

HAWKESWOOD ECOLOGY

Specialists in Ecological Survey and Assessment

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PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

LAND AT ABERAVON WATERFRONT,

ABERAVON, PORT TALBOT

ON BEHALF OF

PERSIMMON HOMES WEST WALES LTD

June 2020

Ref: HE/46/2019 – Issue 2

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All habitat and protected species surveys present a ‘snapshot’ of conditions existing and species present, or considered having potential to be present, at the time of survey. Many species are mobile and distributions can vary across time. Results and findings presented in this report should be considered with these factors in mind.

Protected species surveys are recognised as having a ‘shelf life’ of two years maximum. Surveys older than this are unlikely to be accepted by a Local Planning Authority or Natural Resources Wales as viable documentation.

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SUMMARY

Hawkeswood Ecology carried out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal on land at Aberavon Waterfront which includes the Site of the former Aberavon Lido and an adjacent car park and overspill parking area. It is proposed to develop the Site for residential purposes.

The Site consists of two areas separated by a road. The former Aberavon Lido Site is dominated by hard-stranding and disturbed ground including small areas of former amenity. The amenity area at the front of the former Lido part of the Site is heavily disturbed and has been in part cleared of vegetation during recent works.

The second area consists of two metalled car parks with a heavily stoned and disturbed area of short grassland between them. There are also the remains of what were probably once managed shrubberys along a low roadside wall at the frontage of the Site. Between the wall and the road is an area of mown amenity grassland and a footpath.

The Site supports no obvious botanical interest however the survey was undertaken at a time of year when some plants, particularly geophytes, may not be visible. As such a further habitat survey is recommended in May or June.

An assessment of the Site with regard to protected species noted little potential on the Site. The former shrubbery area is overgrown with bramble and this may support breeding birds; it is however a small area. On a wider scale, there is limited potential for reptiles, particularly on the Aberavon Lido area. The car park areas are extremely isolated from surrounding habitats; this part of the Site is enclosed by a high wall preventing easy immigration of animals and does not support a particularly good mosaic of habitats.

Recommendations are made for possible further survey in relation to habitats and reptiles, the need for these follow up surveys are discussed in detail within the report text. In general, the initial assessment of the Site is that it is not of high biodiversity interest and that there are unlikely to be major ecological factors that would prevent the proposed development from going ahead.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Hawkeswood Ecology was instructed to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) on land at Aberavon Waterfront which included the former Aberavon Lido and an adjacent car parking area in Aberavon, Port Talbot (approximate central Grid Reference SS 74690 89497), on behalf of Persimmon Homes West Wales. It is proposed to develop the Site with residential housing.
- 1.2 The Site lies on The Princess Margaret Way and is in two parts separated by a small road (Golwg Y Sianel). To the west of the road is the Site of the former Aberavon Lido buildings and to the east is a car park area with hardstanding; both areas contain substantial areas of hard-standing and disturbed ground. The dominant habitats are former amenity grassland which are now unmanaged. The grassland in the eastern section is growing on a stoned surface with sandy soils, the growth is very stunted with limited diversity, and the main presence of broad leaved herbs appears to be represented by abundant ribwort plantain and occasional dandelion.
- 1.3 The objectives of the survey are:
- To ascertain the habitats and species present within the Site;
 - To assess the ecological and nature conservation value of the Site;
 - To assess the potential ecological impacts of the proposed works;
 - To provide recommendations to mitigate the proposed works.
- 1.4 The PEA was carried out on 17th January 2020.

2 SURVEYOR EXPERIENCE

- 2.1 The surveyor and report author is Eric Hawkeswood. Eric has many years experience of broad habitat and detailed botanical and species surveying. He has extensive experience of protected species survey and holds Natural Resources Wales and Natural England scientific and conservation licenses for bats and dormice. He has been a professional in the nature conservation field for thirty one years formerly working as Reserves Manager and Conservation Officer at Gwent Wildlife Trust and Woodland Manager for the Ruperra Conservation Trust. Eric has worked as an Ecological Consultant as joint proprietor of Hawkeswood Ecology since 2001.

3 METHODOLOGY AND CONSTRAINTS

Desktop Study

- 3.1 The South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC) was asked to provide records of Protected and Priority Species, Other Species of Conservation Concern, Locally Important Species, Invasive & Non-Native Species, Designated Sites and Phase I habitats from a radius of 2 kilometres. MAGIC was assessed for the presence of International and nationally designated sites sought from a radius of approximately 10 kilometres.

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

3.2 The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was carried out in line with the guidance issued by The Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (2013) and consisted of a walk-over survey of the proposed Site taking into account features within and adjacent to it. Habitats were categorised according to the Phase 1 Habitat Survey guidelines (JNCC, 2010) and annotated onto a map (Figure 1). Plant assemblages were described using the DAFOR scale of cover abundance (Appendix 1) and each habitat was recorded using Target notes (Appendix 2); a species list of plants identified during survey is given in Appendix 3 and photographs are given in Appendix 4.

3.3 In addition, the Site was assessed for its potential to support protected species.

Constraints

3.4 The survey was carried out at a time of year when some plant species may not have been visible. Although this was not considered to be a major constraint to the survey, given the nature of the Site and its location near a maritime climate, a further walk over survey at an appropriate time of year may be necessary to properly assess the Site for important plant species.

4 DESKTOP STUDY FINDINGS

4.1 SEWBRc reported a total of 702 records of Protected and Priority Species from the search area the majority of which are related to the nearby marine and coastal habitats or related to the nearby rivers (Nedd and Afan). Species that could occur on Site are limited with birds being most frequent. Species listed in Table 1 below are those reported that may occur on Site at some point along with their conservation status.

Table 1: Status of Relevant Priority and Protected Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	BDir22, S7, UKBAP, Bonn, Bern, WBR(RSPB), LBAP (CON, GWY, POW, VOG), UKBR(RSPB), UKBAm(RSPB)
Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	S7, UKBAP, RDB1 (UK)
Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	WCA1.1, Bern, LBAP (GWY, VOG), WBAm(RSPB), UKBR(RSPB), UKBAm(RSPB)
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	S7, UKBAP, Bern, LBAP (CON, POW, VOG), UKBAm(RSPB)
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	S7, UKBAP, Bern, LBAP (CLY, CON, FLI, GWY, VOG), WBAm(RSPB), UKBR(RSPB)
Lesser redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	S7, UKBAP, WBR(RSPB), LBAP (CON), LBAP (DEN, POW, VOG), UKBAm(RSPB)
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	S7, Bern, WBR(RSPB), LBAP (ANG, BBNP, CER, CLY, DEN, FLI, PEM, VOG), LBAP (CON, GWY), UKBR(RSPB)
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	BDir22, WCA1.1, LBAP (CON, POW), WBAm(RSPB), UKBR(RSPB), UKBAm(RSPB)
Slow-worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	WCA5, S7, UKBAP, Bern, LBAP (ANG, CLY, CON, DEN, FLI, GWY, POW, SNP, TRA, VOG)
Common lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	WCA5, S7, UKBAP, Bern, LBAP (ANG, CLY, CON, DEN, FLI, GWY, POW, SNP, TRA, TRF, VOG)
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	BDir22, S7, UKBAP, Bern, LBAP (ANG, BBNP, CER, CLY, CON, DEN, FLI, GWY, PEM, POW, SNP, TRF, VOG, WRE), WBAm(RSPB), UKBR(RSPB)
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	BDir22, S7, UKBAP, Bern, WBR(RSPB), LBAP (BBNP, CON, FLI, GWY, VOG), UKBR(RSPB)
West European Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	S7, UKBAP, Bern, LBAP (ANG, BGW, BRG, CON, FLI, GWY, NEW, POW, RCT, VOG)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Small blue butterfly	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	WCA5, S7, RDB1 (UK) LBAP (CON, PEM, VOG), LI (SEWBRcC)

- 4.2 Other Species of Conservation Concerns reported that may possibly occur on Site were limited mainly to birds including lesser black back gull, common whitethroat, meadow pipit and plants, charlock and sea carrot.
- 4.3 SEWBRcC report 1318 records of Local Conservation Concern, many of these are related to the nearby maritime habitats and brackish estuarine waters of the adjacent rivers. Some may occur on Site but not be visible at the time of survey. A full list is not reported here.
- 4.4 No internationally or nationally important sites are reported in the search buffer. The following Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's) are reported locally with their distance from the Site:
- Little Warren (336m);
 - Afan Estuary (563m);
 - Panasonic (1495m);
 - Harbourside Law Courts (1610m);
 - Baglan Bay (1959m);
 - Panhandle (1962m).
- 4.5 None of the reported SINC sites have any physical connection to the Site
- 4.6 No habitat classifications are identified on Site on the SEWBRcC Phase 1 Map.
- 4.7 SEWBRcC data is confidential and cannot be released into the public domain without prior permission in writing from SEWBRcC. Hawkeswood Ecology holds the data on the client's behalf for one year (in accordance with conditions) in case of further query. Any communications with SEWBRcC should quote the reference 'Hawkeswood Ecology' and Site name.
- 4.8 MAGIC shows the nearest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is Crymlyn Bog some 8 kilometres to the north west. This SAC is separated from the Site by the Afon Nedd and morphological features and would not be impacted by any development. There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest within approximately 3 kilometres of the Site.

5 FIELD SURVEY FINDINGS

- 5.1 The Site consists of two distinct areas separated by a road, the Aberavon Lido Site and a car park and overspill car park Site. Both areas are dominated by hard standing or disturbed ground with species poor vegetation present. See Figure 1, Phase 1 map and Appendix 4 for photographs.

Grassland

- 5.2 Grassland occurs at Target Notes 1 and 4 and is best described as amenity grassland. It is not managed within the Lido Site (Target Note 1) but may be cut during the season in the car park Site (Target Note 4). The grassland in the Lido Site (TN1) is unmanaged; it is dominated by red fescue

with *Poa* species, Yorkshire fog and cock's-foot present. Broad leaved species include occasionally occurring ribwort plantain, dandelion, creeping cinquefoil, dove's-foot cranesbill and common vetch. A large area of this grassland has been destroyed at the front of the Site where a section has been cleared recently. It is assumed this was done as part of works undertaken by Neath Port Talbot CBC to replace the hoardings which were blown down in recent storms.

- 5.3 The grassland at Target Note 4 is a generally short sward with perennial rye-grass and red fescue dominant amongst the grasses; other species noted include colt's-foot and *Poa* species. Ribwort plantain and daisy are abundant throughout the sward and are indicative of the type of use the Site is put to. Other broad-leaved herbs recorded include black mustard, daisy, spear thistle, bird's-foot trefoil, red clover and white clover; many of these species are limited to the boundaries of the Site, the clovers and trefoil are found locally throughout the sward. Shrubs found in this area include common gorse, snowberry and cotoneaster species, most of the shrub species are found along the roadside frontage low wall. The majority of this area is over stone which has formed a hard standing for car parking. It is known that a fair has been on this site at some point in the recent past also.

Shrubbery

- 5.4 There is a small abandoned shrubbery in the Lido Site (Target Note 2). This contains a number of cultivars including dogwood, tamarisk, broom and other species. It is a small area and unmanaged and has become overgrown with dense bramble growth. A tracked vehicle has recently been driven through the centre of this area; again, it is assumed this was during works to restore the Site hoardings.

Other Habitats

- 5.5 The majority of the remainder of the Site is dominated by hard standing or demolition areas. There is a small bank adjacent to the car park in the eastern section of the Site (Target Note 5) which appears to have been formed to prevent free access across the Site for vehicles. This is largely bare but does have nascent vegetation including common ragwort, wild parsnip, wild carrot, yarrow, ribwort plantain and buddleia. There is limited colonisation of the broken ground in the demolition areas by typical colonising species including buddleia, cock's-foot, black mustard, common dock, common ragwort and spear thistle. The road side frontages of the car park area are formally mown amenity grass. The car park area has a low wall to the road frontages (brick Built) and a high wall to the rear and east; the walls do not support vegetation.

Fauna

- 5.6 No animal species were noted from the Site during survey. The Site holds no value for most protected species and it is considered that the only animals that may be supported by the habitats present on the Site are birds, reptiles and hedgehog; even then, the value of the Site is limited. The status of invertebrates is unknown but given the species present and current use of the Site is considered to be of limited value to insect groups.
- 5.7 Birds may utilise the small shrubbery area for breeding purposes. However its small size and proximity to the busy sea-front road is likely to limit its use to more common species found throughout the local area such as blackbird or song thrush. There could be a possibility of birds

using the area during particularly high tides or in storm conditions; however, its proximity to a busy thoroughfare is again likely to prejudice this.

- 5.8 The Site does support habitats that may be of value to reptiles, however the Site is isolated from any adjacent suitable habitat and this is likely to prevent colonisation of the Site by reptile species. Certainly, the car park area at the east of the wider Site is separated from playing fields and gardens to the north and east by a brick wall which forms an effective barrier against colonisation. The former Lido area does have some potential for immigration from the adjacent football pitch area, but this area itself does not support suitable reptile habitat consisting mainly of managed hard-standing and close mown grass.
- 5.9 Hedgehogs are recorded locally and may pass through and forage on the Site. There are no habitats on Site that would be suitable to other protected species.

Summary

- 5.10 The Site is dominated by hard-standing and disturbed ground and the areas of grassland are unmanaged with areas of frequently occurring bare ground. It is of low biodiversity interest but was assessed outside the best time for botanical survey. As such a walk over survey at a more appropriate time of year is recommended to properly assess the value of any species present.
- 5.11 In terms of protected species, the Site has only limited value for breeding birds, further survey with regard to reptile use of the Lido Site may be necessary.

6 ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE

- 6.1 Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Local Planning Authorities (LPA's) and other public bodies must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems. LPA's are directed to consider the resilience of ecosystems early in the planning process to aid assessment of the impacts of any proposed development upon biodiversity.
- 6.2 The premise for Ecosystem Resilience is laid out in Section 4 of The State of Natural Resources Report, a 2018 document produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on behalf of the Welsh Government. It lays out a framework for assessing ecosystem resilience. However, despite the duty placed on LPA's, there is no currently agreed format for this assessment.
- 6.3 Section 4 names five attributes that NRW consider 'building blocks' of ecosystem resilience, these are:
- Diversity
 - Extent
 - Condition
 - Connectivity
 - Adaptability

- 6.4 These factors are considered below, although none of them are considered ‘stand alone’ and all interrelate to some extent. It is also important to note that it is the responsibility of the LPA to assess Ecosystem Resilience and that any Site based report is not able to make judgements on a wider scale. It should also be acknowledged that there is as yet no agreed format to undertake such an assessment.

Diversity

- 6.5 The habitats on Site are limited and not diverse. The main habitat is unmanaged amenity grassland that is species poor. As such it cannot be properly described as ‘semi-improved’ as is often the case with abandoned amenity grasslands, but purely as unmanaged and rank in the case of the Lido part of the Site, or just species poor amenity for the car park area. Apart from a small shrubbery area in the Lido Site and sparse shrubs in the car park area, the Site has no species or spatial diversity and is considered to be of no significance.
- 6.6 The site is not adjacent to important habitats, with a busy road bordering the southern boundary and formally managed playing fields to the north. To the east and west of the Site lie hardstanding and gardens which are separated from the Site by walls.

Extent

- 6.7 The whole Site is approximately 2.75Ha, including the hard-standing and disturbed areas. Vegetated areas account for approximately 60-65% of the total area. The Site enjoys little connectivity to any surrounding areas, most of which are either under heavy formal management or are developed sites.

Condition

- 6.9 The Site cannot be considered to be in good condition. It has been unmanaged which has resulted in the presence of rank grassland. The use of the car park areas has resulted in species such as ribwort plantain becoming widespread and abundant in the eastern part of the Site. Although there may be species that are currently not visible, it is unlikely that any species of importance will be recorded on this Site given its past use and the recent demolition of the Lido and associated buildings.

Connectivity

- 6.10 The Site has extremely limited connectivity to any adjacent areas, principally only to the Afan Lido Football Club pitch which is itself largely isolated from any adjacent natural or semi-natural habitats and is a poor biodiversity resource itself. Connectivity is poor.

Adaptability

- 6.11 NRW comments that:
‘Adaptability differs from the other attributes because it is part of the definition of resilience rather than an attribute that supports it. However, its inclusion in the Environment (Wales) Act is important because it emphasises one of the most important features of resilience: dynamism and the ability to adapt to change.’

- 6.12 NRW also comments that '*Adaptability cannot yet be quantified in an equivalent way to the other attributes and so we have not used it in the assessment of resilience in this State of Natural Resources Review*'. As such this cannot be considered in this report.

7 DISCUSSION AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The Aberavon Waterfront Site consists of a former building complex and car parking area; it is dominated by hard-standing and disturbed ground. The initial appraisal of the Site suggests that it does not support any habitats or species of note but does have very limited potential for the presence of breeding birds and reptiles. In relation to birds, the potential breeding area is limited to a small unmanaged shrubbery that is currently overgrown with dense bramble. The area this habitat occupies is small, just a few square metres and it is not a significant habitat.
- 7.2 In relation to reptiles, the Site supports only a limited habitat mosaic and a number of factors select against their presence on Site. Both parts of the Site are isolated from suitable reptile habitat. The former Lido Site is only recently neglected with the buildings being demolished approximately seven years ago; until that time the Site was managed with the small green spaces formally managed. The car park area is also isolated from any surrounding habitats by the presence of a high brick/block wall which presents a significant barrier to immigration, although common lizards could certainly scale the wall. The heavy use of this part of the Site during the activity season and its lack of a suitable habitat mosaic also make reptilian presence unlikely.
- 7.3 There are no significant habitats on Site with the dominant habitat being unmanaged amenity grassland in the Lido Site and a species poor grassland in the car park area. Much of the car park area has a stone surface through which the short sward has developed, it is unclear if this area is mown, but it does seem probable given the rank vegetation at the boundaries.
- 7.4 The Site does not qualify as a SINC when compared to the Wales Biodiversity Partnership guidelines (2008) supporting no habitats or species of value. It has very limited potential to support reptiles and breeding birds; the Site was not considered to support suitable habitats for other protected species groups.
- 7.5 The Biodiversity data search showed a record of a small blue butterfly from the 1 kilometre grid square including the Site (based on a 6 figure grid reference); however the main food plant was not found on Site. It is possible that this section 7 species may pass over the Site but it is unlikely to breed. Generally the Site is considered to be of low invertebrate interest.
- 7.6 The Site has limited value for foraging birds and its location adjacent to a busy main road is likely to deter birds from resting on Site during high tides or stormy weather, the area is not known for this type of use by birds (personal experience) but it cannot be ruled out.
- 7.7 Hawkeswood Ecology understands earlier surveys were carried out on Site and that those surveys found the Site to be of little biodiversity interest. A reptile survey was, apparently, negative. There is no access to these surveys, however if this can be arranged, the need for further survey may be

negated. Currently the Site is considered to be of **no significant value** in its own right. Any value the Site has may be for protected species or plant species not currently visible.

Characterisation of Impact

- 7.8 The Site will be cleared of existing vegetation; no habitats are expected to be retained.

Predicted Development Impacts

- 7.9 Further survey is recommended to properly assess the Site for flowering plants on Site that may not have been visible at the time of survey and also a further consideration of reptile potential. It is considered that the presence of important species or reptiles is unlikely given the nature of the habitats present and isolation of the Site. As such, it is considered that the development of the Sites is of no **significance** in a local and regional context.

8 RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

Birds

- 8.1 Part I of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) makes it an offence (with certain limited exceptions and in the absence of a licence) intentionally to kill, injure or take any wild bird, or intentionally to damage, take or destroy its nest whilst being built or in use, or to take or destroy its eggs. Consequently, even common birds such as blackbirds or robins, and their nests and eggs are protected in this way. Any works involving removal or other management of trees or shrubs must be undertaken outside the breeding bird season (March- August).
- 8.2 Further, section 1(5) of Part 1 of the W&C Act states any person intentionally disturbing any wild bird included in Schedule 1 whilst it is building a nest or is in or near a nest containing eggs or young or disturbs the young of such a bird is committing an offence and liable to a special penalty.
- 8.3 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) has strengthened the protection of wild birds and their habitats. The Regulations now serve “To help preserve, maintain and re-establish habitats for wild birds.”
- 8.4 Under the amended Regulations, Local Planning Authorities (as well as national statutory conservation bodies such as Natural Resources Wales) are required to protect and create bird habitat.

Hedgehogs

- 8.5 Hedgehogs are protected under the Wildlife and countryside Act 1981 (as amended) as a Schedule 6 species and Wild Mammals Protection Act (1996) from capture, deliberate killing and cruel treatment.

Reptiles

- 8.6 All common reptiles are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) schedule 5, from deliberate injury or killing (Section 9(1)) and sale (Section 9(5)).

- 8.7 A Welsh Assembly Government licence is not required to handle or disturb slow worms but there must be proper consideration of the presence of these animals on Site and mitigating measures implemented to minimise any impacts on them.

TAN 5

- 8.8 Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note (TAN) 5, Nature Conservation and Planning, provides advice on how the planning system should contribute to biodiversity protection and enhancement. TAN 5 recognises the importance of biodiversity and the enjoyment of it. TAN 5 requires Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to protect and enhance biodiversity during the planning process and to encourage sustainable developments. It also requires LPA's to ensure that protected Sites are properly accounted for within the planning system.

Securing Biodiversity Enhancements

- 8.9 The Chief Planning Officer sent a letter to LPAs (dated 23rd October 2019) following the refusal of the planning application. This letter has provided clarification on the Welsh Governments approach to Paragraph 6.4.5 of Planning Policy Wales 10 which sets out that *“planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This means that development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity”*.
- 8.10 The purpose of this letter was to clarify that in light of the legislation and Welsh Government policy outlined above, where biodiversity enhancement is not proposed as part of an application, significant weight will be given to its absence, and unless other significant material considerations indicate otherwise it will be necessary to refuse permission. Biodiversity enhancement therefore will need to be included in any future planning application.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Site shows little biodiversity interest, however there may be need for the following surveys at a more appropriate time of year:
- Updated habitat survey with reference to plant species;
 - A reptile presence absence survey (if the earlier survey cannot be sourced or is out of date).
- This possible requirement should be discussed with the NPT Biodiversity Team.
- 9.2 Shrubs and bramble clearance at TN3 should be undertaken outside the accepted bird breeding season of March to August. If this is not possible, the affected areas will be searched by a suitably experienced ecologist prior to commencement of works. There is no licence for the destruction of active bird nests and nest translocations invariably fail. Any active nest found will be protected by a buffer zone until such time as it is no longer in use.
- 9.3 Close board fencing can isolate areas of garden, particularly impacting on hedgehogs. If the use of such fencing is proposed between gardens and/or at the Site boundary, boards will be cut out to give a minimum 15x15cm gap at the bottom, or more preferably be fitted to leave a minimum 15cm gap at ground level for the length of the fence.

- 9.4 Nocturnal animals, including bats, can be affected by artificial light spill. Consideration will therefore be given to the level of external lighting around the Site. Lighting will be located with consideration for nocturnal species and will avoid the adjacent woodland and Eaglesbush Valley LNR habitats. Any domestic lighting will be placed at a level lower than three metres, be cast to the ground with no up-lighting and will ideally be on a time switch to ensure any resultant light scatter is limited in duration; it should only be used in areas where safety is a consideration.
- 9.5 Integral bat and bird boxes will be used in the new construction. Bat tubes will be located on buildings near the Site boundary with the adjacent football pitch and primary school grounds. Bird boxes, in particular swift and house sparrow boxes on a number of houses throughout the development. Typical examples are shown in Figure 2. The locations of bat and bird mitigation will be such that they are not vulnerable to attack from cats and are free from human interference. The bat boxes will not be placed in line of illumination from street lighting.
- 9.6 Six boxes of each type (bat and bird) are recommended with three of each in both parts of the development, either side of Channel View.
- 9.7 Any landscaping plan should introduce native species reflecting those present in the local area (all native species should be of local provenance) or species with known value to British wildlife. Plantings should include species known to be valuable to foraging birds and bats such as those producing berries and attractive to insects, i.e. heather, hawthorn, pyracantha and hazel.
- 9.8 An area will be identified during the construction phase where chemicals and building materials can be safely stored and bonded to prevent pollution incidents.

10 CONCLUSIONS

- 10.1 Further survey surveys for plant species and possibly reptiles may be necessary.
- 10.2 It is generally considered that the Site offers little value; subject to the outcomes of the surveys mentioned in paragraph 10.1, there are no foreseen ecological issues relating to the development.
- 10.3 A number of recommendations are made in Section 9 and if implemented the Site has some potential to show an environmental benefit from the development and will be in accord with the requirements of the Welsh Government Chief Planning Officers letter on Securing Biodiversity Enhancements.

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**FIGURE 1:
PHASE 1 HABITAT MAP**

Figure 1: Phase 1 Habitat Survey map

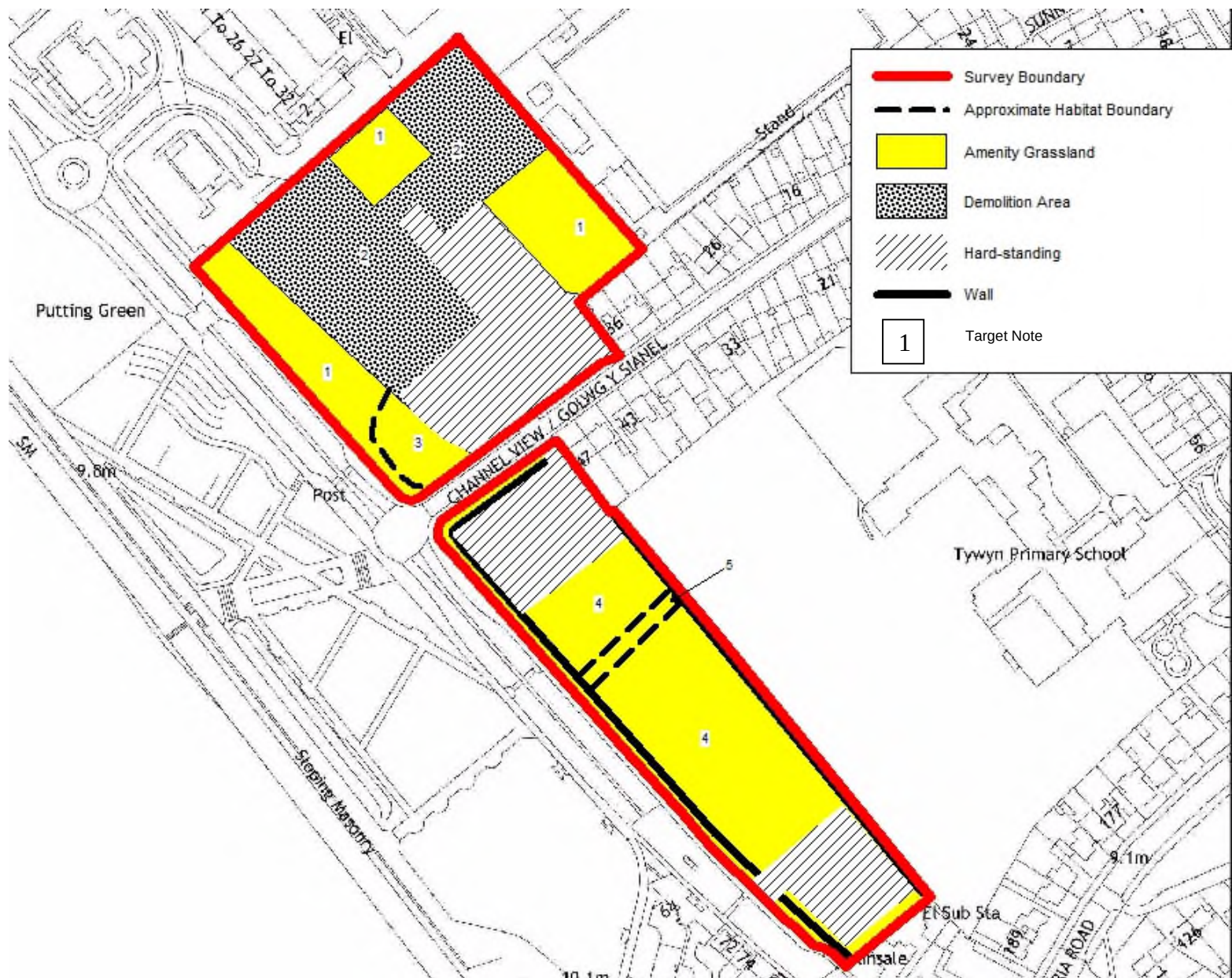


FIGURE 2
TYPICAL INTEGRAL BIRD AND BAT BOXES



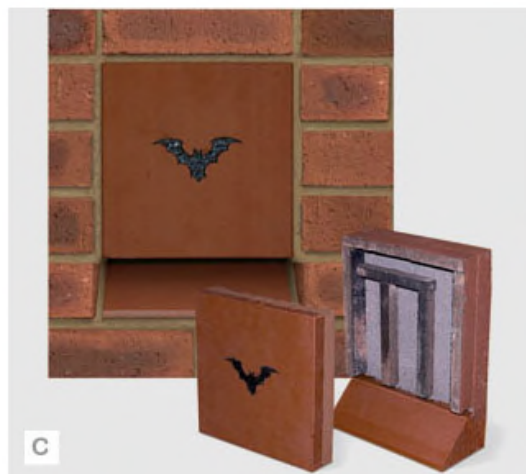
Free Access Bat Box A

- Available in all brick types
- Discrete single bat brick
- Easy to install
- Allows bats to create a natural home habitat within the cavity of the building



Enclosed Bat Box B

- Designed specifically for the pipistrelle bat
- Available in all brick types
- Discrete home for bats
- Various sizes
- Several roosting zones are created inside the box
- Bats are contained within the bat box itself
- Maintenance free with entrance at the base
- Ideal for new build & conservation work



Enclosed Bat Box C with engraved motif

- Designed specifically for the pipistrelle bat
- Available in smooth blue, smooth gold & smooth red
- Attractive "bat" motif
- Discrete home for bats
- Various sizes
- Several roosting zones are created inside the box
- Bats are contained within the bat box itself
- Maintenance free with entrance at the base
- Ideal for new build & conservation work



Typical House Sparrow box to be fitted under eaves



Triple Swift Cavity nest box

APPENDIX 1

DAFOR SCALE OF COVER ABUNDANCE

The DAFOR scale is used as a simple measure of cover abundance for individual plant species within a habitat. The scale is as follows:

- D Dominant
- A Abundant
- F Frequent
- O Occasional
- R Rare
- (L Locally – sometimes used as a prefix to the above)

APPENDIX 2

PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY TARGET NOTES

1. Unmanaged amenity areas within the former Aberavon Lido compound. Subject to disturbance over much of the areas and at the Site frontage partially removed by works to re-enforce the Site hoardings. Species recorded were:

<i>Species</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Bare	LA
Cocksfoot	O/LF
Creeping cinquefoil	LF
Dandelion	O
Dove's-foot cranesbill	LF
<i>Poa</i> species	F
Red fescue	A
Ribwort plantain	LF
White clover	LF
Yarrow	LF
Yorkshire fog	F

2. Demolition areas within the Lido compound.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Bare ground/rubble	A
Black medick	O
Bramble	O
Buddleia	O
Cocksfoot	O
Common ragwort	O
Daisy	LF
Dandelion	O
Red fescue	LF
Ribwort plantain	LF
Spear thistle	O
Yorkshire fog	F

3. Unmanaged small shrubbery with a number of cultivars. This area is overgrown with dense bramble which has recently been driven through by a tracked vehicle. Species recorded included abundant bramble, dogwood, tamarisk, broom plus other woody species.
4. Short sward grassland over much of the overspill car park area, much of which is over a stone surface with sand; much disturbed. Species noted were:

<i>Species</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Bare	LA
Black mustard	LF
Cocksfoot	LF
Common gorse	O
Common bent	O
Cotoneaster	O
Creeping bent	LF
Daisy	F/LA
Dandelion	O
Hawkbit species	O
Perennial rye-grass	O
<i>Poa</i> species	F
Red clover	O
Red fescue	F
Ribwort plantain	A
Snowberry	O
Spear thistle	O
White clover	F
Yorkshire fog	O

- 5 Bank of sand running near the tarmac car park, recently erected to prevent cars accessing the remainder of the Site. Much bare ground with a colonising vegetation, species such as wild carrot and charlock will need to be confirmed later in the follow up survey. Species recorded were:

<i>Species</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Bare	A
Black mustard	O
Buddleia	O
Charlock	O
Colt's-foot	O
Common ragwort	O
Daisy	O
<i>Poa</i> species	O
Red fescue	O
Ribwort plantain	O
Wild carrot	R
Wild parsnip	O
Yarrow	O

APPENDIX 3

LIST OF PLANT SPECIES RECORDED IN THE SURVEY

<i>Species</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Black medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg
Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
Buddleia	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>
Charlock	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Colt's-foot	<i>Tusilago farfara</i>
Common bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
Common gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Common ragwort	<i>Scenecio jacobaea</i>
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster</i> sp
Creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
Creeping cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
Dove's-foot cranesbill	<i>Geranium molle</i>
Hawkbit species	<i>Leontodon</i> sp
Perennial rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Grass	<i>Poa</i> species
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Tamarisk	<i>Tamarix</i> sp
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Wild carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Wild parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus mollis</i>

APPENDIX 4
PHOTOGRAPHS



Looking south west across the Lido Site



Looking north west across Lido Site



Demolition areas (TN2)



Part of the amenity grassland at TN1



Area around the shrubbery (TN£)



Damage by a tracked vehicle passing through shrubbery (TN3)



Damage to grassland (TN1) by hoardings



Looking west across car park to the lido Site from TN 5



Looking east from car park, bank (TN5) behind the skip



The grassland at TN 4



Amenity and relict shrubbery, overspill car park (TN4)



Hard standing at the eastern end of the overspill car park

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