

Site Assessment Survey

PROJECT TITLE: Proposed Construction of a New Residential Dwelling to the Rear of 15 Ridgeway

SITE ADDRESS: 15 Ridgeway, Newport NP20 5AF

DATE: 13th May 2026

The applicant is seeking planning permission for the creation of a new residential dwelling to the rear of No. 15 Ridgeway, Newport. The proposed design includes the extension of the existing driveway northwards along the western side of 15 Ridgeway, enabling access to a newly formed housing plot within the rear garden to the north, where the footprint of the new dwelling will be positioned. The proposed development site is centred at ST2899087937.

The proposed development will retain the existing dwelling at No. 15 Ridgeway, with the majority of existing boundary features expected to remain intact. Some vegetation loss within the rear garden will be required to accommodate the footprint of the proposed dwelling, together with areas for associated parking and access. This report assesses the potential for habitats and protected or notable species to be present within the site boundary, and considers the ecological implications of the proposed development. The assessment focuses solely on the garden habitat immediately surrounding the proposed development footprint, and does not extend to wider off-site areas.

Site Location

The site is located in the northwest of Newport, within the residential area of Ridgeway. It lies within the garden curtilage of the existing semi-detached property, No. 15 Ridgeway, which is situated along the roadside to the south. The associated garden extends northwards behind the dwelling. Residential development continues to the south and east of the site for some distance. To the west, adjacent garden plots give way to grassland fields, beyond which the M4 motorway is located approximately 500 m from the site. The woodland of Coed y Glasllwch is situated immediately to the north, with a network of fields and hedgerow boundaries extending further north before reaching the M4, which curves around the city of Newport.

Within the wider landscape, residential development continues to the southeast and west, while grassland fields and small woodland blocks become increasingly prevalent to the north. Notable nearby features include St Woolos Cemetery, located approximately 500 m south of the site and Tredegar Park Golf Club approximately 1.1 km north

The Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal lies approximately 500 m to the north of the site, passing beneath the M4 motorway and continuing parallel to the road on its southern side. Several waterbodies are present within 500 m of the site, as identified through aerial mapping and illustrated within Figure 1 below. Two ponds are located approximately 440 m to the northeast, one within the grounds of Cwrt y Mwnws, and the second on the western edge of Graig Ddifraith woodland. A third pond is located approximately 500 m northwest of the site, beyond the M4, within a field adjacent to a small wooded area.

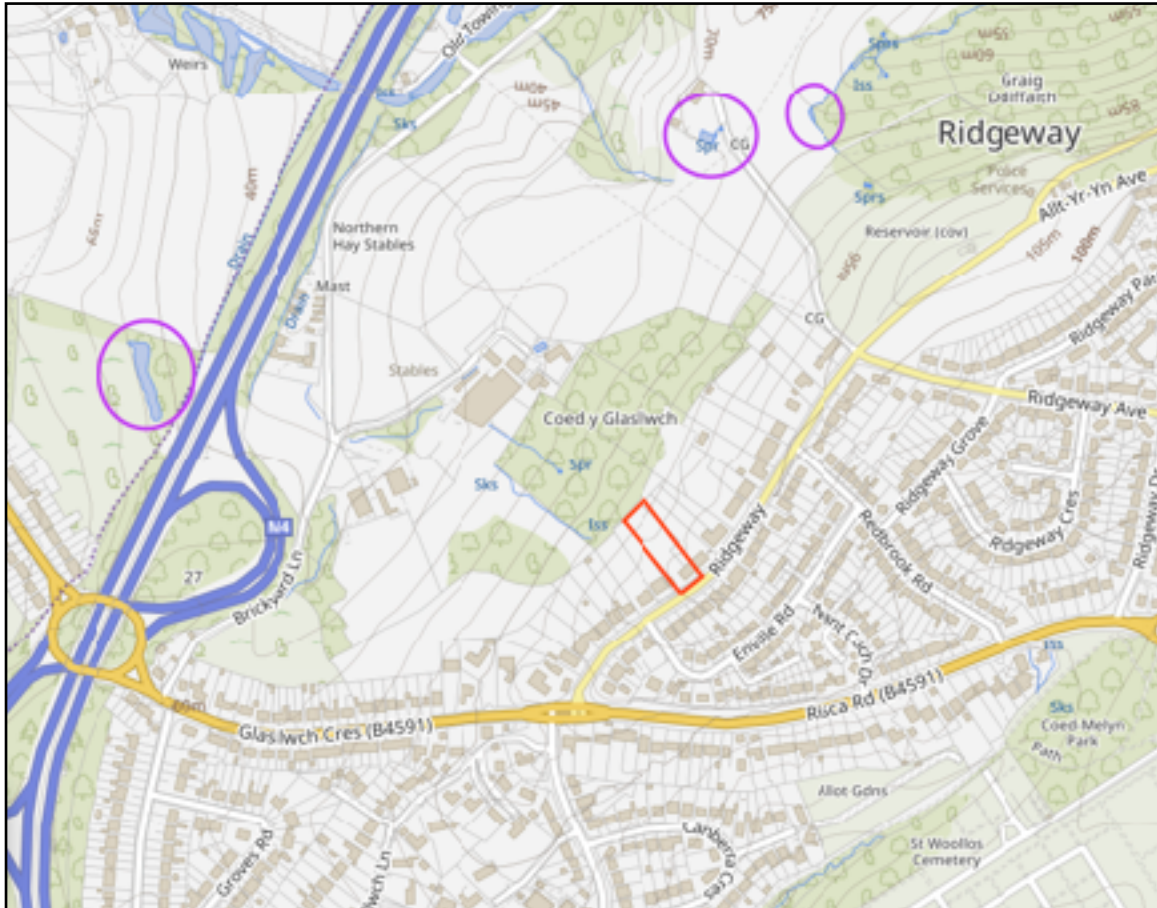


Figure 1. Waterbodies within close proximity to the site.

Desktop Study

A data search was undertaken via Aderyn for the proposed development site and surrounding area (*LERC reference: 0267-056*). A 1 km buffer around a central point of the proposed development site was searched and all distances provided below are approximate. Protected sites returned as part of the data search include:

- There are five Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) within 1 km of the site. Coed Y Glasllyn SINC is located adjacent to the northern boundary of the site. Figure 2 illustrates the boundary of the Coed Y Glasllyn SINC and proposed development site. Other SINC within the area include: Allt-yr-yn SINC (approximately 440 m northeast), Monmouthshire and Brecon

Canal (Crumlin Arm) SINC (approximately 620 m north), Gaer Fort SINC (approximately 870 m south) and Fourteen Locks Field SINC (approximately 990 m northwest).

- There are 15 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) Areas within 1 km of the site. The closest is located adjacent to the north of the site. These are broadleaf woodlands comprising mainly native tree and shrub species which are believed to have been in existence for over 400 years. The ground vegetation will reflect the naturalness of these woodlands and will frequently feature species which provide clear indication of long and continued woodland cover. They will have been woodland for centuries and contribute substantially to our natural and cultural heritage.



Figure 2. Location of Coed Y Glasilwch SINC and ASNW (Pink) in relation to site (Red).

- There's one statutory protected site within 1 km of the development area. Allt-yr-yn Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is located approximately 500 m north of the site.
- There are two Regionally Important Geodiversity Site (RIGS) within 1 km of the site. Allt-yr-yn Viewpoint Newport RIGS and Allt-yr-yn RIGS are located approximately 350 m northeast and 530 m north of the site respectively.
- There are two Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites within 1 km of the site. The closest area is located approximately 440 m northeast 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.

- There are two Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Woodland Areas within 1 km 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 closest area is located approximately 440 m northeast of the site.
- The site is located approximately 740 m west of a B-Lines Area. B-Lines are a series of 'insect pathways' running through the countryside, along which efforts to restore and create a series of wildflower-rich habitat stepping stones should be made. They are created to attempt to link existing wildlife areas together, creating a network across the UK landscape.

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

- Common frog (*Rana temporaria*) - closest record approximately 40 m east.
- Two records of hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) - closest record approximately 130 m northeast.
- Palmate newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*) - closest record approximately 360 m south.
- Badger (*Meles meles*) - closest record approximately 490 m west of the site for a road casualty along the M4 road.
- Six records of invasive non native plant species (INNPS) were returned within 500 m of the site for species including: Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), montbretia (*Crocsmia aurea x pottsii* = *C. x crocosmiiflora*) and cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*). The closest record being for Japanese knotweed located approximately 360 m southeast.
- One record of bat commuting and foraging activity was returned within 500 m of the site for common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*). This record is located approximately 270 m southeast.
- One record of bat roosting activity was returned within 500 m of the site for an unidentified bat species located approximately 330 m southeast.
- Four records of invertebrates were returned within 500 m of the site for species including: beautiful demoiselle (*Calopteryx virgo*), black-headed cardinal beetle (*Pyrochroa coccinea*), golden-ringed dragonfly (*Cordulegaster boltonii*) and oak hook-tip (*Watsonalla binaria*).
- There are two records of bird species records listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (WCA1.1) within 500 m of the site for species including: Mediterranean gull (*Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*) and redwing (*Turdus iliacus*).
- Five bird species were listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (EWA 2016) within 500 m of the site. Species include: dunnoek (*Prunella modularis*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) and starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

Records of note returned for the rest of the **1 km buffer** zone are detailed below:

- Three records of common toad (*Bufo bufo*).
- Three records of grass snake (*Natrix helvetica*).
- 10 records of otter (*Lutra lutra*).
- Slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*).
- Six records of smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*).
- 17 records of invertebrates were returned within the rest of the buffer zone. The closest 10 species include: banded demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*), broom-tip (*Chesias rufata*), brown-banded carder bee (*Bombus humilis*), garden dart (*Euxoa nigricans*), hedge rustic (*Tholera cespitis*), pied grey (*Eudonia delunella*), small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*), spinach (*Eulithis mellinata*), sprawler (*Asteroscopus sphinx*) and tanner beetle (*Prionus coriarius*).
- 26 records of bat commuting and foraging activity were returned within the rest of the buffer zone for species including: common pipistrelle, noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), whiskered/Brandt's bat (*Myotis mystacinus/brandtii*) and an unidentified bat species.
- Seven records of bat roosting activity were returned within the rest of the buffer zone for species including: common pipistrelle, noctule and an unidentified bat species.
- 10 bird species were listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (WCA1.1) within the rest of the buffer zone. Species include: brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*), Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*), firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*), goshawk (*Astur gentilis*), hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) and red kite (*Milvus milvus*).
- Eight bird species are listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (EWA 2016) within the rest of the buffer zone. Species include: black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*), bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), herring gull (*Larus argentatus*), lesser redpoll (*Acanthis flammea cabaret*), lesser spotted woodpecker (*Dryobates minor*), skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*) and tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*).

Site Visit

A walkover survey of the site was completed on the **30th April 2026** by Beth Lewis of Ecological Services Ltd. Photographs of the site can be found in Appendix 2. A habitat map is provided within Appendix 3. This report concentrates on the land within the proposed development site boundary only.

Ridgeway Road lies immediately to the southeast of the site, where the boundary is formed by a **stone wall** topped by a **managed yew hedge**. A **garage building** is located in the southwestern part of the site, accessed via a small **tarmac driveway** that extends from Ridgeway Road. The main

residential building is situated in the southeastern corner of the site, with a **paved pathway** running around the building and leading to a patio area in the north. A garden **rockery** is present on a sloping banking to the south and west of the main house.

Areas immediately surrounding the house are dominated by **ornamental shrubs** and garden planting, which extend northwards along a footpath through the site. Ornamental species recorded include cotoneaster, elephant's-ears, gorse, heather, hydrangea, laurel, pendulous sedge, rhododendron, rose, weigela, and yellow iris.

The rear garden is arranged across three terraced levels, each stepping down gradually from the house towards the northern boundary. Two of these tiers support areas of well-maintained, short-mown **amenity grassland**, separated by **stone retaining walls** and paved steps leading to the lower levels. Ornamental shrubs are planted along the stone walls dividing the tiers. Species recorded within the **amenity grassland** include bent grass, daisy, dandelion, dog's violet, perennial rye-grass, primrose, ragwort, ribwort plantain, spear thistle, and yarrow.

A **wooden pergola** structure is present over a **paved footpath** situated to the southwest of the lawned areas.

The lowest tier (the northern most portion of the site) comprises a larger area of **semi-improved grassland**, extending northwards to the site boundary. Plant species recorded within the **semi improved-grassland** include bird's-foot trefoil, black bryony, bluebell, bugle, common bent, creeping buttercup, cuckoo flower, daffodil, daisy, dandelion, dog's violet, forget-me-not, foxglove, grape hyacinth, hedge woundwort, herb-robert, lesser celandine, meadow buttercup, nettle, perennial rye-grass, primrose, ragwort, ribwort plantain, soft rush, sow thistle, speedwell, sweet vernal grass, thistle species, thyme-leaved speedwell, tutsan, wild strawberry, wood rush, and wood sedge.

The semi improved grassland is tussocky in nature and gently slopes downwards towards the adjacent woodland. A small area of **bramble and spindle scrub** is present in the far northwest corner of the site.

The site is flanked to the north, northeast and southwest by **post and wire fencing** marking boundaries with neighbouring residential gardens. These boundaries are lined with **taller ornamental shrubs and occasional trees**, with species including rhododendron, sycamore, bramble, bamboo, larch, and tutsan.

Legislation

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.

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 (*Meles meles*) 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. Badgers favour a dry sloping site for digging their setts preferably within woodland or even under a large hedgerow bank. Badgers are creatures of habit and tend to follow regular pathways between their setts and foraging grounds.

Otters

The otter (*Lutra lutra*) 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.

Otter 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 an otter. Otter is listed in section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which makes them a key species to sustain and improve biodiversity.

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 auritis*), 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.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Reptiles such as the slow-worm, common lizard, adder and grass snake are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). They are protected from killing, injuring and sale. They are protected from killing, injuring and sale. They are also listed in section 6 of The Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The four widespread species of amphibian i.e. the smooth and palmate newts, common frog and common toad, 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.

Potential Development Impacts

The development proposals include the creation of a new residential dwelling within the rear garden to the north of No. 15 Ridgeway, Newport. The proposed design includes the extension of the existing driveway northwards along the western side of the current property, enabling access to a newly formed housing plot within the rear garden area to the north, where the footprint of the new dwelling will be positioned. Potential development impacts of the proposed works include:

- **Hazel dormouse:** Although the site contains areas of dense ornamental hedgerow and shrub planting, these features are not well connected to extensive or continuous hedgerow networks within the wider landscape, as the property is largely surrounded by residential housing. It is noted woodland is present to the north of the site, but further habitat connectivity appears limited. The ornamental planting present is therefore considered sub-optimal for dormouse use, offering limited suitability for foraging, nesting, or dispersal.
- **Birds:** The small ornamental trees, hedgerows, and boundary planting within and around the site are considered likely to provide suitable nesting habitat for birds. While no substantial removal of ornamental trees or hedgerows is anticipated as part of the proposed development, the removal of smaller ornamental shrubs may be required to facilitate the formation of the new driveway access into the rear garden. Any vegetation removal or work immediately adjacent to such features has potential to disturb nesting birds during the bird nesting season of March to August inclusive.
- In addition, the potential for nesting bird use of existing structures should be considered. Prior to the demolition of any structure within the site, an initial inspection for nesting birds should be undertaken. Should any evidence of nesting be identified, works should be delayed until the nest is no longer active, or appropriate ecological advice has been obtained.

- **Bat Roosting:** Three structures are present within the site boundary: the main dwelling, a garage located in the southwest of the site, and a small storage shed within the rear garden. All buildings within the site boundary were subject to external assessment for bat roosting potential. Internal inspections could not be undertaken at the time of the survey. Assessments were carried out in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) *Good Practice Guidelines* (4th Edition, 2023).
 - **Storage shed** - The storage shed is a small, flat-roofed structure with broken wooden doors on the northern elevation, which were propped open at the time of inspection, leaving the structure permanently open. The lightweight wooden construction offers poor thermal stability, and the open access allows full light ingress throughout the interior. As such, the structure provides no suitable conditions for bat roosting.
 - **Main house** - The main dwelling is a large building located in the southern part of the site and comprises multiple pitched, tiled roofs, with wooden purlins extending externally around much of the roofline. The building appeared to be generally well sealed, although a small number of lifted and slipped roof tiles were noted. The building will remain unchanged as part of the proposed development, and therefore no impacts to bats are anticipated.
 - **Garage** - The garage comprises a flat roof with plastic and wooden barge boards, a large metal shutter door on the southern elevation, and windows and wooden doors on the northern elevation. Small gaps were present around the shutter door, providing potential bat access points. However, the soffit and fascia boards around the remainder of the building were tightly sealed. The garage was being used for the storage of garden items, although a large proportion of the internal space appeared empty. Overall, due to its limited insulation, large amounts of light ingress and lack of secure, crevice-like features, the garage is considered unsuitable for bat roosting use.



Figure 3.1. View of Storage Shed



Figure 3.2. View of Main House



Figure 3.3. View of Rear Elevation of Garage



Figure 3.4. Garage Internal View

- **Bat tree roosting:** No trees within or immediately adjacent to the site were identified as having potential to support roosting bats. All trees were assessed as having negligible bat roost potential, and no potential roost features (PRFs), such as cracks, cavities, or lifted bark, were recorded during the site visit.
- **Bat commuting and foraging activity:** Although the site is relatively small in extent, it contains habitat features that may provide limited suitability for bat commuting and foraging, particularly the grassland in the northern part of the site, which lies adjacent to woodland habitat. These features may be used opportunistically by bats moving through the local landscape. Any new external lighting associated with the proposed dwelling should therefore be sensitively designed and carefully controlled to avoid light spill onto retained habitats and to minimise potential disturbance to bats commuting and foraging along the woodland edge adjacent to the northern site boundary.
- **Reptiles:** The grassland areas, ornamental shrub planting, rockery and stone walling within the site have the potential to support low numbers of reptiles, primarily for commuting, foraging and sheltering purposes. The new dwelling will require the clearance of grassland habitat to facilitate the development. The remaining retained grassland to the north will likely form the garden space of the newly created dwelling. As much of the habitat present within the site boundary will be retained, a reptile survey is not recommended in this instance. Instead, precautionary measures to protect reptiles will be required as part of the development proposals.
- **Other mammals:** The grassland areas, amenity lawns, and shrub planting within the site provide suitable habitat for a range of common terrestrial mammals, including hedgehog, and may also be used opportunistically by badger for foraging. The site's location, immediately adjacent to woodland along the northern boundary, further enhances its value for mammals by providing direct connectivity for foraging and commuting between habitats. As such, any

external lighting associated with the proposed development should be sensitively designed and carefully controlled to avoid light spill onto retained habitats and to minimise disturbance to commuting and foraging mammals, particularly along the northern site boundary adjacent to the woodland.

- **SINC and ANSW habitat:** The proposed development will not directly impact Coed y Glasllwch SINC and ANSW and will not result in the loss of designated habitat. However, development in close proximity to a SINC has the potential to result in indirect adverse effects, including light spill and disturbance to associated habitats and species. Careful consideration must therefore be given to the design, layout, and proximity of the development works in relation to Coed y Glasllwch SINC. In particular, measures should be implemented to ensure that light spill is minimised and that the ecological integrity of the woodland is protected during both the construction and operational phases of the development.
- Due to the sloping nature of the site towards the adjacent woodland boundary, appropriate pollution prevention measures should be implemented during the construction phase to avoid potential impacts on the adjacent woodland habitat. All stored materials, including soils, aggregates, and chemicals, should be located away from the woodland edge, and the parking and operation of plant and machinery should also be confined to areas at a suitable distance from the boundary. These measures will reduce the risk of runoff, contamination, and accidental encroachment into the adjacent woodland.

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 present within the site boundary comprise scattered ornamental shrubs and trees, areas of semi-improved and amenity grassland. The site retains a degree of ecological connectivity to the wider landscape via adjacent private garden spaces, however, the surrounding residential development limits direct linkage to more extensive habitats beyond the immediate area.

The habitats currently found within the site boundary are considered to have biodiversity value at a local level only. The development proposals will seek to maintain much of the current space within the site boundary but will result in the loss of an area of semi-improved grassland for the new house and access track.

It is recommended that habitat connectivity is maintained along the boundary of the site and to the north. The ornamental planting along the east and western boundary links to the woodland to

the north and Coed Y Glasilwch SINC. The protection of these features and the connectivity they provide would help aid the green infrastructure value of the development site.

The establishment of a new native hedgerow or standard tree planting along the northern boundary would offer an opportunity to enhance the site's biodiversity value, provide effective screening of the adjacent woodland / SINC, reduce the potential for light spill associated with the new development, and strengthen habitat connectivity for wildlife moving through the site and wider landscape.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Planning consent is sought for the creation of a new dwelling to the north of 15 Ridgeway, within the garden space of the current residential property. Given the potential impacts of the proposed development the below measures are proposed:

- **Birds:** The trees and scrub within the development site have the potential to be used by nesting birds. Vegetation removal 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 or ground vegetation with the potential for birds to be present for active birds' nests prior to works beginning. In addition, similar inspections should be undertaken for any structures proposed for demolition, as these may also support nesting birds. If an active nest is identified a buffer zone of at least 5 m around the nest must be observed until the chicks have fledged. Only then can the vegetation be removed. Greater buffer zones around nests may be required depending on the species and habitat the nest is within.
- **Reptiles:** A reptile mitigation strategy will be required to inform the development. Species deterrent measures will be required to naturally encourage reptiles from within the development site footprint towards the north extent of the site and towards the adjacent woodland. Vegetation clearance works will start to the south and work northwards. The removal of stone walling and or rockery areas (if required) will need to be undertaken outside of the reptile hibernation season of November to February inclusive.
 - All grassland cutting will commence to the south of the site and progress northwards. This stage will be completed during the months of **March to October** inclusive when reptiles are not hibernating. If weather conditions are suitable i.e no ground frost and consistent temperatures above 9°C, works later in the autumn may be considered.
 - **First Stage Grassland Cut** - All vegetation including grasses and flowers are to be cut no shorter than **150 mm**. Cutting is recommended to start in the south of the site and will proceed northwards. The cut material will be raked, collected and removed from the site to avoid a thick layer of cut vegetation left on the ground. Once the cuttings have been collected and removed from site, the site must then be left for 24 hours. Any reptiles present should naturally move away of their own accord due to the disturbance from cutting.

However if any reptiles or other fauna are encountered during this operation they will either be carefully collected and moved to the northern most extent of the site or to within the adjacent woodland area.

- **Second Stage Grassland Cut** - After 24 hours the grass should be cut to ground level to a maximum height of **50 mm**. Cutting will look to push any resident reptiles towards retained hedgerow habitat and the arisings raked and moved removed from the site. Any reptiles or other fauna found will be treated as above.
- Once all vegetation has been cleared from within the construction work area, this zone must remain in a vegetation free state. This will help to reduce the likelihood of reptiles using the site while construction works are underway.
- **First Stage Scrub/Ornamental Shrub/Tree Cut** - although minimal woody vegetation (trees / scrub) is expected to be cleared these should be cut down to a height of 50 cm above ground level. The brash will be removed from the site within 24 hours of being cut. This stage will be completed between the months of **September to February** inclusive to avoid impacts to nesting birds.
- **Second Stage Scrub/Ornamental Shrub/Tree Cut** - tree and shrub roots will be grubbed up using a toothed bucket of a JCB or an appropriate sized digger. This stage will be completed during the months of **April to October** inclusive, when reptiles are not hibernating. The root systems will be removed slowly and gently to allow any reptiles present to escape. All roots will then be removed from the proposed development site.
- **Stone Wall Removal** - although no stone walling is anticipated to be removed. If small sections of removal are necessary, this must be completed during the reptile active season. Dry stone walling will be dismantled gently by hand, where possible. This stage will be completed during the months of **April to October** inclusive. Stones will be carefully lifted one at a time and checked for the presence of reptiles before being removed from site or set aside.
- **Mammals:** Ideally all excavations within the site will be securely covered over if left unattended. Any excavations that have a depth in excess of 0.5 m and that are left open overnight will have a means of escape let 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.
- **SINC and ASNW Habitat:** Careful consideration must be given to the use of lighting within the development site, as this can adversely affect the activity of a variety of fauna, particularly foraging bats, nesting birds and invertebrates and could also have secondary impacts on the adjacent ASNW located immediately north of the site. Light spillage into adjacent semi-natural habitats must be avoided and brightness kept to the lowest permissible level in the areas

adjacent to such habitats. All lighting must meet recommendations in the *BCT Guidance Note 08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night*.

Simple pollution prevention measures should be implemented during the construction phase to avoid the degradation of the adjacent SINC habitat located to the north of the site. These measures should ensure that there is no runoff of sediments, contaminants, or construction materials into the woodland, thereby safeguarding its ecological value. All material storage areas and construction plant/machinery should be located away from the northernmost extent of the site and the adjacent woodland edge. This will help to minimise the risk of disturbance, accidental encroachment, and potential pollution impacts on the neighbouring habitat.

The Environment Act (Wales) 2016 places a duty on competent authorities such as Newport Council to conserve and enhance biodiversity. The below bullet points are some simple measures that could be achieved to enhance the biodiversity of the site. At least two of the below features will be implemented to ensure an overall biodiversity gain is secured.

- The use of at least one integrated bat box within any new building created on site is recommended. A **Vivara Pro Bild-in Woodstone Bat Box** (or similar design, depending on stock availability) must be built into the block work of the building and placed as high as possible on a suitable elevation, no lower than eaves level. Care must be taken to ensure that the access hole remains unobstructed and open. It is recommended that this is located within the southern elevation of the new property.
- The use of at least one integrated bird box within any new building created on site is recommended. A **Vivara Pro Woodstone House Sparrow Nest Box** (or similar design depending on stock availability) must be built into the block work of the building and placed as high as possible on a suitable elevation, no lower than eaves level. Care must be taken to ensure that the access hole remains unobstructed and open. It is recommended that this is located within the northern elevation of the new property.
- The use of soft landscaping to strengthen boundary features would be a welcome enhancement to the site. Native tree and hedgerow planting along with long term management would provide an opportunity to enhance the site's biodiversity value, visual screening, and connectivity for wildlife.
- A reptile hibernacula can be created within the grounds of the development site using rubble and brash from on site clearance works. The hibernacula must at least measure 0.5 m in depth, 2 m wide and 2 m long each. It will be made by creating layers of wood, brash, rubble and soil. The hibernacula will create a mound approximately 0.3 m above ground level which will be covered over with soil and seeded using a native seed mix. An indicative design can be found in Appendix 5.

Best Wishes

Beth Lewis
Ecologist
Ecological Services Ltd

Signed: Beth Lewis Date: May 2026

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Appendix 1 - Aerial View of Site Location



Appendix 2- Site Photographs



Photo 1. Front wall and hedgerow along roadside.



Photo 2. Front pathway and ornamental planting.



Photo 3. Western ornamental planting and stone area.



Photo 4. Lawns and ornamental planting on upper areas of rear garden.



Photo 5. Upper lawn areas in rear garden with stone waling.



Photo 6. Pergola and pathway extending north through rear garden.

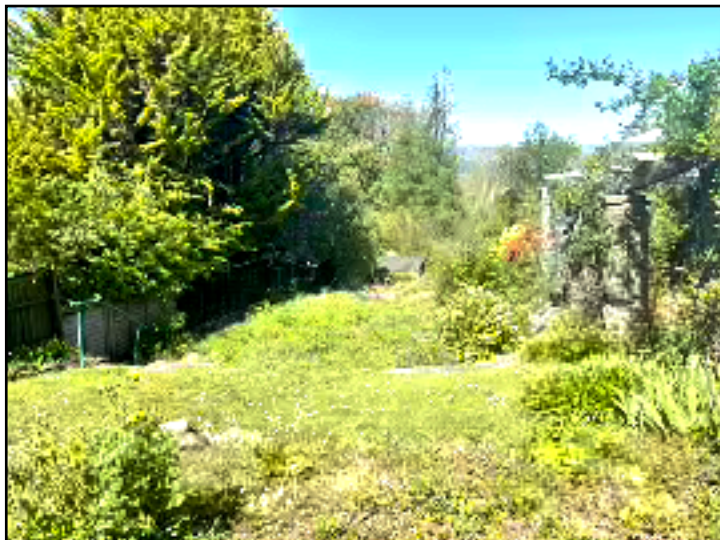


Photo 7. Lawn and planting along western side of rear garden.



Photo 8. Lower grassland area. Extending to woodland in far north.



Photo 9. Rear grassland area looking south back at house.



Photo 10. Rear view of garage structure and patio area in west of site.



Photo 11. Garage and hardstanding area. View from roadside along south of site.



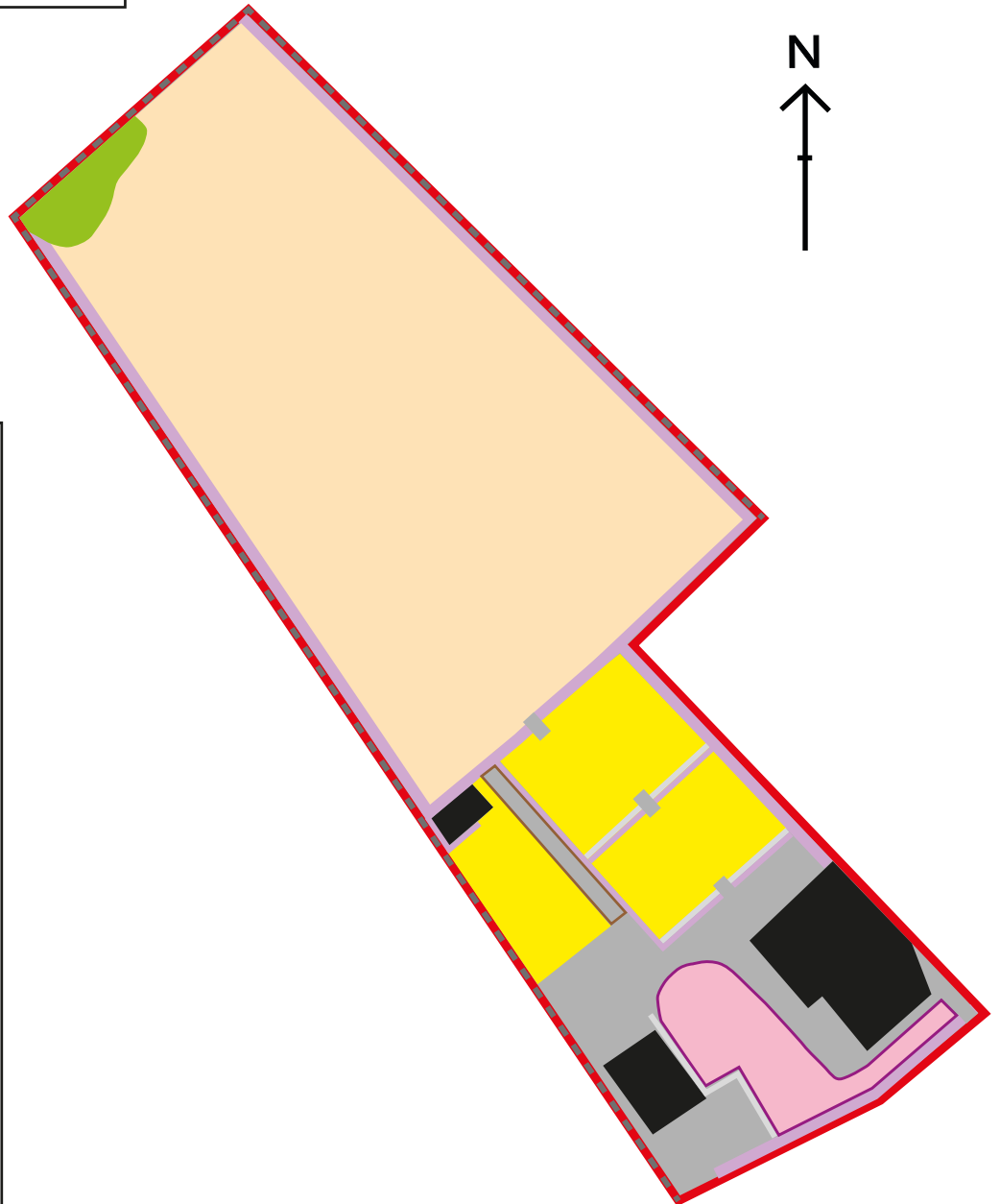
Photo 12. View into adjacent northern woodland from end of garden with large tree log piles.

Appendix 3- Habitat Map

LAND TO THE REAR OF 15 RIDGEWAY,
NEWPORT

Habitat Map

April 2026



- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
|  | Pergola |
|  | Rockery Area |
|  | Semi Improved Grassland |
|  | Scrub |
|  | Amenity Grassland |
|  | Building |
|  | Hardstanding |
|  | Ornamental Planting |
| | Stone Wall |
| | Wire Fencing |
| | Site Boundary |

Appendix 4 - Legislation

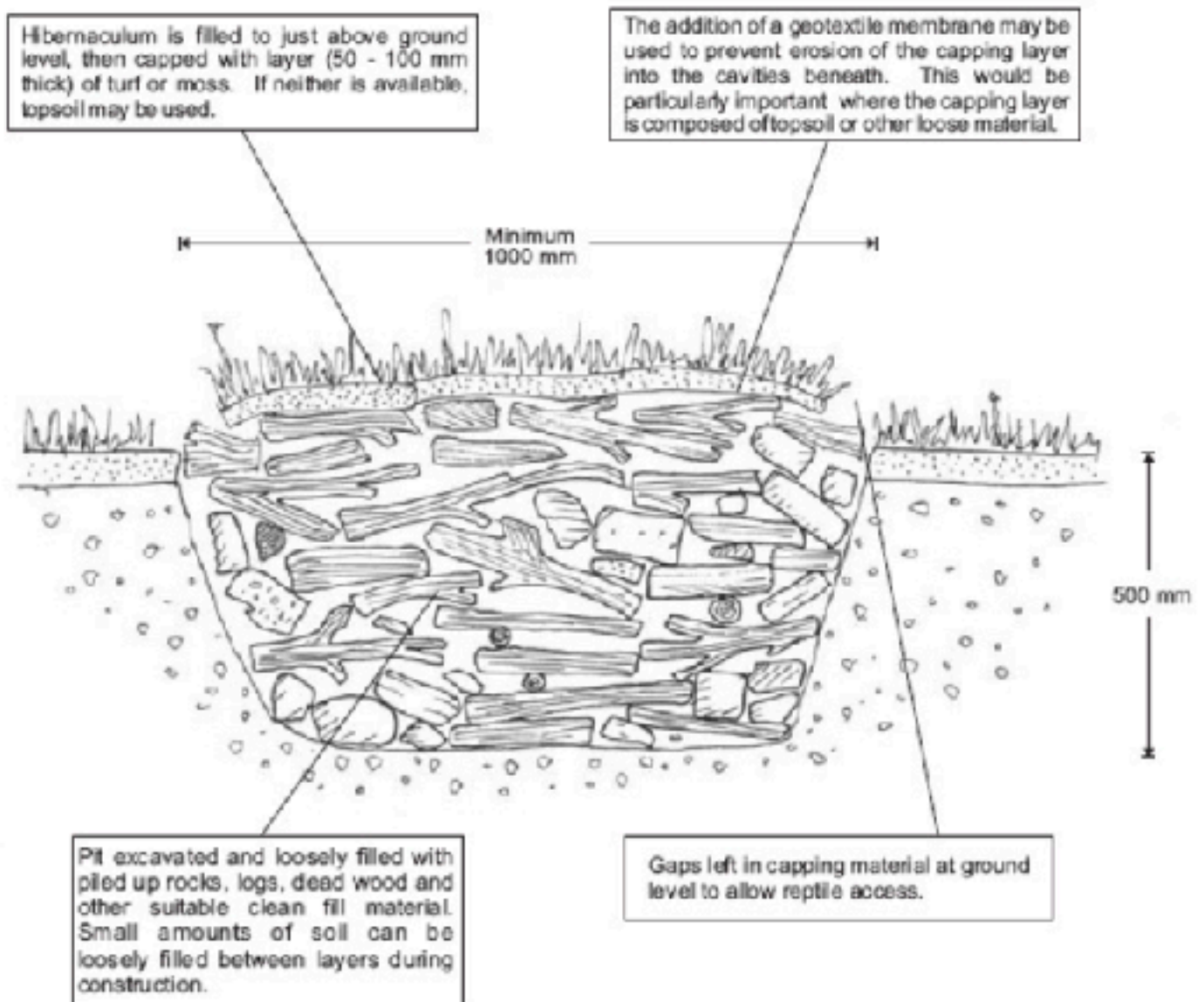
The Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) aims to *'contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of the Member States'*. The Directive requires the establishment and conservation of a network of sites within each member state which protect the rarest flora and fauna found across Europe. A number of species and habitats are listed in Annex 2 of the directive for which areas can be designated as a SAC. The aims of the Habitats Directive are transposed into British Law through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended provide the legislation framework and protection for SSSI. A SSSI is designated by a statutory nature conservation body such as Natural Resources Wales (NRW) for its make up of flora, fauna, geological and / or physiographical features. Each SSSI should have a citation which describes the site and its special features.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 is a wide reaching piece of legislation which seeks help improve the management of Wales' natural resources into the future. The Act sets out a Wales wide approach to planning and managing its natural resources at a national and local level in a sustainable manner. One main requirement for all public bodies, such as local councils, is to maintain and enhance biodiversity where possible within their duties.

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty upon public bodies to produce well-being objectives that contribute to achieving a set of overarching well-being goals. The Resilient Wales goal is the key goal that biodiversity and geodiversity conservation, as part of the planning process, will contribute towards delivering.

Appendix 5 - Reptile Hibernacula



Source: Highways Agency (2005) *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges: Volume 10 Section 4 Part 7 – Nature Conservation Advice in Relation to Roads and Reptiles*