

Preliminary Ecological Assessment



Project: Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan, Port Talbot

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1. Introduction

The client is considering development options for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg (YGG) Rhosafan, Port Talbot. Proposed plans are at a very early stage but may include the demolition of the current buildings within the site boundary and creation of a new building on site. The site is currently split into two with the south west half used for YGG Rhosafan Primary School. The north western half of the site is used by a nursery school and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) Youth Services. Open playing fields extend to the west of each building with car parking located to the east. The overall development site is centred at grid reference SS 73937 90480.

This report will assess the potential of the land within the site boundary to support habitats and species and the implications that any future development proposals could have on them.

1.1 Site Description

The site is located to the west of the suburb of Aberavon. Marine Drive forms the north east boundary and residential properties are directly adjacent to all other boundaries of the site. Aberavon Beach is located approximately 140m away to the south west at its closest point. The site is surrounded by residential housing and roads in all directions and is considered to sit in an urban location.

The M4 motorway is located approximately 1.5km to the north east. Port Talbot Docks are located approximately 2.2km to the south west.

1.2 Survey Constraints

The site visit was completed during early April which is a sub optimal time of year to undertake habitat assessments. However, it was still possible to draw broad conclusions on habitat types within the site boundary.

The optimal time period to carry out ground-based visual assessments of trees for bat roosting potential is between December to March inclusive, when broad-leaved trees are devoid of leaves and features are more readily visible. It should be noted that ground based assessments are inherently constrained and potential roosting features present upon the skyward facing surfaces of limbs and branches will most likely be missed.

1.3 Surveyor Experience

Aislinn Harris is a full member of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Aislinn is an ecologist with 14 years experience undertaking a wide range of flora and fauna surveys. All survey work is undertaken following JNCC Phase 1

Survey Guidelines and CIEEM Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (2nd Ed 2017).
Aislinn is a licenced bat, great crested newt and dormouse ecologist with a wide variety of
experience undertaking ecological surveys.

2. Desktop Study

A data search was undertaken via Aderyn (LERC Reference: 0245-021) for the proposed development site and surrounding area. A 2km buffer zone was searched and records returned within 500m of site are noted below:

- Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)- closest record approximately 190m away to the east.
- Birds: Species listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (WCA1.1) include - Black redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*), Red-throated diver (*Gavia stellata*), Snow bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*), Great northern diver (*Gavia immer*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Mediterranean gull (*Ichthyophaga melanocephalus*).
- Bird species listed under Section 7 (S7) of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (EWA 2016) include - Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), Linnet (*Linaria cannabina*), House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) and Reed bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*).
- Invertebrate records including Lackey (*Malacosoma neustria*), Buff ermine (*Spilosoma lutea*) and Knotgrass (*Acronicta rumicis*).

Records of note returned for the rest of the 2km buffer zone are detailed below:

- Slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*) and Common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*)- closest record approximately 750m.
- Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*) and Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*) - closest record approximately 840m.

2.1 Protected Sites

The data search also considered statutory and non-statutory protected sites within 2 km of the development site boundary.

Statutory Protected Sites

There are no statutory designated sites within 2km of the proposed development site.

Non-Statutory Protected Sites

There are eight Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) within 2km of the site. The development site appears to sit within the NPT Watercourses SINC designation. The next closest SINC is Baglan Bay located approximately 890m away.

Other SINC sites in the 2km search area and an approximate distance at their closest point from the site are listed below:

- BAGLAN BROWNFIELD SLACK (approximately 1.4km north)
- BAGLAN PANHANDLE (approximately 880m north)
- JAFFA LAND BAGLAN (approximately 1.9km north)
- LOWER RIVER AFAN ESTUARY (approximately 1.9km southeast)
- LITTLE WARREN (approximately 1.8km southeast)
- PANASONIC (approximately 1.2km northeast)

The proposed development site sits within a B-Lines designation. B-Lines are non-statutory protected sites which aim to restore and create wildflower habitats forming stepping stones that link existing wildlife areas together creating a network of habitats across the landscape benefiting not only pollinators but a host of other wildlife.

2.2 Potential Impacts to Protected Sites

Given the localised nature of the development proposals there is unlikely to be any adverse affect to local statutory and non statutory designated sites.

3. Phase 1 Survey

3.1 Habitats

A walkover survey of the site was completed on the **9th April 2024**. All areas of the site were accessible. A species list can be found in Appendix 1, photographs of the site can be found in Appendix 2 and a map of the habitats found within the site is provided in Appendix 3.

The development site is split roughly in half along a south west to north east axis. The main building The main feature within the site is YGG Rhosafan School **Building**. The school building is described within Table 1 in section 3.4 of this report. Its use appears to be split with the primary school utilising the south eastern portion of the building. A nursery and NPTCBC Youth Services use the north west portion of the building. A single story, prefabricated unit is present in the very northern corner of the site. This appears to be used as part of the nursery school.

A large expanse of **tarmac** is present to the south east of the building which is used as a play area by school children. Another large expanse of **tarmac** is present to the north east which is used for parking by the nursery. A smaller **tarmac** car parking area and **tarmac** single lane access roads are present to the east of the building and provide access from the adjacent Marine Drive.

The vast majority of the remainder of the site is made up of flat well managed **semi improved grassland**. Species noted within the grassland include daisy, field woodrush, ribwort plantain, a species of clover, dandelion, broadleaved plantain, common mouse ear, annual meadow grass, creeping buttercup, a species of trefoil likely birds foot, and a species of hawkbit.

A small area to the very south of the school grounds had five planted fruit tree saplings, four raised flower beds which were bare at the time of survey and a small area of triangular shaped grassland appeared to have had the top layer of grass and soil removed. Presumably the top soil has been removed to create a wildflower garden area. Species including ox eye daisy, red campion and yarrow were noted in the triangular area. The area has been mapped as allotment and the approximate location is shown by TN1 within the habitat map in Appendix 3.

A small area of ground to the north west of the site, west of the nursery school building, is being used as an **allotment** presumably as part of the school activities. The allotment area is mostly semi improved grassland but a poly tunnel, raised beds and small areas of bare cultivated ground are present.



Photo 1 - Allotment (TN1) area in south corner of grounds



Photo 2 - Allotment area looking south east

A number of **metal shipping containers** are present to the north west of the site this is west of the car parking area to the north of the site. The containers are surrounded by wooden close board fencing and likely used for storage by the nursery. A small number of **metal shipping containers** are present fairly central to the site. These containers are used to create a small enclosed play area.

There are some small areas of ornamental planting at the front (east) of the building. Given the small area of ornamental planting it has not been mapped on the habitat map in Appendix 3. Two **trees** are also present to the front of the school buildings. One tree was confirmed to be an ash tree, the other species of tree could not be identified at the time.

3.2 Great Crested Newts (GCN)

Great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) are a European protected species and are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. In summary, they are protected from:

- Deliberate capture, killing and injuring,
- Deliberate disturbance of a breeding site or resting place,
- Deliberate taking or destroying of eggs,
- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place.

Great crested newts (GCN) are listed on schedule 5 of The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 which protects them from intentional or reckless disturbance or obstruction when using a structure or place for shelter and / or protection. It is also an offence to sell, offer or expose

for sale a GCN. GCN and Common toad are listed in section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which makes them key species to sustain and improve biodiversity.

There are no records for the presence of GCN within 2km of the proposed development site.

There are no ponds within the site itself and there do not appear to be any within 500m of the development site. However garden ponds in surrounding residential properties and areas of woodland which are not visible on aerial images may be present.

The development site has limited potential to be used by amphibians such as GCN during their terrestrial life stages. The buildings and hardstanding area provide no cover or foraging habitat for use by GCN. The grassland could be used by commuting animals but it is short providing very limited cover from predation. The site is also in frequent use meaning the grassland areas are subject to regular human disturbance.

GCN generally like to have a necklace of suitable waterbodies for breeding purposes within a local area. Given the lack of ponds within the locale, limited suitable habitat on site and poor habitat connectivity from site to surrounding habitat it is considered unlikely that GCN are present within the development site. **No further survey recommendations are made for this species.**

3.3 Dormouse

The Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) is a European protected species and is protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. In summary, they are protected from:

- Deliberate capture, killing and injuring,
- Deliberate disturbance of a breeding site or resting place,
- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place.

Dormouse is listed on schedule 5 of The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 which protects them from intentional or reckless disturbance or obstruction when using a structure or place for shelter and / or protection. It is also an offence to sell, offer or expose for sale a native dormouse. Dormouse is listed in section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which makes them a key species to sustain and improve biodiversity.

There are no records for the presence of Dormouse within 2km of the proposed development site.

The habitats within the site boundary are considered to be unsuitable for use by dormouse. The buildings, hardstanding and areas of grassland provide no shelter or foraging habitat suitable for Dormouse. The site has no habitat connectivity to surrounding habitats which

Dormouse may use. The site is immediately surrounded by housing with no areas of woodland or hedgerow in the local area.

Given the limited suitability of habitats within the site boundary, poor habitat connectivity to the wider landscape and lack of local records the presence of Dormouse within the site boundary is considered unlikely. **No further survey recommendations are made for this species.**

3.4 [Bats](#)

All British bats are a European protected species and are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. In summary, they are protected from:

- Deliberate capture, killing and injuring,
- Deliberate disturbance of a breeding site or resting place,
- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place.

Schedule 5 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) also protects all species of British bat and their roosting locations. British bats are protected from intentional or reckless disturbance and or obstruction of their roosting places. Barbastelle, Bechstein, Noctule, Brown long-eared, Common pipistrelle, Soprano pipistrelle, Greater horseshoe and Lesser horseshoe bats are also listed in section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which makes them a key species to sustain and improve biodiversity.

The data search returned limited bat records within the local area. This is thought to indicate a lack of recording rather than an absence of species. The closest bat record is approximately 655m away to the south east and is for commuting and foraging Common pipistrelle. The majority of remaining records in the wider area are for Common pipistrelle, Soprano pipistrelle or unidentified bat species.

Building Assessment

The two buildings (B1- main school building) and (B2- demountable unit) within the site were subject to an external inspection which was undertaken following the guidance within the BCT Good Practice Guidelines 2023 (4th Edition).

An external assessment of the buildings was undertaken by Aislinn Harris, a NRW licenced bat worker (Licence No. S092780-02) on 9th April 2024. An internal survey of the buildings was not undertaken as they were in use by school pupils. It is considered likely that an internal suspended ceiling is present which would obscure any internal attic spaces, if they were present. Photographs of the building can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

Table 1- Building Assessment

	Building Description	Features	Bat Potential
B1 - Main School Building	External: Brick built structure with single and double storey sections of the building. Given the height of the building its difficult to see all areas of the roof but the building is thought to be entirely flat roof. One small section to the south west (TN2 on habitat map) has a corrugated metal sheet pitched roof. Occasional roof lights present along the northern elevation of the building. No timbers are present along the roof line. Roof appears to concrete slab that extends over the walls. Rolled roofing felt folds of the slab and is securely attached to a batten. Large amounts of glazing around the entire building. Security lighting visible around the building.	Vast majority of the roof appears to be tightly fitted. Some gaps and cracks were noted in the mortar and roof slabs occasionally around the entire structure. Some areas of flashing or areas where roofing connects to higher buildings slightly lifted.	Moderate
	Internal: N/A	-	
B2 - Demountable Unit	External: A single demountable, teaching unit present to the north east of B1. The unit has a flat roof and a plastic fascia board present around the building. The fascia is attached securely to a batten fixed to the walls on the north and south elevation.	None. No gaps present between the fascia, batten and building walls.	Negligible
	Internal: N/A	-	

Example images of potential roost features observed around the Main School Building (B1) are below:



B2 is considered to have negligible bat roost potential and no further recommendations are made for this structure. It was not possible to see all areas of the roof of B1 due to the height of the structure and flat roof profile. Whilst only a small number of potential roost features were observed across B1 given the survey constraints and location of the building bat activity surveys are recommended. **Two bat activity surveys will be required on the building as detailed in Section 4 Recommendations and Mitigation of this report.** The activity surveys will be focused on the sections of building proposed for extension work only.

Tree Assessment

Trees within the site were subject to a cursory ground level assessment for the potential presence for roosting bats. The optimum time for such surveys is during the winter months when trees have lost their foliage. Should any tree be considered likely to have above low potential for roosting use, further detailed survey work will be recommended following the ground based visual assessment methodology provided in the BCT Survey Guidelines 2023 (4th Ed).

Two ornamental trees were noted within the site boundary. No visible gaps or cracks suitable for use by bats were noted during the site visit. Visibility around the trees and up into the canopy was good as the trees were well spread out with no understory restricting access. **No further survey work in relation to bats is required on any of the trees within the site.**

3.5 Otters

The Otter (*Lutra lutra*) is a European protected species and is protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. In summary, they are protected from:

- Deliberate capture, killing and injuring,
- Deliberate disturbance of a breeding site or resting place,
- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place.

Otter are listed on schedule 5 of The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 which protects them from intentional or reckless disturbance or obstruction when using a structure or place for shelter and / or protection. It is also an offence to sell, offer or expose for sale an otter. Otter is listed in section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which makes them a key species to sustain and improve biodiversity.

There are limited otter records within the local area. The closest Otter record is approximately 1.5km away to the north east and for a road mortality along the M4. All Otter records are associated with the M4.

Otters tend to prefer secluded locations for their holts to help prevent them being disturbed by other animals. It is accepted that Otters can travel long distances from river corridors to find acceptable holt sites.

The buildings, hardstanding and grassland areas do not provide any cover suitable for use by Otter. The site is also subject to high levels of human disturbance. The presence of Otter within the site boundary is considered highly unlikely. **No further survey recommendations are made for this species.**

3.6 Badger

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. In summary they are protected from:

- Taking, killing or injuring;
- Cruelty;
- Interfering with a badger sett;
- The selling and possession of badgers;
- Marking or ringing.

Badgers are also listed on schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.

Badgers tend to have a variety of setts with different uses and functions within the territory for the family unit. In general there is usually a main sett which the family will use the most. There are then annex, subsidiary and or outlier setts which depending on family structures and environmental pressures may be used at different times of the year. As female Badgers tend to have their cubs over winter the disturbance and damage of Badger setts is prohibited between December and June inclusive. NRW are the licensing body for any actions which may contravene the above legislation.

There are limited Badger records within the local area. The closest Badger record is approximately 1.6km away to the north east and for a road mortality along the M4. All Badger records are associated with the M4.

Badgers favour a dry sloping site for digging their setts preferably within woodland or even under a large hedgerow bank. Badgers are creatures of habit and tend to follow regular pathways between their setts and foraging grounds. The site is flat and well used by pupils and is considered unsuitable for use by Badger for sett digging.

The presence of a Badger sett within the site boundary is considered to be highly unlikely. Given the fencing around the entire site boundary and regular use of the school it is

considered highly unlikely that Badger are present within the site on any occasion. **No further survey recommendations are made for this species.**

3.7 Birds

All breeding birds are protected under schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended. Under this Act it is an offence to:

- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

Enhanced protection is afforded to species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act, this additional protection makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

The buildings and scattered trees around the site are considered suitable for use nesting birds. The grassland areas are also suitable for foraging use by common local bird species. **A precautionary approach to the removal of habitat with bird nesting potential will be required. Compensation measures for the loss of bird foraging and nesting habitat will be required.**

3.8 Reptiles and Amphibians

Reptiles such as the Slow-worm, Common lizard, Adder and Grass snake are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(as amended). They are protected from killing, injuring and sale. They are protected from killing, injuring and sale. They are also listed in section 6 of The Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The four widespread species of amphibian i.e. the Smooth and Palmate newts, Common frog and Common toad, are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) by Section 9(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This section prohibits sale of these species. Common Toad is listed in Section 7 of The Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Limited amphibian and reptile records were returned as part of the data search which is thought to indicate a lack of recording rather than an absence of presence. The closest amphibian record to site is for Common frog and Common toad captured during destructive searching approximately 770m east. The closest reptile record to site is approximately 840m to the east and for Slow worm found during destructive searching.

Reptiles prefer a mosaic of habitats with diverse vegetation structure creating open areas and nearby cover to provide protection from predators and the elements. Common amphibian species require still pools of water for breeding purposes and damp conditions with foraging habitat during their terrestrial life stages.

The grassland areas within the site are considered suitable for foraging and commuting use by reptile and amphibian species. However there is limited habitat connectivity, concrete walls form the north and west boundary and palisade fencing forms the south and east boundary. To the east Marine Drive is present but residential properties and garden spaces abut the southern edge of the site. The school grounds are frequently used by school pupils and well maintained. The presence of reptiles and amphibians within the school site is considered to be unlikely. **No further survey recommendations are made for this species.**

3.9 Other Mammals

Records for mammal species listed under S7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 returned via the data search include Hedgehog (180m to the east).

Hedgehog is considered likely to be present within the site, at least on occasion. Hedgehog is considered to be a species of principal importance, for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in relation to Wales. As such consideration must be given to this species in any plans proposed for the site.

3.10 Invertebrates

A small number of invertebrate records were returned from the data trawl within 2km of the site. This is thought to indicate a lack of recording rather than an absence of presence.

Notable lepidopteran species records, those species that are listed under S7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, returned from the data trawl and include; Invertebrate records including Lackey (*Malacosoma neustria*), Buff ermine (*Spilosoma lutea*), Knotgrass (*Acrionicta rumicis*), Small blue (*Cupido minimus*), Dingy skipper (*Erynnis tages*) and Brown-banded carder bee (*Bombus humilis*).

The habitats of the site were assessed for their potential to support invertebrates using the Invertebrate Habitat Potential Assessment (IHPA) as found in CIEEM inpractice Issue 112, June 2021. The IHPA protocol has been produced to allow ecologists without specialised entomological expertise to identify key habitats and features likely to support important invertebrate assemblages. Full details of habitat types can be found in Appendix 5.

Table 2- Invertebrate Habitat Assessment

Habitat Element	Grade
Decaying Wood – H1	D - Minor
Rotational Management – H2	E – Negligible/Absent
Nectar Resources – H3	E – Negligible/Absent
Wet Substrates – H4	E – Negligible/Absent
Other Water Habitats – H5	E – Negligible/Absent
Structural Patchwork – H6	E – Negligible/Absent
Still Air (S) – H7	D - Minor
Still Air (H) – H8	D - Minor
Connectivity – H9	E – Negligible/Absent
Ecoclines – H10	E – Negligible/Absent
Bare Earth – H11	E – Negligible/Absent

Based on the Invertebrate Habitat Potential Assessment (IHPA) the site, in its current state, is considered to have potential to support common and widespread generalist species of invertebrate only.

4. Recommendations and Mitigation

Development proposals for the site have not been finalised and a number of options are being explored. One proposals may include the demolition of the current buildings and creation of a new school building within the grounds of the school. Further survey work and consideration of the ecological mitigation and compensation that development of the site may require, is needed once detailed plans are known.

Once the development proposals are progressed and the considerations to development within the site are addressed, further ecological input will be required. Our general recommendations are:

- **Bat Activity Surveys on the main school building (B1) will be required.** Two bat activity surveys will need to be carried out and must follow the guidance within the BCT Good Practice Guidelines 2023 (4th Edition). Bat activity surveys must be carried out within the core maternity period, mid May to September, and must be at least one month apart.
- A root protection zone (RPZ) must be implemented around any retained trees which lie adjacent to or within the boundary of the proposed development site. British Standard BS 5837, *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations* will be followed. Measures will include clear marking of the RPZ to guarantee no machinery is used or digging carried out in that area. This will ensure that there is no detrimental impact to the trees and the flora or fauna it supports.
- The trees and buildings within the site have potential for use by nesting birds. Any tree or building works must be completed outside of the bird nesting season of March to August inclusive. If this is not achievable an ecologist must inspect any vegetation with the potential for birds to be present for active birds' nests prior to removal works beginning. If an active nest is identified a buffer zone of at least 5m around the nest must be observed until the chicks have fledged. Only then can the vegetation be removed. Greater buffer zones around nests may be required depending on the species and habitat the nest is within.
- Careful consideration must be given to the use of lighting within the development site, as this can adversely affect the activity of a variety of fauna, particularly foraging bats, nesting birds and invertebrates. Light spillage into adjacent semi-natural habitats must be avoided and brightness kept to the lowest permissible level in the areas adjacent to such habitats. All lighting must meet recommendations in the BCT Guidance Note 08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night.

5. Biodiversity Enhancements & Green Infrastructure

The Environment Act (Wales) 2016 places a duty on competent authorities and councils to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (version 12), paragraph 6.2.5 requires Green Infrastructure considerations to be included with all planning applications. Development proposals must detail how green infrastructure considerations which are proportionate to the scale and nature of the plans are being provided.

Green infrastructure currently within the site takes the form of scattered trees, semi improved grassland and two small allotment areas. The site has poor habitat connectivity to any surrounding areas of natural habitat as it is immediately surrounded by residential housing in all directions. Detailed development plans are not available at present however general considerations to green infrastructure to be considered as part for the development include:

- Paragraph 6.4.42 of Planning Policy Wales (version 12) requires that at least three trees of a similar type and compensatory size are planted for every tree lost.
- At present, the semi improved grassland within the site is fairly monotonous being flat and open. The grassland is likely to be used by school pupils for recreational purposes so must be maintained to some level. However creating a little more structural diversity to the grassland would be welcomed. Scattered tree planting to create a more parkland feel to less well used areas or tree / hedgerow planting with buffer areas of less intense mowing would help to create smaller micro-climates for flora and fauna.
- Sensitive lighting to prevent light spill into adjacent natural habitat. Light spill could affect how wildlife move through habitat within the site and also the habitats adjacent to the site.

The Environment Act (Wales) 2016 places a duty on competent authorities such as Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to conserve and enhance biodiversity. The below bullet points are some simple measures that could be achieved to enhance the biodiversity of the site:

- The provision of integrated bird boxes within any new buildings created on site. A variety of bird boxes can be used but all boxes must be placed at least 2m high from ground floor.
- The provision of integrated bat boxes within any new buildings created on site.. A variety of bat boxes can be used but all boxes must be placed at least 2m high

from ground floor. Bat boxes must be located at least 2m away from any external light source including windows.

- Native species should be used within the soft landscaping works on the site. Suitable long term management of soft landscaping also helps ensure spaces are useful to wildlife. Consideration to management of grassland within the site to create a diverse native sward would be welcomed.
- All fencing across the site must be hedgehog friendly in design. A friendly design is considered to allow passage of small animals across the site. Close board or mesh fencing should provide either a continuous gap between the bottom of the fence and ground of approximately 13cm or 13cm by 13cm gaps cut every 3m along fencing.
- The creation of at least one butterfly bank within the grounds of the site would be welcomed. A butterfly bank creates a range of micro climates and habitats for use by invertebrates. In simplified terms, a butterfly bank requires a mound of poor quality soil to be created ideally 30m long and 'C' shaped. At the base of the bank a gravel substrate should be spread a few metres in width. The mound can then be seeded with a native seed mix and subject to low intensity cut and collect mowing.

Appendix 1 – Plant Species Recorded

Species	Common Name
Trees & Scrub	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
Herbaceous Plants	
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common mouse ear
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	Broad leaved plantain
<i>Bella perenis</i>	Daisy
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot trefoil
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb robert
<i>Leontadon sp</i>	Hawkbbit sp
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual meadow grass
<i>Trifolium sp</i>	Clover sp
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup
<i>Taraxacum officinalis agg</i>	Dandelion

Appendix 2 – Site Photographs

Buildings



B1 NW elevation (nursery section)



B1 North elevation (nursery section)



B1 NE elevation (nursery section)

Site Grounds



B1 SE elevation (School section)
B1 SE elevation (School section)



Semi Improved grassland to north west
Semi Improved grassland to north west

Appendix 3– Site Habitat Map



Storage containers to the west of nursery building

Appendix 4 - Aerial View of Site Location



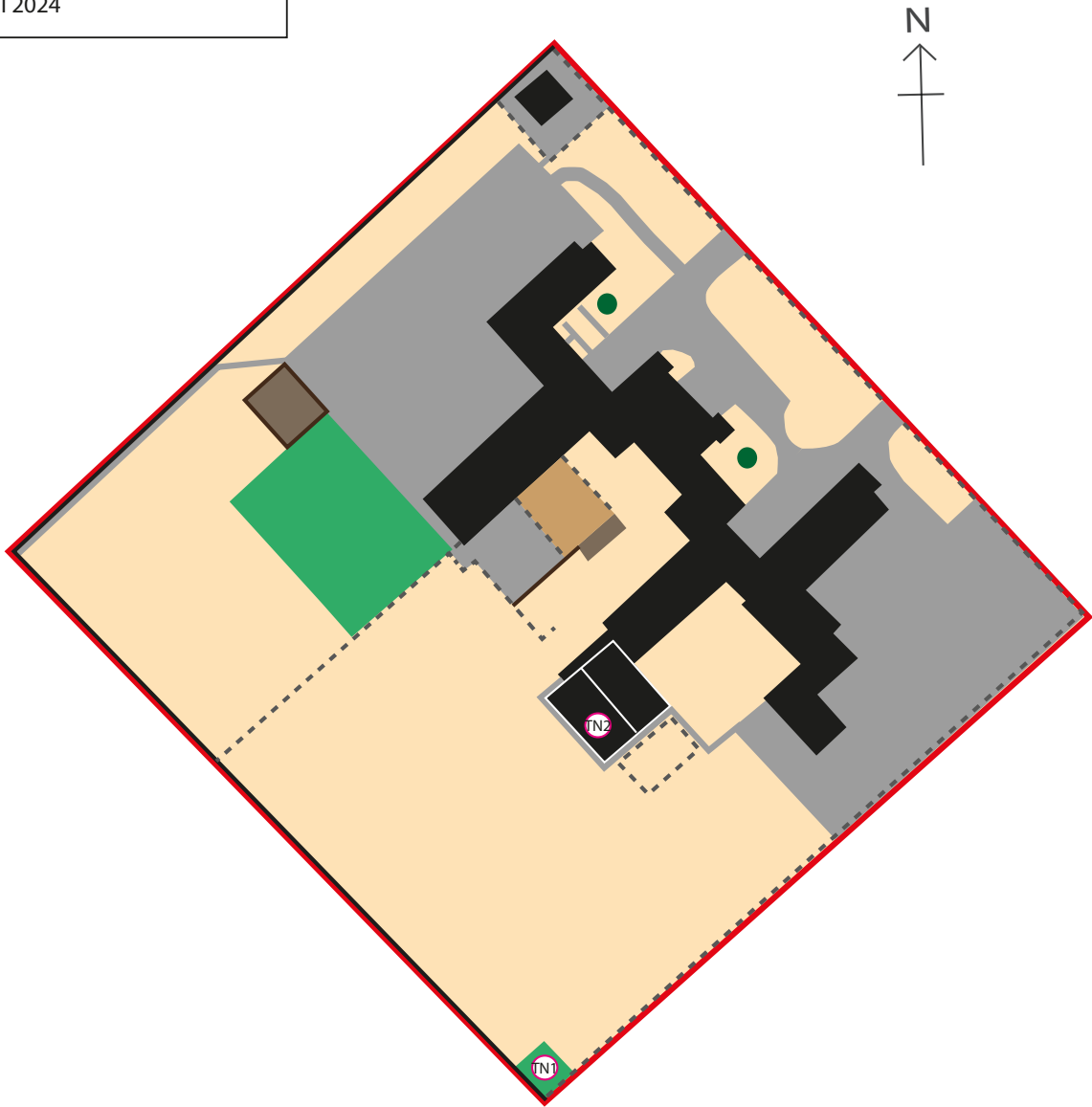
Grassland & parking to east of school

Appendix 5 – Invertebrate Habitat Potential Assessment

YGG RHOSAFAN, PORT TALBOT

Habitat Map

April 2024



	Tarmac		Semi Improved Grassland
	Shipping Containers		Allotment
	Building		Metal Fence
	Artificial Play Area		Concrete Wall
	Wooden Fence		Tree
	Site Boundary		Target Note

Table 1. Summary of the 11 habitat elements assessed by IHP survey.

Habitat element	No.	Comments
Decaying Wood	HE1	In all its forms; from decaying wood on/in large trees to woodland floor debris
Rotational Management	HE2	Planned or serendipitous; and whether for nature conservation or other purposes
Nectar Resources	HE3	As a proxy for nectar- and pollen resources, as assessment of pollen resources is impracticable on a walk-through survey
Wet Substrates	HE4	Including marginal, marshy, muddy and seasonally inundated habitats, as well as flushes
Open Water Habitats	HE5	The open water element of rivers, lakes, ponds, streams, ditches, etc.
Structural Patchwork	HE6	Habitat mosaics, including, but by no means restricted to open mosaic habitats on previously developed land
Still Air (S)	HE7	Suntraps and still-air microclimates in open situations; the term 'still air' is used in preference to 'wind breaks' as many rigid wind breaks are likely to produce turbulent air in their lee
Still Air (H)	HE8	Humid still-air microclimates in sheltered and shaded situations
Connectivity	HE9	Landscape-scale connectivity between the site and external habitats
Ecoclines	HE10	A graded transition between two or more broad habitats
Bare Earth	HE11	Unshaded bare or sparsely vegetated well-drained substrate, regardless of soil type