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**Maes Mona, Amlwch
Supervision of Scrub Clearance**

28.02.2022



Report by: Lizzie Richardson QCIEEM

Client: Isle of Anglesey County Council

**Planning
Authority:** Isle of Anglesey County Council

**Grid
Reference:** SH 437 929 (approximate site centre)

1. Introduction

A preliminary ecological assessment (PEA) and reptile survey was carried out by Cambrian Ecology at land adjacent to Maes Mona, Amlwch in 2021. It is proposed to develop the site for new housing.

The surveys concluded that there was potential for hedgehogs; (*Erinaceus europaeus*) and nesting birds to be present in the dense scrub habitats on site at the appropriate time of year and for red squirrel; (*Sciurus vulgaris*) breeding to take place in the woodland features. Some Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) were recommended for the vegetation clearance stage of the works. These included the timing of works to fall outside of the bird and red squirrel breeding seasons and the supervision of the scrub clearance by a site ecologist.

This supervision was carried out on the 14th and 15th February 2022 by ecologist Lizzie Richardson. Lizzie is a qualifying member of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and has been employed by CEL since 2021.

2. Results

Due to the size of the site and the density of the scrub habitats present it was concluded that clearance by hand was not practical and therefore a machine was used under the supervision of the site ecologist.

Where there was less dense bramble scrub present each area was searched thoroughly by the site ecologist before being cleared. In the areas of more mature blackthorn; (*Prunus spinosa*) scrub it was not possible to conduct a full search and therefore the scrub was cleared by machine to knee height and then searched thoroughly before being cut to the ground. Some small saplings were also cut during the process, but the main tree lines were left undisturbed.

No hedgehogs or reptiles were discovered during the process. There were a number of old bird's nests present in the various scrub habitats but due to the timings of work outside of the nesting season, none of these nests were in current use. No signs of red squirrels were recorded during the survey.

3. Future Recommendations

It is recommended that ongoing site management includes the regular cutting of the site vegetation to prevent the development of habitats suitable for the aforementioned species. Provided that no dense scrub or long grasses are allowed to develop further supervised clearance works should not be necessary when the development is ready to

commence. Any removal of trees on site should adhere to the recommendations provided in the 2022 site clearance method statement.

It is further recommended that an updated PEA is carried out before submitting the planning application. This will allow for updated recommendations regarding mitigation measures for the habitat lost as well, as the opportunity to recommend Biodiversity enhancements for the site. The inclusion of Biodiversity enhancement measures is now a required part of the planning application process.

4. Appendices

4.1 Site Photographs



An area of the less dense bramble scrub habitat on site



The understory of the denser blackthorn habitat



The machinery used for vegetation clearance following inspection by the site ecologist



An area of the site following clearance works



Some of the denser scrub habitat on site

4.2 Review Table

Name	Task	Date
Lizzie Richardson	Author	28.02.2022
Chris Hall	Review	28.02.2022
Kate Williamson	Proof Reading	28.02.2022