

# Ecological Impact Assessment

**Aneurin Labour Club, Caerphilly**

21 June 2024

Ecology  
Arboriculture  
Land Management





## Report Details

Report Title	Ecological Impact Assessment
Report Reference	2352-EcIA-RY

## Quality Assurance & Revision Record

Revision	Date	Author	Checked By	Approver	Summary of Changes
FINAL	07 June 2024	Ryan Yeates BSc ACIEEM	Richard Pash BSc MCIEEM	Richard Pash BSc MCIEEM	
REV A	21 June 2024	Ryan Yeates BSc ACIEEM	Richard Pash BSc MCIEEM	Richard Pash BSc MCIEEM	Updated layout

## Disclosure

The content of this report that has been provided by GE Consulting is true, and has been prepared and submitted in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. Its contents are compliant with British Standard BS42020: 2013 Biodiversity Code of Practice for Planning and Development.

This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of the stated client and unless otherwise agreed in writing by GE Consulting, no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of the report. No liability is accepted by GE Consulting for any use of this report, other than for the purposes for which it was originally prepared and provided.

GE Consulting has exercised due care in preparing this report. It has not, unless specifically stated, independently verified information provided by others. No other warranty, express or implied, is made in relation to the content of this report and GE Consulting assumes no liability for any loss resulting from errors, omissions or misrepresentation made by others.

Any recommendation, opinion or finding stated in this report is based on circumstances and facts as they existed at the time that GE Consulting undertook the work. Nothing in this report constitutes legal opinion. If legal opinion is required the advice of a qualified legal professional should be secured.

© Copyright GE Consulting Services (UK) Limited 2024

## Site Details

Site Name and Location      Aneurin Labour Club, Caerphilly

Central OS Grid              ST 13927 88231

Reference

Client                          Castell Group

Boundary



## Executive Summary

Site Location	The Site is located within the town of Caerphilly, directly south of Caledfryn Way and east of Heol Aneurin. Urban development is situated to the north, east and south; with an area of developing scrub situated to the west.
Proposals	Detailed application for the construction of 30 affordable apartments and associated landscaping and parking.
Survey Work	Desk-based study and UK Habitat Classification survey.
Designated Sites with Potential Impacts	None.
Baseline Habitats	The Site predominantly comprises hardstanding, bare ground and modified grassland. An invasive plant species, horsetail, was recorded off-site beyond the southern boundary. A discrete area of bramble scrub is present in the north of the Site and several trees are situated along the western boundary.
Protected/ notable Species	The Site provides suitable habitat for breeding birds and hedgehogs. Although the Site is not suitable to support a notable population of reptiles, small numbers/individuals may be present.
Mitigation and Compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>👉 Root Protection Areas (RPAs) will be established around retained scrub in line with BS5837:2012 and will be clearly marked out with through the use of Heras fencing (or similar to be advised by a suitably qualified arboriculturist).</li> <li>👉 To compensate for the loss of trees, a number of new trees will be planted throughout the development including a number native species.</li> <li>👉 To avoid impacts to breeding birds, woody vegetation is to be removed outside of nesting bird season (generally considered to be from March to August inclusive) or with a pre-works check by a competent person. Any active nest must be retained and buffered until all chicks have fledged.</li> <li>👉 All vegetation clearance should be undertaken on warm dry days when temperatures are over 10°C to allow any individual reptiles present to move out of harms away.</li> <li>👉 Design of a sensitive lighting scheme to protect nocturnal wildlife from potentially adverse impacts of light-spill.</li> <li>👉 All excavations created during construction are to be covered overnight or a means of escape provided such as a ramp and any features with potential to support hedgehog will be sensitively removed.</li> </ul>
Enhancements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>👉 Habitat creation as part of soft landscaping proposals comprising new trees, native species-rich hedgerows, wildflower grassland, rain gardens and wildlife-friendly shrub planting.</li> <li>👉 4 no. integrated bird boxes to be installed on the new apartment block.</li> <li>👉 4 no. integrated bat boxes to be installed on the new apartment block.</li> <li>👉 2 no. bee bricks to be installed on the new apartment block.</li> </ul>



## Contents

1	Introduction .....	1
1.1	Site Context .....	1
1.2	Aims .....	1
2	Methods .....	2
2.1	Desk Study .....	2
2.2	Extended UK Habitat Classification Survey .....	2
2.3	Survey Limitations .....	2
3	Baseline Conditions .....	3
3.1	Designated Sites .....	3
3.2	Habitats and Flora .....	3
3.3	Fauna .....	3
4	Impacts And Mitigation .....	5
4.1	Designated Sites .....	5
4.2	Habitats and Flora .....	5
4.3	Fauna .....	5
5	Enhancements .....	7
6	Conclusions .....	8
7	References .....	9

## Figures

- 1: UK Hab Baseline Habitat Plan
- 2: Mitigation and Enhancement Plan

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – General Glossary of Terms .....	12
Appendix 2 – Planning Policy and Legislation .....	14
Appendix 3 – Habitat detail and photographs .....	16
Appendix 4 – List of Mentioned Flora and Fauna .....	18
Appendix 5 – Soft Landscape Proposals .....	20

## 1 Introduction

This report presents the results of an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) at Aneurin Labour Club, Caerphilly in relation to a Detailed planning application. The surveys were commissioned by Castell Group.

The area within the application boundary is hereafter referred to as the 'Site'.

### 1.1 Site Context and Development Proposals

The Site is located within the town of Caerphilly, directly south of Caledfryn Way and east of Heol Aneurin. Urban development is situated to the north, east and south; with an area of scrub situated to the west.

Proposals comprise the construction of 30 affordable apartments and associated landscaping and parking.

### 1.2 Aims

The aims of this report are to:

- 🦋 Identify and describe the habitats and species likely to be affected by the proposed development and assess the ecological value of these features;
- 🦋 Identify key ecological constraints to the proposed development and evaluate the significance of any potential effects; and,
- 🦋 Provide recommendations for mitigation and enhancement opportunities in accordance with relevant planning policy, legislation and other published guidance (see **Appendix 2**).

## 2 Methods

### 2.1 Desk Study

A data search was requested from South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC) in April 2024, the results of which were used to determine notable/protected species records and non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the Site.

An internet search was undertaken to identify statutory sites designated for nature conservation value within a 2km radius of the Site boundary (10km for international sites), using the Government's mapping website MAGIC ([www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk)). Aerial photography of the wider area was reviewed to assess connectivity and landscape features which may be important to local biodiversity.

### 2.2 Extended UK Habitat Classification Survey

A site walkover was undertaken on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 by Ryan Yeates BSc (Hons) ACIEEM when weather conditions were overcast with a light drizzle.

All habitats within the Site were identified, described and mapped during the field survey in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) (UKHab Ltd. 2023 (V2.0)) with other linear and point features mapped using Phase 1 Habitat Survey symbology (JNCC 2010). Primary habitats have been mapped to a minimum mapping unit (MMU) of 25m<sup>2</sup>, although where features of note of a smaller scale are present, these have also been recorded and mapped. Any habitats (e.g. traditional orchard) with no appropriate primary habitat label were assigned a secondary habitat code. Other secondary UKHab codes were recorded where relevant, although they are described qualitatively within this report for ease of reading. A non-exhaustive botanical species list was compiled, with plant names following Stace (2019).

The survey was extended to highlight the potential presence of protected and notable species in accordance with CIEEM's Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (2017). This involved a search to identify the presence or potential presence of species such as breeding birds, bats, badger, dormouse, reptiles, amphibians, otter and water vole. Target Notes (TNs) were used to record any features or habitats of ecological interest. Where access allowed, adjacent habitats were also considered in order to assess possible impacts of the proposal in a wider context.

A digital map was produced using QGIS (QGIS Development Team (2024) Geographic Information System Open-Source Geospatial Foundation Project). The habitat map is shown in **Figure 1**. Common names for flora and fauna are given in the body of the report with scientific names provided in **Appendix 4**.

### 2.3 Survey Limitations

Care has been taken to ensure that balanced advice is provided on the information available and collected during the study period (s), and within the resources available for the project. However, the possibility of important ecological features being missed due to survey timings, absence during surveys or the year of survey cannot be ruled out. In addition, the lack of evidence or records of protected species on Site does not preclude their presence from Site.

### 3 Baseline Conditions

#### 3.1 Designated Sites

One European Designated Site, namely Cardiff Beechwoods SAC, is situated within 10km of the Site. This SAC is designated for its substantial area of Annex I *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forest and is located approximately 4km south of the Site.

In addition, two SSSIs are situated within 2km of the Site. These are Gwaun Geldyr SSSI (0.8km south-west of the Site) and Llanbradach Quarry SSSI (1.3km north-east of the Site). Gwaun Geldyr SSSI is designated for its extensive area of marshy and neutral grassland, whilst Llanbradach Quarry SSSI is designated for geological rather than ecological reasons.

There are nine non-statutory designated sites within 2km of the Site. The closest non-statutory designated site is Cwm yr Aber, South of Abertridwr SINC, which is located approximately 140m south of the Site and is designated for supporting semi-natural woodland.

#### 3.2 Habitats and Flora

The distribution of habitats is shown on **Figure 1** and full details with photographs are provided in **Appendix 3**.

The Site predominantly comprises hardstanding, bare ground and modified grassland. An invasive plant species, horsetail, was recorded off-site beyond the southern boundary. Furthermore, a discrete area of bramble scrub is present in the north of the Site and several trees are situated along the western boundary. The hardstanding, bare ground and modified grassland are all of **Negligible** ecological importance. The bramble scrub and trees are considered to be of **Site** importance.

#### 3.3 Fauna

**Table 1** lists the fauna considered as part of the assessment.

**Table 1: Assessment of Fauna on Site**

Species/ Group	Location & Rationale
Amphibians	<p>Two records of common toad within 2km, the closest situated 1.4km north-east of the Site.</p> <p>There are no suitable breeding ponds on, or within 250m of the Site, and terrestrial habitats were sub-optimal. On this basis, amphibians have been scoped out of requiring further assessment and are not considered further within this report.</p>
Badger	<p>Five records within 2km, the closest situated 0.91km south of the Site.</p> <p>No evidence of badger was recorded during the survey. Due to the urban location and predominantly built nature of the habitats present, the opportunity for sett building is extremely limited.</p> <p>Badgers are not listed as a species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in Wales and have therefore not been assigned a scale of importance in this case, but nevertheless they are considered to be absent and have been scoped out of further assessment within this report.</p>



Species/ Group	Location & Rationale
Bats	<p>Eight records of bat roosts within 2km, the closest situated 0.94km north of Site (species and roost type unspecified).</p> <p>None of the trees supported PRFs suitable for roosting bats. Therefore, roosting bats have been scoped out of requiring further assessment and are not considered further within this report.</p> <p>The habitat suitable for commuting and foraging bats is limited to the discrete area of bramble scrub and trees along the western boundary. Given this, and the small extent of the Site, the Site is considered to be of <b>Negligible</b> importance for commuting and foraging bats.</p>
Birds	<p>A number of records of birds were returned within 2km. Notable species recorded include swift (red-listed), house sparrow (red-listed), dunnock (amber-listed), song thrush (amber-listed) and redwing (amber-listed).</p> <p>In addition, greenfinch (red-listed), herring gull (red-listed), goldfinch, wood pigeon and jackdaw were recorded within the Site during the field survey. The bramble scrub and trees provide suitable habitat for nesting birds; however, the habitats present are common in the wider landscape and are unlikely to support a rare/notable assemblage. The Site is considered to be of no more than <b>Site</b> importance for breeding birds.</p>
Dormouse	<p>No dormouse records were returned within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>In addition, due to the small extent of bramble scrub, the Site is not considered to provide suitable dormouse habitat. Therefore, dormouse have been scoped out of requiring further assessment and are not considered further within this report.</p>
Hedgehog	<p>37 records within 2km, the closest being 0.29km south of Site.</p> <p>Although no evidence of hedgehog was recorded within the Site, the modified grassland and bramble scrub do provide suitable habitat for hedgehog to forage, commute and shelter. If present the Site is considered to be of <b>Site</b> importance for hedgehog.</p>
Invertebrates	<p>A number of records of invertebrates were returned within 2km of Site. Notable species recorded include small heath, small pearl-bordered fritillary, cinnabar, grayling, marsh fritillary and dusky thorn.</p> <p>In addition, a buff-tailed bumblebee was recorded on the western boundary during the field survey.</p> <p>The modified grassland, trees and bramble scrub provide suitable, albeit suboptimal habitat, for invertebrates. However, the habitats are common and widespread in the local area and invertebrates have been scoped out of requiring further assessment and are not considered further within this report.</p>
Reptiles	<p>Three reptile records, comprising adder, slow worm and grass snake, were returned within 2km. One record of slow worm was returned 0.2km north-east of site, one record of grass snake was returned 1.8km</p>

Species/ Group	Location & Rationale
	<p>south-west of Site and one record of adder was returned 1.9km south-east of Site.</p> <p>The Site supports limited reptile habitat in the form of modified grassland and bramble scrub. The grassland is considered to have low suitability due to its short, uniform sward and the bramble scrub is considered to be too small in its extent. Therefore, the habitats within the Site are not suitable to support a notable population of reptiles, although small numbers/individuals may be present. If present, the Site is considered to be of no more than <b>Site</b> importance for common species of reptile.</p>
Other notable species	<p>One record of otter 1.8km north-east of Site.</p> <p>There are no watercourses within the Site. In addition, the Site does not provide suitable terrestrial habitat for otter. Therefore, otter have been scoped out of requiring further assessment and are not considered further within this report.</p>

## 4 Impacts And Mitigation

### 4.1 Designated Sites

Given their distance from the Site and the small scale of the proposed development, no impacts are predicted to affect designated sites and they are not considered further in this report.

### 4.2 Habitats and Flora

#### 4.2.1 Trees

T6 and Tree Group G7 on the western boundary will be lost to facilitate the development. To compensate for the loss of trees, a number of new trees will be planted throughout the development. These will comprise native species and/or varieties of native species including small-leaved lime, rowan, horse chestnut, silver birch, field maple 'streetwise', alder and wild cherry.

#### 4.2.2 Bramble scrub

Although the majority of the bramble scrub will be retained and protected as part of the development, the southern edge of the scrub (including three mature trees) will be lost. Root Protection Areas (RPAs) will be established around retained scrub in line with BS5837:2012 and will be clearly marked out with through the use of Heras fencing (or similar). Due to the negligible intrinsic ecological value of the bramble scrub, specific compensation is not required.

### 4.3 Fauna

#### 4.3.1 Bats

A sensitive lighting scheme will be developed for the construction and operational phases of the development by a lighting professional, with input from an ecologist. The lighting scheme will be designed to ensure no light is directed onto sensitive habitats, including hedgerow and scrub, or bat and bird boxes. Furthermore, dark corridors (<0.5 lux) will be maintained along the boundary vegetation of the Site. Principles of the sensitive lighting scheme are outlined below and are in line with best practice

guidance (Bat Conservation Trust and Institute of Lighting Professional (ILP) guidance GN08/23 – Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night (ILP, 2023)).

During the construction phase, the following mitigation will be implemented:

- 👉 All works will be undertaken during normal working daylight hours. No artificial lighting will be left on at the site outside of normal working hours;
- 👉 Where security lighting is required, it is recommended that these are motion-activated with hooded luminaires, and these must be directed away from vegetated boundaries and trees; and
- 👉 If the schedule of works needs to be amended to include the use of lighting that is not in line with the recommendations above, then an ecologist will be consulted prior to lighting being installed on-site.

During the operational phase, external lighting mitigation options include:

- 👉 Luminaires will not be directed at sensitive habitats, boundary vegetation or onto bat and bird boxes. Where required, lights can be fitted with hoods, baffles or louvres to reduce back-spill;
- 👉 Only luminaires with an upward light ratio of 0% will be used, and low-level bollard lighting will be used where feasible to retain darkness above the luminaire;
- 👉 All external luminaires used on site will lack UV elements and will be warm-white coloured (ideally <2700 Kelvin) to reduce blue-light components;
- 👉 LED luminaires will be used due to their sharp cut-off, lower intensity, good colour retention and dimming capability;
- 👉 Where security lighting is installed this will be motion-activated; and
- 👉 For street lighting consider part night lighting and/or dimming.

#### 4.3.2 *Birds*

There is a risk of disturbing breeding birds and their nests with tree and scrub removal during construction. In order to avoid impacts to breeding birds, woody vegetation is to be removed outside of nesting bird season (generally considered to be from March to August inclusive) or with a pre-works check by a competent person. Any active nest must be retained and buffered until all chicks have fledged.

#### 4.3.3 *Reptiles*

All ground-level vegetation clearance should be undertaken in a directional manner towards areas of suitable retained habitat on warm dry days when temperatures are over 10°C to allow any individuals present to move out of harms away.

#### 4.3.4 *Other wildlife*

To protect fauna such as hedgehogs that may cross the Site at night, all excavations created during construction are to be covered overnight or a means of escape provided such as a ramp. In addition, any features with potential to support hedgehog will be removed sensitively either by a check prior to removal, or by sensitive removal to ground level to allow a visual check for hedgehog. If a hedgehog is found at any point during construction works then works must stop immediately and an ecologist contacted in the first instance.


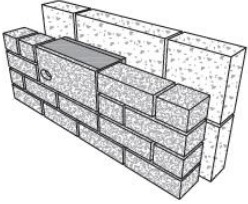

## 5 Enhancements

The following habitat creation measures will be implemented to enhance the ecological value of the Site:



- 👉 New areas of wildflower grassland achieved through the sowing of ‘WFG18 Butterfly and Honeybee’ and ‘RE3 River Floodplain/Water Meadow’ seed mixes;
- 👉 New stretches of native species-rich hedgerow along the northern and western boundaries. Species comprise field maple, hazel, hawthorn, holly, blackthorn, dog rose and elder; and
- 👉 New rain gardens and areas of wildlife-friendly shrub planting which include species from the Royal Horticultural Society’s ‘Plants for Pollinators – Garden Plants’<sup>1</sup> document, such as Guelder rose, Hebe sp. and shrubby cinquefoil.

In addition, the enhancement features detailed in **Table 2** are recommended. Locations are shown in **Figure 2**.

**Table 2: Enhancement Features**

Quantity & Type	Illustrations	Description & Installation
4 no. integrated bird nest box	 <p>WoodStone Build-in Swift Nest Deep (<a href="http://nhbs.com">nhbs.com</a>)</p>  <p>Installation – integral nestbox installed in outer leaf of brickwork in a traditional cavity wall construction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>👉 Fully integrated boxes to be built into the fabric of the building.</li> <li>👉 Suitable models include the PRO UK Rendered Build-in Swift Box or the WoodStone Build-in Swift Nest Box Deep which can be chosen to suit the finishing of the building. Suppliers include <a href="http://www.nhbs.com">www.nhbs.com</a> and <a href="http://www.wildcare.co.uk">www.wildcare.co.uk</a>.</li> <li>👉 Swift boxes are recommended as they are considered a universal box suitable not only for swifts but also for house sparrows and other small birds (CIEEM, 2021).</li> <li>👉 Install at the highest point of the building, ideally at least 5m above ground level.</li> <li>👉 To be sited under the shelter of eaves or overhanging roofs where possible.</li> <li>👉 Entrance out of direct sun and the prevailing weather and away from perches/ledges where birds are at risk from predators.</li> </ul> <p>See <a href="http://swift-conservation.org">swift-conservation.org</a> for additional advice.</p>
4 no. integrated bat boxes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>👉 Fully integrated boxes to be built into the fabric of the building. Install within the cavity of house walls. The entrance hole can sit flush to a course of bricks.</li> <li>👉 Suitable models include the Vivaro Pro Build-in Woodstone Bat Tube,</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Available at: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators>

Quantity & Type	Illustrations	Description & Installation
	<p>Vivaro Pro Build-in Woodstone Bat Box and Habibat Bat Box</p>  <p>Installation</p>	<p>Habibat Bat Box or similar approved which can be chosen to suit the finishing of the building. Suppliers include <a href="http://www.nhbs.com">www.nhbs.com</a> and <a href="http://www.wildcare.co.uk">www.wildcare.co.uk</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ Position a minimum of 3m above the ground.</li> <li>✎ Locate where there is a clear, unlit flight path for bats to linear vegetation (e.g. hedgerows) and away from windows.</li> </ul> <p>Install away from any lighting.</p>
<p>2 no. bee bricks</p>	 <p>Bee Brick - (<a href="http://Greenandbluebuild">Greenandbluebuild</a>)</p> <p>Bee brick incorporated into an external wall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✎ Fully integrated bee brick to be positioned within a southerly elevation, in a location that receives part or full sun.</li> <li>✎ Place at a minimum height of 1m above ground level.</li> <li>✎ Boxes should ideally face garden or other vegetated habitats but not be obscured by vegetation.</li> </ul> <p>Available in different colours to match building materials from suppliers such as <a href="http://www.nhbs.com">www.nhbs.com</a> and <a href="http://www.wildcare.co.uk">www.wildcare.co.uk</a>.</p>

## 6 Conclusions

In summary the Site was considered to be of relatively low ecological interest, with minimal adverse impacts predicted on important ecological features.

Avoidance measures and careful timing of works have been incorporated into the design to minimise impacts to protected and notable species; and habitat creation has been included to compensate for habitat loss. These are illustrated in **Figure 2**.

Provided the avoidance and mitigation measures are carried out, the proposal is considered unlikely to have significant adverse effects on ecological features.

Enhancement features have been described with the aim of providing an increase in wildlife opportunities on Site post-development, contributing to the aims of Planning Policy Wales and local policy.



## 7 References

BSI (2012) *BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Recommendations*. British Standards Institution, London, UK.

CIEEM (2021) *Swift Bricks: The 'Universal' Nest Brick – by Dick Newell*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester, UK.

RHS (2019) *RHS Plants for Pollinators*. Available from: [www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators](http://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators). Accessed 30/05/2024.

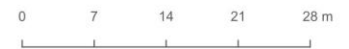
UKHab Ltd (2023) *UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0* <https://www.ukhab.org>





**Key:**

- Site Boundary
- 73 - Bare ground
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3d - Bramble scrub
- u1b - Developed land. sealed surface
- Urban Tree (Broadleaved)
- Horsetail



Map data ©2024 Google

**Figure 1:**  
UK Habitat Classification Survey and Protected Species Findings

**Project:**  
Aneurin Labour Club, Caerphilly

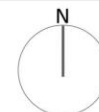
**Client:**  
Castell Group

**Date:**  
21/6/2024

**Drawn:**  
RY

**Ref:**  
2352-ECIA-F1

**Revision:**  
-



In order to avoid impacts to breeding birds, woody vegetation is to be removed outside of nesting bird season (generally considered to be from March to August inclusive) or with a pre-works check by a competent person. Any active nest must be retained and buffered until all chicks have fledged. All ground-level vegetation clearance should be undertaken in a directional manner on warm dry days when temperatures are over 10°C to allow any individual reptiles present to move out of harms away.

Root Protection Areas (RPAs) will be established around retained scrub in line with BS5837:2012 and will be clearly marked out through the use of Heras fencing (or similar).

Creation of native species-rich hedgerows, wildflower grassland, rain garden and wildlife-friendly shrub planting.

Compensatory tree planting (15 no.).

- Key:**
-  Bee Bricks
  -  Integral Bat Box
  -  Integral Bird Box

- 1 No. *Alnus glutinosa*
- 1 No. *Aesculus hippocastanum*
- 1 No. *Sorbus aria*
- Rain garden mix 2
- 42 No. *Aschemilla mollis* 30%
- 34 No. *Deschampsia cespitosa* 30%
- 56 No. *Geranium Rozanne* 40%
- 33 No. *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle'
- Rain garden mix 1
- 31 No. *Bergenia cordifolia* 30%
- 31 No. *Hemerocallis* 'Red Rum' 30%
- 34 No. *Juncus effusus* 40%
- 1 No. *Sorbus aria*
- 1 No. *Acer platanoides* 'Emerald Queen'
- Rain garden mix 1
- 32 No. *Bergenia cordifolia* 30%
- 32 No. *Hemerocallis* 'Red Rum' 30%
- 36 No. *Juncus effusus* 40%
- 2 No. *Ceroidophyllum japonicum*
- Rain Garden Mix 3
- 136 No. *Ajuga reptans* 25%



**Figure 2:** Enhancements and Mitigation

**Project:**  
Aneurin Labour Club

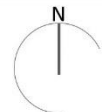
**Client:**  
Castell group

**Date:**  
7/6/2024

**Drawn:**  
RY

**Ref:**  
2352-EclA-F2

**Revision:**  
-





## Appendix 1 – General Glossary of Terms

Annex I	Threatened bird listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive/ Habitats listed on Annex I of the EC Habitats Directive
Annex II	Species of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of SACs
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BMCL	Bat Mitigation Class Licence
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
BoCC	Bird of Conservation Concern
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CWS	County Wildlife Site
DBW	Daytime Bat Walkover
EPS	European Protected Species
GLTA	Ground Level Tree Assessment
HPI	Habitat of Principal Importance required under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006
HSI	Habitat Suitability Index
IRZ	Impact Risk Zone
GCN	Great crested newt
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LEMP	Landscape and Ecology Management Plan
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
NBW	Night-time Bat Walkover
NERC Act	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NVA	Night Vision Aid
NVC	National Vegetation Classification Survey
OSWI	Other Site of Wildlife Interest
pCWS	Potential County Wildlife Site
PRA	Preliminary Roost Assessment
PRF	Potential Roost Feature



Ramsar	A wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPI	Species of Principal Importance required under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
UWS	Unconfirmed Wildlife Site
WCA	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(as amended)
ZOI	Zone of Influence

## Appendix 2 – Planning Policy and Legislation

### Habitat and Species Legislation

Species and habitats receive legal protection in the UK under various legislation, including:

- 👉 The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended);
- 👉 The Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended);
- 👉 The Countryside Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000;
- 👉 The Hedgerows Regulations 1997;
- 👉 The Protection of Badgers Act 1992; and
- 👉 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

Where relevant, this report takes into account the legislative protection afforded to specific habitats and species.

### The Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Part 1 – Section 6 of The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 sets out requirements and duties for the Welsh Government and other public authorities to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems. The duty places biodiversity as a natural and integral part of policy and decision making within public authorities.

The Policies are designed to:

- 👉 Maintain and enhance the natural environment through managing land appropriately to create healthy functioning ecosystems;
- 👉 Increase awareness of the importance of a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems;
- 👉 Support ecological resilience, making the environment healthier for wildlife and people; and
- 👉 Be adaptive to a changing environment where there is a need to use resources efficiently.

### Planning Policy Wales

Planning Policy Wales (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 primary objective of PPW is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, as required by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and other key legislation and resultant duties.

Noteworthy policies relating to ecology and biodiversity are as follows:

- 👉 **Green Infrastructure** – an emphasis is placed on taking a proactive approach to green infrastructure including cross-boundary considerations;
- 👉 **Net Benefit for Biodiversity and the Step-wise Approach** - a strong focus is placed on securing a net benefit for biodiversity through the application of the step-wise approach utilising the DECCA framework, including the acknowledgement of off-site compensation measures as a last resort, and the need to consider enhancement and long-term management at each step;
- 👉 **Non-statutory designations** - Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, Local Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves, and Regionally Importance Geodiversity Sites make a vital contribution to delivering an

ecological network for biodiversity and resilient ecosystems, and they should be given protection in development plans and the development management process; and

- 👉 **Protected species**- The presence of a species protected under European or UK legislation, or under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 is a material consideration in the planning process and it is considered best practice that screening to determine the presence of protected species should be carried out by a competent ecologist on the basis of data provided by the relevant Local Environmental Record Centre.

### **Regional/ Local Planning Policy**

The Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan 2010 was adopted in November 2010. The Plan provides a framework for local decision-making and brings together both development and conservation interests to ensure that any changes in the use of land are coherent and provides maximum benefits to the community. It contains the following relevant policies:

- 👉 SP10 – Conservation of Natural Heritage
- 👉 CW4 – Natural Heritage Protection
- 👉 CW5 – Protection of the Water Environment
- 👉 CW6 – Trees, Woodland and Hedgerow Protection




### **UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework**

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) was succeeded in 2012 by the ‘UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework’ which demonstrates a whole-environment strategy on how the UK contributes to achieving the Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The former UK BAP was used to draw up lists of species and habitats of ‘principal importance’ which continue to be regarded as priorities under the Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework and are identified under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006; these species have been considered throughout this report.



### **Local Biodiversity Action Plan**

Caerphilly county borough's BAP seeks to involve all organisations and individuals whose activities, whether in town or countryside, impact upon biodiversity. It places a particular focus on collaboration, forming partnerships and agreeing courses of action to ensure that biodiversity targets can be met.

### Appendix 3 – Habitat detail and photographs

Description	Photograph
<p>Developed land; sealed surface</p>	
<p><b>Bramble scrub</b></p> <p>This scrub was dominated by bramble which accounted for c.80% of the scrub, with small amounts of hawthorn, willow, hazel, birch, laurel and elder also present. The area was dense with no glades or rides present. Some evidence of regeneration was present with a small number of seedlings along with younger saplings and mature trees. Ground flora was limited, with extensive bare earth throughout. The margins to the scrub were structurally poor, with the scrub immediately abutting modified grassland and developed land; sealed surface.</p>	
<p><b>Boundary trees.</b></p> <p>Trees situated on the western boundary. Species comprise hawthorn and willow, with dead elder specimens also present.</p>	



<b>Description</b>	<b>Photograph</b>
<p>Modified grassland.</p> <p>A short, uniform sward is present throughout. Areas of bare earth associated with poaching are also present. Dominant species included perennial rye-grass, dock, creeping buttercup, nettle, hogweed, red fescue and dandelion.</p>	
<p>Off-site horsetail establishing beyond southern boundary.</p>	

## Appendix 4 – List of Mentioned Flora and Fauna

### Flora

Common name	Scientific name	Recorded on Site?
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	✓
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	✓
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	✓
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	✓
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>	✓
Dock	<i>Rumex agg.</i>	✓
Dog-rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	✓
Field Horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	✓
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	
Guelder-rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	✓
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	✓
Hebe	<i>Hebe sp.</i>	
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	✓
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	
Horse-chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	
Perennial Rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	✓
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra agg.</i>	✓
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	
Shrubby cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	✓
Small-leaved Lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	
Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	
Willow	<i>Salix sp.</i>	✓

### Fauna

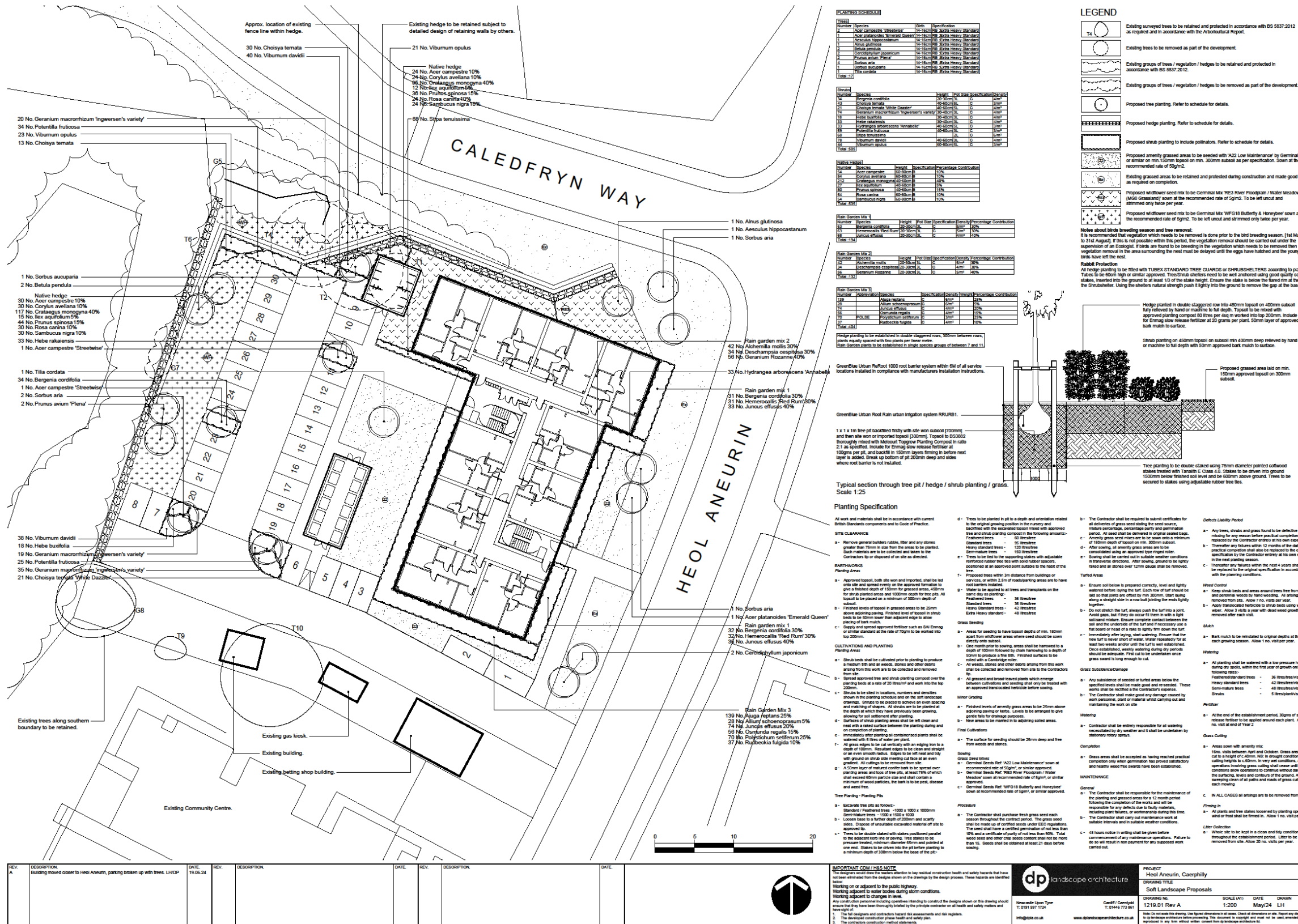
Common name	Scientific name	Recorded on Site?
Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>	
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	
Buff-tailed bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	✓
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	
Common toad	<i>Bufo Bufo</i>	
Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	
Dusky thorn	<i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>	
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓
Grass snake	<i>Natrix helvetica</i>	
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	✓
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	



Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	✓
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	✓
Marsh fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>	
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	
Slow worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	
Small heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	
Small pearl-bordered fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>	
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	
Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓



Appendix 5 – Soft Landscape Proposals



REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
A	Building moved closer to Heol Aneurin, parking broken up with trees. L14/07	19.06.24						

IMPORTANT COMMS MESSAGE	
The drawings were prepared in accordance with the Health and Safety Regulations 1974 and the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. The drawings are intended for use by the contractor and are not to be used for any other purpose without the written consent of the architect.	

PROJECT	
PROJECT	Heol Aneurin, Caerphilly
DRAWING TITLE	Soft Landscape Proposals
DATE	12/10/21
SCALE	1:200
DATE	May/24
CHKD	DP
DRWN	DP

Website: [www.ge-consulting.co.uk](http://www.ge-consulting.co.uk)  
Phone: 01647 253652  
Email: [info@ge-consulting.co.uk](mailto:info@ge-consulting.co.uk)

GE Consulting is a trading name for  
GE Consulting Services (UK) Ltd  
registered number 08435536

Registered office: Unit 11A, Gidleys  
Meadow Business Park, Christow,  
Devon, EX6 7QB.  
VAT Number 160595992

Ecology  
Arboriculture  
Land Management

