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**Preliminary Ecological Assessment
Land at Dafarn Newydd, Llangefni
Proposed Holiday Lodge & Caravan Park Development**

20th April 2020



Report by: Chris Hall ACIEEM

Client: Anglesey Lodge & Caravan Park

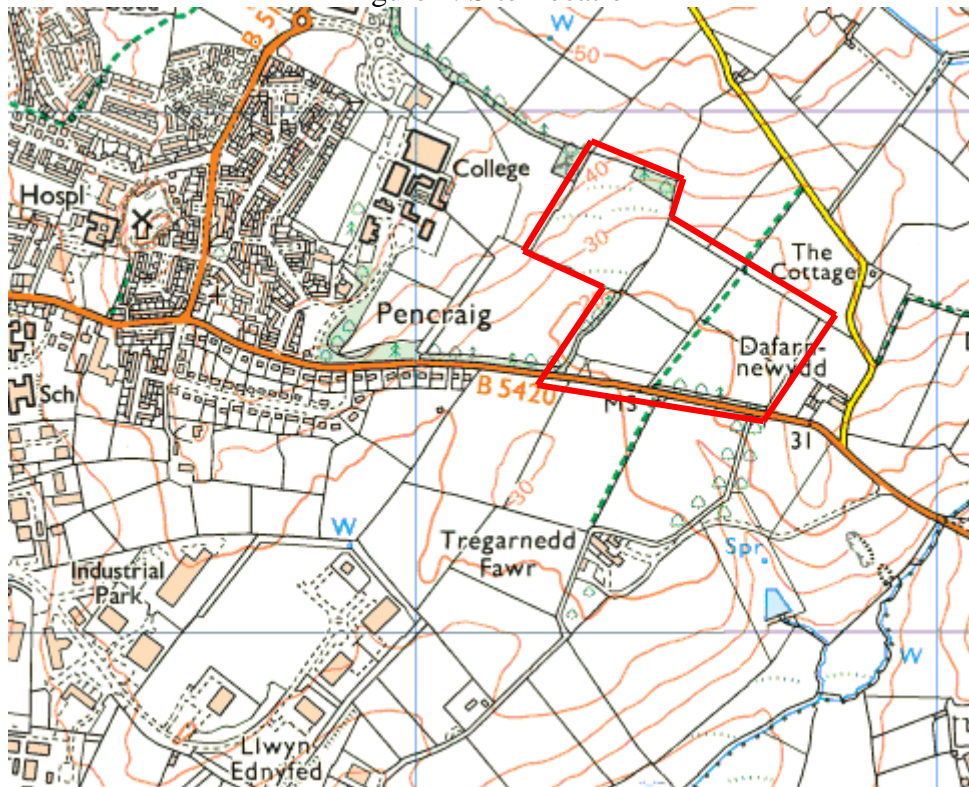
Planning Authority: Isle of Anglesey County Council

Grid Reference: SH 476 755 (Approximate site centre)

CONTENTS

1. Summary
2. Introduction
3. Methodology
4. Survey Limitations
5. Results
6. Habitat Evaluation & Impact Assessment
7. Species Evaluation & Impact Assessment
8. Protected Sites Impact Assessment
9. Mitigation Measures
10. Biodiversity Enhancement
11. Legal Implications
12. Appendices
 - 12.1 Site Photographic Record
 - 12.2 Phase 1 Habitat Map
 - 12.3 Review Table

Figure 1: Site Location



**Preliminary Ecological Assessment
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Proposed Holiday Lodge & Caravan Park Development**

20th April 2020

1. Summary

A preliminary ecological assessment, (PEA) was carried out by Cambrian Ecology Ltd on land at Dafarn Newydd on the outskirts of Llangefni. It is intended to submit a planning application to develop the site for holiday lodges and touring caravans.

The surveys revealed that the only habitats that will be lost are improved grassland, poor marshy grassland and some small areas of scrub. The hedges along the existing field boundaries, watercourses, woodland blocks and mature trees are to be retained.

No protected species were recorded during the survey although there is some potential for nesting birds and hedgehogs to be present, and the potential for bat roosts to be present in hollows in mature trees.

A biological records search was carried out with the Local Records Centre, (LRC) Cofnod as recommended in the guidance from the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management, (CIEEM). This enables the proposed development site to be assessed in a wider context and a potential 'zone of influence' of the development to be taken into account.

The biological records search revealed that there are a number of hedgehog; (*Erinaceous europaeus*) records in the area which will need to be taken into account during any vegetation clearance operations.

There are two small watercourses running through the site and while they are currently of little significance from an ecological point of view, watercourses such as these can act as a transmission vectors for pollutants during the construction phase. This could then extend the 'zone of influence' of the proposals beyond the site boundary. Precautionary measures will be required to be in place to minimise the risk of this occurring.

Due to the botanically impoverished nature of the habitats that will be lost, no negative impact is anticipated on Biodiversity as a result of the development.

Under Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales 10, planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. To satisfy this condition, the use of plants of benefit to Biodiversity has been recommended for inclusion in any landscaping schemes, along with the management of the hedges, woodlands and watercourses.

Key Messages:

1. **Mitigation measures are required to avoid impacts to bats, hedgehogs and nesting birds, see Section 9.2**
2. **There is the potential for pollution of the watercourses and damage to mature trees and hedgerows if precautionary measures are not taken, see Section 9.1.**
3. **Enhancements are recommended in the form of new planting of benefit to wildlife, and beneficial hedge, woodland and watercourse management practices, see Section 10.**

2. Introduction

Cambrian Ecology Ltd was commissioned by the client Anglesey Lodge & Caravan Park, to carry out a PEA of land at Dafarn Newydd on the outskirts of Llangefni. It is intended to submit a planning application to develop the site for holiday lodges and touring caravans

The relevant planning authority is Isle of Anglesey County Council, (IoACC) who require ecological surveys to be carried out as an integral part of the planning process.

The proposed development site is located at Grid Reference SH476 755 (approximate site centre).

3. Methodologies

3.1 Habitats

The Habitat survey was carried out on 24th March 2020 by ecologist Chris Hall. The survey took the form of an extended Phase I survey and identified baseline ecological conditions, as well as any important or notable habitats. All habitats within the proposed development site were classified and species lists were drawn up for each habitat type identified and the habitat condition was assessed. In the context of this report, *important or notable habitats* are considered to be those which are of a sustainable size and which meet any of the following criteria:

- Habitats which have a high intrinsic ecological value, i.e. they support a diverse range of vascular plant and/or faunal species;
- Mature or semi-natural habitats in built-up areas;
- Environment Wales Act priority habitats;
- Habitats considered having a significant extent and/or ecological interest.
- Invasive Non-Native Species, (INNS)

All habitats considered to have the potential to support rare, protected or otherwise notable species of flora and fauna were noted, as were any direct signs of these species. Where possible, habitats were cross-referenced to any relevant UK/Wales priority habitats.

3.2 Protected Species

The site was assessed on its potential to support any protected or important species, including reptiles. During this survey, a search was made for field signs of protected or notable species and assessments made of the potential of habitats to support these species. In the context of this report important or notable species are considered to be those that meet any of the following criteria:

- Species protected by British or international law
- Environment Wales Act priority species or local BAP species
- Nationally rare or scarce species
- Species of Conservation Concern (e.g. JNCC Red List, RSPB/BTO Red or Amber lists)

3.3 Desk Study

The desktop study aims to collate existing information about priority species, habitats and designated sites within 1km of the survey area. This information has relevance to the likelihood of priority species being present within the survey area, as well as giving context to any species and habitat records from the actual site.

A data search for all priority species, habitats and designated sites was conducted with Cofnod. The search parameters were 1km from the survey site area.

4 **Survey Limitations**

Field signs for protected and important species are often difficult to find or absent from a site. For this reason, the site and its habitats are assessed on their potential to support these species.

While in some situations it would not be appropriate to carry out a Phase 1 Habitat Survey so early in the season, in this case where the habitat is dominated by heavily grazed, improved grassland, it is not considered that this early timing will have had any undue influence on the survey results.

5 **Results**

5.1 Habitat

The habitat on the proposed development site is dominated by improved grassland. Some of this grassland had however degraded due to very poor drainage and has therefore been classified as marshy grassland. There are also hedges along the existing field boundaries, watercourses, scrub, woodland blocks and mature trees. All of these habitats are to be retained with the exception of the small areas of scrub. The Phase I Habitat Map can be found in Appendix 2.

Broadleaved Woodland

There are five small areas of broadleaved woodland within the boundary of the proposed development site.

Tree species present include ash; (*Fraxinus excelsior*), sycamore; (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), oak; (*Quercus petraea*), beech; (*Fagus sylvatica*), hawthorn; (*Crataegus monogyna*) and willow; (*Salix spp*). Scot's pine; (*Pinus sylvestris*) is also present but only as a very minor component.

With the exception of the woodland strip alongside the adjacent B5420, the woodland blocks are heavily grazed with the woodlands in the centre of the site being almost totally devoid of vegetation.

These areas have been used extensively as shelter and as a result, they are largely bare earth with the exception of very occasional common spotted orchids; (*Dactylorhiza fuchsia*).

In the woodland strip along the road-side, cuckoo pint; (*Arum maculatum*), primrose; (*Primula vulgaris*), lesser celandine; (*Ficaria verna*) and hart's tongue fern; (*Asplenium scolopendrium*) are present. Meadowsweet; (*Filipendula ulmaria*), is also present in less well drained locations.

Hedges

The hedges along the existing field boundaries are mostly growing on cloddiau and are to be retained. These hedges are relatively species-poor with hawthorn being the dominant species. Also present are gorse; (*Ulex europaeus*), blackthorn; (*Prunus spinosa*) ash, sycamore, elder; (*Sambucus nigra*), willow and bramble; (*Rubus fruticosus*). There is little vegetation associated with the structure of the cloddiau due to the actions of grazing animals and foxglove; (*Digitalis purpurea*) is the only species present in any significant quantity, with ivy; (*Hedera helix*) also present in places as a minor component.

Improved Grassland

This is by far the most dominant habitat on the site and is currently heavily grazed by sheep. Grasses present include perennial ryegrass; (*Lolium perenne*) and common bent; (*Agrostis capillaris*). Broadleaved species include white clover; (*Trifolium repens*), creeping buttercup; (*Ranunculus repens*) and creeping thistle; (*Cirsium arvense*). In places where nutrient enrichment has occurred, nettle; (*Urtica dioica*) is also present. In less well drained areas. The habitat has become dominated by soft rush; (*Juncus effusus*). See 'Marshy Grassland'.

Marshy Grassland

There are areas of the site which have been classified as marshy grassland due to the dominance of soft rush. The botanical component of these areas however does not differ from that of the improved grassland due to the heavy grazing on the site. It appears that the whole site was 'improved' and these rushy areas have only appeared as the improvement degraded due to poor drainage.

Mature Trees

There are a number of very mature trees on field boundaries throughout the site. These are predominantly ash and sycamore with only an occasional oak.

Scrub

There are occasional small areas of bramble scrub on field boundaries with blackthorn also present in the scrub on the boundary with the adjoining B5420.

Stone Wall

There is a stone wall on one of the field boundaries with no associated vegetation due to the activities of grazing animals.

Watercourses

There are two small streams on the site, both flowing roughly from North to South along field boundaries. These are minor watercourses, largely less than one metre in width with variable banks depending on the level of poaching by livestock. Due to grazing pressure, there is minimal aquatic vegetation with hemlock water dropwort; (*Oenanthe crocata*) being the dominant species with brook lime; (*Veronica beccabunga*) only present as a minor component.



Figure 2: Aerial Image of the proposed development site

5.2 Protected Species

The protected species survey was negative.

There is the potential for nesting birds to be present at the appropriate time of the year in habitats throughout the site. This includes the areas of marshy grassland where snipe; (*Gallinago gallinago*) was recorded during the survey. This is a ground nesting species associated with this type of habitat.

There is also some potential for hedgehogs to be present at the bottom of the hedges and within the scrub and marshy grassland habitats

The hedgerows have the potential to be used as flight paths by commuting bats and hollows in the mature trees on the site have the potential to be utilised as bat roosts

5.3 Desk Study

There are several records of hedgehog within the search area with the nearest record being an animal found dead on the road adjacent to the site.

There are two records of otter; (*Lutra lutra*) with the nearest being less than 100m from the site boundary.

There are records of four bat species within the 1km radius search area, common pipistrelle; (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), soprano pipistrelle; (*P. pygmaeus*), brown long eared bat; (*Plecotus auritus*) and Natterer's bat; (*Myotis nattereri*).

There is one protected site in the form of a Restored Ancient Woodland Site (RAWS) on the site boundary to the immediate west, and two Wildlife Sites in the form of Gorchudden Gylched and Cors Tregarnedd Fawr on the edge of the 1km radius search area.

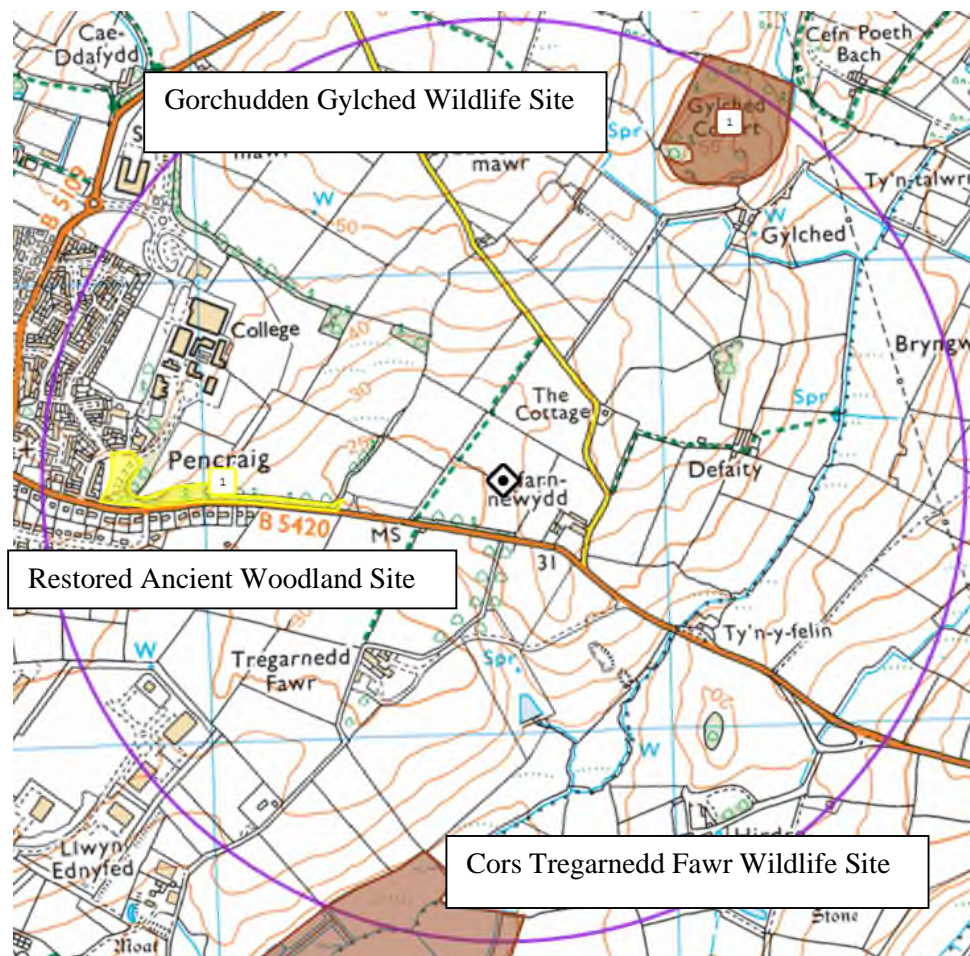


Figure 3: Protected/Designated Sites

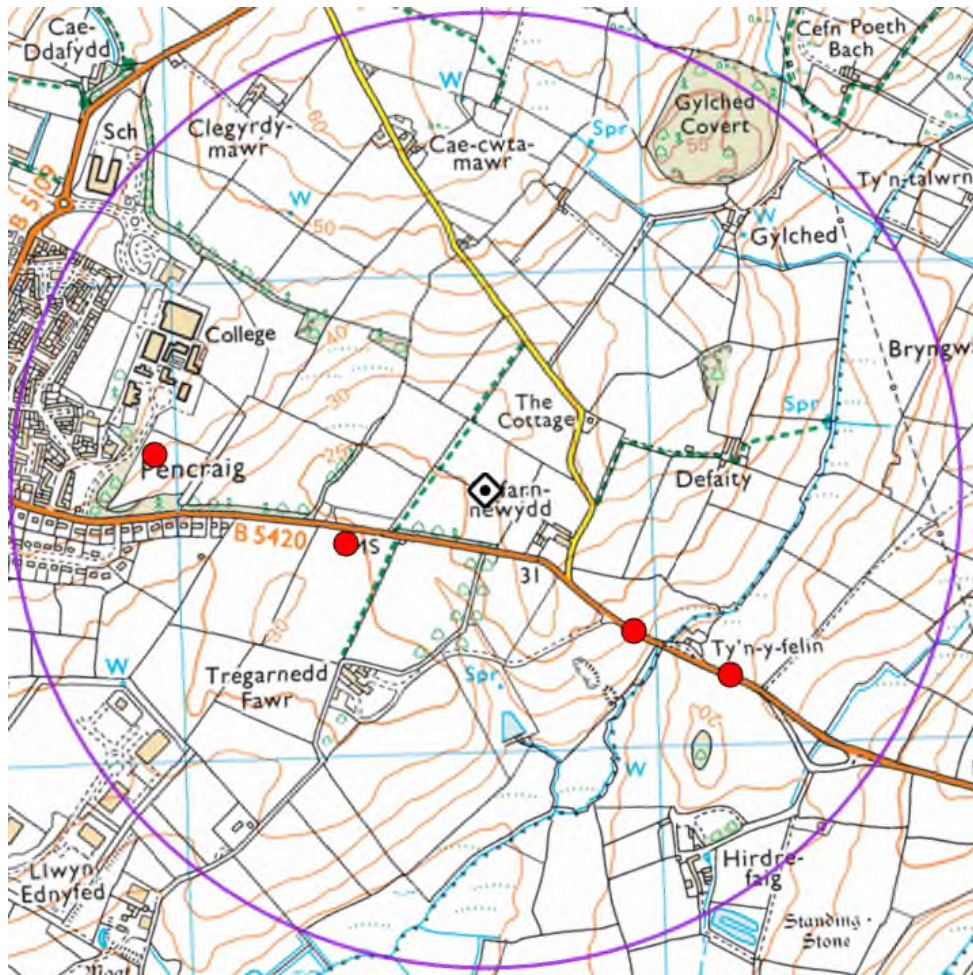


Figure 4: Location of hedgehog records

6 Habitat Evaluation & Impact Assessment

6.1 Habitats

Broadleaved Woodland

It is understood that the broadleaved woodlands on the site are to be retained. There is however the potential for damage to this valuable habitat if consideration is not given to the extent of the spread of the tree roots when designing the site. If roots are damaged, this can result in the death of the tree, or the destabilisation of the tree, leading to felling for safety reasons. The loss of woodland habitat could have a negative impact on Biodiversity at a local level. Mature woodlands such as these are of significant benefit to a range of taxa and are also a 'Priority Habitat' across Wales, including Anglesey and as a result any negative impact must be avoided.

The woodlands on the site are however in a degraded state. While the mature tree element is still present, the severe poaching and grazing by sheep has had a negative impact on the ground-flora. There is therefore the potential for a positive impact on the woodlands via the introduction of a more favourable management regime. The chances of this being successful are enhanced by the fact that one of the woodland strips has direct connectivity with the adjacent RAWS.

Hedges

The hedges on this site are particularly valuable as they provide nesting cover for birds and habitat connectivity for a range of species including bats and hedgehogs. These habitats are however to be retained as an integral part of the proposals. No negative impact is therefore anticipated at any level.

There is also the potential for a positive impact on Biodiversity with the introduction of a management regime to maximise the benefit of the hedges for a range of wildlife.

Improved Grassland

The improved grassland has negligible ecological value being composed of a very limited range of common and widespread species of no conservation concern. The value is further diminished by the current management regime. No negative impact on Biodiversity at any level is therefore anticipated as a result of the loss of this habitat.

There is however the potential for a positive impact on Biodiversity as a result of the development if plants of benefit to wildlife are utilised in the landscaping schemes.

Marshy Grassland

While marshy grassland, (Rhôs Pasture) is a 'Priority Habitat' in Wales, this is due to the fact that this is normally a botanically diverse habitat. In this case however, the presence of dense soft rush is simply the result of poor drainage of some areas of improved grassland and the habitat is botanically impoverished due to constant grazing. No negative impact on Biodiversity at any level is therefore anticipated as a result of the loss of this habitat and it is considered that this habitat does not fit into the Rhôs Pasture category.

There will however be potential protected species issues to be taken into consideration at the development stage, in particular ground nesting birds and hedgehogs.

Mature Trees

The mature trees on the field boundaries of this site are of significant importance, not only from a Biodiversity point of view, but also as a valuable part of the landscape.

As trees age, they become increasingly valuable to Biodiversity as they develop cavities which provide roosts for bats and nest sites for birds. Trees also have an increasingly large 'dead-wood component' as they age which supports a vast range of invertebrates, many of which are the base of the food chain. The loss of any of these trees could therefore have a negative impact at a regional level. Consideration must also be given to the length of time it would take to replace trees that are several hundred years old.

While these trees are all to be retained, as with the broadleaved woodland, there is the potential for damage to the habitat if the design of the development does not take the area covered by tree roost plates into account.

There is also the potential for a negative impact on Biodiversity, and the reduction of the value of the trees to Biodiversity, if consideration is not given to the retention of dead wood in the trees as this is a vital component with regards to their value to wild life.

Scrub

The scrub habitat on the site is of minimal size and lacks diversity being composed almost entirely of bramble. No negative impact on Biodiversity at any level is anticipated as a result of the loss of this habitat. There are however potential protected species issues that will need to be taken into account in the form of nesting birds and hedgehogs

Stone Wall

There is a stone wall separating on the site which is of minimal botanical interest due to the lack of any vegetation as a result of the grazing activities of the sheep. There are however cavities in the wall which could potentially harbour reptiles and amphibians. Due however to the nature of the surrounding habitat, it is considered that this potential is minimal as this is a very small, fragmented habitat.

Watercourses

The watercourses on the site are of little importance from a botanical point of view, and are to be retained as an integral part of the proposals. Their impoverished botanical state is largely due to the activities of grazing animals. There is therefore the potential for a positive impact on this habitat with the introduction of more favourable habitat management practices. This could also carry benefits to protected species such as otters, a species known to be present in the vicinity and could also eventually lead to colonisation by water voles; (*Arvicola aquaticus*) a species for which Anglesey is a national stronghold.

The watercourses also have the potential to act as a transmission vector for any siltation/pollution incident during the construction phase. This could then extend the 'zone of influence' of the proposals beyond the site boundary, resulting in a negative impact on a regional level. Precautionary measures will therefore be expected to be in place to prevent this from occurring.

7 Species Evaluation & Impact Assessment

Bats

The proposed development site currently provides a range of potential benefits to bats with numerous hollows in the mature trees in both the woodlands and on field boundaries, along with hedgerows which provide shelter for foraging and connectivity with the wider landscape.

There is therefore the potential for a negative impact on bats if any of these habitats are damaged/lost/degraded. Due to the mobility of bats, this could have a negative impact on a regional level.

As it is intended to retain and protect these habitats, provided that a robust mitigation strategy is in place, any negative impact should be avoided. This mitigation strategy will be required to give consideration to the retention of dead wood and tree hollows, the loss of which could have a negative impact on bats.

Consideration will however need to be given to any lighting schemes installed as the illumination of bat flight paths can effectively cause habitat fragmentation, and the illumination of roost entrances can effectively exclude bats from the roost.

Hedgehogs

The habitats on the site provide potential foraging habitat for hedgehogs in addition to secure day-time concealment.

There is the potential for the killing and/or injury of hedgehogs during the removal of the scrub and marshy grassland habitats on the site if this is carried out in an insensitive manner. This could result in a negative impact on hedgehogs at a local level.

There is also the potential for the killing/injury of animals during the construction phase if simple precautionary measures are not in place. The entrapment of animals in open excavations is the primary risk.

The hedgehog is a 'Priority Species' across Wales including Anglesey and as a result of this conservation status, any negative impact must be avoided.

Nesting Birds

Nesting birds will potentially be present in the scrub and marshy grassland habitats on the site. Any disturbance during the nesting season resulting in the failure of the brood could have a negative impact at a local level.

All birds, with the exception of some 'pest species' which can be controlled under licence, are protected while nesting. This factor must be taken into account in the mitigation strategy.

Otters

While there was no evidence of otters at the time of the survey, this species often has very large territories. The evidence of their presence is therefore not always present. In this case, the watercourses are unlikely to provide any significant prey biomass, and the heavily grazed banks of the watercourses do not provide potential cover. The watercourses could still represent a commuting route for otters which frequently use very small streams and ditches to travel between foraging areas and to patrol and scent mark territorial boundaries.

Due to the size of otter territories, any interruption of animal movements could potentially have a negative impact at a regional level. It should however be possible to avoid any impact with the more sensitive management of the watercourses and adjacent habitats. It is also feasible that the introduction of favourable management practices could have a positive impact on otters.

8 Protected Sites Impact Assessment

Gorchudden Gylched Wildlife Site & Cors Tregarnedd Fawr Wildlife Site

Both of the above Wildlife Sites are on the boundary of the 1km radius search area. Due to the distance of these sites from the proposed development, it is not considered feasible that there will be any negative impact.

Restored Ancient Woodland Site

The RAWS lies immediately adjacent to the south-western corner of the site and is outside the development area. There will therefore be no direct negative impact as this site will be physically unaffected.

There is however the potential for a positive impact on the RAWS if favourable management practices are introduced to the woodlands on the site as this will extend the extent of this valuable habitat which is currently a very small area.

9 Mitigation Measures

9.1 Habitats

Broadleaved Woodlands

The broadleaved woodlands are to be retained as part of the proposals. There is however the potential for damage to tree root plates if any excavations take place in close proximity to the trees. It is recommended that professional advice is taken to avoid any negative impact.

It is also recommended that beneficial management practices are introduced to maximise the benefit of the woodlands to Biodiversity, see section 9; Biodiversity Enhancement.

Hedges

The hedges are to be retained as an integral part of the proposals. Consideration must however be given to the extent of the roots of the hedges if any excavations are to take place in their vicinity. It is recommended that professional advice is taken to avoid any negative impact on the hedges.

It is also recommended that beneficial management practices are introduced to maximise the benefit of the hedge to Biodiversity, see section 9; Biodiversity Enhancement.

Improved Grassland & Marshy Grassland

Due to the very limited range of common and widespread species associated with this habitat, no mitigation measures for habitat loss are required.

There are however potential protected species issues with regards to the marshy grassland, in particular ground nesting birds and hedgehogs.

Mature Trees

It is essential that the mature trees on the field boundaries are preserved and protected during both construction and operational phases of the proposed development. This protection must extend to not just physically protecting the trees, but also the features of the trees which are of significant benefit to Biodiversity. The following measures are recommended:

- Professional advice must be sought regarding the extent of roost protection zones
- The design of the site must take into account the benefits of retaining dead wood rather than removing it for safety reasons
- Tree hollows must be retained
- Ivy growth on trees must be retained

Scrub

No mitigation measures are required for the loss of such a limited area of scrub habitat. There are however potential protected species issues that will need to be taken into consideration, in particular nesting birds and hedgehogs.

Stone Wall

It is not known whether or not there will be any impact on the stone wall as a result of the proposals. This structure is however considered to be of minimal Biodiversity benefit in its current devegetated state, but could potentially harbour reptiles. If there is to be any impact on this structure it is recommended that the work is supervised by a suitably experienced ecologist.

Watercourse

In the case of the watercourse, due to the potential for any pollution incidents to have a negative impact in the wider landscape, extending the 'zone of influence' of the proposals outside the site boundaries, precautionary measures will be required to be in place.

All works must be carried out in accordance with (Pollution Prevention guidelines (PPG 5 & 6) which can be found at:-

<http://www.netregs.org.uk/media/1303/gpp-5-works-and-maintenance-in-or-near-water.pdf>

<https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/60125/ppg-6-working-at-construction-and-demolition-sites.pdf>

9.2 Protected Species

Bats

To prevent any habitat fragmentation occurring, a lighting scheme must be produced that clearly demonstrates how the illumination of boundary features such as hedges will be avoided.

All lighting must also be low level to prevent the illumination of trees and tree canopies where bat roosts may be present.

If any arboricultural works are to be carried out, any affected trees must first be surveyed for the presence and potential presence of bat roosts. It is recommended that the measures recommended to preserve mature trees, and the enhancement measures recommended for woodland management are carried out as this will remove the need for any works to be carried out to potential bat roosts.

Hedgehogs

To prevent the killing or injury of hedgehogs, it is recommended that potential habitat is initially cut by hand under the supervision of a site ecologist. Any animals found during this operation can then be moved to a place of safety prior to machinery commencing work on the site.

To prevent hedgehogs, and other animals becoming trapped, any excavations left open overnight must be fitted with escape ramps.

To allow hedgehogs to move freely post-development, boundaries must be permeable to hedgehogs. This may involve creating small holes in fencing or walls (13cm x 13cm) at ground level or using permeable fencing. These are easy to include for most fencing contractors and both wooden and concrete hedgehog-friendly boards can be purchased from some suppliers ready-made.

Nesting Birds

Any vegetation removal in habitats where nesting birds may be present must take place outside the nesting season, recognised by RSPB as 1st March – 30th September to avoid potential disturbance to nesting birds. If this is not possible, a thorough search for the presence of active nests must be undertaken by a suitably experienced ecologist prior to work commencing. If any active nests are found, work must be delayed until such time as the young have fledged.

Otters

No specific mitigation recommendations are made for otters but it is recommended that the management recommendations for watercourses in Section 10 are carried out as will should carry a positive benefit to otters by providing cover for concealment and commuting.

9.3 Protected Sites

There will be no negative impact on any protected sites as a result of the proposals. No mitigation measures are therefore required.

It is however recommended that the management recommendations for woodland management in Section 10 are carried out as this should carry a positive benefit for the adjacent RAWS.

10 Biodiversity Enhancement

Under Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales 10, planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This policy addresses the Section 6 Duty of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and results in the likelihood of planning applications being refused unless they can show a positive impact on biodiversity.

The following recommendations are made to enhance the Biodiversity value of the habitats on the site.

Landscaping

It is recommended that any landscaping scheme employs native shrub species that are of benefit to Biodiversity. The following species are considered appropriate:

Hawthorn; (*Crataegus monogyna*)

Blackthorn; (*Prunus spinosa*)

Holly; (*Ilex aquifolium*)

Hazel; (*Corylus avellana*)

Elder; (*Sambucus nigra*)

Dog rose; (*Rosa canina*)

Guelder rose; (*Viburnum opulus*)

Rowan; (*Sorbus aucuparia*)

Whitebeam; (*Sorbus aria*)

Cherry; (*Prunus avium*)

Bird cherry; (*Prunus padus*)

Cherry plum; (*Prunus cerasifera*)

Crab apple; (*Malus sylvestris*)

Hedge Management

The introduction of beneficial management practices such as the rotational management of hedges to maximise fruit production to the benefit of wildlife is recommended. Advice regarding this management can be found on the RSPB website at:

ww2.rspb.org.uk/Images/Englishhedgerows1_tcm9-133255.pdf

It is also recommended that the hedges are either securely fenced, or that grazing is removed from the site to allow the vegetation in the bases of the hedges to develop.

Woodland Management

It is recommended that the woodlands on the site are securely fenced and grazing animals and people are excluded. This will allow the woodland ground-flora to regenerate. In some places ancient woodland indicator species are still present and plants will also spread from the adjacent RAWS. The exclusion of people from the woodlands will also mean that dead wood in the trees can be retained, rather than having to remove it for safety reasons.

Watercourse Management

It is recommended that the watercourses are either securely fenced, or that grazing animals are removed from the site to allow the riparian vegetation to develop. If the watercourses are not fenced, the riparian vegetation should not be subjected to the same regular mowing regime that may be in place for the majority of the site. It will however be necessary to manage the riparian vegetation and it is recommended that this is only carried out once on an annual basis in late summer/early autumn once plants have had a chance to set seed.

11 Legal Implications

11.1 Bats

Bats are protected under UK law by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and also under European law by the Habitat and Species Regulations 2010. Under these laws it is an offence to deliberately kill or injure a bat, to disturb a bat or to damage, destroy or block access to a roost. Bat roosts are protected under these laws whether the animals are present at the time of survey or not. Natural Resources Wales are empowered to issue licences to carry out work to bat roosts for reasons of overriding public interest.

11.2 Hedgehogs

The hedgehog is a priority species across North Wales, including Anglesey and is included in Section 7 of the Environment Wales Act (2016) as a species of importance to the maintenance and enhancement of Biodiversity in Wales.

11.3 Nesting Birds

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, all nesting birds and their nests are protected. Once a bird places a single piece of material then it constitutes a nest. It is then an offence to cause damage to the bird, nest, eggs or chicks and immediate habitat which is likely to result in damage by causing the bird to desert its nest. This covers all bird species, with a small number of exceptions (pest species which can be controlled by special license).

In 2000, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW Act) was made law, strengthening the legal protection for many species and introducing a 'reckless disturbance' offence. Planning Authorities are also obliged to take nesting birds into account in relation to planning decisions following guidance from the Welsh Government detailed in Technical Advice Note (TAN) 5.

12 Appendices

12.1 Site photographic record



Overgrown hedge typical of those on the site



The improved grassland has been colonised by soft rush where drainage is poor



Very mature trees on field boundaries



Many of the mature trees have defects which could harbour bat roosts



Watercourses



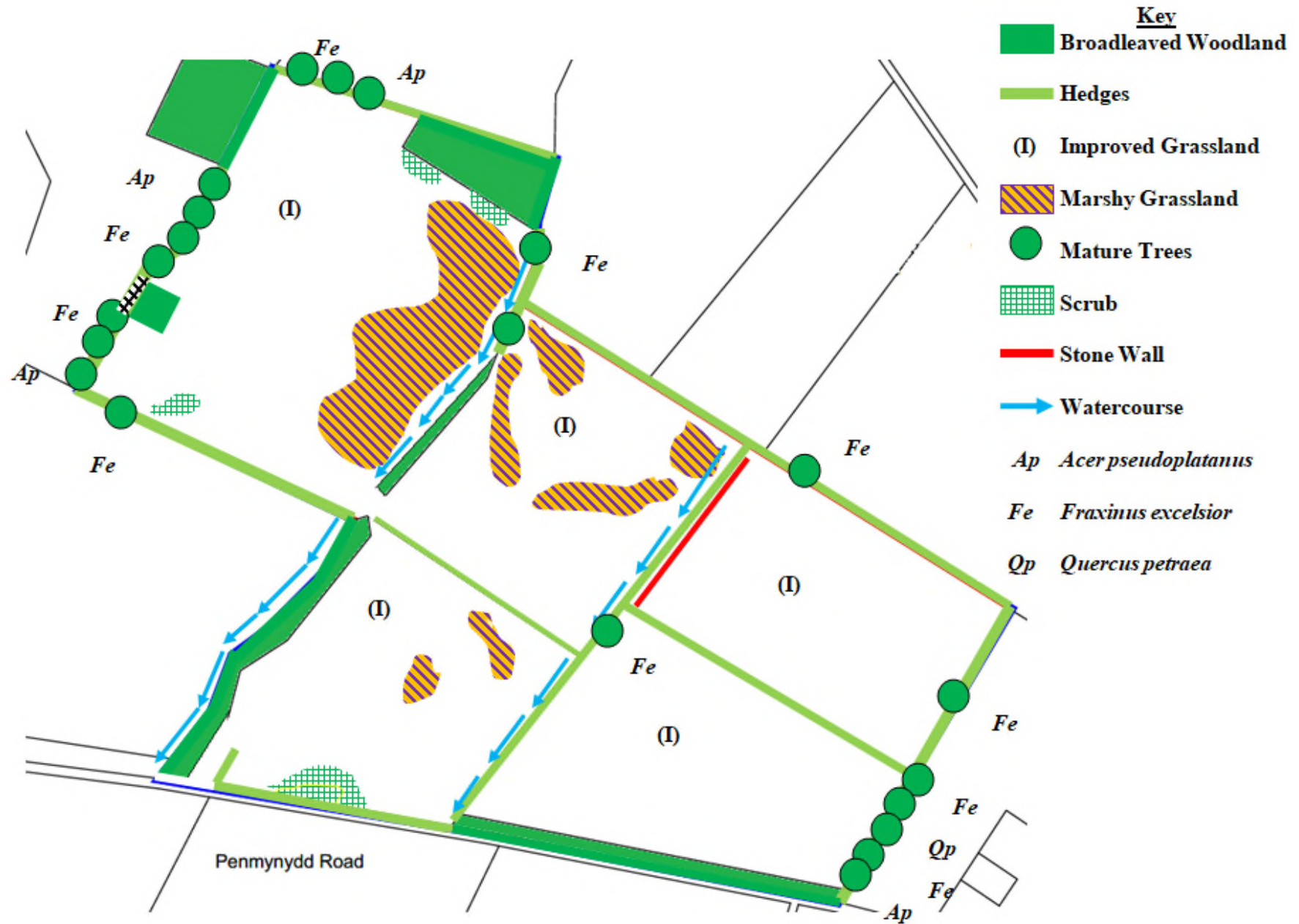


The woodland floor devoid of vegetation due to poaching and grazing



In places, only unpalatable plants such as this orchid have survived

12.2 Phase 1 Habitat Map



12.3 Review Table

Name	Task	Date
Chris Hall	Author	20.04.2020
Kate Williamson	Review	21.04.2020