

File Note

Project title	Trebanos Wastewater Treatment Works - Outfall
Job number	275375-50
File reference	01
cc	
Prepared by	Harrison Moore
Date	28 October 2024
Subject	P2024/0060 - Discharge of Condition 08 (Ecological Surveys)

111 Victoria Street Redcliffe Bristol BS1 6AX United Kingdom

t +44 117 976 5432

[arup.com](https://www.arup.com)

1. Introduction

This technical note has been prepared to address Condition 08 (Ecological Surveys) associated with the granted planning permission P/2024/0060. The purpose of this document is to provide a comprehensive overview of the pre-commencement ecological surveys conducted on the site, ensuring compliance with the stipulated planning conditions. The surveys were carried out to assess the presence of protected species and habitats, and to propose appropriate mitigation measures to minimise any potential ecological impacts arising from the development.

The following sections detail the methodologies employed during the surveys, the findings, and the recommended actions to ensure the protection and enhancement of local biodiversity. This technical note aims to demonstrate commitment to sustainable development practices and adherence to ecological best practices.

The preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) '*APEM (2024). Trebanos WwTW Outfall – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report. APEM Report P00009789. Morgan Sindall, January 2024, V1.0, Final, 38 pp*' approved under planning application reference P2024/0060 recommends that pre-commencement ecological surveys should be undertaken for otter, badgers and wild birds.

2. Vegetation Clearance

The PEA specified for the undertaking of wild bird pre-commencement ecological surveys, to demonstrate that wild birds were not harmed and precautions taken to avoid impact to wild birds.

Site vegetation clearance and Japanese Knotweed removal / management was undertaken within Welsh Water (WW) operational land boundary and third party land (Headwall area) as a single operation.

The clearance area covered the works undertaken utilising the permitted development rights afforded to WW as the statutory sewerage undertaker under Schedule 2, Part 16 Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (the GPDO).

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Specifically, Part 16 Class A (a) ‘*development not above ground level required in connection with the provision, improvement, maintenance or repair of a sewer, outfall pipe, sludge main or associated apparatus*’ and (e) ‘*any other development in, on, over or under their operational land, other than the provision of a building but including the extension or alteration of a building*’. This area includes the land in which we had full planning permission for the outfall works.

The timing of vegetation clearance was agreed with the landowner. Single access for clearance was to minimise the disturbance and inconvenience for the landowner and to meet programme requirements. These requirements included a river embargo due to fish spawning season which commenced on 15 October 2024.

The vegetation clearance was undertaken before the start of bird nesting season in March to mitigate the risk of nesting birds later in the year.

Vegetation clearance commenced on 26 February 2024 and was completed prior to 1 March 2024.

Following site-wide vegetation clearance undertaken in February 2024 as shown in Figures 2 and 3, there was no plant regrowth in the area of headwall. As a result, no additional clearance nor ecological checks were required prior to the construction works commencing in June 2024.

The vegetation clearance works were undertaken utilising permitted development rights afforded to WW as the statutory sewage undertaker. Vegetation clearance was not undertaken within bird nesting season, undertaken to avoid further environmental impacts and adhered to the ecological best practices. As such, the vegetation clearance did not have an impact on wild birds.



Figure 1 - Outfall Headwall location September 2023.

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Figure 2 – Vegetation clearance undertaken along the Flood Bund in February 2024.



Figure 3 - Outfall Headwall location in April'24 following the clearance works in February 2024

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3. Otter and Badger

The application to discharge 08 (Ecological Surveys) is also supported by an '*Ecological Survey Summary Note*' dated 11th September 2024 . This note, included in Appendix 1, provides details related to pre-commencement ecological surveys with regard to otter and badger.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the pre-commencement ecological surveys conducted in compliance with Condition 08 of the granted planning permission P/2024/0060 have thoroughly assessed the presence of protected species and habitats on the site. The surveys, which included detailed evaluations for otters, badgers, have informed the necessary mitigation measures to minimise ecological impacts.

With regard to the wild bird surveys, the vegetation clearance was planned and executed outside the bird nesting season, ensuring no harm to wild birds and adhering to the ecological best practices. The clearance activities were carried out under the permitted development rights, with careful coordination to avoid further environmental disturbances.

In light details and justification outlined in this technical note, it is respectfully request that the Local Planning Authority formally discharge Condition 08 (Ecological Surveys) associated with planning permission P/2024/0060. It is understood that all requirements have been satisfactorily met, ensuring compliance with the stipulated planning conditions.

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Appendix 1

Ecological Survey Summary Note

Ecological Survey Summary Note

Project: Trebanos WwTW Outfall
Completed By: Joshua Thomas (Consultant Ecologist, Qualifying Member of CIEEM)

Approved By: Lorna Rowe BSc (*Hons*) ACIEEM (Principal Ecologist)
Date of Report 11/09/2024

Status**O = Overdue****I = In Progress****C = Closed**

Item No.	Survey Type	Date of Survey	Survey Details	Results of survey	Photos	Status
1	Otter Survey	21/05/2024	An otter survey was completed by Senior Ecologist Jack Blackburn BSc and Assistant Ecologist Ellie Watkins BA (<i>Hons</i>). The survey area included approximately 250 m upstream and downstream from the proposed location of the outfall, along the River Tawe and followed the methods outlined by Chanin¹.	Otter spraint was found at the following National Grid References (NGR): SN 70771 02092 and SN 71175 02133. Suitable resting habitat exists along the river (such as rock armour and fallen trees), however no evidence of active resting sites or holts was identified.		C
2	Badger Survey	21/05/2024	A badger survey was completed by Jack Blackburn and Ellie Watkins. The survey involved a walkover, where any fields signs (such as latrines, setts, hairs or footprints), were	No evidence of badgers was recorded during the survey.	N/A	C

¹ Chanin,P (2003) Ecology of the European Otter. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers Ecology Series No. 10

Ecological Survey Summary Note

			recoded and a 10-figure grid reference taken. The survey area included all suitable sett building habitat within 30 m of the proposed works. The parcels of woodland in the wider area were also included (at SN 71103 02180, SN 71134 02381 and SN 71273 02485).			
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