

Land at Twynyrodyn, Merthyr Tydfil

Grid Reference SO05969 05665

Invertebrate Survey Report

For Persimmon Homes

November 2019

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1 Introduction

1.1 Survey Brief

TerrAqua Ecological Services Ltd was commissioned by Persimmon Homes to undertake a macro invertebrate survey of a parcel of land referred to as Twynyrodyn, Merthyr Tydfil, Grid Reference SO05969 05665. The survey boundary was taken as that supplied by Mr Morgan Williams Planning Manager for Persimmon Homes.

The survey was undertaken between May and July 2019 (inclusive) as part of pre planning application works in order to understand any issues relating to Invertebrates that may arise within the site and allow for any such constraints to be considered during the planning stage.

1.2 Client Details

The survey was undertaken on behalf of Persimmon Homes, Persimmon House, Llantrisant Business Park, Rhondda Cynon Taf following instructions to proceed by Mr Morgan Williams, acting for Persimmon Homes.

2 Background

2.1 Rational

An extended Phase I Habitat Survey of a parcel of potential development land referred to as Twynyrodyn, Merthyr Tydfil was undertaken by TerraAqua Ecological Services Ltd in January 2019 on behalf of Persimmon Homes. This Phase I survey identified habitats within the site boundary suitable for use by a range of invertebrate species.

As part of the overall ecological assessment of the site Persimmon Homes commissioned a survey of the site in order to ascertain its importance or otherwise to invertebrates species, with particular emphasis on the identification of Odonata, Hymenoptera and Lepidoptera species including those species listed in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 as a Species of Principle Importance for maintaining and enhancing Biodiversity in relation to Wales and species afforded protection under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside act 1981. This will ensure that invertebrate species can be given appropriate consideration during any future development of the site. This report should be read in conjunction with the Extended Phase I survey report of the site.

2.2 Site Description

The site is located within a residential area of the village of Twynyrodyn, Merthyr Tydfil. The site includes areas of tussocky grassland, woodland and scrub. The woodland and scrub habitats extend beyond the boundaries of the site with extensive countryside to the south. The site has a slightly sloping southern aspect.

The site is not covered by any statutory national or international conservation designation such as SAC, SPA or SSSI. The site does lie some 1.75km east of Cwm Gloa Glyndys and CWN Glo SSSI.

Many locally designated Sites of Interest to Nature Conservation (SINC), are located within a 2km radius of the site. These include:

Glynmil 500m west

Merthyr Common South 500m west

Merthyr Common Central 1km north east

Afon Taf 1km west

Rhydycar West 2km south west

Abercanaid Fields 2km south

Pentrebach Fields 1.75km south east

Pentrebach Tip 1.75km south

The habitats within the site boundary all afford potentially good habitats for several invertebrate groups.

3 Methodologies

3.1 Priority Species

In order to achieve an assessment as to the value of the site with regard to invertebrates the survey concentrated on the identification of day flying species of three major invertebrate orders and other macro invertebrates including:

Odonata- dragonflies/damselflies

Hymenoptera- bees

Lepidoptera- day flying moths and butterflies

Orthoptera- grasshoppers and Crickets

Coleoptera-beetles

The survey also included observations for species protected under schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and species listed in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 as a Species of Principle Importance for maintaining and enhancing Biodiversity in relation to Wales.

3.2 Survey Dates and Personnel

The survey was carried out over three separate visits between May and July 2019 and where possible under optimal weather conditions for the observation of flying invertebrates. The duration and timing of the survey varied across each visit Table 1. All surveys were conducted during daylight hours.

The survey was undertaken by Carmen Jones MCIEEM and Dyfrig Jones both highly experienced ecologist with significant experience in undertaking general invertebrate surveys across the region.

Table 1 Survey Dates and Times

Survey Date	Survey Time/Duration	Weather Conditions
9/05/2019	11:00-15:00	Sunny 17°C
15/06/2019	12:00-16:00	Sunny Spells 26°C
27/07/2019	10:00-14:00	Sunny 23°C

3.3 Field Survey

3.3.1 Transect Methodology

The survey was carried out using a transect methodology. Random transects were likely to miss some potentially important habitat types, therefore the transect lines were selected in order that

a sample of all habitats present were included at least once along the transect length. This selected line was walked as closely as possible on all of the three survey visits.

3.3.2 Vegetation Sweeping

The vegetation within each habitat type was swept using a long-handled net. Any invertebrates trapped after three sweeps were identified and released. Any invertebrate species disturbed but not caught were also observed and identified. Prior to the sweeping of the vegetation any obviously visible species were recorded, and a butterfly net used to capture any of the three major orders not instantly identifiable. Any invertebrates caught or seen by any method, that could not be identified in the field were photographed, released and identified at a later date.

3.3.3 Visual Identification

In addition to those species recorded during the vegetation sweeping, all species observed by sight including those observed away from the transect line were also recorded. For some species such as Odonata and Lepidoptera these species were observed and identified using close focusing binoculars and included species flying over the site or observed immediately (within 3m) outside the survey boundary.

3.3.4 Stone Turning

Rubble piles and fly tipping debris was periodically searched, and stones turned. Any invertebrate species observed were recorded.

3.4 Survey Limitations

The survey was carried out during daylight hours and no night moth trapping was undertaken.

4 Results

4.1 General

A total of ninety three (93) invertebrate species were recorded over the three survey visits. These represented a number of taxonomic groups with most species being recorded on more than one occasion. The full survey results are shown in tables 2-4:

Table 2 Results of 1st Survey 9th May 2019

Common Name	Species	Life Stage
7 Spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>	Adult
24 Spot lady bird	<i>Subcoccinella 24-punctata</i>	Adult
2 Spot Ladybird	<i>Adalia 2-punctata</i>	Adult
Aphid	<i>Aphis fabae</i>	Adult
Bee	<i>Bombus hortorum</i>	Adult
Bee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	Adult
Bee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>	Adult
Beetle	<i>Thanasimus formicarius</i>	Adult
Black Ant	<i>Lasius nigra</i>	Adult
Ant	<i>Myrmica sp</i>	Adult
Black Slug	<i>Arion ater</i>	Adult
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Adult
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Adult
Common Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>	Adult
Common Wasp	<i>Vespula vulgaris</i>	Adult
Earwig	<i>Fotricula auricularia</i>	Adult
Froghopper	<i>Philaenus spumarius</i>	Adult
Garden Snail	<i>Helix aspersa</i>	Adult
Grass veneer	<i>Crambus pascuella</i>	Adult
Green Bottle	<i>Luciia caesar</i>	Adult
Green Shield Bug	<i>Palomena prasina</i>	Adult
Green Veined White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Adult
Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Adult
Hoverfly	<i>Syrphus ribesii</i>	Adult
Hoverfly	<i>Myathropa florea</i>	Adult
Hoverfly	<i>Scaeva pyrastris</i>	Adult
Hoverfly	<i>Epiisyrphus balteatus</i>	Adult
Ichneumon	<i>Amblyteles armatorius</i>	Adult
Ladybird	<i>Thea 22-punctata</i>	Adult
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Adult
Leafhopper	<i>Cicadellidae sp</i>	Adult
Lipped Snail	<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>	Adult
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Adult
Meadow Grasshopper	<i>Chorthippus parallelus</i>	Adult
Micro Moth	<i>Pyrausta aurata</i>	Adult
Micro Moth	<i>Ancylis badiana</i>	Adult
Micro Moth	<i>Cochylis reseana</i>	Adult
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Adult
Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>	Adult
Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	Adult
Robber Fly	<i>Empis stercorea</i>	Adult
Sawfly	<i>Tenthredo arcuata</i>	Adult
Soldier Beetle	<i>Cantharis rustica</i>	Adult
Soldier Beetle	<i>Malthinus flaveolus</i>	Adult
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Adult
Spider	<i>Araneus quadratus</i>	Adult
Spider	<i>Araneus diadematus</i>	Adult
Spider	<i>Linyphia triangularis</i>	Adult
Thrip	<i>Thysanoptera sp</i>	Adult
Violet Ground Beetle	<i>Carabus violaceus</i>	Adult
White Plume Moth	<i>Pterophorus pendactylata</i>	Adult
Wasp Beetle	<i>Cyytus arietis</i>	Adult
Woodlouse	<i>Oniscus asellus</i>	Adult

Table 3 Results of 2nd Survey 15th June 2019

Common Name	Species	Life Stage
7 Spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>	Adult
2 Spot Ladybird	<i>Adalia 2-punctata</i>	Adult
6 Spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipendula</i>	Adult
Aphid	<i>Aphis fabae</i>	Adult
Bee	<i>Bombus hortorum</i>	Adult
Bee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	Adult
Bee	<i>Bombus pratorum</i>	Adult
Bee	<i>Bombus pascorum</i>	Adult
Bee	<i>Anthidium sp</i>	Adult
Bee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>	Adult
Tawny Mining Bee	<i>Andrena fulva</i>	Adult
Mining Bee	<i>Andrena cineraria</i>	Adult
Beetle	<i>Leistus ferrugineus</i>	Adult
Beetle	<i>Thanasimus formicarius</i>	Adult
Black Ant	<i>Lasius nigra</i>	Adult
Ant	<i>Myrmica sp</i>	Adult
Black Ant	<i>Lasius nigra</i>	Adult
Black Slug	<i>Arion ater</i>	Adult
Blue Bottle	<i>Calliphora vomitoria</i>	Adult
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhanni</i>	Adult
Centipede	<i>Necrophloeophagus longiconis</i>	Adult
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Adult
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>	Adult
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Adult
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Adult
Common Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>	Adult
Common field Grasshopper	<i>Chorthippus brunneus</i>	Adult
Common green Grasshopper	<i>Omocestus viridulus</i>	Adult
Common Wasp	<i>Vespula vulgaris</i>	Adult
Common Footman	<i>Eilema lurideola</i>	Adult
Drone Fly	<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	Adult
Elephant Hawkmoth	<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	Adult
Garden Snail	<i>Helix aspersa</i>	Adult
Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Adult
Grass veneer	<i>Crambus pascuella</i>	Adult
Green Bottle	<i>Lucilia caesar</i>	Adult
Green Veined White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Adult
Honey Bee	<i>Apis meliferis</i>	Adult
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Adult
Hornet	<i>Vespa crabo</i>	Adult
Hoverfly	<i>Myathropa florea</i>	Adult
Hoverfly	<i>Scaeva pyrastris</i>	Adult
Hoverfly	<i>Epiisyrphus balteatus</i>	Adult
Hoverfly	<i>Syrphus ribesii</i>	Adult
Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	Adult
Ichneumon	<i>Amblyteles armatorius</i>	Adult
lacewing	<i>Wesmaelius subnebulosus</i>	Adult
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Adult
Leafhopper	<i>Cicadellidae sp</i>	Adult
Lipped Snail	<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>	Adult
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Adult
Meadow Grasshopper	<i>Chorthippus parallelus</i>	Adult
Micro Moth	<i>Pyrausta aurata</i>	Adult

Micro Moth	<i>Cochylis reseana</i>	Adult
Painted lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	Adult
Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>	Adult
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Adult
Red tailed Bee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>	Adult
Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	Adult
Robber Fly	<i>Empis stercorea</i>	Adult
Rufous Grasshopper	<i>Gomphocerippus rufus</i>	Adult
Sawfly	<i>Tenthredo arcuata</i>	Adult
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Adult
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Adult
Snipe Fly	<i>Rhagio scolopacea</i>	Adult
Soldier Beetle	<i>Cantharis rustica</i>	Adult
Soldier Beetle	<i>Rhagonycha fulva</i>	Adult
Soldier Beetle	<i>Malthinus flaveolus</i>	Adult
Soldier Fly	<i>Microchrysa polita</i>	Adult
Spider	<i>Araneus quadratus</i>	Adult
Spider	<i>Araneus diadematus</i>	Adult
Spider	<i>Linyphia triangularis</i>	Adult
Thrip	<i>Thysanoptera sp</i>	Adult
Violet ground Beetle	<i>Carabus violaceus</i>	Adult
Woodlouse	<i>Oniscus asellus</i>	Adult
Red Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>	Adult

Table 4 Results of 3rd Survey 27th July 2015

Common Name	Species	Life Stage
Garden Snail	<i>Helix aspersa</i>	Adult
7 Spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>	Adult
6 Spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipendula</i>	Adult
Aphid	<i>Aphis fabae</i>	Adult
Bee	<i>Bombus hortorum</i>	Adult
Bee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	Adult
Bee	<i>Bombus pratorum</i>	Adult
Bee	<i>Bombus pascorum</i>	Adult
Bee	<i>Anthidium sp</i>	Adult
Beetle	<i>Leistus ferrugineus</i>	Adult
Beetle	<i>Badister unipustulatus</i>	Adult
Black Ant	<i>Lasius nigra</i>	Adult
Ant	<i>Myrmica sp</i>	Adult
Black Slug	<i>Arion ater</i>	Adult
Blue Bottle	<i>Calliphora vomitoria</i>	Adult
Centipede	<i>Necrophloeophagus longiconis</i>	Adult
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Adult
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>	Adult
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Adult
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Adult
Common Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>	Adult
Common field Grasshopper	<i>Chorthippus brunneus</i>	Adult
Common green Grasshopper	<i>Omocestus viridulus</i>	Adult
Common Wasp	<i>Vespula vulgaris</i>	Adult
Common Footman	<i>Eilema lurideola</i>	Adult
Cuckoo Bee	<i>Psithyrus campestris</i>	Adult
Drone Fly	<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	Adult
Drone fly	<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	Adult
Elephant Hawkmoth	<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	Adult
Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Adult

Grass veneer	<i>Crambus pascuella</i>	Adult
Green Bottle	<i>Lucilia caesar</i>	Adult
Green Veined White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Adult
Harvestman	<i>Leiobunum rotundum</i>	Adult
Earwig	<i>Forficula auricularia</i>	Adult
Honey Bee	<i>Apis meliferis</i>	Adult
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Adult
Horse fly	<i>Tabanus sudeticus</i>	Adult
Hoverfly	<i>Myathropa florea</i>	Adult
Hoverfly	<i>Syrphus ribesii</i>	Adult
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Adult
Leaf Cutter Bee	<i>Megachile centuncularis</i>	Adult
Leafhopper	<i>Cicadellidae sp</i>	Adult
Lipped Snail	<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>	Adult
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Adult
Meadow Grasshopper	<i>Chorthippus parallelus</i>	Adult
Micro Moth	<i>Pyrausta aurata</i>	Adult
Micro Moth	<i>Cochylis reseana</i>	Adult
Painted lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	Adult
Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>	Adult
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Adult
Red tailed Bee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>	Adult
Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	Adult
Robber Fly	<i>Empis stercorea</i>	Adult
Rufous Grasshopper	<i>Gomphocerippus rufus</i>	Adult
Sawfly	<i>Tenthredo arcuata</i>	Adult
Shield Bug	<i>Verlusia rhombea</i>	Adult
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Adult
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Adult
Snipe Fly	<i>Rhagio scolopacea</i>	Adult
Soldier Beetle	<i>Cantharis rustica</i>	Adult
Soldier Beetle	<i>Rhagonycha fulva</i>	Adult
Soldier Beetle	<i>Malthinus flaveolus</i>	Adult
Soldier Fly	<i>Microchrysa polita</i>	Adult
Spider	<i>Araneus quadratus</i>	Adult
Spider	<i>Araneus diadematus</i>	Adult
Tawny Mining Bee	<i>Andrena fulva</i>	Adult
Thrip	<i>Thysanoptera sp</i>	Adult
Violet ground Beetle	<i>Carabus violaceus</i>	Adult
White Plume Moth	<i>Pterophorus pendactylata</i>	Adult
White Tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>	Adult
Woodlouse	<i>Oniscus asellus</i>	Adult
Red Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>	Adult

4.2 Data Search Results

No records were found relating to the site or any immediately adjacent habitat. In general records for the surrounding area were very limited with no records available for any species within 1km of the survey area. This lack of records is highly likely to be due to the lack of survey work within the general area rather than an absence of a diverse invertebrate community within the Twynyrodyn area.

5.1 Conservation Status of Species Recorded

Ninety three (93) species of invertebrate were recorded across the three survey visits. Most species recorded can be considered relatively common and occur in wide range of habitat types.

- Of the ninety three species recorded none are currently afforded full protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- Two of the recorded species are Species of Principle Importance for maintaining and enhancing Biodiversity in relation to Wales These are cinnabar (*Tyria jacobaeae*), and Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*)
- No species recorded on the site has a current Merthyr Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) Species Action Plan (SAP) in place

None of the butterfly species were particularly abundant across the site. Meadow brown, speckled wood and ringlet were the most abundant butterflies recorded. Red admiral were frequently recorded during the July survey visit. Grass veneer and micro moths (*Pyrausta aurata*) were regularly disturbed from the neglected grassland areas as were grasshopper species.

Ground nesting bees including *Bombus terrestris* and *Bombus hortorum* were common across the site particularly around the areas of bare earth associated with the peripheral areas of the site and worn informal pathways Tawny mining bees (*Andrena fulva*) were also recorded around the perimeter of the grasslands and other bare areas.

Four species of grasshopper were recorded, Meadow (*Chorthippus parallelus*), Common Green (*Omocestus viridulus*), Common Field (*Chorthippus brunneus*) and Rufous (*Gomphocerippus rufus*). Common field, meadow and common green were recorded in relative abundance during the June and July surveys.

The value of the site with regard to invertebrate species is generally confined to those species with a wide tolerance of habitat types. Of the species recorded, many were recorded in large numbers particularly some common, bee, and hover fly species and within the grasslands grasshoppers were relatively abundant. Invertebrates such as ants, woodlice, spiders, centipedes and snails were all present across the site and commonly found beneath discarded stones and other debris.

The greatest number of species were recorded within the unmanaged grasslands and associated scrub although mining bees were more common in disturbed and bare ground.

No evidence was found during the survey that the site supports any invertebrates listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended)

The results of the survey and the diverse nature of the habitats present would suggest that if left in its current state the site is likely to be colonised by and support a large number of invertebrates from a wide range of taxonomic groups and this is likely, over time, to include some uncommon species. The results of the Phase I Habitat Survey do not suggest that the site contains habitats likely to support a population of fully protected or rare species.

Based on the survey results the site does not meet the current criteria for selection as a Wildlife Site (SINC) with regard to its assemblage of invertebrate species.

References

Clements, D.K& Pryce, R.D. (2000). Criteria for the selection of wildlife sites in Gwent, Glamorgan and Carmarthenshire. Gwent Wildlife Trust.

TerrAqua Ecological Services Ltd (2018) Extended Phase I Habitat Survey of Land at Twynyrodyn, Merthyr Tydfil. Persimmon Homes

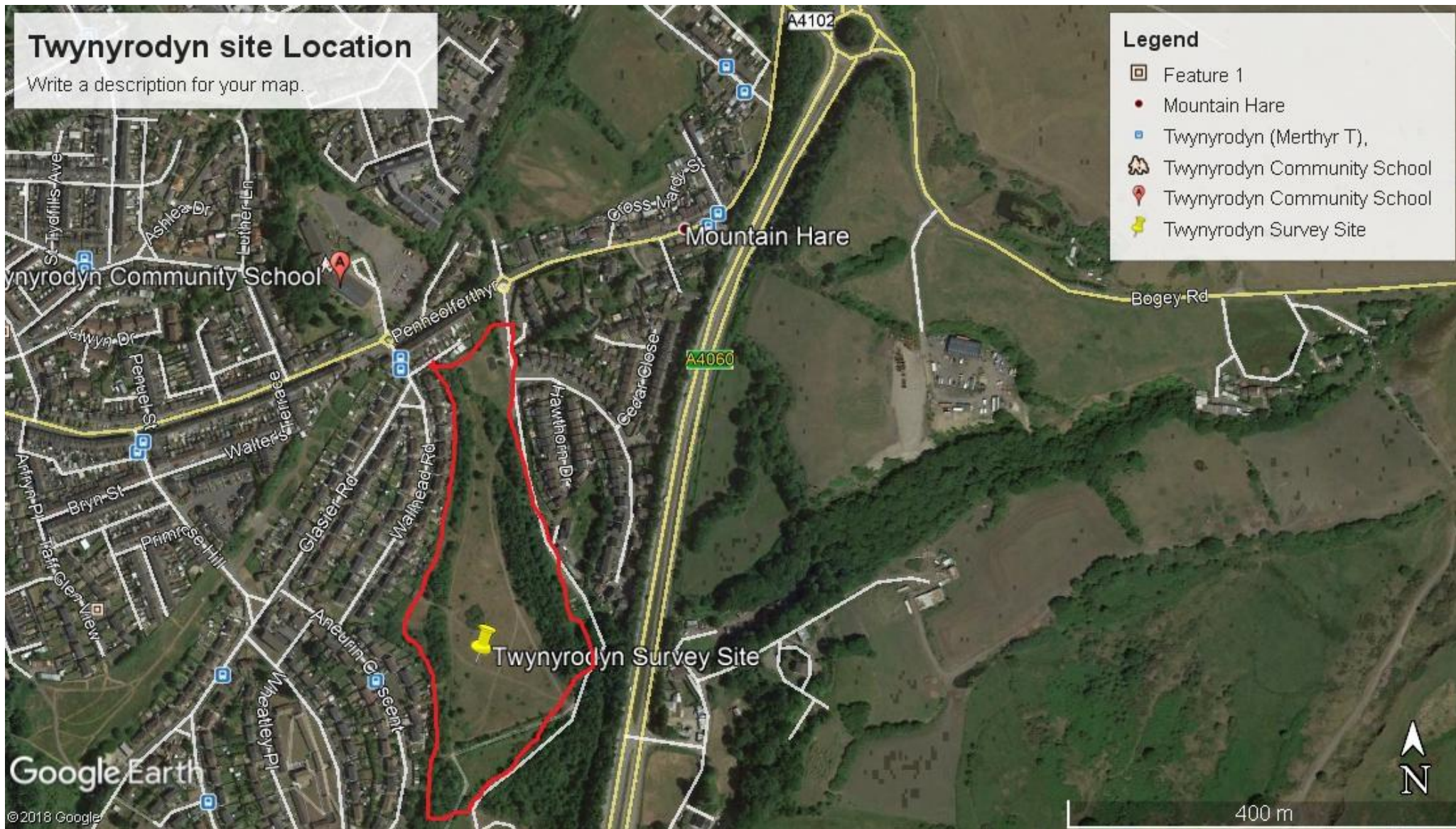
JNCC, (1998). Species Action Plans. UK BAP, English Nature, JNCC

South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC) Data search January 2019
Twynyrodyn for TerrAqua Ecological Services Ltd (Ref No 0189-398)

Welsh Assembly Government (2016) List of are Species of Principle Importance for maintaining and enhancing Biodiversity in relation to Wales

Appendix I

Aerial View Showing Site Location



Aerial View 1 Location of Twynrodyn Survey Area (Image Google Earth 2019)

Appendix II

Map Showing Habitats Present and Targeted Ecological Features

TerrAqua Ecological Services Ltd

Land at Twynyrodyn, Merthyr Tydfil
for Persimmon Homes East Wales

Preliminary Ecological Assessment

SCALE : 1 : 2500 @ A4 DATE : 25/01/2019

MAP FILENAME : TQ/Pers.: Twyn.Ecol Ass. 2019 v1



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Legend

- Track/path
- Un-improved
- Scrub
- Woodland
- Tall Herb
- Play Area
- Amenity Grassland
- Watercourse/Ditch
- Site Boundary
- Target Note

