

Station Road, Bargoed

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Langstone Construction Group

61538

May 2026



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May 2026

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S0 – Work in progress

S1 – For coordination

S2 – For information

S3 – For review and comment

S4 – For approval

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Description
BS 42020	British Standard 42020:2013 (Biodiversity — Code of practice for planning and development)
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
PEA	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
SINC	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
TACP	TACP (UK) Ltd
UKHab	UK Habitat Classification

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Purpose

- 1.1.1 TACP UK Ltd (TACP) was commissioned by Langstone Construction Group Ltd to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of land at Station Road, Bargoed, Caerphilly County Borough (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'). The Site is centred on OS Grid Reference SO 15107 00101. The purpose of the PEA is to establish the baseline ecological conditions of the Site, assess the presence or potential presence of habitats and species of conservation importance, and identify any ecological constraints and opportunities relevant to the proposed development.
- 1.1.2 The findings of the PEA will inform the planning process by providing proportionate ecological evidence in accordance with national and local planning policy. The assessment also identifies any requirements for further ecological surveys, mitigation measures, or biodiversity enhancement opportunities that may be necessary as the project progresses.

1.2 Scope of Assessment

- 1.2.1 This PEA comprises:
- A review of existing ecological information contained within the Ecological Assessment (February 2023) previously undertaken for the site (desk study information is not duplicated here);
 - Walkover survey observations undertaken in April 2026;
 - An assessment of habitat types and their suitability to support protected and notable species; and
 - An outline of key ecological constraints and opportunities.
- 1.2.2 The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the principles of BS 42020:2013 and standard practice guidance from CIEEM.

1.3 Limitations

- 1.3.1 This PEA is based on a site walkover and previously obtained desk study data. The findings, therefore, provide an initial appraisal of ecological features and constraints rather than a definitive ecological assessment.

1.4 Site Location and Context

- 1.4.1 The site is located at Station Road, Bargoed and comprises previously disturbed land with areas of hardstanding, retaining structures, ruderal and scrub vegetation. Key features include a large retaining wall along the northern boundary and a shallow area of standing water in the southern part of the site, surrounded by rubble and wood debris. The wider landscape includes urban development with connectivity to semi-natural habitats on the eastern side of the site boundary.

2 LEGISLATION AND PLANNING POLICY

2.1 Legislation

- 2.1.1 Several different Acts of legislation and regulations relate to the protection of wildlife. These are summarised in Appendix A. In particular, the legislation regarding potential protected species on the Site is outlined. This is a summary of the legislation and is not to be regarded as a definitive legal opinion. When dealing with individual cases, it is advisable to review the full texts of the relevant legislation alongside legal advice.
- 2.1.2 The following wildlife legislation is potentially relevant to the Project:
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended);
 - The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000;
 - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017;
 - Environment (Wales) Act 2016;
 - Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996;
 - Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006;
 - The Hedgerow Regulations 1997; and,
 - The Protection of Badgers Act 1992;
 - Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019.
- 2.1.3 The above legislation has been considered when planning and undertaking this PEA using the methods described in Section 4, identifying potential constraints to the Project, and making recommendations for further surveys, design options and mitigation. Compliance with legislation may require obtaining relevant protected species licences prior to implementation of the Project.

2.2 National Planning Policy

- 2.2.1 Planning Policy Wales (12th Edition, February 2024) sets out the Welsh Government's land use planning policies and provides the policy framework for the preparation of Local Development Plans. Chapter 6, *Distinctive and Natural Places*, outlines the Welsh Government's objectives for conserving, enhancing and managing biodiversity and geodiversity.
- 2.2.2 Chapter 6 places a strong emphasis on the need to take a proactive approach to green infrastructure and ecosystem resilience. It promotes a stepwise approach to development, requiring avoidance of impacts in the first instance, followed by mitigation and compensation where necessary, to secure an overall net benefit for biodiversity.

- 2.2.3 Planning Policy Wales is supported by Technical Advice Note 5 (TAN 5: Nature Conservation and Planning). TAN 5 provides guidance on how the planning system should contribute to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and geological conservation. It sets out key considerations for development management, including the treatment of designated sites, habitats and protected or priority species.
- 2.2.4 Key principles include the requirement for the planning system in Wales to fully integrate biodiversity into decision-making. Development proposals should aim to provide a net benefit for biodiversity, ensuring no significant loss of habitats or species populations at a local or national level. Opportunities for enhancement and long-term management should be considered throughout the design process.

2.3 Local Planning Policy

- 2.3.1 Development proposals within Caerphilly County Borough are assessed against the Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Development Plan. The Plan sets out policies designed to protect and enhance biodiversity and natural heritage in accordance with national planning policy.
- 2.3.2 These policies seek to protect designated sites of nature conservation importance, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Local Nature Reserves and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), and to safeguard protected and priority species, including those listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- 2.3.3 The Local Development Plan also promotes the maintenance and enhancement of ecological networks and green infrastructure. Particular emphasis is placed on retaining features such as river corridors, woodland, hedgerows, and other linear habitats that facilitate species movement and contribute to ecological resilience.
- 2.3.4 Developers are encouraged to consider ecological constraints at an early stage and to incorporate biodiversity enhancements, green infrastructure and sustainable drainage features into the design of proposals, ensuring compliance with national policy and contributing to local biodiversity objectives.

3 ECOLOGICAL METHODS

3.1 Desk Study

- 3.1.1 No desk study has been undertaken as part of this report. All desk study information relating to statutory and non-statutory designations, protected and notable species records, and relevant ecological constraints is retained within the Ecological Assessment undertaken in February (David Clements, 2023). Some of the information has been included in this report, the full desk study should be referred to in conjunction with this PEA.

3.2 Site Walkover Survey

- 3.2.1 A Phase 1 habitat survey of the Site was undertaken in April 2026 by Joseph Coyle (BSc (Hons), MSc, ACIEEM). The survey was carried out following appropriate Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines (*Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal* 2nd edition. CIEEM (2017)).
- 3.2.2 Habitats within and around the Scheme were classified and mapped with detailed target notes (refer to Appendix E) using the methods outlined in the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)'s *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – a Technique for Environmental Audit* (JNCC, 1990).
- 3.2.3 Plant species listed in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) (1981), as amended, were identified and recorded during the survey.
- 3.2.4 The walkover survey included:
- Mapping and classification of habitats in accordance with standard Phase 1 principles;
 - Identification of features with potential to support protected species, including bats, reptiles, amphibians and nesting birds, together with the presence of invasive non-native species (INNS); and
 - An appraisal of the Site in the context of the surrounding landscape.

3.3 Survey Constraints

- 3.3.1 Weather conditions at the time of survey were suitable for undertaking a PEA and did not constrain habitat identification.
- 3.3.2 The walkover survey was sufficient; however, access limitations and the dominance of invasive non-native vegetation may have limited visibility of underlying habitats in parts of the Site.

4 SITE DESCRIPTION AND BASELINE ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

4.1 Site Description

- 4.1.1 The Site comprises previously disturbed land at Station Road, Bargoed, with habitats shaped by historical modification and ongoing anthropogenic influence. A large retaining wall forms a prominent feature along the northern boundary, creating a steep, largely unvegetated face with limited botanical value.
- 4.1.2 The southern end of the Scheme and the boundary with the adjacent river corridor support areas of semi-natural broadleaved woodland. Elsewhere, the Site is dominated by ruderal, tall-herb and scrub vegetation associated with disturbed ground, together with invasive non-native species.
- 4.1.3 A shallow area of standing water is present in the southern part of the Site. This feature is surrounded by rubble and woody debris and appears to be either ephemeral or semi-permanent, depending on rainfall and seasonal conditions.
- 4.1.4 A Site map detailing the habitats present on the site is found in Appendix B, an INNS map is found in Appendix C, full species list is found in Appendix D, and target notes are found in Appendix E.

4.2 Habitats Present

Broadleaved Woodland (Southern extent and river corridor)

- 4.2.1 Semi-natural broadleaved woodland is present along the southern boundary of the Site and extends along the river corridor. The woodland canopy is dominated by deciduous species including oak (*Quercus* sp.), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), with frequent hazel (*Corylus avellana*) forming part of the sub-canopy and understorey.
- 4.2.2 The understorey comprises hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.), bramble (*Rubus* spp.), ivy (*Hedera helix* and *H. hibernica*), and scattered scrub species, with occasional crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*). The ground flora varies in composition and density according to shading and disturbance levels and includes species such as male fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), hart's-tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*), hedge woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*) and variegated yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon* subsp. *argenteum*).
- 4.2.3 This woodland provides structural diversity and has the potential to support nesting birds, foraging and commuting bats.

Ruderal and Tall-Herb Vegetation

- 4.2.4 Much of the central and northern parts of the Site comprises ruderal and tall-herb communities typical of disturbed urban land. Recorded species include rosebay willowherb (*Epilobium angustifolium*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), hemp-agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*), spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), common ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), feverfew (*Tanacetum parthenium*), weld (*Reseda luteola*) and hoary mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*).

Scrub and Scattered Trees

- 4.2.5 Scrub and early successional trees occur locally, particularly along Site margins and areas subject to reduced disturbance. Species recorded include bramble (*Rubus* sp.), hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.), buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), wall cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*).

Standing Water and Marginal Vegetation

- 4.2.6 A shallow pool in the southern part of the Site supports marginal and aquatic vegetation including watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*), water mint (*Mentha aquatica*), brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*), common duckweed (*Lemna minor*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), remote sedge (*Carex remota*) and pill sedge (*Carex pilulifera*).

Invasive Non-Native Species

- 4.2.7 Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) is widespread across the Site, forming dense monocultural stands that suppress native vegetation. The species is listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and represents a significant ecological and development constraint due to its capacity to spread.
- 4.2.8 Additional invasive or invasive-associated non-native species recorded include Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), wall cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*) and variegated yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon* subsp. *Argentatum*).

5 PROTECTED AND NOTABLE SPECIES

- 5.1.1 This section provides a precautionary appraisal of the potential for protected and notable species to occur within the Site, based on the habitats identified during the walkover survey and from the desk study undertaken by David Clements 2023.

Bats

- 5.1.2 The broadleaved woodland along the southern boundary and river corridor, together with scattered trees and scrub across the Site, provides habitats suitable for foraging and commuting bats.
- 5.1.3 The desk study undertaken by David Clements in 2023 showed numerous records of bats and bat roosts within 2km of the Site boundary, with the nearest roost identified as a pipistrelle roost approximately 510m from the site.
- 5.1.4 Records of commuting and foraging were also noted, with the nearest bat recorded 147m from the Site.
- 5.1.5 Features such as mature trees may offer limited roosting potential, although no roost features were identified during the walkover survey.

Otter

- 5.1.6 The Site is situated adjacent to a river corridor, which may offer suitable commuting and foraging habitat for otters at a broader landscape scale. The shallow standing water feature within the site is unsuitable for otters due to its limited size, depth, and ephemeral nature.
- 5.1.7 During the walkover survey, no evidence of otters, such as spraints, footprints, holts, or couches, was recorded. Given the urban context, the level of disturbance, and the limited suitability of the on-site habitats, the likelihood of otters using the site regularly is considered low. Nonetheless, the desk study undertaken by David Clements showed records of otter within 2km of the site; therefore, occasional passage along the eastern boundary of the Rhymney River cannot be ruled out.
- 5.1.8 At this stage, no further surveys are deemed necessary. However, if any works are proposed past the surveyed site boundary, a pre-construction check is recommended to confirm the absence of otter resting places and to ensure compliance with regulations.

Dormouse

- 5.1.9 The Site features areas of broadleaved woodland and scrub along its southern boundary and river corridor. However, these habitats are relatively limited in extent inside the site boundary and are surrounded by heavily disturbed environments dominated by invasive vegetation. The quality of the existing habitat is considered suboptimal. Based on this information, the likelihood of dormouse presence is considered low, and no further survey is deemed necessary at this stage. The desk study undertaken by David Clements in 2023 showed no records of dormouse within 2km.
- 5.1.10 If development proposals extend into or result in the removal of woodland in the river corridor, further assessment should be considered.

Breeding Birds

- 5.1.11 Vegetation across the Site, including woodland, scrub, tall-herb and ruderal habitats, provides suitable nesting and foraging habitat for common breeding bird species. All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) during the breeding season.

Reptiles

- 5.1.12 The presence of rubble piles, unmanaged grassland, scrub edges and south-facing disturbed ground provides suitable refugia and basking habitat for common reptile species, such as slow-worm and common lizard. Habitat connectivity across the Site is limited due to the dominance of invasive vegetation, localised opportunities remain.

Amphibians

- 5.1.13 The shallow standing water feature in the southern part of the Site, together with damp marginal vegetation and proximity to the river corridor, indicates potential suitability for common amphibian species, particularly for sheltering and foraging. The river corridor may also function as a movement route for riparian species.

Mammals

- 5.1.14 The Site may support a range of common mammals typical of urban and semi-natural habitats, including hedgehog, fox and badgers.

Invertebrates

- 5.1.15 Ruderal and tall-herb vegetation, together with the standing water feature, provides some limited foraging habitat for common invertebrate species; however, the overall habitat quality is constrained by disturbance and invasive non-native species dominance.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS AND FURTHER SURVEY REQUIREMENTS

Invasive Non-Native Species Management

- 6.1.1 INNS represents a key ecological and development constraint across the Site. Should development proceed, a specialist invasive non-native species management plan will be required. All works must be undertaken in accordance with relevant legislation and best practice guidance to prevent the spread of this species during construction.
- 6.1.2 The management plan should be prepared by a suitably experienced specialist and should include:
- Details of the chosen control methods (e.g. herbicide treatment, excavation, or on-site burial);
 - Measures to prevent the spread of invasive species during construction, including appropriate biosecurity protocols;
 - Procedures for handling, storage and disposal of any contaminated soils in accordance with relevant legislation;
- 6.1.3 A programme of monitoring and follow-up treatment to demonstrate successful control.

Breeding Birds

- 6.1.4 Vegetation clearance or works affecting woodland, scrub, tall-herb or ruderal habitats should be undertaken outside the bird nesting season (generally March to September inclusive). If works are required during this period, a pre-construction nesting bird check by a suitably experienced ecologist will be necessary.

Reptiles and Amphibians

- 6.1.5 Given the presence of rubble, unmanaged vegetation and a shallow standing water feature, precautionary measures should be applied during site clearance to avoid harm to reptiles and amphibians. A reptile mitigation strategy should be prepared to include phased vegetation clearance and ecological watching briefs during initial groundworks.

Bats

- 6.1.6 Although no roost features were identified during the walkover survey, mature trees and woodland edges provide potential bat habitat. Any proposals involving the removal or modification of trees along the river corridor should be subject to further assessment, and if required, targeted bat surveys. A dark corridor of the woodland must remain, and the lighting design must ensure that foraging and commuting habitats are not impacted.

6.2 Ecological Enhancement

- 6.2.1 Opportunities exist to enhance the ecological value of the Site through sensitive landscaping and habitat creation. A separate Green Infrastructure Statement will be required, and measures could include retaining and strengthening woodland and riparian habitats, planting native species, and installing bird and bat boxes. Such enhancements would contribute to local biodiversity objectives and support the Section 6 duty of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

7 REFERENCES

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UKHab, 2023. *UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0*, s.l.: s.n.

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000; [Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017; [The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Environment (Wales) Act 2016; [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996; [Wild Mammals \(Protection\) Act 1996 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006; [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997; [The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992; [Protection of Badgers Act 1992 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

APPENDICES

Appendix A

Legislation and planning policies

In addition to habitats, several species have been afforded protection through international/European and national law. Other species are considered to contribute to our 'quality of life'. Although these species do not benefit from legal protection, they can be material considerations in the planning process. Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) covers birds, Schedule 5 covers other animals and Schedule 8 covers plants. The table below outlines the key forms of protection afforded to species.

Species including bats, otters and great crested newts are listed under Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Badgers are protected under their Act: The Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Activities affecting protected species must usually be conducted under a licence obtained from the appropriate body (in Wales, this is Natural Resources Wales).

Developers must be able to show that all reasonable measures have been taken to ensure that protected species are not subject to disturbance. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 has strengthened enforcement powers and introduced a new offence of "reckless disturbance" that applies to both protected sites and species.

Table 1 – Legislation in Detail

Legislation	Brief Description
The Habitats Directive	The Habitats Directive 1992 (Directive 92/43/EEC sets out the legal framework requiring EU member states to protect habitat sites supporting vulnerable and protected species, as listed within the Directive. The need for an assessment of impacts on Natura 2000 sites (the collective name for European designated sites, including SPAs and SACs) is set out within Article 6 of the Directive. The Directive is transposed into UK law through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017) (the "Habitats Regulations") and the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
The Birds Directive	The Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Directive 2009/147/EC (the codified version of Council Directive 79/409/EEC as amended)) provides a framework for the protection, management and control of all species of naturally occurring wild birds in the European territory of Member States, including the UK. The provisions of the Birds Directive are transposed into UK law by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2017 and the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended)	The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is the principal mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain. This legislation is the means by which the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and (partially) the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive are implemented in the UK. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 has strengthened this legal protection (see below). A small number of plant species are listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, which includes species such as

Legislation	Brief Description
	Japanese knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>), Himalayan balsam (<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>), montbretia (<i>Crocoshia x crocosmiiflora</i>), giant hogweed (<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>) and some cotoneaster species (<i>Cotoneaster</i> sp.). It is illegal to plant or to cause these plants to grow in the wild, and legal disposal methods for vegetation and soil subject to disturbance or clearance from a site must be used.
Convention on Biological Diversity and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 provides a statutory framework for biodiversity conservation. The Act places a duty on Government Departments and the National Assembly for Wales to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity and maintain lists of species and habitats for which conservation steps should be taken or promoted, in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity. Schedule 9 of the Act amends SSSI provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, including provisions to change SSSIs and providing increased powers for their protection and management. The provisions extend powers for entering into management agreements; place a duty on public bodies to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs; increases penalties on conviction where the provisions are breached; and introduce a new offence whereby third parties can be convicted for damaging SSSIs. Schedule 12 of the Act amends the species provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, strengthening the legal protection for threatened species. The provisions make certain offences 'arrestable' and create a new offence of reckless disturbance. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was published in 1994, and was the UK Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which the UK signed up to in 1992. It provides the framework for fulfilling the UK's responsibilities towards the Convention on Biological Diversity. Conservation of biodiversity (the variety of life on earth) is an essential element of sustainable development.
Environment (Wales) Act 2016	The Environment (Wales) Act puts in place the legislation needed to plan and manage Wales' natural resources in a more proactive, sustainable and joined-up way. Part 1 relates to the sustainable management of natural resources. This ensures that the way in which the use of and the impacts on natural resources do not result in long term decline. The aim is to sustainably manage natural resources in a way and rate that meets the needs of present and current generations without compromising the needs of future generations. The Act also contains at section 7, a duty for the Welsh Ministers prepare and publish a list of the living organisms and types of habitat which in their opinion are of principal importance for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in relation to Wales. This section replaces the duty in section 42 of the NERC Act 2006.
The Protection of Badgers Act 1992	The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 makes it an offence to wilfully take, kill, injure or ill-treat a badger, possess a dead badger or any part of a badger. Setts interference includes damaging or destroying a sett, obstructing access

Legislation	Brief Description
	to a sett, and disturbing a badger whilst it is occupying a sett. The Act defines a badger sett as 'any structure or place, which displays signs indicating the current use by a badger' and Natural England takes this definition to include seasonally used setts. Work that may disturb badgers or their setts is illegal without a development licence from the relevant statutory body.
The Hedgerow Regulations (1997)	The Hedgerow Regulations (1997) make provision for the protection of important hedgerows in England and Wales. The regulations affect hedgerows which are 20 m or more in length, or connected at both ends to another hedgerow of any length. They relate to hedgerows which are on, or adjoining land used for the following purposes: agriculture or forestry; the breeding or keeping of horses, ponies or donkeys; common land; village greens; and SSSIs (They do not include hedges that are attached to, or marking the boundaries of a private house. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly remove or cause or permit another person to remove a hedgerow or intentionally or recklessly remove, or cause or permit another person to remove, a hedgerow which is the subject of a hedgerow retention notice.

National Planning Policy

Planning Policy Wales (12th Ed. February 2024) sets out the land use planning policies of Welsh Government. It provides the policy framework for the preparation of Local Development Plans. Chapter 6, Distinctive and Natural Places, outlines Welsh Government's objectives for the conservation and improvement of natural heritage.

The Planning Policy Wales (PPW) is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TAN). **TAN 5** provides guidance on how the land use planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation. It provides advice on areas including the key principles of positive planning for nature conservation, nature conservation in Local Development Plans and development management procedures. It also provides advice on development affecting designated sites and habitats, in addition to protected or priority habitats and species.

Key Principles include that the town and country planning system in Wales should integrate nature conservation into all planning decisions; that the town and country planning system should look for development to provide a net benefit for biodiversity conservation with no significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally and that they should

ensure that the UK's international and national obligations for site, species and habitat protection are fully met in all planning decisions.

Policy 15 is for Conserving and enhancing the natural environment. The following apply;

protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);

recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodlands:

- Minimising impacts on the providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and further pressures.
- To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.

Appendix B

Phase 1 Habitat Map



Legend

Target Notes

Site Extent

Phase 1 Habitats

G.2 (Running water)

Woodland and scrub

A.1.1.1 (Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland)

A.2.1 (Dense/continuous scrub)

Tall herb and fern

C.3.1 (Tall ruderal)

Open water

G.1 (Standing water)

Miscellaneous

J.4 (Bare ground)

P1	S2	18/06/2026	First Issue	ZD	JC	FV
V.	S.	Date	Description	B.	C.	A.

4th Floor, James William House,
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Langstone
Station Road, Bargoed
Phase 1 Habitat Survey

Drawing no.:	61538_DWG_Phase1Survey
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Appendix C

INNS Map



0 10 20
Meters

Legend

— Site Extent

Invasive, Non-Native Species

■ Cotoneaster

■ Himalayan balsam

▨ Japanese knotweed

■ Variegated yellow archangel

P1	S2	18/06/2026	First Issue	ZD	JC	FV
V.	S.	Date	Description	B.	C.	A.



4th Floor, James William House,
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Langstone
Station Road, Bargoed
Invasive Non-Native Species

Drawing no.: 61538_DWG_INNS

Appendix D

Species List

Latin name	Common name
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Crepis vesicaria</i>	Beaked hawk's-beard
<i>Erigeron floribundus</i>	Bilbao fleabane
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>	Black bindweed
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black medick
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black mustard
<i>Rubus</i> sp.	Bramble
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved dock
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Buddleia
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Common daisy
<i>Taraxacum campylodes</i>	Common dandelion
<i>Lemna minor</i>	Common duckweed
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common figwort
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Common ivy
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Common ragwort
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common vetch
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab apple
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping cinquefoil
<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	Feverfew
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat willow
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy bittercress
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue fern
<i>Crataegus</i> sp.	Hawthorn
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge bindweed
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge woundwort
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock water-dropwort
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp-agrimony
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Hoary mustard
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Horsetail

<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved toadflax
<i>Reynoutria japonica</i>	Japanese knotweed
<i>Torilis nodosa</i>	Knotted hedge-parsley
<i>Valeriana locusta</i>	Lamb's lettuce
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser burdock
<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	Lesser hawkbit
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser trefoil
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little robin
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male fern
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle
<i>Quercus sp.</i>	Oak
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial rye-grass
<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	Pill sedge
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly lettuce
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple toadflax
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red-osier dogwood
<i>Carex remota</i>	Remote sedge
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Rosebay willowherb
<i>Hieracium sabaudum</i>	Savoy hawkweed
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver birch
<i>Urtica urens</i>	Small nettle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle
<i>Epilobium tetragonum</i>	Square-stalked willowherb
<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	Strawberry clover
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Lamium galeobdolon subsp. argentatum</i>	Variegated yellow archangel
<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	Wall cotoneaster
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water mint
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Watercress
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld
<i>Arctium nemorosum</i>	Wood burdock
<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	Yellow salsify
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog

Appendix E

Target Notes

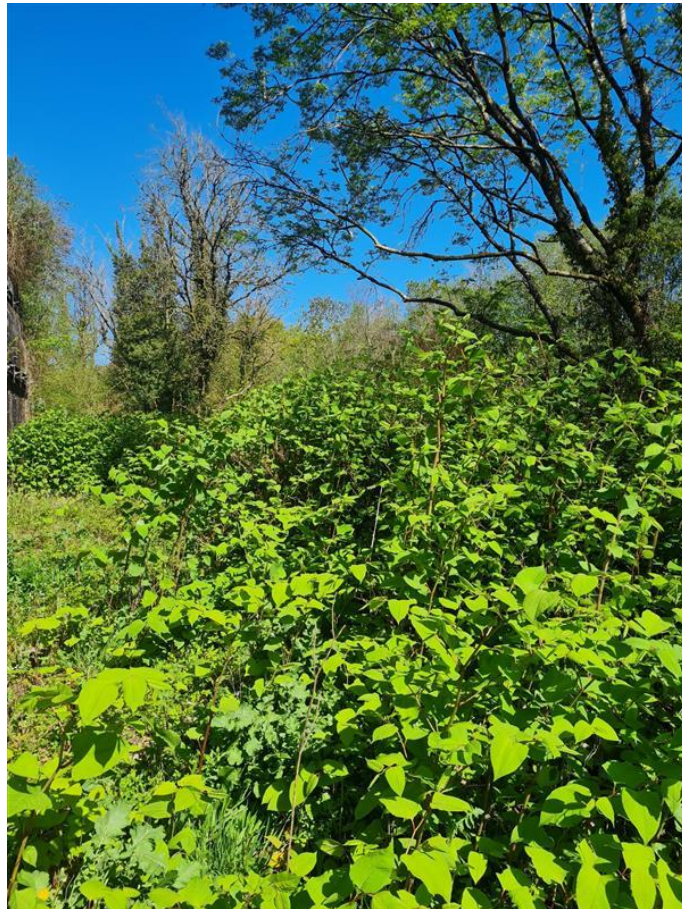
Target Note	Photograph	Description / Species Present
TN1		Northern retaining wall. Largely unvegetated vertical structure with limited botanical interest. Sparse growth of species such as ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>, <i>H. hibernica</i>) and occasional ruderal species including buddleia (<i>Buddleja davidii</i>).

TN2



Ruderal and tall herb vegetation (central Site and bank). Dominated by rosebay willowherb (*Epilobium angustifolium*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), hemp agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*), spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), common ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), feverfew (*Tanacetum parthenium*), weld (*Reseda luteola*) and hoary mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*).

TN3



Dense invasive non native vegetation. Extensive stands of Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) dominate large parts of the Site, suppressing native vegetation and limiting habitat diversity.

TN4



Scrub and scattered trees (Site margins). Mosaic of early successional scrub and trees including bramble (*Rubus ferus*, *R. pruinosis*), hawthorn (*Crataegus sp.*), buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*).

TN5



Broadleaved woodland (southern boundary and river corridor). Large piles of rubble present that may support reptiles and amphibians. Semi-natural woodland with canopy species including oak (*Quercus* sp.), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), goat willow (*Salix caprea*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), with hazel (*Corylus avellana*) in the understorey. Ground flora includes male fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), hart's tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*), hedge woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*) and variegated yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon* subsp. *argenteum*).

TN6



Standing water feature (southern Site). Shallow, likely ephemeral pool surrounded by rubble and woody debris. Marginal and aquatic species include watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*), water mint (*Mentha aquatica*), brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*), common duckweed (*Lemna minor*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), remote sedge (*Carex remota*) and pill sedge (*Carex pilulifera*).

TN7



Rubble, logs and disturbed ground. Areas of exposed substrate with scattered debris providing limited vegetation cover, including Japanese knotweed. Supports ruderal species and offers potential refuge for fauna.

TN8



Piles of logs, woody debris and cut vegetation surrounding the standing water feature. Provides structural habitat and potential refugia for fauna. Vegetation includes adjacent ruderal species such as bramble (*Rubus spp.*), hemp-agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*) and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*).