

NEWBRIDGE ESTATES LTD

LAND AT PENSARN FARM, HIGH CROSS, NEWPORT

EXTENDED PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY

08 September 2009



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SUMMARY

Soltys Brewster Ecology were commissioned to undertake an Extended Phase I Habitat survey of a parcel of farmland within the land holding of Pensarn Farm. The areas immediately south and west of the holding have recently been developed as a new Children's Centre and for housing respectively. The current survey was undertaken to advise of the development potential of part of the Pensarn Farm holding and to identify any ecological constraints/opportunities associated with possible future development.

A combination of desk study and Extended Phase I Habitat survey were undertaken in July/August 2009, with the former confirming that Pensarn Farm is not covered by any form of nature conservation designation. The Brecon and Monmouthshire Canal, which is locally designated as a candidate Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (cSINC) is located within 100m of the area subjected to field survey. No records of protected or notable flora and fauna were specifically associated with the Pensarn Farm site although records of Otter and bats were associated with the canal.

The Extended Phase I Habitat survey identified a limited range of habitats at the site, with species-poor neutral grassland the predominant feature. The grassland is currently maintained by horse/pony grazing with the two main parcels separated by a native hedge on a low earth bank. This central hedgerow was the most notable ecological feature (of local ecological value) associated with the site. The western boundary adjoining the new housing development was also characterised by a native hedge, which had been subject to some new planting/management presumably associated with the housing. Remnants of hedgerows in combination with post and wire fencing defined the other site boundaries.

The habitats recorded are likely to offer resources to nesting birds as well as foraging/commuting bats, although with the exception of a single Oak *Quercus* sp. standard at the southern limit of the western boundary hedge, no features of potential value to roosting bats were identified. The consultation response from the local authority indicated that amphibians, including Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus* could 'possibly' be present within the canal. The central and western hedgerow at the site could provide terrestrial habitat for amphibians although the grazed pasture would be considered as largely unsuitable terrestrial habitat for amphibians.

Any future development of the site should be located within the areas of grazed pasture with consideration given to the retention/protection of the central and western hedgerows as well as opportunities for enhancing other site boundary features. In order to advise scheme design and any appropriate mitigation, further consultation and targeted surveys would be recommended (e.g. bats, amphibians).

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Soltys Brewster Ecology were commissioned to undertake an Extended Phase I Habitat survey of a parcel of land within the land holding of Pensarn Farm, High Cross, Newport.
- 1.2. The Pensarn Farm holding and the area surveyed (see plan in Appendix I) lies to the north of Junction 27 on the M4 and is bounded by agricultural land to the north and east with new development to the south (new Children's Centre) and west. The area surveyed covers approximately 6 hectares of grazed agricultural land in three discrete parcels separated by hedgerows. The grassland is currently managed by pony/horse grazing. The northern boundary of the site is defined by the access road to Pensarn Fram, to the north of which lies a small horse paddock with the scrub and trees fringing the Brecon and Monmouthshire canal immediately north of the paddock.
- 1.3. The current report presents the findings of a desk study and Extended Phase I Habitat survey to establish the existing ecological conditions at the site in order to advise the landowner of the future development potential of part of the holding and to identify any relevant ecological constraints/opportunities.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1. In order to establish the baseline ecological conditions on site and in the adjoining areas, a combination of desk-based consultation and an Extended Phase I Habitat survey was undertaken in July and August 2009.

Desk study

- 2.2. This element of the work primarily involved consultation with the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc) to identify any records of rare, protected or notable flora and fauna within area subject to field survey and surrounding 1 km. Consultation with the ecologists at Newport City Council (NCC) was also undertaken to identify any additional information relating to the site and its surroundings. A search for relevant information available via the internet, and the Phase I of Wales data compiled by the Countryside Council for Wales – CCW (2005) was undertaken.

Extended Phase I Habitat Survey

- 2.3. Fieldwork was undertaken on 04 August 2009 and followed standard Phase 1 Habitat Survey protocol (JNCC 1990) as amended by the Institute of Environmental Assessment (1995). All habitats within the proposed application site and immediately adjoining areas (where access was possible) were described and mapped as accurately as possible. All habitats considered to have potential to support rare, protected or otherwise notable species of flora and fauna were noted, as were any direct signs of these species. The survey incorporated a search for any evidence of use by Badgers *Meles meles* and a ground-based check (using binoculars) of site trees for their potential to support roosting bats. Where fallen Hazel *Corylus avellana* nuts were noted, these were examined for characteristic gnaw marks of small mammals such as Grey Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis* and Woodmouse *Apodemus sylvaticus*. A map of habitats was drawn up and target notes were used to describe ecological features noted across the site.
- 2.4. Where possible, habitats were cross-referenced to any relevant important UK priority habitats or local habitats adopted by the local Biodiversity Action Plan (Newport LBAP).

3.0 RESULTS

Desk Study

- 3.1 Information available via the CCW website (www.ccw.gov.uk) and from SEWBReC confirmed that no sites with a statutory nature conservation designation (e.g. Site of Special Scientific Interest) were present within 2km of Pensarn Farm (Appendix II). Several locally designated, candidate Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (cSINC) were identified by Newport CC in close proximity to the site although none were immediately adjacent to the area surveyed (Appendix II). The closest cSINC, and the only one of some relevance to the current survey/report is the Brecon and Monmouthshire Canal, located within 100m of the northern boundary of the site.
- 3.2 The SEWBReC data did not identify any records of protected or notable species associated with the site itself although several records of bats, including Common and Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*/*P.pygmaeus*, Noctule *Nyctalus noctula* and Daubenton's *Myotis Daubentoni* were associated with the canal corridor to the north and west. Other notable species records associated with the canal corridor included Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, Grass Snake *Natrix natrix* and Otter *Lutra Lutra*. The presence of Otter throughout the canal corridor was also identified in the consultation response from Newport CC.
- 3.3 Common Frog *Rana temporaria* have been recorded from the canal corridor west of the site and a single record (from 1980) of three Great Crested Newts was also identified approximately 1.5km west of Pensarn Farm. This was the only confirmed record of this species although the consultation response from Newport CC indicated that this species could 'possibly' be present in the canal.
- 3.4 Data available via the Phase I of Wales (CCW 2005) indicated that the whole of the survey area, and immediately adjoining land to the south, east and west was characterised by Improved pasture, with the canal and an area of broad-leaved woodland to the north. However, it should be noted that the CCW data should only be used to provide a generic indication of the habitats recorded within a given area and is not suitable for site specific assessment. In addition, the CCW Phase I data for this area is likely to be considerably dated, particularly for the areas south and west of Pensarn Farm which have been developed relatively recently.

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

3.5 The distribution and extent of habitats within and adjacent to the proposed application site is illustrated on Figure 1, with accompanying target notes included in Appendix III. The site was generally characterised by two large fields of species-poor neutral grassland, currently managed by horse/pony grazing. The two large fields were separated by a native hedgerow running north/south through the site with the western boundary also defined by a native hedge separating the Pensarn Farm holding from the new housing development and Children's Centre. A combination of hedgerow remnants and post and wire fencing defined the other boundaries of the area surveyed with further areas of horse grazed pasture immediately alongside the northern and eastern boundaries. Other habitats and site features recorded included broad-leaved trees (associated with hedgerows), scattered scrub and areas of tall ruderal or ephemeral short perennial vegetation. Further descriptions of the habitats noted are provided in subsequent sections and within the target notes (Appendix III).

Poor semi-improved grassland

3.6 This was the predominant habitat type in terms of area coverage recorded during the survey (Plate 1 & Front cover). Typically the sward was short - being maintained by horse grazing - and grass dominated with relatively few common herb species noted. The two larger fields (Figure 1) were similar in character with grasses including Perennial Rye-Grass *Lolium perenne*, Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*, Sweet Vernal Grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* and Crested Dog's-Tail *Cynosorus cristatus*. Herbs within these areas included Red and White Clover *Trifolium pratense/T. repens*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Common Cat's-ear *Hypochoeris radicata* and Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*. Small patches of Common Bird's-Foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* were also noted within the eastern field (Target Note 1) on sloping, south facing ground, where the sward was relatively short.

3.7 Within the eastern field, a small area of apparently ungrazed longer grassland was noted adjacent to the central hedgerow (Figure 1, Target note 5). Species composition here was similar to that of the adjoining grassland with respect to grasses and herbs although additional species included Broad-leaved Dock *Rumex obtusifolius* and Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* (Plate 2).

Plate 1 Poor semi-improved grassland in eastern field. Viewed looking south towards boundary fence and new Children's Centre development



Plate 2 Area of ungrazed, species-poor grassland adjacent to central hedgerow. Viewed looking north



- 3.8 A third, smaller area of grassland, located in the western part of the site was also similar in terms of its component grasses/herbs. However, levels of grazing here appeared reduced (Plate 3) and the sward was generally longer. The southern corner of this field also supported a stand of tall ruderal vegetation dominated by Goat's Rue *Galega officinalis*.

Plate 3 Grassland in western part of site. Viewed looking south/south west towards new housing development beyond the site boundary



Hedgerows

- 3.9 A number of hedgerows of varying quality were recorded within and at the boundaries of the area surveyed. The central hedgerow, separating the two large fields was predominantly of Hazel *Corylus avellana* and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and sat on a low earth bank (Target Note 2). Evidence of past management by laying was evident although the current management regime is unknown – stock are allowed free access to the base of the hedge (Plate 4) over much of its length and as a result the ground flora was generally limited.
- 3.10 The northern part of the hedgerow supported a number of standard trees and would be considered as species-rich based on the presence of six woody species in a representative section (Target Note 3, Plate 5) – species included Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Oak *Quercus robur*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium* and

Field Maple *Acer campestre*. The ground flora in this section was also more diverse than the area to the south, with stock access partially restricted by stands of Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. alongside the hedge – Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and Wood Sage *Teucrium scorodonia* were noted on the earth bank with other species including Common Hemp Nettle *Galeopsis tetrahit*, Cleavers *Galium aparine* and Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*.

Plate 4 Southern section of central Hazel hedgerow on low earth bank.



- 3.11 The hedgerow along the southern/south western boundary of the site was broadly similar in character to the central hedgerow, with Hazel and Hawthorn the predominant species and a low earth bank visible at least in the eastern section (Target Note 9, Figure 1). However, further to the west, this hedgerow showed evidence of recent cutting and new planting, likely to be associated with the adjacent housing development. A Blackthorn hedge was also present in the western part of the site (Target note 11) with remnants of hedgerow interspersed with sections of post and wire fencing forming the eastern boundary of the area surveyed (Figure 1, Target notes 7, 8).

Plate 5 Northern section of central hedgerow showing fringing Bramble scrub



Broad-leaved trees

3.12 Scattered broad-leaved trees were only present within the western and central hedgerows at the site with Ash and Oak the species typically present. The Oak standard in the southern part of the site (Plate 6) was considered to have some (Moderate) potential for roosting bats based on the presence of a notable cavity on the eastern side and small amount of standing deadwood (Target Note 9).

Ephemeral short perennial and tall ruderal vegetation

3.13 Examples of these vegetation types were limited to two discrete areas (Figure 1) with their presence likely to be a result of ground disturbance and reduction in grazing pressure respectively.

Standing Open water

3.14 No ponds or other water bodies were present within the area surveyed although a small garden pond (estimated at 2-3m diameter) was noted within the cartilage of Pensarn Farmhouse (Figure 1). The Brecon and Monmouth Canal is located within 100m of the northern site boundary and a rectangular shaped body of water, possibly associated with run-off treatment from the carriageway was also observed approximately 250m from the south-eastern corner of the area surveyed.

Plate 6 Oak standard within boundary hedgerow in southern part of site.



Fauna

Birds

3.15 Both Swallows *Hirundo rustica* and House Martin *Delichon urbica* were noted foraging over the grazed pasture at the site. Other records of birds noted within hedgerow and grassland habitats were limited to Robin *Erithacus rubecula*, Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*, Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* and Magpie *Pica pica*. Of the species recorded, the Swallow is included on the Amber list of Conservation Concern in Wales (Thorpe & Young, 2003) as a species with unfavourable conservation status Europe-wide.

Bats

3.16 With the exception of the Oak tree described in section 3.12, no features of potential value to roosting bats were noted within the area surveyed. Given their proximity to the corridor of the Brecon and Monmouth Canal, which is known to be used by foraging bats, it is likely that the western and central site hedgerows provide a supplementary foraging resource and/or flight corridor.

Badgers

3.17 No direct evidence of the presence of, or use of the site by Badgers was noted during the survey. A single entrance hole with large spoil-heap was noted within the central boundary hedge (Target Note 4), with the

size and shape of the tunnel entrance¹ suggestive of use by this species. However, on examination no prints, guard hairs or other evidence (e.g. dung pits, pathways) to suggest current or regular use were found within or adjacent to the entrance hole. Similarly, no field signs were noted across the other parts of the site. Desk study information did not identify any known Badger setts within a 1 km radius of the site although the tunnel found at the site could perhaps be an irregularly used outlier sett if a Badger social group is present locally.

Other species

3.18 Examination of fallen Hazel nuts within the central hedgerow confirmed that Grey Squirrel and Woodmouse were present at the site, although the vast majority of nuts found had been opened by Grey Squirrel. None of the fallen nuts examined showed characteristic gnaw marks of Common Dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*. No desk study records of this species were identified within 1 km although Dormice are known to be present at Ruperra Woods (ca. 8-9km west) and along the M4 corridor between Cardiff and Newport. However, presence of Dormice at the site was considered unlikely as the hedgerows at the site were relatively small in terms of area coverage and generally isolated from other potential habitat features (e.g. woodland, scrub) within an agricultural landscape.

Important or notable habitats

3.19 In the context of this report, important or notable habitats are considered to be those which are of a sustainable size and which meet any of the following criteria:

- Habitats which have a high intrinsic ecological value i.e. they support a diverse range of vascular plant and/or faunal species;
- Mature or semi-natural habitats in built-up areas;
- Any UK BAP Priority Habitats;
- Local BAP Habitats considered to have significant extent and/or ecological interest.

3.20 Of the habitats recorded at the site, the entirety of the central hedgerow and the remaining western boundary hedge were considered as Important Habitats, although in relative terms, the central hedgerow was of greater intrinsic value. Species-rich or ancient hedgerows are listed on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and are also identified as Priority Habitats in Wales under section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Section 40 of the NERC Act states that:

‘Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity’.

¹ and the section immediately inside the entrance as observed with a torch
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Land at Pensarn Farm, High Cross, Newport
[Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report](#)

- 3.21 The local biodiversity action plan for Newport, is currently being updated and at present, there are no draft habitat action plans (HAP) of relevance to the Pensarn Farm site (see BARS website at www.uk-bapreporting.org.uk).

4.0 POLICIES AND PLANS

- 4.1 The following local and national planning policy relating to nature conservation and biodiversity are considered of some relevance for any future development at the Pensarn Farm holding.

Adopted Newport Unitary Development Plan 1996-2011

- 4.2 The Adopted Unitary Development Plan contains policies that will be used in the assessment of all planning applications that come before the council. The council has started work on the Local Development Plan (LDP) under the Planning and Compensation Act 2004. When adopted, the LDP will replace the current Unitary Development Plan.
- 4.3 Within the adopted UDP, the Pensarn Farm site is located within the Countryside and as such Policy SP6 may be of some relevance which states that:
- SP6 - Development in the countryside (that is, that area of land lying beyond the settlement boundaries shown on the Proposals Map) will only be permitted where the use is appropriate in the countryside, respects the character of the surrounding area and is appropriate in scale and design.*
- 4.4 The recent housing and Children's Centre development have both been completed on land designated as Countryside within the adopted UDP so the policy may be of limited relevance to any future development at Pensarn Farm.
- 4.5 The canal corridor to the north of the site is locally designated as a cSINC and Policy CE07 would apply although is unlikely to be of relevance as the canal lies to the north of the Pensarn Farm holding and is unlikely to be directly affected by any proposed development works. There are also several policies (e.g. Policy CE08, CE09) relating to a general presumption against development on sites that support species protected under European or national legislation – e.g. Bats– unless appropriate mitigation can be provided. In these instances, it is likely that any measures taken to comply with the legislation are also likely to satisfy local planning policy.

Planning Policy Wales (2002)

- 4.6 This document set out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Assembly Government with Chapter 5 dealing with Conserving and Improving Natural Heritage and Coast. The advice contained within PPW is supplemented for some subjects by Technical Advice Notes (TAN's), with TAN 5 addressing Nature Conservation. This TAN was subject to public consultation between January and 21 April 2006, with a revised version due to be published.
- 4.7 Under the proposed revisions to TAN 5, some of the key principles which the town and country planning system in Wales should incorporate are:
- *work to achieve nature conservation objectives through a partnership between local planning authorities, CCW, the Environment Agency, voluntary organisations, developers, landowners and other key stakeholders (PPW 5.1.5 and 5.2.5);*
 - *integrate nature conservation into all planning decisions looking for development to deliver social, economic and environmental objectives together over time (PPW 5.1.3 and 5.1.4);*
 - *ensure that the UK's international obligations for site, species and habitat protection are fully met in all planning decisions (PPW 5.3.8-10);*
 - *look for development to provide a net benefit for biodiversity conservation with no significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally (PPW 5.1)*

5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The combination of desk study and field surveys undertaken at Pensarn Farm have confirmed that the area surveyed is not covered by any nature conservation designation and is not specifically associated with records of protected or notable flora and fauna. The Brecon and Monmouth Canal, which lies within 100m of the northern edge of the survey area, is locally designated as a cSINC and is known to support a range of species such as foraging bats, Otter, Grass Snake and Kingfisher. The canal also supports common amphibian species (e.g. Common Frog) and the consultation response from the local authority ecologist indicated that it could 'possibly' support Great Crested Newts, although the only confirmed record, approximately 1.5 km west of Pensarn Farm, dates from 1980.
- 5.2 The field survey identified that much of the site was characterised by horse grazed, species poor neutral grassland with the two larger parcels separated by a native hedgerow on a low earth bank. The remaining site boundary features comprised a mixture of remnant hedgerows, scattered Hawthorn scrub and post/rail fencing. Other habitats recorded included colonising species of disturbed/un-managed ground with a small garden pond also noted within the curtilage of the farmhouse.
- 5.3 The central hedgerow, together with the western boundary hedgerow were the most notable ecological features associated with the site and are likely to support nesting birds and provide flight corridors for foraging/commuting bats. A single Oak standard in the southern part of the site was considered of Moderate potential for roosting bats although none of the other site trees were noted to support features of value for roosting. Evidence of use by Grey Squirrel and Woodmouse was associated with the central hedgerow, presence of these species being confirmed by characteristically gnawed Hazel nuts.
- 5.4 No direct evidence of current or regular use of the site by Badgers was noted over the course of the survey although a single entrance hole within the central hedgerow could potentially function as an outlier sett for any Badger social group that may be present locally. No field signs to indicate presence of Badgers was associated with this hole and none were found within the area surveyed. No desk study records of Badgers were recorded in the surrounding 1km area.
- 5.5 In terms of development potential, the areas of horse-grazed pasture were of little, if any ecological interest and as such represent the areas most suitable for any future development. Any proposed development should consider retention and protection of the central and western hedgerows with new planting to enhance

the remaining site boundaries where practicable. These measures would not only retain the most important elements of the existing site ecology but could also improve habitat connectivity locally for mobile species (birds, small mammals, bats etc).

- 5.6 The central and western hedgerows at the site could also potentially provide terrestrial habitat resources (for e.g. shelter, foraging) for amphibians although the areas of grazed pasture were generally unsuitable. No amphibian breeding habitat was present within the area surveyed, however, the garden pond at the farmhouse, the canal corridor and associated pond at the canal visitor centre could be used by breeding amphibians and are in close proximity to the area surveyed. Further consultation with the local authority would be recommended to establish the requirement (if any) and scope of further investigations for amphibians. Whilst the retention of the central and western hedgerows would retain the terrestrial features of potential value to amphibians, surveys to establish likely presence/absence of Great Crested Newts specifically may be appropriate to advise on any mitigation and/or licensing requirements – such surveys can typically be undertaken between March and June.
- 5.7 Other considerations for any future development at the site would include the sensitive design of site lighting to maintain retained hedgerows as ‘dark corridors’ as far as practicable and the removal of any trees/scrub outside the bird breeding season, which is typically March – August inclusive. Consideration could also be given to simple design measures of benefit to wildlife – such as the use of Swallow, Martin and bat boxes on new buildings/structures.

6.0 REFERENCES

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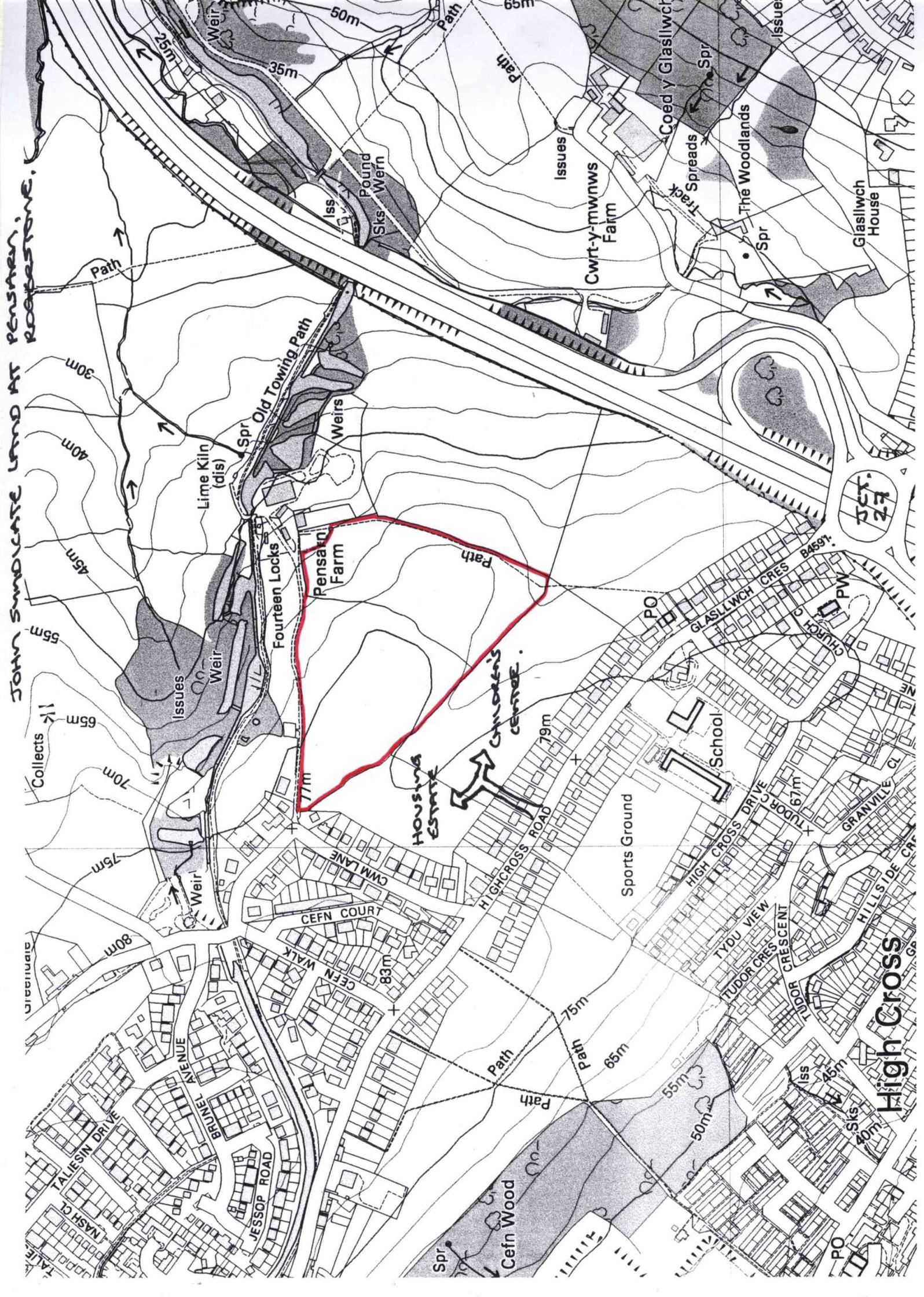
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APPENDIX I PENSARN FARM SURVEY BOUNDARY PLAN

JOHN SUNDOLATE LAND AT PENSAEN, ROOBASTONE.



High Cross

SCT. 27

HOUSING ESTATE
↑
Cwm Y Glaslwrch CENTRE

Pensarn Farm

Cwrt-y-mwnws Farm

Glaslwrch House

School

Sports Ground

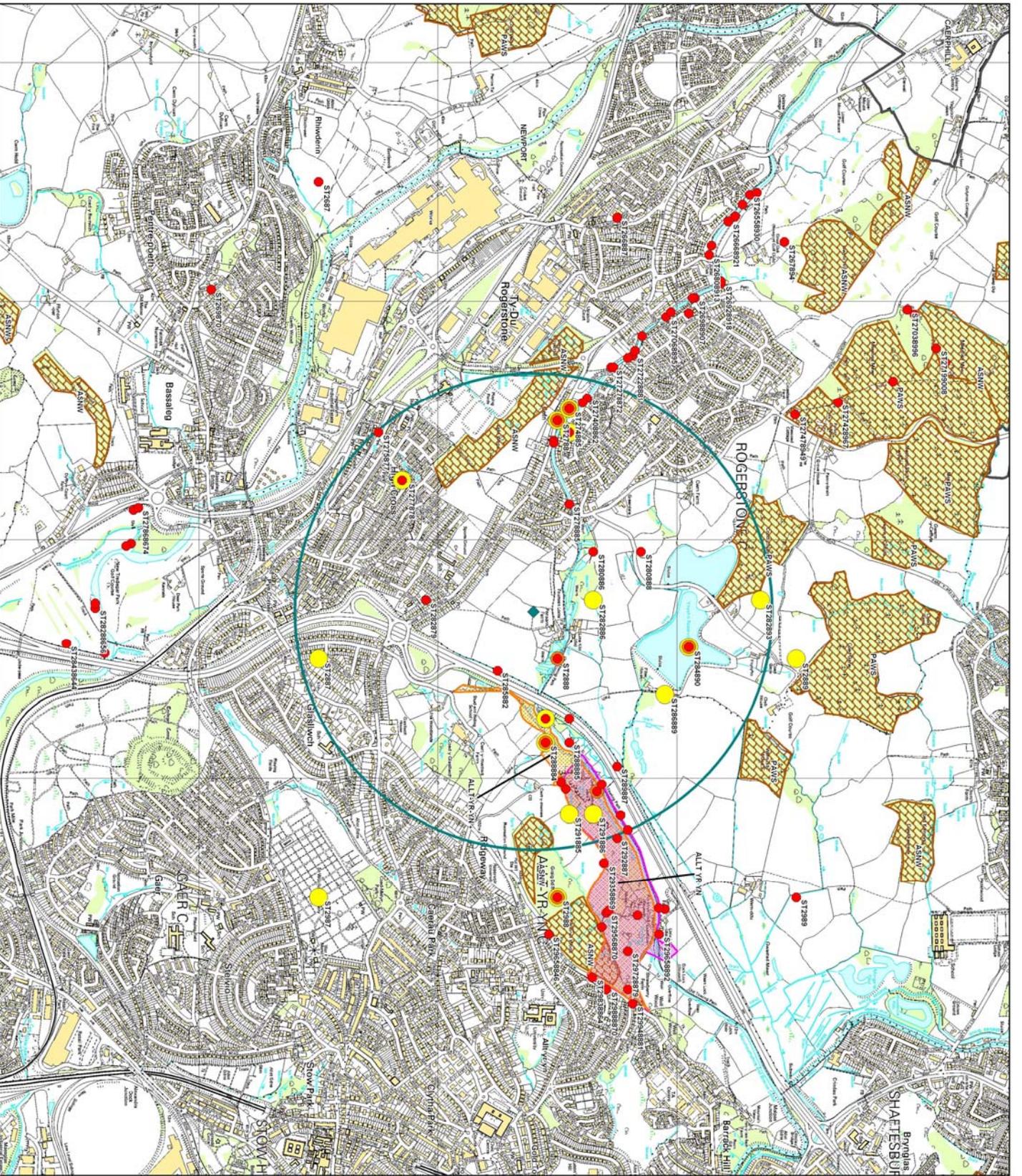
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**APPENDIX II DESK STUDY MAPS (SPECIES AND DESIGNATED SITES) RECEIVED FROM SEWBREC AND
NCC**

1) SEWBReC Data



**BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION
SEARCH (SPECIES &
DESIGNATED SITES):**

**PENSARN FARM,
HIGH CROSS
(ST283884)**

- Centre of Search Area
- 1km Search Buffer
- Priority & Protected Species
- Other Species of Conservation Concern
- Species of Local Conservation Concern
- Local Nature Reserve
- Candidate Local Nature Reserve
- Wildlife Trust Reserve
- Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)
Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)
- Unitary Authority Boundary

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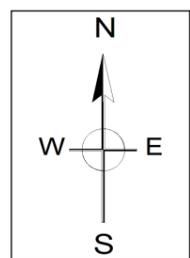
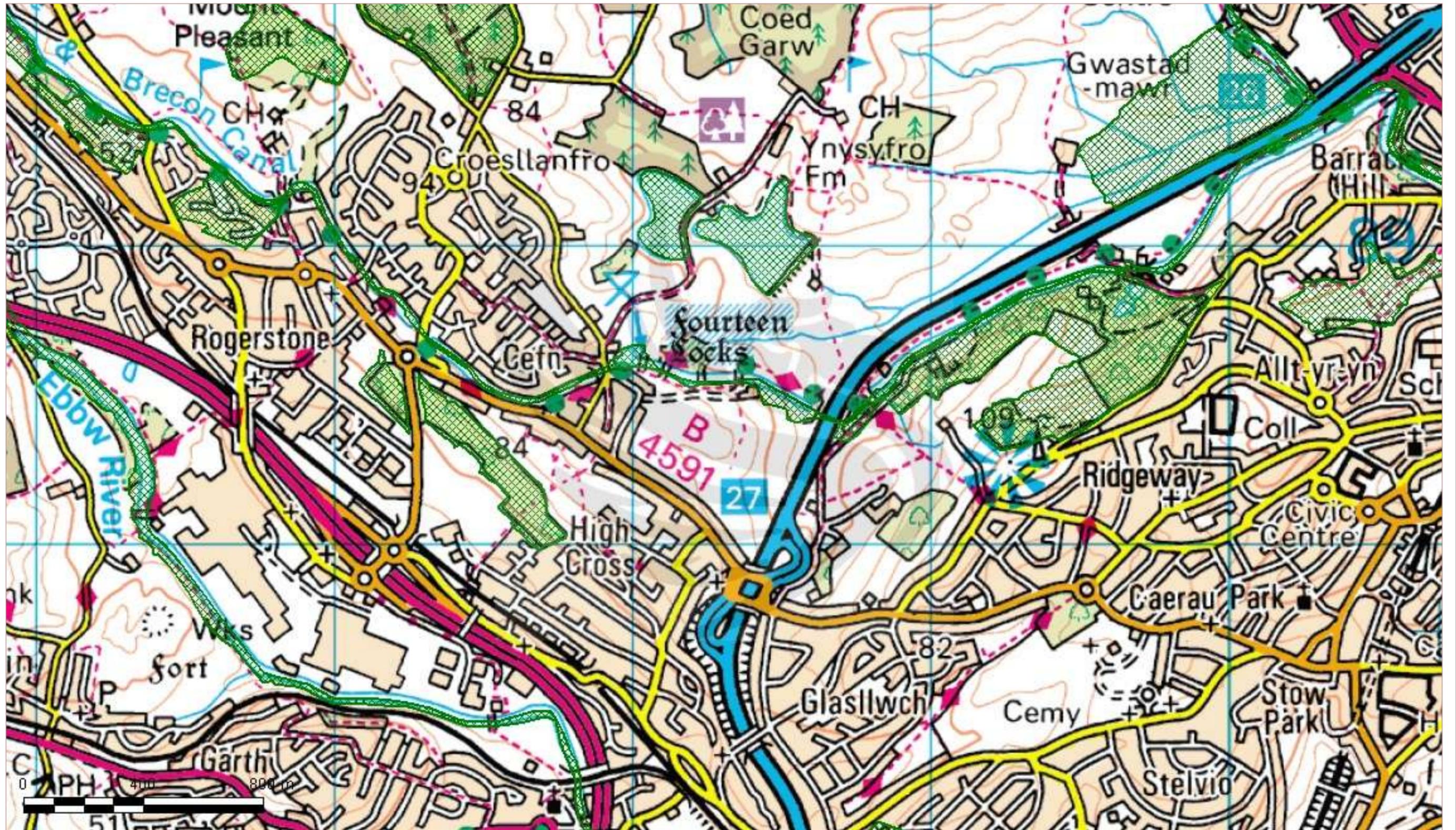
CCW designations data © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Countryside Council for Wales. 100018813 (2009).

Plot produced 31/07/2009 on behalf of
Sallyshrewster Ecology by:



SOUTH EAST WALES BIODIVERSITY RECORDS CENTRE
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

2) Newport City Council Data (cSINC Locations)



| |
|-------------------|
| Newport Navigator |
| 1:12475.32 |
| |



APPENDIX III TARGET NOTES TO ACCOMPANY EXTENDED PHASE I HABITAT SURVEY

| Target Note | Description/comment |
|---|---|
| <i>Birds seen/heard:</i> Swallow, House Martin, Blackbird, Robin, Magpie, Wood Pigeon, Carrion Crow | |
| <i>General</i> – Site comprises two grazed pastures of species-poor neutral grassland – currently grazed with horses. Grassland are separated by native hedgerows of varying quality/integrity with the central hedgerow on a low earth bank the most diverse. To the south and west a combination of new housing and the Children’s Centre development adjoin the site boundary with grazed pasture to the north and east. | |
| 1 | Species-poor neutral grassland currently managed by horse grazing. Grasses predominant including Perennial Rye Grass, Common Bent, Sweet Vernal Grass, Timothy and Yorkshire Fog. Herbs included Red and White clover, Common Sorrel, Ribwort Plantain, Meadow and Creeping Buttercup, Common Ragwort, Selfheal, Common Cat’s Ear and Common Mouse Ear. Small amounts of Common Bird’s Foot trefoil noted on west facing slope at western end of pasture within short grazed grassland. |
| 2 | Defunct (not stock proof) native hedge on low earth bank. Hazel is main component in this section with some Holly, Oak and Hawthorn. Hedge likely to be of some age and shows evidence of previous management by laying. No restriction on stock access to hedgerow base and ground flora is relatively poor – includes Bramble, Ivy, Cleavers, Foxglove and some grasses/herbs from adjoining grassland. Good crop of Hazel nuts present and some of these had already been taken/opened by Grey Squirrel. Relatively few fallen nuts from 2008 season noted and of these, most had been opened by Grey Squirrel. A single nut opened by Woodmouse was located close to the gate at the eastern edge of this section of hedge. |
| 3 | Continuation of hedge east of gate on low earth bank. Species mix is similar although within 30-50m of gate Hazel, Blackthorn, Oak, Holly, Field Maple and Hawthorn were noted – suggests species-rich hedge. Previous management by laying also noted in this section. No restriction on stock access other than via more dense stands of fringing Bramble so ground flora more diverse than previous section – Bluebell noted on earth bank with other species including Wood Sage, Common Hemp Nettle, Cleavers, Foxglove and Ivy. |
| 4 | Single hole in hedge bank with relatively fresh spoil mound. Hole entrance of size and shape suggestive of use by Badgers although is partially obstructed by leaves and twigs. No field signs noted to confirm use by Badgers – i.e. no guard hairs in spoil, no footprints, latrines, bedding etc. Fine white hairs and horse hair noted in spoil. Possible outlier sett (partially used) |
| 5 | Small area of ungrazed grassland parallel to hedgerow. Species mix is consistent with adjoining areas and additionally includes Broad-leaved Dock, Common Knapweed and Knotgrass |
| 6 | Single fallen hazel nut (2008) opened by Woodmouse in amongst several others opened by Grey Squirrel. Good fruiting hazel along this section of hedgerow (i.e. east of target note 3). |
| 7 | Overgrown hedge on ground sloping away to south. Holly, Oak, Hawthorn, Hazel, Elder and Blackthorn noted within this relatively short section (50 – 100m). Hedge is intact as far as removed boundary running north/south across the field. |
| 8 | Hedgerow remnant on low (<0.5m) earth bank – defunct. Fencing replaces hedgerow to east and west. Shrub species mainly Hawthorn with some Hazel, Oak, Elder. Fringing Bramble and ground flora include Foxglove, Ivy, Wood Sage, Common Hemp Nettle with small amounts of Bluebell on the bank. |

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| 9 | Oak standard with cavity in limb and standing deadwood on southern side. Moderate potential to support roosting bats. Hedgerow extending to the north on low earth bank is defunct and forms boundary with new Children's Centre development and new housing.. Hedgerow base is grazed by stock as previously noted – ground flora consistent with note 3. Shrubs in this section mainly comprise Hazel with Hawthorn, Holly and Elder |
| 10 | Low/managed hazel and hawthorn hedge – possibly cut back and fenced as part of adjoining housing development. Oak and Ash standards present within the hedge (no obvious bat potential associated with these trees). Main shrub species are Hazel, and Hawthorn with Holly, Willow and Elder |
| 11 | Blackthorn hedge (largely intact) with fringing Bramble. Ash and Hawthorn also present. |