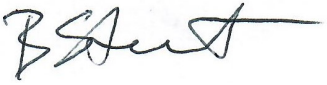


**Translocation Method Statement
Rare and Protected Plants**

**Mardon Park, Baglan,
Port Talbot**

Rev 02		
Approved by:	Date:	Signed:
B Stewart	12 th October 2023	
Prepared by	Date:	Signed:
R P Bowen	23/8/2023	

Issue & Amendment Record.

Revision No.	Date	Description of Change	Produced/Amended by
00	2 nd June 2023	TMS Created & Issued	R P Bowen
01	21 st August 2023	TMS, S&S, FMP detail added	B Stewart
02	23 rd August 2023	Trial pit detail added	R P Bowen
03	11 th October 2023	Proposed new Alder trees around mitigation area removed due to potential shading and leaf drop increasing nutrients in soil	B Stewart

1. Introduction

In March 2021 planning permission was granted for three developments on land at Mardon Park, Baglan, Port Talbot as set out in **Table 1** below.

Table 1

Reference	Address	Description	Approved
P2021/0956	Land At Mardon Park, Central Avenue, Baglan Energy Park, Port Talbot, SA12 7AX	Detached Industrial Building (Use Class B8 - Storage and Distribution) with associated parking, drainage and landscaping.	16/3/2022
P2021/1086	Unit 21, Central Avenue, Baglan Energy Park, SA12 7AX	Extension to existing unit (class B8 - storage and distribution) with associated parking, drainage and landscaping.	17/3/2022
P2021/1087	Land Adjacent to Unit 19/20 Mardon Park, Baglan Energy Park, SA12 7AX	Construction of four industrial units (Class B1, B8) with associated car parking drainage and landscaping	17/3/2022

2. Scope of document

- 2.1 This document has therefore been prepared to provide details to agree the Condition 10 of planning permission P2021/0956 which states

“Prior to the commencement of any development, including vegetation clearance, A scheme detailing the appropriate mitigation measures for rare and protected plant species (including timings of works) to ensure their future survival within the green roof and planting bunds, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details in accordance with the agreed implementation program.”

3. Ecological Surveys

- 3.1 The three application sites have been the subject of numerous surveys which are set out below. **Table 3**

Table 3

Site	Reference	Site	Report	Date
A	P2021/0956	Land at Mardon Park, Central Avenue, Baglan Energy Park,	Ecological Assessment D Clements	April 2012
			Ecological Assessment D Clements	April 2013
			PRA - GBV020321(Gregg Jones)	4 th March 2021
			PRA- GBV020321(a)(Gregg Jones)	June 2012
			Phase 2 Survey GBV020721(Gregg Jones)	2 nd July 2021
B	P2021/1086	Unit 21, Central Avenue, Baglan Energy Park	DC221117- (Gregg Jones)	2018
			Vegetation Survey (G Jones & B Stewart)	20 th Oct 2021
			Ecological App- Mitigation Measures GBV151021	21 st Oct 2021

C	P2021/1087	Land Adjacent to Unit 19/20 Mardon Park, Baglan Energy Park, SA12 7AX(Unit B)	Vegetation Survey (G Jones & B Stewart)	20 th Oct 2021
			Ecological App- Mitigation Measures GBV151021	21 st Oct 2021

4. The Sites

- 4.1 The three sites, set out in **Table 3**, have been the subject of 7 ecological assessments in the last 10 years.
- 4.2 In summary it is evident that the sites have important ecological features.

5. Rare and Protected Plants Translocation Strategy (RPTS)

- 5.1 The majority of rare and protected plants are located within Site A (P2021/0956).
- 5.2 The strategy proposed will seek to relocate protected plants to a site within a prepared area of land to the north of the site (AREA 1A) as shown on plan A1-A505.

6. Existing Soil Conditions- Site A

- 6.1 In 2021 the applicant commissioned a Land Contamination Survey which was undertaken by Rhondda Geotechnical Services.
- 6.2 Numerous trial pits were dug with Site A as part of the assessment and are identified within the *Phase 2 Contaminated Land Assessment* report published on the 4th of October 2021.
- 6.3 The trial pits identified consistent soil strata across the site made up of fused grey metallic slag at depths between 250 mm to 450 mm (average of 300mm) followed

by medium dense brown gravelly sand. **Figure 1** Water, when encountered was at depths of 1m and below

Figure 1 (Trial Pit 2)



7. Proposed Soil Conditions

- 7.1 In order to replicate the unique soil conditions within the application site the receptor site will be constructed as shown in plan A1-A505 with soils is taken from the application site (Site A).
- 7.2 In order to ensure that translocated soil is not contaminated by existing vegetation and all organic soil within the receptor site will need to be removed.
- 7.3 Trial pits dug within the receptor on 22nd August 2023 are set out in **Table 1** below

Table 1- Trial Pits Receptor site

Trial Pit Location			
Trial Pit Log			
Trial Pit	Photo	Description	
1		200mm Imported Top Soil Sand/Slag mix + 200mm	

2		220mm Imported Top Soil Stone/Slag mix + 220mm
3		220mm Imported Top Soil Stone/Slag mix + 220mm

7.3 The trial pit data shows that organic soil depths across the site are between 200mm -220mm

8. Translocation Method Statement

- 8.1 For the successful reestablishment of translocated vegetation, it is critical that the appropriate substrate and ground conditions are met. Essentially the subsurface material down to 1m should be largely free of any organic matter and the only organic material with the surface 200mm is from the donor site.
- 8.2 Preparation of the receptor site requires the removal of organic soils and all existing soils should be stripped out, ideally down to the horizon of fused grey metallic slag identified from the trial pits.
- 8.3 Sufficient donor material to inoculate the mitigation area with a 200mm deep top covering should be scraped from the donor site at depth no greater than 200mm. This is to be stored short-term in a windrow or stockpile whilst the receptor site prep is completed.
- 8.4 Where required, inorganic slag base from the below the scraped donor site should be used to raise the receptor site ground to the desired level. Note the ground should not be raised too high, as ground moisture is likely to be important for maintaining suitable ground conditions. It is recommended that there should be a minimum of 400mm of inorganic sub-base (preferably slag) below the top 200mm of donor material.
- 8.5 Once the finished profile of the base has been created, the top 200mm of donor substrate can be translocated. This can be handled as loose aggregate and ground smoothed to achieve an aesthetically acceptable surface profile.
- 8.6 Note the process of revegetation is likely to be slow due to the low nutrients. This is desirable as the rarer species prefer nutrient poor substrates with limited competition.

9. Plants and seeds

- 9.1 In addition to the donor material, plugs and seed of key target species are to be introduced, including Basil Thyme *Clinopodium acinos*, Bearded Fescue *Vulpia ciliata*, Deptford Pink *Dianthus armeria*, Hoary Mullein *Verbascum pulverulentum*, Kidney Vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*, Small-flowered Catchfly *Silene gallica*, Twiggy Mullein *Verbascum virgatum*, Wall Bedstraw *Galium parisiense* and Wild Liquorice *Astragalus glycyphyllos*.
- 9.2 Plugs and seed are to be planted and sown during the autumn and winter period between October and March.

10. Future Maintenance Plan

- 10.1 A low-key management strategy will be required to control undesirable species such as Buddleia, Bramble and tall ruderals. This will need to be responsive to an annual monitoring visit in late summer or autumn to assess the performance of target species and habitat condition.
- 10.2 It is likely that the only maintenance required will be an autumn cut. All arisings (unlikely to many) are collected and removed, or in the first two or three years, depending on the spread of key species it may be beneficial to use the arisings to seed other areas.
- 10.3 As the area will initially look rather bare, some form of interpretation may be required to provide information about the ecological value of the project.