



BIODIVERSE
CONSULTING

KINGS MEADOW

**PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL
REPORT**

FOR: LIDL GB

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CLIENT	PROJECT	
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DOCUMENT CONTROL

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Biodiverse Consulting Ltd was commissioned to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of land at Kings Meadow, Brecon, LD3 8LA. The Site is proposed to be developed into a retail supermarket with carpark and associated infrastructure. This report presents the key ecological constraints and opportunities in relation to the development, as summarised in the table below.

ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR KINGS MEADOW	
Designated Sites	Seven statutory and three non-statutory designated sites within 2km. The River Usk Special Area of Conservation (SAC) located adjacent to Site to the south. A shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (sHRA) ¹ assesses the impacts of the development, including phosphorus from foul water, on the SAC.
Habitats	Local Value: Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Individual Trees, Line of Trees. Low Value: Modified Grassland, Bramble Scrub, Developed Land. Sealed Surface.
Badger	Desk study returned 10 records. Limited suitability for sett creation. Habitats onsite suitable for foraging and commuting. Site is of Low Value.
Bats	Desk study returned records of 12 species. Tree with Potential Roost Features identified onsite. Habitats of ‘Moderate Suitability’ for foraging and commuting. Further assessment required to determine Site Value.
Birds	Desk study returned records of 45 species of conservation concern. Habitats offer some suitability for nesting birds. Suitable foraging and commuting habitat. Site is of Low Value for breeding and non-breeding birds.
Great Crested Newt	Desk study returned two records. No waterbodies identified onsite. One pond, two ditches and two rivers within 500m. Suitable terrestrial habitat onsite. Site is of Low Value.
Otter	Desk study returned 22 records. No aquatic habitat onsite. Suitable watercourse adjacent to the Site. Further assessment required to determine Site Value.

¹ Biodiverse Consulting Ltd (2026) Lidl – Kings Meadow: Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment. Ref BioC25-743, V1.1, 7 October 2026.



ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR KINGS MEADOW

Reptiles	Desk study returned records of two species. Habitats suitable for basking, sheltering, foraging and commuting. Further assessment required to determine Site Value.
Water Vole	Desk study returned no records. Habitats onsite of limited suitability for foraging and commuting. Adjacent watercourse with suitability. Further assessment required to determine Site Value.
Priority Aquatic Species – Migratory Fish, White-clawed Crayfish	Desk study returned one record of eel. Habitats onsite of no suitability. Adjacent watercourse high suitability. Site is of Low Value.
Priority Species – Brown Hare	Desk study returned seven records. Habitats suitable for foraging and commuting. Site is of Local Value.
Priority Species – Common Toad	Desk study returned 10 records. Suitable terrestrial habitat onsite for foraging and commuting. Site is of Local Value.
Priority Species - Hedgehog	Desk study returned 104 records. Habitats suitable for foraging and commuting. Site is of Local Value.
Priority Species - Invertebrates	Desk study returned several records of priority moth, butterfly, beetle and bee species. Suitable larval and adult foodplants identified onsite. Site is of Low Value.
Invasive Non-Native Species	No invasive non-native species identified onsite.
Further Survey and Assessment	• Updating botanical survey (May – September). • Three nighttime bat walkover visits conducted across spring (April/May), summer (June/July/August) and autumn (September/October). Plus, one remote monitor installed every month from April – October for five consecutive nights. • Breeding Bird Survey (March – June 2027) • Three vantage point surveys on tree T1 (May – September). • Aerial inspection survey of tree T1. • Two riparian mammal surveys (April – September): First visit completed 7 September 2026; second scheduled for April 2027. • Seven reptile survey visits (March – September 2027). • Ecological Impact Assessment.



ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR KINGS MEADOW	
	• Arboricultural Impact Assessment. • Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment. • Construction Ecological Management Plan.



CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY4

CONTENTS.....7

1 INTRODUCTION8

1.1 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION8

1.2 REPORT OBJECTIVES8

1.3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS8

2 METHODOLOGY.....9

2.1 SURVEY AREA.....9

2.2 DESK STUDY9

2.3 FIELD SURVEY9

2.4 LIMITATIONS.....10

2.5 ASSESSMENT10

3 RESULTS11

3.1 DESK STUDY11

3.2 FIELD SURVEY14

4 RECOMMENDATIONS28

4.1 POTENTIAL IMPACTS28

4.2 FURTHER SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT28

4.3 AVOIDANCE/MITIGATION.....30

4.4 COMPENSATION/ENHANCEMENT31

APPENDICES32

APPENDIX A – FIGURES.....33

APPENDIX B – PROTECTED SPECIES SURVEY METHODOLOGIES44

APPENDIX C – VALUE OF ECOLOGICAL FEATURES45

APPENDIX D – LOCAL RECORDS SEARCH47

APPENDIX E – SPECIES LISTS FOR HABITATS.....51

APPENDIX F – HABITAT PHOTOS54

APPENDIX G – POLICY AND LEGISLATION56

APPENDIX H – BAT SUITABILITY.....59



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

The Site is located at Kings Meadow, Brecon, LD3 8LA at an approximate central grid reference of SO 03191 28269 as illustrated in Appendix A Figure 1. The 1.18ha Site currently consists of grassland, woodland, scrub, lines of trees and hardstanding. The Site is currently unused and closed access.

1.2 REPORT OBJECTIVES

The aim of this report is to determine the potential ecological constraints and opportunities to development. The objectives of this report are to:

- Identify and describe ecological features/receptors that may be present onsite or within an identified Zone of Influence (Zoi).
- Outline potential mitigation, compensation or enhancement measures if required.
- Determine the need for and scope of further surveys.
- Ascribe an Ecological Value to features where no further surveys are required.

1.3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The development proposal comprises a retail supermarket with carpark and associated infrastructure (Appendix A Figure 2).



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 SURVEY AREA

The survey area comprised the ‘Site’ (Appendix A Figure 3) and, where access was available, an approximate 50m buffer.

2.2 DESK STUDY

A desk study was undertaken to obtain pre-existing ecological information relevant to the assessment. The desk study included:

- An assessment of aerial imagery and Ordnance Survey mapping.
- A search of the MAGIC website² for nationally designated sites within 2km of the Site. For international designations, a 10km buffer was used.
- A request to the Biodiversity Information Service for Powys and Brecon Beacons National Park Local Record Centre³ (LRC) for records of non-statutory designated sites and protected and priority habitats and species.

2.3 FIELD SURVEY

Table 1 provides a summary of the field surveys undertaken, with details provided in subsequent sections. All surveys were undertaken by suitably experienced and/or licenced ecologists (details available on request).

TABLE 1: SURVEY SUMMARY

SURVEY TYPE	DATE	TEMPERATURE	CLOUD	PRECIPITATION	WIND ⁴
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Ground Level Tree Assessment	10/03/26	10°C	100%	Light rain	2BF

² Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (www.magic.gov.uk)

³ Biodiversity Information Service for Powys & Brecon Beacons National Park. Available from: [BIS :: Home](#).

⁴ Royal Meteorological Society ([The Beaufort Wind Scale](#) | [Royal Meteorological Society](#))



2.3.1 Habitats/Protected Species

The Site was subjected to a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) walkover survey with habitats assessed in line with the UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) methods⁵. As part of the survey, the Site was also checked for evidence of protected and priority species, and habitats were assessed for their potential to support them. Details of relevant protected species survey methodologies are located in Appendix B.

2.4 LIMITATIONS

The PEA survey was conducted outside of the optimal botanical survey season, and although some plant species were identifiable, it is noted that some species may not be present/identifiable. This is considered a significant limitation and will be addressed by a further botanical survey to be completed during the optimal growing season (mid-May – September end).

Habitat results (particularly grassland) should be treated as indicative for the purposes of the Preliminary Appraisal.

2.5 ASSESSMENT

The PEA surveys may provide sufficient information to accurately determine the value of some features, whereas other features may require further study to allow this. Features for which sufficient information is available at this stage are assigned a value using a geographic frame of reference in line with guidance from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (Appendix C).

⁵ Butcher, B., Carey, P., Edmonds, R., Norton, L. and Treweek, J. (2023) The UK Habitats Classification User Manual Version 2 at <http://www.ukhab.org/>



3 RESULTS

3.1 DESK STUDY

3.1.1 Designated Sites

A summary of statutory and non-statutory designated sites is provided in Table 2. In addition, the Site is within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ), however the development is not of a type that triggers consultation between the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and Natural Resource Wales. The LRC map of designated sites is provided in Appendix A Figure 4.

TABLE 2: DESIGNATED SITES

DESIGNATION	SITE NAME	REASON FOR DESIGNATION	DISTANCE FROM SITE
Statutory Designated Sites			
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	River Usk	Plain to montane watercourse supporting significant aquatic vegetation communities including species such as water-crowfoot <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> . Supports a significant presence of aquatic species such as river lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> , sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> , bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> , twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i> , Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> and otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> . The River Usk SAC is also designated as a nutrient sensitive SAC.	5m southeast
	Brecon Beacons	Dry heaths, calcareous rocky slopes and siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation. Species include purple saxifrage <i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i> , green spleenwort <i>Aplenium viride</i> , fir clubmoss <i>Huperzia selago</i> and serrated wintergreen <i>Orthilia secunda</i> .	6,470m south



DESIGNATION	SITE NAME	REASON FOR DESIGNATION	DISTANCE FROM SITE
	Drostre Bank	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils. Species include tawny sedge <i>Carex hostiana</i> , flea sedge <i>Carex pulicaris</i> , quaking-grass <i>Briza media</i> and marsh valerian <i>Valeriana dioica</i> .	6,830m northeast
	River Wye	Plain to montane watercourse supporting significant aquatic vegetation communities including species such as water-crowfoot. Supports a significant presence of aquatic species such as white-clawed crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> , river lamprey, sea lamprey, bullhead, twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i> , Atlantic salmon and otter.	7,550m northeast
	Llangorse Lake	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition vegetation. Flora dominated by pondweed- yellow water-lily <i>Potamogetonaceae</i> – <i>Nupharetum</i> associations.	8,990m east
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	River Usk (Tributaries)	Plain to montane watercourse supporting diverse habitats and serving as an essential wildlife corridor and migration route for aquatic and terrestrial species.	5m southeast
	River Usk (Upper Usk)		446m north
Non-Statutory Designated Sites			
Site of Importance for	Wern Ddu Wood and Pond	Reason for designation unavailable.	1685m south



DESIGNATION	SITE NAME	REASON FOR DESIGNATION	DISTANCE FROM SITE
Nature Conservation	Wern Ddu Rhos		1720m south
Local Wildlife Site	Penlan Pond	Reason for designation unavailable.	1992m

3.1.2 Priority Habitats

There is Priority Habitat in Restored Ancient Woodland within the Site.

There are no Priority Habitats bordering the Site.

Priority Habitats within 2 km of the Site include: Traditional Orchard (one record), Woodpasture and Parkland (two records), Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures (two records) and Ancient Woodland (45 records). The map of the Priority Habitats is provided in Appendix A Figure 5.

3.1.3 Protected and Priority Species

A summary of recent (2016–present) records of protected, priority or otherwise notable species provided by the LRC is presented in Appendix D and relevant records are discussed in the results sections below. The full LRC search results are available on request.

3.1.4 Landscape Context

A review of aerial imagery and Ordnance Survey mapping shows that the immediate surrounding landscape comprises predominately of urban infrastructure within the town of Brecon. Business parks are located to the west and south of the Site with a residential area to the east. Significant roads of the A40 and A470 run adjacent to the Site along the northeast and northwestern aspects respectively, adjoining at a roundabout directly north. The Afon Tarell River runs directly adjacent to the southern Site boundary.

In the wider surroundings a golf course and the River Usk are situated to the north, the urban town of Brecon to the east, mixed use agricultural fields and woodland parcels to the south and west.



3.2 FIELD SURVEY

The 1.18 ha Site is dominated by grassland and woodland. Detailed accounts of the UKHab habitats are provided below. A map of the UKHab habitats is provided in Appendix A Figure 6, corresponding Target Notes in Appendix A Figure 7, full species lists for the habitats in Appendix E and images in Appendix F.

3.2.1 Habitats

TABLE 3: BASELINE HABITAT DESCRIPTIONS

HABITAT REFERENCE	EXTENT	UKHAB CODE	SECONDARY CODE(S)	KEY SPECIES	DESCRIPTION	VALUE
g – GRASSLAND						
G1	0.659ha	g4 – Modified Grassland	521 – Unmanaged	Dominated by cock’s-foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> with less frequent forbs.	Sward height between 5-20cm, grass: forb ratio of 85:15, approx. 5% bare ground cover and five species per square metre. Some tall forbs throughout. Unmanaged.	Low
G2	0.014ha	g4 – Modified Grassland	16 – Tall forbs 521 – Unmanaged	Dominated by cock’s-foot with less frequent tall forbs including common knapweed <i>Centaurea nigra</i> .	Sward height between 5-20cm, grass: forb ratio of 75:25, <5% bare ground cover, and six species per square metre. Unmanaged.	Low



HABITAT REFERENCE	EXTENT	UKHAB CODE	SECONDARY CODE(S)	KEY SPECIES	DESCRIPTION	VALUE
w – WOODLAND AND FOREST						
W1	0.321ha	w1f – Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	521 – Unmanaged	No one species dominant with canopy species including beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> . Understory dominated by common ivy <i>Hedera helix</i> . Other ground flora present included bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> , lords-and-ladies <i>Arum maculatum</i> and hart's tongue <i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i> .	Located on raised bank adjacent to river. Unmanaged and self-seeded. Consists of saplings, young, semi mature and mature trees. No veteran trees. Continuous canopy cover. No signs of disturbance.	Local
h – HEATHLAND AND SHRUB						
S1, S2, S3	0.002ha, 0.028ha, 0.003ha	h3d – Bramble Scrub	521 – Unmanaged	Dominated by bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. and	Small, unmanaged parcels within grassland.	Low



HABITAT REFERENCE	EXTENT	UKHAB CODE	SECONDARY CODE(S)	KEY SPECIES	DESCRIPTION	VALUE
				common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> .		
u – URBAN						
U1, U2	0.027ha, 0.009ha	u1b6 – Developed Land. Sealed Surface	N/A	Dominated by a covering of moss and forbs including ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> and small-flowered crane's-bill <i>Geranium pusillum</i> .	Hardstanding path under approx. 5cm of moss and vascular plants.	Low

3.2.2 Hedgerows

TABLE 4: BASELINE HEDGEROW DESCRIPTIONS

HABITAT REFERENCE	EXTENT	UKHAB CODE	SECONDARY CODE(S)	KEY SPECIES	DESCRIPTION	VALUE
L1	0.203km	w – Woodland and Forest	33 – Line of Trees	Dominated by ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> and hawthorn, understory consisted predominantly of common	Young and semi-mature trees. Continuous canopy.	Local



HABITAT REFERENCE	EXTENT	UKHAB CODE	SECONDARY CODE(S)	KEY SPECIES	DESCRIPTION	VALUE
				ivy, bramble and bare ground.		

3.2.3 Protected Species

Protected species are afforded a level of legal protection which means that their presence may pose a constraint to development. A summary of relevant legislation and associated species is provided in Appendix G.

Bat suitability has been classified according to the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Good Practice Guidelines⁶ as specified in Appendix H.

The following sections describe the results of the field surveys and an appraisal of desk study data. Species not addressed below are considered extremely unlikely to be present and/or affected by the development and so are scoped out of further assessment.

TABLE 5: PROTECTED SPECIES PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

FEATURE	DESK STUDY RESULTS	FIELD SIGNS	HABITAT SUITABILITY	CONNECTIVITY	VALUE
Badger	10 local records	Mammal tracks observed (Appendix A, Figure 7, TN4).	Woodland provides some suitability for sett creation, limited by size and proximity to steep bank. Grassland and scrub	Tree lines and woodland provide moderate connectivity to suitable habitat in the wider surroundings. Limited by river and road from	Low

⁶ Collins, J. (ed) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition). Bat Conservation Trust



FEATURE	DESK STUDY RESULTS	FIELD SIGNS	HABITAT SUITABILITY	CONNECTIVITY	VALUE
			provide suitable foraging and commuting habitat.	northern, eastern and southern aspects.	
Bats	Multiple records of several species including barbastelle <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> , greater horseshoe <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> and lesser horseshoe <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> .	No field signs observed.	Individual tree with multiple features assessed PRF-M (Table 6). Woodland, grassland and tree lines provide 'Moderate Suitability' for commuting and foraging bats.	Woodland, grassland, tree lines and offsite river provide connectivity to suitable habitat in the wider surroundings.	Further assessment required.
Birds	Several records of Schedule 1 ⁷ birds including Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i> , Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i> , Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i> . Records include ground nesting birds such as Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i> .	Birds recorded during survey listed in Table 7.	Woodland and scrub provide suitable habitat for nesting birds. Tree line suitability limited by busy roads. Grassland provides limited suitability for ground nesting birds due to small size. Tree lines, woodland and grassland	Woodland, tree lines and river provide strong connectivity to suitable habitat in the wider surroundings.	Further assessment required.

⁷ Schedule 1 birds list. [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#). Accessed: March 2026.



FEATURE	DESK STUDY RESULTS	FIELD SIGNS	HABITAT SUITABILITY	CONNECTIVITY	VALUE
			provide some suitability for foraging and commuting.		
Great Crested Newt	Two local records, closest 1717m. One pond, two ditches and two rivers identified within 500m (Appendix A, Figure 8).	No field signs observed.	No suitable aquatic habitat onsite. Grassland, woodland and scrub provide suitable terrestrial habitat.	Connectivity is limited by fast flowing river and busy roads.	Low
Otter	22 local records, closest 584m. Designated watercourses nearby.	No field signs observed.	No aquatic habitat onsite. Significant, suitable watercourse adjacent to the Site. Onsite woodland provides suitable terrestrial habitat; its suitability is limited by the noise from the adjacent roads.	Connectivity is strong via the offsite watercourse to other high suitability watercourses in the wider surroundings.	Further assessment required.
Water Vole	No local records.	No field signs observed.	No aquatic habitat onsite. Suitability of adjacent watercourse limited by fast flow and rocky banks.	Connectivity limited by fast flowing river and few suitable watercourses.	Further assessment required.



FEATURE	DESK STUDY RESULTS	FIELD SIGNS	HABITAT SUITABILITY	CONNECTIVITY	VALUE
Reptiles	One local record of common lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i> , five of slow-worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i> .	No field signs observed.	Grassland, woodland and scrub provide suitable onsite habitat due to their structural diversity and limited disturbance. Hardstanding, deadwood, wood chippings and stone piles provide suitable basking and sheltering habitat (Appendix A, Figure 7, TN1, TN2, TN3)	Woodland, tree lines and river provide connectivity to suitable habitat in the wider surroundings. Limited by river and roads.	Further assessment required.
Priority Aquatic Species – Migratory Fish, White-clawed Crayfish	One local record of eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> , closest 1096m.	No field signs observed.	No suitable aquatic habitat onsite. Suitable watercourse adjacent to Site.	Strong connectivity past the Site to other high suitability watercourses in the wider surroundings.	Low
Priority Species – Brown Hare	Seven local records, closest 1098m.	Possible mammal tracks observed (Appendix A, Figure 7, TN4).	Grassland, woodland and scrub provide suitable	Tree lines and woodland provide moderate connectivity to suitable	Local



FEATURE	DESK STUDY RESULTS	FIELD SIGNS	HABITAT SUITABILITY	CONNECTIVITY	VALUE
			foraging and commuting habitat.	habitat in the wider surroundings. Limited by river and roads.	
Priority Species – Common Toad	10 local records, closest 565m.	No field signs observed.	No suitable aquatic habitat onsite. Grassland, woodland and scrub provide suitable terrestrial habitat.	Tree lines and woodland provide moderate connectivity to suitable habitat in the wider surroundings. Limited by river and roads.	Local
Priority Species - Hedgehog	104 local records, closest 130m.	Possible mammal tracks observed (Appendix A, Figure 7, TN4).	Grassland, woodland and scrub provide suitable foraging and commuting habitat.	Tree lines and woodland provide moderate connectivity to suitable habitat in the wider surroundings. Limited by river and roads.	Local
Priority Species - Invertebrates	Several records of Section 7 ⁸ moth, beetle, butterfly and bee species including cinnabar moth <i>Tyria</i>	No field signs observed.	Grassland, woodland, scrub and tree lines provide suitable habitat. Suitable food plants for larvae and	Tree lines and woodland provide moderate connectivity to suitable	Low

⁸ Section 7 habitats and species. [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016: Section 7 – list of the living organisms of principal importance for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in relation to Wales](#). Accessed March 2026.



FEATURE	DESK STUDY RESULTS	FIELD SIGNS	HABITAT SUITABILITY	CONNECTIVITY	VALUE
	<i>jacobaeae</i> , small heath butterfly <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> , and long-horned bee <i>Eucera longicornis</i> .		adults such as ragwort <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i> for cinnabar, annual meadow grass <i>Poa annua</i> for small heath and vetches <i>Vicia</i> sp. for long-horned bee.	habitat in the wider surroundings.	



TABLE 6: GROUND LEVEL TREE ASSESSMENT

TREE REF.	GRID REFERENCE	SPECIES	PRF DESCRIPTION	SUITABILITY	IMAGE
T1	SO 03200 28254	Pedunculate oak	1. Significant rot hole on end of coppiced branch, approx. 8m height, facing south.	PRF-M	
			2. Small rot hole on the underside of branch of PRF1, approx. 8m height.	PRF-I	



TREE REF.	GRID REFERENCE	SPECIES	PRF DESCRIPTION	SUITABILITY	IMAGE
			3. Small rot hole on end of coppiced branch, approx. 8m height facing south.	PRF-I	
			4. Small rot hole within scar on tree trunk, approx. 4m height, facing south.	PRF-I	



TREE REF.	GRID REFERENCE	SPECIES	PRF DESCRIPTION	SUITABILITY	IMAGE
			5. Rot hole on coppiced branch, approx. 8m height facing east.	PRF-M	
			6. Large scar in branch not leading to internal cavity, approx. 5m height, facing north.	None	



TREE REF.	GRID REFERENCE	SPECIES	PRF DESCRIPTION	SUITABILITY	IMAGE
			7. Large split in branch, approx. 6m height, facing south.	PRF-I	

TABLE 7: BIRD SPECIES RECORDED DURING PEA SURVEY

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Schedule 1 ⁶
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber ⁹
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	Amber
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber

⁹ Birds of Conservation Concern. Available from: [bocc-5-a5-4pp-single-pages.pdf](#). Accessed: March 2026.



COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Green
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green

3.2.4 Invasive Non-Native Species

No invasive non-native species identified onsite.



4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The development has the potential to adversely impact valuable ecological features and some of these impacts may also constitute legal offences. The broad impacts include:

- Direct harm of animal species
- Disturbance of animal species
- Loss and degradation of valuable habitats
- Loss and degradation of habitats that support protected/priority species

Many of these impacts can be adequately addressed at this stage and therefore a range of good practice avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures are recommended below. Impacts to some features cannot be robustly assessed without additional information and so further surveys and assessments are recommended for such features. These results of which may require additional/different measures to address effects.

4.2 FURTHER SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT

The following surveys and assessments presented in Table 8 are recommended to provide a robust baseline for the assessment of the potential ecological impacts of the development.

TABLE 8: FURTHER SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT

SURVEY/ ASSESSMENT/PLAN	DESCRIPTION
Surveys	
Nighttime Bat Walkover	Nocturnal transect surveys comprising one survey visit per season (spring, summer, autumn) to establish how bats use the Site for commuting, foraging, and roosting alongside species and numbers. Static remote monitors to be deployed for a minimum of five consecutive nights per month from April to October to further establish species present.
Bat Vantage Point Survey	Three vantage point surveys undertaken on tree T1 from May – September, with at least two occurring between May and August.



SURVEY/ ASSESSMENT/PLAN	DESCRIPTION
Aerial Inspection Survey	An aerial inspection survey to check for evidence of bats for any accessible PRFs. If a roost is confirmed, further survey may be necessary to classify roost type and apply for a European Protected Species licence.
Breeding Bird Survey	Breeding bird survey comprising six visits between March and June, one of which will be crepuscular in order to target species such as Barn Owl.
Riparian Mammal Survey	Riparian survey comprising two visits to determine the presence/absence of otter and water vole between April and September. The first visit was completed on 7 September 2026 and the second is scheduled for April 2027.
Reptile Survey	Survey comprising seven visits between March and September to determine presence/absence of reptiles onsite.
Assessments	
Ecological Impact Assessment	The results of all aforementioned surveys will be combined into an Ecological Impact Assessment report. Assessment of impacts and avoidance, mitigation, and compensation measures of the proposed development on the ecological features present at the Site.
Arboricultural Impact Assessment	Identify potential impacts on trees and Root Protection Zones.
Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment	An sHRA to inform the Appropriate Assessment by the competent authority (BBNPA) has been produced (V1.1, October 2026) to consider impacts of the development on the River Usk SAC. It concludes no adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC, subject to Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water confirming before determination that Brecon Wastewater Treatment Works can treat the flows within its revised phosphorus permit, and to mitigation secured by condition. A nutrient budget is needed only if that confirmation is not given.



SURVEY/ ASSESSMENT/PLAN	DESCRIPTION
Plans	
Construction Ecological Management Plan	Provides method statements to reduce impact on construction activities on ecological features.

4.3 AVOIDANCE/MITIGATION

The following measures should be incorporated into the design of the development, including the construction phase, to reduce impacts on wildlife:

- All works to be undertaken in accordance with a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcMP). Ecological receptors likely to be covered in this plan will include, but not be limited to: GCN, bats, birds, badgers, reptiles, otter, hedgehog, common toad, brown hare and aquatic species.
- Construction activities will be undertaken with due consideration of the adjacent Afon Tarell watercourse and River Usk SAC to the south of the Site. Appropriate buffer zones, pollution prevention measures, and controlled surface water management will be implemented to minimise the risk of indirect construction impacts (e.g. sedimentation, runoff, or contamination) on the SAC or any of its designated features, including aquatic species.
- External lighting will be designed in line with BCT guidance¹⁰ to reduce impacts on bats and a range of other wildlife associated with retained and offsite habitats. The Lighting Impact Assessment (S3–P02, September 2026) predicts less than 0.5 lux at the Site boundaries; light spill from the development should not exceed 0.5 lux on the bank woodland, the Afon Tarell or the opposite bank.
- Avoid Site clearance works during the nesting bird season (March to August inclusive) unless the Site is checked by a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE) and active nests are confirmed to be absent no later than 48 hours before works commence.
- Woodland, lines of trees and individual trees identified onsite will be retained and enhanced where possible in order to maintain ecological connectivity within the local area.
- Restored Ancient Woodland onsite will be protected with an appropriate buffer.
- All construction activities will be programmed to daytime hours to reduce disturbance to sensitive nocturnal species, such as bats and roosting bird species.
- Excavations should be securely covered or fenced overnight or otherwise provide a means of escape for animals that may become trapped in the form of a ramp at least 300mm wide and

¹⁰ Bat Conservation Trust (2023) Guidance Note 08/23: Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night



angled no greater than 45°. Excavations should be inspected for the presence of animals before work recommences and, in the event of trapped animals being trapped, an ecologist contacted for advice.

4.4 COMPENSATION/ENHANCEMENT

Compensation is proposed to address the impacts on habitats which cannot be avoided or mitigated:

- Landscape planting to compensate for any tree/shrub loss shall include species native to the local area alongside pollinator species, to provide increased foraging opportunities in the local area.
- The incorporation of opportunities for roosting bats and nesting birds within the development of a type to be informed by the results of additional surveys.

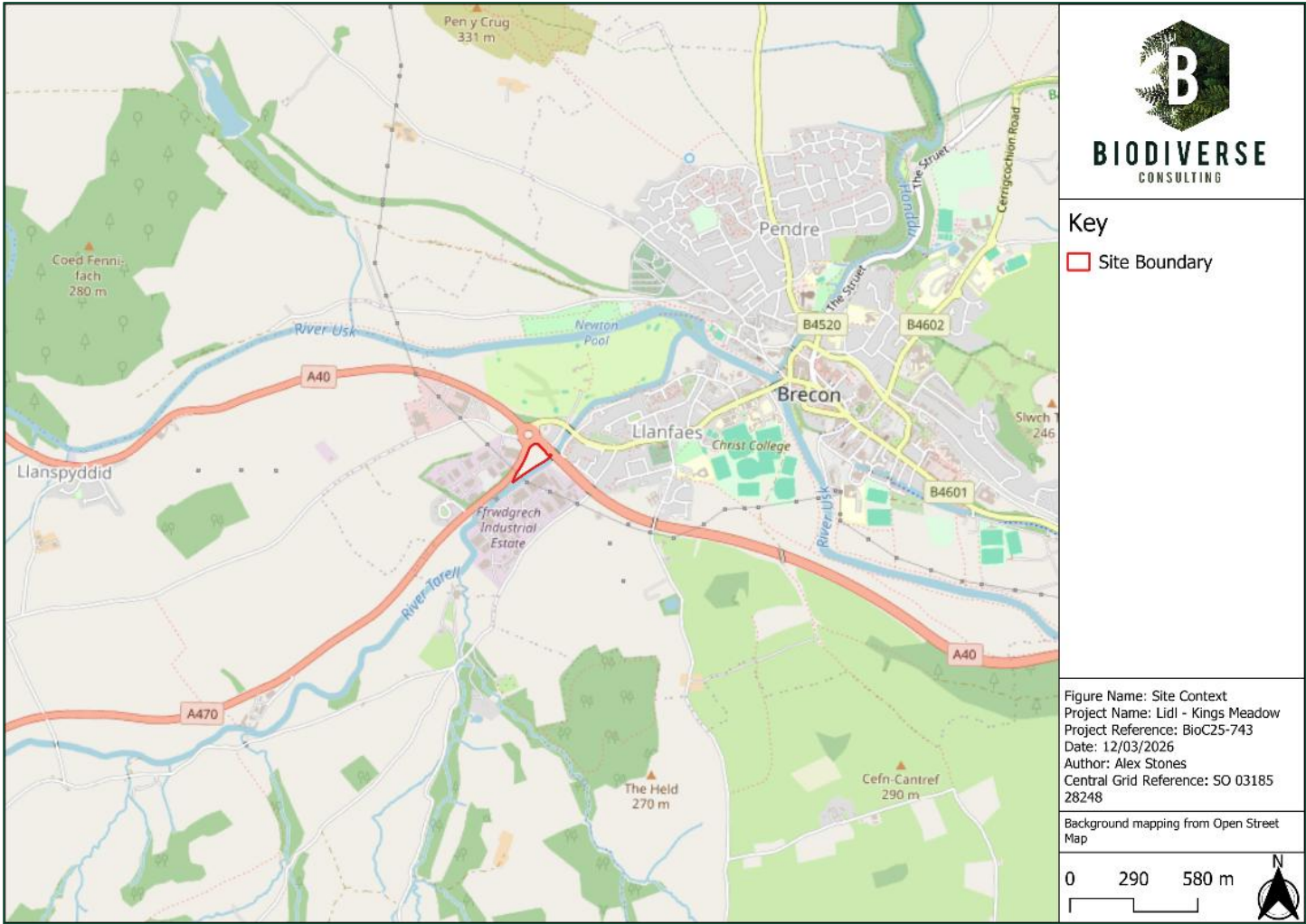


APPENDICES



APPENDIX A – FIGURES

Figure 1 – Site Location



[illegible]

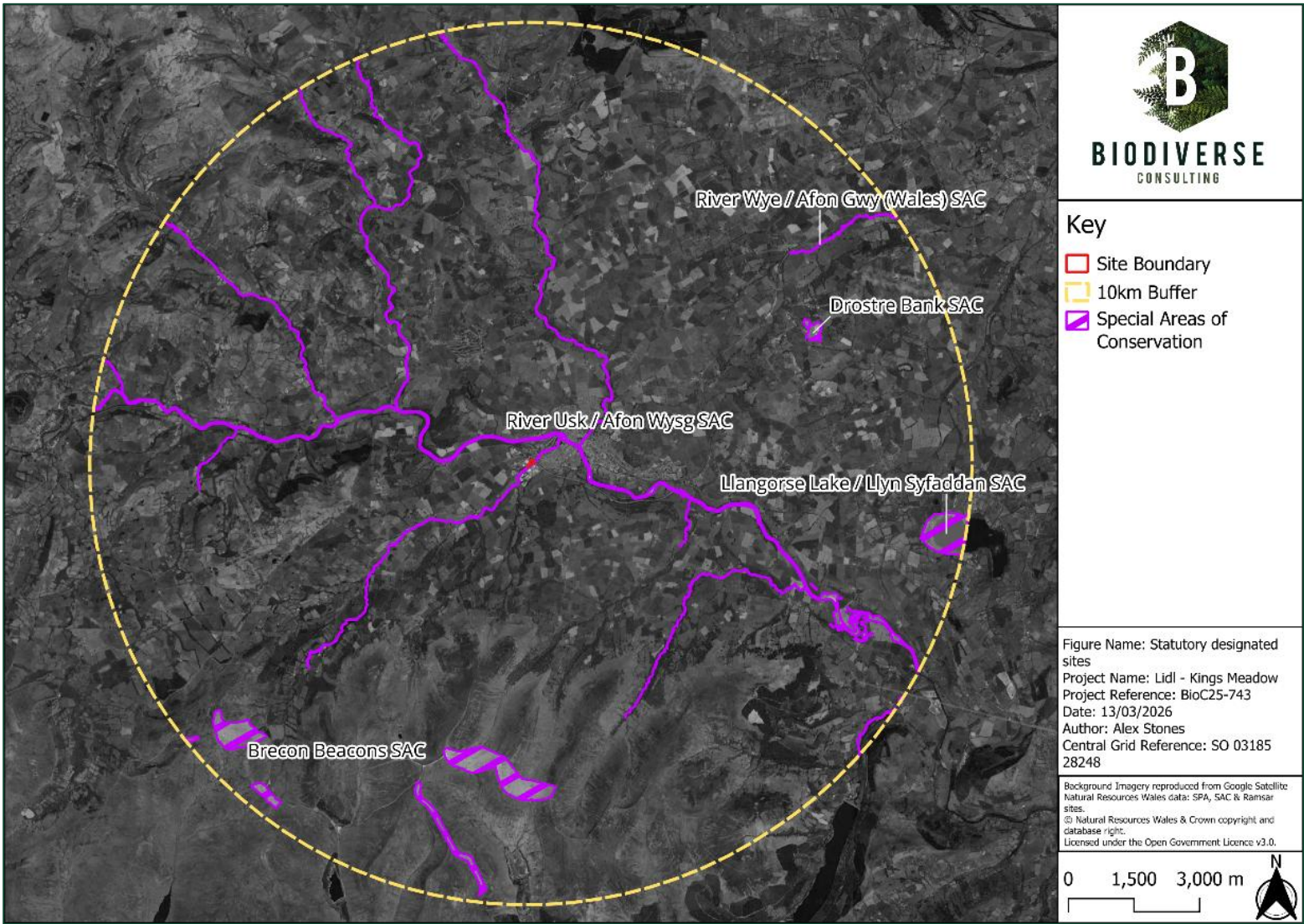


Figure 3 – Survey Area





Figure 4 – Designated Sites Map



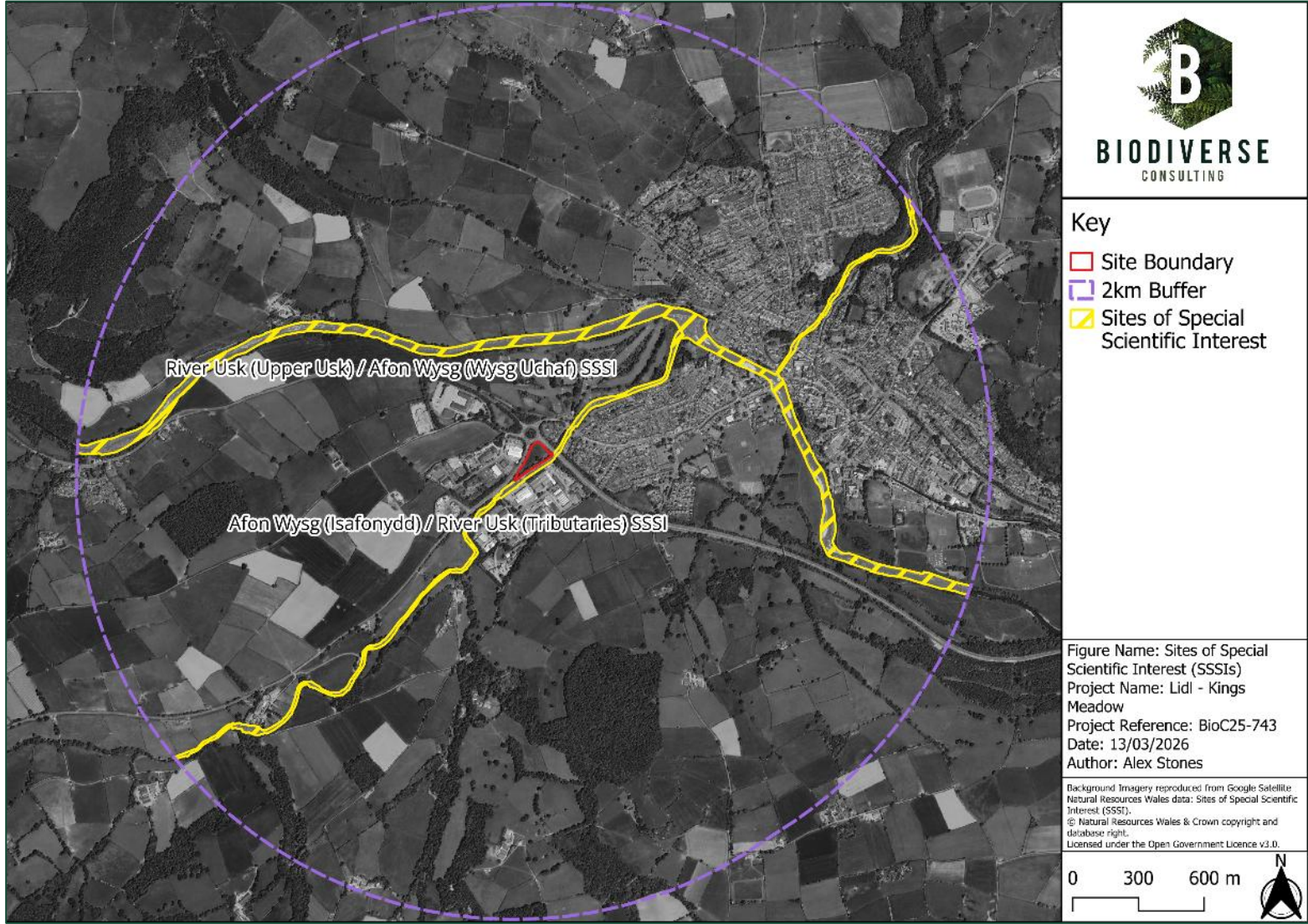




Figure 5 – Priority Habitats Map

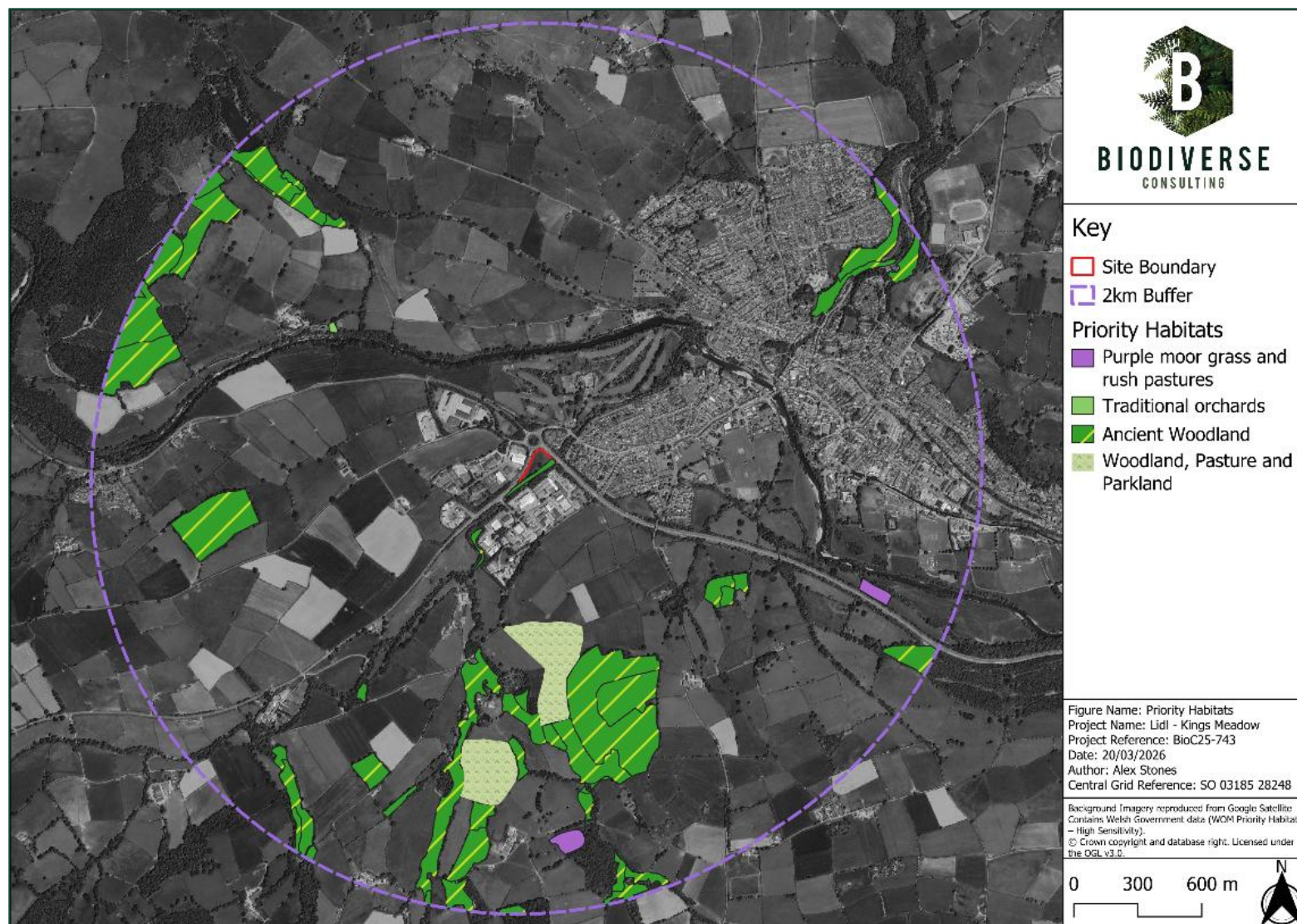




Figure 6 – Baseline UKHAB Map

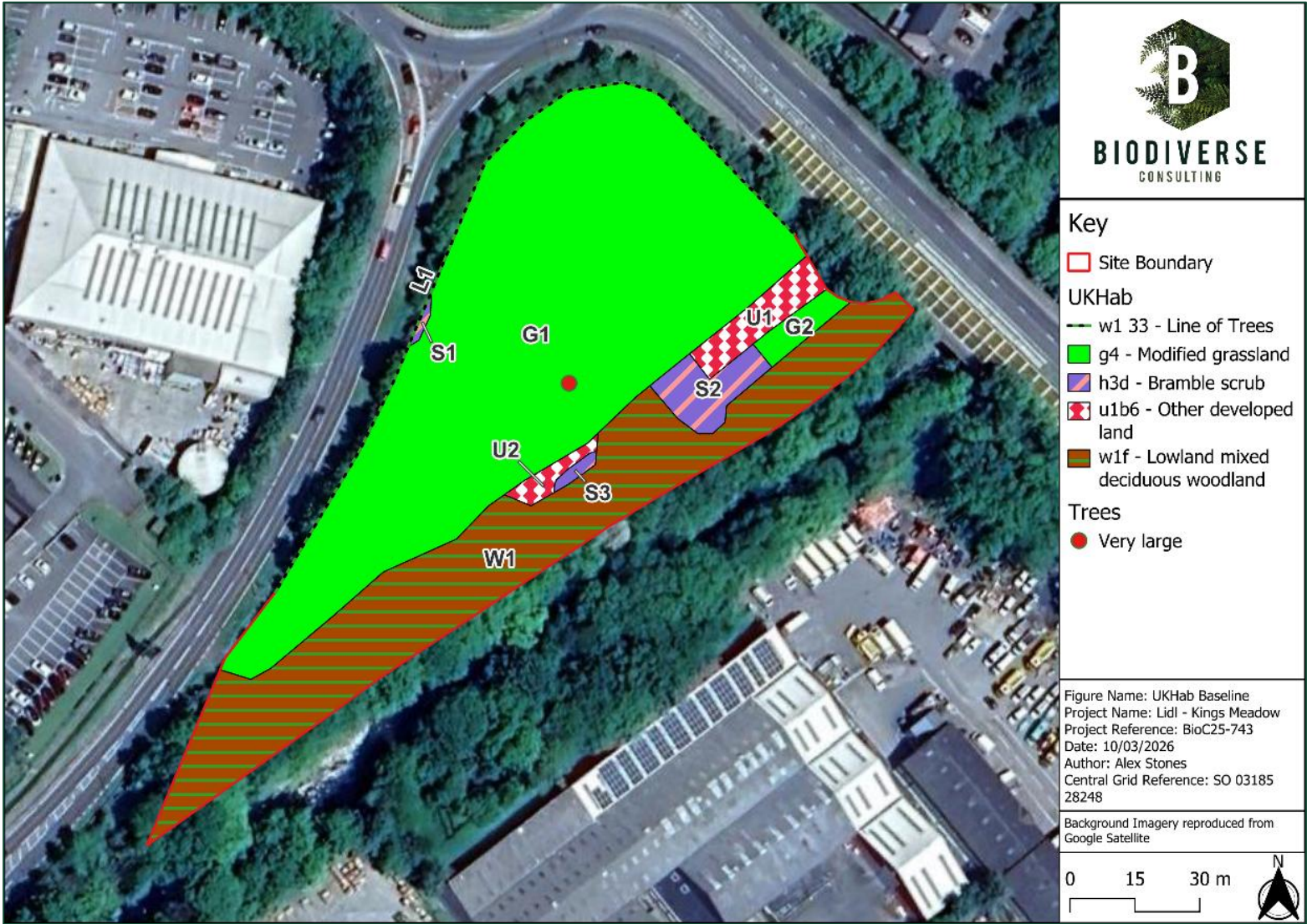




Figure 7 – Target Notes





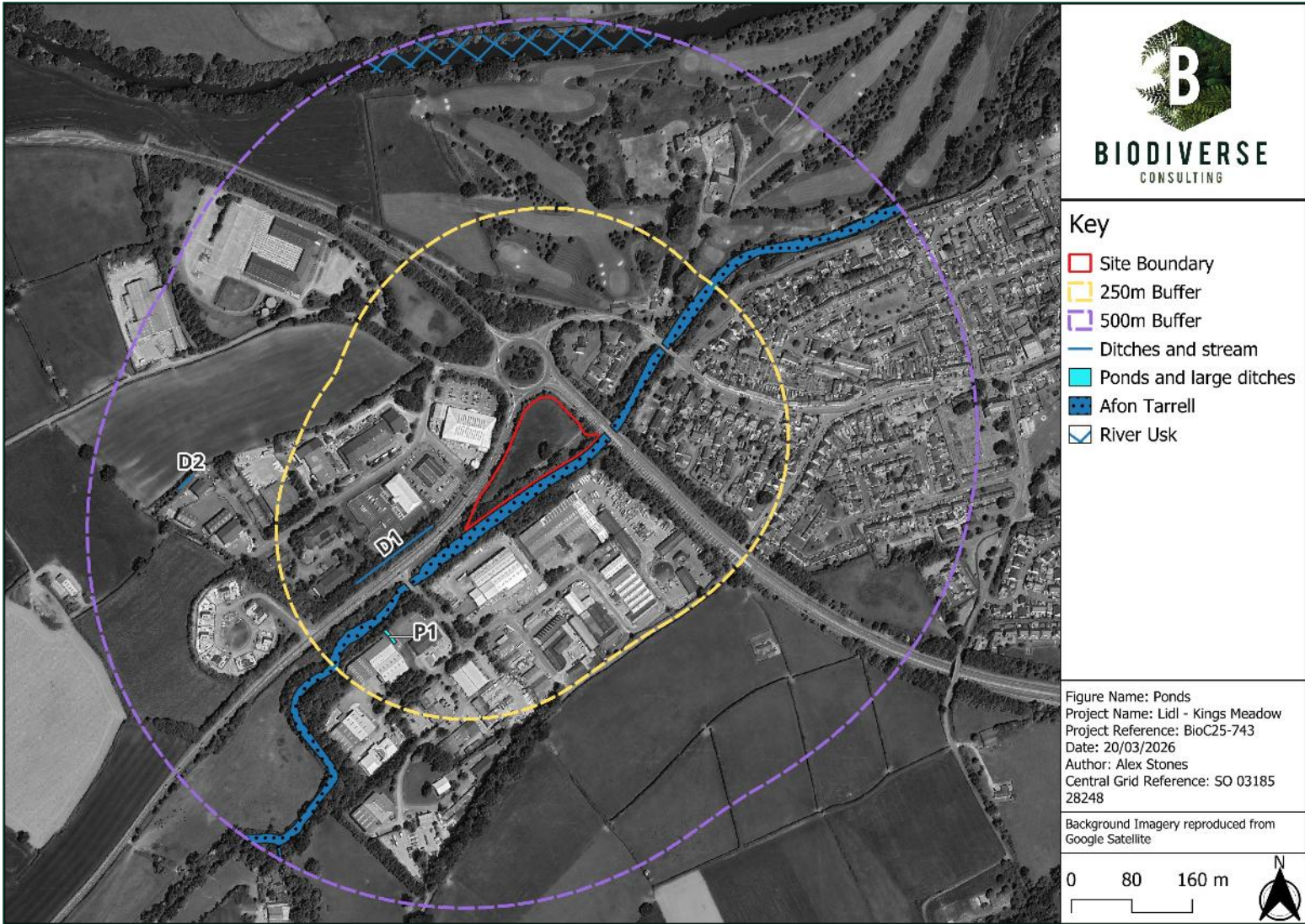
TARGET NOTE	DESCRIPTION	IMAGES
TN1	Deadwood of felled branch creating suitable basking and sheltering habitat for reptiles.	
TN2	Wood chippings pile providing suitable basking habitat for reptiles.	



TN3	Stone pile providing suitable sheltering habitat for reptiles.	
TN4	Mammal tracks through grassland parcel.	



Figure 8 – Pond Map





APPENDIX B – PROTECTED SPECIES SURVEY METHODOLOGIES

Bats

Survey methods and assessment are based on the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Good Practice Guidelines¹¹. A Ground Level Tree Assessment (GLTA) determined the value of trees and a Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) determined the value of structures to roosting bats and the need for further survey and/or mitigation.

A Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW) assessed habitats for bats to roost, commute, and forage both on Site and in the surrounding area. The aim is to determine the suitability of the Site for bats, to assess whether further bat surveys will be needed and how those surveys should be safely carried out (see Appendix H for bat suitability descriptions).

Mammals

Surveyors walked the Site in search for evidence of mammals including the presence of setts/burrows, prints, pathways through vegetation, dung pits/latrines/spraint, hair caught on vegetation or fences, scratching posts and foraging signs.

The area surveyed included all land within the Site boundary and, where access was permitted or where visual checks could be made, land outside but immediately adjacent to the Site boundary.

¹¹ Collins, J. (ed) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition). Bat Conservation Trust



APPENDIX C – VALUE OF ECOLOGICAL FEATURES

VALUE	EXAMPLES
International	- An internationally designated site or candidate site (SPA, pSPA, SAC, cSAC, pSAC, Ramsar site) or an area which meets the designation criteria for such sites. - Internationally significant and viable areas of a habitat type listed in Annexe 1 of the Habitats Directive, or smaller areas of such habitat, which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. - Any regularly occurring, globally threatened species. - A regularly occurring population of an internationally important species, which is threatened or rare in the UK, of uncertain conservation status - A regularly occurring, nationally significant population/number of any internationally important species.
National	- A nationally designated site (<u>e.g.</u> SSSI, NNR) or a discrete area which meets the published selection criteria for national designation (e.g. SSSI selection guidelines) irrespective of whether or not it has yet been notified. - A viable area of a UK BAP priority habitat, or smaller areas of such habitat which are essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole. - A regularly occurring significant number/population of a nationally important species <u>e.g.</u> listed on the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). - A regularly occurring population of a nationally important species that is threatened or rare in the county or region. - A feature identified as being of critical importance in the UK BAP.
Regional / County	- Viable areas of key habitat identified in the Regional or County BAP or smaller areas of such a habitat, which are essential to maintain the viability of the larger whole. - Regional/county significant and viable areas of key habitat identified as being of regional Value in the appropriate Welsh Nature body (Natural Resources Wales). - A regularly occurring significant population/number of any important species important at a regional/county level. - Any regularly occurring, locally significant population of a species which is listed in a Regional/County Red Data Book or BAP on account of its regional rarity or localisation.



VALUE	EXAMPLES
	Sites of conservation importance that exceed the district selection criteria but that fall short of SSSI selection guidelines.
City/District/Borough	- Areas of habitat identified in a District/City/Borough BAP or in the relevant Natural Area profile. - Sites that the designating authority has determined meet the published ecological selection criteria for designation, including Local Nature Reserves selected on District/City/Borough ecological criteria. - Sites/features that are scarce within the District/City/Borough or which appreciably enrich the District/City/Borough habitat resource. - A diverse and/or ecologically valuable hedgerow network. - A population of a species that is listed in a District/City/Borough BAP because of its rarity in the locality or in the relevant Natural Area profile because of its regional rarity or localisation. - A regularly occurring, locally significant number of a District/City/Borough important species during key phases of its life cycle.
Parish	A feature considered scarce within a Parish or which appreciably enriches the Parish resource.
Local	- Areas identified in a Local BAP or the relevant natural area profile. - Sites/features which are scarce in the locality or which are considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource within the local context, e.g. species-rich hedgerows. - Local Nature Reserves selected on Parish/Local ecological criteria. - Significant numbers/population of a locally important species <u>e.g.</u> one which is listed on the Local BAP. - Any species, populations or habitats of local importance.
Low	Habitats of moderate to low diversity which support a range of locally and nationally common species, the loss of which can be easily mitigated.



APPENDIX D – LOCAL RECORDS SEARCH

PROTECTED SPECIES RECORDS FROM LRC

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	RECORDS	NEAREST RECORD (M)
AMPHIBIANS			
Common toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	10	565
Great crested newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	2	1717
BIRDS			
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	3	729
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	23	991
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	66	1330
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	8	722
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	2	1177
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	1	1330
Goshawk	<i>Astur gentilis</i>	18	1330
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	7	1360
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	126	187
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	4	1152
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	100	764
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	85	360
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	43	386
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	1	1460
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	1	1797
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	1	1797
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	1	1136
Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	1	1330
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	37	598
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	33	386
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	1	611



Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	21	677
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	49	547
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	1	1664
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	25	991
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	113	386
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	5	1330
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	6	718
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea cabaret</i>	49	668
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>	2	1073
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	7	611
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	5	1020
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	1	1367
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	8	611
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	75	386
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	18	456
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	66	576
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	1	1330
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	2	1600
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	2	1177
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	5	718
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	13	718
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	95	309
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	20	583
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	8	1341
FISH			
Eel	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	1	1096
INVERTEBRATES			
Anomalous moth	<i>Stilbia anomala</i>	1	1632
August thorn moth	<i>Ennomos quercinaria</i>	2	1568



Black-oil beetle	<i>Meloe proscarabaeus</i>	1	718
Blood-vein moth	<i>Timandra comae</i>	3	684
Brindled beauty moth	<i>Lycia hirtaria</i>	19	565
Broom moth	<i>Ceramica pisi</i>	3	1632
Brown-spot pinion moth	<i>Anchoscelis litura</i>	11	684
Buff ermine moth	<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	26	664
Centre-barred sallow moth	<i>Atethmia centrargo</i>	3	1632
Cinnabar moth	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	4	565
Dot moth	<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	2	684
Double dart moth	<i>Graphiphora augur</i>	1	1797
Dusky brocade moth	<i>Apamea remissa</i>	1	1797
Dusky thorn moth	<i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>	14	557
Ear moth	<i>Amphipoea oculea</i>	1	1632
Feathered gothic moth	<i>Tholera decimalis</i>	2	1632
Garden tiger moth	<i>Arctia caja</i>	6	1632
Grey dagger moth	<i>Acronicta psi</i>	1	770
Knot grass moth	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	1	684
Long-horned bee	<i>Eucera longicornis</i>	5	1632
Mottled rustic moth	<i>Caradrina morpheus</i>	8	1482
Mouse moth	<i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>	2	1632
Powdered quaker moth	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	6	1632
Rosy rustic moth	<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	2	1632
Rustic moth	<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	4	307
Sallow moth	<i>Cirrhia icteritia</i>	2	565
Shaded broad-bar moth	<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>	3	1632
Shoulder-striped wainscot moth	<i>Leucania comma</i>	31	684
Small emerald moth	<i>Hemistola chrysoprasaria</i>	1	1797
Small heath butterfly	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	1	1995
Small phoenix moth	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	24	684



Small square-spot moth	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	2	1632
White ermine moth	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	6	565
MAMMALS			
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	10	820
Barbastelle	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	1	570
Bat sp.	<i>Chiroptera</i> sp.	9	336
Brandt's bat	<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	1	1694
Brown long-eared	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	10	1030
Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	7	494
Daubenton's bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	15	481
Greater horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	1	1135
Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	7	1098
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	104	130
Lesser horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	191	186
Long-eared bat sp.	<i>Plecotus</i> sp.	1	1372
Myotis bat sp.	<i>Myotis</i> sp.	6	962
Nathusius' pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	1	881
Natterer's bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	7	570
Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	17	669
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	22	584
Pipistrelle sp.	<i>Pipistrellus</i> sp.	47	327
Polecat	<i>Mustela putorius</i>	4	1145
Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	42	327
Whiskered bat	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	3	410
REPTILES			
Common lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	1	1797
Slow-worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	5	435



APPENDIX E – SPECIES LISTS FOR HABITATS

MODIFIED GRASSLAND

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Dandelions	<i>Taraxacum</i> spp.
Lesser celandine	<i>Ficaria verna</i>
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Perforate St John's-wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
Common mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
Docks	<i>Rumex</i> sp.
Curled dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
Greek mallow	<i>Sidalcea malviflora</i>
Tufted hair-grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>
Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Large bitter-cress	<i>Cardamine amara</i>
Common ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.

LOWLAND MIXED DECIDUOUS WOODLAND

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>



COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Common ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Lords-and-Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
Sticky mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Ground-elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>
Cherry laurel	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>
Hart’s tongue	<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Bush vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>

BRAMBLE SCRUB

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
Common nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Cock’s-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Dewberry	<i>Rubus caesius</i>
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Sticky mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>
Common ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Docks	<i>Rumex</i> sp.



DEVELOPED LAND; SEALED SURFACE

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Smooth cat’s-ear	<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>
Small-flowered crane’s-bill	<i>Geranium pusillum</i>
Willowherbs	<i>Epilobium</i> sp.
Annual meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>
Herb-robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Docks	<i>Rumex</i> sp.
Cock’s-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Large bitter-cress	<i>Cardamine amara</i>
Sticky mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>

LINE OF TREES

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Common ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>

INDIVIDUAL TREES

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>



APPENDIX F – HABITAT PHOTOS

IMAGE 1 – MODIFIED GRASSLAND IMAGE 2 – LOWLAND MIXED
DECIDUOUS WOODLAND



IMAGE 3 – BRAMBLE SCRUB IMAGE 4 – DEVELOPED LAND.
SEALED SURFACE





IMAGE 5 – LINE OF TREES



IMAGE 6 – INDIVIDUAL TREES





APPENDIX G – POLICY AND LEGISLATION

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981¹², as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000¹³ and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006¹⁴, is the main legislation that protects wildlife in Great Britain and is the mechanism for defining and protecting nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The legislation makes it an offence to:

Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests (with certain exceptions) and disturb any bird species listed under Schedule 1 to the Act, or its dependent young while it is nesting;

Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild animal listed under Schedule 5 to the Act; intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct any place used for shelter or protection by any wild animal listed under Schedule 5 to the Act; intentionally or recklessly disturb certain Schedule 5 animal species while they occupy a place used for shelter or protection; and

Pick or uproot any wild plant listed under Schedule 8 of the Act. Schedule 9, Part II of the Act also lists many species for which it is an offence to plant, or otherwise cause to grow, in the wild. Any material containing Japanese knotweed is also identified as controlled waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990¹⁵ and must be disposed of properly at licensed landfill according to the Environmental Protection Act (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991¹⁶.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017¹⁷ (the 'Habitat Regulations'), as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019¹⁸, establish the requirements for protecting sites that are internationally important for threatened habitats and species – the National Site Network – and thus the requirement for a 'Habitat Regulations Assessment' of plans or developments with potential to affect them.

¹² Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>

¹³ The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Available from:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents>

¹⁴ Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Available from:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents>

¹⁵ The Environmental Protection Act 1990. Available from:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents>

¹⁶ The Environmental Protection Act (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991. Available from:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1991/2839/made>

¹⁷ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Available from:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made>

¹⁸ The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019

Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111179512/contents>



The Habitat Regulations also establish the strict protection of some species – European Protected Species – and make it an offence to deliberately capture, kill or disturb certain wild animals, and to damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal even if the animal is not present at the time.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 establishes a framework for the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales, aiming to enhance biodiversity and tackle climate change. Section 7 of the Act details a list of species and habitats of ‘Principal Importance’ for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in Wales.

The Environment Act 2021¹⁹

The Environment Act 2021 provides a framework for environmental protection in the UK. It is a wide-range piece of legislation affecting many aspects of the natural environment, including biodiversity. The act sets clear targets to halt the decline in wildlife populations through a legally binding target for species abundance by 2030 and a requirement to increase species populations by 10% by 2042.

Ramsar Convention

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the ‘Ramsar Convention’²⁰) provides the only international mechanism for protecting internationally important wetlands; such sites are designated as Ramsar sites. It is government policy that Ramsar sites are afforded the same level of protection as sites in the National Site Network and so they are also subject to HRA.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Badgers receive strict protection under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992²¹, which prohibits the taking, injuring, selling, possessing or killing of badgers and makes it an offence to ill-treat any badger, damage, destroy, disturb or cause a dog to enter a badger sett.

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997²² establishes the legal protection of important countryside hedgerows, principally ancient and species-rich hedgerows. The Hedgerow Regulations also

¹⁹ The Environment Act 2021. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted>

²⁰ The Ramsar Convention <https://www.ramsar.org/>

²¹ Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents>

²² The Hedgerow Regulations 1997. Available from: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/contents/made>



provide arrangements for planning authorities to protect important hedgerows in the countryside by controlling their removal through a system of notification.

Planning Policy Wales 2024

Planning Policy Wales 2024²³ (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars, and policy clarification letters, which together with PPW provide the national planning policy framework for Wales. The Policy details Net Benefit for Biodiversity and guidance on the application of the Section 6 duty, which requires local planning authorities to enhance biodiversity through the planning process and promote the resilience of ecosystems.

Biodiversity Action Plans

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) was developed to fulfil the Rio Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992, to which the UK is a signatory. The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework²⁴ succeeded the UKBAP and expired in 2019, but the UKBAP priority species and habitats are retained through the NERC Act 2006. Regional and local BAPs have also been developed for species/habitats of nature conservation importance at regional and local levels.

²³ Planning Policy Wales 2024. Available from: [Planning Policy Wales - Edition 12](#)

²⁴ UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. Available from: <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/587024ff-864f-4d1d-a669-f38cb448abdc>



APPENDIX H – BAT SUITABILITY

POTENTIAL SUITABILITY	DESCRIPTION	
	ROOSTING HABITATS IN STRUCTURES	POTENTIAL FLIGHT-PATHS AND FORAGING HABITATS
None	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of the year (i.e. a complete absence of crevices/suitable shelter at all grounds/underground levels).	No Habitat features on site likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of the year (i.e. no habitats that provide continuous lines of shade/protection for flight-lines or generate/shelter insect populations available to foraging bats.
Negligible (a)	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can be use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flight-paths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions(b) 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 and not classic cool/stable hibernation site, but could be used by individual hibernating bats(c))	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of bats as flight-paths such as gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitats. Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by



POTENTIAL SUITABILITY	DESCRIPTION	
	ROOSTING HABITATS IN STRUCTURES	POTENTIAL FLIGHT-PATHS AND FORAGING HABITATS
	used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection conditions(b) and hibernation – categorisation described in this table is made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed	bats for flight-paths such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland, or water.
High	A structure 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(b) and surrounding habitat. These structures have a potential to support high conservation status roosts, e.g. maternity or classic cool/stable hibernation site.	Continuous high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flight-paths such as river valleys. Streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat what is well connected to the wider landscape what is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts,



POTENTIAL SUITABILITY	DESCRIPTION	
	ROOSTING HABITATS IN STRUCTURES	POTENTIAL FLIGHT-PATHS AND FORAGING HABITATS
	a. Negligible is defined as ‘so small or unimportant as to be not worth considering, insignificant’. This category may be used where there are places that a bat could roost or forage (due to one attribute) but it is unlikely that they actually would (due to another attribute) b. For example, in terms of temperature, humidity, height above ground level, light levels or levels of disturbance c. Evidence from the Netherlands shows mass swarming events of common pipistrelle bats in the autumn followed by mass hibernation in a diverse range of building types in urban environments (Korsten et al., 2016 and Jansen et al., 2022). Common pipistrelle swarming has been observed in that UK (Bell, 2022 and Tomlinson, 2020) and winter hibernation of numbers of this species has been detected at Seaton Delaval Hall in Northumberland (National Trust, 2018). This phenomenon requires some research in the UK, but ecologists should be aware of the potential for larger numbers of this species to be present during the autumn and winter in prominent buildings in the landscape, urban or otherwise.	

BAT SUITABILITY (TREES)

SUITABILITY	DESCRIPTION
PRF-I	PRF is only suitable for individual bats or very small numbers of bats either due to size or lack of suitable surrounding habitat.
PRF-M	PRF is suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used by maternity colony.



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