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Extended Phase 1 and Protected Species Survey

Phase 2 Development of Land North of Bayview Terrace, Dinas Cross, Pembrokeshire

Tai Wales & West Housing

Draft Report

September 2022

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Contents

Appendices

This report, and the information contained in it, is intended to be valid for a maximum of 12 months from the date of the survey, providing no significant baseline changes have occurred.

Project number	Report number	Revision number	Date of issue
1883	002	Draft	05022022
1883	002	Updated to include plans	23092022
1883	002	Amended based on client comments	27092022

1 Executive Summary

1.1 An extended phase 1 and protected species survey of land to the north of Bayview Terrace, Dinas Cross, Pembrokeshire were commissioned by RLH Architectural on behalf of Tai Wales & West Housing in relation to a planning application. Under the current proposals, the land would be developed for housing. Phase 1, is located to the south and has already been developed under reference NP/19/0548/FUL.

1.2 A walkover survey of the site was carried out on 3RD February 2022 when it was surveyed for evidence of use by protected species including badgers, bats, dormice, otters and birds as these were considered the species most likely to utilise the site. Habitats on site were also recorded. All surveys were completed by a suitably licensed and experienced ecologist.

1.3 The eastern half of the site is dominated by willow and juncus, with the eastern half covered in scrub. There are species rich hedgerows along the northern, eastern and western boundary, with a stream also running along the eastern boundary. During surveys of the site to the south, a record of dormice within 1.3km of the site was identified. The site has direct links to this record and the hedgerows surrounding the site appear suitable for use by dormice, so their presence has been assumed.

1.4 **Note to client**

The presence of dormice has been assumed on site. Any site clearance will require a dormouse licence from Natural Resources Wales. To protect the hedgerows surrounding the site a 5m wide buffer has been included around the site. Due to the relatively small size of the site, it will not be possible to replace all habitat lost, but as the habitat on site is currently relatively poor, the buffer zones will be planted up to enhance the habitat on site.

2 Introduction and site description

2.1 An extended phase 1 and protected species survey of land to the north of Bayview Terrace, Dinas Cross, Pembrokeshire were commissioned by RLH Architectural on behalf of Tai Wales & West Housing in relation to a planning application. Under the current proposals, the land would be developed for housing. Phase 1, is located to the south and has already been developed under reference NP/19/0548/FUL. The centre of the site is located at OSGR SN01303902.

2.2 The survey relates to a field located immediately to the north of a new housing development set off Bayview Terrace, as shown on Figure 1, with a panoramic view of the site in Figure 2.

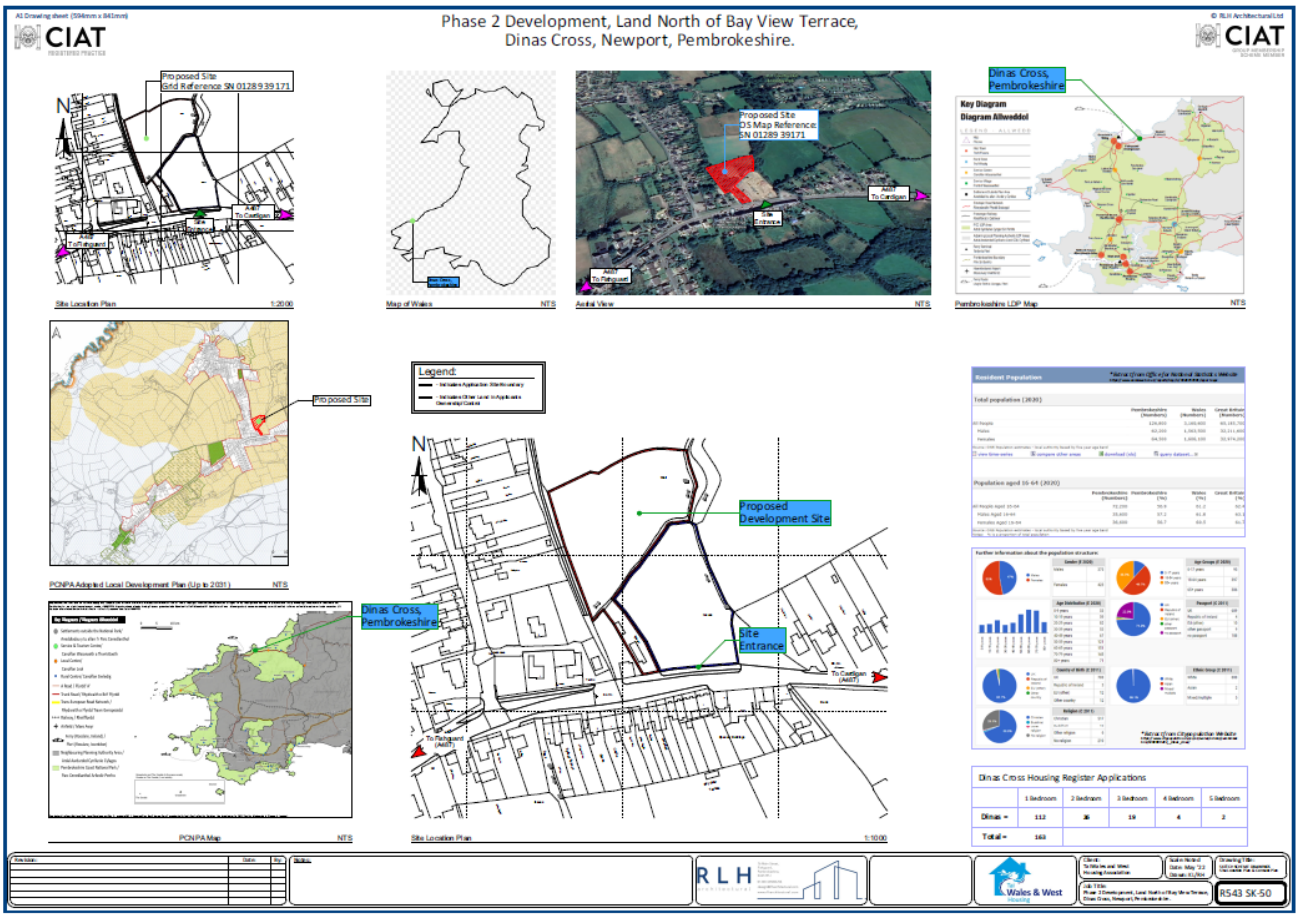

Figure 1. Survey area.

Figure 2. Panoramic photograph of the site taken from the southern boundary facing northwards.

2.3 Unless the client indicates otherwise, all species records will be submitted to the relevant biological records centre.

3 Desk study and survey methodology

3.1 General

A walkover survey of the site was carried out on 2nd February 2022 when it was surveyed for evidence of use by protected species including badgers, bats, dormice, otters and birds as these were considered the species most likely

to utilise the site. Habitats on site were also recorded. The weather during the surveys was clear (100% cover), with south westerly winds of Force 2-3 and average temperature of 10˚C. All surveys were undertaken by a suitably licensed ecologist who is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and a Chartered Environmentalist. Surveys and reports have been completed following accepted guidelines and in accordance with CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing (2015) and BS 42020:2013 *Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development.* (2013).

3.2 Desk study

3.2.1 A data search for a radius of 2km was commissioned from the West Wales Biological Information Centre.

3.2.2 Aerial photographs

Google Earth was used to identify any important landscape features surrounding the site.

3.2.3 Designated sites

The Multi-Agency Geographic Information website (www.magic.gov.uk) was used to identify the presence of any protected sites within 2km of the survey area.

3.2.4 Previous surveys

Ecology surveys were commissioned as part of the development of Phase 1 to the south (NP/19/0548/FUL). The reports relating to this development were made available for this study.

3.3 On site surveys

3.3.1 Phase 1

A Phase 1 habitat survey was carried out following the standard field methodology set out in the *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – A Technique for Environmental Audit*, Joint Nature Conservation Committee 1990 (2003 edition).

3.3.2 Badgers

The site, and where possible, a radius of 30 metres from the site boundary was searched for badger setts. Sett entrances are recognised by entrances c.300mm wide and c.200mm high and tend to have large accumulations of earth outside. Other signs searched for included 'snuffle holes' (holes dug by badgers when searching for invertebrates), 'dung pits' (small pits in which badgers deposit their faeces) and 'day nests' (nests of bedding material made by badgers for sleeping above ground).

3.3.3 Bats

3.3.3.1 *Trees*

Any trees were assessed for their potential use by roosting bats. Features such as peeling bark, woodpecker holes, splits and cracks were recorded. Trees were classed as being of low, medium or high bat potential depending on their suitability.

3.3.4 Dormice

The hedges, scrub and woodland were assessed for their potential use by dormice and any areas of fruiting hazel were searched for hazel nuts opened in the characteristic way.

3.3.5 Otters

The stream along the eastern boundary was surveyed for any signs of otter. This included spraints (droppings), footprints and feeding remains. The habitat was also assessed for its potential for holting (resting) sites by otters.

3.3.6 Birds

Any birds seen or heard on site during the survey were recorded.

3.3.7 Other species

Incidental records of any other species seen or heard on site during the survey were also recorded.

4 Results

4.1 Data search

There are over 5938 individual species records within a 2km radius of the site. The most relevant of these relate to otter *Lutra lutra* within 165m of the site, bat records including common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, brown long eared *Plecotus auritus* and Natterer's *Myotis nattereri* within 1km of the site, greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* within 1.2km, reptile (including common lizard *Zootoca vivpara*, grass snake *Natrix natrix* and slow worm *Angius fragilis*) within 500m of the site and dormouse within 1.3km of the site. The species records are summarised on Figure 3. There are also a number of ancient woodland sites within the 2km radius, as shown on Figure 4 and known habitats on Figure 5.

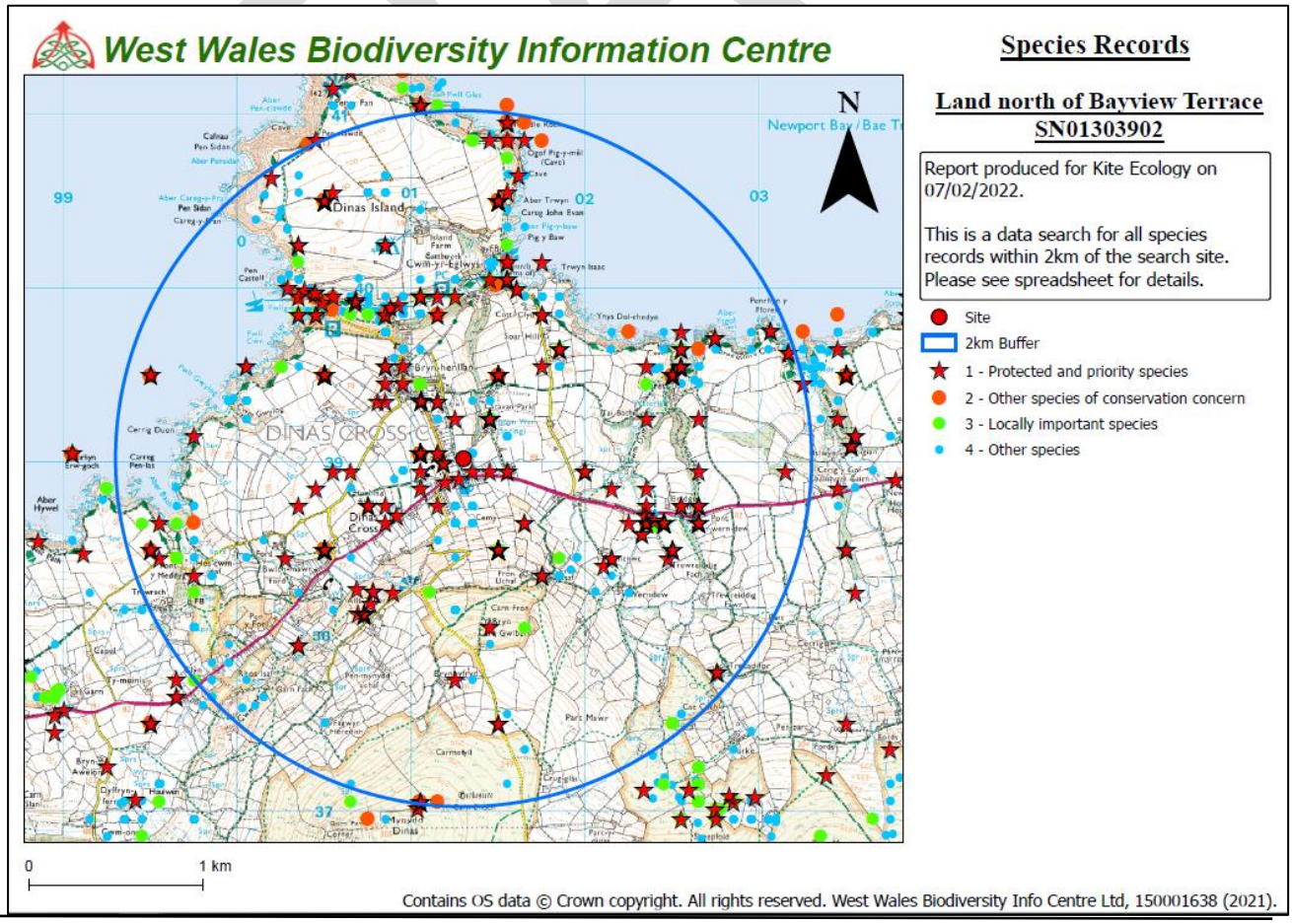

Figure 3. Summary of species records within a 2km radius of the site.

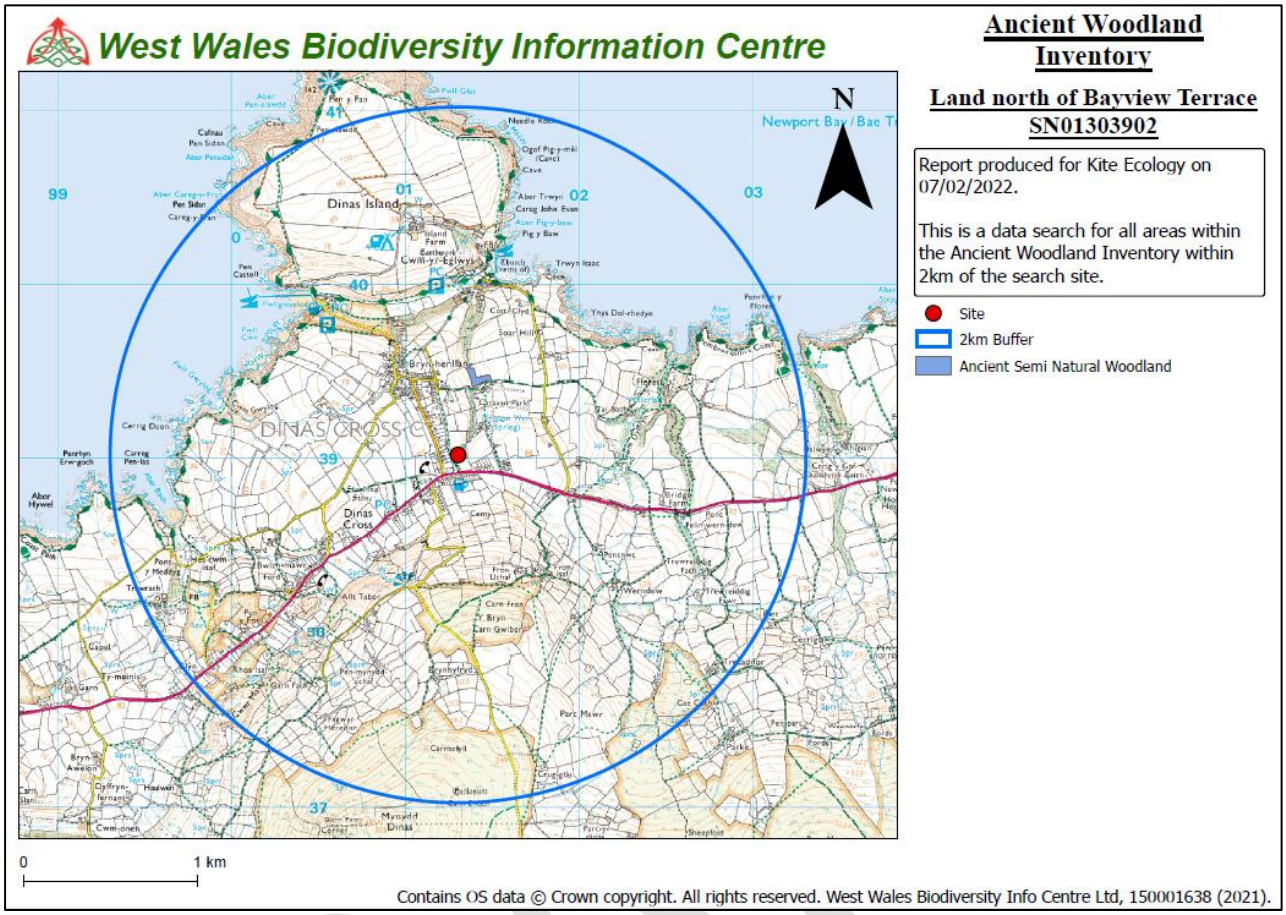

Figure 4. Ancient woodland sites within a 2km radius of the site.

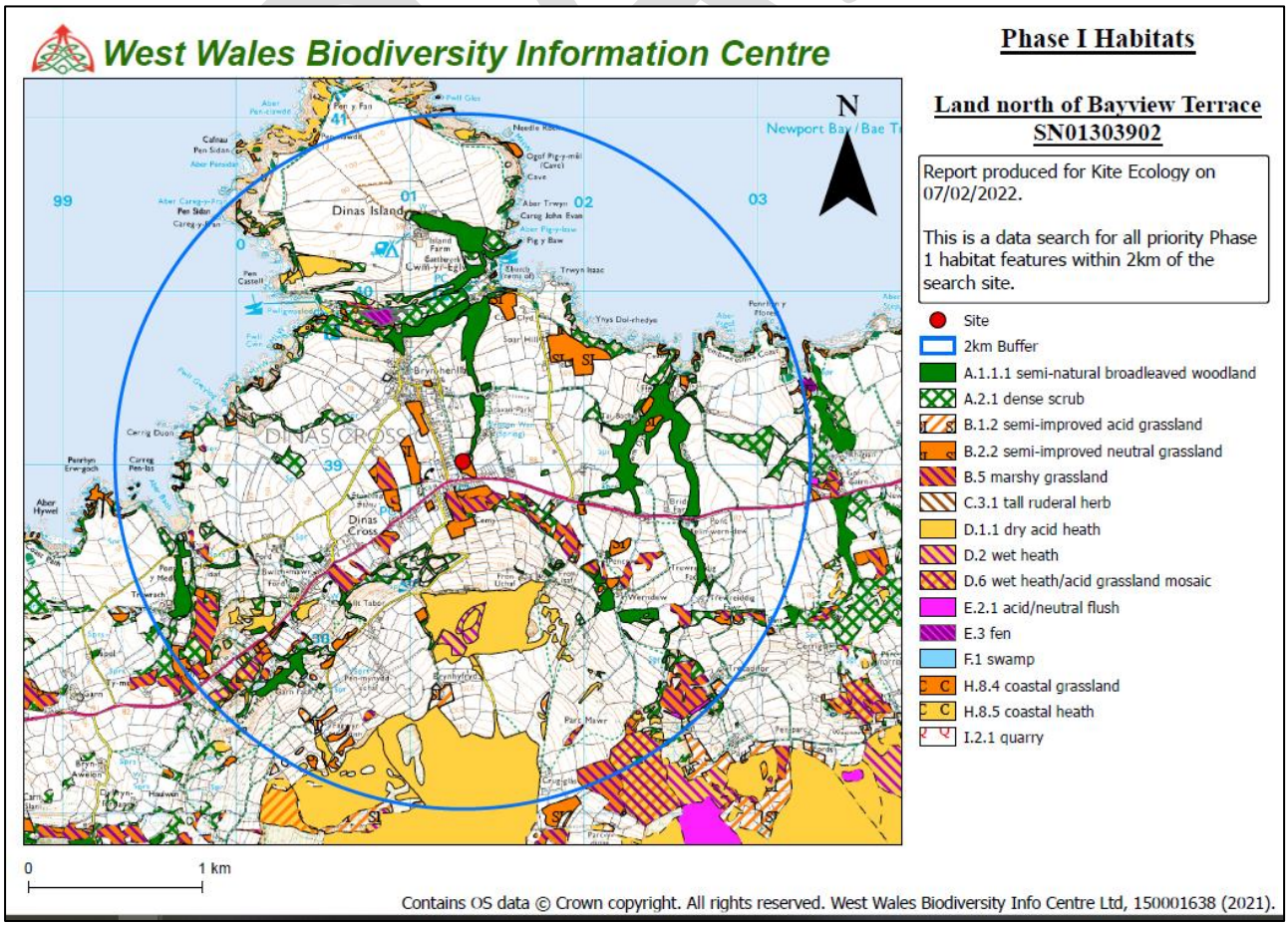

Figure 5. Known habitats within a 2km radius of the site.

4.2 Aerial photographs

Situated centrally in the small village of Dinas Cross, the site has new housing to the south, with existing housing to the west. There are agricultural fields to the north and east. The hedgerows surrounding the site link up with woodland in the north eastern corner. The surrounding habitats are visible in Figure 6.

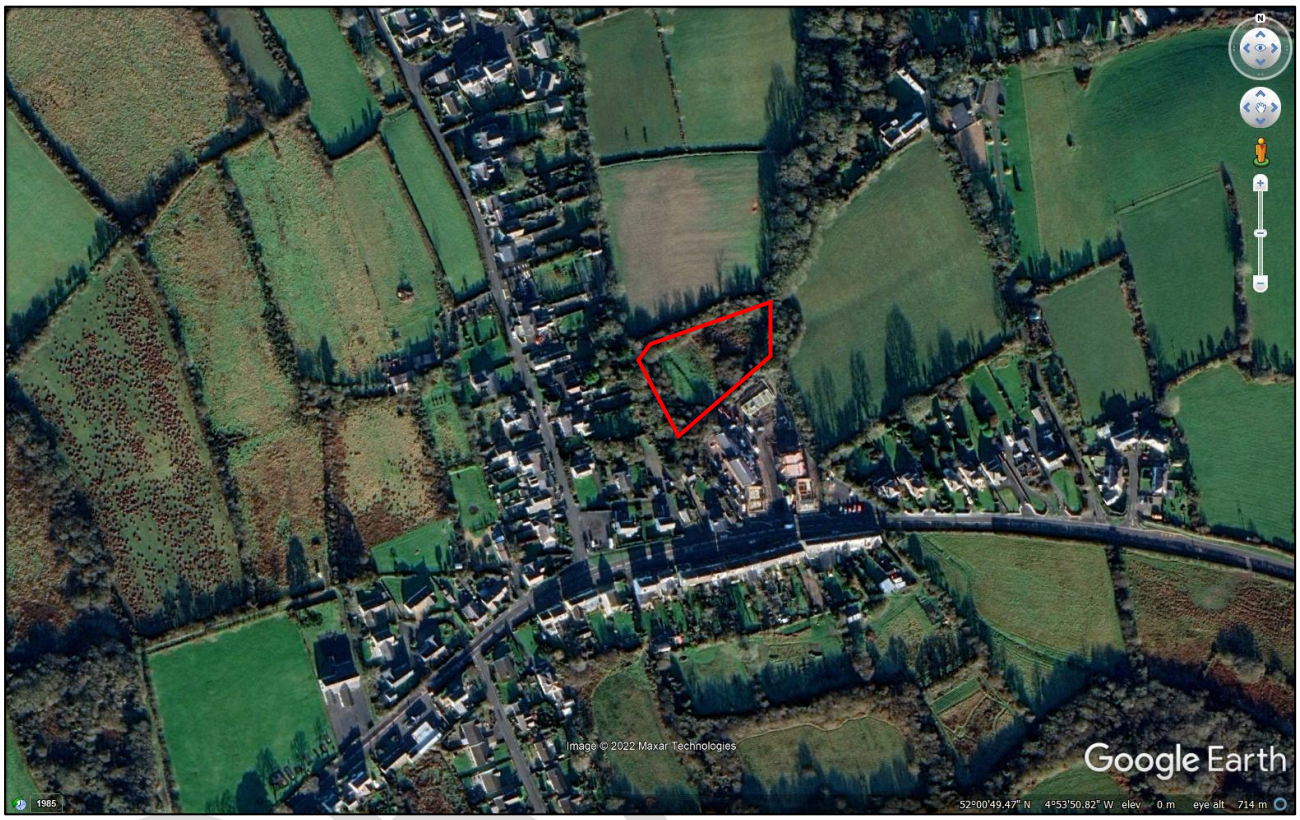

Figure 6. Aerial photograph of the site in relation to the surrounding habitats.

4.3 Designated sites

The site is 1.3km to the south of Cwm Deri Site of Special Scientific Interest and the West Wales Marine candidate Special Area of Conservation. The site is located within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. The designated sites are summarised in Figure 6.

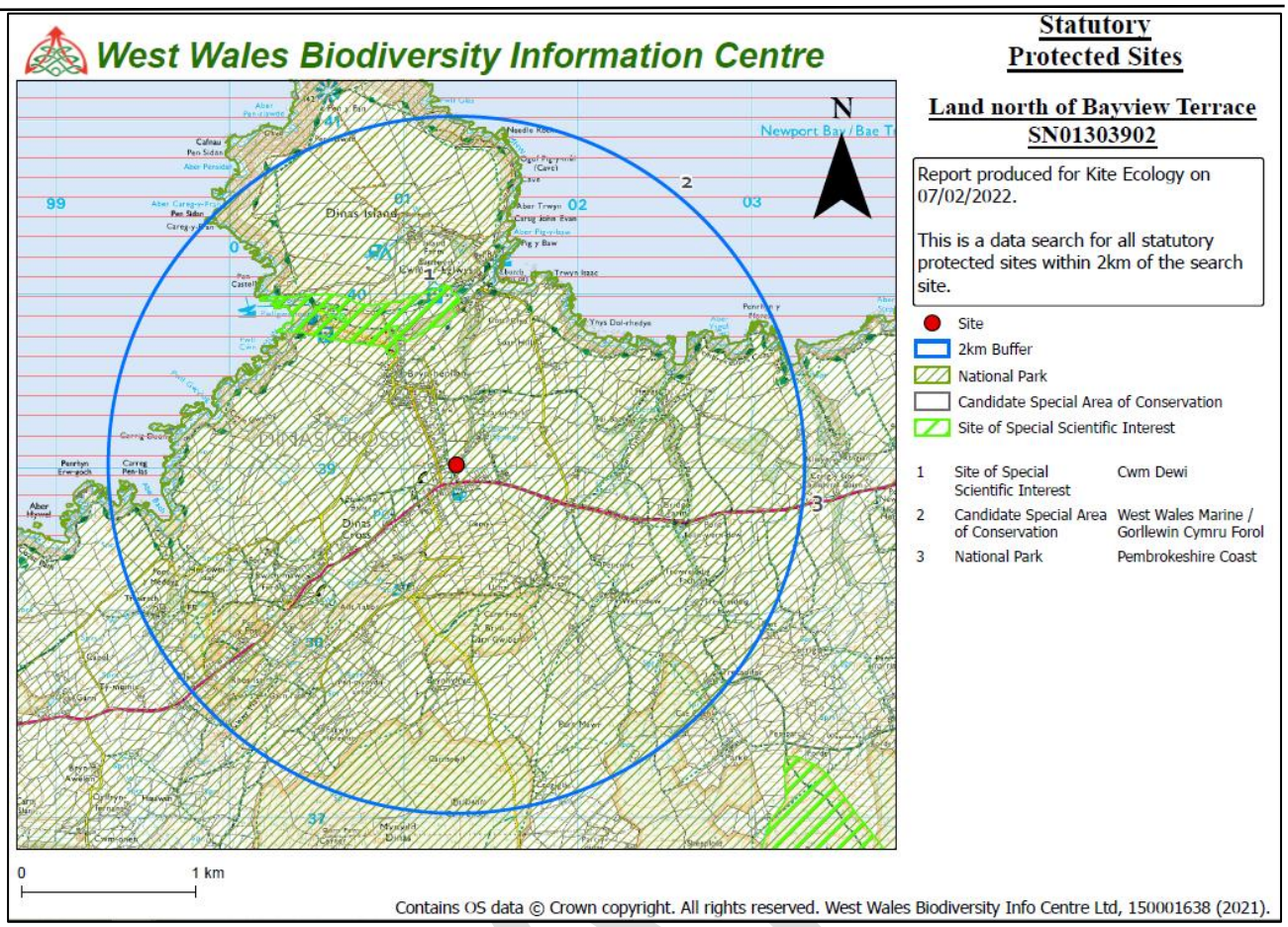

Figure 6. Designated sites in relation to the site.

4.4 On site surveys

4.4.1 Phase 1

4.3.1.1 *H1 – western boundary*

The western hedgerow runs adjacent to a public footpath. It includes mature ash Fraxinus excelsior as well as hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and blackthorn Prunus spinosa. It has a dense understorey of bramble *Rubus fruticosus agg.*

4.3.1.2 *H2 – northern boundary*

A mature hedgerow that includes ash, blackthorn, sycamore, hawthorn, gorse, holly and goat willow *Salix caprea*. It has a sparse under storey which includes bramble, *n*ettle, honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, ivy *Hedera helix*, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, dock *Rumex obtusifolius* and Primrose *Primula*

vulgaris.

Figure 7. H2 – northern boundary hedgerow.

4.3.1.3 *H3 – eastern boundary*

A mature hedgerow that includes ash, blackthorn, hawthorn, goat willow and gorse. It has a sparse under storey which includes bramble, Lady fern *Athyrium filix-femina,* nettle, primrose *Primula vulgaris,* foxglove *Digitalis purpurea* and Navelwort *Umbilicus rupestris.* There is a small stream along the base of the hedgerow making the ground very wet. This hedgerow has links to surrounding broad leaved woodland in the northern corner.

4.3.1.4 *H4 – southern boundary*

A mature hedgerow that includes ash, blackthorn, sycamore, hawthorn, gorse, holly and goat willow *Salix caprea*. It has a sparse under storey which includes bramble, *n*ettle, honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, ivy *Hedera helix*, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, dock *Rumex obtusifolius* and Primrose *Primula vulgaris*. While the hedgerow is mature, it is rather gappy in places with a small stream along its base making it very wet underneath. This hedgerow has links to surrounding broad leaved woodland in the north eastern corner.

4.3.1.6 *Central area*

The eastern half of the field is dominated by Willow, alder and Juncus sp. as well as bramble. This section is relatively damp throughout the year. The central section of the field has been used to sort earth from the development to the south which is now covered in improved grassland. The western section of the field is dominated by bramble.

The habitats are summarised in Figure 8.

	Survey area	H1	Hedgerows
	scrub	i	Improved grassland

Figure 8. Phase 1 habitat map.

4.3.2 Badgers

There was no evidence of badgers on site, or within a 30m radius of the boundary.

4.3.3 Bats

4.3.3.1 *Trees*

None of the trees had any features suitable for use by roosting bats, so no additional surveys were recommended. It is likely that the site would be used by foraging and commuting bats.

4.3.4 Dormice

During surveys of the site to the south in 2019, a known dormouse record 1.3km to the north east was identified. The hedgerows on the southern site lacked the dense understorey usually required by dormice, so was deemed unlikely to support dormice. However, the area forming the focus of this survey does have a high proportion of bramble and willow on site, both species known to be used by foraging dormice. It also has direct links to broadleaved woodland in the north eastern corner, so it is considered that this site does have the potential to support dormice, although only at very low levels, with any population at the edge of their likely distribution.

4.3.5 Otter

The stream along the eastern boundary flows in a northerly direction and is the start of the Ffynnnon Wen which ends at Cwm yr Eglwys beach c.1km to the north. There are two historical records of otter within 200m of the site, but no evidence of otter was found during the survey and given the relatively small nature of the stream, it is considered likely that it is only suitable for use as a commuting corridor.

4.3.6 Birds

House sparrow *Passer domesticus*, collared dove *Streptopelia decaoto*, blackbird *Turdus merula,* woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* and crow *Corvus corone* were all seen or heard on site during the survey. It is likely that the hedgerows are used by nesting birds at appropriate times of year.

4.3.7 Other species

No other species were recorded.

5 Limitations to surveys

5.1 While full dormouse surveys have not been completed, in the opinion of the surveyor, the site has direct connections to suitable habitat in the north western corner so their presence can be assumed in this instance.

5.2 No bat transect or static detector surveys have taken place as in the opinion of the surveyor, transect and static detector surveys would not have provided any additional information as the site layout already includes features to allow any bats to continue to forage and commute around the site.

5.3 The results and recommendations of the report are based on findings as they were at the time of the survey. Kite Ecology cannot be held responsible for any base line changes to the site that have occurred since the survey was carried out that may have any effect on the results and recommendations.

6 Legislation and planning policy

6.1 Designated sites

Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Special Scientific Interest are strictly protected through both European Directives and UK legislation including the conservation and Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

6.2 Bats

All species of bat and their breeding sites or resting places (roosts) are protected under the Conservation and Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence for anyone intentionally to kill, injure or handle a bat, to possess a bat (whether live or dead), disturb a roosting bat, or sell or offer a bat for sale without a licence. It is also an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter, whether they are present or not.

6.3 Dormice

The dormouse is strictly protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation and Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. The deliberate and reckless capturing, disturbing, injuring and killing of dormice is prohibited, as is damaging or destroying their breeding site or resting places. Licences are available from Natural Resources Wales to allow actions that would otherwise be unlawful.

6.4 Otter

Otters are protected under both the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Otters and their resting places are fully protected, it is an offence to deliberately, capture, injure or kill them or to damage, destroy or obstruct their breeding or resting places. It is also an offence to disturb otters in their breeding or resting places.

6.5 Birds

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

6.6 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 40 of the NERC Act places a 'Biodiversity Duty' on local planning authorities as far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions. This replaces Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.

6.7 Technical Advice Notes 5

TAN 5 gives advice to local authorities on development control issues for Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). It also covers the selection and designation of non-statutory nature conservation sites, such as local nature reserves, and the protection of species, commons and greens.

6.8 Local Development Plan

Policy 11 (Protection of Biodiversity) of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Local Development Plan states that:

'Development that would disturb or otherwise harm protected species or their habitats or the integrity of other habitats, sites or features of importance to wildlife and individual species including Local Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats will only be permitted where the effects will be acceptably minimised or mitigated through careful design, work scheduling or other measures.'

also of relevance is Policy 15 of the LPD, 'Conservation of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park', which states that:

Development will not be permitted where this would adversely affect the qualities and special character of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park by:

a) causing significant visual intrusion; and/or,
b) being insensitively and unsympathetically sited within the landscape; and/or
c) introducing or intensifying a use which is incompatible with its location; and/or
d) failing to harmonise with, or enhance the landform and landscape character of the National Park; and/or
e) losing or failing to incorporate important traditional features.

6.9 Additional Regulations

Local Authorities also have a duty under Regulation 9 (Parts 1 and 5) of the Habitat Regulations to have regard for the requirements of the Habitat Directive which includes a requirement to maintain the populations of Protected Species in a 'favourable Conservation Status'.

7 Discussion and key recommendations

7.1 Designated sites

The proposed development lies adjacent to existing residential developments, so it is very unlikely to impact on the designations.

7.2 Habitats

7.2.1 The proposed development relates to the construction of new dwellings (shown on Figure 9). This will inevitably lead to the loss of the improved grassland, therefore any planting should utilise locally sourced, native species in all gardens and landscaping. Hedgerows could be used to demarcate property boundaries as these can also act as natural wildlife corridors.

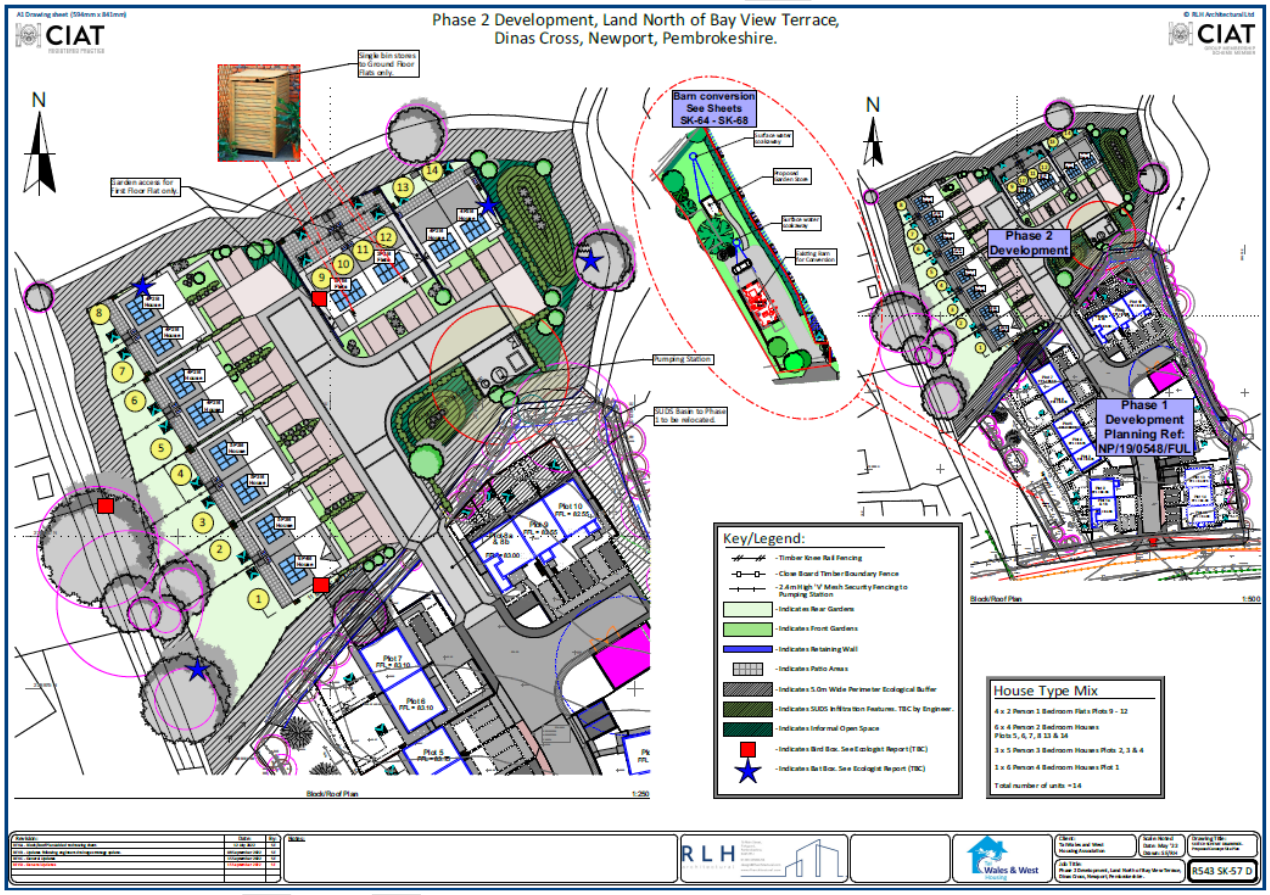

Figure 9. Proposed development.

7.3 Bats

7.3.1 *Trees*

Several of the mature ash trees are suffering from Ash Die Back and so are recommended for removal (Arboricultural Report reference PC21-220-24/03/2022). Trees will be removed using the following working brief:

7.3.2 *Working brief when removing trees*

7.3.2.1 All limbs will be cut sectionally, with each section roped and carefully lowered to the ground. Any features such as woodpecker holes, cracks or splits must be angled upwards and be free from obstructions to allow bats to move out.

7.3.2.2 All cut sections will be stored close to the place they were removed from (within 10m) for at least 48 hours to allow any bats hidden within the chance to move off.

7.3.2.3 Should a bat be encountered during works, all work in that area must cease immediately. Where possible the bat/s and/or roost protected and advice immediately sought from either Kite Ecology or Natural Resources Wales.

7.3.2.4 *Timing of works*

Works on the trees will be completed in either spring or autumn to avoid maternity or hibernation periods.

7.3.2 *Habitats*

Given that there are a number of known roosts in the area for a variety of species (pers comm.), it is very likely that the habitat would be used by foraging and commuting bats. Of particular importance are the hedgerows. Under the proposals, the existing boundary features are to remain unaffected. All lighting must be hooded and downward facing and positioned to avoid shining directly onto the features such as woodland edges and hedgerows. The lighting should also be PIR sensitive LED type which have a much more directional lighting range. An example is shown in Figure 10.

Figure 10. Example of different PIR LED lighting.

7.4 Dormice

7.4.1 The eastern half of the site is dominated by willow and juncus, with the eastern half covered in scrub. There are species rich hedgerows along the northern, eastern and western boundary, with a stream also running along the eastern boundary. During surveys of the site to the south, a record of dormice within 1.3km of the site was identified. The site has direct links to this record and the hedgerows surrounding the site appear suitable for use by dormice, so their presence has been assumed.

1.4 Note to client

The presence of dormice has been assumed on site. Any site clearance will require a dormouse licence from Natural Resources Wales. To protect the hedgerows surrounding the site a 5m wide buffer has been included around the site. Due to the relatively small size of the site, it will not be possible to replace all habitat lost, but as the habitat on site is currently relatively poor (limited to bramble, willow and alder), the buffer zones will be planted up to enhance the habitat on site. The mitigation strategy for dormice is discussed in more detail in Section 9.

7.5 Otters

No evidence of otter was found during the survey and site use is likely to be restricted to occasional commuting routes. However, the proposed development includes a 5m buffer zone be retained for dormice, so this will also protect the riparian corridor for otter.

7.6 Birds

Any scrubby vegetation or tree removal will be restricted to the period between late August and early March in any year to avoid the bird nesting season. If it is necessary to carry out such work during the bird nesting season then initial works will be conducted carefully, and the presence of birds and their active nests checked for immediately before and throughout vegetation removal. If an active nest is discovered, then work in that area will cease and the nest protected until the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active.

8 Additional recommendations

8.1 Hedgerows

8.1.1 *Management*

- only cut each hedge every 2 years; this reduces maintenance and labour costs, creates a bushier hedge for wildlife and allows flower and berry production in the intervening years.
- hedges with slow growing species, such as hawthorn, can be cut on a 3 year cycle.
- do not cut back to the same height repeatedly, raising the cutting height each time will avoid placing the hedge under stress and allow it to regenerate more vigorously.
- cut hedges to a variety of shapes and sizes; “A” shaped hedges provide good stock proofing and shelter, create song posts for birds and enable hedgerow trees to develop if left untopped.
- leaving 1-2 metre (or wider) verges of tall grass by hedges provides nesting habitat for birds and protects hedgerows from pesticide or fertiliser spray drift.
- hedges can be trimmed, laid and coppiced from September to February but try and cut as late in the winter as possible so wildlife can take advantage of the nuts and berries produced in the autumn.

8.2 Enhancements

8.2.2. Birds

Bird boxes should be incorporated into the scheme to enhance the nesting potential of the site. Nest boxes which can be incorporated into the fabric of buildings themselves are recommended (Figure 11), although these should be sited high up on walls (immediately below the wall plates or soffit boxes) and avoid being positioned above windows or doors. These should be included on 20% of all buildings on site.

Figure 11. Example of a bird box which can be built into new buildings.

8.2.3 Bats

Measures to allow bats to utilise the new buildings would enhance the roosting potential of the site. Such measures could include the incorporation of 'bat boxes' (Figure 12). These are prefabricated boxes which are built into the external wall structure. It is recommended that bat tubes are included on 20% of the new buildings (but different ones to the bird boxes). They should be positioned at least 3m above ground, but avoid being positioned above windows or doors.

Figure 12. Example of an integrated bat box.

8.2.4 Insects

To enhance the site for insects, it is recommended that 'bee bricks' be included in the scheme. Bee bricks are used in the place of a standard brick or block to create habitat for solitary bees. The bricks include cavities to allow the solitary bees to lay their eggs. The brick is sealed on the rear so the bees can only utilise the brick itself rather than the building. The bricks are best situated on a south facing wall at a minimum height of 1m. An example is shown in Figure 13.

Figure 13. Example of a bee brick.

8.2.5 Hedgehogs

One of the reasons for a decline in hedgehogs is a loss of habitat and fragmentation of habitat. As hedgehogs have been recorded in the area, it would be beneficial if the boundary hedgerows could be retained as much as possible and new planting included so providing additional corridors around the site and surrounding habitat. Any property fences should include 'hedgehog highways', where a 15cm by 15cm hole is cut in the base of any fences to allow hedgehogs to move between gardens, so increasing their access to foraging and nesting sites. These should also be included in the fence protecting the buffer zone. An example of such a 'hedgehog highway' is included in Figure 14.

Figure 14. Hedgehog highway included in base of fence to allow hedgehog movement.

9 Mitigation strategy

9.1 Proposals in relation to dormice

Under the proposals, the site is to be developed for housing. To allow this to proceed, the central section of the site will be cleared of scrub (area of 3,993m^2). The habitat to be lost is relatively poor quality as it is dominated by willow, alder and bramble which offer limited foraging opportunities. To maintain and enhance the habitat on site, the surrounding hedgerows are to be maintained and a 5m buffer zone included around the site. The 5m buffer zone will provide an area of 1,390m^2 of habitat.

9.2 Hedgerows

The hedgerows are to be retained under the scheme. Access onto the site is via an existing point in hedgerow 4 (southern boundary). The inclusion of the buffer zone will protect and enhance these hedgerows.

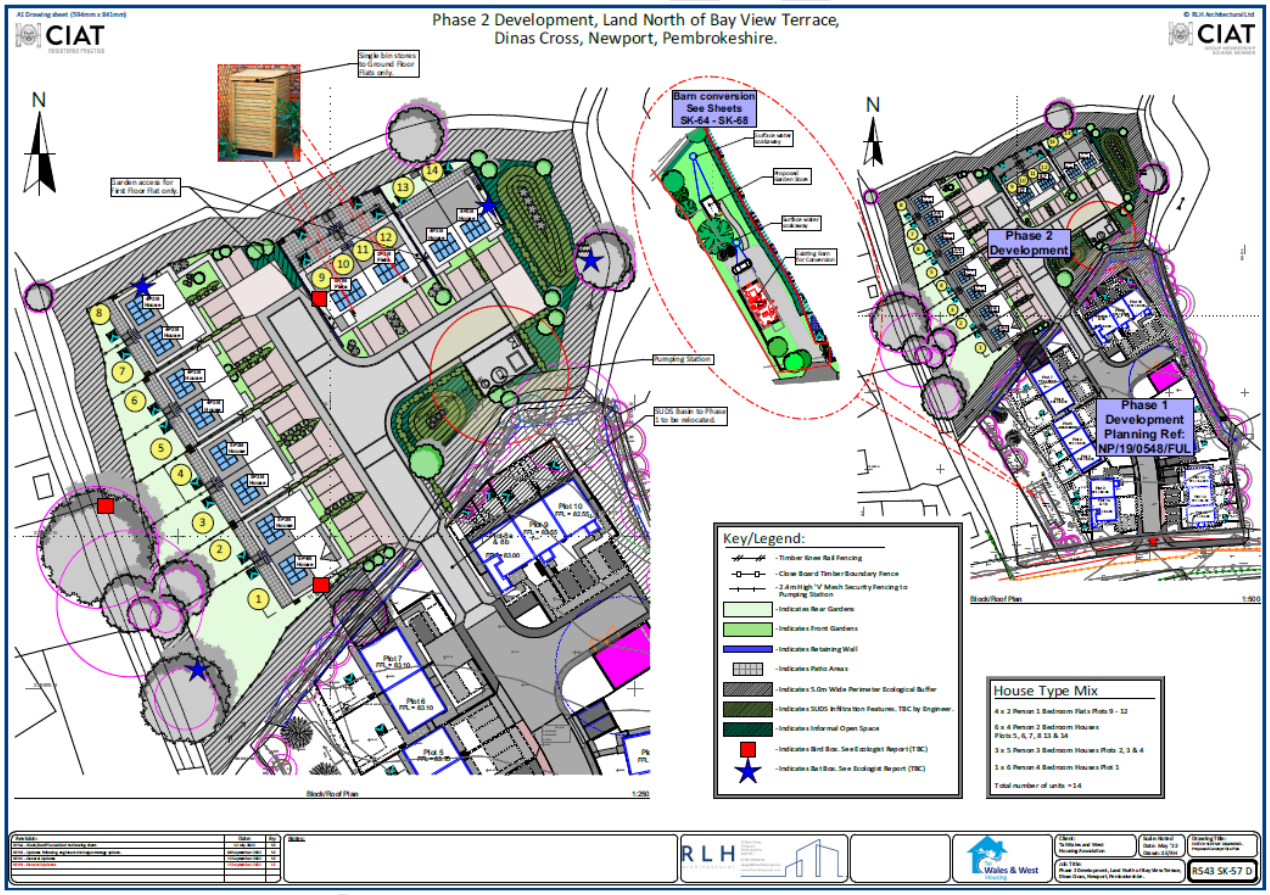

Figure 15. Site layout including buffer zone around the site.

9.3 Buffer zone

9.3.1 The buffer zone will protect the existing hedgerows as well as provide compensation for the loss of the habitat on the central section of the site. The buffer zone will be fenced off from the development using 1.5m high close boarded fencing.

9.3.2 The buffer zone will be planted up with species of most benefit to dormice including hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, honeysuckle, holly, oak and gorse. Planting density and future management will be in line with the landscape plan and method statement of any future Natural Resources Wales dormouse development licence.

9.4 Timing

9.4.1 *Maintenance of existing hedgerows*

Existing hedgerows will be trimmed back and protected by heras fencing (along the boundary of the proposed buffer zone) before the start of the development works. This should be done in the winter (November to February inclusive) immediately prior to the start of works.

9.4.2 *Clearance of central vegetation*

Clearance of vegetation can either be done in a single process in September/October or a two stage process between November and February (first stage) and mid May for the second stage. The first stage involves cutting the vegetation to 300mm above ground level with the second stage the removal of stumps and ground level vegetation.

9.4.3 *Planting of buffer zone and installation of new fencing*

To protect the buffer zone in the long term, a 1.5m high close boarded fence will be installed. The buffer zone will be planted in autumn as this is the optimum time for planting such species. This will be in line with the recommendations as set out in the Landscape plan.

9.5 Monitoring

To aid future monitoring, 10 dormouse boxes will be installed in the hedgerows around the site.

9.6 Impacts

The proposed scheme is likely to affect dormice at a local scale in the short term, with the favourable conservation status of the species unaffected.

9.7 Note to client

The recommendations set out in Section 9 are subject to a Natural Resources Wales dormouse development licence. Such licenses take approximately 8-10 weeks to obtain.

10 Conclusions

The presence of dormice has been assumed on site. Any site clearance will require a dormouse licence from Natural Resources Wales. To protect the hedgerows surrounding the site a 5m wide buffer has been included around the site. Due to the relatively small size of the site, it will not be possible to replace all habitat lost, but as the habitat on site is currently relatively poor, the buffer zones will be planted up to enhance the habitat on site.

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APPENDIX 1

Further information on European Protected Species licences from Natural Resources Wales

The Welsh Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred under regulation 44(2)(e-g) & 44(3)(a-b) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations (as amended), has authority to issue licences for the following purposes:

- Preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment;
- Preventing the spread of disease;
- Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other forms of property or to fisheries; to allow people to carry out activities which would otherwise be illegal;

Provided that:

- that there is no satisfactory alternative; *and*
- that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

Although the licence is applied for and, if successful, issued in the name of the developer, a suitably experienced and licensed ecologist must assist with the completion of the forms and the design of the accompanying method statement.

It should be noted that Natural Resources Wales licenses are legally binding documents, and the method statement will be attached to any licence issued. It is the responsibility of the licence holder to ensure that the method statement is adhered to.