or great crested newt.
- Himalayan Balsam was observed on the south western boundary of the site.

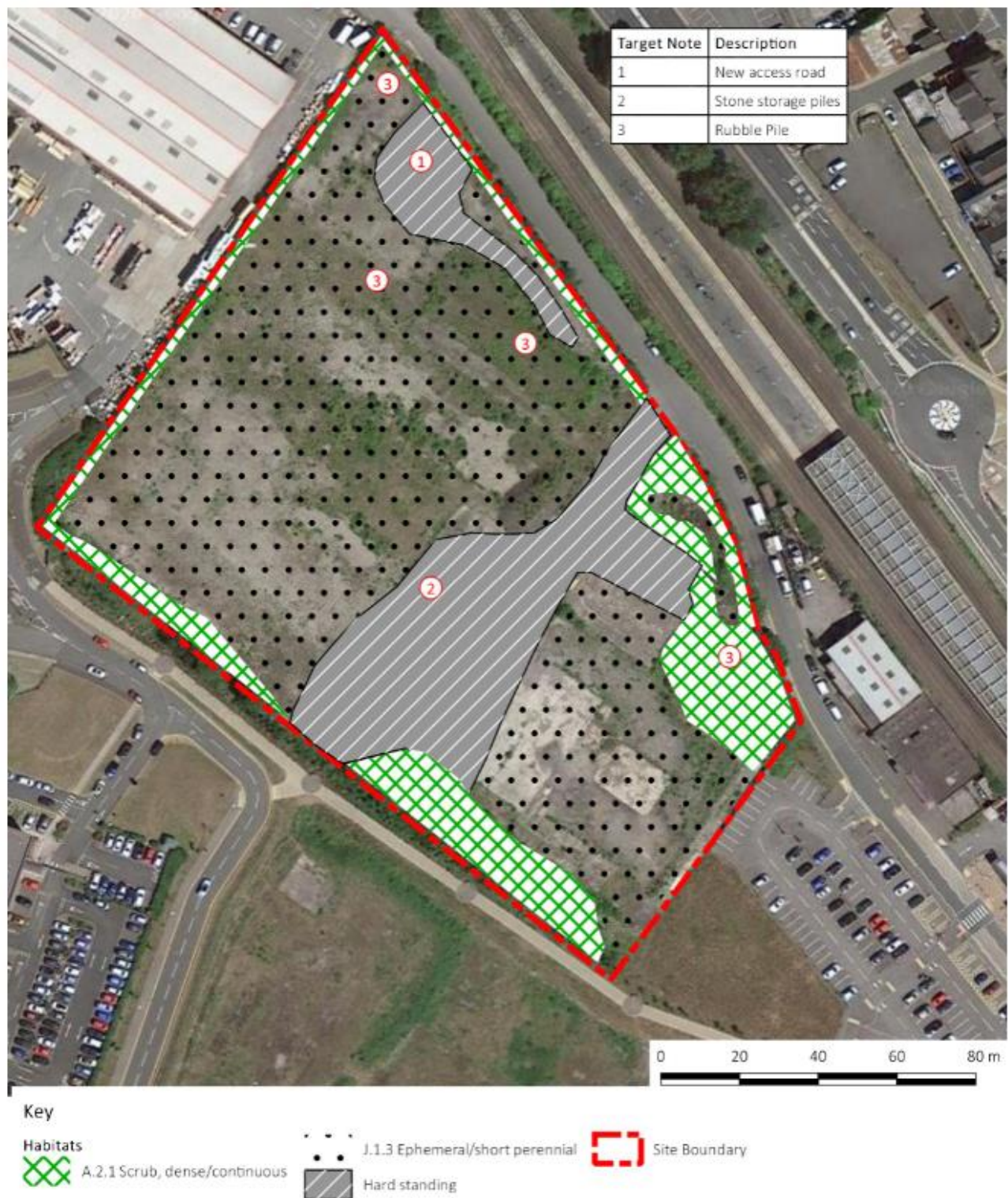


Figure 1: PEA Plan 2014

Summary of results 2020

A summary of the results of the walkover survey undertaken in 2020 are outlined below along with a PEA plan of the site as it stands today:

- Habitats located on site are the same as when surveyed in 2014 although the quantity of these habitats has changed. Dense/continuous scrub habitat located along the north-western and north-eastern boundaries of the site have been cleared, creating areas of hardstanding and ephemeral short perennial habitat, just a scattering of scrub remains around the boundaries.
- Ephemeral short perennial habitat has encroached more of the hardstanding located west of the site access track (sward height between 2-4cm at the time of the survey), with saplings of butterfly bush emerging.
- The construction of a new concrete road has begun within the north eastern corner of the site. The south-eastern and south-western area of the site was predominately the same.
- Two large stone storage piles were located towards the centre of the site (see figure 2, TN2 for the location).
- A small number of the rubble piles recorded during the 2014 survey no longer exist (see target TN3 on figure 2 for rubble pile locations).
- The Himalayan Balsam found in 2014 (see TN1 if figure 1 for the location) was not recorded during the January 2020 survey. Himalayan Balsam does not flower in January and it was therefore not visible at the time of the survey, therefore, unless it has been managed/treated since the 2014 survey, it is likely that it is still present onsite.
- Plant species recorded when onsite include; Butterfly bush, ragwort, ribwort plantain, sow thistle, scentless mayweed, dandelion, spear thistle, willowherb sp, black medic, fleabane, annual meadow grass, bramble and hawkweed.
- Based on the results of the 2020 walkover survey, the site is still considered to be of low ecological value.
- No further species surveys are required.
- The site still remains suitable to support nesting birds within the scrub. If habitats suitable for nesting birds are to be removed, then any vegetation clearance will take place outside of the bird nesting season. In the event that clearance work has to be undertaken during the nesting season (generally from 1st March until 31st August, although birds are known to nest outside of these dates in suitable conditions), a breeding bird survey will be required a maximum of 48 hours before clearance and must be carried out by a suitably qualified person. Any active nests identified should be protected until the young have fledged. Where a Schedule 1 species (as defined in the Wildlife and Countryside Act - <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3614> is involved, compensation for impacts, e.g., loss of nesting sites, should be devised and implemented.
- An eradication plan of the Himalayan Balsam will be required to avoid it spreading and to control the species onsite.



This drawing is Copyright © Wildwood Ecology Ltd 2020. This drawing may contain: Data reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data © Crown Copyright 2020. All rights reserved. Licence number 0100031673. Aerial images © Getmapping Plc 2020 & © Google 2020.

Figure 2: PEA Plan 2020



Figure 3: Entrance to the site (looking east to west)



Figure 4: Ephemeral short perennial habitat located within the northern area of the site.



Figure 5: Large stone storage piles



Figure 6: New concrete access road located within the north eastern corner of the site.



Figure 7: North eastern boundary of the site.



Figure 8: North western boundary of the site



Figure 9: Rubble pile



Figure 10: South eastern area of the site



Figure 11: Habitat east of the entrance

Yours sincerely

J Player

Julie Player
Senior Ecologist
Wildwood Ecology Ltd