

## Site Assessment Survey

**PROJECT TITLE:** Proposed Residential Development

**SITE ADDRESS:** Garden Cottage, Pentre-Poeth Road, Rhiwderin, Newport,  
NP10 8RT.

**DATE:** 28th June 2024

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The applicant is seeking planning consent to re-develop a plot of land at Garden Cottage along Pentre-Poeth Road to the south west of the village of Rhiwderin. The property is currently a vacated residential dwelling, planning permission is sought to demolish the existing building and create a new residential dwelling in its place.

The site is centred at approximately NGR ST 2512 8590. An aerial image showing the development site within the context of the wider complex is provided in Appendix 1 at the end of this report. This report focuses on the land and habitats within the site boundary only.

### Site Location

The development site sits in a rural location, within a small group of houses, immediately surrounded by farmland. The site sits to the west of Pentre-Poeth Road and approximately 1.5km south west of Pentre-Poeth village.

Beyond the group of houses are areas of agricultural fields, tree lines, areas of mixed woodland, orchard, hedgerow, river valley, and the occasional detached residential and farm buildings. Garden Cottage is surrounded on two sides by residential properties to the north and west, to the east and south beyond tree lines are agricultural fields.

The Rhymney River meanders roughly north to south and is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) with the closest section of the river SINC approximately 580m away to the west. Several small streams or ditches are apparent on an OS map, the closest is located approximately 60m to the west and appears to eventually lead to the Rhymney River to the west.

There are several small areas of standing water and springs apparent on an OS map, the closest appears to be a garden pond and is located approximately 472m away to the south east. The presence of further ponds in nearby gardens cannot be discounted.

## Previous Survey Work

Garden Cottage has been subject to a Bat Survey by Ecological Services Limited in 2023 and 2024. Full details of the survey methodology and findings can be found in the following report '*Bat Survey: Garden Cottage, Newport, David Williams Homes Ltd*' dated June 2024.

The report confirmed that the building was being used as a day roost by Common Pipistrelle bats with a maximum of four bats observed emerging from the building during any one survey. The emergence surveys did not identify a significant maternity roost. The Common Pipistrelles using the building as a day roost are likely to be males or non-breeding females. A small number of foraging Common Pipistrelle bats were recorded around the property and one Noctule Bat was also recorded but unseen during the surveys.

No evidence of nesting bird use of the building was observed during the surveys.

## Desktop Study

A data search was requested from SEWBReC. The data search (LERC Reference: 0234-189) took a 1km buffer around a central point of the proposed development site.

Protected sites returned as part of the data search include:

- There are no statutory protected sites within 1km of the proposed development site.
- There are five Local Non-Statutory designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) within 1km of the site. Park Wood is the closest SINC site and is located approximately 175m away to the north west at its closest boundary.
- There are five areas of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) within 1km of the site. These woodlands have been identified as Priority Areas by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) as they comprise mostly broadleaved native trees and shrubs believed to have been in existence for over 400 years. The nearest such area of woodland lies approximately 175m away to the north west of the proposed development site at its closest boundary.
- There are three areas of Restored Ancient Woodland Site (RAW) within 1km of the site. These woodlands which are predominately broadleaves now and are believed to have been continually wooded for over 400 years. They will have gone through a phase when canopy cover will have been more than 50% non-native conifer tree species and now have a canopy cover of more than 50% broadleaf. The nearest such area of woodland lies approximately 715m away to the east of the proposed development site at its closest boundary.

- There are nine areas of Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site within 1km of the site. These are sites which are believed to have been continuously wooded for over 400 years. They have been replanted with native or non-native species, most commonly with conifers. They currently have a canopy cover of more than 50% non-native conifer tree species. They will have varying levels of remnant features of ASNW. The nearest such area of woodland lies approximately 175m away to the north west of the proposed development site at its closest boundary.
- There is one area of Ancient Woodland Site of Unknown Category within 1km of the site. These are woodlands which may be ASNW, RAWS or PAWS. These areas are predominantly in transition where the existing tree cover is described as shrubs, young trees, felled or ground prepared for planting. The nearest such area of woodland lies approximately 879m away to the north west of the proposed development site at its closest boundary.
- There are nine areas of NRW Priority Area (Woodland PAWS) within 1km of the site. NRW Priority habitat areas are large scale areas which were prioritised for targeted conservation work, based on factors including the habitats within them. The nearest such area of woodland lies approximately 175m away to the north west of the proposed development site at its closest boundary.

Given the localised and small scale nature of the development proposals it is highly unlikely any protected sites will be impacted as part of the proposed works.

Protected species records of note returned within 500m of the site include:

- Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) - the closest record approximately 44m away to the north east involved a bat found on the floor under porch, indicating a likely a roost site.
- Hazel Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) - five records away to the north west at Park Wood returned from the data search, the closest is located approximately 332m away.
- Brown Hare (*Lepus europaeus*) - two records returned from the data search, the closest approximately 33m away to the south east in 2019.
- Birds - Species listed under Section 7 (S7) of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (EWA 2016) include with closest record with approximate distance and direction; Linnet (*Linaria cannabina*) - 413m east. Starling (*Sterna vulgaris*) - 491m north. Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*) - 39m east.

Protected species records of note returned beyond 500m and within the 1km data search include:

- Bats foraging/commuting - Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*), Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), Noctule Bat (*Nyctalus noctula*) and Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*). Greater Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) - one unspecified record returned from the data search.
- Mammals - Badger (*Meles meles*), Otter (*Lutra lutra*) and Weasel (*Mustela nivalis*).
- Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)
- Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*)
- Birds - Species listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (WCA1.1) include; Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*), Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*), Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*), Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*), Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*), Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) and Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*).
- Birds - Species listed under Section 7 (S7) of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (EWA 2016) include; Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*), Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*), Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), Lesser Redpoll (*Acanthis cabaret*), Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*), Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) and Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*).
- Plants - Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

## Site Visit

Lee Gregory from Ecological Services attended site on 25th June 2024 to assess the potential ecological impacts of the proposed works. The site visit was completed during June which is within the optimal timeframe for undertaking such surveys. The red line boundary used for the survey can be found in Appendix 2 and photographs of the site can be found in Appendix 3. **This report concentrates on the land within the proposed development site boundary only.**

Garden Cottage residential property is located along the northern boundary of the site and south of the access road which leads to the other adjacent residential properties to the north and west. Garden Cottage is a detached, stone rendered **building** which is two storeys in height with a pitched slate roof. There are timber barge boards; fasciae and soffits present and there are two pitched roofed dormer windows to the southern elevation of the roof. There is a single storey, uPVC lean-to conservatory to the western gable end of the building with a felt roof and there is a slate roofed, stone rendered, lean-to extension to the eastern gable end of the building which is single storey with timber fasciae and soffits.

The northern site boundary either side of the cottage are mortar and **stone walls**. To the west of the cottage the wall is approximately 2m high and extends approximately 3.5m west before an approximate 3m gap for the driveway is located. The wall to the east of the cottage is approximately 1.3m high and runs eastwards from the eastern single storey extension approximately 4m from the road edge eastwards for approximately 10m before turning north towards the road and a telegraph pole. The walls are covered in dense vegetation along most of its length especially to the east of the cottage, species recorded from the eastern wall include; Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Hedge Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*), Prickly Sow-thistle (*Sonchus asper*) and False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*). Species recorded from the western wall include; Ivy-leaved Toadflax (*Cymbalaria muralis*), Wilson's Honeysuckle (*Lonicera nitida*), Herb Robert, Ornamental Ivy and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*).

The western site boundary has a short length of **metal estate fencing** which runs along the northern end of the western boundary opposite the garden of Holly House Farm to the west. The southern end of the western boundary has no fencing separating it from land to the west.

The eastern site boundary has a short length of **wooden post and wire fence** which runs south for approximately 15m from the northern boundary wall. The remaining eastern boundary is open to the field to the east.

The southern site boundary is a **wooden post and wire fence**, to the south of fence runs a woodland strip approximately 12-15m wide. The woodland strip is quite mature being

approximately 8-12m high with dominant Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) with the occasional Elm sp (*Ulmus sp*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*).

A small **tree group** consisting of at least four Lime sp (*Tilia sp*) and one Elm is located to the west of the cottage and driveway in the north west corner of the site. The trees were approximately 7m high with not particularly thick trunks (trunk diameter being approximately 15cm) and no cavies or cracks being noted. Some of the trees had sparse Ivy growing up the trunks, however the Ivy was not particularly dense with thin stems and the tree trunks were visible beneath.

Six more **trees** were located within the site boundary including; a small Elder to the east of the cottage and north of the boundary wall, an approximate 4m Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*) just south east of the cottage, an approximate 3m Buddleia (*Buddleia davidii*) south of the willow. South from the western end of the cottage is a group of three trees all approximately 2.5m high including a Prunus sp which was leaning over, a Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) and Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*).

The driveway **hardstanding** to the west of the cottage opens up into a small parking/turning area for approximately 2-3 cars. The substrate of the driveway consisted of compacted loose tarmac and closer to the cottage limestone chippings. The driveway is starting become overgrown around the edges but can still be best attributed to **short perennial vegetation** in the centre with the following species; Dandelion (*Taraxacum agg*), Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), Barren Brome (*Bromus sterilis*), Common Field Speedwell (*Veronica persica*), Red Campion (*Silent dioica*), Black Medick (*Medicago lupulina*), Broad-leaved Willowherb (*Epilobium montanum*), Herb Robert, Purple Toadflax (*Linaria purpurea*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), Greater Plantain (*Plantago major*), Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Forget-me-not sp (*Myosotis sp*), Annual Meadow-grass (*Poa annua*), Daisy (*Bellis perennis*), Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Hedge Bindweed, Pineappleweed (*Matricaria discoidea*), Shepherd's Purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*), Groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*), Hedge Mustard (*Sisymbrium officinale*), Hedgerow Crane's-bill (*Geranium pyreniacum*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), and White Clover (*Trifolium repens*).

Taller species around the edge of the driveway/parking area indicate a **tall ruderal vegetation** assemblage and include the following species; Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), Nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*), Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) and Prickly Sow-thistle.

The main body of the site to the south of Garden Cottage is very overgrown and is best attributed to **species poor tall ruderal vegetation**, it is dominated by False Oat-grass which is growing to 2m high in places with an under storey of other plants. The area of land to the east of Garden Cottage between the northern boundary wall and the road to the north is also overgrown tall ruderal vegetation. Species recorded from these two areas

have a similar species composition and include; False Oat-grass, Broad-leaved Dock - with large stands especially along the western and southern boundaries, Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Hedge Bindweed, Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg*), Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylus glomerata*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Cleavers (*Galium aparine*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Yorkshire Fog and Ragwort.

Two small overgrown **ornamental planting** areas are located by the cottage, one to the west of the conservatory and an approximate 1m wide strip along the south side of the main cottage. Species recorded from the ornament planting include; Dotted Loosestrife (*Lysimachia punctata*), Dogwood (*Cornus sp*), Garden Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*), Mullein sp (*Mullein sp*), Montbretia (*Crocoshmia x crocosmiflora*), Cistus sp (*Cistus sp*), Mint sp (*Mentha sp*), Straw Foxglove (*Digitalis lutea*) and Opium Poppy (*Papaver somniferum*).

Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*) and Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*) were heard singing around the site boundary and several House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) were singing and calling from adjacent properties to the north.

Large Skipper (*Occludes sylvanus*) and a species of White (*Pieris sp*) butterfly were noted within the site boundary.

## Legislation

### Great Crested Newt

Great Crested Newts (*Triturus cristatus*) are a European protected species and are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. In summary, they are protected from:

- Deliberate capture, killing and injuring,
- Deliberate disturbance of a breeding site or resting place,
- Deliberate taking or destroying of eggs,
- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place.

Great Crested Newts (GCN) are listed on schedule 5 of The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 which protects them from intentional or reckless disturbance or obstruction when using a structure or place for shelter and / or protection. It is also an offence to sell, offer or expose for sale a Great Crested Newt. Great Crested Newt and Common Toad are listed in section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which makes them key species to sustain and improve biodiversity.

## Birds

All breeding birds are protected under schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended. Under this Act it is an offence to:

- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

Enhanced protection is afforded to species listed on Schedule 1 of the Act, this additional protection makes it an offence to:

- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young, or disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

## Reptiles & Amphibians

Reptiles such as Slow Worm (*Angus fragilis*), Common Lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), Adder (*Vipera berus*) and Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*) are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) from killing injury and sale. All four common reptiles are also listed as 'Section 7' species in Wales. In Wales Sand Lizard (*Lacerta agilis*), Smooth Snake (*Coronella austriaca*), Adder, Grass Snake, Slow Worm and Common Lizard are listed in section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which makes them a key species to sustain and improve biodiversity.

The four widespread species of amphibian i.e. the Smooth Newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*), Palmate Newts (*Lissotriton helveticus*), Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*) and Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*), are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) by Section 9(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This section prohibits sale of these species. Common Toad is listed in section 6 of The Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

## Bats

All British bats are a European protected species and are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. In summary, they are protected from:

- Deliberate capture, killing and injuring,
- Deliberate disturbance of a breeding site or resting place,
- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place.

Schedule 5 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) also protects all species of British bat and their roosting locations. British bats are protected from intentional or reckless disturbance and or obstruction of their roosting places. Barbastelle Bat (*Barbastella barbastellus*), Bechstein Bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*), Noctule Bat (*Nyctalus noctula*), Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*), Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), Greater Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) and Lesser Horseshoe Bats (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) are also listed in section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which makes them a key species to sustain and improve biodiversity.

### Dormouse

The Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) is a European protected species and is protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. In summary, they are protected from:

- Deliberate capture, killing and injuring,
- Deliberate disturbance of a breeding site or resting place,
- Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place.

Dormouse is listed on schedule 5 of The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 which protects them from intentional or reckless disturbance or obstruction when using a structure or place for shelter and / or protection. It is also an offence to sell, offer or expose for sale a native dormouse. Dormouse is listed in section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which makes them a key species to sustain and improve biodiversity.

### Badger

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. In summary they are protected from:

- Taking, killing or injuring;
- Cruelty;
- Interfering with a badger sett;
- The selling and possession of badgers;
- Marking or ringing.

Badgers are also listed on schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.

Badgers tend to have a variety of setts with different uses and functions within the territory for the family unit. In general there is usually a main sett which the family will use the most. There are then annex, subsidiary and or outlier setts which depending on family structures and environmental pressures may be used at different times of the year. As female Badgers tend to have their cubs over winter the disturbance and damage of badger setts is prohibited between December and June inclusive. NRW are the licensing body for any actions which may contravene the above legislation.

### **Potential Development Impacts**

- Detailed site plans are not available but it is thought likely that the site works will be limited to the building footprint and immediate area. The proposed development will likely result in the loss of areas of short perennial vegetation, tall ruderal vegetation and several trees.
- The trees, dense Ivy along the wall and building within the site boundary is considered likely to be used by nesting birds. Any vegetation removal or demolition work immediately adjacent has potential to disturb nesting birds during the bird nesting season of March to August inclusive. All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Removal of this vegetation could also result in the loss of nesting habitat.
- No evidence of well used mammal paths through the site were noted during the site visit. The site boundaries are mostly open, it was thought likely that mammals such as Badger and Otter could use the site for commuting or foraging only, at least on occasion.
- Despite the lack of local Hedgehog records which is likely down to recorder effort rather than absence, it is thought likely Hedgehog use the site on a regular basis either for foraging/commuting but also for seeking shelter and nesting.
- The semi improved grassland and tall ruderal vegetation interface within the site boundary has potential to support low numbers of reptiles during the summer months and scrub and tree roots for hibernation. The clearance of vegetation to facilitate the proposed development has the potential to impact on common reptile species such as Common Lizard and Slow worm.
- Amphibians could use the site during the terrestrial stage of their life. Care will need to be taken during the construction stage of the build and any amphibians found will need to be relocated to a safe location.
- Any additional external lighting, may impact on nocturnal species, such as bats, and invertebrates using the site for feeding and commuting. Light spill from glazing and or security lighting could cause disturbance to such species.

## **Biodiversity Enhancements & Green Infrastructure Considerations**

Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (version 12), paragraph 6.2.5 requires Green Infrastructure considerations to be included with all planning applications. Development proposals must detail how green infrastructure considerations which are proportionate to the scale and nature of the plans are being provided.

Green infrastructure features currently found within the site boundary and likely to be impacted by the proposed works are limited to short perennial vegetation, tall ruderal vegetation, trees and tree group. The wider grassland and tall ruderal vegetation are likely to be retained and subject to management once the development works are completed. Habitat connectivity to the north and east is slightly limited due to busy roads and buildings. Direct habitat connectivity to the west and south is good with the tree lines and hedgerows leading westwards to extensive mixed woodland at Park Wood.

The outline site plans indicate that the majority of habitats on site will likely be retained during the construction phase of the works. Direct habitat loss implications within the development site can be limited if beneficial habitat management can be incorporated within the site plans especially to the land south of Garden Cottage.

The proposals should seek to improve habitats as part of the development proposals to improve the current quality of green infrastructure and overall biodiversity value within the site. Development plans could seek to create a wildflower meadow within the site using appropriate long term management and a native seed mix such as the Bees and Butterflies Native Wildflower Mix available from Celtic Wildflowers. This could provide an excellent nectar source for pollinators and provide valuable ground cover for reptiles and small mammals. Hedgerow planting along the site boundaries should also be considered. The plans will also provide additional bat and bird boxes and roosts within the new building, enhancing habitat for such species not currently found at site.

Planning Policy Wales - Trees and Planning in Wales (January 2024 update) advises that compensatory planting for trees lost should be sought at a ratio of **3 for 1**. Compensatory planting must be equivalent to the quality, environmental and of ecological importance of the tree(s) lost - this must be preferably onsite or immediately adjacent to the site.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

It is proposed to re-develop the plot by demolishing the existing building on site and create a new residential dwelling in its place. Detailed plans of the proposed development were not available at the time of the site survey. Given the potential impacts of the proposed development the below mitigation measures are proposed:

- The site is considered suitable for a small number of common reptile species to be present throughout the year. Any vegetation clearance on site will look to push any reptiles present into adjacent retained vegetation. Vegetation clearance will be undertaken in 2 stages. The first stage cut will take vegetation to an approximate height of 150mm with all cuttings collected. After 24hrs from the completion of the first stage cut, the second stage cut can commence. The second stage cut will take vegetation down to 50mm maximum with all cuttings collected.
- Any external lighting required as part of the development proposals will be focused / directional lighting which is hooded or cowled to prevent light spill. The external lighting will be placed on a timer and motion activated. Sensitive lighting will reduce any negative impacts to nocturnal wildlife which use the area. This is particularly important for foraging bats that are likely to use the site.
- All lighting must meet recommendations in the BCT Guidance Note 08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night <https://www.bats.org.uk/news/2023/08/bats-and-artificial-lighting-at-night-ilp-guidance-note-update-released> . It will be important to prevent light spill along the periphery of the site, in particular the tree line along the eastern boundary of the site.
- All excavations within the site will be securely covered over if left unattended. Any excavations that have a depth in excess of 0.5m and that are left open overnight will have a means of escape left for any mammals (e.g. hedgehog) that may fall into them. A wooden board or equivalent will be left from the bottom to the top of the hole at an angle no steeper than 45°. This will allow any mammal to escape and avoid increased stress from being trapped.
- The trees, ivy along the northern boundary wall and cavities within the building within the development site have the potential to be used by nesting birds. Vegetation removal and demolition works must be completed outside of the bird nesting season of March to August inclusive. If this is not achievable an ecologist must inspect any trees, vegetation and building with the potential for birds to be present for active birds' nests prior to works beginning. If an active nest is identified a buffer zone of at least 5m around the nest must be observed until the chicks have fledged. Only then can the vegetation and building be removed. Greater buffer zones around nests may be required depending on the species and habitat the nest is within.
- Compensatory planting will be proposed within the site plans, this could include the creation of a wildflower meadow or hedgerow planting around the site boundaries. **A detailed planting scheme will be required to support any future planning application for the site.**

The Environment Act (Wales) 2016 places a duty on competent authorities such as Newport County Council to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Proposed mitigation and compensation for bat species is detailed within the bat survey report '*Bat Survey: Garden Cottage, Newport, David Williams Homes Ltd*' dated June 2024 undertaken by Ecological Services. The following measures that could be achieved to enhance the biodiversity of the site. All ecological compensation and biodiversity measures should be shown on detailed architectural drawings. The plans should include the location and type of feature being provided.

- The provision 5 raised ridge tiles and a self contained ridge roosting area for bats along the entire ridge lines of the new roofs.
- 1 Vivara Pro WoodStone Bat Box, built integral into the new block work. Care must be taken not to obstruct the access slot.
- 2 Vivara Pro WoodStone Sparrow Nest Boxes, built integral into the new block work. Care must be taken not to obstruct the entrance holes.
- 1 PRO UK Rendered Build-In Swift Box, built integral into the new block work. Care must be taken not to obstruct the entrance hole.
- Gaps can be cut into the fencing present around the site to allow the movement of reptiles and small mammals across the area. 13cm x 13cm gaps will be cut every 3m along the fence line which encompass the site.
- The use of native species within the soft landscaping works on the site. Suitable long term management of soft landscaping also helps ensure spaces are useful to wildlife.

## **Best Wishes**

**Lee Gregory**  
**Ecologist**  
**Ecological Services Ltd**

*Signed: Lee Gregory Date: June 2024*

Appendix 1 - Aerial Image of Development Site



## Appendix 2 - Site Red Line Boundary



## Appendix 3 - Site Photographs



Driveway and parking area viewing south



Tree group in north west corner of site



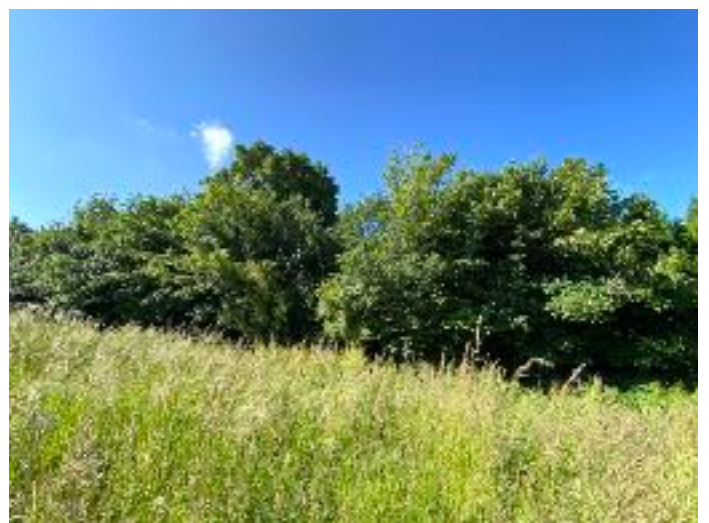
Sparse Ivy growing up some tree trunks



Goat Willow and Buddleia south east of building



Prunus, Lilac and Cherry Laurel south of building



Woodland strip beyond southern site boundary



Tall ruderal vegetation east of building with overgrown northern boundary wall behind



Tall ruderal vegetation viewing north towards building



Tall ruderal vegetation along western boundary



Tall ruderal vegetation along southern boundary



Tall ruderal vegetation viewing south



Tall ruderal vegetation viewing south east



Garden Cottage southern elevation



Garden Cottage eastern elevation



Garden Cottage Western elevation



Garden Cottage northern elevation



Viewing west along access road



Driveway viewing south