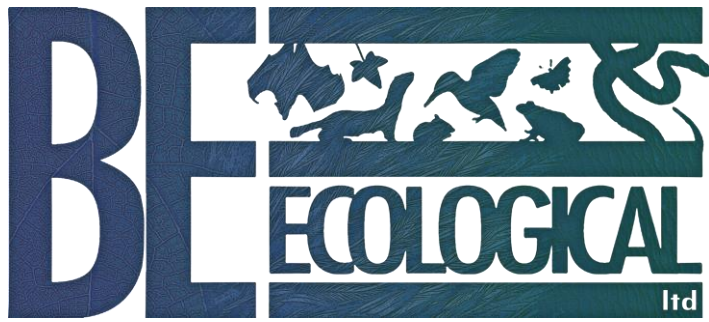




Technical Note

Subject	Land adjacent to 15 Russell Street, Dowlais		Date	02/10/23
Ref			Previous versions:	
Author	Beth Evans			
Reviewed	Beth Evans	Date	02/10/23	
Approved	Beth Evans	Date	02/10/23	

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, ash saplings, buttercup and cocksfoot. The site is surrounded by housing, associated infrastructure and block/brick walls leaving it relatively isolated.

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 relatively dense vegetation, shading and isolation of the site 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 ash saplings on site does not appear to be dense enough to produce suitable cover for breeding birds, despite the fact that it is thought to be dense enough to limit the amount of reptiles using the site. 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.

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

Bats

The following bat block will be integrated into 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 eastern western elevation of the property.

Invertebrate

An insect tower will be stationed on the eastern boundary of the site.

[https://www.nhbs.com/4?slug=insect-boxes&q=&fR\[hide\]\[0\]=false&fR\[live\]\[0\]=true&fR\[shops.id\]\[0\]=4&fR\[subsidaries\]\[0\]=1&hFR\[subjects_equipment.lv1\]\[0\]=Other%20Nest%20Boxes%2C%20Habitats%20%26%20Feeders%20%3E%20Insect%20Boxes&qtview=200553](https://www.nhbs.com/4?slug=insect-boxes&q=&fR[hide][0]=false&fR[live][0]=true&fR[shops.id][0]=4&fR[subsidaries][0]=1&hFR[subjects_equipment.lv1][0]=Other%20Nest%20Boxes%2C%20Habitats%20%26%20Feeders%20%3E%20Insect%20Boxes&qtview=200553)

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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Plate 1- view of site facing west



Plate 2- south western corner of site

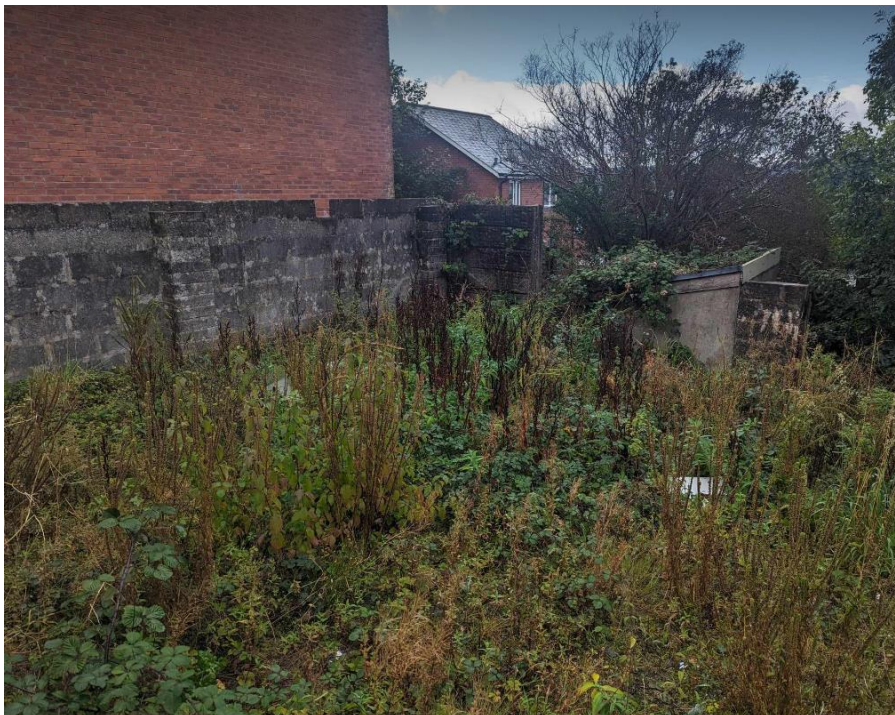


Plate 3- rubble pile at northern corner of site



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