



HT ECOLOGY

Ecology Report

Proposed Lower Field Infill, Tregoad,
Tregoad Holiday Park, Looe, Cornwall



Prepared for:
Waterside Holiday Parks

Date:
March 2024

Prepared by:
HT Ecology Ltd
Bramblings
Bramford Speke
Exeter, EX5 5DW
Email: hayden@htecology.co.uk
Tel: 07522 399657

Contents

1. Introduction, legislation and methodology	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Methodology.....	2
2. Ecological baseline.....	4
2.1 Designated sites	4
2.2 Habitats.....	4
2.3 Adjacent habitats.....	7
2.4 Protected/Notable Species.....	7
2.5 Evaluation	8
3. Mitigation, enhancements and conclusions	9
3.1 The proposed works	9
3.2 Designated sites	9
3.3 Habitats.....	9
3.4 Conclusions	10
4. References and bibliography.....	11

Figure

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

Figure 2: Habitats Plan

Figure 3: Proposed Development Plan

Figure 4: Proposed Planting and Biodiversity Net Gain Plan

Annexe

Annexe 1: Wildlife legislation

Annexe 2: Species legislation

Annexe 3: Bird Box examples

Annexe 4: Statutory Small Sites Metric (refer to separate spreadsheet)

Date	Written by	Approved by
15/03/2024	H. Torr BSc CEnv MCIEEM	T. Davies MSc MCIEEM

Disclaimer

This document has been prepared by HT Ecology Ltd who accepts no responsibility or liability for any use that is made of this document other than by the client for the purposes for which it was originally commissioned and prepared.

The evidence which we have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the guidance of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions. Any recommendation, opinion or finding stated in this report is based on circumstances and facts as they existed at the time that HT Ecology Ltd performed the work.

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

1. Introduction, legislation and methodology

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 HT Ecology was commissioned by WMW Planning on behalf of Waterside Holiday Parks to produce an Ecology Report to support a planning application for 17 additional holiday lodges in the Lower Field, Tregoad Holiday Park, Looe, Cornwall, PL13 1PB (approximate OS Grid Ref. SX271557). Refer to Figure 1 for site location (hereafter referred to as the 'site').

1.1.2 This report was undertaken in accordance with BS42020:2013 and Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Guidelines (2018) and includes the following sections:

- Description of the existing ecological baseline;
- Assessment of the potential development effects, and provision of mitigation and enhancement measures to address negative effects and to ensure compliance with nature conservation legislation; and
- Conclusions and summary of residual effects following incorporation of avoidance and mitigation measures.

Legislation and planning policy

Wildlife legislation

1.1.3 The following wildlife legislation is relevant to the proposed scheme: refer to Annexe 1:

- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended);
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000;
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006; and
- Environment Act 2021.

1.1.4 The relevant species legislation is provided in Annexe 2.

National planning policy

1.1.5 The Government's key national planning policy is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in 2023. The NPPF includes the Government's policy on the protection of biodiversity through the planning system. It states that local plan policies and planning decisions should seek to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity. Planning policies should promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations (e.g. Habitats and Species of Principal Importance under the NERC Act 2006).

Local planning policy

Cornwall Local Plan 2010-2030 (Adopted 2016)

1.1.6 Cornwall council's policy requirements for planning applications are set out in the Cornwall Local Plan. The policies relating to biodiversity are outlined out below.

1.1.7 *Policy 22- European Protected Sites* sets out mitigation measures required for residential, student and tourism development on European sites. This applies to development within the Zone of Influence around those vulnerable European sites. Refer to the below Section 2.1 and 3.2 for further information.

1.1.8 *Policy 23- Natural Environment* is relevant to this assessment and states that development should conserve, protect and where possible enhance biodiversity interests commensurate with their status and giving appropriate weight to their importance. The relevant sub-sections of Policy 23 are summarised below:

- European Sites: The highest level of protection will be given to Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites.
- Priority species and habitats: Adverse impacts on protected species and Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species must be avoided wherever possible (i) subject to the legal tests afforded to them, where applicable (ii) otherwise, unless the need for and benefits clearly outweigh the loss.
- Avoidance, mitigation and compensation for landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity impacts Development should avoid adverse impact on existing features as a first principle and enable net gains by designing in landscape and biodiversity features and enhancements, and opportunities for geological conservation alongside new development. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable they must be adequately and proportionately mitigated. If full mitigation cannot be provided, compensation will be required as a last resort.

European Sites Mitigation Strategy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

1.1.9 This Supplementary Planning Document requires new development to provide additional information on recreational impacts from new housing and tourist development on European sites. This document sets out the contributions required to offset the impacts and outlines the associated information required to be submitted with the planning application.

Cornwall Planning for Biodiversity Guide and Net Gain SPD

1.1.10 The Cornwall Planning for Biodiversity Guide SPD was adopted in October 2018 and is a material consideration in planning decisions. The guide sets out Cornwall Council's approach for achieving a gain for nature within development sites. It does this by encouraging more biodiverse green and blue space within development sites, such as parks, ponds and corridors of open green space along rivers and hedges. It also gives prescriptive measures for the provision of bat and bird boxes, and bee bricks to make space for nature and the expected quality of ecological reporting for planning applications.

Climate Emergency Development Plan Document (adopted February 2023)

1.1.11 This DPD includes Policy G2 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Guidance, which states that Cornwall Council requires 10% net gain to be achieved for all major planning applications through the use of the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric. Minor developments shall demonstrate biodiversity net gain in accordance with the Small Sites Biodiversity Metric.

1.2 Methodology

Ecological Baseline

Desk study

1.2.1 Information on statutory designated sites of nature conservation value within 2km of the site (extended to 10km for Habitats Sites/Former European Sites) was obtained by searching the following websites:

- MAGIC website (www.magic.gov.uk); and

- Environmental Layer on the Cornwall Council Interactive Map (<https://map.cornwall.gov.uk/website/ccmap> accessed 24/8/23).¹

1.2.2 The information obtained from the above websites was considered sufficient for this ecological assessment in view of the small size of the site and low value habitats that occur on-site.

Extended Habitat survey

1.2.3 An Extended UK Habitat Classification Survey (UKHab) of the site and the surrounding area (hereafter referred to as the 'survey area') was undertaken on 21 August 2023 (refer to Figure 2). The survey followed methodology published by the UK Habitat Classification Working Group (2023) and the Institute of Environmental Assessment (1995). It identified the main habitat types within the survey area along with the presence/potential presence of protected and notable species. Target notes were used to record habitats and features of particular interest. A botanical species list was collected and the species recorded included in the habitat description in Section 2.2 below.

Survey limitations

1.2.4 No survey limitations were noted.

Ecological Assessment, Mitigation, Enhancement and Conclusions

1.2.5 The importance of the ecological features identified was evaluated using criteria for habitats and species following CIEEM guidelines (2018). Ecological importance is classified using an eight-level geographic scale from 'Sub-Parish' (low) to 'International' (high).

1.2.6 The potential effects were described and the geographic scale at which the effect would occur was assessed; effects at 'Sub-Parish' (low) level or below were not considered 'Significant'. Where significant effects were identified, mitigation or compensation measures were described; residual effects after mitigation were assessed following the approach above.

1.2.7 This section provides a summary of the Statutory Small Sites Biodiversity Metric (DEFRA, 2023) which compares the number of habitat units to be lost with the number gained. Cornwall Council requires all developments to use this metric to demonstrate that 10% net gain would be achieved.

Survey validity

1.2.8 This report, and the results of the ecological survey contained within, remains valid for 18 months from the date of survey in accordance with CIEEM guidance (CIEEM, 2019). This report therefore expires in February 2025.

Surveyor Experience and Code of Conduct

1.2.9 The author and surveyor, Hayden Torr, is a Director at HT Ecology. Hayden has 25 years' experience working in the ecological sector and is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and a Chartered Environmentalist. CIEEM's Code of Conduct was followed during the survey and reporting.

¹ The County Wildlife Sites shown on the Cornwall Council Interactive Map are confidential and these sites have therefore been omitted from this desk study. A formal desk study from the local records centre would be undertaken should the search of this map identify CWS within or immediately adjacent the site.

2. Ecological baseline

2.1 *Designated sites*

2.1.1 No statutory designated sites of nature conservation value occurred within the 2km desk study area.

2.1.2 The site lies within 10km of the following Habitats Sites:

- Tamar Estuaries Complex Special Protection Area (SPA) which occurs 8km to the east of the site and is designated for supporting important populations of little egret during the winter and pied avocet on passage.
- Plymouth Sound and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which also occurs 8km to the east and is designated for its sandbanks, estuarine, mudflats, salt meadows, reef habitats and its population of shore dock and allis shad.
- Polruan to Polperro SAC occurs approximately 7.8km to the east of the site and is designated for its vegetated sea cliffs, dry heaths and population of shore dock.

2.2 *Habitats*

2.2.1 The survey area comprised part of Tregoad Holiday Park comprising mobile homes surrounded by modified grassland, hardstanding, recently established ruderal/ephemeral vegetation, wildflower grassland and introduced shrubs (refer to Figure 2).

2.2.2 The habitat descriptions below describe survey data collected from the UK Habs survey undertaken within the survey area.

Developed land; sealed surface

2.2.3 Numerous recently installed mobile homes were located throughout the survey area. These were typically prefabricated structures with a low-profile, pitched roofs (refer to Photograph 1). Access roads and parking bays were situated between the mobile homes.

Modified Grassland

2.2.4 This habitat occurred between the mobile homes throughout the survey area and was dominated by annual meadow-grass with occasional broadleaved dock and Yorkshire fog (refer to Photograph 1).

Ephemeral/ruderal

2.2.5 This habitat primarily occurred to the north of the hedgerow that divides the survey area, on ground that appeared to have been landscaped within the last 12 months (Photograph 2). Species identified in this area included broadleaved dock, false-oat grass, ragwort, prickly lettuce, creeping thistle and red centaury.

2.2.6 A smaller 2 to 3m strip of ruderal/ephemeral vegetation was located on a recently constructed bank in the west of the survey area. The species composition was similar to the above, but with occasional musk thistle and redshank.



Photograph 1 – caravan, modified grassland, roads and introduced shrubs in the centre of the site



Photograph 2 – Northern boundary of the survey area looking south showing access road and ruderal/ ephemeral vegetation

Artificial surface – unsealed surface

- 2.2.7 A recently installed gravel track was located along the western boundary of the survey area (Photograph 3). It was primarily devoid of vegetation, except for occasional broadleaved dock.



Photograph 3 – unsealed surface and ruderal/ ephemeral bank in west of the survey area

Introduced shrubs

- 2.2.8 Several non-native ornamental shrubs were located in planted beds in the north east of the survey area.

Other neutral grassland

- 2.2.9 A strip of wildflower turf was situated in the east of the survey area. The sward was approximately 30cm high at the time of survey and contained frequent viper's bugloss, yarrow, bird's-foot trefoil, ragged robin and black knapweed. This habitat appeared to be in 'good' condition according to the UKHabs condition assessment.

Hedgerow

- 2.2.10 A native hedgerow extended from west to east through the survey area, dividing the recently landscape area in the north from the caravan park (Photograph 4). An access road bisected the hedgerow. Species here included hawthorn, hazel and blackthorn. The associated hedgebank lacked vegetation at the time of survey. Several rabbit burrows were recorded within the hedgebank.



Photograph 4 – unsealed surface and ruderal/ ephemeral vegetation in west of the survey area

2.3 *Adjacent habitats*

- 2.3.1 The survey area is located approximately 1km to the north east of the town of Looe and is surrounded by the following habitats:
- A field of modified grassland and ruderal/ephemeral vegetation to the west and north west; and
 - The remainder of Tregoad Holiday Part to the north east, east and south. Broadleaved woodland occurred beyond the holiday park approximately 100m to the south.

2.4 *Protected/Notable Species*

Amphibians and reptiles

- 2.4.1 The base of the hedge and other neutral grassland provided suitable terrestrial habitat for common amphibians and reptiles, including common toad, slow-worm and common lizard, which are Priority Species. Slow-worm and common lizard are also both legally protected species.

Birds

- 2.4.2 The hedgerow and introduced shrubs within the survey area provided suitable nesting habitat for common and widespread bird species which are legally protected.

Bats

- 2.4.3 The caravans within the survey area were considered to have 'negligible' suitability for roosting bats. The hedgerow provided suitable foraging and commuting bat habitat.

Badger

- 2.4.4 No badger evidence was recorded within the survey area, although this species could forage within the ruderal/ephemeral and grassland habitats. The hedgebank provided suitable habitat for sett building.

Hazel dormouse

- 2.4.5 The native hedgerow within the survey area provided suitable habitat for nesting dormouse, although several gaps were noted in these hedgerows, which reduces its connectivity with the wider area and therefore decreases its suitability for dormouse.

Hedgehog

- 2.4.6 The native hedgerow provided suitable foraging habitat for hedgehogs.

2.5 Evaluation

- 2.5.1 The native hedgerow within the site is assessed as being of Parish ecological importance; hedgerows function as ecological corridors and is a Priority Habitat. The wildflower grassland was of moderate species-richness and also considered to be of Parish importance. All other habitats were assessed as being of Negligible of Sub-Parish ecological importance.
- 2.5.2 The site was considered to be of Parish value for dormouse and Sub-Parish value for nesting birds, common toad, reptiles, hedgehog and badgers.

3. Mitigation, enhancements and conclusions

3.1 The proposed works

Development description

3.1.1 The proposals comprise infilling the existing holiday park with up to 17 additional holiday lodges, together with associated landscaping works (refer to Figure 3 for the Development Plan).

Ecological mitigation and enhancement measures included within the design

3.1.2 The proposed development would incorporate an integrated landscape and ecological design (refer to the Biodiversity Net Gain Plan at Figure 4). A key element would be the creation of 222m² of new wildlife meadow (wildflower turf) and the installation of six bird boxes within the adjacent hedgerow to ensure 'Biodiversity Gain'.

3.2 Designated sites

3.2.1 Natural England, together with local authorities including Cornwall Council, have determined that residential and tourism development within 12.3 km of the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC and the Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA have potential for an in-combination 'Likely Significant Effect' on these sites through increased recreational pressure. This potential effect would be avoided through payment of a financial contribution towards access management within the SPA/SAC, secured through planning obligations.

3.2.2 No effects on other designated sites are predicted during the construction or operational phase.

3.3 Habitats

3.3.1 Construction would result in the removal of 524m² ruderal/ephemeral vegetation, 696m² of unsealed surface. This removal would have a short-term negative effect at the Sub-Parish level.

3.3.2 The landscape proposals would lead to the creation of wildflower grassland (refer to Section 3.1 above). A Biodiversity Metric has been produced for the site which compares the habitats to be lost with those to be gained post-development (refer to Annex 4 for full details). The results of the metric are summarised in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1: Biodiversity Metric Results

Baseline Units	Habitat units	1.3988	
	Hedgerow units	Zero Units Baseline	
	Watercourse units	Zero Units Baseline	
Post-development Units	Habitat units	1.5488	
	Hedgerow units	0.0000	
	Watercourse units	0.0000	
Total net unit change	Habitat units	0.1500	✓
	Hedgerow units	0.0000	
	Watercourse units	0.0000	
Total net % change	Habitat units	10.72%	✓
	Hedgerow units	% target not appropriate	
	Watercourse units	% target not appropriate	

- 3.3.3 The increase in Habitat Units by **10.72%** would result in a beneficial effect at the Sub-Parish level once habitats mature in the medium-term.

Amphibians, reptiles and hedgehog

- 3.3.4 The ruderal/ephemeral vegetation to be removed is sparse and recently established, and therefore unlikely to support amphibians, reptiles or hedgehog.

Birds

- 3.3.5 No suitable nesting habitat would be lost to the proposed development. The six woodcrete bird boxes installed in the hedgerow (refer to Figure 4) would enhance the site for birds. The boxes should be installed away from direct sunlight and the prevailing wind.

Bats

- 3.3.6 No bat roosts would be affected during construction. Site clearance is unlikely to significantly disrupt bats from foraging and commuting around the site and therefore no habitat fragmentation effect on bats is predicted during construction.
- 3.3.7 As lighting is already present within the existing holiday park, no significant change in light levels are predicted post-development, and therefore, the effect on commuting/forging bats is expected to be negligible.

Dormouse

- 3.3.8 No direct impacts to the hedgerow is predicted during construction, and it would be protected during construction from damage by construction vehicles.

Badger

- 3.3.9 Site clearance is unlikely to significantly disrupt badgers from using the site. Construction would be limited to existing landscaped areas, which are unlikely to result in any open excavations which could lead to the entrapment of badgers. No adverse effects are therefore predicted.

3.4 Conclusions

- 3.4.1 Following implementation of the recommendations within Section 3 of this report, the proposed development would protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity in accordance with policies concerning the conservation of biodiversity in (i) the National Planning Policy Framework (2023), (ii) Policies 22 and 23 of the Cornwall Local Plan 2010-2030 (Adopted 2016) and (iii) Policy G2 of the Climate Emergency DPD (Adopted 2023).

4. References and bibliography

Collins, J. (Ed) 2016. *Bat surveys good practice guidelines – 3rd edition*. BCT, London.

CIEEM, 2018. *Ecological impact assessment guidelines – 3rd edition*.

CIEEM, 2019. Advice note on the lifespan of ecological reports and surveys.

Institute of Environmental Assessment (1995) *Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment*. E & FN Spon. London.

UK Hab, 2023. The UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0

Figure 1: Site Location plan



Date: 27/04/2023
 Drawn by: [Name]
 Checked by: [Name]

NB
Architects
DA

www.nbarchitects.com 01223 310000

Client: **WATERSIDE HOLIDAY GROUP**

Project: **TREGOAD HOLIDAY PARK
 LOWER FIELD INFILLS**

Title: **LOCATION PLAN
 WITH BOUNDARIES REMOVED**

Drawing No: **2031-LF-IN-002** Scale:

Date: **1/12/2023** Size: **A1**


This drawing is the property of NB Architects and is not to be used, copied, or reproduced in any form without the written consent of NB Architects.

Figure 2: Habitats Plan




Key

 Red Line Boundary

 Survey area

HEDGEROWS

 Native hedgerow

Habitats Baseline

 Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface

 Developed land; sealed surface

 Introduced shrub

 Modified grassland

 Other neutral grassland

 Ruderal/Ephemeral



HT ECOLOGY

Site: Tregoad Caravan Park, Looe

Client: Tregoad Holiday Park

Date: 12/03/2024

Map copyright: Google Maps Open Source

Figure 3: Proposed Development Plan

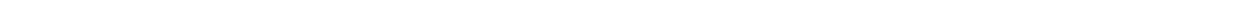


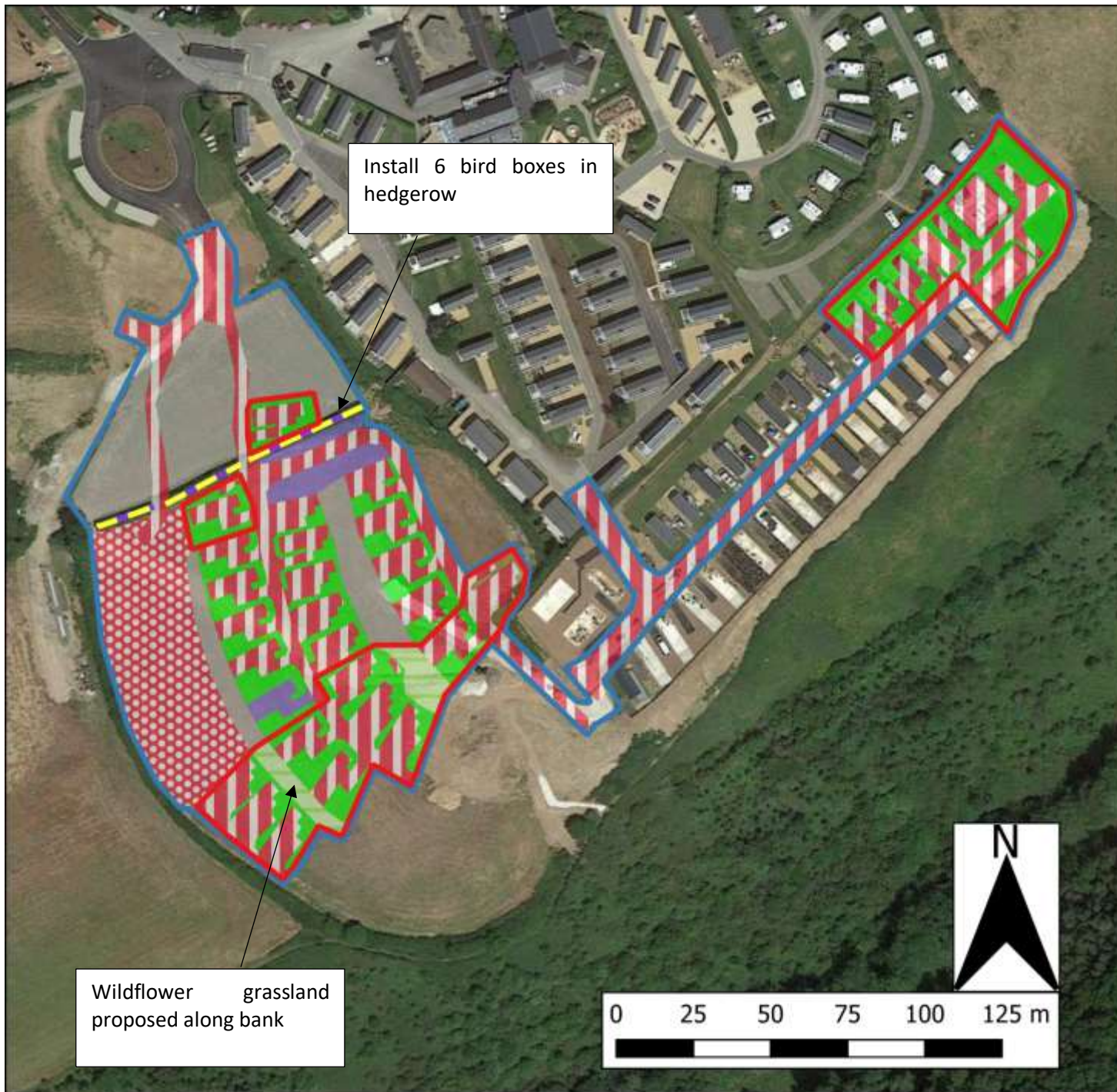
NB DA
 Architects

DATE: 10/10/2024
 PROJECT: [REDACTED]
 DRAWING: [REDACTED]
 SHEET: [REDACTED]

SCALE: 1:500
 DRAWN BY: [REDACTED]
 CHECKED BY: [REDACTED]

Figure 4: Proposed Planting and Biodiversity Net Gain Plan








Install 6 bird boxes in hedgerow

Wildflower grassland proposed along bank







Key

-  Red Line Boundary
-  Survey area

HEDGEROWS

-  Native hedgerow

Habitats Proposed

-  Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
-  Developed land; sealed surface
-  Introduced shrub
-  Modified grassland
-  Other neutral grassland
-  Ruderal/Ephemeral



HT ECOLOGY

Site: Tregoad Caravan Park, Looe

Client: Tregoad Holiday Park

Date: 12/03/2024

Map copyright: Google Maps Open Source



0 25 50 75 100 125 m



Annexe 1: Wildlife legislation

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

These Regulations, also referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations', implement the EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna (92/43/EEC) and the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC). The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of former 'European Sites' (Natura 2000 sites). They convey a statutory requirement for local planning authorities to undertake a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' of the potential impacts of plans and projects, including development proposals, on European Sites. The provisions also include protection of former 'European Protected Species' (EPS). Under the Regulations, local planning authorities have to consider three 'derogation tests' when deciding whether to grant permission for a development that affects an EPS, which are as follows:

- the development must be for over-riding public interest or for public health and safety;
- there are no satisfactory alternatives to the proposed development; and
- the favourable conservation status of the EPS concerned must be maintained.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

This Act is the principal wildlife legislation in Great Britain. It includes provisions for important habitats to be designated and protected as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Numerous plant and animal species, and the places that they use for shelter and protection, are also protected under the Act, including all bats and also birds, their nests and eggs.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Referred to as the CROW Act, this legislation increases the protection of SSSIs and strengthens wildlife enforcement action. The Act also strengthens the protection of protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) through the introduction of a new offence of 'reckless disturbance'.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

This Act places a duty on all public bodies and statutory undertakers to have due regard to the conservation of biodiversity in all their functions. It also requires the publication of a list of habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation of the biodiversity. This list, known as the Section 41 list, includes all Priority Habitats and Species of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity in England.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

This Act was introduced primarily for animal welfare reasons, as opposed to species conservation. It provides protection of badgers and their setts.

Environment Act 2021

The Environment Act 2021 was passed into legislation in 2021 and completing its transitional phase in February 2024. The act contains legislation relating to air and water quality, waste and recycling. It aims to strengthened biodiversity duty and ensure 10% biodiversity net gain is delivered on development sites. It will also ensure Local Authorities create Local Nature Recovery Strategies to support a Nature Recovery Network.

Annexe 2: Species legislation and conservation status

Amphibians

There are seven native amphibian species present in Britain. These are afforded varying degrees of protection under national legislation. Great crested newts and their habitat are afforded full protection under UK and European legislation, including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Together, this legislation makes it illegal to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill a great crested newt.
- Damage or destroy any place used for shelter or protection, including resting or breeding places; or intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to such a place.
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb great crested newts.

Great crested newt and common toad are Priority Species.

Birds

The bird breeding season generally lasts from March to early September for most species. All birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) and the Countryside & Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. This legislation makes it illegal, both intentionally and recklessly, to:

- kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is being built or in use;
- take or destroy the eggs of any wild bird

Furthermore, birds listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) are protected against intentional or reckless disturbance whilst nest building and when at or near a nest containing eggs or young. Dependent young of Schedule 1 species are also protected against disturbance. Cirl bunting is a Schedule 1 species.

In addition to this legal protection, the leading governmental and non-governmental conservation organisations in the UK have reviewed the population status of the birds regularly found here and produced a list of birds of conservation concern. Of the 247 species assessed, 67 were placed on the Red List of high conservation concern, 96 on the Amber List of medium conservation concern and 81 on the Green List of low conservation concern:

- Red list species are those that are Globally Threatened according to IUCN criteria; those whose population or range has declined rapidly in recent years; and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery.
- Amber list species are those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe; those whose population or range has declined moderately in recent years; and those with internationally important or localised populations.

Badger

Badger (*Meles meles*) is a widespread and common species. However, they are legally protected under The Protection of Badgers Act 1992, due to animal welfare concerns. Under this legislation it is illegal to:

- Wilfully kill, injure, take, or cruelly ill-treat a badger, or attempt to do so
- Intentionally or recklessly interfere with a sett by disturbing badgers whilst they are occupying a sett, damaging or destroying a sett, or obstructing access to it.

A badger sett is defined in the legislation as "*any structure or place, which displays signs indicating current use by a badger*".

Bats

There are 18 species of bats found in the UK, 17 of which are known to breed here. The conservation status of these species is summarised in the table below:

Common name	Scientific name	IUCN Red List*	Priority Species
Greater horseshoe	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	LC	Yes
Lesser horseshoe	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	LC	Yes
Daubenton's	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	LC	No
Brandt's	<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	LC	No
Whiskered	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	LC	No
Natterer's	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	LC	No
Bechstein's	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	NT	Yes
Alcathoe bat	<i>Myotis alcathoe</i>	DD	No
Greater mouse-eared	<i>Myotis myotis</i>	LC	No
Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	LC	No
Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	LC	Yes
Nathusius's pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	LC	No
Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	LC	No
Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	LC	Yes
Leisler's	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	LC	No
Barbastelle	<i>Barbastellabarbastellus</i>	NT	Yes
Brown long-eared	<i>Plectorius auritus</i>	LC	Yes
Grey long-eared	<i>Plectorius austriacus</i>	LC	No

*IUCN categories: LC Least Concern, NT Near Threatened, DD Data Deficient

All bat species are afforded full protection under UK legislation, including the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Together, this legislation makes it illegal to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat.
- Damage or destroy a bat roost; or intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to bat roosts.
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb, a bat, including in particular any disturbance which is likely:

to impair their ability to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or in the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.

A bat roost is defined in the legislation as "*any structure or place which a bat uses for shelter or protection*". Roosts are protected whether or not bats are present at the time.

Annexe 3: Bird Boxes

1B Schwegler Nest Box

<https://www.nhbs.com/1b-schwegler-nest-box>



Annexe 4: Statutory Small Sites Metric (refer to separate excel spreadsheet)

