

APPENDIX 3

Protected Species Survey Form

Prepared for	Contact
Revantage Ltd.	Adrian Andrews
Site name	Date
Coed Darcy Phase 0 Ponds	13/11/2024
Weather Conditions	Surveyor
dry, gentle air, 10°C	CH

Site Description & Proposed Works

Site Description

The site is part of a former British Petroleum (BP) oil refinery located to the east of Swansea, within Swansea Bay. Since the closure of the refinery, scrub habitat and some woodland has developed on the wider site, with the proposed redline area for seven ponds being largely covered in scrub, with some more open grassland habitat present in the locations of the more northerly ponds. A connectivity corridor will be retained between the seven ponds, this consists of the same mixture of habitats and will largely be retained, aside from some creation of refugia / hibernacula to support the herpetofauna on site.

The approximate grid reference is SS 70129 95067 and the approximate location is shown on Figure 1 below:



Figure 1: Redline and proposed pond locations

The area to the west of the site has multiple designations, some of which are overlapping, as a lowland bog. Crymlyn Bog Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) are the main site and designations to the west and south of the site. Crymlyn Bog is also designated as a Ramsar site. Crymlyn Bog and Pant y Sais SSSI are also a National Nature Reserve (NNR). All of these designations overlap on the wider area of Crymlyn Bog / Pant y Sais. Crymlyn Burrows, which is designated as a SSSI is located between the site and the sea to the south, with Fabian Way and the industrial estate in between it.

An ecological walkover of the site was undertaken by SKE in November 2024, with subsequent visits over the spring of 2025, in order to determine the presence or likely absence of protected species at, or within, the vicinity of the works location. While this is outside of the prime season for habitat surveys, the site and its habitats have been well surveyed over the last few years, with a planning application currently being considered for residential housing on the wider site and the habitats on site are therefore well known, the survey was confirmatory in nature, alongside its other purpose of ground-truthing suitable locations identified via a previous desk-top based exercise

Proposed Works

As part of the overarching great crested newt (GCN) strategy for this site, a total of 26 ponds is to be created, along with connecting corridors. This current application covers the first phase of this overarching strategy, hereafter referred to a Phase 0.

Phase 0 will comprise the creation of a network of seven ponds, with terrestrial habitat between them to be managed as a corridor connecting them. Vegetation clearance and digging of ponds will be the main proposed works at this stage, both to be carried out by machinery. The works will be undertaken under a European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licence from NRW – the application for which is currently being produced. Pond locations are shown in Figure 1 above. The precise grid references for the seven ponds are detailed within the supporting document.

Site name	Distance from Proposed Working Area	Connectivity to Proposed Working Area (y/n)	Potential to be Impacted by Proposed Works (y/n)	Mitigation Required (y/n)
Crymlyn Bog Ramsar, SSSI, NNR and SAC Pant y Sais SSSI and NNR	25m west	Yes	Yes	Yes (standard only)
Crymlyn Burrows SSSI	1800m south	Limited	No	No

Table 1: Statutory sites within 2km

Habitats Present on Site				
Habitat Type	Distance from Proposed Working Area	Connectivity to Proposed Working Area (y/n)	Potential to be Impacted by Proposed Works (y/n)	Mitigation Required (y/n)
Scrub	0m	Y	Y	N
Grassland	0m	Y	Y	N
Woodland	10m	Y	Y	Y

Lowland fen including open water	30m	Y	Y	Y
Wet woodland	170m	Y	N	N

Table 2: Habitats present on site and within Zone of Influence

Table 3 below details the protected species potentially present on site, the likelihood of presence and whether any impacts on these species are considered likely to arise from the proposed works.

Protected Species Potentially Present				
Species	Present / Absent from Proposed Working Area (including zone of influence)	Species recorded on site during survey(y/n)	Potential to be Impacted by Proposed Works (y/n)	Mitigation Required (y/n)
Breeding birds	Likely present	Present, not breeding	Yes, vegetation clearance	Yes
Bats	Likely absent	No	No, no trees with potential removed, no night lighting	No
Badger	Absent	No	No	No
Otter	Potentially present	No	Yes	Yes
Reptiles	Absent	Known presence	Yes	Yes
Great crested newts	Present	Known presence	Yes	Yes

Table 3: Impact on protected species

No potential for other species to be present on site was found and no evidence of invasive species was found in these locations during the survey or subsequent site visits.

Green Infrastructure

Habitats present on site consist of a mixture of scrub and grassland within the 0.7ha area, with scrub being the dominating habitat. Approximately 50% of the terrestrial habitat will be removed and replaced with aquatic habitat, leading to no overall change in the amount of habitat available, only a change in its nature. The excavated substrate will be used to create embankments next to ponds, increasing the available area of terrestrial habitat slightly, due to the elevation change. Refugia and hibernacula will be installed as part of the wider GCN conservation strategy, creating additional terrestrial habitat for herpetofauna and invertebrates within the existing habitat. Some nesting opportunities for passerines will be lost due to the removal of the scrub, however scrub cover across the wider site is fairly ubiquitous.

Enhancements

The proposed works are designed to create enhanced habitats for herpetofauna across the site as part of the previously agreed site wide GCN strategy, therefore the purpose of the application as a whole is to enhance habitat, no additional enhancement measures are proposed.

Mitigation

Table 4 below details the measures required in order to avoid or mitigate for potential impacts arising from the works.

Ecological Receptors Requiring Mitigation	
Ecological Receptor	Details of Mitigation Measures to be Implemented into Working Method Statement
Fen and wet woodland	The use of petrol / oil etc for machinery and tools will be required. As such, all refuelling will take place within a designated refuelling area, no fuel will be taken into the working area. All vehicles will be checked to ensure no oil is leaking etc prior to them arriving at the site. Plant nappies and spill kits will be readily available, and operatives will be fully trained in their use. All equipment including dry suits / boots / waders etc., will be thoroughly cleaned and allowed to dry for 24-hours prior to arriving on site to ensure no invasive species or pathogens are accidentally introduced to the site and surrounding areas. All equipment should be inspected when it first arrives on site to ensure it is in a sufficient state of cleanliness. Any new equipment that arrives at the site following the commencement of works will also follow the above procedure.
Otter	Any holes or excavations sufficiently deep that an otter would be unable to escape from should be securely covered overnight, or a means of egress installed (e.g. a roughened plank up which an otter could climb), to prevent entrapment.
Herpetofauna	GCN and common reptile species are known to be present on site. Works to create the ponds will be carried out under a license from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) following a method statement. This will include supervision of vegetation clearance and initial ground-breaking by a suitably qualified ecologist, who will rescue any herpetofauna present within the area. These works are to be supervised by SKE and Pete Hill from the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation group (ARC).
Breeding birds	Vegetation clearance will be carried out between 1st September and 31st of March. If this is not possible, an inspection by an ecologist must first be carried out, to ensure that no nesting is taking place. Any nests found must not be disturbed and a no-go cordon of approximately 2m be observed around them. In order to mitigate for the habitat lost due to the scrub removal, six bird boxes will be installed in the woodland to the west. These will be of woodcrete type material and will include 2no open-fronted boxes, 2no 32mm hole boxes and 2no 25mm hole boxes.

Table 4: Avoidance and mitigation measures

Conclusions

The creation of seven ponds within a habitat corridor are small-scale in nature and designed to benefit wildlife on site. The mitigation measures required are standard for this type of works.

Photographs

Notes	Photo	
Proposed location of pond 1		
Proposed location of pond 2		
Proposed location of pond 3		
The locations of ponds 4-6 were covered in scrub at the time of the site visits and as such no suitable photographs are available at this point.	n/a	
Proposed location of pond 7		