

Site Assessment Survey

PROJECT TITLE: School Redevelopment Works

SITE ADDRESS: Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, Treges, St Johns Terrace, Dyffryn Clydach, Neath, SA10 7ND

DATE: 13th March 2026

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Planning consent is sought for the creation of a new teaching block within the grounds of Ysgol Gynradd Treges. The site is centred at National Grid Reference SS 73239 97464 and located within Neath, South Wales. It comprises a series of school buildings with an adjacent grassland field to the east. The proposed development involves the demolition of the northernmost school building and the car shelter to the west, followed by the construction of a new school block. The new block will be positioned partly within the footprint of the demolished building and will extend into the grassland area in the northeast of the site.

The proposed works are expected to result in the loss of grassland habitat, as well as the demolition of an existing building. This report provides an assessment of the habitats and species present within the site boundary and evaluates the potential ecological implications of the proposed development. It also sets out recommendations for any further surveys, mitigation measures, and ecological enhancements required to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and best practice.

Site Location

The southern and western boundaries of the development site adjoin New Road, where rows of terraced housing form the immediate streetscape. Beyond this housing, a railway line is located approximately 140 m south, with the Tennant Canal situated a further short distance away at around 180 m south.

To the east, the site borders St John's Church and its associated cemetery, which lies directly adjacent to the eastern school field. The northern boundary is defined by a strip of woodland, with a railway line running east to west approximately 20 m north of the site. Beyond this transport corridor, the landscape transitions into agricultural land, including Ty Canol Farm and the grounds of Abbey Primary School, located roughly 330 m north. The River Neath is located approximately 560 m south.

Further east and west, the surrounding environment becomes progressively urbanised, forming the built-up areas of Neath (to the east, beyond the A465) and Skewen (to the west). The A465 lies 400 m to the south of the site at its closest point.

North of the site, farmland continues before giving way to more extensive woodland blocks. Several woodland areas lie in close proximity, including a small woodland belt immediately north along the railway corridor, providing a narrow wooded buffer. A second wooded corridor follows the railway line approximately 200 m south of the site. Coed y Graig is located around 320 m north, adjoining an additional woodland parcel to the west.

Only one waterbody appears to be present within 500 m of the site. This is located approximately 350 m northeast, beyond the rail line within the grounds of Ty Canol Farm. There is some degree of habitat connectivity between this waterbody and the site via the wooded corridor that runs along the railway line. However, the railway infrastructure itself is likely to limit or deter movement of certain species, reducing the extent to which fauna may access the development site from this direction.

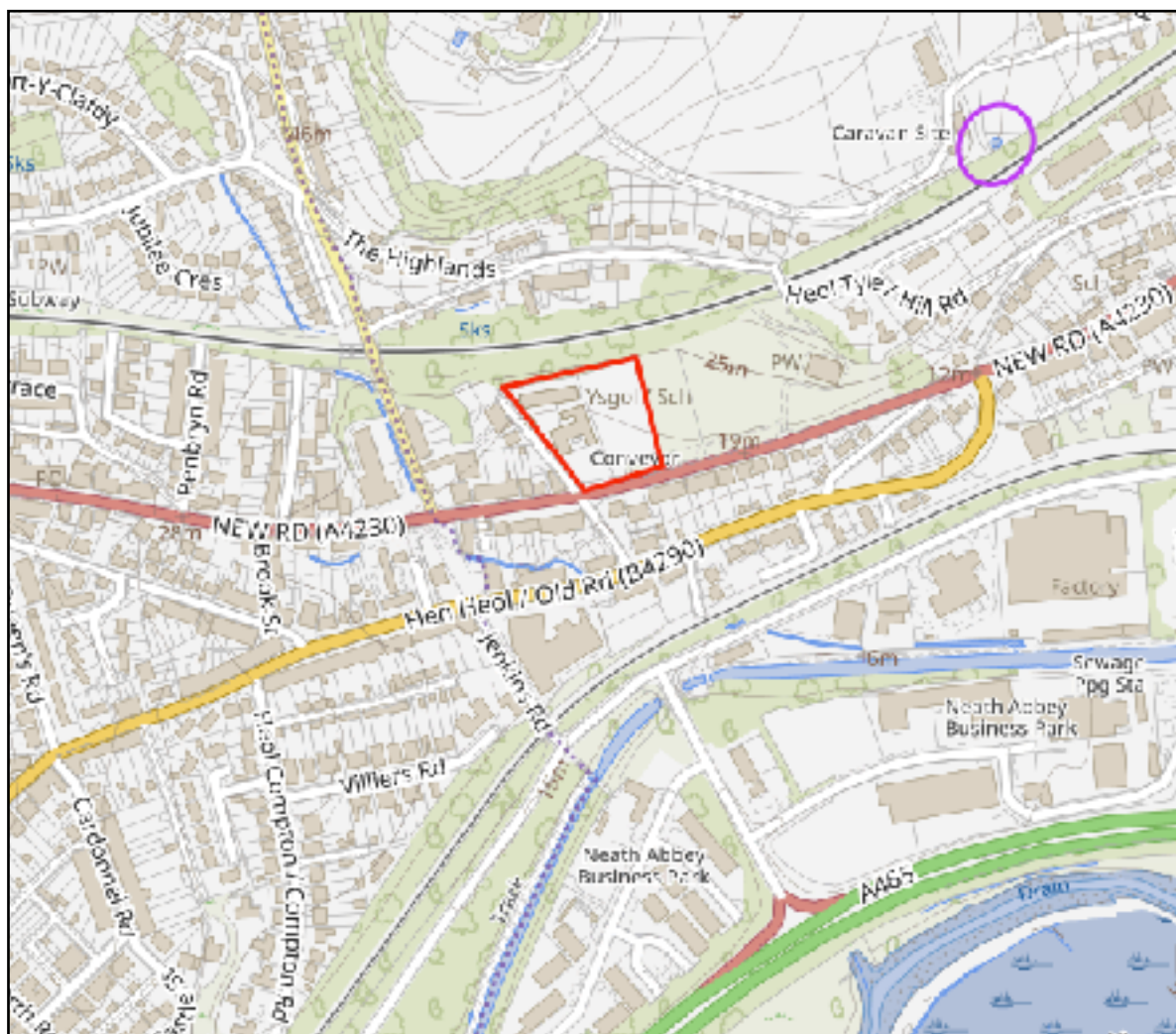


Figure 1. Waterbodies within 500 m of the site.

Previous Survey Work

Bat surveys on the building proposed for demolition were undertaken by the Countryside and Wildlife Team, NPT Wildlife in 2025, with full results provided in their report dated October 2025. An external inspection for bat roost suitability was completed alongside two dusk emergence surveys on 14 May 2025 and 1 July 2025.

Moderate levels of bat activity were recorded during both surveys. Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle were observed commuting and foraging across the site, particularly along the wooded northern boundary adjacent to the railway line and over the nearby playing field. Activity around the building itself was low, and no bats were observed emerging, indicating that the structure is not being used as a roost.

The survey report recommends ecological enhancements as part of the redevelopment, including the installation of bat and bird boxes on the new building.

Desktop Study

A data search was undertaken via Aderyn (*LERC Ref: 0256-780*) for the proposed development site and surrounding area. The data search took a 1 km buffer around a central point of the proposed development site was searched. The desk-study reviewed all statutory and non-statutory protected sites within 1 km of the development.

- There are nine Sites of Important for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within 1 km of the site. The site is covered by the Neath Port Talbot (NPT) Watercourses SINC. This is a designation covering all watercourses that retain a generally natural form within NPT. The current site does not hold any watercourses within its boundary or immediately adjacent and therefore this SINC designation will not be impacted by any works. All other sites are listed below with the approximate distance from the site.
- NPT Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (130 m north),
- Tennant canal (170 m south),
- Pentrefrynnon (230 m south),
- Neath estuary (430 m south),
- Gwlyptir mynachlog nedd (610 m southeast),
- Dyffryn woods (670 m northwest),
- Coed bach ar cwm (740 m northeast).
- There are six areas of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) within 1 km of the site. These are broadleaf woodlands comprising mainly native tree and shrub species which are believed to have been in existence for over 400 years. The ground vegetation will reflect the naturalness of

these woodlands and will frequently feature species which provide clear indication of long and continued woodland cover. The closest area being approximately 130 m north of the site.

- There are five areas of Restored Ancient Woodland Sites within 1 km of the site. These are woodlands which are predominately broadleaves now and are believed to have been continually wooded for over 400 years. They will have gone through a phase when canopy cover will have been more than 50% non-native conifer tree species and now have a canopy cover of more than 50% broadleaf. The closest area being approximately 570 m northwest of the site.
- There is one Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site within 1 km of the site. These are sites which are believed to have been continuously wooded for over 400 years. They have been replanted with native or non-native species, most commonly with conifers. They currently have a canopy cover of more than 50% non-native conifer tree species. They will have varying levels of remnant features of ASNW. This is located approximately 270 m north of the site.
- There is one Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Priority Area (Woodland) within 1 km of the site. This is located approximately 270 m north of the site. NRW Priority habitat areas are large scale areas which were prioritised for targeted conservation work, based on factors including the habitats within them.

Protected species records of note returned within 500 m of the site include:

- Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) - approximately 370 m north,
- Two records of Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*) - closest record approximately 190 m east,
- Common Lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) - approximately 420 m north,
- Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*) - approximately 200 m east,
- Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) - approximately 100 m west,
- Two records of Palmate Newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*) - closest record approximately 210 m east,
- Eight records of Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) - closest record approximately 70 m north,
- Two records of Otter (*Lutra lutra*) - closest record approximately 210 m east with all records associated with the canal to the south and southeast of the site,
- One record of Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius*) - approximately 210 m east,
- Three records of invertebrate species were returned within 500 m of the site for species including: Blue Ground Beetle (*Carabus intricatus*), Cinnabar (*Tyria jacobaeae*) and Moss Carder Bee (*Bombus muscorum*),
- 20 records of invasive Non-Native Plant Species (INNPS) were returned within the 500 m of the site for eight different species including: Canadian Waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*), Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Himalayan Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster simonsii*),

Himalayan Honeysuckle (*Leycesteria formosa*), Hollyberry Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster bullatus*), Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), Montbretia (*Crocsmia aurea x pottsii* = *C. x crocosmiiflora*) and Nuttall's Waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*) - the closest record being approximately 210 m east of the site for Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, Himalayan Cotoneaster and Canadian Waterweed,

- 11 records of bat commuting and foraging activity were returned within 500 m of the site for species including: Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*), Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) and Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) - closest record being for an unknown pipistrelle species located approximately 140 m east,
- Four bird species were listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (WCA1.1) within 500 m of the site. Species include: Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) and Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*),
- 11 bird species are listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (EWA 2016) within 500 m of the site. Species include: Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*), Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*), Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Linnet (*Linaria cannabina*), Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) and Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

Records of note returned for the rest of the 1 km buffer zone are detailed below:

- Three records of Grass Snake (*Natrix helvetica*),
- Badger (*Meles meles*),
- Hare (*Lepus europaeus*),
- 13 records of bat commuting and foraging activity were returned within the rest of the buffer zone for species including: Common Pipistrelle, Natterer's Bat (*Myotis nattereri*), Noctule, and Soprano Pipistrelle,
- Six records of bat roosts were returned within 1 km of the site for species including: Brown Long-eared Bat, Common Pipistrelle, and Soprano Pipistrelle,
- 11 records of invertebrates were returned within the rest of the buffer zone for species including: Buff Ermine (*Spilosoma lutea*), Devon Carpet (*Lampropteryx otregiata*), Ghost Moth (*Hepialus humuli*), Golden-ringed Dragonfly (*Cordulegaster boltonii*), Grass Rivulet (*Perizoma albulata*), Hairy Dragonfly (*Brachytron pratense*), Keeled Skimmer (*Orthetrum coerulescens*), Knot Grass (*Acronicta rumicis*), Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura pumilio*), Variable Damselfly (*Coenagrion pulchellum*) and White Ermine (*Spilosoma lubricipeda*),
- 12 bird species were listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (WCA1.1) within the rest of the buffer zone. Species include: Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*), Firecrest

(*Regulus ignicapilla*), Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*), Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*), Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), Mediterranean Gull (*Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*), Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) and Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*),

- Nine bird species are listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (EWA 2016) within the rest of the buffer zone. Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*), Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), Lesser Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea cabaret*), Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*), Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*), Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*), Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) and Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*).

Site Visit

A walkover survey of the site was completed on the **26th February 2026** by Beth Lewis of Ecological Services Ltd. Photographs of the site can be found in Appendix 3 and a habitat map is provided within Appendix 4. This report concentrates on the habitats within the site boundary only.

The site comprises the existing school complex of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tregelles, with the western half consisting of **tarmac hardstanding**, playground areas, car parking and **school buildings**, and the eastern half forming a rectangular field of **semi-improved grassland**. The site is enclosed by metal **fencing**, with a central **stone wall** separating the western hardstanding area from the eastern field, accessed via a gated opening. The western section contains the main school building to the south, a newer building to the north, and a roofed parking shelter at the western boundary, with all intervening areas comprising tarmac, mostly used as play areas.

The eastern field supports **semi-improved grassland** with species such as broad-leaved dock, clover, cock's-foot, compact rush, daisy, dandelion, dogwood, Guernsey fleabane, ribwort plantain, rosebay willowherb, smooth sow-thistle, soft rush, spear thistle and St John's wort, with more waterlogged, rush-dominated areas present in the northwest and east recorded.

A Lawson's cypress **tree** is present in the southeast corner, and a small **wooden shed** used for outdoor learning is located to the west of the field.

A line of **woody scrub** is present along the southern boundary of the site. This area was noted to contain dogwood, hazel, holly, ivy, Lawson's cypress, silver birch and willow species.

Outside the site, grassland continues into an adjacent cemetery to the south and east, where significant stands of **Japanese knotweed** are present up to the site boundary. To the north, a railway line lies approximately 20 m away, separated from the site by a steep embankment dominated by scrub and scattered trees including bramble, butterfly-bush, gorse, hawthorn, holly, Japanese knotweed, oak, Scots pine and silver birch.

Legislation

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.

Badger

Badgers (*Meles meles*) 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. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are the licensing body for any actions which may contravene the above legislation. 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.

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.

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 bat (*Barbastella barbastellus*), Bechstein bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*), noctule bat (*Nyctalus noctula*), brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritis*), common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), greater horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) and lesser horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) are also listed in section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which makes them a key species to sustain and improve biodiversity.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Reptiles such as the slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*), common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), adder (*Vipera berus*) and grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) 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 newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) and palmate newts (*Lissotriton helveticus*), common frog (*Rana temporaria*) and common toad (*Bufo bufo*), 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 6 of The *Environment (Wales) Act 2016*.

Potential Development Impacts

The proposed works will involve the demolition of the northernmost school building, as well as the removal of the car shelter located to the west of the site. A new school building will be created partly on the footprint of the old buildings and partly with the semi-improved grassland field to the east of the site. This will result in the loss of a small area of semi-improved grassland within

the northern part of the field. The grassland field is considered to have local biodiversity value. General considerations regarding the potential impacts of construction activities on the site's habitats and associated wildlife are outlined below.

- The trees and scrub vegetation within and adjacent to the site, along with the school building and the car shelter, are considered likely to provide suitable nesting opportunities for birds. Any removal of trees or scrub, as well as demolition of the two buildings, carries a risk of disturbing nesting birds during the bird breeding season (March to August inclusive). All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)*.
- The trees within the site were subject to a cursory ground level assessment during the site visit to assess the potential presence of bat roosting features. All trees within the site were assessed as having no bat roost suitability with no potential roost features observed.
- The vegetated rail embankment immediately north of the site provides a suitable commuting corridor for bats, facilitating movement through the wider landscape. This feature is well connected to other favourable habitats in the area, and its use by bats was confirmed in the bat report produced by NPT Wildlife (October 2025). The railway corridor is expected to remain dark and largely undisturbed at night, continuing to offer valuable foraging and commuting opportunities. The proposed loss of grassland within the site may reduce available foraging habitat for bats. In addition, any increase in night-time lighting associated with the development has the potential to deter bats from using established commuting routes and may further reduce the suitability of the remaining grassland for foraging.
- The grassland within the site provides sub-optimal habitat for reptiles. The semi-improved grassland field is likely to be regularly mown and disturbed by school pupils. Although reptiles may utilise the on-site grassland, the cemetery to the east is likely to offer more favourable habitat, owing to lower levels of disturbance compared to the school grounds. The site is also well connected to other areas of potentially suitable reptile habitat in the wider landscape, particularly via the railway embankment and ballast to the north, which links to further fields and wooded areas beyond.
- The site provides suitable habitat for badger commuting, with the grassland offering opportunities for commuting and foraging activity. The adjacent railway embankment also presents potential locations for sett creation due to its structural complexity and relative seclusion. The desk study returned only a single badger record, a road casualty from 2014 approximately 530 m south of the site. Although suitable habitat is present, the site itself is fenced on all sides, reducing the likelihood that badgers can easily access the school grounds. No evidence of mammal movement was noted in the vegetation along the railway embankment to the north of the site. The presence of badger within of directly adjacent to the development site is considered highly unlikely.

- The Tennant Canal and the River Clydach, key movement and foraging corridors for otters, are located approximately 170 m and 430 m to the south, respectively, and are separated from the site by a railway line and residential housing. The desk study returned ten otter records within 1 km of the site, all associated with these canal and river corridors. The habitat within the site boundary is considered unsuitable for use by otter due to limited vegetation cover and high levels of disturbance.
- The railway embankment along the northern edge of the site is likely to be used by a range of wildlife for commuting and foraging purposes. Indirect impacts such as light spill from within the development site could affect the suitability of this corridor for use and consideration to wildlife friendly lighting is recommended.
- Substantial stands of Japanese knotweed are present immediately adjacent to the northeast corner of the site. Japanese knotweed is listed as an invasive non-native species under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), making it an offence to allow it to spread into the wild. It is also classified as “controlled waste” under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, requiring any contaminated soil or plant material to be handled and disposed of in accordance with regulatory requirements. Ground-disturbing works near the stand therefore risk facilitating its spread, and appropriate containment measures, such as establishing an exclusion zone, will be required during development.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Proposals for the development include the demolition of the existing school building located in the northern part of the site, along with the removal of the car shelter situated to the west. A new school teaching building is proposed, positioned partly within the footprint of the demolished structure and extending into the eastern field area. The new building will occupy the northern section of the field only, the central and southern areas of the grassland field will remain unchanged.

It is anticipated that the existing gate access to the fields will be retained and only widened if required to accommodate construction-related vehicle movements. An increase in daytime traffic and noise levels associated with the construction works are expected. Our general recommendations and conclusions are provided below:

- The trees and scrub within the development site have the potential to support nesting birds. Although no vegetation removal is currently anticipated, any tree, scrub should ideally be undertaken outside the bird nesting season (March to August inclusive). If works during this period cannot be avoided, a suitably qualified ecologist must check all vegetation with nesting potential prior to removal. If an active nest is identified, a minimum 5 m exclusion zone must be maintained until the chicks have fledged. Larger buffers may be required depending on species and habitat.

- The school building and car shelter proposed for demolition also offer low levels of potential for bird nesting, including external gaps. Demolition should therefore be scheduled outside the bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) wherever possible. If works must take place during this period, all suitable external areas should be checked for active nests beforehand. If an active nest is identified, an exclusion zone must be established around it, and no demolition of that part of the structure may proceed until the chicks have fully fledged.
- Careful consideration must be given to the use of nighttime lighting within the site, as this can adversely affect the activity of a variety of fauna, particularly foraging bats, nesting birds and invertebrates. All lighting must meet recommendations in the *BCT Guidance Note 08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night*. Any external lighting required as part of the construction proposals will be focused / directional lighting which is hooded or cowled to prevent light spill. The external lighting will be placed on a timer and motion activated. Sensitive lighting will reduce any negative impacts to nocturnal wildlife which use the area. This is particularly important for foraging bats that are likely to use the site.
- A root protection zone (RPZ) must be implemented around any retained trees which lie within or adjacent to 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.
- All excavations within the site will be securely covered over if left unattended. Any excavations that have a depth in excess of 0.5 m and that are left open overnight will have a means of escape left for any mammals (e.g. hedgehog) that may fall into them. A wooden board or equivalent will be left from the bottom to the top of the hole at an angle no steeper than 45°. This will allow any mammal to escape and avoid increased stress from being trapped.
- A buffer zone must be established between the development area and the Japanese knotweed stands located outside of the site, adjacent to the northeast corner. This buffer will reduce the risk of accidental disturbance or spread of the species during construction works. The buffer zone must be clearly marked on site plans. If Japanese knotweed is identified within the site boundary at any stage, control measures must be implemented and a Knotweed Management Plan followed to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and to prevent further spread within or beyond the site.

Biodiversity Enhancements & Green Infrastructure Considerations

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 features currently present within the site include areas of semi-improved grassland and a woody scrub line, with additional connectivity provided by the vegetated railway embankment immediately north of the site. The site has direct habitat connectivity to the north and east with open areas of green space. Only a small amount of semi-improved grassland will be lost to the new building footprint resulting in minimal biodiversity impacts as part of the scheme.

The *Environment Act (Wales) 2016* places a duty on competent authorities to conserve and enhance biodiversity. The below bullet points are some simple measures that could be achieved to enhance the biodiversity of the site. All ecological measures should be added to architectural drawings. At least two of the below measures must be implemented as part of the works:

- The provision of **two integrated bird boxes** should be incorporated into any new buildings on site. A variety of box types may be used; however, all boxes must be installed at least 2 m above ground level. Suitable locations for integrated bird boxes include the taller section of the proposed building where the hall will be situated. Subject to design constraints, boxes are proposed on the eastern and western gable ends of this section, allowing placement away from windows. Suitable integrated box types include the PRO UK Rendered Build-In Swift Box or the Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace. It is noted that external cladding or panelling may form part of the building design, which may make integrated boxes incompatible. If this is the case, externally mounted boxes should be used instead. Options such as the Vivara Pro Seville WoodStone Nest Box are appropriate, and externally mounted bird boxes should ideally be constructed from woodstone or similarly durable materials to avoid deterioration associated with traditional wooden boxes.
- The provision of **two integrated bat boxes** should be incorporated into any new buildings on site. A variety of bat box designs may be used; however, all boxes must be installed at least 2 m above ground level and positioned a minimum of 2 m away from any external light sources, including windows, to maintain dark flight corridors. Suitable locations include the taller section of the proposed building where the hall will be situated. Subject to design constraints, boxes could be installed on the northern elevation of this building, providing direct flight access to the adjacent railway embankment, which is an established bat commuting and foraging corridor. Integrated box types could include Vivara Pro UK Build-In WoodStone Bat Box or the Integrated Eco Bat Box. It is noted that external cladding or panelling may form part of the building design, which may make integrated boxes incompatible. If this is the case, externally mounted boxes should be used instead. Options such as the 1FF Schwegler Bat Box or the Low Profile WoodStone Bat Box are appropriate.
- Native species must 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.

- The use of soft landscaping to strengthen boundary features would be a welcome enhancement to the site. Tree and hedgerow planting along with long term management would help to create screening along the site boundary for privacy and also integrate the development into the landscape.
- 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 13 cm or 13 cm by 13 cm gaps cut every 10 m along fencing.

Best Wishes

Beth Lewis

Ecologist

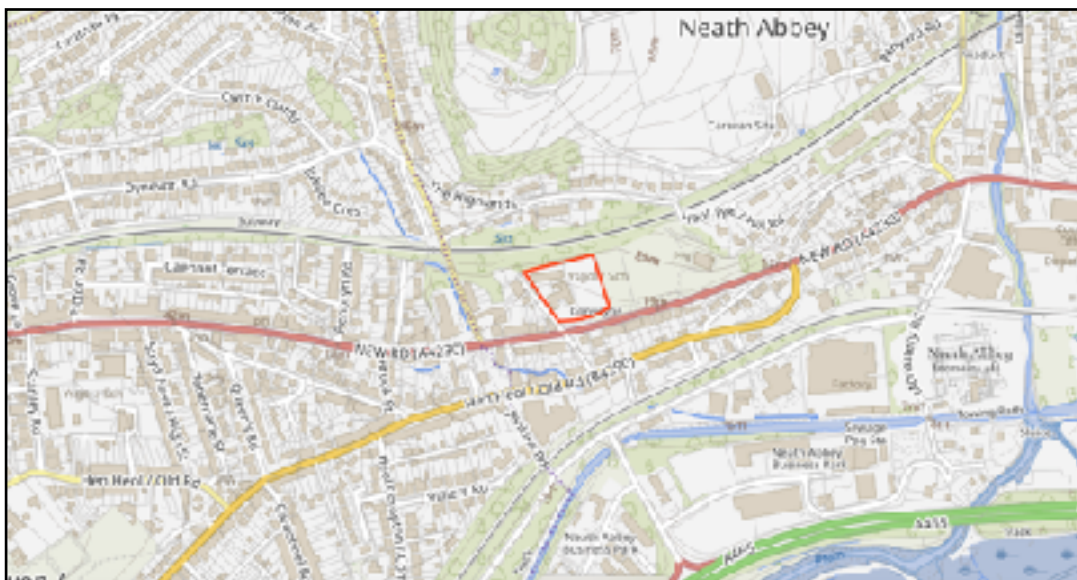
Ecological Services Ltd

Signed: Beth Lewis Date: March 2026

Appendix 1 - Plant Species List

Common Name	Scientific Name
bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus sp</i>
broad leaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
butterfly bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>
clover species	<i>Trifolium sp.</i>
cock's foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
compact rush	<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>
daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
dandelion	<i>Taraxacum lacistophyllum</i>
dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
Geurnsey fleabane	<i>Erigeron sumatrensis</i>
gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Japanese knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>
Lawson's cypress	<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>
oak species	<i>Quercus sp.</i>
ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
rosebay willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>
silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
smooth sow thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>
soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
St John's wort	<i>Hypericum sp.</i>
willow species	<i>Salix sp.</i>

Appendix 2 - Aerial View of Site Location



Appendix 3- Site Photographs



Photo 1. View of field looking north with vegetated rail embankment.



Photo 2. Western wall between field and school buildings.



Photo 3. Eastern fence boundary between field and adjacent cemetery.



Photo 4. View of northwest corner of field. Northern site fencing and railway embankment along with northern school building.



Photo 5. Southern vegetated boundary of field with fencing.



Photo 6. View of adjacent access road to west of school with northern railway embankment and stone wall creating western boundary.



Photo 7. Adjacent cemetery to east of site with extensive Japanese knotweed growth.



Photo 8. School grounds with metal car shelter structure in west of site.



Photo 9. Car shelter structure roofing.



Photo 10. View along far north hardstanding area of school grounds, adjacent to railway embankment.



Photo 11. Hardstanding area within centre of school buildings and entrance gate into eastern field.



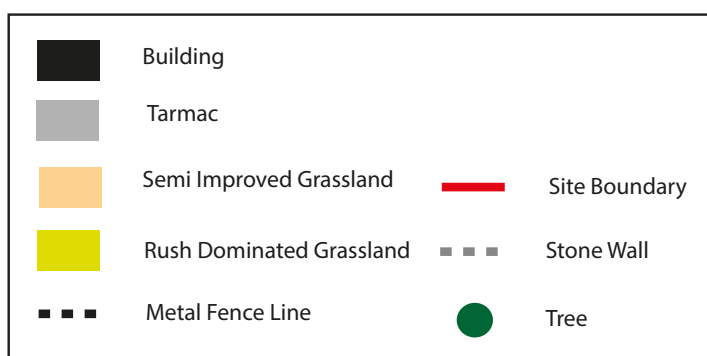
Photo 12. Central hardstanding parking area within school buildings.

Appendix 4 - Habitat Map

YGG TREGELES, NEATH

Habitat Map

February 2026



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