

**Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru**  
**Natural Resources Wales**

**Memo**

To: NRW official 2  
From: CCW official 1  
Subject: Rhydymwyn: Ecological Interest  
Date: 20 December 2013

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Hi

Owing to time limitations, I thought the easiest way of reviewing the ecological interest of the site is by means of the following table. NEWW's website states that 1,471 species to date have now been recorded on site.

Cheers

Species	Legal status	Location	Comments
Bats (Chiroptera)	Habitats Directive and GB Legislation *(see below)	8 Species recorded on site to date (example locations are listed below)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remaining structures were retained during 2003 demolition works <u>specifically</u> for nature conservation (bat purposes). The retention of these is considered to constitute derogation under Article 16 of the Habitats Directive.</li> <li>2. Defra have issued a bat protocol to ensure compliance with species protection legislation.</li> </ol>
Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> )	<p>Habitats Directive Annex II and IV Species</p> <p>Protected under provisions of Conservation of Habitats and species Regulations 2010 (as amended) and Wildlife and Countryside 1981 (as amended)</p> <p>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Section 42 species</p>	<p>Nursery roost in building 45.</p> <p>Species recorded in buildings 58 and 97</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The site represents one of 3 known lesser horseshoe bat breeding sites in Flintshire.</li> <li>3. The conservation status of this population of bats is not 'favourable'.</li> <li>4. Infra-red camera used to inform surveillance</li> </ol>
Brown long-eared bat ( <i>Plecotus auritus</i> )	Habitats Directive Annex IV Species	Recorded in Building 58	

	<p>Protected under provisions of Conservation of Habitats and species Regulations 2010 (as amended) and Wildlife and Countryside 1981 (as amended)</p> <p>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Section 42 species</p>		
<p>Daubenton's bat (<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>)</p>	<p>Habitats Directive Annex IV Species</p> <p>Protected under provisions of Conservation of Habitats and species Regulations 2010 (as amended) and Wildlife and Countryside 1981 (as amended)</p>	<p>Recorded in Building 97</p>	
<p>Common Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)</p>	<p>Habitats Directive Annex IV Species</p> <p>Protected under provisions of Conservation of Habitats and species Regulations 2010 (as</p>		

	<p>amended) and Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)</p> <p>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Section 42 species</p>		
<p>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)</p>	<p>Habitats Directive Annex II and IV Species</p> <p>Protected under provisions of Conservation of Habitats and species Regulations 2010 (as amended) and Wildlife and Countryside 1981 (as amended)</p> <p>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Section 42 species</p>	<p>Artificial holt on site (Located at the southern tip)</p>	<p>1. Otter recorded on infra-red camera</p>
<p>Great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)</p>	<p>Habitats Directive Annex II and IV Species</p> <p>Protected under provisions of Conservation of Habitats and species Regulations 2010 (as amended) and Wildlife and Countryside 1981 (as</p>		<p>2. In confidence Defra are understood to be contracting ARC to undertake a GCN review of the site.</p> <p>3. It is understood that 4 No. ponds are present on site. The presence of the species has implications for site management.</p>

	amended)  Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Section 42		
Common Toad ( <i>Bufo bufo</i> )	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Section 42		NEWW are understood to have undertaken common toad surveillance
Grass snake ( <i>Natrix natrix</i> )	Protected under provisions of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)  Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Section 42 species	Present predominantly in the DA of the site.  2013 survey "7 out of the 8 snakes were seen in the DA close to the open river channel in the area known as the 'bridge site'. The eighth snake was found sharing a refuge with a slow-worm towards the lower end of the upper site".  Mean number of nearly 22 per year over the 5 year period 2007-11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reptile assemblage was considered to be one of the primary features of interest for the site.</li> <li>2. Site represents one of the most significant reptile sites in the Clwyd Area of Search. Other sites are much larger in size (Fenns &amp; Whixall and Minera). Consequently site has been listed as a candidate SSSI for its reptile assemblage. Adder has not been recorded on site though the species has been recorded in the environs of Rhydymwyn</li> <li>3. The site has been subject to annual reptile surveillance. Results suggest decline in status of grass snake.</li> <li>4. Assemblage is highly vulnerable to public access. In my view, any change in tenure or use must not result in increased public use of the site. Ideally public access should be reduced.</li> </ol>

Common Lizard ( <i>Zootoca vivipara</i> )	Protected under provisions of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)  Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Section 42 species	2013 Survey: The majority of the lizards (97/108) were seen in the upper part of the site, with only 11 being found in the DA	
Slowworm ( <i>Anguis fragilis</i> )	Protected under provisions of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)  Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Section 42 species	32 slowworms recorded in 2013. All within 75m of Building No.97	
Red Veined Darter ( <i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i> )			1. Species scarce in Wales
<b>General</b>			
Flora:	"Flora species include many species of Fungi and familiar plants like Bluebell, wild Garlic and Lesser celandine along with scarcer species like Herb Paris, Broad-leaved Helleborine and Star of Bethlehem."		
Invertebrates	Invertebrate species total 639 which include butterfly species such as the familiar Large white, Peacock, Red Admiral and small tortoiseshell along with less abundant species such as Grayling, Small Heath and White-Letter Hairstreak.		
Amphibians	5 species of amphibian recorded at the site including common frog, common toad, smooth newt palmate newt and great crested newt		
Birds	Invertebrate species total 639 which include butterfly species such as the familiar Large white, Peacock,		

	Red Admiral and small tortoiseshell along with less abundant species such as Grayling, Small Heath and White-Letter Hairstreak
Mammals	Of 24 mammals there are common species such as badger and wood mouse and scarcer species like Otter, Polecat and Lesser horseshoe Bat