



Preliminary Ecological Survey of land at Llandegfan, Ynys Môn

for

DU Construction Ltd.

28 September 2023

ECO_1011



Ecoscope Ltd.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CIEEM = Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

SSSI = Site of Special Scientific Interest

SAC = Special Area of Conservation

TN = Target Note

LBAP-A = Anglesey Local Biodiversity Action Plan

HDir2 = Habitats Directive, Annex II - Species requiring designation of Special Areas of Conservation

HDir4 = Habitats Directive, Annex IV - Species in need of strict protection

S7 = Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (Section 7)

UKBR = RSPB/BTO Birds of Conservation Concern - Red list (not based on IUCN criteria)

WBA = RSPB/BTO Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales - Amber list (not based on IUCN criteria)

WCA5 = Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 - Animals which are protected

RL-VU = IUCN Red List of Threatened Species – Vulnerable

WRL-TM[EN] = IUCN compliant Red List for Britain's Terrestrial Mammals (Endangered)

SUMMARY

Ecoscope Ltd was requested to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Assessment of land at Gwel y Llan, Cwm Cadnant, Llandegfan, Isle of Anglesey, LL59 5YH (centroid SH 56850 74249), on behalf of the Client, Cadnant Planning.

A site visit was undertaken on 28th September 2023 and a Phase 1 survey was implemented. No impacts on protected species were identified and enhancements are included in the assessment to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain goals.

Document Issue Date: *Thursday, 28 September 2023*

Approved by: Mr. Stuart Kato M.Sc., MCIEEM

Prepared by: Dr Richard Birch CEcol

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Description of Brief

1.1.1 Regarding the brief, correspondence from the local authority ecologist dated 16th September 2021 states: *'[The proposal] should be informed by appropriate ecological data and understanding from an early stage.'*

1.1.2 Therefore, Ecoscope Ltd was requested to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Assessment of land at Gwel y Llan, Cwm Cadnant, Llandegfan, Isle of Anglesey, LL59 5YH (centroid SH 56850 74249), on behalf of Cadnant Planning.

1.2 Scope of the study

1.2.1 The proposed area is a field bounded on two sides by existing residential property and is subject to an application to build 30 houses (Figure 1). Such development is accompanied by ecological assessment integral to the planning process.

Figure 1 Proposed development



1.2.2 As part of the Senedd commitment to Biodiversity Net Gain¹ incorporated into new development, and following the guidance provided by the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (CIEEM)², the report recommends compensation for potential losses and enhancements to achieve gains in the proposed development.

1.2.3 In accordance with the outcomes of the [The Convention on Biological Diversity](#) summit in Montreal in 2022, that all Nations will commit to:

*'by 2030: Protect 30% of Earth's lands, oceans, coastal areas [and] inland waters'*³

The report adheres to these basic principles.

¹ [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016 Part 1 Section 6: The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

² [CIEEM-Environmental-Net-Gain-Principles-Final-July2021.pdf](#)

³ [New deal to protect nature agreed at COP15 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

2. METHOD

2.1 Desk study

2.1.1 The desk study involved collecting data from the following sources:

- Protected sites locations from Magic Map at <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>;
- Designations and Qualifying Features at <https://naturalresources.wales/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/find-protected-areas-of-land-and-sea>;
- Biodiversity data from the Local Environmental Record Centre (LERC) at <https://www.cofnod.org.uk>.

2.2 Field survey

2.2.1 A site visit was undertaken on 28th September by the following personnel (Table 1).

Table 1 Personnel

PERSONNEL	EXPERIENCE
Dr Richard Birch CEcol	Qualified horticulturalist and 1 st class degree in Botany. 25 years practising ecologist. Licences for bats & newts in England & Wales. Chartered since 2016
Joe Parry MSc.	Graduate assistant. BSc Biology with Biotechnology, MSc Climate Change.

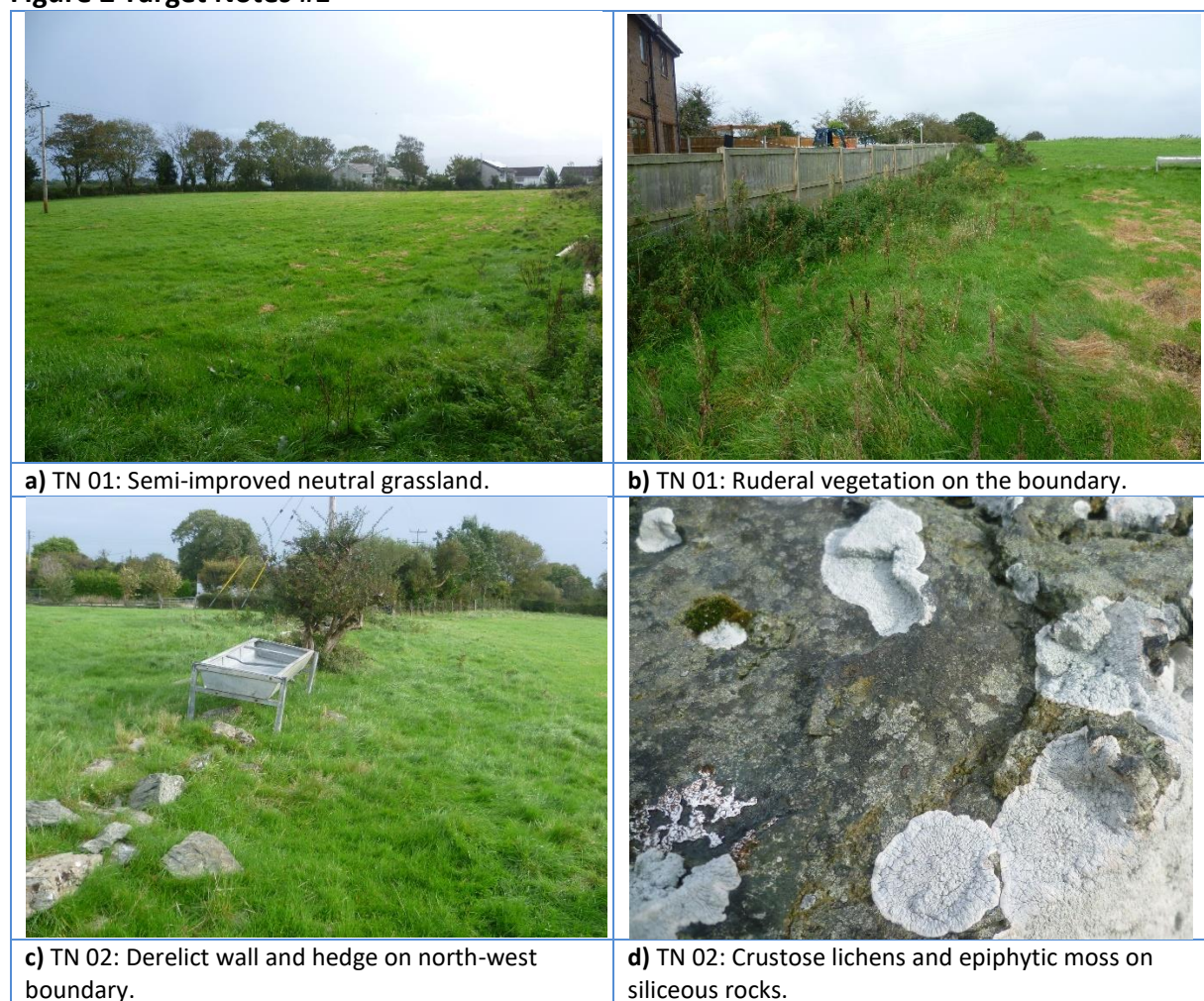
2.2.2 A full walkover and Phase 1 mapping was undertaken, noting features of potential ecological significance.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Site Description

3.1.1 The location is a rectangular field bordered on two sides by residential properties and with a public footpath across it. On the north-west boundary a derelict hedge and wall (Figure 2c) form a boundary with continuous neutral semi-improved agricultural grassland. A 'green lane' runs along the north-east boundary, connected to the public footpath.

Figure 2 Target Notes #1



3.1.2 The derelict hedge and wall contain locally-sourced schistose rock with crustose lichens (Figure 2c/d). The hedge is derelict, with few remaining shrubs of any stature.

3.1.3 The field is classed as semi-improved and of low biodiversity value, with no herbs of note. A species list is included in Table 2.

Table 2 Species list for neutral grassland

COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME
Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Broad-leaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Smooth meadow grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Meadow thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>
Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
Common bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Crested dog's-tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Stinging nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Perennial ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>

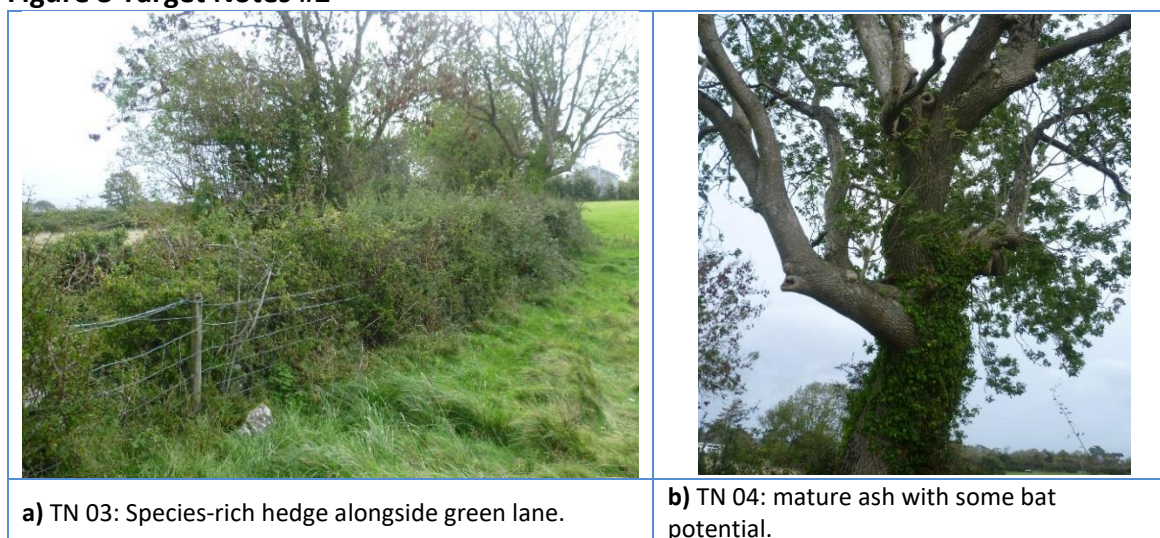
3.1.4 On the north-east boundary, a species-rich hedge with trees and a wall border the adjacent green lane (Figure 3a). The hedge includes (Table 3):

Table 3 Species list for TN 03

COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>		

3.1.5 One of the trees, a mature Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* (Figure 3b – TN 04) has some minor potential to support bats.

Figure 3 Target Notes #2



a) TN 03: Species-rich hedge alongside green lane.

b) TN 04: mature ash with some bat potential.



3.1.6 The south-east boundary borders residential properties in the lane Gwel Eryri. The boundary bank and wall contain a diverse mixture of trees, including veterans like the felled Ash in Figure 3c, with a bole more than 2m in diameter.

3.1.7 A species list for Target Note 05 (TN 05) is provided in Table 4. Many of the herbaceous species are relicts of ancient woodland, suggesting the green lane and this hedgerow may have historic boundary significance.

Table 4 Species list for TN 05

COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Ground Ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Soft shield fern	<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Male fern	<i>Dryopteris felix-mas</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Broad buckler fern	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hart's-tongue fern	<i>Phyllitis (Asplenium) scolopendrium</i>

3.1.8 A Phase 1 map is included in Figure 5 Phase 1 Map, APPENDIX 1.

3.2 Desk study

3.2.1 Protected Sites and their Qualifying Features within 2km are shown in Table 5.

Table 5 Protected Sites & their Qualifying Features within 2km

SITE NAME	STATUS	SUMMARY OF QUALIFYING FEATURES	AREA (Ha)	DISTANCE
Cadnant Dingle	SSSI	• Oak/ash woodland	18	920
Glannau Porthaethwy	SSSI	• Boulder shore with bedrock & mud foundation	67.6	870
Coedydd Afon Menai	SSSI	• Ivy-oak/ash woodland	22.3	1.6Km
Sgystau Glas Ynys Môn	SSSI	• Precambrian blueschist (Geological)	6.5	2.2 Km
Y Fenai a Bae Conwy / Menai Strait and Conwy Bay	SAC	• Sandbanks • Mudflats • Reefs • Shallow inlets and bays • Sea caves	26,501	815m

3.2.2 Significant species within 1km, identified from data supplied by Cofnod, are included in Table 6.

Table 6 Significant species within 1km

COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	STATUS
Great crested newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	BAP, HDir2, HDir4, LBAP-A, S7, WCA5
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	HDir5, LBAP-A, WCA5
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	LBAP-A, S7, WCA5
Slow-worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	LBAP-A, S7, WCA5
Common lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	LBAP-A, S7, WCA5
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	S7, UKBR, WBA
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	S7, UKBA
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	S7, UKBA, WBR
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	RL-VU, S7, UKBR, WBR
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Bonn2, CITES-A, LBAP-A, RL-VU, S7, UKBA, WBR
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	LBAP-A, S7, UKBA, WBA
Tyto alba	<i>Barn Owl</i>	CITES-A, LBAP-A, WBA, WCA1.1, WCA9
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	LBAP-A, RL-VU, S7, WRL-TM[VU]
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Bonn2, HDir4, LBAP-A, S7, WCA5
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	LBAP-A, RL-EN, S7, WCA5, WRL-TM[EN]
Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Bonn2, HDir4, LBAP-A, S7, WCA5
Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Bonn2, HDir4, LBAP-A, S7, WCA5
Lesser Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Bonn2, LBAP-A, S7, WCA5
Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	LBAP-A, S7
Myotis bat	<i>Myotis</i>	Bonn2, HDir4, WCA5
Pipistrellus pygmaeus	<i>Soprano Pipistrelle</i>	Bonn2, HDir4, LBAP-A, S7, WCA5
Powdered Quaker	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	S7
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	LBAP-A

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Summary of results

- 4.1.1 Proposed development will not impact on Protected sites within 2km, or any of their Qualifying Features.
- 4.1.2 The grassland has few species of biodiversity value, being of pastoral grade with abundant ryegrass and other agricultural species. It has negligible potential for amphibians and reptiles.
- 4.1.3 Boundary hedges are moderately species-rich and the ground flora indicates association with ancient woodland. Some common bird species (as listed in Table 6, p. 9) may find suitable nest sites in the hedgerows.
- 4.1.4 A veteran Ash tree has a moderate potential for roosting bats.

4.2 Impact assessment

- 4.2.1 Without mitigation, the impact assessment (particularly focussed on bats and birds) is assessed in Table 7.

Table 7 Risk assessment (without mitigation)

IMPACT	FEATURE AFFECTED	RISK	SEVERITY	RISK × SEVERITY
Site clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bats – all species Breeding birds 	5	3	15
Removal of hedgerows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bats – all species Breeding birds 	5	4	20
Removal of trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bats – all species 	5	4	20

Key

RISK		SEVERITY		RISK × SEVERITY	
1	Negligible	1	Negligible	1-9	Cumulative effect of likelihood × severity = minor negative (potentially positive) impact
2	Slight risk	2	Low level of impact		
3	Moderate risk	3	Moderate impact	10-16	Cumulative effect of likelihood × severity = moderate negative impact
4	Event likely to occur	4	Major impact		
5	High risk of event occurring	5	Severe impact	17 - 25	Cumulative effect of likelihood × severity = major negative impact

4.3 Conclusion

4.3.1 Potential development of the site is considered to have a **Moderate** impact on bats and nesting birds, at a **Local** level (see Table 8 for definition).

Table 8 Hierarchy of impacts

HIERARCHY OF IMPACT	DEFINITION
International	Having an impact on the population size or habitat area of a threatened species which may be significant on a Worldwide scale.
National	Having an impact on a priority habitat or species threatened across its entire UK range.
Regional	Having an impact on a priority habitat or species distribution that may be significant in any of the individual countries making up the British Isles.
Local	Having an impact on a habitat or species that may be significant at a local level (Borough or Parish)

4.3.2 Legislation applying to works that may affect bats and breeding birds is included in APPENDIX 2, p. ii.

4.3.3 No further ecological surveys are considered necessary.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Mitigation Strategy

4.1.1. Risk is reduced by implementation of a hierarchy of strategies:

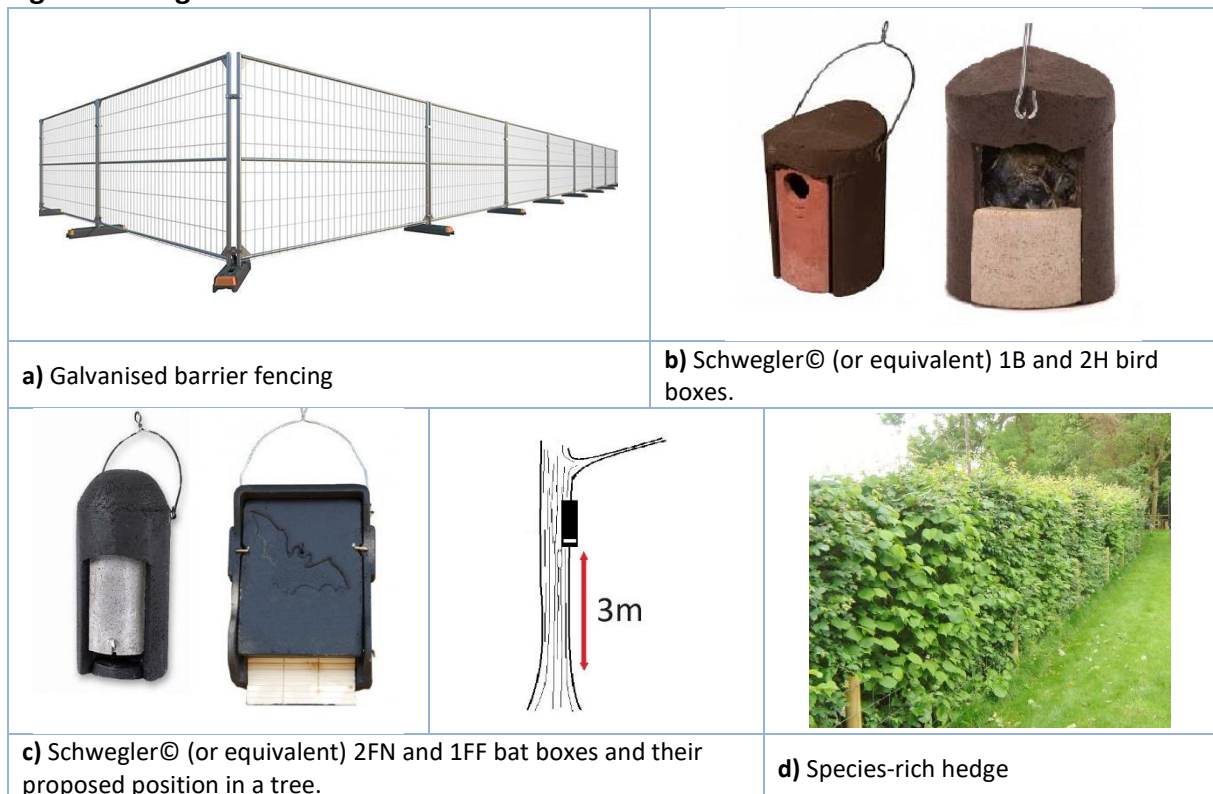
- Avoidance
- Protection
- Reduction
- Enhancement
- Mitigation

4.1.2 Only those relevant to the specified project will be considered.

5.2 Protection

5.2.1 Boundary trees must not be felled and the spread of branches and the root zone must be protected with galvanised (non-disposable) barrier fencing (Figure 4a). Any work done to trees that harbour the potential to support bats (e.g. TN 04) must be first approved by a qualified ecologist.

Figure 4 Mitigation



5.2.2 Hedges on the north- and south-east boundaries must be retained and protected in the same way. Some felling of Ash has already been undertaken and remedial replacement planting must be implemented.

5.2.3 Clearance of the site must be undertaken outside the nesting season. It is anticipated that Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAM's) employed by a developer during site works will be sufficient to prevent any impact on bats or birds.

5.3 Enhancement

5.3.1 Within the existing layout, the hedge on the north-west boundary is derelict (Figure 2c, p. 6) and an equivalent area of hedgerow must be created.

5.3.2 A selection of suitable species for a species-rich hedge (Figure 4d) is included in Table 9.

Table 9 Hedgerow and standard tree selection (where 'T' indicates large tree)

COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	%	COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME
HEDGING PLANTS			TREES	
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	25	Sessile Oak (T)	<i>Quercus petraea</i>
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	5	Beech (T)	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	25	Scot's Pine (T)	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	5	Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	25	Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Guelder Rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	5	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	5	Small-leaved Lime (T)	<i>Tilia cordata</i>
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	5	Chinese crab apple	<i>Malus hupehensis</i>

5.3.3 There is indication in the preliminary design (see Figure 1, p. 3) that small ornamental (non-native) trees have been included in the design, so some have been included in Table 9. Other small ornamental trees including Judas tree *Cercis siliquastrum*, Snowy Mespilus *Amelanchier canadensis* and Whitebeam *Sorbus aria* are appropriate choices for a suburban development.

5.3.4 The design in Figure 1, p. 3 shows allocation for play area / sports ground bordering on an existing property with a mixed woodland planting scheme. Scope exists to incorporate additional tree and shrub planting in this area, and inclusion of a

diverse seed mix of native pollinator-friendly species in the sward. Where sufficient tree cover has been allocated, a mix as provided in Table 10 would be suitable in low-maintenance areas, particularly along boundaries and alongside hedges.

Table 10 Woodland ground cover planting

WILDFLOWERS		
% of MIX	LATIN NAME	COMMON NAME
2	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
1.5	<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons
0.5	<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort
2	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove
2.5	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
2	<i>Galium album - (Galium mollugo)</i>	Hedge Bedstraw
1	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens
2.5	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell
0.5	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose
2.5	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
2.5	<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
0.5	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage
20		
GRASSES		
% of MIX	LATIN NAME	COMMON NAME
10	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent
2	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal grass
7	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False Brome
20	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dogs-tail
1	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass
28	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Slender creeping Red-fescue
12	<i>Poa nemoralis</i>	Wood Meadow-grass
80		

5.3.5 Provision of bat and bird boxes positioned in existing features would include:

- 1 each of Schwegler© (or equivalent) 1B and 2H bird boxes (Figure 4b);
- 2× Schwegler© (or equivalent) 2FN bat boxes, and:
- 1× Schwegler© (or equivalent) 1FF bat box, planted in group of 3 in tree approved by qualified ecologist (Figure 4c).

6. REVISED RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1.1 Implementation of the proposed mitigation and enhancements will result in biodiversity net gain and reduce the potential impact assessment as shown in Table 11.

Table 11 Risk assessment (after mitigation)

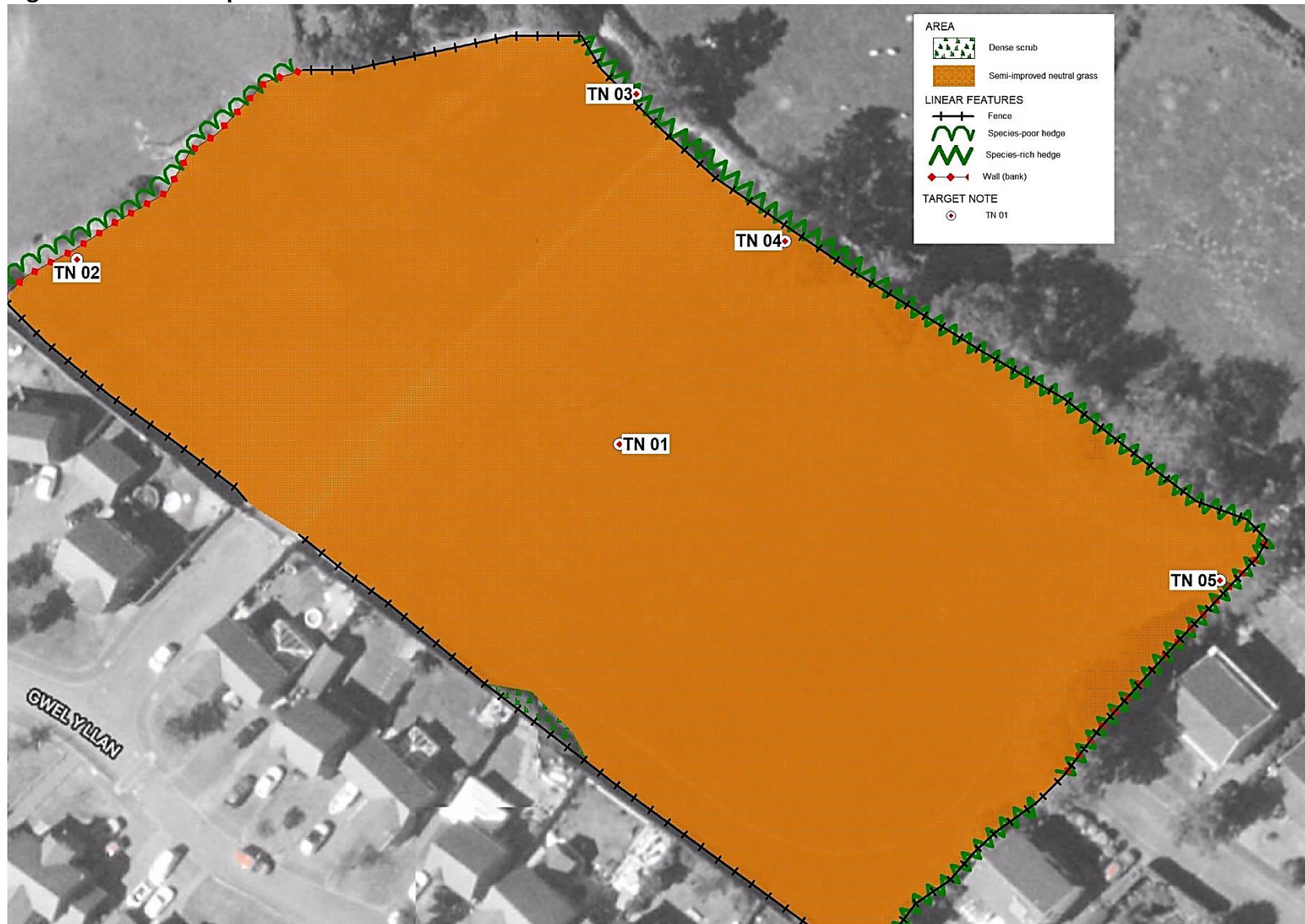
IMPACT	FEATURE AFFECTED	MITIGATION STRATEGY	RISK	SEVERITY	RISK × SEVERITY
Site clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bats – all species Breeding birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention of existing trees and hedgerows; Seasonality of clearance. 	1	3	3
Removal of hedgerows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bats – all species Breeding birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention of existing boundaries; Replanting additional species-rich hedges. 	1	2	2
Removal of trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bats – all species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention of all boundary trees Provision of bat boxes; Additional planting Appropriate Lighting 	1	2	2

Key

RISK		SEVERITY		RISK × SEVERITY	
1	Negligible	1	Negligible	1-9	Cumulative effect of likelihood × severity = minor negative (potentially positive) impact
2	Slight risk	2	Low level of impact		
3	Moderate risk	3	Moderate impact	10-16	Cumulative effect of likelihood × severity = moderate negative impact
4	Event likely to occur	4	Major impact		
5	High risk of event occurring	5	Severe impact	17 - 25	Cumulative effect of likelihood × severity = major negative impact

6.1.2 Biodiversity gain is potentially achieved and although their remains residual impacts due to disturbance and the potential of external lighting, the impacts are effectively reduced to **Negligible**.

7. APPENDIX 1
Figure 5 Phase 1 Map



8. APPENDIX 2

Legislation

Bats

In Britain, all bat species and their roosts are legally protected in both domestic (the Wildlife & Countryside Act England & Wales 1981 – as amended) and international (The Habitats Directive 1992 / Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as amended) legislation, whereby it is an offence to:

- Deliberately take, injure or kill a wild bat
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats.
- Damage or destroy a place used by bats for breeding or resting (roosts) (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time)
- Possess or advertise/sell/exchange a bat of a species found in the wild in the EU (dead or alive) or any part of a bat.
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost.

Birds

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is thus an offence (with certain exceptions) to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird.
- 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.
- Have in one's possession or control any wild bird, dead or alive, or any part of a wild bird, which has been taken in contravention of the Act.
- Have in one's possession or control any egg or part of an egg which has been taken in contravention of the Act.
- Use traps or similar items to kill, injure or take wild birds.

- Have in one's possession or control any bird of a species occurring on Schedule 4 of the Act unless registered, and in most cases ringed, in accordance with the Secretary of State's regulations in the Act's schedules.
- 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.