LLANHARAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Trenos and Ewenni Crossings Project Committee (TEC) held by remote attendance at 7.00pm on Tuesday 2nd June 2026

The meeting was held in accordance with:
The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

Present:
Councillors Chris Parker (Chair), Rhys Jenkins, Mark Steer, Robert Smith, Nick Richards, David Evans.

Apologies: Cllrs: Will Thomas, Janine Turner,

Absent: Cllr Andrew Morgan

Clerk to the Council: Leigh Smith.

TEC2026/040 Welcome and Apologies
The Chair welcomed all attendees.

a) RESOLVED
That the reason proffered with Cllr Will Thomas' apology for absence be accepted as a valid reason for absence.

b) RESOLVED
That the reason proffered with Cllr Janine Turner's apology for absence be accepted as a valid reason for absence.

TEC2026/041 disclosures of personal and/or prejudicial interests from members in accordance with the Code of Conduct.
None.

TEC2026/042 Minutes of TEC Committee meeting 5th May 2026
RESOLVED
To approve the minutes of the TEC Committee meeting held on 5th May 2026 as a true and accurate record.

TEC2026/043 Public Speaking
None.

TEC2026/044 Correspondence
None

TEC2026/045 TEC Committee Action Plan
Noted.

TEC2026/046 Reports or recommendations from the Trenos Crossing and Ewenny Bridge Working Group
None.

TEC2026/047 Results of the initial ecological survey carried out by Soltys Brewster.
Noted.

TEC2026/048 Project plan and budget tracker
Project tracker noted. Updated budget tracker not provided.

TEC2026/049 Risk Register
Noted.

TEC2026/050 Review of the Council's decision matrix and to consider aspects of the project to be included in any tender pack/work instructions.

RESOLVED
To accept the document provided to the meeting as "Appendix 8" as the revised Decision-making matrix. Its contents to be built into any draft tender proposal.

TEC2026/051 To note 'decisions made tracker' and 'decisions required. Log' and to consider the decisions required
Not provided.

TEC2026/052 Urgent Information or Suggestions for Future Agenda Items
None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.30pm

Date of next scheduled meeting: 2nd June 2026

Councillor Chris Parker

Chair of the Trenos and Ewenni Crossings Project Committee

LLANHARAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Trenos and Ewenni Crossings Project Committee (TEC) held by remote attendance at 7.00pm on Tuesday 5th May 2026

The meeting was held in accordance with:
The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

Present:
Councillors Chris Parker (Chair), Rhys Jenkins, Mark Steer, Neil Feist, Robert Smith, Nick Richards, David Evans.

Apologies: Cllrs: Will Thomas, Janine Turner, Andrew Morgan.

Absent: None.

Burroughs Project Manager: Ryan James.

Members of the public: 0

Clerk to the Council: Leigh Smith.

TEC2026/025 Welcome and Apologies
The Chair welcomed all attendees.

a) RESOLVED
That the reason proffered with Cllr Will Thomas' apology for absence be accepted as a valid reason for absence.

b) RESOLVED

That the reason proffered with Cllr Janine Turner's apology for absence be accepted as a valid reason for absence.

c) ***RESOLVED***

That the reason proffered with Cllr Andrew Morgan's apology for absence be accepted as a valid reason for absence.

TEC2026/026 disclosures of personal and/or prejudicial interests from members in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Cllr Neil Feist declared a general personal interest being a member of Cycling UK.

TEC2026/027 Minutes of TEC Committee meeting 2nd April 2026

RESOLVED

To approve the minutes of the TEC Committee meeting held on 2nd April 2026 as a true and accurate record.

TEC2026/028 Public Speaking

None.

TEC2026/029 Correspondence

None

TEC2026/030 TEC Committee Action Plan

Noted.

TEC2026/031 Reports or recommendations from the Trenos Crossing and Ewenny Bridge Working Group

None.

TEC2026/032 Results of the initial ecological survey carried out by Soltys Brewster.

Not provided, only being in rough draft form currently.

TEC2026/033 Project plan and budget tracker
Project tracker noted. Updated budget tracker not provided.

TEC2026/034 Risk Register
Noted.

TEC2026/035 Review of the Council's decision matrix and to consider aspects of the project to be included in any tender pack/work instructions.

RESOLVED
Deferred to a future meeting of the Committee to allow further development of the matrix.

TEC2026/036 To note 'decisions made tracker' and 'decisions required. Log' and to consider the decisions required
Not provided.

TEC2026/037 Draft tender pack provided by Burroughs
Not provided.

TEC2026/038 To consider the Stakeholder engagement strategy for the project.

RESOLVED
To adopt the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy as provided in Appendix 12 to the meeting, subject to future alteration as time and circumstances demand.

TEC2026/039 Urgent Information or Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

For the updated decision matrix to be considered at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm

Date of next scheduled meeting: TBD

Councillor Chris Parker

Chair of the Trenos and Ewenni Crossings Project Committee

From: Mark Steer
To: Leigh Smith. The Clerk. Llanharan Community Council
Subject: TEC Decision making Matrix
Date: 12 May 2026 17:05:29

Hi Leigh,
It looks like suggestion to switch to 'incognito' works!

My comments on Decision making Matrix:
Item 1 - I'm not sure mounting/dismounting aides are necessary as the bridge will presumably be fairly flat and not that long
Item 8 - for bridleway designation minimum width is 1.8m. In order to minimise further damage to Violet Oil Beetle (VOB) habitat width between the 2 bridges should be kept to minimum acceptable.
Provision of a temporary bridge over the Ewenni Fach does not seem practicable.
During construction work on the new bridge a Temporary Closure Order will be required.
Inevitably pedestrians and cyclist will veer off of the proposed new route in a 'straight line'.
North side path provision of a separate , more direct and narrower route would be difficult to achieve without encroaching on the surrounding habitat.
Path to Bryncae Community Centre - this route is in a straight line and it is unlikely that pedestrians would veer off from it.
Need to consider closeness to the Net Work Rail fence line and provision of screening from passing trains.
Item 9 - small tributary stream alongside northern path WTSWW have suggested that felled trees might provide to fortify western bank
Item 14 - it is unlikely that Network Rail would access over their bridge for equipment and materials. Also movements of these over the VOB habitat should be avoided.
Item 16 - A Temporary Closure Order will be necessary. Provision of a temporary bridge for pedestrians over the Ewenni Fach would seem impracticable either upstream or downstream of the existing bridge. It would also incur extra cost.
Other factors - gates are not necessary on PROWs and may be considered illegal obstructions unless used for stock control. WTSWW's view should be taken.

Regards,
Mark

Llanharan Community Council Action Plan TEC 28/5/26

Action no	Date added	Category	From	Action	Notes	Status2	Owner
TEC2025/202b)	27/06/2025	TEC	TEC	TEC2025/020 Parameters (scope) and process to be used in the procurement process to obtain a project manager for the project. b) RESOLVED To form a task and finish working group to assess and score the tenders, following the closing of the deadline and the opening of the tenders in line with the Council's Financial Regulations. The working group to make a recommendation to the TEC Committee on whom to award the tender. The members of the working group to comprise Cllrs Claire Morgan, Robert Smith, Chris Parker and the Clerk.	To be actioned once tender mailbox opened. Completed.	Completed	LS
TEC2026/010	13/02/2026	TEC	TEC	TEC2026/010 Quotations for initial ecological works RESOLVED To select the quotation from 'Soltys Brewster' for initial ecology work given that this is the recommendation of Burroughs, the quotation and specification providing the best balance of cost vs scope, including key baseline work required without committing to a bigger upfront package. To authorise the officers to spend up to £2,880 accordingly.	Burroughs informed - Feb 26	Completed	LS
Note	03/04/2026	TEC	TEC	The Clerk has formally accepted Burrough's price uplift of £2,472.25 to include all paths in its scope. Done under delegated authority conferred by TEC2025/037		Noted	NA
TEC2026/022	03/04/2026	TEC	TEC	TEC2026/022 To consider the procurement strategy for the project. RESOLVED To adopt the following procurement strategy following the recommendations of Burroughs. Works Packaging: Single works package Procurement Route: Two-stage Design and Build Tendering Procedure: Open Procedure Pricing Mechanism: Two-stage approach with initial fixed price for bridge structure, followed by agreement of final contract price post - PCSA Form of Contract: Pre-Construction Services Agreement followed by NEC4 Engineering and Construction Contract (Option A or Option C to be confirmed).	Write to Burroughs to formally accept their recommendation.	completed	LS

TEC2026/022	03/04/2026	TEC	TEC	2026/116 Resolutions and recommendations of the TEC Committee held on 2nd April 2026 TEC2026/022 To consider the procurement strategy for the project. RESOLVED To adopt the following procurement strategy following the recommendations of Burroughs. Works Packaging: Single works package Procurement Route: Two-stage Design and Build Tendering Procedure: Open Procedure Pricing Mechanism: Two-stage approach with initial fixed price for bridge structure, followed by agreement of final contract price post - PCSA Form of Contract: Pre-Construction Services Agreement followed by NEC4 Engineering and Construction Contract (Option A or Option C to be confirmed).		Noted	NA
TEC2026/023	03/04/2026	TEC	TEC	TEC2026/023 Next Steps Noted. For a future meeting to consider aspects of the council's existing decision-making matrix and other factors to be included in a future tender and for the Council to decide on the appropriate mechanism to issue a tender in consultation with Burroughs.	And stakeholder management	Noted	NA
TEC2026/023	03/04/2026	TEC	TEC	2026/116 Resolutions and recommendations of the TEC Committee held on 2nd April 2026 TEC2026/023 Next Steps Noted. For a future meeting to consider aspects of the council's existing decision-making matrix and other factors to be included in a future tender and for the Council to decide on the appropriate mechanism to issue a tender in consultation with Burroughs.	On agenda for May 26. Reviewed by The Clerk and Burroughs. On agenda for June 26	Completed	LS
TEC2026/038	21/05/2026	TEC	TEC	TEC2026/038 To consider the Stakeholder engagement strategy for the project. RESOLVED To adopt the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy as provided in Appendix 12 to the meeting, subject to future alteration as time and circumstances demand.	Implement the adopted Stakeholder Engagement Strategy for the Trenos-Ewenni Crossing project, subject to future alteration as needed. Send to all stakeholders and arrange first meeting		LS

EWENNI FOOTBRIDGE AND MULTI-USER FOOTPATH

BRYNNA

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

APRIL 2026

CIEEM REGISTERED PRACTICE 2026-2027

soltysbrewster ECOLOGY

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LLANHARAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

EWENNI FACH FOOTBRIDGE, BRYNNA

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

DOCUMENT REF: E26140401/DOC April 2026

Issue	Revision	Stage	Date	Prepared by	Approved by	Signed
1		Draft for client review	28/04/2026	Naomi Bloom Assistant Ecologist	Dr Matthew Watts Director	M. WATTS
2		For Submission	18/05/2026	Naomi Bloom Assistant Ecologist	Dr Matthew Watts Director	

CONTENTS

SUMMARY

Soltys Brewster were commissioned by Burroughs on behalf of Llanharan Community Council to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of areas surrounding an approx. 300 m footpath starting at the west of Brynna woods, crossing the Ewenni Fach stream and the railway line and exiting adjacent to Powell Drive, Bryncae. The proposed development is to widen the current footpath and replace the current footbridge creating a multi-user route. A desk study and Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey was undertaken in April 2026 to establish the current baseline ecological conditions and identify any constraints or opportunities associated with the proposal.

Desk based consultation and review of the LDP confirmed that part of the site, to the north of the railway line was situated within the Llanharan Marsh/ Brynna Woods/ Jubilee Marsh Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, designated as such for the habitats within the area such as wet woodland, marshy grassland, semi-natural woodland. Several areas of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) were also noted from the desk study, one of which was found to the east of the northern section of the current path. Additionally, the areas of Llanharan Marsh and Brynna Woods are also designated ss a wildlife trust reserve. As part of the site is situated within the SINC it falls within the zone of influence and as such appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures will be required to protect the areas during construction. The desk study also returned a list of records for protected or priority species within 1km of the application site. This included records of foraging/commuting bat species (6no), an extensive list of bird species, a large number of Violet Oil Beetle records, several records for Great Crested Newt and Dormouse and a small number of records for Otter. No records of Badger were returned within the 1km search radius.

An Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey undertaken in April identified a number of habitats present throughout the proposed development area that included, semi-natural broadleaved woodland, dense scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland, poor semi-improved grassland, amenity grassland and the Ewenni Fach stream. The semi-natural broadleaved woodland and scrub have the potential to support protected/priority species such as bats, nesting birds and Hazel Dormouse, with the woodland, scrub and semi-improved grassland having the potential to support species such as common reptiles. Additionally, these habitats are also considered suitable for occasional use by foraging/commuting badger and provide good connectivity therefore they cannot be excluded. It was also noted that the semi-improved neutral grassland was known to support the Violet Oil Beetle.

Six semi-mature/mature trees were identified as having low (PRF I) and moderate (PRF M) potential to support roosing bats. Under the current proposal some of these would be removed therefore further survey work will be required if trees with moderate potential are to be removed, for trees assessed as low potential a soft felling approach is recommended. Linear habitats throughout the site should be maintained as dark corridors for bats and other nocturnal wildlife – there is currently no intention to include lighting as part of the path improvement works.

Other mitigation and enhancement measures will also be provided as part of the development at the site, these include a sensitive approach to tall ruderal and grassland clearance to minimise risks to reptiles and amphibians that may be present, replacement tree planning of native species at a ratio of 3:1, the installation of bird and bat boxes on retained trees within the woodland, creation of hibernacula, removal and control of invasive species and enhancement of the semi-improved neutral grassland management.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Soltys Brewster Ecology (SBE) were commissioned by Burroughs on behalf of Llanharan Community Council to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of areas surrounding the current footpath which extends from the west of Brynna woods at 'The Green' housing estate, continues east then south over the railway line and then east to Powell Drive in Bryncae, a total length of approx. 300m, central grid ref SS 98578 82946. It is understood that the proposed development is to create a multi -user route which will include the widening of the current footpath to approx. 3m and replacement of the current footbridge over the Ewenni Fach stream.

1.2 The proposed area for development consists of amenity grassland, tall ruderal, dense scrub and poor semi-improved grassland to the south of the railway line and semi-improved neutral grassland, dense scrub, the Ewenni Fach stream and semi-natural broadleaved woodland to the north of the railway line. A plan indicating the path and footbridge concerned is included in Appendix I.

1.3 The current report presents the findings of a desk study and Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey undertaken at the proposed site April 2026. The report describes the existing ecological conditions at the site and identifies any potential ecological constraints or opportunities associated with the proposed development.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 In order to establish the baseline ecological condition at the proposed site a combination of desk-based consultation and Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey were undertaken in April 2026.

Desk Study

2.2 The desk study involved consultation with the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC) to identify any records of rare, protected or notable flora and fauna within a radius of 1km (extended to km for bats as the Bat Conservation Trust's good practice guidelines) extending from the central point of the site (Appendix II). The search criteria also included information relating to the location and citation details (where available) for any sites designated for their nature conservation interest such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). SEWBReC do not hold records of locally designated sites (SINCs) within Rhondda Cynon Taff and the adopted Local Development plan (LDP) was subject to a review for any such site which may be of ecological relevance to the proposed works.

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

2.3 The fieldwork was undertaken on 10th April 2026 by a suitably experienced ecologist and assistant[1] and followed standard Phase 1 Habitat Survey protocol (JNCC, 2010) as amended by the Institute of Environment Assessment (1995). All habitats within and immediately adjacent to the proposed site boundary were classified and mapped as accurately as possible. Habitats considered to have potential to support rare, protected or otherwise notable species of flora and fauna were noted, as were direct signs of these species (e.g. Eurasian Badger *Meles meles* setts and dung-pits). Incidental observations of birds flying over or within the site were also recorded and incidence of invasive weed species (e.g. Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica)* were noted.

2.4 A map of habitats was drawn up (Appendix III) and target notes were used to identify features of ecological interest. Where possible, habitats were cross-referenced to any relevant important UK or Wales priority habitats as identified under Section 7 of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016.

2.5 During the field survey any trees at the proposed site were assessed for their potential to support roosting bats and were categorised in relation to the bat roosting features (BCT, 2023). The categories are as follows:

[1] Full and Qualifying members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (CIEEM), with experience of habitat and protected species surveys

- **PRF-M** – Potential Roost Feature (PRF) is suitable for multiple bats and may therefore be used by a maternity colony;
- **PRF-I** – PRF is only suitable for individual bats or very small numbers due to their size or lack of suitable surrounding habitats;
- **Negligible** – Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats.

Survey Constraints

2.6 The survey was undertaken in April, outside of the main flowering season for plant species (May to August), however this did not constrain the broad classification and mapping of habitats on the site and is not considered a significant limitation, particularly given the limited scope of the improvement works (i.e. primarily widening of an existing footpath route).

3.0 RESULTS

Desk Study

SEWBReC Records

3.1 Consultation with SEWBReC confirmed that the application site does not hold any statutory designations for nature conservation. There is a single statutory designated site within 1km of the site Brynna a Wern Tarw SSSI which is approx. 483m to the west of the central point of the site. This site is designated for extensive areas of mixed, species rich lowland grassland including marshy and dry neutral grasslands. Given the nature of the proposed works, the SSSI was not considered of any ecological relevance.

3.2 The desk study of the adopted LDP identified that part of the application site is located within a non-statutory designated site, namely Llanharan Marsh/ Brynna Woods/ Jubilee Marsh which is designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). In total the SINC is approx. 44ha. Llanharan Marsh/Jubilee Marsh is designated for habitats such as marshy grassland, wet woodland and large stands of swamp with species such as Marsh Fritillary, a protected species under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended), Adder, Amphibians and wetland birds also part of the designation. Brynna Woods is designated for the mixed woodland areas and Hazel coppice that supports Dormouse and re-vegetated coal spoil that supports Dingy Skipper. Within this SINC is also found the Ewenni Fach stream in which can be found Brown Trout and also supports species such as Dipper, Grey Wagtail and Otter. In addition to the SINC the area of Brynna Woods and Llanharan Marsh are also designated as Wildlife Trust Reserve. Also identified within 1km radius of the site are several areas of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, one of which is located to the east of the current proposed works. In addition, the site is situated within B-lines Cymru. As the site is situated within a SINC the proposed development area is within its zone of influence, as such appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures will be required to protect these areas during the construction.

3.3 The desk study also revealed a number of protected/priority species records within the local area. This included foraging and commuting bats recorded within a 2km radius of the site, with species including Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, Soprano Pipistrelle *P. pygmaeus,* Brown Long-eared *Plecotus auritus*, Greater horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, Lesser Horseshoe *R. hipposideros* and Noctule *Nyctalus noctule*. There are no known recent or historic (> 10 years old) roosts found within 2 km of the application site.

3.4 No records of Badger *Meles meles* were returned in the desk study, however several other protected/priority listed mammals were identified. 16no records of Hazel Dormouse *Muscardinus avellanaruis* were returned all of which were located within Brynna Woods. 5no records of Otter *Lutra lutra* were identified with the majority

associated with the Ewenni Fach stream both to the east and the west of the proposed site, the closest record was 383m from the central point of the site and located to the south of the railway line. 1no record of Water vole *Arvicola amphibius* was identified during the desk study, approx. 1.3 km from the central point of the proposed work area to the south. 8no records of Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* were returned all of which were associated with gardens in the local residential areas. 2no records of Harvest mouse were identified from the desk study 1no approx. 313m south from the central point of the site and 1no approx. 677m east within the woodland.

3.5 23no records of Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus* were returned from the desk study all of which are located to the south of the site. 6no records of Adder *Vipera berus* were noted 1no of which was approx. 75m to the north of the pathway that is part of the proposed works. 8no Common Lizard *Zootoca vivipara* records were identified from the desk study 4no of which were within 200m and associated with the proposed development area. Other herpetofauna records include 7no Slow Worm *Anguis* fragilis, 2no Grass Snake *Natrix* Helvetica, 4no Palmate Newt *Lissotriton* helveticus, 1no Smooth Newt *L. vulgaris*, 7no Common Frog *Rana temporaria* and 2no Common Toad *Bufo bufo* however none were directly associated with the development area.

3.6 The desk study returned a large number of protected and priority listed bird records within 1km of the site. Those considered of ecological relevance include Red Kite *Milvus milvus*, Redwing *Turdus iliacus*, Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*, Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, Merlin *Falco columbarius*, Hobby *Falco Subbuteo*, Goshawk *Astur gentilis*, Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*, Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*, Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*, Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, Barn owl *Tyto alba*, Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*, which are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) and species such as Song Thrush *Turuds philomelos,* House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*, Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*, Dunnock *Prunella modularis*, Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, Skylark *Alauda arvensis*, Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*, Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*, Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis flammea cabaret*, Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*, Linnet *Linaria cannabina*, Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*, Lapwing *Vanellus Vanellus*, Tree Pipit *Anthus trivalis*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*, Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* that area listed as Priority species under Section 7 of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016.

3.7 A large number of invertebrate species records were found within 1km of the site including the Dingy Skipper *Erynnis tages* and the Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas Aurinia* both of which are cited in the SINC designation. The desk study also returned a large number of records for the Violet Oil Beetle *Meloe violaceus* listed as a priority

species under Section 7 of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 and directly associated with the proposed development areas.

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

3.8 The distribution and extent of habitat recorded in April 2026 at the surveyed area are illustrated on the Extended Phase Habitat plan with accompanying target notes I Appendix III. The area surveyed supports a range of habitats as described below. The indicative route of the proposed path improvement works has been identified on the habitat map and with the exception of the semi-improved grassland habitat, the route follows the existing bare ground/bare earth path through the woodland. It has not been separately mapped as bare ground due to scale (path width varies between 1 – 3m approximately and in the woodland and scrub areas, is enclosed by the tree canopy.

Amenity Grassland (map section 1)

3.9 An area of grassland located at the eastern end of the current path. It is proposed that the path will be diverted through the grassland to connect with the public right of way that is currently present. Adjacent to the grassland to the south is a car park consisting of hardstanding. The grassland stretches west from the public right of way off Powell Road and runs alongside a metal fence separating the area from the railway line and appears to undergo regular management as the sward is short, < 10cm. Species noted in this area include Common Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*, Common Daisy *Bellis perennis*, *Rumex sp.*, White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Spotted Medick *Medicago arabica*, Cocks foot grass *Dactylis glomerata*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Perennial Ryegrass *Lolium perenne*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Common Vetch *Vicia sativa*, Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys.* Species such as Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Willow *Salix sp.,* Buddleia *Buddleja davidii* and Birch *Betula* scrub were noted along the fence line.

Scattered Scrub/Tall Ruderal (map section 2)

3.10 The footpath here continues west from the edge of the car park. To the south of the path is wooden panel fencing which separates the path from privately owned areas and to the north the metal fencing previously described continues. To the north of the path there is scattered scrub and tall ruderal species these include Willow *Salix sp.,* Holly *Ilex aquifolium*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, Cocks Foot grass, *Agrostis sp.,* Greater Plantain *Plantago major*, Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, and Willowherb *Epilobium sp.* The widening of the path

would need to be to the north due to the presence of the wooden fencing to the south. Willow was noted to be overhanging the path and would need to be cut back, no PRFs were noted within these trees therefore they were assessed as negligible potential for roosting bats.

Dense Scrub (map sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9)

3.11 The dense scrub in these areas is predominantly found to the north of the path behind which is the continued metal fencing previously noted. In sections 3 and 9 the dense scrub can be found to the south also. The widening of the path from section 3 will be focussed to the south. Species found throughout all the indicated sections include Willow *Salix sp.,* Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Oak *Quercus sp.,* Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Dog Rose *Rosa conina,* Bramble, Buudleia and Himalayan honeysuckle *Leycesteria formosa* with understory species such as Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Common Dandelion, Ivy *Hedera helix*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Wild Strawberry *Fragaria* vesca, Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, Ground Ivy *Glechoma hederacea,* Cleavers *Galium aparine,* Oxeye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* and Enchanters Nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*. All trees adjacent to the north side of the path were assessed for roosting bat potential and found to be negligible.

Poor semi-improved grassland – seasonally wet (map sections 4, 5 and 6)

3.12 Poor semi-improved grassland areas were noted to the south of the path beyond which appeared to be scrub and broadleaved trees, however these were out of the scope of the survey. Species noted in these grasslands include several of those described previously in the amenity grassland with the addition of Silverweed *Argentina anserina* and several Hazel saplings (*section 4*), Perforate St John's-Wort *Hypericum perforatum*, Gorse *Ulex europaeus* and Hawthorn (*section 5*) and Hard rush *Juncus inflexus* (*section 5 and 6*).

Semi-improved neutral grassland (map section 8)

3.13 To the north of the railway line the path continues through a semi-improved neutral grassland situated at the edge of Brynna Woods. It is anticipated that the current path will need to be altered to mitigate the incline that it currently follows by extending the path to the west through the grassland. An area of Hawthorn, Bramble and Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* scrub was noted towards the centre of the grassland. Also within the grassland the presence of Himalayan Balsam was noted in several areas (TN3 in appendix III). Information received from a Wildlife Trust member indicated that this grassland was known habitat for the Violet Oil Beetle,

a priority species under Section 7 of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016, their presence in the area was also confirmed with records received from SEWBReC (section 3.7). Species noted within this grassland were Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, Cocks foot grass, Perennial rye grass, Red fescue, Common dandelion, Greater plantain, Ribwort plantain, Dock, Common mouse ear *Ceratium fontanum*, Ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, White clover, Creeping buttercup, Common Dog violet *Viola riviniana*, Self-heal *Prunella vulgaris*, Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Lesser celandine *Ficaria verna*, Spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, Greater stitchwort *Stellaria holostea* and Common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*.

Semi-natural broadleaved woodland (map sections 10, 12, 13 and 14)

3.14 The path continues north across the stream then north west until it meets the clearing when several paths converge, the path that is part of the proposal then continues west and exits within a residential area called 'The Green'. The predominant habitat type along this part of the route is semi-natural broadleaved woodland, however as the path continues west the presence of scrub increases, it is at the point of the wooden gate where the habitat changes from woodland to dense scrub. Tree species noted within the woodland consist of Alder, Ash, Oak, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Hawthorn and Hazel with undergrowth species such as Lesser celandine, Pendulous sedge *Carex pendula*, Wood anemone *Anemonoides nemorosa*, Ivy, Ground Ivy, Dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, Unidentified fern sp., Harts tongue fern *Asplenium scolopendrium*, Enchanters nightshade, Creeping cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*, Wood sedge *Carex sylvatica*, Primrose *Primula vulgaris*, Bramble, Bluebell, Currant *Ribes sp.* and Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*. Also noted to the east of the path near to the stream was a gated tunnel/mine entrance (TN7). 2no areas were highlighted as potential locations for a proposed compound to be used during the works, 1no situated to the north west of the footbridge (TN6) and 1no situated north/north west of the stream where several paths converge (TN11).

Running Water

3.15 The Ewenni Fach flows from east to west over which there is currently a metal footbridge which is to be replaced as part of the current proposed development. The stream itself is clear of debris and fast flowing with sparse vegetation along both the north and south banks in this area. It appears that the density of vegetation increases further up or down stream from the footbridge. The area is subjected to regular disturbance from pedestrians and dog walkers.

Dense scrub (map section 15)

3.16 As the path passes through the wooden gate and exits into the adjacent residential area the habitat noted here is dense scrub. The species here were Holly, Hawthorn, Willow, Bramble, Stinging nettle *Urtica dioica*, Willowherb, Herb Robert, Common vetch, Hard rush, Cleavers, Common elder *Sambucus nigra*, Privet *Ligustrum ovalifolium*, Garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata*, Sycamore saplings and Buddleia.

Invasive species

3.17 Several plant species listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)(as amended) were identified within the boundary of the proposed development this included Cotoneaster sp. and Hollyberry cotoneaster *Cotoneaster bullatus* noted within scrub (TN 1 & 2 in Appendix III), several patches of Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* within the semi-improved grassland (TN 3 in Appendix III) and *Rhododendron* sp. growing within scrub (TN 16 in Appendix III). These species are listed under Schedule 9, Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended), making it an offence to plant or otherwise encourage such species to grow in the wild.

Fauna

3.18 In the course of the survey, a search of field signs for protected or notable species was undertaken and the potential of the habitats to support those species considered. In the context of the report, those species meet any of the following criteria:

- Species protected by British or International law;
- Priority species included in Section 7 (Environment Act, Wales);
- Nationally rare or nationally scarce species;
- Species of Conservation Concern (e.g. JNCC Red List, RSPB/BTO Red/Amber Lists).

Badger

3.19 No evidence of Badger (including setts, guard hairs, latrines, or foraging signs) was recorded on site or within adjacent habitats during the survey. Furthermore, no records for Badger were returned within 1km of the site during the desk study. However, the dense scrub and semi-natural broadleaved woodland noted along the path of the proposed development is considered suitable habitat for badger and provides good connectivity to the wider area therefore, the occasional use of the area by Badger cannot be excluded.

Bats

3.20 The habitats present within the development area were considered suitable to support a range of foraging or commuting bat species, with the Ewenni Fach and linear habitat features such as woodland edges considered likely to provide connectivity for bats in the local area. Suitable habitat within the development area includes semi-natural broadleaved woodland and dense scrub.

3.21 During the survey 6no trees that contained PRFs were identified, of these 1no contained features considered suitable for use by multiple roosting bats and therefore identified as PRF- M (TN 13 see Appendix III). The remaining 5no trees contained features suitable for use by individual or small numbers of roosting bats and therefore were assessed as PRF-I (TN 4, 8, 9 & 10 see Appendix III). The trees that were identified as having PRFs were all located within the semi-natural broadleaved woodland. In addition to the assessed trees a gated tunnel/mine entrance was noted that will require further survey if impacted by the current proposed works.

Hazel Dormouse

3.22 Although no evidence of Hazel Dormice (e.g. Hazel nuts with characteristic signs of being gnawed by Dormouse) was identified at the time of the survey, the desk study revealed 16no records, the majority of which were within 600m of the development area, with the closest approx. 70m from the central point of the development area and to the west of the path proposed for development. The semi-natural broadleaved woodland and dense scrub across the site contained potential foraging resources (e.g. Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Sycamore and Bramble), nesting and hibernating opportunities across the Brynna Woods area. However, the likelihood of regular use by Dormice within the areas immediately alongside the existing part was low given the relatively open nature of the understorey vegetation and regular use by walkers, dog walkers etc.

Otter & Water Vole

3.23 A small number of records of Otter were returned from the desk study and were associated with areas to the south and south west of the site. The watercourse and semi-natural woodland were considered capable of supporting occasional use by foraging/commuting Otter.

3.24 A single record of Water vole was returned from the desk study 1.3km to the south associated with a well vegetated ditch, however the habitats within and adjacent to the site were not considered suitable to support this species and therefore will not be considered further in this report.

Birds

3.25 During the survey a number of birds were seen /heard at the proposed site including Blackbird *Turdus merula*, Robin *Erithacus rubecula*, Great Tit *Parus major*, Jay *Garrulus glandarius*, Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, Chiff Chaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*, Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, Magpie *Pica pica*, House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*, Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*, Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*, Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, Jackdaw *C. monedula* and Redwing *T. iliacus*. The assemblage of bird species observed were considered typical of the habitats present at the site and the surrounding area. Although no nesting was identified at the time of the survey, the dense scrub, broadleaved trees and semi-natural woodland were considered likely to support a variety of tree/scrub nesting bird species.

Great Crested Newt & Herpetofauna

3.26 Whilst a number of records of Great Crested Newt were returned in the desk study, they were associated with areas to the south of the site between 1 and 1.5 km which is out of the typical commuting distance of Great Crested Newt and is separated from the site by a major road. In addition, no suitable waterbodies were noted on site therefore it is considered unlikely that the areas within the proposed development would support Great Crested Newt population.

3.27 The areas of semi-natural woodland, scrub, tall ruderal and semi-improved grassland were considered suitable to support individual or small numbers of common reptile species (e.g. slow worm, common lizard or Grass Snake) as the mosaic of habitat provides cover/shelter and foraging opportunities and also provides connectivity to habitats in the surrounding area.

3.28 A pile of brash and small logs was located within the semi-natural broadleaved woodland to the south of the path (TN 12 see Appendix III) providing appropriate cover habitat and hibernation opportunities for reptiles using the site.

Violet Oil Beetle

3.29 The semi-improved grassland to the south of the Ewenni Fach at the edge of the semi-natural broadleaved woodland contains several herbaceous species, in particular Lesser celandine and Dandelion, grass tussocks and bare patches of earth all of which are considered suitable for supporting the Violet Oil beetle (Appendix IV). In addition, a large number of records were returned in the desk study suggesting the species is likely to be present within the development area.

4.0 POLICIES AND PLANS

4.1 The following local and national planning policy relating to nature conservation and biodiversity are considered of relevance to the site.

Planning Policy Wales (2024)

4.2 This document (Edition 12) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government with Chapter 6 dealing with Distinctive and Natural places which covers Biodiversity and Ecological Networks. The advice contained within PPW is supplemented for some subjects by Technical Advice Notes (TAN's), with TAN 5 addressing Nature Conservation.

4.3 TAN 5 identifies a number of key principles, which the town and country planning system in Wales should consider. Those relevant are detailed below:

- *Work to achieve nature conservation objectives through a partnership between local planning authorities, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), voluntary organisations, developers, landowners and other key stakeholders;*
- *Integrate nature conservation into all planning decisions looking for development to deliver social, economic and environmental objectives together over time;*
- *Ensure that the UK's international obligations for site, species and habitat protection are fully met in all planning decisions;*
- *Look for development to provide a net benefit for biodiversity conservation with no significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally;*
- *Promoting approaches to development which create new opportunities to enhance biodiversity, prevent biodiversity losses, or compensate for losses where damage is unavoidable. Minimising or reversing the fragmentation of habitats and improving habitat connectivity through the promotion of wildlife corridors;*
- *Local planning authorities should seek to protect trees, groups of trees and areas of woodland where they have natural heritage value or contribute to the character or amenity of a particular locality;*
- *The presence of a species protected under European or UK legislation is a material consideration when a local planning authority is considering a development proposal which, if carried out, would be likely to result in disturbance or harm to the species or its habitat.*

Updates to PPW Chapter 6: Distinctive and Natural Places (October 2023)

4.4 An updated version of PPW: Chapter 6 was published with immediate effect on 11th October 2023 in a published letter to Local Authorities from Julie James AS/MA – Minister for Climate Change. These changes have now been incorporated as part of the latest edition (February 2024) of PPW. The new guidance provides an update on Net Benefit for biodiversity and the Step-wise Approach, with extracts considered of relevance to the new development site provided below:

Maintaining and Enhancing Biodiversity.

4.5 Planning authorities must follow a stepwise approach to maintain and enhance biodiversity, build resilient ecological networks and deliver net benefits for biodiversity by ensuring that any adverse environmental effects are firstly avoided, then minimized, mitigated and as a last resort compensated for. Enhancement must be secured by delivering a biodiversity benefit primarily on site or immediately adjacent to the site, over and above that required to mitigate or compensate for any negative impact.

4.6 All development must deliver a net benefit for biodiversity and ecosystem resilience from the baseline state (proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed). Even if the biodiversity value has been maintained, there must still be a pro-active process to look for and secure enhancement through the design and implementation of the development.

Environment Act (Wales)2016

4.7 Part 1 of the Environment Act Wales came into force in May 2016 and sets out the approach to planning and managing natural resources at a national and local level with a general purpose linked to statutory 'principles of sustainable management of natural resources' defined within the Act.

Section 6 – Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty

4.8 Section 6 of the Act places a duty on public authorities to 'seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity' so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions. In so doing, public authorities must also seek to 'promote the resilience of ecosystems'.

Section 7 – Biodiversity lists and duty to take steps to maintain and enhance biodiversity

4.9 This section lists living organisms and types of habitat in Wales which are considered of key significance to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in relation to Wales. The Welsh Ministers are required to take all

reasonable steps to maintain and enhance the living organisms and types of habitat included in any list published under this section and encourage others to take such steps.

Local Planning Policy - Rhondda Cynon Taff

The Rhondda Cynon Taff Local Development Plan was adopted March 2011 and will guide future development and land use in the county until 2021.

Strategic Vision and Objectives:

The overall vision of the Rhondda Cynon Taf LDP is derived from the vision for Rhondda Cynon Taf outlined in 'Live. Grow. Aspire. Achieve', Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Strategy (2010 – 2020), which states that:

"*Rhondda Cynon Taf will be a County Borough of Opportunity. That means working together to enable individuals and communities to achieve their full potential, in terms of both their work and social life."*

Objective 7 of the RCT LDP states:

7. *Protect and enhance the glacial landscapes of the north, undulating countryside of south, important geological sites and the diverse and abundant wildlife habitats and native species that exist throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf.*

Area Wide Policies:

Policy AW 8 - Protection And Enhancement Of The Natural Environment Rhondda Cynon Taf's distinctive natural heritage will be preserved and enhanced by protecting it from inappropriate development. Development proposals will only be permitted where:-

1. They would not cause harm to the features of a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) or Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS) or other locally designated sites, unless it can be demonstrated that:-

a) The proposal is directly necessary for the positive management of the site; or

b) The proposal would not unacceptably impact on the features of the site for which it has been designated; or

c) The development could not reasonably be located elsewhere, and the benefits of the proposed development clearly outweigh the nature conservation value of the site.

2. There would be no unacceptable impact upon features of importance to landscape or nature conservation, including ecological networks, the quality of natural resources such as air, water and soil, and the natural drainage of surface water.

All development proposals, including those in built up areas, that may affect protected and priority species will be required to demonstrate what measures are proposed for the protection and management of the species and the mitigation and compensation of potential impacts. Development proposals must be accompanied by appropriate ecological surveys and appraisals, as requested by the Council. Development proposals that contribute to the management or development of Ecological Networks will be supported

Supplementary Planning Guidance:

The Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for Nature Conservation has been produced in conjunction with the LDP and provides additional information and guidance to support the policies.

Section 4.1.5 and 4.1.22 states that:

Development should not lead to the net loss of biodiversity, should protect ecosystem services and, where possible, contribute to biodiversity enhancement, in accordance with the policy principles in LDP policy AW8.

And Mitigation measures are those measures required to reduce to an acceptable level the impacts and implications of development on features, habitats or species of importance. Compensation measures are designed to offset any impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated. In certain circumstances, proposed mitigation and / or compensation may result in the development being considered acceptable. The extent of mitigation and compensation required will be specific to the proposal but could include the retention and long-term management of habitats and the provision of species-specific measures. The planning proposal may also be able to provide enhancement measures to actively benefit nature conservation. This could include positive management of, or providing connections to, adjacent habitats.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The combination of desk study and Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey undertaken at the site in April 2026 identified a range of habitats that included semi-natural broadleaved woodland, dense scrub, poor semi-improved grassland, tall ruderal, amenity grassland and running water. Whilst some of the habitats were considered of little to no ecological value such as the amenity grassland, the semi-natural broadleaved woodland, stream corridor and semi-improved neutral grassland habitats were considered to be of higher ecological value and are listed as a priority habitats under Section 7 of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016. Additionally, common habitat types also present on site are considered of some ecological value within the context of the site itself such as the poor semi-improved neutral grassland & scrub Both the semi-natural woodland the dense scrub and were considered to be capable of supporting a range of protected/priority listed species such as nesting birds, common reptiles, Badger, Otter, Hazel Dormouse and foraging/commuting/roosting bats.

5.2 The proposed development relates to increasing the width of the current path by approx. 1m to ensure multiuser access and to install an updated and fully accessible bridge over the Ewenni Fach. To accommodate the widening of the path and the installation of the new bridge minimal habitat removal will be required. This will include the removal of a small number of trees, scrub and grassland throughout the whole development area. This widening is considered to have negligible impact on the existing habitat resource although precautionary measures with respect to habitats and species will need to be implemented. The plan included in Appendix I includes a widening of the red line to allow for a contractors compound north of the stream crossing – this would require the removal of the existing trees, woodland within this area and should be avoided. A more suitable location for the compound would be further to the north, where a number of footpaths converge and there are larger areas of existing bare ground (see Note 11, Appendix III). The following avoidance, mitigation and enhancement measures are therefore considered appropriate to the construction and operational phases of the future development at the site.

Badger

5.3 Although no evidence of Badger (setts, latrines, guard hairs, foraging signs, etc.) were identified during the survey, the habitats on site and in the surrounding area are considered suitable and site use by foraging/commuting Badger on an occasional basis cannot be precluded. It is recommended that during the construction phase of any future development, any excavations with steep/near vertical sides are covered overnight, or a means of escape provided (e.g. rough sawn timber board of 300mm width placed at an angle of ≤ 45°) to minimise the risk to Badger and any other small mammals (e.g. Hedgehog) that may become

trapped. Construction materials should also be stored properly when not in used to prevent Badger access. Any boundary security fencing (if required) should include an appropriate access gap at the bottom to allow the free movement of Badgers (and other mammals) throughout the site.

Bats

5.4 The survey identified a small number of roosting opportunities for bats across the site, which included 6no trees with Potential Roost Features classified as PRF-I (low potential) and PRF-M (moderate/high potential) and an inaccessible gated mining/tunnel entrance that has the potential to provide roosting opportunities. All bats and their resting places (roosts) are fully protected under the Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations (2017) and Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended). For trees assessed as PRF-I or Negligible Potential, the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT, 2023) guidelines indicate that these do not require further surveys prior to felling. However, as a precautionary measure, any PRF-I trees scheduled for removal should be soft felled. This involves sectional felling, with cut limbs carefully lowered and left on the ground overnight to allow any bats present to vacate naturally (Jackson, 2015). For trees assessed PRM-M or Moderate Potential, further survey would be required in order to confirm the presence/absence of roosting bats prior to tree removal or management. Surveys can consist of dusk emergence surveys or features can be inspected using ladder or rope access – the emergence surveys in particular can only be undertaken between May & August inclusive. If surveys confirm the presence of a roost within any tree, a licence application to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) will be required before felling.

5.5 The linear habitat features at the site, including the woodland edges, the Ewenni Fach and the dense scrub were considered likely to support a range of foraging and commuting bats species and as such these features should be retained as dark corridors for use by bats and other nocturnal species. No lighting is currently indicated in the proposed plan for the path improvement works and no night time working (during construction) will be undertaken.

Birds

5.6 The site has the potential to support breeding birds due to the presence of suitable habitat such as semi-natural broadleaved woodland and dense scrub. All birds, their nests and young, are protected from damage and destruction under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended). Due to high likelihood of nesting birds being present within the suitable habitats, any future vegetation works that would affect the aforementioned habitats would be subject to seasonal constraints and should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season (undertaken between September – February). If this is not possible an ecologist should be present to inspect habitats for the presence of nesting birds prior to removal and supervise vegetation

clearance. In the event that an active bird nest was identified, it would be left in place with a suitable buffer (minimum 3m) until no longer in use. Mitigation/enhancements for tree and scrub nesting species could be provided via nest boxes on retained trees.

Hazel Dormice

5.7 Dormice and their breeding and resting places are fully protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and partially protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Furthermore, Hazel Dormouse is a priority species listed under Section 7 of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016. The woodland and scrub habitats present on site are considered suitable to support a population of Dormouse given the previously identified records and the suitable habitat in the surrounding area. However, as the proposed works includes minimal removal of vegetation it is recommended that this be conducted under Ecologist supervision on a precautionary basis. A toolbox talk induction would be given to contractors prior to vegetation removal and areas would be subject to a search for any nests by an ecologist – in the unlikely event that a nest was found, work will stop immediately and a licence application submitted to NRW. No work will recommence until a licence was in place.

Reptiles

5.8 The semi-natural broadleaved woodland, dense scrub, tall ruderal and semi-improved grasslands were considered suitable to support individuals or small numbers of common reptile species. All UK reptiles are protected against intentional killing and injuring under Section 9(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) and are an important ecological consideration in terms of development at the site. A sensitive approach to vegetation clearance will be required to minimise any risks to reptile species that may be present to include phased, directional clearance of tall grassland or ruderal vegetation using hand held tools (strimmers, brush cutters etc.). The initial cut would be to height of ca. 100mm with a second cut within 24-48h to ground level – arisings would be removed after each cut.

5.9 A pile of brash and small logs was noted within the semi-natural broadleaved woodland to the south of the path. This feature is suitable for use by hibernating herpetofauna and overwintering small mammals (e.g. Hedgehog). This feature is not currently proposed for removal, however if this changes then the removal should be subject to seasonal constraints and should be undertaken outside of the main hibernation season for herpetofauna (undertaken between mid-March – September). If this is not possible then an Ecologist should be present to inspect the feature for the presence of hibernating herpetofauna prior to removal and supervise the works.

Priority Habitats

5.10 The semi-natural broadleaved woodland located throughout the area to the north of the Ewenni Fach is listed as priority habitat under Section 7 of the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 and as such should be retained and protected wherever possible. Current plans indicated minimal loss to the edge of the woodland for the path widening which includes the potential loss of a small number of broadleaved trees. All other semi-natural broadleaved woodland at the site will be retained and any loss mitigated through replacement planting within the site boundary and/or enhancement through the management of the retained woodland.

SINC Designation

5.11 The site of the current development lies within the Llanharan Marsh/ Brynna Woods/ Jubilee Marsh SINC which is approx. 44 ha and designated for a variety of habitats such as wet woodland, marshy grassland, scrub, neutral grassland, mixed woodland and the Ewenni Fach. The proposed development is indicated to affect approx. 1m on either side of the current path, along with the area of the contractors compound and creation of a new route through the semi-improved grassland. Any habitat loss or disturbance that occurs as a result of the proposed works within the footprint of the SINC must be minimised and appropriately mitigated with replacement native tree planting and enhancement of the retained woodland & grassland to promote its ecological value.

5.12 The Ewenni Fach is described as part of the SINC and is a priority habitat. The watercourse and downstream habitats will be vulnerable to indirect impacts such as surface water run off during the construction phase of the proposed development. The risk of these impacts could be controlled for by a suitably worded planning condition - such as a Construction Environmental Management Plan.

Other Considerations and Enhancements

5.13 Other possible enhancements and mitigation measures could include the provision of hibernacula or brash/log piles within the retained areas of grassland to the south of the railway line. Management of the semi-improved neutral grassland to the south of the woodland to ensure the continued presence of the Violet Oil Beetle, such as replacement planting to include species rich seed mixture/native wildflowers and maintaining the sward openness through management such as an annual cut in late summer with arisings removed (Appendix IV).

5.14 Himalayan Balsam was noted present within the semi-improved neutral grassland (TN 3 in Appendix III) and species of Cotoneaster was present within the scrub (TN 1 & 2 in Appendix III). These species are listed under Schedule 9, Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) meaning it is an offence to

plant or cause the spread of it in the wild. Development should seek to control the spread of invasive species and eradicate them from within the site boundary to prevent further spread. All invasive plants should be eradicated and disposed appropriately via professional invasive species specialist contractors. Volunteers or local community groups could be used as part of Himalayan balsam control – i.e. hand-pulling of the plant prior to it flowering and setting seed. This could be done in May/June.

Avoidance, Mitigation and Enhancements

5.15 The avoidance, mitigation and enhancements described in the sections above are summarised below:

Avoidance

- Retention and protection of priority habitats as far as possible (e.g. semi-natural woodland, semi-improved neutral grassland, stream corridor);
- Vegetation clearance (trees and scrub) to avoid nesting bird season and be undertaken over the winter period (between September – February);

Mitigation

- Sensitive approach to clearance of ruderal species and all semi-improved grasslands to minimise any risks to reptiles and amphibians that may be present (vegetation to be cleared via a directional two-stage process between April and October);
- Covering of any excavations overnight or means of escape provided during construction phase to minimise risks to Badger and any other small mammals that may become trapped.
- Any required security fencing to include an access gap at the bottom to allow continued connectivity for Badger and other small mammals;
- Replacement native tree planting at a ratio of 3:1 or discussion with the Wildlife Trust over natural regeneration/woodland management;
- Construction Environmental Management plan to limit risks to the Ewenni Fach watercourse and downstream habitats.

Enhancement

- Inclusion of bat and bird boxes onto retained trees;
- Enhancement through management (e.g. removal of invasive weeds, control of Bracken and Bramble encroachment) and replacement planting of native species rich seed mix for semi-improved neutral grassland;

- Enhancement of woodland through management and planting of native species or natural regeneration;
- Creation of log/brash piles within the areas to south of railway line to enhance site suitability for reptiles;
- Management and control of invasive species within the site boundary

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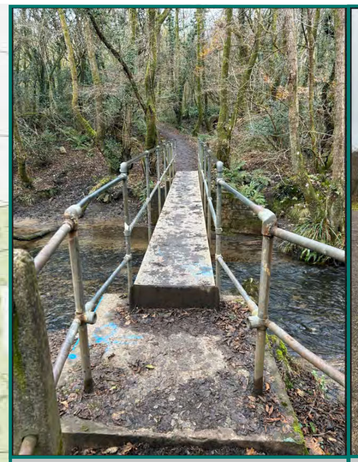
APPENDICES

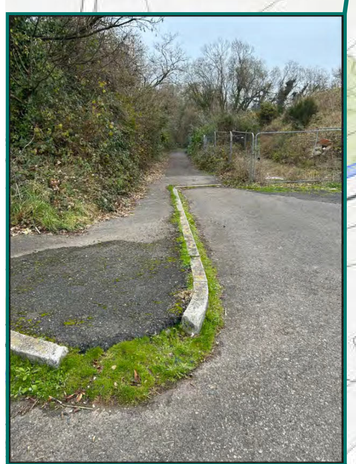
APPENDIX I SITE LOCATION AND PROPOSED PLAN

PHOTOGRAPH 1:
PEDESTRIAN FOOTWAY



PHOTOGRAPH 3:
EXISTING BRIDGE

PHOTOGRAPH 4: EXISTING FOOTWAY BETWEEN RIVER AND RAILWAY BRIDGES



PHOTOGRAPH 2:
ACCESS FROM NEARBY HOUSING ESTATE

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO SITE ONLY (ASSUMED PARKING ON PUBLIC HIGHWAY)

IMPROVED MULTI-USER ROUTE

IMPROVED MULTI-USER ROUTE

IMPROVED MULTI-USER ROUTE

POTENTIAL CONSTRUCTION ACCESS

POTENTIAL COMPOUND / SET DOWN AREA

PROPOSED BRIDGE

EXISTING BRIDGE

MAINLINE RAILWAY BRIDGE CROSSING (NO WORKS)

Title

GENERAL ARRANGEMENT: SITE EXTENTS

Project	**EWENNI MULTI-USER BRIDGE**	Date	**20.03.2026**
Job No.	**51312**	Scale	**NTS**
Drg No.	**51312-BUR-XX-XX-SK-P-00002**	Rev	**P2.0**

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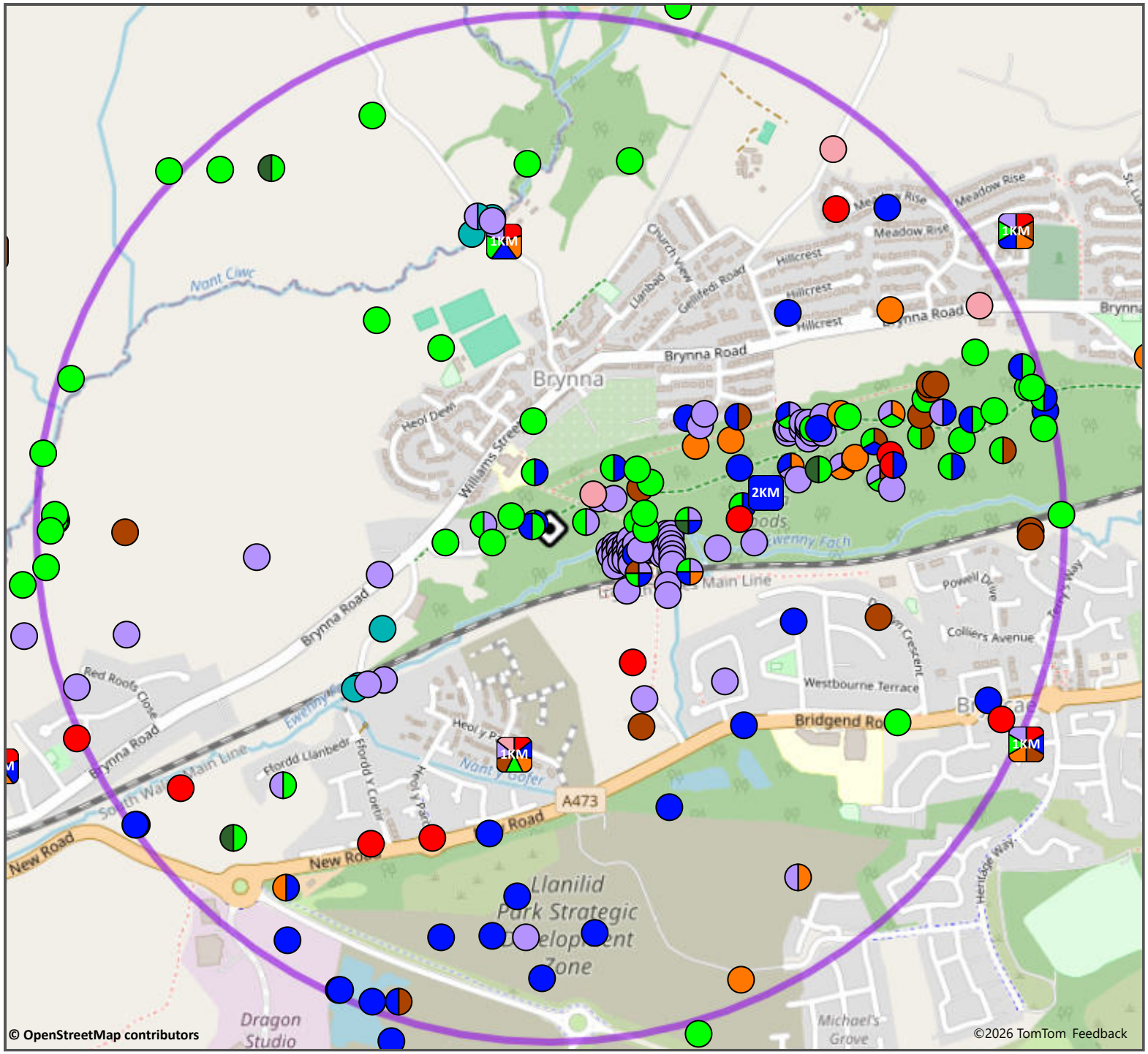
APPENDIX II SEWBReC RECORDS AND LDP EXTRACT



Printed from eMapper for Aderyn on 30/04/2026

AD/E10602 | matthew-watts_17/03/2026_land-at-brynna-rct

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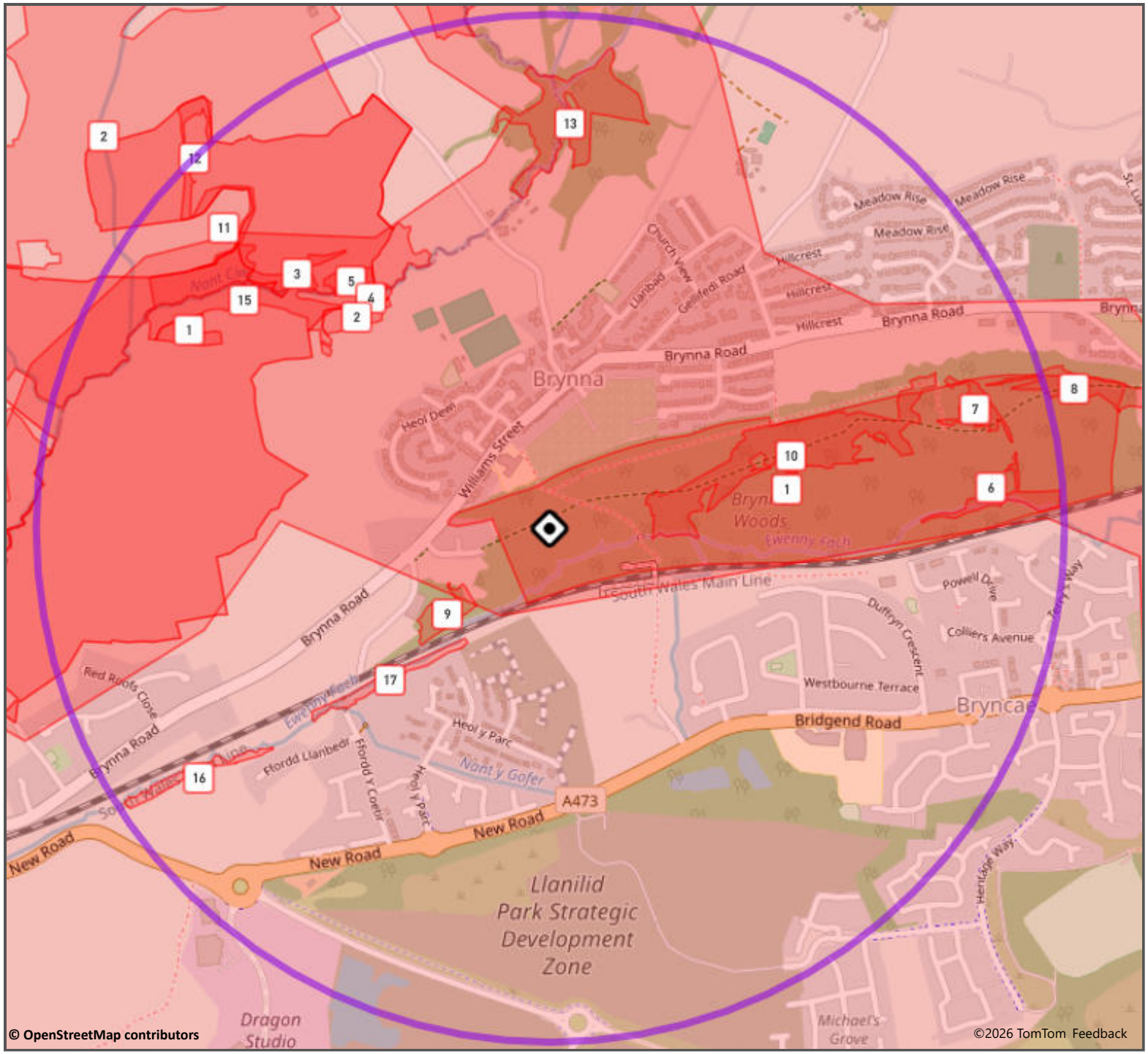
- Search Location
- Search Buffer (0m)
- Search Buffer (1000m)

- **Birds**
- **Butterflies & Moths**
- **Fish**
- **Fungi, Lichens & Algae**
- **Higher Plants**
- **Lower Plants**
- **Mammals**
- **Other Invertebrates**
- **Reptiles & Amphibians**



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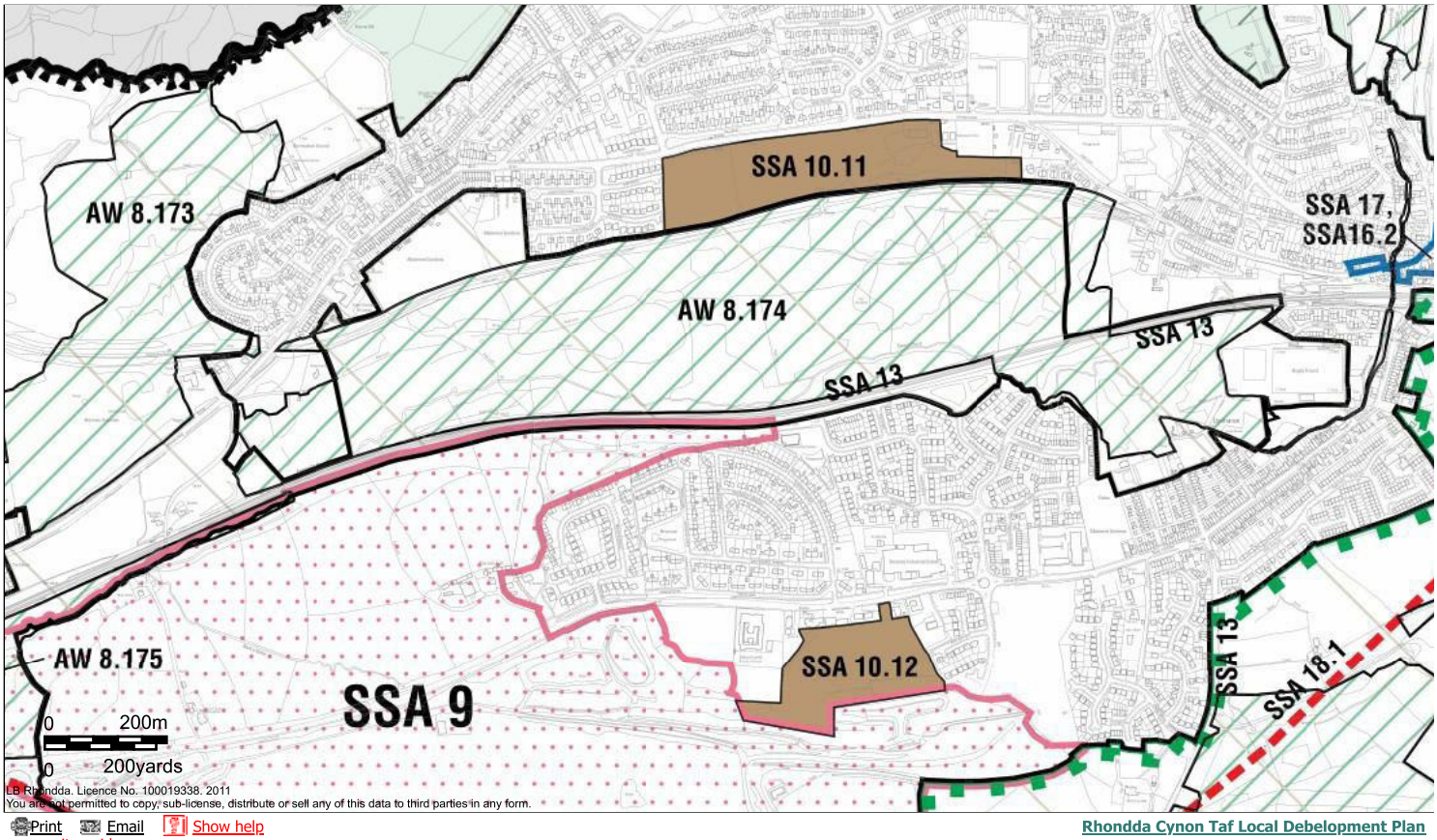
- Search Location
- Search Buffer (0m)
- Search Buffer (1000m)

- **AWL1**
- **NRW_PA_HG**
- **SINC_ADO**
- **SINC_RCT**
- **SSSI**
- **WTR**

Title / comments:



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Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Debelopment Plan

APPENDIX III EXTENDED PHASE 1 HABITAT SURVEY PLAN & TARGET NOTES

PRELIMINARY | PLANNING | DESIGN | TENDER | CONSTRUCTION

Burroughs

Ewenni Fach Footbridge, Brynna

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Map - North

E26140401/01 NB MW 14 April 2026

soltysbrewster

4 Stangate House
Stanwell Road
Penarth
Vale of Glamorgan
CF64 2AA

Telephone:- 033 00 13 00 12
e-mail- enquiry@soltysbrewster.co.uk

- Route
- Site Boundary
- Target Notes
- A2.1 Dense/Continuous Scrub
- A2.2 Scattered Scrub
- SI B2.2 Semi-improved Neutral Grassland
- G2 Running Water
- SI B6 Poor Semi-improved Grassland
- C3.1 Tall Ruderal
- J2.4 Fence
- A J1.2 Amenity Grassland
- Hardstanding

Google Satellite

PRELIMINARY | PLANNING | DESIGN | TENDER | CONSTRUCTION

Burroughs

Ewenni Fach Footbridge, Brynna

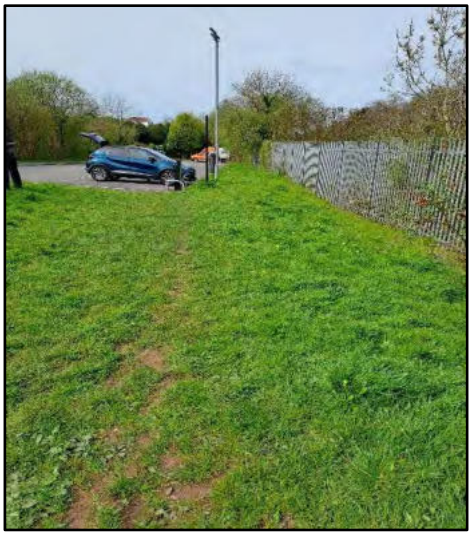
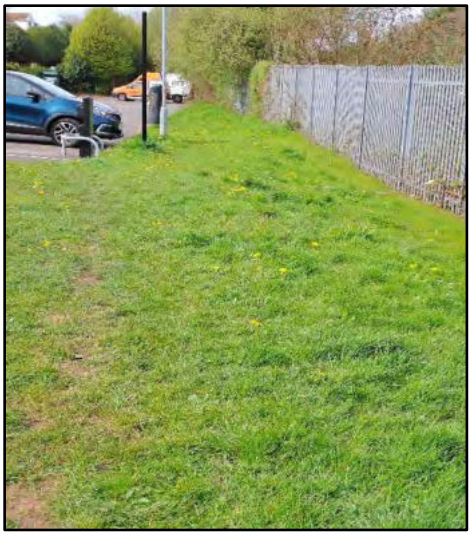
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Map - South

E26140401/01 NB MW 14 April 2026

soltysbrewster

4 Stangate House
Stanwell Road
Penarth
Vale of Glamorgan
CF64 2AA

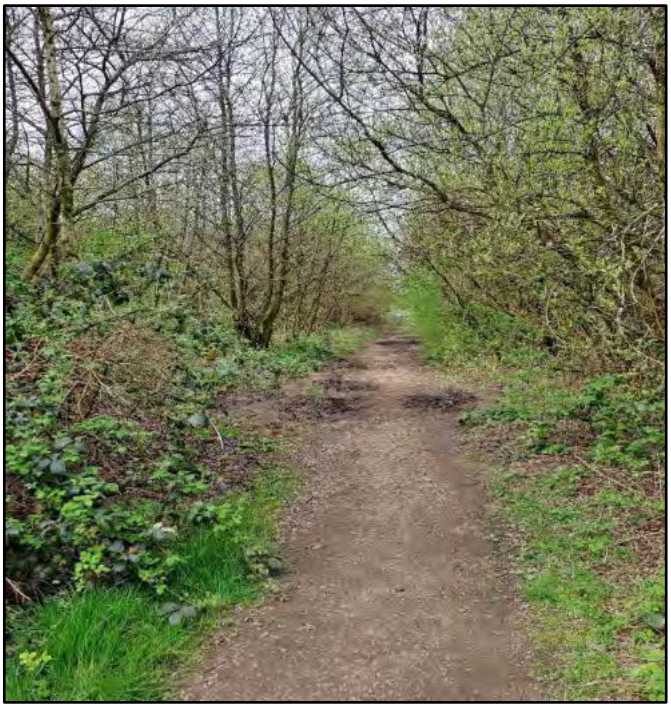
Telephone:- 033 00 13 00 12
e-mail- enquiry@soltysbrewster.co.uk

Site Info – Ewenni Bridge and Brynna Woods	**Date of Visit** – 10th April 2026
Birds Seen/heard: Blackbird, Robin, Great Tit, Jay, Blue Tit, Chiff Chaff, Song Thrush, Starling, Magpie, House Sparrow, Goldfinch, Carrion Crow, Blackcap, Jackdaw, Redwing	
Purpose of Site Visit	An ecological survey to inform planning in respect of the widening of the current footpath to approx. 3m in order to accommodate multi users and the installation of a new wider bridge over the Ewenni Fach river also included are potential areas for a proposed compound within the area for the works to be completed.
Overview	The current footpath can be accessed from a housing estate in the west at the edge of Brynna woods. It continues east and then south where it crosses the Ewenni Fach by way of the current bridge in place. The path then exits the woodland and proceeds through a grassland and over the mainline railway bridge present. It then carries on east alongside the railway line with housing to the south until it exits via a car park associated with the community centre near to Powell Drive. Where the path runs in parallel to the metal fencing and rail line it is suggested to be widened to the south with the exception of the initial section after the community centre car park where this will have to widened to the north due to the wooden fencing and private land present. Within the woodland widening can be adapted to make the most ecological sense. The main ecological features surrounding the footpath include Broadleaved woodland, scrub and grassland.
SN1	Amenity grassland to the north edge of the car park through which the new path will be created to join up with the existing public highway path. Adjacent to the grassland to the north is a metal fence separating the area form the railway line that runs parallel. This fencing is present all along the railway line. South of the grassland is the car park hardstanding. Species noted within the grassland were Perennial rye grass, Cocks foot, Red fescue, Dandelion, Common daisy, Creeping buttercup, White clover, Dock, Spotted medick, Ribwort plantain, Common vetch and Germander speedwell. In addition, there was Buddleia, Ash, Willow adjacent to the fencing with Birch scrub on the inside of the fencing.  
SN2	To the south of the current footpath is wooden fencing separating the path from private gardens. To the north of the path is scattered scrub and ruderal vegetation with the metal rail fencing present behind species. The path is

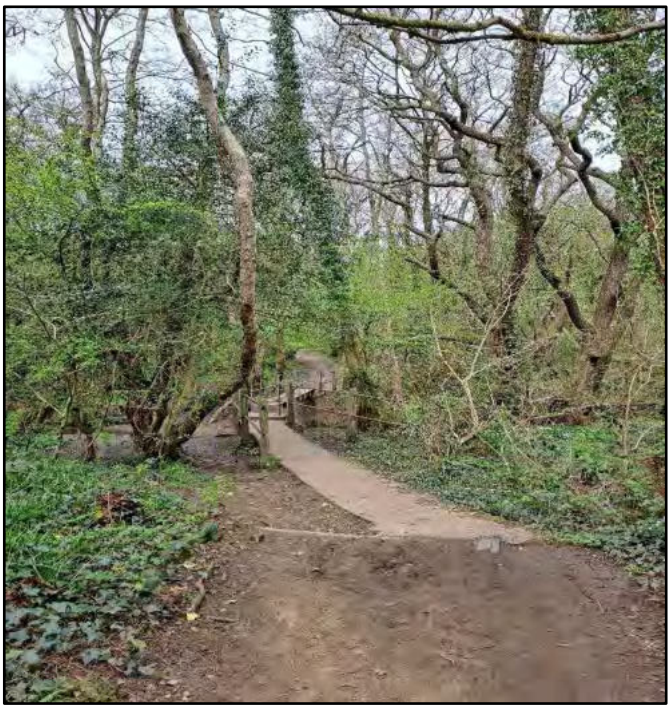
	approx. 2m wide and will be widened to approx. 3m, this will need to be to the north due to the fencing to the south. Willow sp are currently overhanging the path and will need to be cut back, these trees were assessed as negligible for PRF. Other species present include Meadow buttercup, Willowherb sp, Holly, Greater plantain, Cocks foot grass, Agrostis sp, and Bramble. 
SN3	This area is predominantly dense scrub with the current path centrally located. Widening of the path will continue to be to the south from this point to maintain safety from the rail line. Trees to the south that may need cutting back in order to widen the path were assessed and no PRF were noted, Negligible for bat potential. The dense scrub on both the north and the south of the path consist of Willow sp, Bramble, Hazel and Alder. The understory consists mainly of Ivy, Cleavers, Dandelion, Herb Robert and Creeping buttercup.

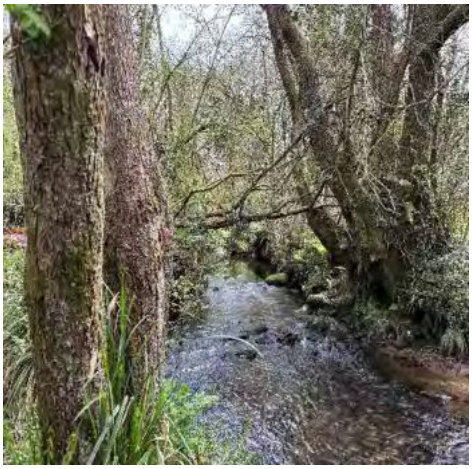
	
SN4	Poor semi-improved grassland noted to the south and scrub to the north of the central path. Path here to be widened to the south. Poor semi-improved grassland is seasonally wet and contains species such as those found in the previously described amenity grassland with the addition of silverweed and St Johns wort and several Hazel saplings. The scrub to the north of the path consists of Oak, Hawthorn, Alder, Hazel and Bramble with Wild strawberry also noted among the ground flora as previously described. 
SN5	Further west the semi-improved grassland is seasonally wet. As previously described, there is the grassland to the south of the path and there is scrub to

	the north. In addition to those species already described the grassland contains Gorse and Hard rush. The scrub contains Cow parsley and Buddleia in addition. This area has the potential to support reptiles due to the mosaic of grassland and scrub. No direct evidence noted.  
SN6	Seasonally wet poor semi-improved grassland to the south. Species here include Meadow buttercup, Dandelion, Creeping buttercup, Dock, Cocks foot grass, Hard rush, Bramble and Willow. Scrub is found to the north and contains species such as, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Buddleia and Dog rose, with undergrowth species such as Ground ivy and Oxeye daisy. This area has the potential to support reptiles due to the mosaic of grassland and scrub. No direct evidence noted. 
TN1	Invasive non-native species Cotoneaster noted within the scrub to the north

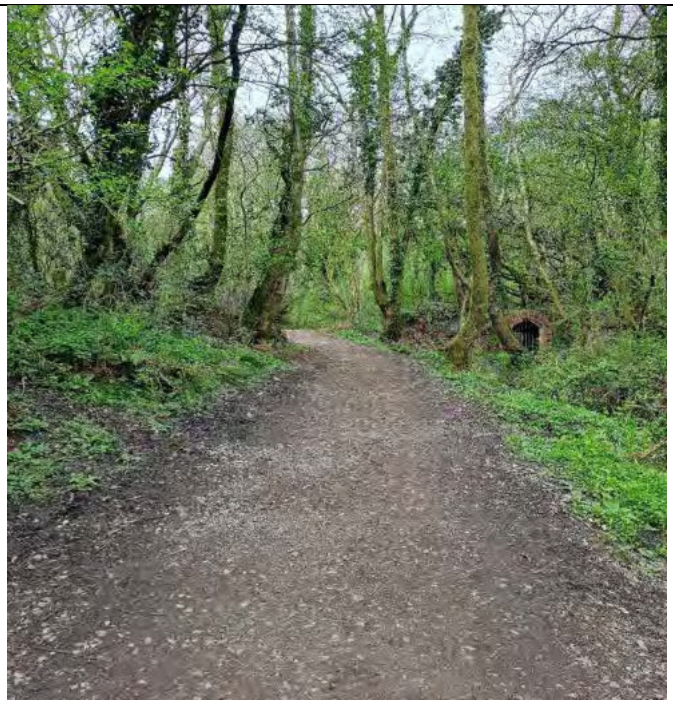
SN7	Dense scrub with scattered trees were noted on both the south and north side of the path. Species noted consist of Hawthorn, Bramble, Willow, Oak, Alder and Himalayan honeysuckle. Ground flora in this area consisted of Ivy, Dandelion, Creeping buttercup, Dock, Cleavers, Enchanters nightshade and Fern. Trees were assessed as negligible potential for roosting bats. 
TN2	Invasive non-native species Hollyberry Cotoneaster (Schedule 9 species) noted within the scrub 

SN8	Semi-improved grassland to the north of the railway line. This is a large area of grassland between the rail line and bridge to the south and the broadleaved woodland to the north with a central area of Hawthorn, bramble and Bracken. There is currently a footpath that leads directly to the Ewenni Fach and Brynna woods, with an unofficial path worn in circumventing the central Hawthorn etc. It is proposed that the path will meander through this grassland to mitigate the incline that is present. This area is known to be suitable habitat for the Violet Oil beetle, a section 7 species, and there are over 200 records for this species within the grassland and the woodland. Species recorded within the grassland were Yorkshire fog, Cocks foot grass, Perennial rye grass, Red fescue, Dandelion, Greater plantain, Ribwort plantain, Dock, Common mouse ear, Ragwort, White clover, Creeping buttercup, Common Dog violet, Self heal, Bluebell, Lesser celendine, Spear thistle, Greater stitchwort and Common sorrel.  
TN3	Several patches of Himalayan Balsam (Schedule 9 species) were noted growing within the grassland and alongside the path. 

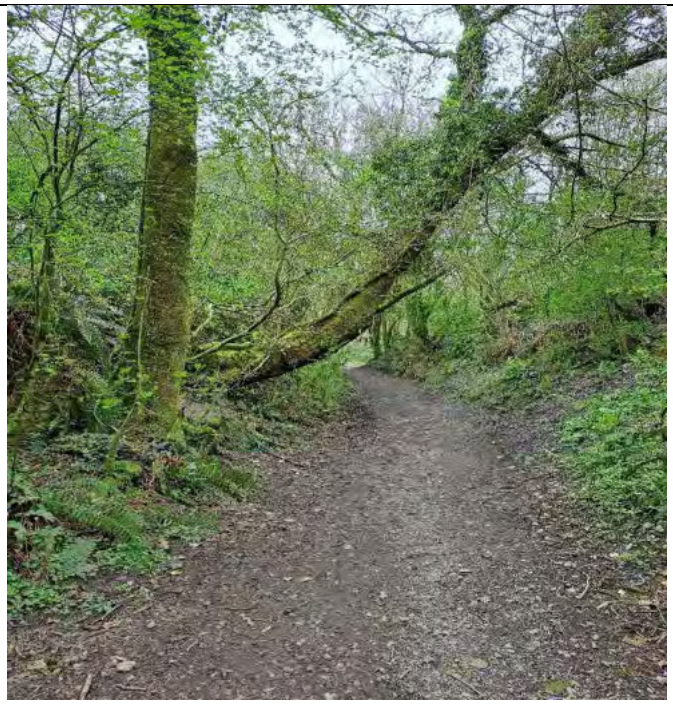
SN9	Dense scrub separates the grassland from the woodland to the north which consists of Willow, Hawthorn and Bramble with an undergrowth of Ivy, Dock and Fern. 
SN10	Broadleaved woodland starts to the south of the stream and extends north, east and west known as Brynna Woods. Species include Alder, Holly, Hazel and Hawthorn, Ivy, Lesser celandine, Fern and Wood anemone. 
SN11	Ewenni Fach – stream corridor. Clear of debris and fast flowing. Potential for occasional use by Otter but no evidence identified immediately up or

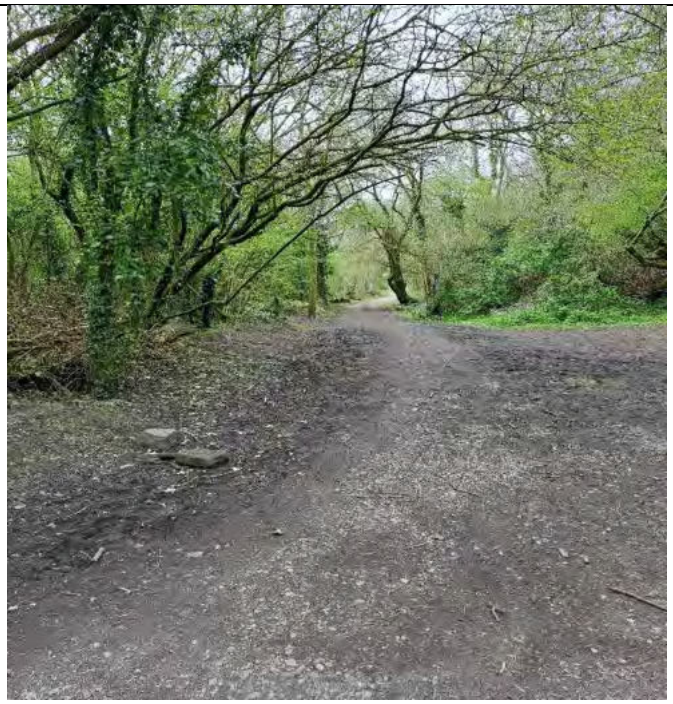
	downstream of the bridge. This area is subject to regular disturbance by dog walkers/ pedestrians.    
TN4	South of stream/bridge. Alder tree covered in Ivy and Alder with knot hole in lateral branch. PRF-I  
TN5	Alder situated on the north side of the bridge, has light Ivy cover assessed as Negligible potential for roosting bats.

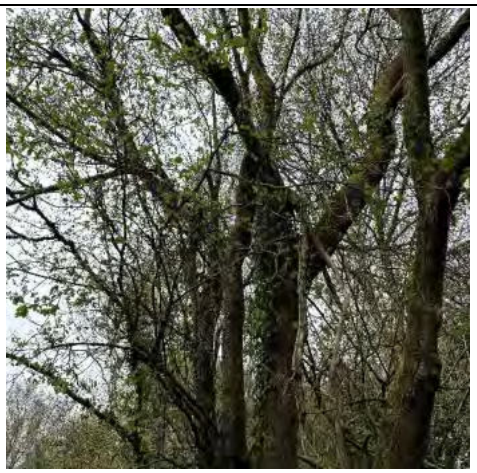
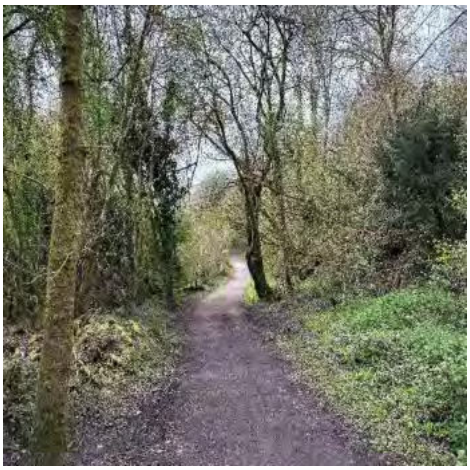
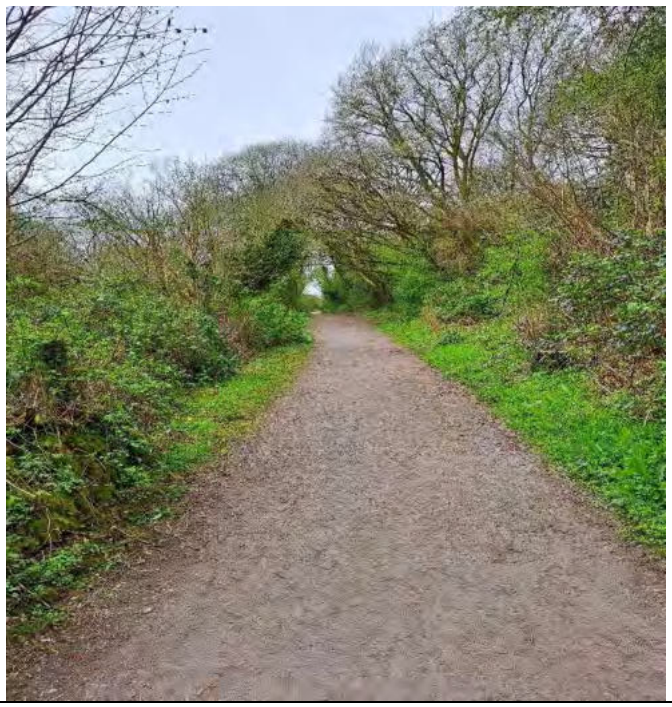
	
TN6	An area to the north west of the footbridge is proposed as a compound for use during construction. This area is part of the Broadleaved woodland, is varied in level and has a ditch to the west that carries run off into the stream. Species here consist of Alder, Holly, Hawthorn, Fern, Lesser celandine, Dogs mercury, Harts tongue, Ivy, Enchanters nightshade, Cinquefoil and Ground Ivy. 
SN12	Path continues north through Broadleaved woodland until it opens up into a clearing where several paths meet. Species noted are as described in TN6 with the addition of Opposite leaved Golden Saxifrage noted on the east of the path. To the east of the path is a tributary to the stream.

	
TN7	Gated tunnel/mine. Entrance has open work metal gate and a propped metal sheet inside the roof area. No bat features noted in this entrance way. Brickwork further into the tunnel may provide habitat for roosting bat. If any direct impacts as part of the proposed works, further survey will be required.  
TN8	Alder to the west of the current path covered with Ivy and adjacent to the proposed compound. Assessed as PRF-I

	
TN9	Ash tree to the west of the path with Ivy cover. Assessed as PRF-I 
TN10	Willow to the west and crossing over the path covered with Ivy. Assessed as PRF-I.

	
TN11	Open area within the woodland where several paths meet. This area is suggested as a preferable location for site compound during the proposed works. 
SN13	Path continues through the broadleaved woodland to the west. Species noted here are as previously described.

	
TN12	Hibernacula noted at the woodland edge to the west. Potential habitat for reptiles. 
TN13	Willow identified to the east of the path, rot holes, split limbs and cracks present. Assessed as PRF-M. Further checks will be needed if tree to be impacted by proposed works/ path widening.

	  
SN14	Broadleaved woodland with scattered scrub. Species are as previous with the addition of Bluebell, Wood sedge, Pendulous sedge, Holly, Hawthorn, Primrose, Bramble and Currant. 

TN14	Ditch that is currently damp noted to the north of the path running west to east 
TN15	Damp ditch running under the path north to south. 
SN15	Dense scrub continues from wooden gate to where the path meets the public highway. Blackbird was observed within the scrub. Species here include Holly, Hawthorn, Bramble, Willow, Stinging nettle, Willowherb, Herb Robert, Common vetch, Hard rush, Cleavers, Common elder, Privet, Garlic mustard, Sycamore saplings and Buddleia.

	
TN16	Rhododendron (Schedule 9 species) was noted growing within the scrub to the north of the path. 

APPENDIX IV OIL BEETLE MANAGEMENT (BUGLIFE ADVICE NOTE)

SPECIES MANAGEMENT SHEET

Black oil beetle *(Meloe proscarabaeus)*
Violet oil beetle *(Meloe violaceus)*
Rugged oil beetle *(Meloe rugosus)*
Short-necked oil beetle *(Meloe brevicollis)*

Violet oil beetle and triungulins

Oil beetles are distinctive insects with one of the most extraordinary life-cycles of any British insect. Oil beetles are associated with wildflower-rich habitats such as unimproved grasslands and woodland edges.

Four of the UK's native oil beetles are thought to be extinct, and the remaining four species have suffered drastic declines over the past 100 years due to changes in the way our countryside is managed. For this reason the Black, Violet and Rugged oil beetles are listed as priority species for conservation action in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The key to restoring the historic range of these species is to restore and create more areas of suitable habitat.

Life cycle

Oil beetles are nest parasites of solitary mining bees. Female oil beetles dig burrows in the ground, in to which they lay hundreds of eggs. Once hatched, the active, louse-like larvae, known as triungulins, climb up onto flowers and lie in wait for a suitable host bee. When a bee visits the flower to collect pollen or nectar, the triungulins attach themselves to hairs on the bee's back using hooks on their feet. Once in a suitable bee's nest, the larva disembarks. The larva feeds on the bee's store of pollen and nectar and develops in the burrow until it is ready to emerge as an adult oil beetle.

The specific bee hosts of oil beetles are largely unknown; potential hosts include bee species in the genera *Andrena, Anthophora, Eucera, Halictus, Colletes, Osmia* and *Lasioglossum*.

Habitats

Oil beetles are found on wildflower-rich sites with a succession of nectar sources throughout the spring and early summer. There are often patches of bare ground present into which burrows are dug for egg laying. These features also favour strong populations of solitary mining bees which are critical for the oil beetle life-cycle. Grass tussocks within the sward are a useful feature as they can provide shelter for adult oil beetles during cold weather.

Reasons for decline

The loss of wildflower-rich habitats, habitat fragmentation, changes to land management and a decline in host bee species have all contributed to the decrease in oil beetle numbers.

Black oil beetle
(Meloe proscarabaeus)

Adults are active in the spring from February to May and the triungulins are active from May to June.

Distribution

The Black oil beetle is found in lowland areas throughout Britain, but becoming rarer in the North. The South West of England and South Wales are strongholds for this species.

Habitat preferences

The Black oil beetle is most commonly found on wildflower-rich coastal cliff tops and lowland, unimproved grasslands. Occasionally found on woodland sites.

Adults prefer Lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and soft grasses (*Poaceae*) as food plants, but Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) and Buttercups (*Ranunculaceae*) may also be important. Triungulins are often found on Lesser celandine and Dandelion, but will use other flowers.

Violet oil beetle
(Meloe violaceus)

Adults and triungulins are active in the spring from March to June.

Distribution

The Violet oil beetle is found in western and northern Britain with known hotspots in the South West, the Peak District, the Lake District and Scotland.

Habitat preferences

The Violet oil beetle has the most varied habitat preferences and can be found on woodland edge habitats, glades and rides, upland unimproved grasslands and on coastal cliff-top grasslands.

Lesser celandine and Dandelion are thought to be the preferred adult food source and are also important for the triungulins. Adults also feed on, soft grasses and Cleavers (*Galium aparine*).

Rugged oil beetle
(Meloe rugosus)

Adult beetles emerge in autumn and are thought to be mainly nocturnal. They can be found throughout the autumn, winter and early spring. The triungulins are found from mid-April to July.

Distribution

The distribution of the Rugged oil beetle is very sparse, concentrated in southern and central England and South Wales.

Habitat preferences

The Rugged oil beetle is often found on sheltered, south-facing slopes or banks that warm up quickly in winter. These tend to be on free-draining soils however there are records from floodplain grasslands on the Continent.

Dandelion and Buttercups are thought to be the favoured adult food plants.

Short-necked oil beetle
(Meloe brevicollis)

Adults are active in the spring from late March to June and the triungulins are usually found in June.

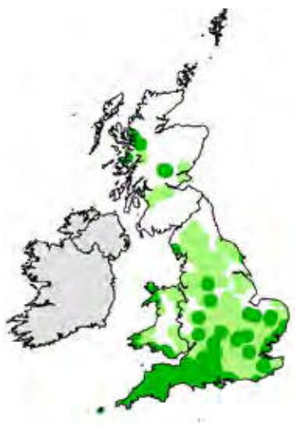
Distribution

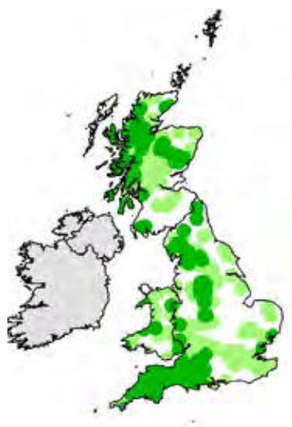
The Short-necked oil beetle has only been recorded recently on three sites, one in South Devon, one in the west of Scotland and one on the east coast of Ireland.

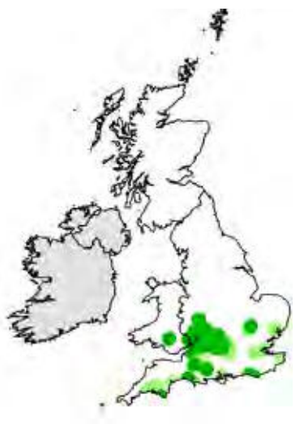
Habitat preferences

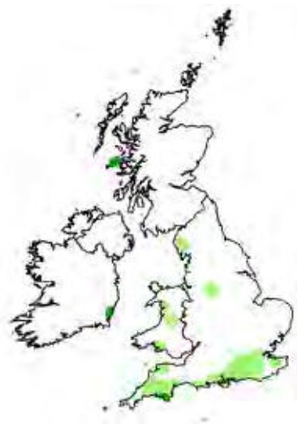
All known sites are on the coast, on wildflower-rich cliff-top grasslands and machair dunes.

Short-necked oil beetle adults are thought to favour Hawkbits (*Leontodon*) as food plants but are occasionally found on other plants such as soft grasses.









Dark green = recent records (after 2000). Light green = historic records (before 2000). Ireland shaded grey = insufficient data.

Habitat management

Oil beetle sites are commonly maintained through grazing, either by domestic stock or through the action of wild animals such as deer and rabbits. Some coastal and woodland sites are not specifically managed, but are kept open through weight of human traffic, wild grazing or through the physical process of cliff erosion.

Some disturbance is important on oil beetle sites to maintain areas of bare ground. Practices such as surfacing paths can be detrimental to oil beetles and their host bees by reducing the amount of bare ground for burrows.

Grassland management

All species: The long-term maintenance of wildflower-rich, semi-natural grasslands is important for oil beetles. In general, grazing is the preferred management option, but stocking density needs to be carefully controlled, as high stocking levels can be detrimental to oil beetle populations through overgrazing of wildflowers and physical damage to bee burrows. Summer and autumn grazing is important to keep the sward open through until the following spring.

Hay making is not normally recommended at oil beetle sites however, if there is a long history of hay making and aftermath grazing at a site, the maintenance of this regime would be beneficial.

Wildflower-rich coastal grassland habitat for the Black oil beetle

In areas with known populations of oil beetles, increasing the abundance of wildflowers on neighbouring areas of species-poor grassland will be beneficial to the solitary bee hosts of oil beetles, as well as other pollinators. Extending areas of wildflower-rich grassland may also allow oil beetle populations to expand and could help to reconnect fragmented populations.

Upland moorland management

Violet and Rugged oil beetles: Grazing open areas and banks within the moorland mosaic will help maintain patches of bare ground suitable for oil beetles and their bee hosts.

Woodland management

Violet and Black oil beetles: Woodland edge habitats and areas of wood pasture parkland can provide valuable habitat for the Violet oil beetle and in some cases the Black oil beetle. Management practices such as maintaining wildflower-rich areas through grazing, and the careful control of scrub will benefit oil beetles and their hosts.

Woodland habitat for the Violet oil beetle

Within the woodland itself, woodland glades and rides can provide habitat for Violet oil beetles and the maintenance or restoration of these open areas would be beneficial.

Although some woodland management options include tree planting, this practice does not benefit oil beetles and planting trees at known oil beetle sites should be avoided.

Environmental Stewardship options

HLS options

HK6, HK7 and HK8 – Maintenance, restoration or creation of species-rich, semi-natural grassland.

HK15, HK16 and HK17 – Maintenance, restoration or creation of semi-improved or rough grassland for target species.

HC12, 13 and HC14 – Maintenance, restoration or creation of wood pasture and parkland.

HC7 and HC8 – Maintenance or restoration of woodland.

HL9 and HL10 – Maintenance or restoration of moorland (upland).

ELS options

EC4 – Management of woodland edges.

EG3 – Pollen and nectar seed mixtures in grassland areas.

EL5 – Enclosed rough grazing.

References

This sheet can be accessed on the web at www.buglife.org.uk.

Buglife (2011) Oil beetle identification guide (downloadable from www.buglife.org.uk).

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Ramsay, A. (2002) British oil beetles. British Wildlife. 14(1), 27-30.

Walters, J. (2011) The ecology of British Oil beetles. Unpublished report to Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust.

Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust
The Lindens, 86 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, PE1 2SN

Telephone: 01733 201210 Email: info@buglife.org.uk

www.buglife.org.uk

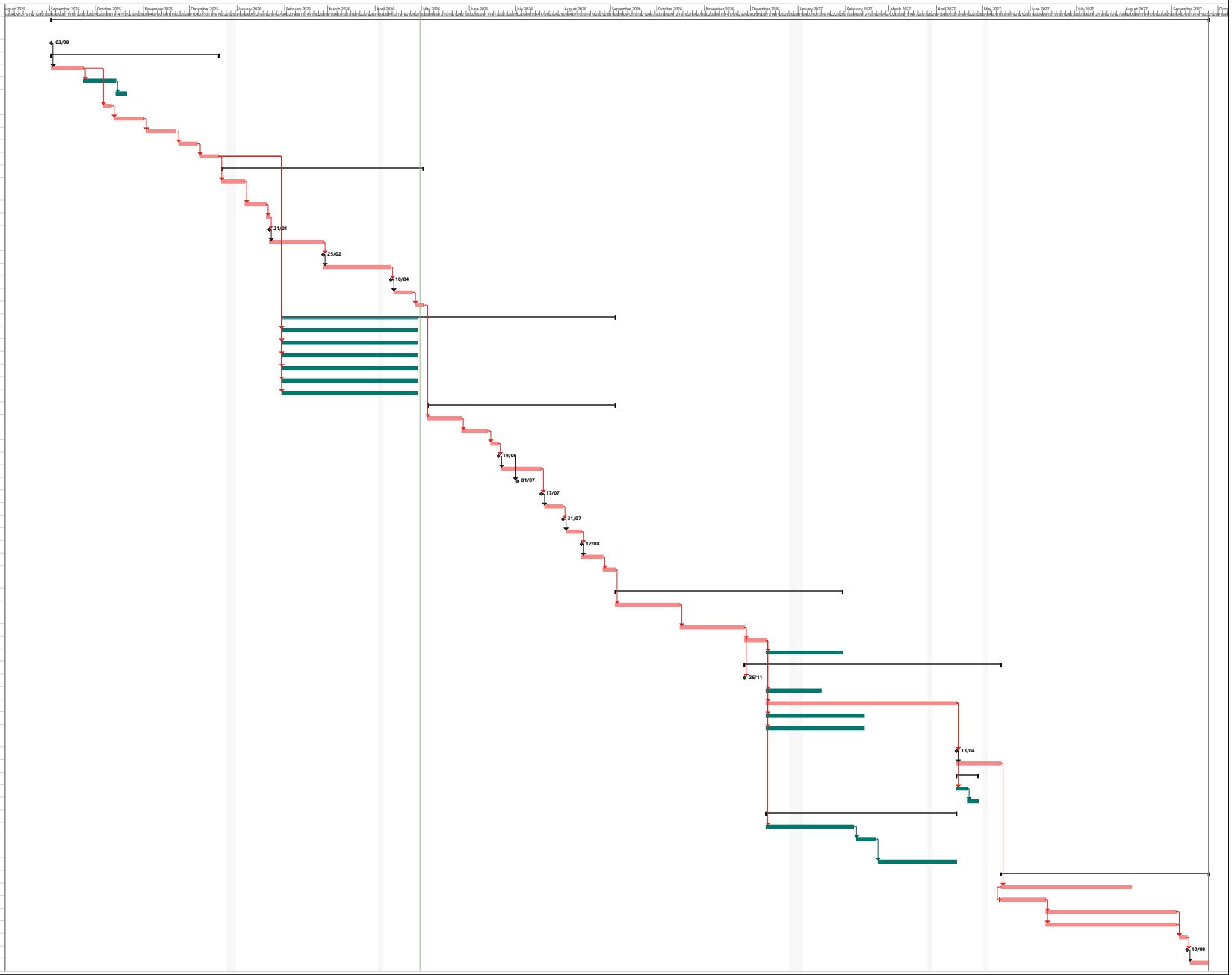
Photography: Violet oil beetle on Lesser celandine © David Fenwick
Violet oil beetle triungulins © John Walters
Violet, Rugged and Short-necked oil beetles © John Walters
Black oil beetle © DM Nesbitt
Woodland oil beetle habitat © Andrew Whitehouse
Grassland oil beetle habitat © John Walters

Acknowledgements: Andy Foster - National Trust, David Heaver - Natural England, Darren Mann - Oxford University Museum of Natural History and John Walters - Oil beetle expert.

02/2012

51312 | Ewennin Multi-User Bridge

ID	Task Mode	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Predecessors
1		**51312-00	Ewenni Multi-User Bridge Replacement**	**516 days**	**Tue 02/09/25**	**Fri 24/09/27**	
2		Confirmation Notice to Proceed	0 days	Tue 02/09/25	Tue 02/09/25	
3		**Project Familiarisation**	**79 days**	**Tue 02/09/25**	**Fri 19/12/25**	
4		Review existing information	15 days	Tue 02/09/25	Mon 22/09/25	2
5		Internal project inception meeting	15 days	Tue 23/09/25	Mon 13/10/25	4
6		Preparation of project initiation documen	5 days	Tue 14/10/25	Mon 20/10/25	5
7		Initial Council Meetings	5 days	Mon 06/10/25	Fri 10/10/25	4FS+9 days
8		Preparation of Decision Trackers	15 days	Mon 13/10/25	Fri 31/10/25	7
9		Preparation of Risk Register	15 days	Mon 03/11/25	Fri 21/11/25	8
10		Awaiting decisions	10 days	Mon 24/11/25	Fri 05/12/25	9
11		Preparation of indicative site layout plan	10 days	Mon 08/12/25	Fri 19/12/25	10
12		**Initial Surveys**	**86 days**	**Mon 22/12/25**	**Fri 01/05/26**	
13		Preparing scope for ecology surveys and reaching out to ecologists	4 days	Mon 22/12/25	Mon 05/01/26	11
14		Awaiting quotes	10 days	Tue 06/01/26	Mon 19/01/26	13
15		Reviewing ecology quotes	2 days	Tue 20/01/26	Wed 21/01/26	14
16		Providing reccomendation	0 days	Wed 21/01/26	Wed 21/01/26	15
17		Awaiting client decision	25 days	Thu 22/01/26	Wed 25/02/26	16
18		Ecologist appointment	0 days	Wed 25/02/26	Wed 25/02/26	17
19		Lead-in time for ecologist to survey	30 days	Thu 26/02/26	Fri 10/04/26	18
20		Ecologist and Arborculturalist on site	0 days	Fri 10/04/26	Fri 10/04/26	19
21		Preparation of reports	10 days	Mon 13/04/26	Fri 24/04/26	20
22		Review ecology reports	5 days	Mon 27/04/26	Fri 01/05/26	21
23		**Initial Stakeholder Engagement**	**150 days**	**Fri 30/01/26**	**Thu 03/09/26**	
24		Liasion with Wildlife Trust (landowner)	60 days	Fri 30/01/26	Mon 27/04/26	11FS+22 days
25		Liasion with RCTBC	60 days	Fri 30/01/26	Mon 27/04/26	11FS+22 days
26		Liasion with Natural Resources Wales	60 days	Fri 30/01/26	Mon 27/04/26	11FS+22 days
27		Liasion with DCWW	60 days	Fri 30/01/26	Mon 27/04/26	11FS+22 days
28		Liasion with Network Rail	60 days	Fri 30/01/26	Mon 27/04/26	11FS+22 days
29		Liasion with British Horse Society	60 days	Fri 30/01/26	Mon 27/04/26	11FS+22 days
30		**Contractor Procurement**	**86 days**	**Tue 05/05/26**	**Thu 03/09/26**	
31		Preparation of Scope and ITT Documents	15 days	Tue 05/05/26	Tue 26/05/26	22
32		LCC review tender documents	13 days	Wed 27/05/26	Fri 12/06/26	31
33		Allowance for updates to tender docume	5 days	Mon 15/06/26	Fri 19/06/26	32
34		Tender Release	0 days	Fri 19/06/26	Fri 19/06/26	33
35		Tender Period	20 days	Mon 22/06/26	Fri 17/07/26	34
36		Tender Site Visit	0 days	Wed 01/07/26	Wed 01/07/26	34FS+8 days
37		Receipt of Tender Submissions	0 days	Fri 17/07/26	Fri 17/07/26	35
38		Tender Evaluation	10 days	Mon 20/07/26	Fri 31/07/26	37
39		Notice of award	0 days	Fri 31/07/26	Fri 31/07/26	38
40		Standstill period	8 days	Mon 03/08/26	Wed 12/08/26	39
41		Contract award	0 days	Wed 12/08/26	Wed 12/08/26	40
42		PSCA Contract execution	10 days	Thu 13/08/26	Wed 26/08/26	41
43		Contractor mobalisation and project familiarasation	5 days	Thu 27/08/26	Thu 03/09/26	42
44		**Design Development**	**100 days**	**Fri 04/09/26**	**Fri 29/01/27**	
45		Undertake any necessary further surveys and assessments for planning	30 days	Fri 04/09/26	Thu 15/10/26	43
46		Initial Design	30 days	Fri 16/10/26	Thu 26/11/26	45
47		Client review and accpetance	10 days	Fri 27/11/26	Thu 10/12/26	46
48		Detailed Design	30 days	Fri 11/12/26	Fri 29/01/27	47
49		**Consents & Planning**	**110 days**	**Thu 26/11/26**	**Wed 12/05/27**	
50		Consents & Licenses Workshop	0 days	Thu 26/11/26	Thu 26/11/26	46
51		Agreements with landowner	20 days	Fri 11/12/26	Fri 15/01/27	47
52		Preparing and submitting Planning Permis	80 days	Fri 11/12/26	Tue 13/04/27	47
53		Obtain FRAP	40 days	Fri 11/12/26	Fri 12/02/27	47
54		Obtain any necessary environmental / ecology permits and license	40 days	Fri 11/12/26	Fri 12/02/27	47
55		Obtaining Planning Permission	0 days	Tue 13/04/27	Tue 13/04/27	52
56		Discharge Planning Conditions	20 days	Wed 14/04/27	Wed 12/05/27	55
57		**NEC4 ECSC Contract Execution**	**10 days**	**Wed 14/04/27**	**Tue 27/04/27**	
58		Draft Contract	5 days	Wed 14/04/27	Tue 20/04/27	52
59		Execute Contract	5 days	Wed 21/04/27	Tue 27/04/27	58
60		**Obtain SAB Permission**	**80 days**	**Fri 11/12/26**	**Tue 13/04/27**	
61		Preparion of Pre-SAB application	35 days	Fri 11/12/26	Fri 05/02/27	47
62		Time allowance for reviewing feedback and taking on comments	10 days	Mon 08/02/27	Fri 19/02/27	61
63		Preparation of Full-SAB application	35 days	Mon 22/02/27	Tue 13/04/27	62
64		**Consutruction Phase**	**95 days**	**Thu 13/05/27**	**Fri 24/09/27**	
65		Material lead in period	60 days	Thu 13/05/27	Thu 05/08/27	56
66		Site mobalisation period	20 days	Thu 13/05/27	Thu 10/06/27	65SS
67		Bridge construction incl. foundations	60 days	Fri 11/06/27	Fri 03/09/27	66
68		Main bridleway and path construction wo	60 days	Fri 11/06/27	Fri 03/09/27	66
69		Mitigation works	5 days	Mon 06/09/27	Fri 10/09/27	68,67
70		Completion / handover	0 days	Fri 10/09/27	Fri 10/09/27	69
71		Float	10 days	Mon 13/09/27	Fri 24/09/27	70



Project: 51312 Ewenni MUB
Date: 27.04.2026

Task | Milestone | Summary | Critical | Critical Split | Progress

Burroughs		PROJECT RISK REGISTER High: Medium: Low: Opportunity	Project ID: 51312-00	Rev: P3.0	Ewenni Multi-User Bridge

Project Risk Register

Ref	Project Stage	Subject	Risk Description	Initial Risk Rating			Risk Owner Suggestion	Current and Proposed Mitigation Action	Residual Risk Rating			Comments
				Likelihood	Impact	Risk Rating	Client Risk / Shared Risk / Contractor Risk		Likelihood	Impact	Risk Rating	
~~1.00~~	~~0/1~~	~~Planning~~	~~Full planning permission may be required. There is uncertainty around Lawful Development Certificate (LDC). Current position not fully ascertained.~~	~~5~~	~~5~~	~~25~~	~~Client Risk~~	~~Burroughs have sought advice from trusted Planning Consultant - advises to submit LDC which will confirm plannnig requirements. Burroughs have not contacted RCT LPA directly due to unlikely formal response.~~	~~1~~	~~4~~	~~4~~	LDC submitted and response received. Planning required. Burorughs to determine route to market.
~~2.00~~	~~0/1~~	~~Planning~~	~~Planning boundary and extent of works to be agreed, subject to the extent of MU routes as part of this phase of work.~~	~~4~~	~~4~~	~~16~~	~~Client Risk~~	~~Discussion to be had between LCC / Burroughs / access consultant re: proposed works, extent of works and start to determine routes into the site as contractor access, which could be included on a Planning drawing.~~	~~1~~	~~3~~	~~3~~	~~LCC have asked Burroughs to review and price additional works inclusive of the wider footpath works for inclusion in the main works.~~
3.00	0/1	Stakeholders	Stakeholders: Lack of engagement Planning Objections (subject to Planning requirements) General complaints and/or unhappy with proposals Onerous or unacheivable demands and requirements	5	5	25	Client	Burroughs currently drafting a Stakeholder Plan. Burroughs to commence engagement with key stakeholders (namely statutory authorities).	2	3	6	Burroughs continue to engage with stakeholders. Liaison with PROW, NRW and BHS are ongoing.
~~4.00~~	~~0/1~~	~~Ecology~~	~~Protected Species - the presence of and working to various time constraints~~	~~5~~	~~5~~	~~25~~	~~Client~~	~~Burroughs to identify what existing information we have in terms of ecology. Burroughs to consider engaging with ecologists to undertake surveys and onboard an ecological consultant.~~	~~3~~	~~3~~	~~9~~	Ecology survey quotations obtained and await decision by LCC who to appoint.
5.00	0/1	Environmental	Flooding and Flood Risk Management Working during Winter months is unlikely acceptable due to flood risk and safety. Permanent works could affect the current flow path of the river leading to wider area flood risk.	5	5	25	Client / Contractor	Works likely to require both temporary and permanent FRAP for working in the river and constructing new bridge. Burroughs to engage with NRW and detemine FRAP requirements.	3	3	9	Burroughs to approach NRW
6.00	0/1	Statutory Approvals	Statutory Approvals and Applications At this stage anticipated to be LPA-Planning application (as above), NRW-FRAP (as above) and DCWW due to proximity to existing sewer easement. Other applications and approvals being considered.	5	5	25	Client	Through engagement with Stakeholders and progession of planning and NRW risks, the need for further applications and approvals shall be identified.	1	3	3	Burroughs continue to determine some of the detail and constraints that can be included with the tender docuements.
7.00	0/1	Procurement	Inflations and market volatility in material costs and general market apetite due to other works.	4	4	16	Client	Burroughs currently informally engaging the market for accurate costs and marlet appetite.	2	2	4	Burroughs have undertaken an initial market engagement in recent months and now seek site visits from contractors - ongoing
8.00	0/1	Geotechnical	Unknown ground conditions, which shall be needed to design foundations and determine access routes.	5	5	25	Client / Contractor	Planning Requirements conversation shall determine procurement route and when GI investigations are undertaken. Ground investigation shall need ot be undertaken at some point to allow the design of foundations and pavements.	2	3	6	Subject to route to market.

9.00	0/1	Access / Logistics	Access is limited / restricted so advance works to agree potential routes would assist and inform Contractors what they can and cannot do.	4	4	16	Client / Contractor	To be discussed further with Burroughs / LCC and landowners.	3	3	9	-
10.00	0/1	Adoption / Maintenance	Once constructed, the structure and paved areas shall need to be owned by someone. This shall need to be agreed so that Adopters can be involed in design process. Risk that LCC left with a structure and paths to maintain.	5	5	25	Client	Burroughs to include proposed parties, such as RCT Deptartments, in Stakeholder engagement works.	2	2	4	-
11.00	0/1	Decision Making / Governance	Decisions required need to be identified and made in a timely manner.	4	4	16	Client	Burroughs to manage Decisions Logs to assist with the Decisions Required and Made. To be submitted to LCC 7-days in advance of TEC meetings.	3	3	9	-
12.00	0/1	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal	Ecological constraints may affect the feasibility, design, programme and cost of the proposed route and bridge works. The route passes through/adjacent to sensitive habitats, including a SINC, priority woodland/grassland, the Ewenni Fach stream, protected/priority species habitat and invasive species. Potential planning delays, additional surveys, seasonal working restrictions, design amendments, ecological mitigation and increased construction costs.	5	4	20	Client / Contractor	Develop the design in consultation with the project ecologist, minimise habitat loss, review the compound/location strategy, allow for further surveys and prepare proportionate ecological mitigation/enhancement proposals as the scheme develops.	3	3	9	-
13.00	0/2	PEA / Planning mitigation	Mitigation - potential loss of trees may trigger a requirement for replacement native tree planting at a 3:1 ratio, with associated cost, land take and maintenance implications.	5	4	20	Client / Contractor	Develop the design in consultation with the project ecologist, minimise habitat loss, review the compound/location strategy, allow for further surveys and prepare proportionate ecological mitigation/enhancement proposals as the scheme develops. Burroughs to consider how this can be mitigated further at this stage and how to include in the tender docuements.	4	4	16	-

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Decision making Matrix - Reviewed 28th May 2026
The Ewenni crossing bridge and connecting paths is intended to be a Multi-user route.* *"Multi-user being defined as for use by all users. including pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders, disabled people and those with impaired mobility therefore being fully compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and family friendly. This definition is NOT a legal definition of any right of way or bridleway or any other such passage and is to be used within the context it was written.

Item no	Element of specification	Notes	Proposal (Unless rendered void by law, statutory guidance, licence conditions or engineering considerations). All elements to be agreed with Landowners.
1	Non engineering specification for bridge and connecting pathways relevant to our circumstances	Height, width, surface material (bhs Specification sheet sent to CN). Some of this detail will depend on the eventual span and deck height. Also some of the specifications in the document are subjective - See document notes. This should be reviewed by the working group and definitive measurements given pertaining to the local conditions.	The bridge, its abutments and all paths to be designed and construted sympathetically to the local environment. Accessibility element: suitable surface materials, incline and other required factors. The new river Ewenny bridge and the connecting pathways will be designed to be suitable for use by all users including pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders, disabled people (specifically wheelchair users) and those with impaired mobility therefore being fully compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and family friendly. Specifically the route will in time be designated as a bridleway subject to the relevant legal process. Equestrian element: As per bhs recommendations and guidance specifically: 1.8m parapet and other factors including signage and mounting/dismounting aids. It is anciipated that the width of the route will be 3m wide where possible, subject to physical and engineering constrainst and/or inductry best practice and statutory guidance. It is anticipated that construction will be from proven materials and in keeping with the local environment. It is anticipated that RCTCBC will adopt future inspection and maintenance of the bridge and any design must be approved by them in the usual way and so the design and construction must be carried out with this in mind. Surface material of deck should be durable, proivde long lasting skid resistance, be equestrian and wheelchair friendly should be resitant to puddling have drainage properties and able to be used in a woodland environment (leaves/mulch etc..) and relatively maintenance free. Design should take into account the access audit and accompanying clarification notes provided in the email to Burroughs dated 1/4/2026

8	Specification of the path between the proposed bridge and the network rail bridge.	Any aspects of this path that are to be specificed. Will further applications be nccesary (eg - Diversion order) - How will this be managed? Who will apply and when?? Include restrictions around the DCWW Sewer pipe.	See above, also.... The route should be free draining, durable, sympathetic to the local woodlandenvironment and relatively maintenance free. All sections suitably edged. Gradient and width/design of routes, including the radius of turns and any required anciliary items (eg Handrails, rest benches) to be appropriate for the catagory of user, particularly wheelchair users and equestrians incorporating suitable landings and seating where appropriate.Refer to DFT, LTN1/20 The route of the southern path assumed to curve to the west to avoid main Violet Oil Beetle sites and/or to facilitate achievement of the desired gradients etc... LS Note: For consideration by the Committee - Do we allow a desire line pedestrian route and if so would this be surfaced or left natrual (perhaps with a hard to soft engineering solution). Where forest floor meets metaled or hard surface. To decrease future puddling. Consider a transitional material to avoid going to soft & wet to hard which produces puddling and high maintenance demand.
8a	Specification of the path from the north of the proposed bridge to the crossroads in the woods and to the west, exiting at 'The Green' (Ecohouses)		See item 1. Also... Sections constructed from material sutiable for users. Should be free draining, durable, sympathetic to the local woodland environment and relatively maintenance free. All sections suitably edged where necessary.. Gradient and width/design of routes and any required anciliary items (eg Handrails, rest benches), to be appropriate for the catagory of user, particularly wheelchair users and equestrians incorporating suitable landings and seating where appropriate. Route(s) should avoid creating 'desire lines' where pedestrians veer off the engineered route to create informal paths alongside. Where forest floor meets metaled or hard surface. To decrease future puddling. Consider a transitional material to avoid going to soft & wet to hard which produces puddling and high maintenance demand. Appropriate signage and vision boards showing the route and the bridleway and accessible elements included.

8b	Specification of the path to the south of the NR bridge to Bryncae Community Centre car park.		See itew 1 and 2 also..... consideration should be given to the orientation of the route of the path through Bryncae Community Centre carpar with regards to hazards to horse-riders and the pallisade fencing at the boundary with the railway line. Specifically the sharp edges on top of the fencing. And mitigation of ecology and interface with Network Rail. Consideration to segregation of equestrian users through the carpark.
9	Decide on how to manage the small tributary stream running from the north and joining the stream to the east of the northern abutment.	- Piping undegroud would necessitate licenses and a FRAP - Leaving as is may cause future issues or issues during construction - Option to leave roughly in place but to fortify the western bank with a suitable material (Not concrete)..	The integrity of the western bank must be maintained using soft engineering solutions. (Eg using materials from felled trees).
10	Spec required for fencing on approaches to bridge.	Necessary to prevent users falling into stream and to guide to bridge. Extent, design , colour and material.	Material used in keeping with the bridge design and the woodland environment. To provide a guide or corral and any required anciliary items (eg Handrails) onto the bridge and provide some measure of edge protection. Where forest floor meets metaled or hard surface. To decrease future puddling. Consider a transitional material to avoid going to soft & wet to hard which produces puddling and high maintenance demand
12	Consider any other aesthetic aspects of the bridge or the project. (eg Colour, style etc..)	Once a colour is decided upon the Clerk can obtain codes and samples for further consideration if necessary.	Green. RAL no to be chosen once material is decided upon and any colour restrictions ascertained.

14	Access arrangements/restrictions for plant and equipment and working area restrictions.	Any restrictions from Wildlife trust. Timings, types of machines etc…including restrictions around the greywater(?) pipe and manhole on the northern approach path. This should include any currently known or desired restrictions regarding ecology (eg Oil beetles), although the FRAP should address these issues also. or Note: As part of the tender a site visit will be required and the tender MUST make clear the access restrictions both sides of the bridge as this will feed into construction method. It should be assumed that the NR bridge will be operational then. Include design in scoping design/tender pack.	Pre-tender visit mandatory. Path from the north is currently 2m wide in places. (potential to widen slightly subject to agreement from the Wildlife trust and any consents or licences that might be necessary). A worksite/compound site to be identified and agreed with the wildlife trust. Drop off only (no parking) on reserve land itself. Limited parking available at the western end of the reserve. Access from the south limited by presence of the Network rail crossing bridge. Any access required from the South is subject to the contractor making suitable arrangements and gaining permissions where required. (Note: Persimmon Homes have indicated that reasonable permissions will be given. Network Rail have made no indication of whether permissions will be given. Scheme of works must include the usual biosecurity plans and polution plans. (To be written into tender). Note: Staus and weight restrictions on the greywater pipe on the Northern path unknown.
16	Agree in principle construction dates and arrangements for temporary closure of footpath.	No works are permitted between 15th October and 15th April in or immediately around the watercourse. Given weather conditions this would suggest an ideal operating window for construction of between approx the end April to end June. (Target 2025?) Bird nesting between March and Sept unless surveys undertaken. Oil beetle critical period between March to end may. Desirable that no work to take place on south side along pathway or in wooded area between these times. Further information required RE Mice, bats etc… Wildlife trust has some survey data that might suffice.	The extent to which the route or sections of the route will be closed to the public and for what periods of time to be subject to a scoring cretiera built into the tender.

	Other factors		For Part 2 of the tender. Incorporating signage with colour coded routes and corresponding waymarkers will assist users to navigate the site, such as a series of signs along a route that are common in appearance will be easily identifiable to an individual. Information at the beginning of a route about its accessibility is essential to disabled users when deciding if it is right for them. Such information should be made available on information boards and online to allow people to make a decision in advance.Accessible features, such as braille, tactile and pictorial information on signage. Gates to be suitable for use by equestrians, ensure they provide an accessible means of entry meeting minimum recommended dimensions for the depth and width of the box. Refer to BS5709:2006 – Gaps, Gates and Stiles. Gates should be of an appropriate size, open from both sides of approach and be suitable for equestrian users. For those with extra accessibility needs, gate opening mechanisms should be easy to operate using a 'closed-fist', limited dexterity and/or minimal force and be opened from both side with latches being colour contrasted OR Self closing hinges remove the need for latches. Opening mechanisms should be easy to operate from both sides of approach. Consider: Benches (With hard approach) at regular intervals (at the recommended spec - See accessbility Audit) for rest. A number of rest shelters along the route providing refuge from elements (See accessibilty audit).