

Ecology Statement

Woodlands

Dynevor Road

Skewen

Swansea

SA10 6TW

PHONE

MOB PHONE

EMAIL

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This document has been prepared as a supporting statement in relation to the development of the above site. The application is in outline with all matters reserved. Given that the Final location of the dwelling is the subject of a detailed application this appraisal will address the broad principals to be adopted for the site.
- 1.2 The application site is located within the settlement of Skewen as shown in **Figure 1**

Figure 1



- 1.3 The application site is occupied by a single dwelling with access between two dwellings off Dynevor Road. The existing dwelling is beyond economical repair and is also poorly located within the extensive site.
- 1.4 The application is for the demolition of the existing dwelling and the construction of a detached dwelling and garage. The application is in outline with all matters reserved.

2.0 Site Surveys

- 2.1. The application site has been cleared of almost all vegetation and trees other than small patches. See Photos in Appendix 1

3.0 Potential Ecological Constraints

- 3.1 There is potential for impacts to the adjacent watercourse during construction, potentially including the release of sediments and accidental spillages of pollutants (e.g. of oil and diesel), resulting in direct pollution of the watercourse. Both sedimentation and pollution, should they occur, would have an adverse effect on water quality of the watercourse, with knock-on impacts for the general ecology of the water course and the species it supports both locally and downstream. The likelihood of these impacts occurring are considered to be low as long as appropriate mitigation measures, are implemented to prevent this from occurring.
- 3.2 The development could potentially have adverse impacts on protected species, namely common reptiles and nesting birds. These species may utilise the voids within the old stone wall sections present within the site. These impacts are, however, readily amenable to mitigation.
- 3.3 The site likely supports Japanese Knotweed. Suitable mitigation is required to ensure no removal and/or spread of the plant occurs during

the works.

4.0 Wildlife Protection

Nesting birds

- 4.1 Demolition of the existing dwelling should avoid the bird-nesting season which runs approximately from March to August inclusive. Owing to the constraint of potential reptiles using the feature (see below) ideally these works should be undertaken in September and October to avoid bird nesting and hibernating reptiles. If it is not practical to undertake stone wall demolition works outside of the nesting season, the works must be preceded by a check for any bird-nesting activity, and where any such activity is found, work will be suspended until the current nesting cycle has been completed. **This is a statutory requirement.**

Reptiles & Amphibians

- 4.2 The existing dwelling and existing stone walls on the boundaries have potential for sheltering and hibernating reptiles and amphibians. If these structures need be dismantled, it is recommended that this activity be carried out, outside the hibernation period (i.e. November to March).

5.0 Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy

Habitat Creation & Enhancement

- 5.1 Plants used within the planting scheme for the development should be native 'wild' species of local provenance, in order to maximise their future ecological value particularly for pollinators, including bees, butterflies and moths.
- 5.2 Open / landscaped areas, and new road verges, will incorporate

wildflower seed mixes into their planting schemes

- 5.3 Suitable surfaces (especially flat-roofed areas) of the new development should be considered for implementation of green wall and green roof technologies. Advice and design guidance is available via websites such as Living Roofs (<https://livingroofs.org/>).
- 5.4 Bat boxes - see bat report
- 5.5 Bird Boxes - To compensate for the loss of potential bird nesting habitat, bird boxes should be erected on the building. The boxes could be of a design which is primarily aimed at declining synanthropic bird species, such as house sparrow and starling. General-purpose bird boxes (i.e. 'tit-type' entry-hole and open-fronted 'robin-type') may also be provided.
- 5.6 Bird boxes should be sited at eaves height or higher; they can be sited directly under the eaves, away from windows and doors, on northern/western elevations.
- 5.7 The bird boxes will be of appropriate durable (e.g. 'woodcrete') designs and will either be built into the external walls or installed under the eaves of the new building in locations where they have good access to adjacent habitats, minimal disturbance, and will cause least inconvenience to the house occupants (e.g. away from windows, doors and parking areas etc.).
- 5.8 Bee Walls- 'Bee-walls' comprising low constructions of various materials, which are suitable for burrowing into or occupation by breeding and sheltering solitary bees and wasps, should be created in suitable sunlit locations, preferably near to good nectar sources (See Plan 2). Various designs are available or can be created.
- 5.9 Fauna Access Gaps- Where fencing is to be erected on the site, panels

will be provided with fauna access gaps at the base which are sufficient to allow passage by small mammals such as hedgehog (i.e. 130mm wide by 130mm long square) or a continuous gap at the base of the fence of 130mm tall. At least one access gap is required in every run of fence, with at least one in each garden. The number and location of faunal access gaps should be advised in liaison with an ecologist once a fencing plan has been comprised. If any garden walls are incorporated into the new development, they should also have 130mm² gaps at the base.

- 5.10 Site Lighting & Dark Corridors-Measures will be taken to minimise light pollution to reduce any impact on nocturnal fauna such as bats and moths. The lighting design for the developed site will be in accordance with the guidance provided by the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT 2018). There will be no lamp posts on the site. Appropriate ground-facing, energy saving lighting will be used, on timers. There will be no light spillage into the landscaped areas, so trees and hedgerows on the site will not be affected, allowing dark corridors to be maintained for nocturnal wildlife.

6.0 Appendix



Photograph 1



Photograph 2



Photograph 3