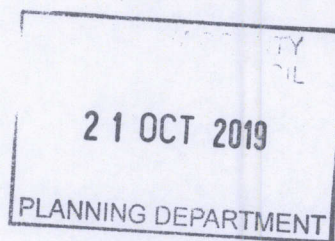



P2019/0792

Land off Eaton Road,
Wrexham

**Preliminary Ecological
Assessment**

May 2019



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 This Preliminary Ecological Assessment has been prepared by Anthony Nickson Ecology Ltd on behalf of A J Field Electrical & Mechanical Ltd. The report will accompany a planning application for the demolition of the existing community centre and subsequent construction of a residential development.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The application site is located in Wrexham (grid ref: SJ3228290630). The site is bound by Sycamore Road to the north, Churchill Drive to the south, residential properties to the east and Eaton Drive to the west.
- 1.2.2 The habitats within the site comprise: amenity grassland, introduced shrub, scattered trees, buildings and hardstanding. The wider landscape is dominated by residential properties and open space with pockets of woodland belts and scattered trees (ref. figure 1).



Figure 1. Site location

1.3 Survey Aims

- 1.3.1 The survey was commissioned to establish the existing ecological value of the application site to ensure future planning applications and works comply with all current EU and UK legislation and national and local planning policy relating to protected sites, habitats and species. The aims of the survey was to:
- Describe and map the habitats present on the site
 - Assess any potential impact on protected species or sites
 - Identify where further survey may be required

1.4 Planning

1.4.1 Biodiversity is a material consideration to the planning process and consideration must be given to the protection, retention and improvement, of existing biodiversity features. As the demolition of the existing community centre and construction of a residential development may have possible impacts of wildlife and biodiversity, consideration should be given to protected and notable habitats and species which may be present within and/or adjacent to the application site prior to construction works commencing.

Phase 1 Habitat Site Survey	Local Policy	National Policy
High	<p>Local Policy</p> <p>Habitats and Species of Principal Importance, August 2010</p> <p>Planning Policy Wales, December 2018</p> <p>Local Policy</p>	<p>National Policy</p> <p>Habitats and Species of Principal Importance, August 2010</p> <p>Planning Policy Wales, December 2018</p> <p>Local Policy</p>
Moderate	<p>Local Policy</p> <p>Habitats and Species of Principal Importance, August 2010</p> <p>Planning Policy Wales, December 2018</p> <p>Local Policy</p>	<p>National Policy</p> <p>Habitats and Species of Principal Importance, August 2010</p> <p>Planning Policy Wales, December 2018</p> <p>Local Policy</p>
Low	<p>Local Policy</p> <p>Habitats and Species of Principal Importance, August 2010</p> <p>Planning Policy Wales, December 2018</p> <p>Local Policy</p>	<p>National Policy</p> <p>Habitats and Species of Principal Importance, August 2010</p> <p>Planning Policy Wales, December 2018</p> <p>Local Policy</p>
Negligible	<p>Local Policy</p> <p>Habitats and Species of Principal Importance, August 2010</p> <p>Planning Policy Wales, December 2018</p> <p>Local Policy</p>	<p>National Policy</p> <p>Habitats and Species of Principal Importance, August 2010</p> <p>Planning Policy Wales, December 2018</p> <p>Local Policy</p>

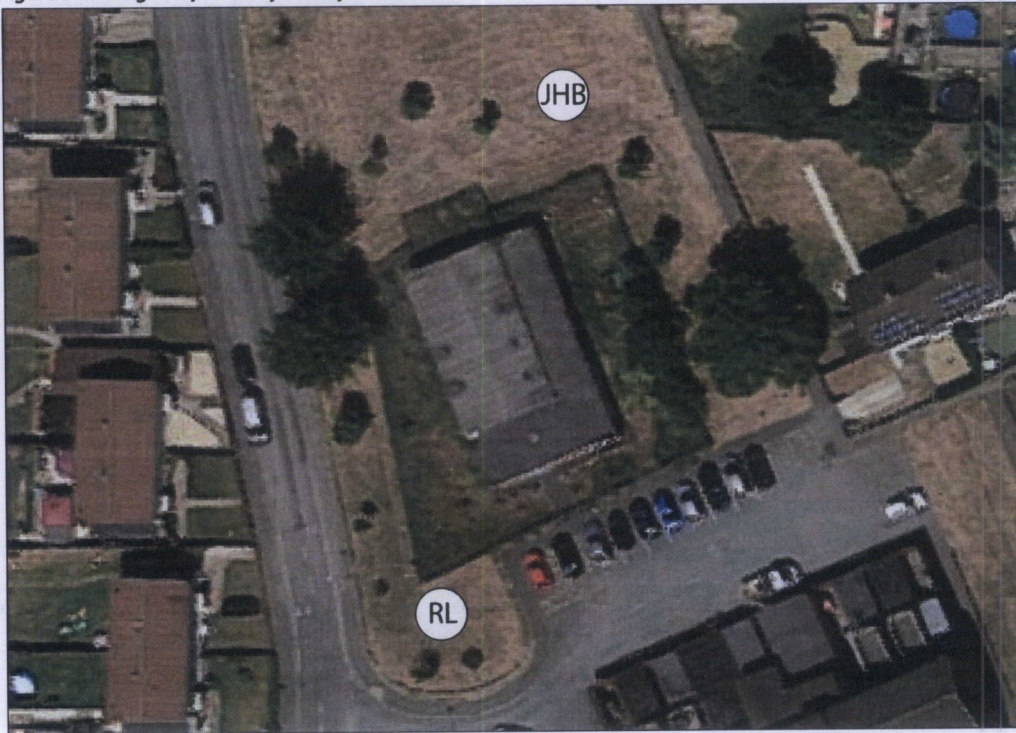
Table 2. Guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats based on the presence of suitable roosting features within a structure

Suitability	Commuting and foraging habitats
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity or hibernation). A tree of sufficient size and age to contain PRFs but with none seen from the ground or features seen with only very limited roosting potential.
Moderate	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only – the assessments in this table are made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).
High	A structure or tree with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.

Presence/Absence Survey

- 2.2.10 Following the preliminary roost assessment further presence/absence surveys were carried out on the existing community centre. A single presence/absence survey was undertaken; a dawn re-entry survey on the 20th May 2019.
- 2.2.11 For the survey two surveyors were located strategically to ensure all potential bat access points were accounted for, and monitored the building visually to determine whether or not any bats emerged from, or entered, the building. Further to this, each surveyor used a bat detector to listen to the echolocations of any bat activity.
- 2.2.12 The dawn re-entry survey began 90 minutes before sunset and continued for 15 minutes after sunrise.
- 2.2.13 The presence/absence survey was led by Richard Lowe. Richard was assisted by John Harrison-Bryant. All surveyors are experienced in undertaking presence/absence surveys.

Figure 2. Emergence/re-entry surveyor locations



Birds

2.2.14 All birds, their nests and eggs are protected at the nest under UK Law (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended). As such it is an offence to intentionally undertake the following acts;

- Kill, injure or take any wild bird
- Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird whilst it is in use or being built
- Take or destroy the egg of any wild bird

2.2.15 Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

3.0 Results

3.1 Desktop Study

International/National Protected Sites

- 3.1.1 The desktop study confirmed that there are no European / National statutory designations within a 2km radius of the application site.

Local Nature Reserves

- 3.1.2 The desktop study confirmed that there are no Local Nature Reserves within a 2km radius of the application site.

Protected Species

- 3.1.3 The following results are of protected species recorded within a 500m radius of the application site:

Bats

- 3.1.4 The local record centre provided one bat record within a 500m radius of the site boundary, a brown long-eared (*Plecotus auritus*) bat approximately 537m south-west of the application site.

Birds

- 3.1.5 The Local record centre has provided a number of bird records. Several of which could be supported by the habitats within the site boundary as follows: house martin (*Delichon urbicum*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) and wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).

3.2 Phase 1 Habitat Site Survey

Habitat Description

- 3.2.1 The site is approximately 0.09 hectare acres and comprises: amenity grassland, introduced shrub, building and hardstanding.

Amenity grassland

- 3.2.2 The predominant habitat within the site is amenity grassland (ref. plates 1-2) which provides a border around the existing community centre and dominates the green space beyond the community centre boundary. Since the community centre has become vacant the amenity grassland has not been managed and the grassland has become rank and tussocky (ref. plate 1). The amenity grassland within the green space is managed through a regular mowing regime to create a tight sward of low diversity (ref. plate 2).

- 3.2.3 The species within the habitat include perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) and red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) with other less typical amenity species also present including cleavers (*Gallium aparine*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), common ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and dove's-foot crane's-bill (*Geranium molle*).

Introduced shrub

- 3.2.4 There is an area of introduced shrub (ref. plate 3) to the east of the application site. The species included cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), firethorn (*Pyracantha* sp.) and flax (*Phormium* sp.).

Scattered trees

- 3.2.5 There are a number of scattered trees (ref. plates 4-5) irregularly spaced within the green space beyond the community centre boundary.

Building

- 3.2.6 The existing Kingsley Circle Community Centre (ref. plates 6-7) is a single storey brick building with a traditional flat roof.

Hardstanding

- 3.2.7 The hardstanding within the application site comprises pedestrian footpaths.

Protected Species

Bats

- 3.2.8 All British bat species use buildings or trees to roost throughout the year; notably pipistrelle bats and brown long-eared bats, which have been recorded within 1km of the application site.

Habitat Suitability

- 3.2.9 The application site is surrounded by residential properties and small pockets of green space (ref. plates 8). The habitats within and surrounding the site could be used by small numbers of bats such as but are not very well connected to the wider landscape. It is unlikely that the surrounding habitats could support a maternity roost.

Preliminary Roost Assessment

- 3.2.10 Kingsley Circle Community Centre is a single storey building approximately 12m wide by 22m long (ref. plates 6-7). The building is constructed of brick external walls with timber soffits and fascias and a traditional flat roof.
- 3.2.11 The single storey building has a mild pitched roof above the main hall (north-east of building) and flat roof elements to the other elements of the building (ref. plate 9). The roof covering appears to be in good condition and does not appear to provide any ingress points/roosting opportunities for bats.
- 3.2.12 The property has timber soffits and fascias (ref. plates 10-11) throughout. The soffits and fascias are generally in excellent condition and flush to the external wall, however, to the front (southern elevation) of the property a section of the ply barge board is absent to the flat roof element (ref. plate 12) and pitched roof element (ref. plate 13). The missing ply presents opportunities for bats to access the building and potential roosting opportunities.
- 3.2.13 The traditional flat roof cover is flush to the fascia boards (ref. plate 14) and does not provide any ingress points/roosting opportunities for bats
- 3.2.14 The property has uPVC windows through, to the western elevation along the main hall there is a large section of uPVC window and cladding (ref. plate 15). The uPVC windows and cladding are in excellent condition and well-sealed to the external wall brickwork and do not provide any ingress points/roosting opportunities for bats.
- 3.2.15 Internally there is no access to the loft space (ref. plate 16) of the void between the ceiling and roof covering.
- 3.2.16 No field signs or evidence of bats were observed during the preliminary roost assessment of the existing community centre externally and an internal inspection was not possible. The two sections of missing ply to the south of the building provides a small number of potential roost sites (slipped roof tiles, access to cavity wall etc) that could be used by a small number of crevice dwelling bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat.
- 3.2.17 None of the trees within the application site provide suitable features to support roosting bats.

Emergence/Re-entry Surveys

3.2.18 Following the preliminary roost assessment a single dawn re-entry survey was undertaken on the existing community centre: The results were as follows:

Table 3. 1st dawn survey existing community centre

Date	Sunset Time	Surveyors	Start and end times	Equipment used	Weather
20/05/2019	05:08	- Richard Lowe - JohnHarrison- Bryant	03:00-05:23	2 x Anabat SD2	- 8.5°C (start temp) - 7.2°C (end temp) - Dry (precipitation) - 0 (beaufort wind scale)
<p>Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No bats emerged from/entered the existing community block during the survey. - Common pipistrelle bats were recorded during the survey but from a distance and not observed. 					

Birds

3.2.19 The introduced shrub and gap behind the missing ply barge board of the community centre provides suitable habitat within the application site for nesting birds during the nesting season (March to September).

4.0 Evaluation

4.1 Desktop Study

International/National Protected Sites

- 4.2.1 The desktop study confirmed that there are no European or National statutory designations within a 1km radius of the application site.

Local Nature Reserves

- 4.2.2 The desktop study confirmed that there are no Local Nature Reserves within a 1km radius of the application site.

4.2 Phase 1 Habitat Site Survey

Habitats

- 4.2.1 The Phase 1 Habitats recorded within the application site are common throughout the UK. No nationally rare or locally rare plant species were documented during the extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey (Preston et al, 2002).

Bats

- 4.2.2 The preliminary roost assessment and presence/absence re-entry suggest that the existing community centre does not currently support a bat roost. The proposed redevelopment of the existing building is therefore considered to have a negligible impact on the local bat population.

Birds

- 4.2.3 The introduced shrub and community centre provide suitable habitat for breeding birds. However, given the availability of similar and better habitats within close proximity of the site, it is considered that the site is only valuable for breeding birds at a site level.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 Protected Species

Bats

- 5.1.1 No evidence of a bat roost was recorded within the existing community centre during the preliminary bat survey on the 7th March 2019 and no bats were observed emerging and/or re-entering the building during the presence/absence survey undertaken on the 20th May 2019. The survey information suggests that the building does not currently supporting roosting bats.
- 5.1.2 It is the author's opinion that the redevelopment of the existing community centre should proceed as the survey information suggests there should be no significant concerns or constraints in relation to roosting bats in the proposals and there is no requirement for an EPSM licence in respect of bats.
- 5.1.3 It should be noted that bat absence is very difficult to prove definitively due to their mobility and size, and single or small numbers of bats are able to roost in extremely small spaces, such as between roofing tiles. Therefore it is recommended that all removal of roof tiles, ridge tiles and wooden soffits, fascia's and barge boards is to be undertaken by hand, with the features lifted instead of dragged.
- 5.1.4 If during development works a bat, or an accumulation of bat droppings (ref. plate 17) is discovered at any time during the roof removal, work is to temporarily cease on the roof whilst a bat ecologist is contacted for guidance and assistance. This can be Anthony Nickson (07921 571 823) who undertook the initial survey, any licensed bat worker, or the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) helpline (0845 1300 228).

Birds

- 5.1.5 All bird species are protected at their nest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Due to presence of suitable habitat for breeding birds, it is recommended that site works that will impact any of these habitats takes place outside the peak bird breeding season (March to September).
- 5.1.6 If site works or activities to any habitats where any nesting birds may be present is to be undertaken within the nesting season, then an appropriately qualified ecologist will be required to undertake a site walkover to visually assess potentially suitable nesting habitat for active nests within the construction zones. If active nests are discovered, then site works must cease until the nest is deemed inactive or until a suitable Precautionary Working Method Statement is developed.

Protected Species

- 5.1.7 No additional protected species survey work is recommended.

References

Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines, 3rd Edition, Bat Conservation Trust, J. Collins, 2016

Countryside and Wildlife Act, 1981

EU Habitats Directive, 1994

Institute of Environmental Assessment's 'Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment', 1997

Land off Eaton Road Environmental Information Search (E07144), Cofnod, March 2019

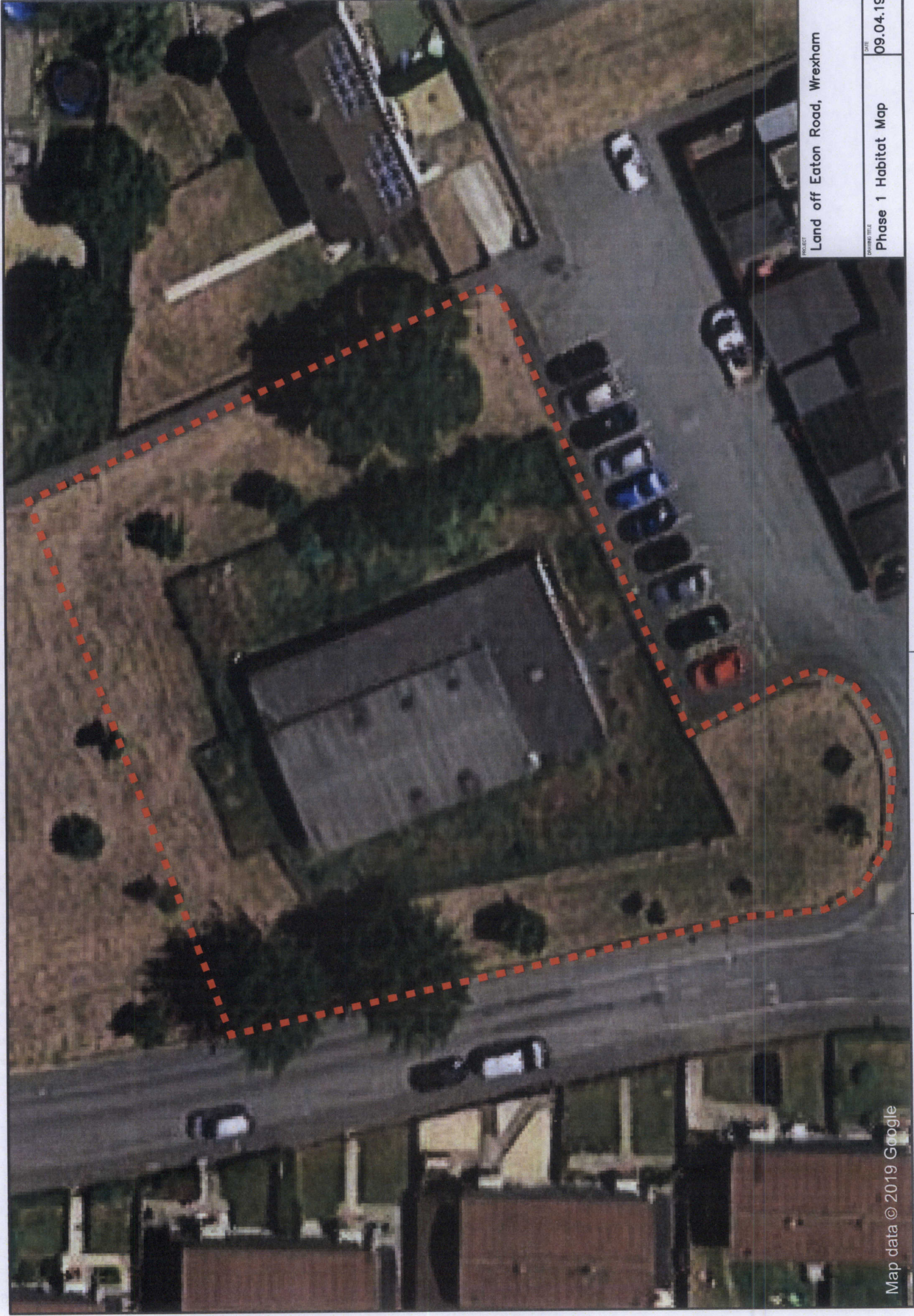
New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora. Oxford University Press, Preston, C.D., Pearman, D. & Dines, T. 2002

New Flora of the British Isles, 3rd Ed., Cambridge University Press, Stace, 2010

Phase 1 Habitat Survey – a technique for environmental audit, JNCC, Updated 2007

Planning Policy Wales, Welsh Government, December 2018

Wrexham Unitary Development Plan, Wrexham County Borough, Adopted February 2005



PROJECT
Land off Eaton Road, Wrexham

DRAWING TITLE
Phase 1 Habitat Map

DATE
09.04.19

Appendix B - Ecological Data Search Records

Cofnod Environmental Information Search (PUBLIC VERSION)

Our Reference	E07144
Your Reference	Land off Eaton Road, Wrexham
Requested By	Anthony Nickson Ecology Ltd
Data Users	Anthony Nickson, Ecologist, Anthony Nickson Ecology Ltd Public version of the Cofnod Environmental Information Search will be appended to the ecology report accompanying the planning application.
Search Date	05/03/2019
Expiry Date	05/09/2019
Search Type	Chargeable

Important Issues

- Use of the data is governed by Cofnod's [Terms & Conditions](#).
- Data marked as confidential or sensitive must not be released into the public domain, with the exception of the Public Version of the PDF report, which has had sensitive information removed or restricted.
- You should not amend any part of the downloaded records.
- Unless otherwise agreed, use of the data is valid until the Expiry Date (05/09/2019).
- The data was generated on the Search Date (05/03/2019) and is not live.
- The Dataset ID associated with each record can be used to find information about the provenance of the data. See the [Data We Hold](#) page on our website for more information.
- Verification Levels are given for each record. For further information see our Data Quality Policy, available from our [website](#).
- Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions about using the data or wish to add further Data Users.

Notes

- Cofnod uses a search system which optionally reports species (usually high priority or protected species) within a specified search radius or buffer. Where required a search will also include high priority 'Mobile Species', such as bats, otters, amphibians and certain invertebrates, which lie outside the specified search radius. These species are highlighted on the report with **(Mobile)** next to the distance. They have been selected as 'Mobile Species' as their territory (possibly due to foraging activity or life cycle) could intersect with the search radius.
- Records with 4 figure grid references are displayed as 1km squares on any relevant maps. They are highlighted with **(1km)** next to the distance.
- Records shown in **bold** typeface are sensitive species records, and some details have been restricted in this public version of the report.

Data Description

Distance	Indicates the distance, in metres, between the GRID REFERENCE of the record (using the central point of the grid square) and the search location. For any Sensitive Species Records, this cannot be released into the Public Domain.
Species Name	Name of the taxon (usually identified to species level) using the binomial system.
Grid Reference	Full grid reference based on the Ordnance Survey grid system. For any Sensitive Species Records, this cannot be released into the Public Domain.
Date	Date on which the record was made. In some cases this might be a date range, or a vague date such as 'Summer 2010'.
Recorder(s)	One or more people who made the original observation and recorded it in some way. It may have subsequently been included in a data collation by another person or it may have been submitted to Cofnod directly.
Abundance	Number of individuals recorded. Where not specified it is assumed that at least one was present.
Record Type	The recording methods used (only where specified).
Site Name	The site name (if one has been supplied). For any Sensitive Species Records, this cannot be released into the Public Domain.
Comments	Any additional notes about the sighting, including any information on habitat or substrate if this is available. For any Sensitive Species Records, this cannot be released into the Public Domain.
Dataset ID	ID of this dataset. See 'Important Issues' for more details.
Lists	Any local, national or international conservation statuses or legal protection which apply to this species and whether it is included in any Local Biodiversity Action Plans. See 'Abbreviations' for more details.
V	Summarised record Verification Level. The following codes are used: 1 - Unassessed, 2 - Unconfirmed, 3 - Considered Correct by Cofnod, 4 - Considered Correct by Expert. See our Data Quality policy, available from the Cofnod website for more details.

Abbreviations

ANG - Anglesey County Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan, **AONB** - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, **BAP** - UK Biodiversity Action Plan, **BDI1** - EU Birds Directive Annex 1, **BDI1.1** - EU Birds Directive Annex 2.1, **BDI1.2** - EU Birds Directive Annex 2.2, **Bern** - Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, **Bonn** - Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, **CITES** - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, **CON** - Conwy County Borough Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan, **DEN** - Denbighshire County Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan, **EPS** - European Protected Species, **FLI** - Flintshire County Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan, **GWY** - Gwynedd County Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan, **HDir** - EU Habitats Directive, **INNS** - Invasive Non-native Species, **LBAP** - Local Biodiversity Action Plan species for the listed area, **LI** - Locally important within the listed area, **LNR** - Local Nature Reserve, **MNR** - Marine Nature Reserve, **NNR** - National Nature Reserve, **NRW** - Natural Resources Wales Priority Species, **PBA** - Protection of Badgers Act 1992, **RD1(UK)** - Red Data Book listing for the UK based on IUCN guidelines, **RD1(Wales)** - Red Data Book listing for Wales based on IUCN guidelines, **RD2(UK)** - Red Data Book listing for the UK not based on IUCN guidelines, **RIGS** - Regionally Important Geodiversity Site, **S7** - Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (Section 7), **SAC** - Special Area of Conservation, **SNP** - Snowdonia National Park Local Biodiversity Action Plan, **SPA** - Special Protection Area, **SSSI** - Site of Special Scientific Interest, **UKBA** - RSPB UK Birds Amber List (not based on IUCN criteria), **UKBR** - RSPB UK Birds Red List (not based on IUCN criteria), **WBA** - RSPB Welsh Birds Amber List (not based on IUCN criteria), **WBR** - RSPB Welsh Birds Red List (not based on IUCN criteria), **WCA1.1** - Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 1.1 (Birds which are protected at all times), **WCA1.2** - Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 1.2 (Birds which are protected at certain times), **WCA5** - Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5 (Animals which are protected from killing and taking, possession, disturbance and sale), **WCA8** - Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 8 (Plants which are protected), **WCA9** - Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 9 (Non-native animals and plants which are established in the wild), **WRE** - Wrexham County Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan, **WS** - Wildlife Site, **WVP** - IUCN Threat Listing of Welsh Vascular Plants

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Blrds	Species Name	Grid Reference	Date	Recorder(s)	Abundance	Record Type	Site Name	Comments	Dataset ID	Lists	V
	<i>Apus apus</i> (Swift / Gwennol Ddu)	SJ3450	4 records, between 11/07/2008 and 30/04/2010	Recorder Name Withheld	3; 5; 2; 1		Wrexham, centre, E	H Activity	D0062/001/01 , D0062/003/01	UKBA, WBA	3
	<i>Apus apus</i> (Swift / Gwennol Ddu)	SJ3551	30/05/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	2		Wrexham, ENE	H Activity	D0062/001/01	UKBA, WBA	3
	<i>Apus apus</i> (Swift / Gwennol Ddu)	SJ3451	12 records, between 2007 and 02/09/2011	Recorder Name Withheld	2; 1; 4; 3; 15; 5; 50; 30; 10		Wrexham, NE	H Activity: Last of year in Clwyd?; BirdTrack 1st of year over o/g; BirdTrack Last of year?; BirdTrack S movement with large black buzzard over the garden (kite like); BirdTrack Steady movement S of swifts, martins & swallows over PA (c40 in total); Birdtrack; Breeding code: F; Estimated number of...	D0062/001/01 , D1297/002/01 , D1297/005/01 , D1734/001/01	UKBA, WBA	3
	<i>Athene noctua</i> (Little Owl / Tylluan Fach)	SJ3550	27/06/2011	Recorder Name Withheld	1		Wrexham, far E	Breeding code: H	D0062/003/01	Bern, CITES, LBAP[CON]	3
	<i>Corvus monedula</i> (Jackdaw / Jac-Y-Do)	SJ3450	20/05/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	1		Wrexham, centre, E	H Activity	D0062/001/01	BDir2.2	3
	<i>Corvus monedula</i> (Jackdaw / Jac-Y-Do)	SJ3551	2 records, between 29/01/2009 and 30/05/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	200+; 1		Wrexham, ENE	H Activity	D0062/001/01	BDir2.2	3
	<i>Corvus monedula</i> (Jackdaw / Jac-Y-Do)	SJ3451	8 records, between 26/02/2007 and 16/06/2011	Recorder Name Withheld	17; 55; 18; 1+; 2; 35		Wrexham, NE	Winter Roving Record; H Activity; BirdTrack Not usually in o/g but 2- 4 bombarding crows (above) daily	D0062/001/01 , D1297/002/01 , D1297/005/01	BDir2.2	3
	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> (Blue Tit / Titw Tomos Las)	SJ3550	29/01/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	1		Wrexham, far E		D0062/001/01	Bern, LBAP[CON]	3
	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> (Blue Tit / Titw Tomos Las)	SJ3450	3 records, between 01/04/2009 and 01/06/2010	Recorder Name Withheld	1; 2		Wrexham, centre, E	H Activity; Winter Roving Record	D0062/001/01 , D0062/003/01	Bern, LBAP[CON]	3
	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> (Blue Tit / Titw Tomos Las)	SJ3551	29/01/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	3		Wrexham, ENE		D0062/001/01	Bern, LBAP[CON]	3
	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> (Blue Tit / Titw Tomos Las)	SJ3451	27 records, between 26/02/2007 and 26/04/2013	Recorder Name Withheld	2; 1; 3; 20; 4; 5; 30; 10		Wrexham, NE	H Activity; BirdTrack; BirdTrack 1 being fed by an adult in o/g; BirdTrack A compact mobile flock; mainly juveniles; BirdTrack Several seen frequently carrying food from our garden in different directions; Birdtrack; Birdtrack; Breeding code: B; Birdtrack; Breeding code: FL	D0062/001/01 , D1297/002/01 , D1297/005/01 , D1297/012/01	Bern, LBAP[CON]	3
	<i>Delichon urbicum</i> (House Martin / Gwennol y Bondo)	SJ3450	27/06/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	3		Wrexham, centre, E	H Activity	D0062/001/01	Bern, UKBA, WBA, LBAP[CON]	3
	<i>Delichon urbicum</i> (House Martin / Gwennol y Bondo)	SJ3551	30/05/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	5		Wrexham, ENE	H Activity	D0062/001/01	Bern, UKBA, WBA, LBAP[CON]	3
	<i>Delichon urbicum</i> (House Martin / Gwennol y Bondo)	SJ3451	2 records, between 13/09/2007 and 16/06/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	3; 2		Wrexham, NE	My last of year in Clwyd?	D0062/001/01 , D1297/002/01	Bern, UKBA, WBA, LBAP[CON]	3
	<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine / Hebog Tramor)	SJ35	2 records, between 02/04/2005 and 01/06/2010	Recorder Name Withheld	1		Site Name Withheld	Comments Withheld	D0062/001/01 , D0062/003/01	BDir1, Bern, CITES, WCA1.1, LBAP[ANG, CON, GWY]	3

Species Name	Grid Reference	Date	Recorder(s)	Abundance	Record Type	Site Name	Comments	Dataset ID	Lists	V
<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine / Hebog Tramor)	SJ35	13 records, between 17/05/2006 and 21/03/2016	Recorder Name Withheld	2; 1; 3		Site Name Withheld	Comments Withheld	D0062/001/01, D1297/021/01, D1297/005/01, D1297/002/01	BDir1, Bem, CITES, WCA1.1, LBAP/JANG, CON, GWY	3
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i> (Kestrel / Cudyll Coch)	SJ3451	28/06/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	1		Wrexham, NE		D1297/002/01	Bem, CITES, S7, UKBA, WBR, CON, LBAP/JANG, CON, DEN, FLI, GWY	1
<i>Hirundo rustica</i> (Swallow / Gwennol)	SJ3551	30/05/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	2		Wrexham, ENE	H Activity	D0062/001/01	Bem, WBA, LBAP/JANG, CON, GWY	3
<i>Hirundo rustica</i> (Swallow / Gwennol)	SJ3451	6 records, between 06/06/2007 and 23/09/2010	Recorder Name Withheld	4; 2; 40; 5; 1		Wrexham, NE	My last of year in Clwyd? Birdtrack:; Birdtrack:; Breeding code: M; Birdtrack:; Breeding code: F	D1297/002/01, D0062/001/01, D1297/005/01	Bem, WBA, LBAP/JANG, CON, GWY	1
<i>Larus argentatus</i> (Herring Gull / Gwylan y Penwaig)	SJ3550	29/01/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	1		Wrexham, far E		D0062/001/01	BDir2.2, S7, UKBR, WBR, LBAP/CON, GWY	3
<i>Larus argentatus</i> (Herring Gull / Gwylan y Penwaig)	SJ3551	29/01/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	2		Wrexham, ENE		D0062/001/01	BDir2.2, S7, UKBR, WBR, LBAP/CON, GWY	3
<i>Larus argentatus</i> (Herring Gull / Gwylan y Penwaig)	SJ3451	8 records, between 09/05/2008 and 31/07/2011	Recorder Name Withheld	3; 1; 10; 2; 600; 6		Wrexham, NE	Winter Roving Record; BirdTrack Bombarding 2 crows in o/g. Former poss nesting on old school or with young.; BirdTrack NW movement, presumably to estuary. Usual in smaller groupings but these comprised several huge skeins across the sky.; Birdtrack:; BirdTrack Chasing awat 2 buzzards above o/g, neat...	D0062/001/01, D1297/005/01, D1297/002/01	BDir2.2, S7, UKBR, WBR, LBAP/CON, GWY	3
<i>Larus fuscus</i> (Lesser Black-backed Gull / Gwylan Gefnddu Leiaf)	SJ3450	2 records, both on 10/05/2014	Recorder Name Withheld	1 Male; 1 Female		Wrexham, centre, E	F on nest; m bringing material. B Activity; F on nest; m bringing material	D0062/005/01	BDir2.2, UKBA, WBA, LBAP/CON, GWY, SNP	3
<i>Larus fuscus</i> (Lesser Black-backed Gull / Gwylan Gefnddu Leiaf)	SJ3451	3 records, between 03/11/2008 and 01/11/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	9; 2		Wrexham, NE	Winter Roving Record	D0062/001/01	BDir2.2, UKBA, WBA, LBAP/CON, GWY, SNP	3
<i>Motacilla alba subsp. yarellii</i> (Pied Wagtail / Siglen Fraith)	SJ3450	16/11/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	1		Wrexham, centre, E	Winter Roving Record	D0062/001/01	Bem	3
<i>Motacilla alba subsp. yarellii</i> (Pied Wagtail / Siglen Fraith)	SJ3551	29/01/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	20		Wrexham, ENE		D0062/001/01	Bem	3
<i>Motacilla alba subsp. yarellii</i> (Pied Wagtail / Siglen Fraith)	SJ3451	5 records, between 16/06/2007 and 01/12/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	2; 1; 3		Wrexham, NE	Winter Roving Record	D0062/001/01, D1297/002/01	Bem	3
<i>Parus major</i> (Great Tit / Titw Mawr)	SJ3450	2 records, between 05/05/2008 and 01/06/2010	Recorder Name Withheld	1		Wrexham, centre, E		D0062/001/01, D0062/003/01	Bem, LBAP/CON	3
<i>Parus major</i> (Great Tit / Titw Mawr)	SJ3551	2 records, between 30/05/2009 and 2010	Recorder Name Withheld	1		Wrexham, ENE	S Activity	D0062/001/01, D1775/001/01	Bem, LBAP/CON	3
<i>Parus major</i> (Great Tit / Titw Mawr)	SJ3451	9 records, between 01/06/2007 and 24/05/2011	Recorder Name Withheld	2; 4+ Juvenile; 5		Wrexham, NE	Winter Roving Record; Fledglings; S Activity; BirdTrack Several family groups seen regularly in o/g but difficult to; Birdtrack:; Birdtrack: Breeding code: FL	D0062/001/01, D1297/005/01, D1297/002/01	Bem, LBAP/CON	3

Species Name	Grid Reference	Date	Recorder(s)	Abundance	Record Type	Site Name	Comments	Dataset ID	Lists	V
<i>Passer domesticus</i> (House Sparrow / Aderyn y To)	SJ3450	2 records, between 01/04/2009 and 01/12/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	20; 1		Wrexham, centre, E	H Activity; Winter Roving Record	D0062/001/01	S7, UKBR, WBA, LBAP[CON, FLI, GWY]	3
<i>Passer domesticus</i> (House Sparrow / Aderyn y To)	SJ3551	3 records, between 29/01/2009 and 2010	Recorder Name Withheld	15; 10			H Activity	D1775/001/01 , D0062/001/01	S7, UKBR, WBA, LBAP[CON, FLI, GWY]	3
<i>Passer domesticus</i> (House Sparrow / Aderyn y To)	SJ3451	42 records, between 12/03/2007 and 06/08/2011	Recorder Name Withheld	5; 6; 2 Adult; 3 Juvenile; 4 Adult; 4 Juvenile; 1 Adult; 50; 1 Juvenile; 1; 9; 10; 8; 2; 3; 4; 7; 13+		Wrexham, NE	H Activity; Winter Roving Record; 1st of year, fed by ads. Nbrbrds too.; Late fledging being fed; Peak numbers over next 2 months; BirdTrack 2 young being fed by m&f. Many other species with young - BT, GT, CT, GO.; BirdTrack Collecting feathers from killed wp; BirdTrack Female feeding 3 fledglings....	D0062/001/01 , D1297/002/01 , D1297/005/01	S7, UKBR, WBA, LBAP[CON, FLI, GWY]	3
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> (Collared Dove / Turtur Dorchog)	SJ3450	4 records, between 01/02/2005 and 01/06/2010	Recorder Name Withheld	2; 1		Wrexham, centre, E	All year	D0062/001/01 , D0062/003/01	BDir2.2	3
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> (Collared Dove / Turtur Dorchog)	SJ3551	29/01/2009	Recorder Name Withheld	2		Wrexham, ENE		D0062/001/01	BDir2.2	3
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> (Collared Dove / Turtur Dorchog)	SJ3451	16 records, between 15/11/2006 and 09/12/2010	Recorder Name Withheld	2; 1; 45; 4; 3; 10		Wrexham, NE	H Activity; Birdtrack.. Breeding code: H; Birdtrack:	D0062/003/01 , D0062/001/01 , D1297/002/01 , D1297/005/01	BDir2.2	3
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> (Starling / Drudwen)	SJ3450	6 records, between 01/04/2009 and 03/06/2010	Recorder Name Withheld	1; 400+; 500+; 200+		Wrexham, centre, E	H Activity; Winter Roving Record; Flying over shopping centre	D0062/001/01 , D0062/003/01	BDir2.2, Bern, S7, UKBR, WBR, LBAP[CON, FLI, GWY]	3
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> (Starling / Drudwen)	SJ3451	37 records, between 26/02/2007 and 16/06/2011	Recorder Name Withheld	20; 35; 2; 1 Adult; 1 Juvenile; 6 Adult; 6 Juvenile; 150+; 6+; 9; 10; 8; 1; 5; 15; 40; 500; 100; 1000; 200; 6		Wrexham, NE	H Activity; Winter Roving Record; Copulating in back garden; Investigating birdbox. Used some year s ago.; FOY; young starting being fed.; BirdTrack; BirdTrack 2 singing on chimney stack - but will they stay this year?; BirdTrack 3 FL being fed; BirdTrack Catching insects over o/g - no hirundines at...	D0062/001/01 , D1297/002/01 , D1297/005/01	BDir2.2, Bern, S7, UKBR, WBR, LBAP[CON, FLI, GWY]	3
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> (Wren / Dryw)	SJ3450	4 records, between 01/01/2005 and 01/06/2010	Recorder Name Withheld	1		Wrexham, centre, E	Regular; S Activity	D0062/001/01 , D0062/003/01	Bern	3
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> (Wren / Dryw)	SJ3551	3 records, between 29/01/2009 and 2010	Recorder Name Withheld	2		Wrexham, ENE	H Activity	D0062/001/01 , D1775/001/01	Bern	3
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> (Wren / Dryw)	SJ3451	16 records, between 26/02/2007 and 03/07/2011	Recorder Name Withheld	3; 2; 1; 4; 5		Wrexham, NE	Winter Roving Record; S Activity; BirdTrack 1st of year?; BirdTrack in o/g; absent through spring.; BirdTrack Not singing; Birdtrack.; Birdtrack.. Breeding code: FL	D0062/001/01 , D1297/002/01 , D1297/005/01	Bern	3

Mammals		Grid Reference	Date	Recorder(s)	Abundance	Record Type	Site Name	Comments	Dataset ID	Lists	V
<i>Plecotus auritus</i> (Brown Long-eared Bat / Ystium Hirglust)	SJ3450	09/09/1999	Recorder Name Withheld	1			Site Name Withheld	Comments Withheld	D14867007/01	Bem, EPS, HDlr, RD2(UK), ST, WCAS, LBAPTANG, CON, DEN, FLI, GWY, SNPT	3
Statutory Sites intersecting 500m buffer			None								
Ancient Woodland intersecting 500m buffer			None								
Phase I Habitats intersecting 500m buffer (Habitat at central point shown in red, if found)			A.1.1.1: Semi-natural Broad-leaved Woodland (0.08% / 623 sq.m), B.2.2: Semi-improved Neutral Grassland (0.06% / 499 sq.m), B.4: Improved Grassland (4.53% / 35,601 sq.m), G.1: Standing Water (0.04% / 312 sq.m), J.1.1: Arable (6.47% / 50,781 sq.m), J.1.2: Amenity Grassland (16.38% / 128,615 sq.m), J.1.5: Gardens (0.18% / 1,423 sq.m), J.3.6: Buildings (57.79% / 453,821 sq.m), NA: Not Accessed Land (0.6% / 4,719 sq.m)								

PUBLISHING VERSION

Appendix C - Planning Policies

Planning Policy Wales

6.4 Biodiversity and Ecological Networks

6.4.1 Biodiversity underpins the structure and functioning of ecosystems. It is the diversity of living organisms whether at the genetic, species or ecosystem level. An ecosystem is made up of living organisms, plants, animals and micro-organisms, in conjunction with their non-living environment, air, water, minerals and soil, and all the diverse and complex interactions that take place between them.

6.4.2 The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced an enhanced biodiversity¹²⁰ and resilience of ecosystems¹²¹ duty (Section 6 Duty). This duty applies to public authorities in the exercise of their functions in relation to Wales and will help maximise contributions to achieving the well-being goals. The Nature Recovery Action Plan supports this legislative requirement to reverse the decline in biodiversity, address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by putting nature at the heart of decision-making and increasing the resilience of ecosystems by taking specific action focused around the 6 objectives for habitats and species.

6.4.3 The planning system has a key role to play in helping to reverse the decline in biodiversity and increasing the resilience of ecosystems, at various scales, by ensuring appropriate mechanisms are in place to both protect against loss and to secure enhancement. Addressing the consequences of climate change should be a central part of any measures to conserve biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems. Information contained in SoNaRR, Area Statements and species records from Local Environmental Record Centres should be taken into account. Development plan strategies, policies and development proposals must consider the need to:

- support the conservation of biodiversity, in particular the conservation of wildlife and habitats;
- ensure action in Wales contributes to meeting international responsibilities and obligations for biodiversity and habitats;
- ensure statutorily and non-statutorily designated sites are properly protected and managed;
- safeguard protected and priority species and existing biodiversity assets from impacts which directly affect their nature conservation interests and compromise the resilience of ecological networks and the components which underpin them, such as water and soil, including peat; and
- secure enhancement of and improvements to ecosystem resilience by improving diversity, condition, extent and connectivity of ecological networks.

6.4.4 It is important that biodiversity and resilience considerations are taken into account at an early stage in both development plan preparation and when proposing or considering development proposals. Since these considerations are not confined by administrative boundaries they must be addressed strategically through consultation and collaboration with adjoining planning authorities and other bodies such as NRW and the third sector. All reasonable steps must be taken to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems and these should be balanced with the wider economic and social needs of business and local communities. Where adverse effects on the environment cannot be avoided or mitigated, it will be necessary to refuse planning permission.

Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty (Section 6 Duty)

6.4.5 Planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This means development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity. In doing so planning authorities must also take account of and promote the resilience of ecosystems, in particular the following aspects:

- diversity between and within ecosystems;
- the connections between and within ecosystems;
- the scale of ecosystems;
- the condition of ecosystems including their structure and functioning; and
- the adaptability of ecosystems.

6.4.6 In fulfilling this duty, planning authorities must have regard to:

- the list of habitats and species of principal importance for Wales, published under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016;
- the SoNaRR, published by NRW; and
- any Area Statement that covers all or part of the area in which the authority exercises its functions.

6.4.7 Planning Authorities should also refer to up to date ecological survey information (where appropriate).

6.4.8 A proactive approach towards facilitating the delivery of biodiversity and resilience outcomes should be taken by all those participating in the planning process. In particular, planning authorities must demonstrate that they have sought to fulfil the duties and requirements of Section 6 of the Environment Act by taking all reasonable steps to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions.

6.4.9 The broad framework for implementing the Section 6 Duty and building resilience through the planning system includes addressing:

Implementing the Section 6 Duty

Diversity: to ensure mechanisms are in place to minimise further loss and where circumstances allow for species' populations to expand and recolonise their natural range (former range) or adapt to future change. More diverse ecosystems are more resilient to external influences (this includes biological, geological and physical diversity on a site). This means development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity;

Extent: to ensure mechanisms allow for the identification of potential habitat, the maintenance of existing assets and networks and promote the restoration of damaged, modified or potential habitat and the creation of new habitat. This means that planning decisions should incorporate measures which seek the creation, restoration and appropriate management of green networks and linkages between habitats and maintaining and enhancing other green infrastructure features and networks;

Condition: Ecosystems need to be in a healthy condition to function effectively, to deliver a range of important ecosystem services. Planning decisions should not compromise the condition of ecosystems. By taking an integrated approach to development, for example, which considers both direct and wider impacts and benefits it should be possible to make a positive contribution. Planning for the long term management of retained habitats is key to maintaining condition through for example, the use of planning obligations;

Connectivity: to take opportunities to develop functional habitat and ecological networks within and between ecosystems and across landscapes, building on existing connectivity and quality and encouraging habitat creation, restoration and appropriate management. The opportunities could include enlarging habitat areas, developing buffers around designated sites or other biodiversity assets or corridors, including transport and river corridors, and the creation of 'stepping stones' which will strengthen the ability of habitats and ecological networks to adapt to change, including climate change; and

Adaptability to change: primarily in the form of climate change, for both species (diversity) and ecosystems requires action to protect the extent, condition and connectivity of habitats, features and ecological networks. Development plans, planning proposals and applications which build on protecting designated sites and securing and enhancing green infrastructure will be key ways of addressing the attributes of ecosystems resilience identified in the Environment Act as well as facilitating social and economic resilience aspirations of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Designated Sites

6.4.10 Many of the most important areas of nature conservation value have been statutorily designated. These statutorily designated sites make a vital contribution to protecting biodiversity and can also be important in providing opportunities for achieving wider well-being objectives.

Hierarchy of Designations: International, National, Local

- 6.4.11 Planning authorities must have regard to the relative significance of international, national and local designations in considering the weight to be attached to nature conservation interests. Further guidance, particularly in relation to Natura 2000 sites, is contained in TAN 5: Nature Conservation and Planning.
- 6.4.12 The supporting reasoning for the designation at all levels and an outline of the qualifying features of the designation should be clearly recorded as part of the Green Infrastructure Assessment and considered in formulating development plans, when designing new development proposals and in development management decisions.
- 6.4.13 Differentiation should be given to the relative significance of the designation within the hierarchy, when considering the weight to be attached to nature conservation interests.
- 6.4.14 Statutory designation of a site does not necessarily prohibit development, but proposals must be carefully assessed to ensure that effect on those nature conservation interests which the designation is intended to protect are clearly understood; development should be refused where there are adverse impacts on the features for which a site has been designated. International and national responsibilities and obligations for conservation should be fully met, and, consistent with the objectives of the designation, statutorily designated sites protected from damage and deterioration, with their important features conserved and enhanced by appropriate management. Further information on Habitats Regulations Assessment is contained in TAN 5: Nature Conservation and Planning.

Figure 11: Designated Sites Hierarchy

Tier	Name	Statutorily and Non Statutorily Protected Sites
International	Special Area of Conservation	Statutory
	Protection Area	Statutory
	Ramsar sites	Statutory
	UNESCO Biosphere Reserve	Non-Statutory
National	Site of Special Scientific Interest	Statutory
	National Nature Reserve	Statutory
Local	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation	Non-Statutory
	Local Nature Reserve	Non-Statutory
	Local Wildlife Sites	Non-Statutory

Protection and Management of Designated Sites

- 6.4.15 Statutorily designated sites must be protected from damage and deterioration, with their important features conserved and enhanced by appropriate management. The contribution of the designated site to a wider network of resilient ecosystems should be recognised and captured as part of policy and decision making.
- 6.4.16 Planning authorities should consider opportunities to restore networks of habitats to a healthy condition identified as a result of undertaking the Green Infrastructure Assessment and the identification of appropriate interventions to secure delivery against the aspects of resilience, diversity, connectivity, scale, condition and adaptability.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

- 6.4.17 SSSIs are of national importance. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, places a duty on all public bodies, including planning authorities, to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of their functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the features by reason of which a SSSI is of special interest. SSSIs can be damaged by developments within or adjacent to their boundaries, and in some cases, by development some distance away. There is a presumption against development likely to damage a SSSI and this presumption should be appropriately reflected in development plans and development management decisions. In particular, before authorising development likely to damage any of the notified features of a SSSI, planning authorities must give notice of the proposed operations to NRW, and must take its advice into account

in deciding whether to grant planning permission and in attaching planning conditions. For the purposes of land use planning proposed SSSIs will be treated in the same way as notified SSSIs .

Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar Sites

- 6.4.18 SACs and SPAs are of European importance. Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (the Habitats Regulations), all public bodies (including planning authorities) must have regard to the requirements of the EC Habitats and Birds Directives when carrying out their functions. SACs and SPAs on land are underpinned by notification as SSSIs and hence subject to protection afforded by the SSSI provisions. Before authorising development or adopting a land use plan which is likely to have a significant effect on a SAC or SPA (including where outside the boundary of the SAC or SPA), planning authorities must carry out an appropriate assessment of the implications for the designated features, consult NRW and have regard to NRW's representations. The development can normally only be authorised or the plan adopted, if the planning authority ascertains that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site, if necessary taking into account any additional measures, planning conditions or obligations. Development or policies in land use plans for which there is no alternative solution and which must be carried out for imperative reasons of over-riding public interest may be authorised notwithstanding a negative assessment of the implications, subject to notifying Welsh Ministers. Any necessary compensatory measures to protect the overall coherence of the network of SACs and SPAs must be secured. Ramsar sites are important wetland areas designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International importance. As with SACs and SPAs, Ramsar sites are underpinned by notification as SSSIs, but are not subject to the Habitats Regulations. However, Ramsar sites should be treated within the planning system in the same way as SACs and SPAs.

Proposed Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites

- 6.4.19 Sites which have been formally proposed as SPAs, SACs but which are not yet subject to legal protection under the Habitats Regulations, should be treated within the planning system in the same way as if they were legally designated. The same considerations should, as a matter of policy, be applied to proposed Ramsar sites.

Protection for Non-statutory Designations

- 6.4.20 Although non-statutory designations carry less weight than statutory designations, they can make a vital contribution to delivering an ecological network for biodiversity and resilient ecosystems, and they should be given adequate protection in development plans and the development management process. Before authorising development likely to damage a local wildlife designation, planning authorities should give notice of the proposed operation to the County Ecologist and third sector environmental organisations. Where a Green Infrastructure Assessment has identified that certain features or characteristics of the site need to be conserved or enhanced, planning authorities should state in their development plans what features or characteristics require this extra protection and why, and explain how the policies will achieve this protection. Assessments should similarly consider the presence of protected and priority species including those on the Section 7 list and appropriate weight attached to their protection. Policies for non-statutory sites should make it clear that such designations do not preclude appropriate developments, where there are no adverse impacts on the features for which a site is designated.

Maintaining and Enhancing Biodiversity

- 6.4.21 Planning authorities must follow a step-wise approach to maintain and enhance biodiversity and build resilient ecological networks by ensuring that any adverse environmental effects are firstly avoided, then minimized, mitigated, and as a last resort compensated for; enhancement must be secured wherever possible.
1. The first priority for planning authorities is to avoid damage to biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. Where there may be harmful environmental effects, planning authorities will need to be satisfied that any reasonable alternative sites that would result in less harm, no harm or gain have been fully considered
 2. Planning authorities should ensure that features and elements of biodiversity or green infrastructure value are retained on site, and enhanced or created where ever possible, by adopting best practice site design and green infrastructure principles. The provision of up to date ecological survey information will assist in this process. Where necessary, planning authorities should seek to modify the development proposal through discussion with the

applicant at the earliest possible stage. Biodiversity and green infrastructure modifications should draw on the issues and opportunities identified through the Green Infrastructure Assessment.

3. In some circumstances, it will be appropriate to attach planning conditions, obligations or advisory notes to a permission, to secure biodiversity outcomes. Planning authorities should take care to ensure that any conditions necessary to implement this policy are, relevant to planning, relevant to the development to be permitted, enforceable, precise, and reasonable in all other respects.
4. When all other options have been exhausted, and where modifications, alternative sites, conditions or obligations are not sufficient to secure biodiversity outcomes, offsite compensation for unavoidable damage must be sought:
 - a. This should normally take the form of habitat creation, or the provision of long-term management arrangements to enhance existing habitats and deliver a net benefit for biodiversity. It should also be informed by a full ecological assessment before habitat creation or restoration starts.
 - b. The Green Infrastructure Assessment should be used to identify suitable locations for securing offsite compensation. Where possible, a landscape-scale approach, focusing on promoting wider ecosystem resilience, should help guide locations for compensation. This exercise will determine whether locations for habitat compensation should be placed close to the development site, or whether new habitat or additional management located further away from the site would best support biodiversity and ecosystem resilience at a wider scale.
 - c. Where compensation for specific species is being sought, the focus should be on maintaining or enhancing the population of the species within its natural range. This approach might also identify locations for providing species-specific compensation further away from the site. Where they exist, Spatial Species Action Plans should be used to help identify suitable locations.
 - d. Any proposed compensation should take account of the Section 6 Duty (Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty), and the five key ecosystem resilience attributes that it outlines. It should also be accompanied by a long term management plan of agreed and appropriate mitigation and compensation measures.
5. Finally, where the adverse effect on the environment clearly outweighs other material considerations, the development should be refused.

Protected Species

- 6.4.22 The presence of a species protected under European or UK legislation, or under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal which, if carried out, would be likely to result in disturbance or harm to the species or its habitat and to ensure that the range and population of the species is sustained. Planning authorities should advise anyone submitting a planning application that they must conform with any statutory species protection provisions affecting the site, and potentially the surrounding area, concerned. An ecological survey to confirm whether a protected species is present and an assessment of the likely impact of the development on a protected species may be required in order to inform the development management process. It is considered best practice that screening to determine the presence of protected species should be carried out by a competent ecologist on the basis of data provided by the relevant Local Environmental Record Centre.
- 6.4.23 Developments are always subject to the legislation covering European protected species regardless of whether or not they are within a designated site. Proposals for which development works would contravene the protection afforded to European protected species require derogations from the provisions of the Habitats Directive. A derogation may only be authorised if there is no satisfactory alternative and if the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. The development works to be authorised must be for the purposes of preserving 'public health or safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment'. Derogations are granted by a licence issued by NRW who should notify planning authorities when a licence application has been granted. Planning authorities are under a duty to have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive in exercising their functions. To avoid developments with planning permission subsequently not being granted derogations in relation to European protected species, planning authorities must take the above three requirements for derogation into account when considering development proposals where a European protected species is present.

Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows

- 6.4.24 Trees, woodlands, copses and hedgerows are of great importance for biodiversity. They are important connecting habitats for resilient ecological networks and make a valuable wider contribution to landscape character, sense of place, air quality, recreation and local climate moderation. They also play a vital role in tackling climate change by locking up carbon, and can provide shade and shelter, a sustainable energy source and building materials. The particular role, siting and design requirements of urban trees in providing health and well-being benefits to communities, now and in the future should be promoted as part of plan making and decision taking.
- 6.4.25 Planning authorities should protect trees, hedgerows, groups of trees and areas of woodland where they have ecological value, contribute to the character or amenity of a particular locality, or perform a beneficial and identified green infrastructure function. Planning authorities should consider the importance of native woodland and valued trees, and should have regard, where appropriate, to local authority tree strategies or SPG. Permanent removal of woodland should only be permitted where it would achieve significant and clearly defined public benefits. Where woodland or trees are removed as part of a proposed scheme, developers will be expected to provide compensatory planting.
- 6.4.26 Ancient woodland and semi-natural woodlands and individual ancient, veteran and heritage trees are irreplaceable natural resources, and have significant landscape, biodiversity and cultural value. Such trees and woodlands should be afforded protection from development which would result in their loss or deterioration unless there are significant and clearly defined public benefits; this protection should prevent potentially damaging operations and their unnecessary loss. In the case of a site recorded on the Ancient Woodland Inventory, authorities should consider the advice of NRW. Planning authorities should also have regard to the Ancient Tree Inventory.
- 6.4.27 The protection and planting of trees and hedgerows should be delivered, where appropriate, through locally-specific strategies and policies, through imposing conditions when granting planning permission, and/or by making Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)¹²⁶. They should also be incorporated into Green Infrastructure Assessments and plans.

Wrexham Unitary Development Plan (1996-2011)

Biodiversity

Policy PS11 Encouragement will be given to proposals which improve the biodiversity value of sites and to the establishment of local nature reserves where the nature conservation and landscape interest of the land will be protected and enhanced.

Hedgerows, Trees and Woodland

Policy EC4 Development proposals should provide for the conservation and management of hedgerows, trees, orchards, woodland, wildlife and other natural landscape and water features, and include new planting in order to enhance the character of the landscape and townscape. Development which results in the loss or significant damage to valuable trees, important hedgerows or ancient woodland sites will not be permitted.

Much of the landscape's quality stems from the pattern of hedgerows, trees and woodland and other natural features such as ponds. The conservation, planting and proper management of such features must be encouraged in order to maintain and enhance the landscape, to conserve wildlife habitats, and to reverse some changes made to the rural landscape by modern agriculture.

Developments and land use changes may therefore be resisted if they adversely affect, directly or indirectly, the integrity or continuity of landscape features which are designated as of major importance for wild flora and fauna. A development may be acceptable if mitigating measures can be provided for within the control of the developer which would reinstate the integrity or continuity of these features. Management of these features will generally be encouraged and, where appropriate, conditions will be imposed on planning permission. Planning obligations may be entered into with landowners or developers to secure long term management.

TPO's will be used to prevent loss, destruction or damage to trees which form notable features of the landscape or townscape. Certain hedgerows are protected by the Hedgerow Regulations, and the Council will use its powers under this legislation to exercise control over important hedgerows. Where damage to woodland is unavoidable, appropriate mitigation measures will be required.

Biodiversity Conservation

Policy EC6 Development either within or close to sites of biodiversity interest will only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that the need for the development outweighs the need to safeguard the intrinsic nature conservation value of the site. Where such development is permitted, damage should be kept to a minimum, and compensatory measures should be provided. Measures to improve the biodiversity value of sites and enhance their natural conservation interest and landscape quality including the establishment of local nature reserves, will be supported.

Sites of biodiversity interest in the County Borough require protection by virtue of their special and exceptional flora, fauna, geological and physiographical features. These sensitive nature conservation sites are often subject to pressures for change and can be affected or even destroyed by operations which are harmful to a protected site, such as changes in farming techniques, which may not be subject to planning control. The continuous survey and assessment of nature conservation sites could bring statutory protection for other hitherto unscheduled sites. This policy applies to, in order of importance: nature conservation sites of international importance comprising Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, and Ramsar Sites; nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest; regionally important Geological Sites; locally important Wildlife Sites; and other protected species and their habitats. The Council will require a survey to be undertaken in order to evaluate the impact of development on the intrinsic qualities of these sites. Local nature reserves comprising habitats of local significance, can make a useful contribution both to nature conservation and to the opportunities for the public to see, learn about, and enjoy wildlife.

Plate 1. Amenity grassland



Plate 2. Amenity grassland



Plate 3. Introduced shrub



Plate 4. Scattered trees



Plate 5. Scattered trees



Plate 6. Kingsley Circle Community Centre



Plate 7. Kingsley Circle Community Centre



Plate 8. Green space surrounding application site



Plate 9. Timber soffits & fascias



Plate 10. Timber soffits & fascias



Plate 11. Timber soffits & fascias



Plate 12. Ply barge board absent (flat roof)



Plate 13. Ply barge board absent (pitched roof)



Plate 14. Flat roof covering flush to fascia boards



Plate 15. uPVC windows and cladding



Plate 16. Internal view of community centre



Plate 17. Fully grown common pipistrelle bat and pipistrelle bat droppings

