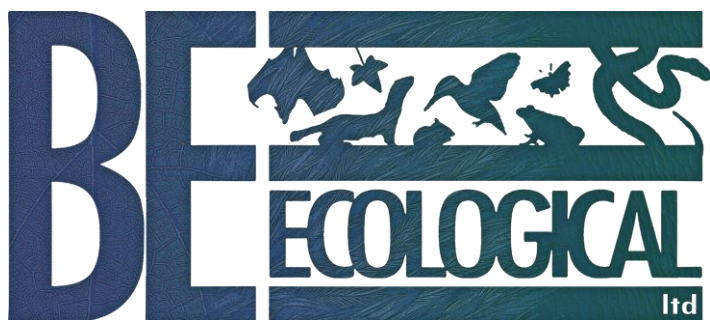




Technical Note

Subject	1 Edwards Terrace Bedlinog	Date	01/02/24
Ref		Previous versions:	
Author	Beth Evans		
Reviewed	Beth Evans	Date	01/02/24
Approved	Beth Evans	Date	01/02/24

We are writing with regards to your request for a letter regarding a brief walk over, compensation measures and enhancements at the above site.

The habitat present is comprised of previously disturbed land with early colonisation species such as bramble, rosebay willow herb, perennial ryegrass, broad-leaved dock, common nettle, hazel saplings, springy turf moss, dandelion, herb Robert and creeping buttercup. The site is surrounded by housing, associated infrastructure and block/brick walls and fences, isolating the site from the wider landscape.

The area of the site is extremely small and is completely surrounded by domestic housing and gardens with very poor connectivity to any other ecological valuable habitat.

There is some limited suitability perhaps for reptiles and amphibians (common species only) across the site, in areas of vegetation and small rubble piles, however, due to the shading and isolation of the site it reduces the suitability for this group and it is thought unlikely that large numbers will be encountered.

It is always possible that a bird will nest in vegetation, however, the bramble and saplings on site do not appear to be dense enough to produce suitable cover for breeding birds. There is no suitable habitat for ground nesting species. No birds were noted at the time of survey.

Invertebrates will use the site, however, this is likely to be limited to common and widespread species only due to the sites' isolation and urban environment.

There is no vegetation on the site that is suitable for roosting bats. Bats will be able to continue foraging over the site on completion of the development.

No other evidence or potential for any other protected species was found on site

Due to the sites small size and isolated nature, it is considered unlikely that there will be any impact on protected species providing that the clearance is undertaken under ecological supervision and in line with a method statement (Appendix 1).

Compensation/Enhancements

A wildflower meadow will be planted within the rear garden to compensate for the loss of reptile and invertebrate habitat. The wildflower areas will be seeded with Emorsgate EM3 <https://wildseed.co.uk/mixtures/view/4/special-general-purpose-meadow-mixture>. Enhancement will then include maintenance and management of this area to benefit both reptiles and invertebrates. A cut will be undertaken once or twice a year. Cuttings would be removed and used to create onsite compost areas (to benefit reptiles) and a hibernacula will be introduced into the garden. The grass cutting regime would be designed to allow grasses and wildflowers to seed the area for the following season. These habitats will be cut twice per year using hand tools once in March/April and again no earlier than 15th July in order to mimic hay meadow management

Bats

The following bat block will be integrated into the south eastern elevation of the new build <https://www.nhbs.com/ib-vl-05-vivara-pro-build-in-woodstone-batbox> The bat box will not be illuminated and the eastern boundary of the site will remain unlit to allow bats to make use of the bat box undisturbed. The bat box will be positioned at a height greater than 3.5m and positioned away from windows.

Birds

A Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace or the following <https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-woodstone-house-sparrow-nest-box> will be integrated into the south eastern western elevation of the property.

Invertebrate

Two of the following bee bricks will be installed within the development. <https://www.nhbs.com/solitary-bee-bricks>

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you,

Beth Evans

Director/Principal Ecologist

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APPENDIX A– METHOD STATEMENT- REPTILES

1. All clearance will be supervised by a suitably experienced ecologist until such time as the ecologist states that direct supervision is not necessary.
2. The ecologist will be on call for the duration of clearance works.
3. Vegetation will be cleared from directly affected areas only and the area minimised wherever possible.
4. All vegetation and brash removal will preferentially be undertaken during the winter months i.e. between November and February inclusive.
5. If this is not possible, all areas to be cleared must be subject of a finger-tip search by an ecologist immediately prior to and during any clearance work; the ecologist should also be present while all post hole excavation (or other ground breaking should it be required) is being undertaken.
6. Should evidence of breeding birds, in particularly nests, be recorded, no clearance may be undertaken within 5m of any nest site until such time as the nest is vacated naturally.
7. No spraying of vegetation to be carried out. Vegetation will be maintained close to ground using repeated cutting only. 1x Hibernaculum will be added to an area of the garden remaining unaffected by the development. Materials already onsite (e.g., brash, logs) will be used.
8. Woody vegetation will be cleared (ONLY IF NECESSARY) to ground level using a chainsaw with all arisings stacked in unaffected areas NOT on areas of tall vegetation (over 300mm). Where necessary, stumps and roots will only be removed by machine (under ecological supervision) once the clearance is complete.
9. All woody vegetation will be checked by the ecologist prior to cutting for the presence of bird nests.
10. Vegetation will be cut in three phases. The first phase will reduce the vegetation height to 150mm; the second will reduce it to ≈50mm; the third phase will reduce the height to as close to ground level as possible. All cuts will have a period of 24 hours between each cut.
11. All vegetation cutting will be directional. This ensures that any animals present will be pushed from the site into adjacent retained habitats.
12. After clearance, if the vegetation is allowed to regrow above 150mm high, it will be cut and raked as described above.
13. **Where necessary, potential hibernacula (brash, log piles, stumps, roots etc) will only be cleared during the active season (March-October) while day time temperatures are consistently over 12°C for a period of at least seven days prior as otherwise reptiles may be killed or injured as a result of inconsistent (low) temperatures**

(during the day and night) and/or low prey availability. Potential hibernacula will only be dismantled by hand unless the supervising ecologist gives the approval for machine dismantling.

14. If a bird's nest is observed on the site, the ecologist will assess it to determine whether or not it is active, the species concerned, the lifecycle state of any occupants and provide advice on next steps.

15. If reptiles are observed within the clearance area during the works, a decision on how to deal with them will be made on site in light of the conditions on site at the time and the state of the animals themselves. There are three options for dealing with them:

- It may be possible to leave the animals alone to find their own way into cover, depending on where they are seen, what they are doing and their apparent activity levels; or
- Capture, remove from site and take into temporary captivity until such time as they can be released adjacent to the cleared area (a vivarium has been prepared in case it is required); or
- Should conditions allow, capture and translocate the animals to a safe area immediately adjacent to the site.

16. Habitat and the unlikely presence for other species (e.g. dormice, otter, great crested newts & other amphibians etc.) can be identified and avoided by following this method statement.

17. In the event that a European Protected Species such as great crested newt or dormouse is observed during the clearance,, all work will stop, and the ecologist consulted. It will be necessary to consult with Natural Resources Wales; further surveys and a development licence may be required before work can recommence.

If large numbers of reptiles are discovered, an offsite receptor area should be suggested to be agreed by the County Ecologist.

NOTE: should it be required, a Natural Resources Wales development licence for European Protected Species is likely to take up to 30 working days to be issued following submission

Plate 1- photograph of site

