

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR)
on behalf of

Ross Minett
For

Trefechan Nursery School
Rowan Rise
Trefechan
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 2EW



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CONTENTS

	Page
Executive Summary	1
Section One: Introduction	2
Section Two: Methodology	2
Section Three: Results	3
Section Four: Phase 1 Habitat Survey Results	4
Section Five: Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) / Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW)	6
Section Six: Survey Constraints and Limitations	8
Section Seven: Discussion	8
Section Eight: Recommendations	9
Section Nine: Report Validity	11
Section Ten: Biodiversity Net Gain	11
Section Eleven: References	12

Tables

Table 2.1: Weather Conditions During Field Survey	3

Appendices

Appendix A	Site Location
Appendix B	A Site Plan
Appendix C	Phase 1 Map
Appendix D	Habitat - Site Photography
Appendix E	Target Notes - Site Photography
Appendix F	PRA & Daytime Bat Walkover - Site Photography
Appendix G	Species List
Appendix H	Meet the Team
Appendix I	Additional Information (Species Potential)
Appendix J	Additional Information (Bat Friendly Lighting Scheme)
Appendix K:	Biodiversity Enhancement Features

Executive Summary

A preliminary ecological appraisal was carried out to assess the ecological constraints and opportunities for a proposed development at Trefechan Nursery School, Rowan Rise, Trefechan, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 2EW. The assessment included a desktop study and a field survey to identify habitats, protected species potential, and statutory designated sites.

The site comprises a small area (approximately 1,000m²) of a disused, enclosed former nursery school set within a predominantly residential area. It supports four disused buildings, unmanaged amenity grassland, scattered scrub, tall ruderal vegetation, scattered trees and areas of hardstanding, and has been subject to a prolonged period of neglect.

The desktop study identified nine statutory designated sites within the local area, comprising six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and three Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); the nearest is Cwm Tâf Fechan Woodlands SSSI at approximately 125m south-east of the site. Local biological records returned 2,446 species records, including 14 bat taxa, seven reptile and amphibian species, 70 bird taxa and a diverse assemblage of plants, invertebrates, fungi, bryophytes and lichens. No records were returned on-site or directly adjacent to the site; the nearest records were for several bird species and two plant species at 50m. Notable bat records included Lesser Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) at 475m and Greater Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) at 1,172m, and the nearest Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) record was at 487m.

The preliminary roost assessment identified potential roosting features within the fascias and roof lantern of Building A, the former school building, which has been categorised as having Moderate roost potential, with a maternity roost not suspected. Buildings B, C and D were categorised as having Negligible roost potential. A detailed inspection of the standing tree is recommended, and this can be undertaken at the same time as the dusk emergence surveys to minimise additional site visits. The surrounding landscape provides high-quality habitat for commuting and foraging bats, with the tree and scrub belt along the Taff Trail and the wooded gorge of the Tâf Fechan offering High suitability. The site itself offers Low suitability for commuting and foraging bats owing to its enclosed, residential setting.

Ecological constraints identified on site relate principally to the potential presence of roosting bats within Building A, potential refugia for amphibians, reptiles, small mammals and Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), and suitable nesting habitat for birds. The seasonal timing of the survey (early autumn) represents a minor limitation for botanical assessment and the assessment of bird nesting activity, though this is not considered to have materially affected the characterisation of habitats or ecological constraints. Restricted internal access to the roof void of Building A, and the single-visit nature of the preliminary roost assessment, mean that two dusk emergence surveys and a static detector survey are required during the bat active season to establish the presence or likely absence of roosting bats.

Mitigation and enhancement measures are recommended to address potential impacts and deliver biodiversity net gain. These include further bat surveys of Building A, a precautionary approach to works during the bat hibernation period, a detailed inspection of the standing dead tree, a sensitive lighting design to protect bat commuting and foraging corridors, pre-commencement fingertip searches for amphibians, reptiles and small mammals, and the timing of vegetation clearance and demolition to avoid harm to nesting birds. Enhancement measures include the installation of an integrated bat box and an integrated swift nest box on each new residential unit, hedgehog access holes and a hedgehog house, replacement tree planting at a ratio of 3:1, a native boundary hedgerow and nectar-rich, night-scented planting to improve ecological connectivity.

This Executive Summary is intended to provide an overview of the assessment of the proposed development site based on information received by Little Wing Ecology (CYF) at the time of production. This Executive Summary should be read in conjunction with the full report.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

This report details a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) undertaken for the Proposed Residential Development at Trefechan Nursery School, Rowan Rise, Trefechan, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 2EW. The assessment was commissioned by the owner. The purpose of this report is to inform the client of any ecological constraints and associated planning requirements regarding habitats and protected species, in support of a planning application for the complete demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of four residential units, alongside associated landscaping works. For the purposes of this document, the proposed development will be referred to as 'the site'.

1.2 Site Details

The site, located at Trefechan Nursery School, Rowan Rise, Trefechan, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 2EW, is accessed via Rowan Rise, the main service road, and has an Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference of SO 03682 08810 at its approximate centre. The total site area is approximately 1,000m². The field survey was conducted on 9th September 2026, during the early autumn of 2026. The site comprises a disused, enclosed plot within a predominantly residential area of Trefechan, on the northern urban fringe of Merthyr Tydfil. It is bounded by steel palisade fencing, with gated access onto tarmac hardstanding at the site entrance; residential dwellings adjoin the site and a public play area lies beyond the boundary. Four disused buildings are present: Building A, the former nursery school, a single-storey, flat-roofed structure of profiled metal sheet construction; Buildings B and C, small, detached precast concrete stores; and Building D, a small timber playhouse. The external grounds comprise unmanaged grassland, rubberised play surfacing, paved paths and former planting beds, with scattered trees, self-set saplings and a line of mature conifers along part of the boundary. Prolonged neglect is evident in overgrown vegetation, deteriorating surfaces, litter and fly-tipped material throughout.

1.3 Report Context

This report is identified by the unique reference LT446 and was prepared on 1st October 2026. It should be read in conjunction with the accompanying architectural plans and documents provided by the owner.

1.4 Ecological Constraint(s)

The timing of the survey was reviewed against the recognised optimal survey periods for the habitats and species groups under assessment, including the optimal botanical survey period, the bat active season and the main bird breeding season.

During the survey, the extent of access achieved to all areas, structures and features scheduled for inspection was recorded, including any areas or features that could not be safely or directly examined.

Each constraint identified was then evaluated to determine whether, and to what extent, it affected the reliability of the survey findings and the conclusions of the assessment. Where a constraint was considered to prevent a robust conclusion from being reached, the need for further survey effort or a precautionary approach was identified.

The constraints encountered, and their implications for the assessment, are recorded in Section 6.0 Survey Constraints and Limitations.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Desk Study

A desk study was undertaken in October 2026 to gather existing ecological information pertinent to the site. Local environmental records were sourced from the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC). Additionally, personal records held by the author were consulted. Other relevant resources, including Data Map Wales, were also

searched. A 1km (Package B: Priority Species) search radius was applied for all records. Only species records occurring within the last ten years were considered relevant for detailed analysis, although earlier records were also given consideration. No previous ecological reports for the site were provided by the client.

2.2 Field Survey

A Preliminary Ecological Assessment was undertaken using standard Phase 1 habitat survey techniques as a guiding principle. The site was surveyed by walking a zig-zag pattern, with systematic and methodical notes being recorded on the habitat and site conditions. This was followed by a complete circuit of the site boundaries, where additional notes were made as necessary. Photographs were taken to document the site's boundaries, areas of ecological interest, and features characteristic of the on-site habitats.

During the survey, the potential for protected species was assessed, and any signs or evidence was noted. Features such as piles of rubble, banks, or tree roots were assessed for their potential to be used as refugia or hibernacula for reptiles and hedgehogs. Water bodies were evaluated for their potential to provide opportunities for amphibians and reptiles. Furthermore, the presence of physical signs of other relevant species, such as droppings, footprints, or foraging marks, were recorded where observed. Any flora or fauna protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 were also noted.

A Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW) was conducted to identify opportunities for bat roosts and potential roosting features (PRFs). As part of this, the habitats both on-site and immediately beyond the site boundary were assessed to identify potential commuting and foraging corridors. This thorough assessment allowed for the determination of the overall suitability of the location for bats and informed the need for any further surveys.

The field survey was conducted by N. S. Aldridge (NRW Licence – S094182/1), who is also the author of this report.

Table 2.1: Weather Conditions during Field Survey (09.09.2026)

Parameter	Start Conditions	End Conditions
Time	10:00	12:00
Temperature (°C)	15.0	15.5
Cloud Cover (Oktas)	8	8
Precipitation	Nil	Nil
Wind (Beaufort Scale)	F3	F3

3.0 Results

3.1 Desk Study Results

The local biological records search (LERC: Aderyn, LERC Wales, Reference 0267-497) reported 2,446 species records. There were no records on or directly adjacent to the site; the nearest records were at 50 m. These are briefly summarised in the bullet list below:

- Terrestrial mammals (excluding bats) accounted for 75 species records (i.e., 3.07% of all records) at distances between 199 m and 1,544 m. CAT1 species included *Lutra lutra* (Otter, 21 records, 266–1,353 m), *Erinaceus europaeus* (Hedgehog, 15 records, 207–1,323 m) and *Meles meles* (Badger, 6 records, 244–1,233 m). CAT4 species included *Sciurus carolinensis* (Grey Squirrel, 27 records, 199–1,544 m) and *Neovison vison* (American Mink, 5 records, 275–782 m).
- Chiroptera (bats) accounted for 334 species records (i.e., 13.65%), all CAT1, relating to 14 taxa at distances between 181 m and 2,916 m. The nearest record was *Pipistrellus* spp. (Pipistrelle Bat species) at 181 m. The most frequently recorded species were *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (Common Pipistrelle, 104 records, 254–1,544

m), *Rhinolophus hipposideros* (Lesser Horseshoe Bat, 44 records, 475–2,916 m) and *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* (Soprano Pipistrelle, 29 records, 262–1,544 m).

- Reptiles and amphibians accounted for 104 species records (i.e., 4.25%), all CAT1, at distances between 173 m and 1,544 m. Species recorded included *Zootoca vivipara* (Common Lizard, 33 records, 191–1,222 m), *Anguis fragilis* (Slow-worm, 25 records, 173–1,041 m), *Bufo bufo* (Common Toad, 22 records, 210–1,544 m), *Rana temporaria* (Common Frog, 14 records, 204–1,068 m) and *Triturus cristatus* (Great Crested Newt, 6 records, 487–1,141 m).
- Birds accounted for 823 species records (i.e., 33.65%), 86.88% of which were for CAT1 species, at distances between 50 m and 2,963 m. The nearest records were *Pica pica* (Magpie), *Phylloscopus trochilus* (Willow Warbler) and *Picus viridis* (Green Woodpecker), all at 50 m. No CAT2 records were returned; CAT3 accounted for 97 records (11.79%), principally *Cinclus cinclus* (Dipper, 62 records), and CAT4 for 11 records (1.34%), principally *Branta canadensis* (Canada Goose, 10 records, 438–2,238 m).
- Flowering plants accounted for 480 species records (i.e., 19.62%) including 62 CAT1 records, principally *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (Bluebell, 27 records, 223–1,368 m). 93 records were returned for CAT4 species (invasive species); the nearest were *Impatiens glandulifera* (Himalayan Balsam) at 164 m and *Cotoneaster* spp. at 177 m, with *Reynoutria japonica* (Japanese Knotweed, 13 records) at 268–1,368 m.
- Other species included:
 - Invertebrates (insects) (422 records, i.e., 17.25%, including the nearest for *Bombus lapidarius* (Red-tailed Bumblebee) at 132 m and *Erynnis tages* (Dingy Skipper, CAT1) at 189 m)
 - Fungi (129 records, i.e., 5.27%, including the nearest for *Cuphophyllus atlanticus* (Leaden Waxcap, CAT1) at 176 m)
 - Bryophytes (56 records, i.e., 2.29%, including the nearest for *Orthotrichum tenellum* (Slender Bristle-moss) at 145 m)
 - Lichens (16 records, i.e., 0.65%, including the nearest for *Lichenomphalia ericetorum* (Slater Navel) at 206 m)
 - Fish (4 records, i.e., 0.16%; *Salmo trutta* (Brown/Sea Trout) at 335–479 m)
 - Other invertebrates (3 records, i.e., 0.12%, including *Pacifastacus leniusculus* (Signal Crayfish, CAT4) at 867 m)

3.2 Statutory Sites

No part of the site is within a statutory site of nature conservation interest. There are nine statutory sites within the locality including Cwm Tâf Fechan Woodlands (SSSI - being the nearest at ≈125m), Nant Glais Caves (SSSI at ≈1.4km), Penmoelallt (SSSI at ≈1.8km), Daren Fach (SSSI at ≈1.9km), Cwm Glo a Glyndyrys (SSSI at ≈2.7km), Mynyddoedd Llangynidr a Llangatwg, Cefn yr Ystrad a Chomin Merthyr (SSSI at ≈3.0km), Cwm Cadlan (SAC at ≈6.4km), Blaen Cynon (SAC at ≈8.0km) and Coedydd Nedd a Mellte (SAC at ≈9.9km).

4.0 Phase 1 Habitat Survey Results

4.1 Habitat Descriptions

- **Scattered scrub (A2.2):** Scattered scrub is present across the unmanaged areas of the site, most notably within the spaces between the buildings. It is dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), which has formed a sprawling, low-growing cover, with occasional Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), young Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and *Salix* spp., also recorded. The scrub appears to have spread following the cessation of active management, colonising former garden margins and boundary features. Although structurally simple, this habitat provides shelter and foraging opportunities for small mammals and invertebrates, potential nesting habitat for birds, and a seasonal fruit resource.
- **Parkland/scattered trees - broadleaved (A3.1):** A small area of broadleaved parkland is located in the south-eastern corner of the site, comprising a loose group of semi-mature trees, including Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and whitebeam (*Sorbus* sp.), set within an unmanaged sward of rank grasses and occasional tall herbs. A cut tree stump indicates past management. The trees contribute structural diversity, provide potential nesting opportunities for birds and foraging habitat for invertebrates, and may offer foraging and

commuting features for bats along the site boundary. Discarded timber debris within the rank grassland of this area is described at TN3 (see Amenity Grassland (J1.2)).

- **Tall ruderal herbs (C3.1):** Tall ruderal vegetation is confined to the disused vegetable plots and former garden area, which have been colonised by a dense stand of tall herbs following the cessation of cultivation. Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*) is frequent, much of it senesced at the time of survey, with Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) also recorded. A sparse ground layer was present beneath the standing dead stems, together with discarded materials associated with the former use. Although of limited botanical value, this early successional habitat provides refugia and overwintering opportunities for invertebrates and potential shelter for small mammals.
- **Amenity Grassland (J1.2):** Amenity grassland reflects the former use of the site as managed recreational space associated with the nursery school. In the absence of recent management, it now presents predominantly as a tall, tussocky sward with an accumulation of dead grass litter at its base and patches of shorter vegetation. Species recorded include Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Tall Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*). The sward is species-poor; however, its tussock structure offers greater shelter and foraging opportunities for invertebrates, small mammals and, potentially, reptiles than a regularly mown lawn. Target Notes TN1, TN2 and TN3 are located within or at the margins of this habitat.
- **Target Note Number: TN1.** This refers to a small area of stored materials (potential hibernaculum) comprising wheeled bins, a grit bin, water butts, plant pots, a plastic crate and loose board, with leaf litter, and ephemeral vegetation. Sheltered gaps beneath the materials offer potential refugia and hibernation opportunities for amphibians, reptiles, Hedgehog and invertebrates.
- **Target Note Number: TN2.** This refers to a standing dead tree, apparently previously topped, comprising a single stem and several upright limbs devoid of foliage, set within rank grassland adjacent to a stand of bamboo and the palisade fence. Bark loss and areas of decay were noted on the main stem, offering habitat for saproxylic invertebrates and foraging birds. These features may offer limited/marginal opportunities for roosting bats; and requires a detailed inspection (see Section 5.1).
- **Target Note Number: TN3.** This refers to discarded timber debris (potential hibernacula), comprising several weathered boards and a timber door, lying in direct contact with the ground within the grassland, with grass growing through and around its edges. Scattered litter and plastic waste were also present. Sheltered, damp conditions beneath the timber offer potential refugia and hibernation opportunities for amphibians, reptiles, Hedgehog and invertebrates.
- **Fence (J2.4):** The entire site perimeter is enclosed by a steel palisade fence, forming a secure boundary with the adjacent residential properties, public open space and children's play area. In places, the fence is backed by close-boarded timber fencing associated with neighbouring gardens, and a line of mature conifers is present along part of the boundary. Scrub and ruderal vegetation have established along the base of the fence line, where accumulations of windblown litter were also recorded. The palisade design presents no barrier to the movement of small mammals, amphibians or invertebrates, although the fence itself is of negligible intrinsic ecological value.
- **Wall (J2.5):** Low brick walls enclose the raised planting beds and utility areas within the site, contributing to its formal, compartmentalised layout. The brickwork and mortar were in generally sound condition, with no significant cracks, cavities or gaps that would provide opportunities for crevice-dwelling fauna. Some colonisation by Bramble and ruderal vegetation was noted at the base of the walls, alongside stored refuse bins and timber structures. Owing to their small scale and good structural condition, the walls are considered to be of limited ecological value, although they may provide incidental shelter for invertebrates.
- **Buildings (J3.6):** Four disused buildings (A–D) associated with the former nursery school are present on site. Building A, the principal school building, is a single-storey prefabricated structure with clad elevations, a raised roof lantern and boarded windows, and is in a dilapidated condition; a number of nest boxes are fixed to its fascia. Buildings B and C are small, flat-roofed stores of pebble-dashed precast concrete construction; the timber fascia of Building C is deteriorating and its door was open at the time of survey. Building D is a timber playhouse with a pitched roof and flaking paintwork. All four buildings are surrounded by encroaching Bramble scrub and ruderal vegetation (see Section 5.1).
- **Other [hardstanding] (J5):** Areas of hard and artificial surfacing associated with the former school are present throughout the site, comprising the former school yard, concrete pathways, gravelled areas, rubberised play surfacing and a small area of artificial turf. The surfacing is weathered, with scattered litter and

sparse colonisation by ruderal species, including Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and Butterfly-bush, along cracks and margins. These areas are of negligible ecological value; however, the sparsely vegetated margins may provide limited foraging opportunities for invertebrates and ground-feeding birds. TN1 adjoins this habitat (see Amenity Grassland (J1.2)).

5.0 Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) / Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW)

5.1 Structures

Four structures were present on the site at the time of the survey: Building A (a disused former school), Building B (a prefabricated store), Building C (a prefabricated store) and Building D (a timber playhouse). No physical evidence of bat use was recorded within the accessible parts of any structure during the survey.

Building A is a disused, single-storey, system-built former school building, considered to date from c.1960s–70s. The structure has a flat roof and is clad in profiled cladding, with deep fascias formed from a double layer of painted plywood, high-level windows and uPVC rainwater goods. A roof lantern housing water tanks is present on the flat roof. Doors and fenestration on the southern elevation have been sealed and covered, and a number of nest boxes have been fixed to the fascia. The building is in a poor state of repair, with materials in poor to fair condition; however, it has been secured to deter vandalism and is generally sealed. The plywood fascias were in reasonable condition overall. The door to the roof lantern was missing, and the condition of the door and lantern interior indicates that this damage is very recent.

No bat droppings or other physical evidence of bat occupation were recorded within Building A. The accessible interior was inspected in full; however, several Potential Roost Features (PRFs) were identified that could not be fully inspected, and consequently the absence of bats from these features cannot be confirmed.

Fascias: The fascias are formed of two layers of plywood. On the southern elevation, water damage has caused the two layers to separate, creating a large crevice which represents a significant PRF. A gap between the plywood layers were also recorded along all of the fascias; these were in part filled with cobwebs, many of which were older. Although some of these gaps are likely to be too small to support occupation by bats, the width of this gap is variable, and a precautionary approach has been applied. Collectively, these features provide opportunities for crevice-dwelling bat species, such as pipistrelles (*Pipistrellus* spp.).

Roof lantern: A damaged door provides direct access for bats into the roof lantern. On inspection, the interior was clean and dry, the roofing materials were intact with no gaps, and no physical evidence of bats or birds was recorded. As access was good and the space was clean, any regular occupation would be expected to have been detectable. Nevertheless, the open lantern provides potential for use as a night roost (a sheltered location used by bats for resting or feeding between foraging bouts during the night); such use may be intermittent and may leave little physical evidence.

Flat roof void: The flat roof void is formed by a timber grillage of intersecting joists beneath a boarded deck, which divides the space into a series of enclosed cells. This cellular arrangement restricted access, and not all parts of the void could be directly examined.

On the basis of the above, the roost potential of Building A has been categorised as Moderate, in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, 2023). A maternity roost is not suspected. A precautionary approach has been applied to this assessment due to the proximity of the site to the Cwm Tâf Fechan Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which provides high-quality foraging and commuting habitat for bats in the local area.

Building B is a small, single-storey, prefabricated store constructed of exposed-aggregate concrete panels, with a flat roof, an overhanging fascia and a blue profiled metal door on the front elevation. Dense vegetation encroaches on its

elevations. No PRFs were identified, and no physical evidence of bats was recorded. The roost potential of Building B is categorised as Negligible.

Building C is a small, single-storey, prefabricated store of similar exposed-aggregate concrete construction, with a flat roof, an overhanging fascia and a white metal door on the front elevation. No PRFs were identified, and no physical evidence of bats was recorded. The roost potential of Building C is categorised as Negligible.

Building D is a small, single-storey timber playhouse with a shallow-pitched roof and overhanging eaves. The walls are clad in painted weatherboarding, with a blue boarded door, two small windows and timber planters along the front elevation. No PRFs were identified, and no physical evidence of bats was recorded. The roost potential of Building D is categorised as Negligible.

No classic hibernation sites were recorded on site, and no cellars or underground spaces were identified. However, as pipistrelle species are known to hibernate within crevices in buildings, and crevice features were recorded within the fascias of Building A, a precautionary approach is recommended for any works to Building A undertaken during the hibernation period (October to April inclusive).

A standing dead tree of moderate size is present on site (TN2). The tree comprises a single stem dividing into several steeply ascending limbs, many of which have been cut back, and bark has sloughed from much of the main stem and upper limbs. No PRFs or physical evidence of bats were identified from ground level, and the tree has been assessed as presenting Low risk to roosting bats. As removal of the tree is proposed, a detailed inspection will be required prior to the commencement of works.

Photographic evidence supporting the PRA is presented in Appendix F.

5.2 Habitat Suitability for Commuting and Foraging Bats

- **Flight Paths:** The site is situated within a densely developed residential setting comprising housing, hard-standing and private gardens, and offers Low suitability for commuting bats. However, the tree and scrub belt along the Taff Trail (≈60m east) provides a continuous linear feature along the eastern edge of the settlement, offering High suitability for commuting bats and connecting directly to the broadleaved woodland on the valley slopes to the east and south. This woodland provides excellent connectivity to the Tâf Fechan and its wooded gorge within Cwm Tâf Fechan Nature Reserve (≈125m south-east), an important local linear feature providing connectivity north along the upper valley and south, beneath the Tâf Fechan Viaduct, to the Afon Tâf (≈1.1km west) and to a lesser extent, Cyfarthfa Park Lake (≈1.2km south). The upland heath, acid grassland and former quarry habitats to the west and north provide Moderate connectivity to the wider landscape, including Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (≈600m north-west).
- **Foraging Habitat:** The Tâf Fechan and associated riparian woodland within Cwm Tâf Fechan Nature Reserve (≈125m south-east) provide High suitability foraging habitat. The woodland edge along the Taff Trail and the upland heath, acid grassland and ponds to the west offer Moderate suitability for generalist foraging bats. The amenity grassland, scrub and scattered trees within the site, together with the surrounding private gardens, are considered to offer Low suitability.

5.3 Other Protected Species Results

No other specific protected species surveys were undertaken. The site is dominated by man-made surfaces and managed or formerly managed habitats, which were considered to offer sub-optimal habitat for Badger, Otter and other larger mammal species, the movement of which into the site is also restricted by the perimeter fence. No suitable sett-building opportunities, holts or couch sites were identified within the site, and no field signs of either species (such as setts, latrines, spraints, footprints or mammal pathways) were recorded. Levels of human activity within the surrounding residential area are also considered likely to deter use by these species. However, Cwm Tâf Fechan Woodlands, approximately 125m south-east, is likely to function as a commuting and foraging corridor for Otter and potentially other mammal species within the wider landscape. Although the site itself is unlikely to be used by these

species, the proximity of this corridor is considered further in Section 8.2. The stored materials (TN1) and timber debris (TN3) were considered to offer potential refugia and hibernation opportunities for small mammals, amphibians, reptiles and Hedgehog; no evidence of these species was recorded. No evidence of active nesting was recorded within the nest boxes fixed to Building A, which would be expected at this time of year; however, suitable nesting habitat for birds is present within these nest boxes and within the scrub, trees and conifers on site.

6.0 Survey Constraints and Limitations

6.1 Constraints Encountered

- **Type of Constraint:** Seasonal timing (botanical assessment).
- **Description of Constraint:** The Phase 1 habitat survey (JNCC, 2010) was undertaken on 9th September 2026, at the end of the optimal botanical survey period (April to September), and much of the ruderal vegetation had senesced. A single-visit PEA is not intended to confirm the presence or absence of all plant species on site, as different species emerge and flower at different times of year, and sward height, management regime and prevailing weather conditions can hinder identification.
- **Implications and Mitigation:** Habitats were classified and dominant species identified with confidence. While it is acknowledged that some species may not have been recorded, this limitation is not considered to have materially affected the characterisation of habitats or the identification of ecological constraints.
- **Type of Constraint:** Single-visit Preliminary Roost Assessment.
- **Description of Constraint:** A PRA is not intended to confirm the presence or absence of roosting bats. Bat activity and roost use vary considerably with season, species and weather conditions, and building complexity can hinder the inspection of some PRFs. The survey was completed in October, outside the season in which emergence surveys can be undertaken.
- **Implications and Mitigation:** PRFs were assessed and roost potential categorised with confidence. Building A requires two dusk emergence surveys and a static detector survey during the bat active season (May to September) to establish the presence or likely absence of roosting bats (Section 8.1)
- **Type of Constraint:** Access (Building A).
- **Description of Constraint:** Internal access to the roof void of Building A was restricted by the cellular timber grillage of the flat roof, and not all parts of the void could be directly examined. The crevices within the double-layered plywood fascias could also not be accessed for direct inspection.
- **Implications and Mitigation:** The absence of evidence of bats cannot be confirmed for the structure as a whole. This limitation has been addressed through a precautionary Moderate categorisation of roost potential and the recommended emergence and static detector surveys.
- **Type of Constraint:** Seasonal timing (nesting birds).
- **Description of Constraint:** The survey was undertaken outside the main bird breeding season (March to August inclusive), and the occupancy of the nest boxes fixed to Building A and nesting use of on-site scrub and trees could not be confirmed.
- **Implications and Mitigation:** Suitable nesting habitat has been identified, and a precautionary approach to vegetation clearance, removal of the nest boxes and demolition has been recommended (Section 8.2).

7.0 Discussion

7.1 Ecological Value and Significance

The site's ecological value is considered to be Low. Extensive areas of hardstanding, artificial surfacing and the dis-used buildings are of negligible intrinsic ecological value, and the amenity grassland, tall ruderal herb and scattered scrub are species-poor and of limited botanical interest. Nevertheless, the prolonged absence of management has produced a tussocky, structurally varied sward, Bramble scrub, scattered trees and accumulations of stored materi-

als and debris (TN1 and TN3), which together provide a range of niches for invertebrates, small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, Hedgehog and nesting birds. No water bodies were recorded on or adjacent to the site. Hedgehog is a species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in Wales under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, and local records for this species are present at 207m.

In relation to bats, Building A has been categorised as having Moderate roost potential, and its significance for roosting bats cannot be determined until further surveys have been completed. Local records indicate a diverse bat assemblage within 1km, including Lesser Horseshoe Bat, and while the site itself offers Low suitability for commuting and foraging bats, it lies close to High suitability habitat along the Taff Trail and the Tâf Fechan corridor.

The site lies approximately 125m from Cwm Tâf Fechan Woodlands SSSI and Nature Reserve, with two parcels of ancient woodland at approximately 260m and 318m. Given the separation distance, the intervening residential development and the small scale of the proposals, no direct impacts on these designated features are anticipated, and indirect impacts are considered unlikely provided that the recommended lighting and enhancement measures are implemented. The local presence of Swift and House Martin, both Red-listed Birds of Conservation Concern (Stanbury *et al.*, 2021), supports the provision of integrated swift nest boxes within the new development. Butterfly-bush, an invasive non-native species, was recorded within the hardstanding margins on site, and records of Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed are present locally, although neither species was recorded on site.

A record of great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) was returned from the desk study at a distance of approximately 487 m from the site; however, owing to the poor terrestrial connectivity between the record location and the site, the likelihood of the species being present on site is considered to be low, although, as a precautionary measure, a fingertip search of suitable terrestrial refugia (e.g. log piles, rubble and the bases of dense vegetation) should be undertaken by a suitably experienced ecologist immediately prior to site clearance.

7.2 Potential Ecological Impacts (in absence of mitigation)

Without the implementation of appropriate mitigation, several potential ecological impacts could arise from the proposed development:

- **Bats (Roosting):** The demolition of Building A without prior survey could result in the damage or destruction of a bat roost, including crevices within the fascias that may be used by hibernating bats, and the injury or mortality of bats. The removal of the standing dead tree (TN2) without prior inspection could have similar, albeit lower risk, consequences.
- **Bats (Commuting and Foraging):** Construction activities and permanent external lighting could disturb bats commuting and foraging along the Taff Trail and the Tâf Fechan corridor.
- **Nesting Birds:** The removal of the nest boxes on Building A, scrub, trees and conifers, and the demolition of the buildings, could result in the disturbance or destruction of active nests if undertaken during the bird breeding season (March to August inclusive).
- **Amphibians, Reptiles, Small Mammals and Hedgehog:** Site clearance, particularly the removal of stored materials and debris at TN1 and TN3, could result in the injury or mortality of sheltering or hibernating animals.
- **Habitat Loss and Connectivity:** The loss of scattered trees, scrub and rank grassland would reduce the availability of shelter, nesting and foraging resources, and new boundary features could reduce connectivity for Hedgehog.
- **Invasive Species:** Ground disturbance and clearance could facilitate the spread of Butterfly-bush beyond the site.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 Further Survey Requirements

- **Presence/Likely Absence Bat Surveys (Building A):** Building A has been assessed as having Moderate suitability to support roosting bats, in accordance with current good practice guidelines (Collins, 2023). A minimum of two separate dusk emergence surveys are therefore recommended during the bat active season, between May and September inclusive, with at least one survey completed between May and August, and surveys spaced at least 21 days apart. The use of night vision aids (e.g., infrared cameras) is recommended to support surveyor observations. In addition, a static detector survey is required, comprising one static detector unit deployed at the roof lantern for a minimum period of 14 days. As the PRA was completed in October, these surveys cannot be undertaken until the 2027 active season; in accordance with Technical Advice Note 5 (Welsh Government, 2009), the results are likely to be required by the Local Planning Authority prior to the determination of any planning application.
- **Roost Characterisation and EPS Licence:** Should a roost be confirmed, or higher than expected levels of bat activity be recorded, additional survey effort will be required to characterise the roost (including species present, approximate numbers, roost type and access points). This information is necessary to inform appropriate mitigation and, where works would affect a roost, an application for a European Protected Species (EPS) licence from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (HM Government, 2019a; 2019b).
- **Hibernating Bats:** Should a roost be confirmed: As pipistrelle species are known to hibernate in buildings, a precautionary approach will be followed. Any works to Building A during the winter months (October to April inclusive) are to be supervised by a suitably qualified and experienced bat ecologist under the direction of a method statement.
- **Bats (Standing Dead Tree):** As removal of the standing dead tree (TN2) is proposed, a detailed inspection of the tree by a suitably qualified and experienced bat ecologist will be required prior to the commencement of works.

8.2 Avoidance, Mitigation, and Enhancement Measures

- **General Mitigation:** Detailed avoidance and mitigation measures for bats, amphibians/reptiles/small mammals, and nesting birds, should be incorporated into the development plan.
- **Amphibians, Reptiles, and Small Mammals:** To mitigate the low risk of encountering amphibians, reptiles, small mammals and Hedgehog, particularly within the areas identified by Target Notes TN1 and TN3, a fingertip search must be conducted by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist prior to any further site clearance. This is essential to prevent the potential for accidental injury or mortality of these animals during works. Should any protected species be identified during the search, all work must cease and advice must be sought from the ecologist. Should a protected species be encountered at any stage of the works, all works within the affected area will cease immediately and advice will be sought from a suitably experienced ecologist. Works will not resume until that advice has been received and acted upon. Where it is determined that the works may result in an offence under the relevant wildlife legislation, works will remain suspended pending further advice from, or consultation with, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), including confirmation of whether a licence is required.
- **Bats (Lighting):** To prevent any adverse impact on the potential commuting and foraging habitats for bats post-development, the provision of any permanent lighting on-site will require a sensitive lighting scheme. A lighting plan for the site must be functional and directional only, kept to a minimum, and service only the public areas of the proposed development (as required for safety and security). It must be achieved using baffles and screens, if necessary, to ensure no light spill on any retained or planted vegetation (including off-site vegetation, where there is a potential to impact animals using nearby habitat features). The sensitive lighting scheme must follow advice detailed in 'Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK: Technical Guidance Note 08/23' (BCT and ILP, 2023) (Appendix J). No external lighting is to be directed towards the eastern boundary of the site, to prevent adverse impacts on the adjacent green space. Between March and September (inclusive), external lighting during the development period is to be limited to that which is necessary for safety and security, kept to a minimum, and where possible, works restricted to daylight hours. This is required to prevent incidental impacts on commuting and foraging bats at the site.
- **Hedgehogs:** To prevent local habitat fragmentation and maintain connectivity for Hedgehog, it is recommended that access holes, of a suitable size to allow passage, are incorporated into the base of each new garden fence.

- **Nesting Birds:** If a nest is discovered during works and is active, it must be left undisturbed until all the chicks have fledged. If any features associated with nesting birds are required to be altered during the bird breeding season, a further inspection by a suitably qualified ecologist is required no more than 24 hours before this process commences. If an active nest is found during site inspection, an exclusion zone around the nest will be necessary to preserve this feature until the chicks have fledged the nest. To compensate for the loss of nesting bird habitat, an appropriate number of bird boxes must be installed on nearby trees or structures before site operations have been completed. Precise specifications and numbers of bird boxes must be advised once final layout designs have been finalised. However, suitable models will be of a woodcrete construction to ensure longevity. The nest boxes fixed to the fascia of Building A should be removed outside the bird breeding season (March to August inclusive).
- **Tree Replacement:** Where the proposed development necessitates the removal of trees, replacement planting should be provided at a minimum ratio of 3:1, in accordance with Planning Policy Wales (Welsh Government, 2024) and Technical Advice Note 5 (Welsh Government, 2009). Replacement planting should comprise native species of local provenance wherever practicable, be of an appropriate size at the time of planting (minimum heavy standard recommended), be located to enhance existing green infrastructure and habitat connectivity, and be protected and maintained for a minimum of five years following planting. An Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) in accordance with BS 5837:2012 (BSI, 2012) is recommended to inform the final tree retention and replacement strategy, to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority.
- **Invasive Plant Species:** Butterfly-bush recorded on site should be removed during site clearance and disposed of appropriately, ensuring that seed heads are not spread, and vigilance should be maintained throughout the works to ensure that invasive plant species are not caused to spread in the wild.
- **Enhancement:**
 - Integrated bat boxes should be installed within the new development.
 - Integrated nest boxes suitable for swifts should be installed within the new development.
 - Access holes for Hedgehog should be incorporated at the base of new garden fences, and a hedgehog house provided within the landscaping scheme.
 - A native, wildlife-friendly hedgerow should be planted at the boundary of the site to maintain connectivity and provide opportunities for shelter and foraging.
 - Native trees and shrubs, such as Downy Birch, Rowan and Hazel, should be included in landscaped areas.
- **Biodiversity Net Gain:** Implementation of the biodiversity enhancement features for net-gain biodiversity, as outlined in Section 10.0, is required to achieve a net gain for the site.

9.0 Report Validity

This report is valid for a period of **24 months**.

10.0 Net Benefit for Biodiversity

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 6 of 'Planning Policy Wales' (Distinctive and Natural Places) and 'Local Planning Policy', biodiversity enhancement measures will be incorporated into the landscaping scheme of the proposed works to maximise the ecological value of the site.

10.1 Specific Enhancement Measures

- **Enhancement for Bats:** To provide roosting habitat for crevice-dwelling bat species, such as the Common Pipistrelle, two artificial bat roost (e.g., 'Integrated Eco Bat Box' or similar) will be installed as high as possible on each southern facing gables (a total of 4).
- **Enhancement for Birds:** To provide additional nesting opportunities for breeding birds, including Swift, two 'Pino Build-in Swift Box' (or similar) will be attached as high as possible (ideally at least 5m above ground level) on the northern gables (a total of 4).
- **Enhancement for Hedgehogs:** To maintain and enhance connectivity for Hedgehog, one hedgehog access hole (approximately 13cm×13cm) will be incorporated at the base of each new garden fence. In addition,

one hedgehog house (e.g., 'Vivara Pro WoodStone Hedgehog House' or similar) will be installed within a quiet, vegetated area of the landscaping scheme.

- **Enhancements for Birds and Invertebrates (Planting and Landscaping):**
- To mitigate for the potential loss of trees and scrub, maintain connectivity, and increase biodiversity, native trees will be planted at a minimum replacement ratio of 3:1, including species such as Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Hazel and Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), and a native hedgerow (traditional hedgerow mix) will be planted along the sites eastern boundary. For hedgerows, a double-row planting is recommended, with rows at least 40cm apart and 4-6 plants per metre, highlighting the importance of hedgerows for UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority species.
- To provide foraging habitat for bats, the planting of species that attract night-flying insects is encouraged, such as Common Evening-primrose (*Oenothera biennis*), Night-scented Stock (*Matthiola longipetala*), Sweet Tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), Goldenrod (*Solidago virgaurea*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*).
- A species-rich under-canopy seed mix will be included with the tree planting/hedgerow, and a species-rich seed mix will be used for all new green spaces/lawns.

Suitable enhancement products and suppliers are presented in Appendix K.

10.2 Conclusion of Net Benefit for Biodiversity

The enhancement scheme will deliver four integrated bat boxes and four integrated swift nest boxes across the new residential units, hedgehog access holes in each new garden fence and a hedgehog house, replacement native tree planting at a minimum ratio of 3:1, a native boundary hedgerow, and nectar-rich, night-scented planting to support invertebrates and foraging bats. The proposed measures will maintain connectivity, increase local biodiversity, and provide additional nesting and foraging opportunities, thereby achieving biodiversity net gain for the site.

Implementation and Maintenance: The owners will be responsible for the implementation of these enhancements and the ongoing maintenance of the enhancement features in perpetuity. Should any feature fail or become damaged, it will be promptly replaced.

11.0 References

- Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP). (2023). *Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK: Technical Guidance Note 08/23*. Bat Conservation Trust, London.
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- Collins, J. (Ed.) (2023). *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition)*. The Bat Conservation Trust, London.
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016*. The Stationery Office, London.
- HM Government. (2019a). *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)*. The Stationery Office, London.
- HM Government. (2019b). *The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019*. The Stationery Office, London.
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). (2010). *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey - a Technique for Environmental Audit*. JNCC, Peterborough.
- Stanbury, A., Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Balmer, D., Brown, A., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D., and Win, I. (2021). *The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain*. *British Birds* 114: 723-747.
- Welsh Government. (2009). *Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning*. Welsh Government, Cardiff. [CHECK EDITION]
- Welsh Government. (2024). *Planning Policy Wales Edition 12*. Welsh Government, Cardiff.
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)*. The Stationery Office, London.

Appendix A: Site Location

Date: September 2026

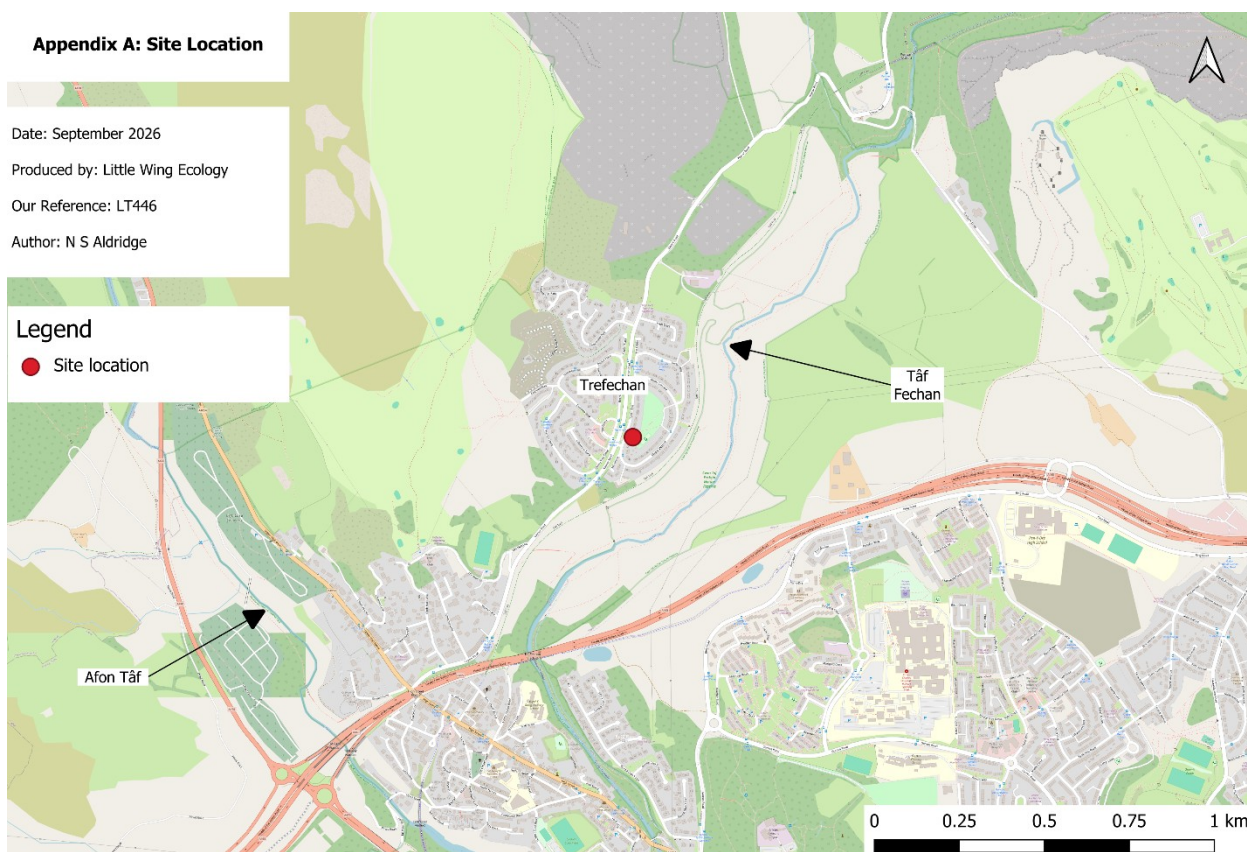
Produced by: Little Wing Ecology

Our Reference: LT446

Author: N S Aldridge

Legend

● Site location



QGIS Development Team, <2026>. QGIS Geographic Information System. Open-Source Geospatial Foundation Project.

Appendix B: A Site Plan

Date: September 2026
Produced by: Little Wing Ecology (CYF)
Our Reference: LT446
Author: N S Aldridge

Legend

- Buildings
- Boundary



QGIS Development Team, <2026>. QGIS Geographic System. Open-Source eospacial Foundation Project.

Appendix C: Phase 1 Map

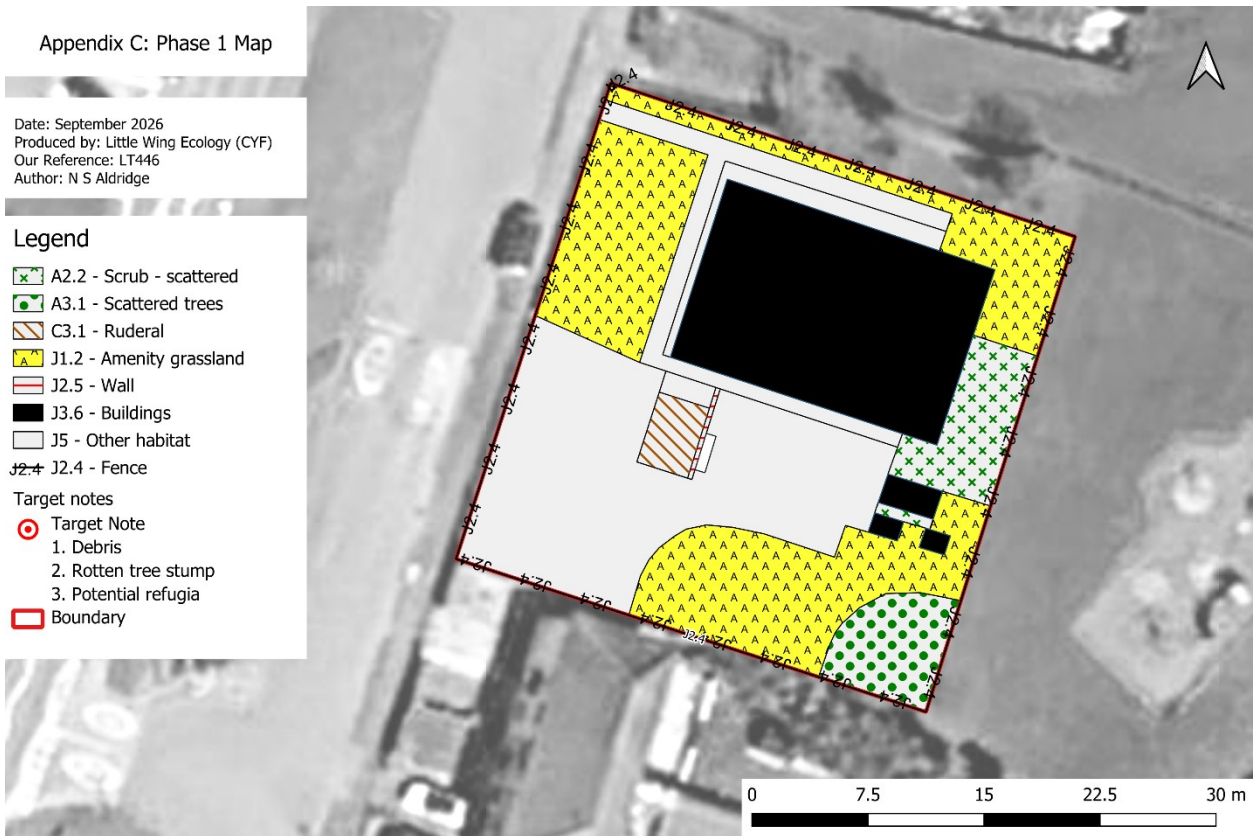
Date: September 2026
 Produced by: Little Wing Ecology (CYF)
 Our Reference: LT446
 Author: N S Aldridge

Legend

-  A2.2 - Scrub - scattered
-  A3.1 - Scattered trees
-  C3.1 - Ruderal
-  J1.2 - Amenity grassland
-  J2.5 - Wall
-  J3.6 - Buildings
-  J5 - Other habitat
-  J2.4 - Fence

Target notes

-  Target Note
 1. Debris
 2. Rotten tree stump
 3. Potential refugia
-  Boundary



QGIS Development Team, <2026>. QGIS Geographic System. Open-Source eospacial Foundation Project.

Appendix D: Habitat - Site Photographs



Scattered scrub (A.2.2)



Parkland (A.3.1)



Tall ruderal herb (C.3.1)



Amenity grassland (J.1.2)



Fence (J.2.4)



Wall (J.2.5)



Buildings (J.3.6)



Other habitat (J5)

Appendix E: Target Notes – Site Photography



TN1 – Stored materials (Potential hibernaculum)



TN3 – Debris (Potential hibernacula)



TN2 – Rotten tree

Appendix F: PRA & Daytime Bat Walkover - Site Photography



Building A (Former School): Exterior – North-east corner showing the eastern elevation (left) and northern elevation (right) – A disused, single-storey, flat-roofed, system-built school building (c.1960s–70s), with profiled cladding, deep fascias, high-level windows and a damaged roof lantern, uPVC rainwater goods. A number of nesting boxes are attached to the building.



Building A (Former School): Exterior – North-western corner showing the northern elevation (left) and western elevation (right). The building is in a poor state of repair but secured to deter vandalism and generally sealed. Materials are in a poor to fair condition.



Building A (Former School): Exterior – Southern elevation showing sealed and covered doors and fenestration. A number of nesting boxes have been fixed to the fascia – no evidence was recorded of active nesting – expected at this time of year. A Precautionary approach will be required to avoid disturbance of nesting birds during the nesting season.



Building A (Former School): Exterior – Lantern supporting water tanks on the flat roof of the structure. On investigation of this space, it appears from the condition of the damaged door and condition of the interior that this damage is very recent. The interior was clean and dry, and no physical evidence of bats or birds was recorded. As this space was clean and access was good any potential occupation should have been accessible. The roofing materials are intact with no gaps and the building is dry. Low risk – Taking a cautionary approach a 14-day static survey required.



Building A (Former School): Exterior – Fascias are constructed of a double layer of painted plywood. These were in reasonable condition.



Building A (Former School): Exterior – A minor gap was present between the two layers of plywood. This gap was largely filled with cobwebs many of which were older. While this gap is likely too small to support occupation but bats, a precautionary approach will be required to mitigate the negligible potential.



Building A (Former School): Exterior – Southern elevation – A potential roosting feature was recorded at an area of the fascia that has suffered water damage causing separation of the two layers of plywood. Moderate risk.



Building A (Former School): Exterior - A minor gap was present between the two layers of plywood. This gap was largely filled with cobwebs many of which were older. While this gap is likely too small to support occupation but bats, a precautionary approach will be required to mitigate the negligible potential. Low risk.



Building A (Former School): Interior – The flat roof void was formed by a timber grillage of intersecting joists beneath a boarded deck, dividing the space into enclosed cells, restricting inspection; electrical cables were also present. No droppings. No physical evidence to suggest occupation by bats was encountered.



Building A (Former School): Interior – The flat roof void was formed by a timber grillage of intersecting joists beneath a boarded deck, dividing the space into enclosed cells, restricting inspection; electrical cables were also present. No droppings. No physical evidence to suggest occupation by bats was encountered.



Building B comprised a small, single-storey, prefabricated store constructed of exposed-aggregate concrete panels, with a flat roof and overhanging fascia. A blue profiled metal door was present on the front elevation. Dense vegetation encroached on the building's elevations. No potential roost features (PRFs) or physical evidence of bats were identified. Negligible risk.



Building D comprised a small, single-storey timber playhouse with a shallow pitched roof and overhanging eaves. The walls were clad in painted weatherboarding, with a blue boarded door, two small windows and timber planters along the front elevation. No potential roost features (PRFs) or physical evidence of bats were identified. Negligible risk.



Building C comprised a small, single-storey, prefabricated store constructed of exposed-aggregate concrete panels, with a flat roof and overhanging fascia. A white metal door on the front elevation was open during the survey. Rank grassland surrounded the building. No potential roost features (PRFs) or physical evidence of bats were identified. Negligible risk.



A standing dead tree of moderate size was present, with a single stem dividing into several steeply ascending limbs, many of which had been cut back. Bark had sloughed from much of the main stem and upper limbs. No potential roost features (PRFs) or physical evidence of bats were identified. Low risk - A detailed inspection is required prior to the start of works.

Appendix G – Species List

Common name	Scientific name	A.2.2	A.3.1	C.3.1	J.1.2	J.2.4	J.2.5	J.3.6	J5
		Scattered scrub	Parkland	Tall ruderal herb	Amenity grassland	Fence	Wall	Buildings	Other habitat
Bamboo	<i>Bambusa spp.</i>				x				
Barberry spp.,	<i>berberis spp.</i>				x				
Blue star / Flaky juniper	<i>Juniperus squamata</i>				x				
Box spp.,	<i>Buxus spp.</i>				x				
Bramble (European blackberry)	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	x	x		x				
Buddleia (Butterfly bush)	<i>Buddleia davidii</i>								x
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia spp.</i>		x						
Common figwort	<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>								x
Dandelion (common)	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>			x	x				x
Dock (Broad-leaved)	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>								x
False cypress	<i>Chamaecyparis spp.</i>				x				
Grasses - Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>		x		x				
Grasses - Creeping bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>		x		x				
Grasses - Sweet vernal grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>				x				
Hawkbit (Bristly hawkbit, rough hawkbit)	<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>				x				x
Honeysuckle (Box-leaved)	<i>Lonicera pileata</i>								x
Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>			x					x
Ladies mantle	<i>Alchemilla spp.</i>								x
Lesser periwinkle	<i>Vinca minor</i>				x				
Maple (Sycamore)	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>		x	x	x				
Moss - Fire moss	<i>Ceratodon purpureus</i>								x
Moss - Silky wall feather moss	<i>Homalothecium sericeum</i>								x
Nettle (Common)	<i>Urtica dioica</i>				x				x
Oregano	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>				x				
Plantain (Ribwort)	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>				x				
Sedge (Pendulous)	<i>Carex pendula</i>				x				x
Speedwell (Germander)	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>				x				
Tall oat grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>				x				
Tree - Hazel (common)	<i>Corylus avellana</i>				x				x
Tree - Holly (Common)	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>				x				
Tree - Leylandii	leylandii (Leyland cypress) is <i>Cupressus</i> × <i>leylandii</i>								x
Tree - Whitebeam spp.,	<i>Sorbus spp.</i>		x		x				
Tree - Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>		x		x				
Tree - Willow (Basket)	<i>Salix viminalis</i>	x							
Tree - Willow spp.,	<i>Salix spp.</i>								x
Tree -Hazel (Corkscrew)	<i>Corylus avellana</i> 'Contorta'				x				
Willowherb (Broad-leaved)	<i>Epilobium montanum</i>				x				x
Willowherb (Rosebay)	<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>			x					

Appendix H: Meet the Team

Nic Aldridge (NA) is an ecologist with Little Wing Ecology and the author of this report. He is a licensed bat worker (S094182/1) with over 20 years' experience in education and conservation and over eight years' experience surveying built-structures, open habitats, and woodlands for bats. Following a degree in Botany and Zoology, Nic completed an MSc in Wildlife Management, Conservation and Control at the University of Reading. He has practical experience in field-based research with a focus on invertebrate and vegetation diversity and producing phase 1 habitat surveys and habitat management plans. He is experienced in hand netting common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle from maternity roosts, has carried out the ringing of Daubenton's bats as part of a multi-year project on the species and has undertaken monitoring work on several important lesser horseshoe bat roosts. Nic writes EPS licence applications, ecological reports and provides Ecological Clerk of Works services. He has attended courses with the Bat Conservation Trust to improve his knowledge and skills and has led voluntary projects to develop habitats and collect species data. Nic founded Little Wing Ecology in 2021 as a not-for-profit, to use the skills and expertise of an ecological consultancy to work with the local community, support local conservation projects and provide training and education for the next generation of ecologists.

Elizabeth Winstanley (LW) is a Nature Recovery Officer with a large Conservation Organisation, and a wildlife surveyor with Little Wing Ecology. She has over ten years' experience working in practical conservation. Following a degree in Outdoor Education, Liz volunteered with The Wildlife Trust before taking on her current responsibilities. She has held her current position since 2015. During this time, Liz has undertaken numerous surveys and monitoring projects, including work on butterfly transects, phase 1 habitat surveys, reptile and amphibian surveys, upland monitoring, BTO bird box round, intermediate tree survey and inspection, dormouse training and recording, bumblebee conservation – bee walks and many more. Currently Liz is responsible for the management of seven Nature Reserves including four SSSIs. Liz has also attended several training sessions to develop her knowledge, understanding and practical skills in bat monitoring and bat ecology.

Tracey Cotterell (TC) is employed by the NHS as a Porter and a wildlife surveyor with Little Wing Ecology. Tracey has a lifelong love of nature and enjoys spending her spare time volunteering with organisations such as The Welsh Wildlife Trusts, Blaenavon Heritage and the TRF (Trail Riders Fellowship). She enjoys being outdoors, whether in a working capacity or for personal interest such as running, riding, or surfing. She has volunteered throughout her life in roles as varied as an NHS First Responder, to working for the Wildlife Trust. During this time, she has gained skills in volunteering with environmental conservation matters, and through being a signaller in a search and rescue team. Tracey enjoys the responsibility of conserving the surrounding environment, learning, and helping to regulate human activities to minimise direct and indirect negative impacts on both flora and fauna. Tracey has also attended several training sessions to develop her knowledge, understanding and practical skills in bat monitoring and bat ecology.

Yvette Amos (YA) is a wildlife surveyor with Little Wing Ecology. She has a lifelong love of nature and enjoys spending her spare time and vacations centred around nature and wildlife focused destinations. Yvette enjoys being outdoors, where she expresses her love of photography along with her interest in the natural world. She is experienced in data collection at a high level, having formerly worked for Cardiff University, School of Social Sciences and Computer Science. Yvette has attended several training sessions to develop her knowledge, understanding and practical skills in bat monitoring and bat ecology and is dedicated to gaining experience in nature conservation, wildlife management and ecology.

Richard Farr (RF) is a wildlife surveyor with Little Wing Ecology. Richard has a life-long love of nature and has previously worked with the Gwent Wildlife Trust, where he gained a wide set of practical skills and experiences which have developed his knowledge and understanding of ecology and conservation at a range of the Trust's Local Nature Reserves. He has recently completed his bachelor's degree in ecology and conservation science at the University of the West of England (UWE), which has allowed him to develop knowledge and skills in numerous areas including field/survey techniques, geographical information systems, consultancy, habitat management/identification, data collection, data analysis using software such as RStudio. He has attended multiple training sessions to further develop skills and knowledge in bat monitoring, bat ecology, conducting surveys and associated reports.

Libby Cotterell (LC) is a full-time student and a wildlife surveyor with Little Wing Ecology. She has a lifelong love of nature and the outdoors and enjoys learning new skills and engaging in practical work, in order to have a positive impact on local conservation issues. Libby has attended several training sessions with Little Wing Ecology to develop her knowledge, understanding and practical skills in bat monitoring and bat ecology.

Elise Winstanley (ELW) is a full-time student and a wildlife surveyor with Little Wing Ecology. She previously ran a college newspaper and is committed to community engagement - both in her academic life and in the local community, as shown by her willingness to integrate herself into the towns of both Ebbw Vale and Lampeter. Elise is currently studying creative writing and has a keen interest in nature and habitat preservation. She has attended several training sessions with Little Wing Ecology to develop her knowledge, understanding and practical skills in bat monitoring and bat ecology.

Sam Haycock (SH) is a founding director of Little Wing Ecology and a commercial assurance executive with a national company. Sam has over 20 years' experience in the education sector and four years' experience managing two rural enterprise companies, of which she was a director for three years. She brings a broad range of interdisciplinary skills to her role at Little Wing Ecology where she has responsibility for editing, reviewing, data management and finances. In 2021, Sam became a founding director of Little Wing Ecology, as a social enterprise, that aims to use the skills and expertise of an ecological consultancy, to work with the local community, support local conservation projects and provide training and education for the next generation of ecologists and conservationists.

Appendix I: Additional Information (Species Potential)

Confirmed Presence	Species recorded to be present during the survey. Evidence of species is recorded during the survey.
High	Buildings, trees or other structures with features of interest for use by protected species are recorded e.g. nesting habitat, roosting opportunities and/or ponds. Habitat with high quality foraging opportunities e.g. broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed grassland. The site is connected to the wider landscape by strong linear features that have the potential to be used by commuting species e.g. a river, stream and/or hedgerows. The site is close to known locations of recorded protected species.
Medium	Several potential habitat opportunities in buildings, trees or other structures recorded during the survey. Habitat could be used for foraging e.g. trees, shrubs, grassland and/or water. The site is connected to the wider landscape by linear features that could be used by commuting species e.g. lines of trees, scrubs or linked back gardens.
Low	A small number of less significant features are recorded. Isolated habitat suitable for foraging e.g. a lone tree or patch of scrub. An isolated site which is not connected by significant linear features in the landscape.
Negligible	No suitable habitats observed.

Appendix J: Additional Information (Bat Friendly Lighting Scheme)

To prevent any adverse impact upon the potential roosting, commuting and foraging habitats for bats adjacent to the Site (post development), specifically on the nearby mature trees, a lighting plan is required. Lighting for the site must be functional and directional only and kept to a minimum, servicing the public areas of the proposed development (as required for safety and security). It must be achieved using baffles and screens if necessary, to ensure no light spill on any retained or planted vegetation (including off-site vegetation - e.g., if there is potential to impact animals using the nearby habitat features).

- A sensitive lighting scheme is recommended and must be created. The sensitive lighting scheme must follow advice detailed in 'Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK: Technical Guidance Note 08/23' (2023) and comprise of:
- Light fixtures, filaments, light spill and artificial light must be directed away from bat roost entrances, both existing and those to be created as part of the mitigation.
- Luminaries are to be LED only, due to their sharp cut-off, lower intensity, good colour rendition and dimming capability. Luminaires must have a warm white spectrum (ideally <2700 Kelvins), reducing the blue light component and increasing the red-light component.
- Luminaries must feature peak wavelengths of 550nm to avoid the component of light most disturbing to bats.
- Heights of fixtures must be carefully considered to minimise light spill. Only luminaries with an upward light ratio of 0% and with good optical control must be used.
- Luminaries must always be mounted on the horizontal, i.e., no upward tilt.
- Any external security lighting must be set on motion sensors and short (15 second) timers.
- As a last resort, accessories such as baffles, hoods or louvres must also be used, and directed away from any natural features and must not encroach outside the Site boundaries, particularly the surrounding trees, hedgerows, and other vegetation in the landscape.

A copy of 'Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK: Technical Guidance Note 08/23' (2023) can be found here:

<https://www.bats.org.uk/news/2023/08/bats-and-artificial-lighting-at-night-ilp-guidance-note-update-released>

Appendix K: Biodiversity Enhancement Features

Category	Product / Feature / Information	Availability
Bats	Integrated Eco Bat Box	https://www.nestbox.co.uk/products/integrated-eco-bat-box
Bats	Beaumaris Bat Box	https://www.wildcare.co.uk/beaumaris-bat-box.html?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjw65-zBhBkEiwAjrRMLWbfTavFlgGTV2ry0OGQEWnqN0eVseleG460NUffHmj6NAF2TcGZhoCsKEQAvD_BwE
Bats	Bat Access Tiles: Slate	https://beddoesproducts.com/
Bats	Bat Access Tiles: Terracotta	https://spicertiles.co.uk/product/bat-access-tiles/
Bats	F2 Schwegler Bat Box	https://www.wildcare.co.uk/bat-box-45.html
Bats	2FN Schwegler Bat Box	https://www.wildcare.co.uk/bat-box-55.html
Bats	Eco Rocket Bat Box (Pole mounted)	https://www.nestbox.co.uk/products/eco-rocket-bat-box
Bats	Eco Kent Bat Box	https://www.nhbs.com/eco-kent-bat-box
Birds	1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace	https://www.nhbs.com/1sp-schwegler-sparrow-terrace
Birds	No10 Schwegler Swallow Nest	https://www.nhbs.com/no-10-schwegler-swallow-nest?bkfno=174809&ca_id=1495&adlocale=uk&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjw8MG1BhCoARIsAHxSiQn8rz11Yabug80zjBuXHmQn9XgWQgdwqh6TCQceJk6cZwCXiN-ezAaAnb9EALw_wcB
Birds	Schwegler 2m nest box 32mm red	https://www.wildcare.co.uk/schwegler-2m-nest-box-32mm-red.html
Birds	Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Box	https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-seville-32mm-woodstone-nest-box?bkfno=234956&ca_id=1495&adlocale=uk&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjw1emzBhB8EiwAHwZZxQ3ycKKX1WfX_vPwy4H0tmx0d8U47PSFg_oRKWOuj01vGrNPv2budhoC43AQAvD_BwE
Birds	B1 Schwegler Nest Box	www.nhbs.com
Birds	2H Schwegler Open-fronted Boxes	https://www.wildcare.co.uk/wildlife-nest-boxes/bat-boxes/open-front-bird-box.html?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjw8MG1BhCoARIsAHxSiQn8rz11Yabug80zjBuXHmQn9XgWQgdwqh6TCQceJk6cZwCXiN-ezAaAnb9EALw_wcB
Birds	Bilbao Nest Box	www.wildcare.co.uk
Botany: Seeds	Species-rich Neutral Grassland (Lawn)	https://www.cumbriawildflowers.co.uk/habitats/neutralhaymeadowmix
Botany: Seeds	Native Woodland Under-canopy Mix: Wildflowers and Native Woodland Under-canopy Mix: Grasses	https://www.pitchcare.com/products/shade-hedgerow-woodland-wildflower?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA3JCvBhA8EiwA4kuJZoajG-WP6tDAjs71P4QXzKHYYHzOnsDiaD0cfR0j9fwOW1kwrX0LdLxoCqp8QAvD_BwE
Botany: Seeds	Seed Mix: Pond Edge	https://britishpondplants.co.uk/products/pond-edge-seed-mix#:~:text=Pond%20Edge%20Seed%20Mix&text=The%20first%20consists%20of%2030,the%20wildflowers%20at%20only%201g.
Botany: Saplings	Traditional hedgerow mix	https://hedgelink.org.uk/hedgerows/hedgerow-biodiversity/
Botany: Trees	Standard Downy Birch Tree	https://www.tree-shop.co.uk/product/downy-birch-betula-pubesces/
Botany: Trees	Standard Rowan	https://www.ashridgetrees.co.uk/p/garden-trees/sorbus/aucuparia-mountain-ash-rowan
Botany: Trees	Standard Hazel	https://shop.woodlandtrust.org.uk/hazel
Botany: Trees	Standard Sessile Oak	https://www.ashridgetrees.co.uk/p/garden-trees/oak-quercus/petraea-sessile?utm_campaign=20731047289&utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=google&utm_content=Suitm_term=Suitm_marketing_tactic=20731047289&utm_creative_format=Suitm_source_platform=g_x&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA8Lu9BhA8EiwAag16bwlycGfDm5rQcqlzRTVAgPmF9y1L1Ywpm0ZDmt8OCXjV0frx8qoBoCX18QAvD_BwE
Ponds	Froglife: Just Add Water: How to Build a Wildlife Pond	https://www.froglife.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/JAW2014-for-printing-HLF1.pdf
Invertebrates	RSPB: Wildlife Friendly Compost Heap	https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/garden-activities/how-to-start-composting/?channel=paidsearch&gclid=Cj0KCQjw8MG1BhCoARIsAHxSiQn8rz11Yabug80zjBuXHmQn9XgWQgdwqh6TCQceJk6cZwCXiN-ezAaAnb9EALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds
Invertebrates	Bee Bricks	https://www.wildcare.co.uk/wildlife-nest-boxes/insect-habitat/solitary-insects/greenblue-bee-brick.html?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjw1emzBhB8EiwAHwZZxQhTPlq1vLIUmTcv0q5w_id941qKkCx5Nsnlh4NVwijJe7wxAnkazhoCggU

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Invertebrates	Schwegler Clay and Reed Insect Nest	www.nhbs.com
Habitat management	Plantlife: Managing a Small Meadow for Wildlife	https://meadows.plantlife.org.uk/3-maintaining-meadows/managing-meadows-of-all-sizes-with-mowing/
Habitat management	Woodland Trust: How to Plant a Tree	https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/how-to-plant/
Hedgehogs	Vivara Pro WoodStone Hedgehog House	https://www.wildcare.co.uk/wildlife-nest-boxes/other-mammal-nest-boxes/hedgehogs/woodstone-hedgehog-house-10506.html?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA9bq6BhAKEiwAH6bqoG61jaD7qZxlkHiCns8zdz5xCwnaFe-yOFvsp_pt2WZqavkUqzftthoCjdMQAvD_BwE
Hedgehogs	Eco Hedgehog Hole Plate	https://www.nestbox.co.uk/products/eco-hedgehog-hole-plate?_pos=2&_sid=cfc475fd2&_ss=r
Amphibians	An Amphibian Hibernacula: English Nature: Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines.	https://www.froglife.org/
Planting for bats	Common Evening Primrose (<i>Oenothera biennis</i>): A hardy biennial with yellow flowers that pop open at sunset, letting off a sweet fragrance that acts as a beacon for moths.	https://www.naturescape.co.uk/product/evening-primrose/
Planting for bats	Night-Scented Stock (<i>Matthiola longipetala</i>): An absolute classic for the traditional British cottage garden, releasing an incredible evening aroma.	https://www.chilternseeds.co.uk/item/848/matthiola-longipetala-seeds?srltid=AfmBOorMGfMJaf0-0gkxFj5a_sjP03rXaWl2T6z3w2tX_Blii1_1xj3h
Planting for bats	Nicotiana (<i>Nicotiana alata</i>): Jasmine-scented ornamental tobacco plants with pale flowers that stand out under pale moonlight.	https://www.chilternseeds.co.uk/item/898/nicotiana-alata-sensation-mixed-colours-seeds?srltid=AfmBOorFZSz-EB2T8fOUaLsT1qFrW1kmcc01PzWOfIF3cNKGXdBdBC3W

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CYFYNGIADAU

Mae Little Wing Ecology (CYF) wedi paratoi'r Adroddiad hwn at ddefnydd y Cleient neu ei Asiantau uchod yn unig yn unol â'n telerau busnes, y cyflawnwyd ein gwasanaethau oddi tanynt. Ni roddir unrhyw warant arall, wedi'i mynegi neu ei hawgrymu, ynghylch y cyngor proffesiynol sydd wedi'i gynnwys yn yr Adroddiad hwn nac unrhyw wasanaethau eraill a ddarperir gennym ni. Ni all unrhyw barti arall ddibynnu ar yr Adroddiad hwn heb gytundeb ysgrifenedig penodol ymlaen llaw gan Little Wing Ecology (CYF).

Mae'r asesiadau a wnaed yn rhagdybio y bydd y safle(oedd) a'r cyfleusterau yn parhau i gael eu defnyddio i'w pwrpas presennol heb newid sylweddol. Mae'r casgliadau a'r argymhellion yn yr Adroddiad hwn yn seiliedig ar wybodaeth a ddarparwyd gan eraill ac ar y dybiaeth bod yr holl wybodaeth berthnasol wedi'i darparu gan y partïon hynny y gofynnwyd amdani. Nid yw gwybodaeth a gafwyd gan drydydd partïon wedi'i dilysu'n annibynnol gan Little Wing Ecology (CYF).

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About Us

Little Wing Ecology is a not-for-profit ecological consultancy serving the South Wales Valleys and beyond. We combine professional expertise with community impact, delivering high-quality ecological services while reinvesting in local nature and people.

We are a small ecological consultancy dedicated to providing accessible and pragmatic services that uphold the highest standards of conservation.

Our Services

Survey and Assessment Services:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisals and Roost Assessments
- Comprehensive bat, reptile, and eDNA surveys
- European Protected Species License Applications

Planning and Implementation Support:

- Mitigation planning and Green Infrastructure Statements
- On-site development support services

Our Mission

As a Consultancy, we use our experience, expertise, and commitment to conservation to provide an accessible and pragmatic service that upholds the highest standards of environmental protection.

As a Not-for-Profit Social Enterprise, we reinvest our profits to create lasting positive change. We collaborate with valleys communities, conservation groups, local authorities, and partners to advance our three core commitments:

A. Helping Nature

We champion biodiversity recovery and resilience through:

- Habitat restoration and enhancement initiatives
- Designing built environments that work with wildlife
- Supporting long-term conservation monitoring that informs future protection efforts

B. Working with People

We believe in empowering communities through meaningful engagement with nature:

- Creating employment, training and volunteer pathways that build ecological skills and confidence
- Fostering the next generation of conservation champions
- Strengthening the connection between people and their natural environment

C. Supporting Communities

We invest in the places and people we serve:

- Reinvesting locally in nature-positive projects and community development
- Promoting environmental education that builds understanding and stewardship
- Providing expertise to support worthwhile causes and community-led initiatives

Our Vision: A thriving South Wales Valleys where nature and communities flourish together, supported by practical conservation action and shared environmental stewardship.

Adroddiad Arolwg gan



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NATUR

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