

ISG LTD

NEW SCHOOL PROVISION, YSGOL Y DERI, COSMESTON

HEDGEROW APPRAISAL

JULY 2022



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Issue	Revision	Stage	Date	Prepared by	Approved by	Signed
1	-	Final Draft	15 July 2022		Dr Matthew Watts (Director)	
2	Layout at Appx I updated	For Issue	18 July 2022		Dr Matthew Watts (Director)	

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Soltys Brewster Ecology were commissioned by ISG on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan to undertake supplementary surveys to inform the proposed development of a new school facility (Ysgol y Deri) at Lower Cosmeston Farm. A preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was prepared by AECOM in June 2021¹ which identified existing site conditions and recommended mitigation/ enhancement opportunities. The PEA report also recommended that further site-specific surveys be undertaken relating to hedgerows, foraging bats, Dormice and common reptiles. The surveys for protected species are underway (from April 2022) and the findings will be reported separately. The current appraisal relates solely to consideration of the boundary hedgerows in the west (Lavernock Road) and south (Fort Road).
- 1.2 The PEA report¹ identified that the existing boundary hedgerows to the west (Lavernock Road) and south (Fort Road) were intact, species rich examples, meeting the criteria as Priority (Section 7) Habitats under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The Act places a duty on Welsh Ministers and Planning authorities to take measures to maintain and enhance biodiversity associated with Section 7 habitats.
- 1.3 The proposed development layout would result in some loss of the southern hedgerow to accommodate vehicle access, along with an additional loss in the south west corner to allow for pedestrian/cycle access (see enclosed layout plan, Appendix I). Early consultation advice received from the VoG in February 2021 identified that:
- 'Where hedgerow removal is proposed, particularly of species rich hedgerows, it is recommended that translocation of affected hedgerows is undertaken wherever possible, and the translocated material is used to bolster existing and retained hedgerows/ site boundaries.'*
- 1.4 The Biodiversity Duty under Section 7 of the Environment Act requires that this type of mitigation, and additional planting to enhance the condition of retained hedgerows should be provided as part of the development. The current layout (Appendix I) demonstrates that this has been addressed although the plans do not specifically identify where translocated sections of hedgerow would be located – this will be informed over the course of further surveys (for reptiles, Dormice, bats) programmed over the course of 2022.
- 1.5 Further consultation with the VoG subsequent to the submission of the PEA (in June 2021) has indicated that an appraisal of whether the western and southern hedgerows would be considered 'important' under the

¹ Ysgol Y Deri Primary School (YYD2) Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) Report. Vale of Glamorgan Council.
Project number: 60629450. June 2021
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terms of the Hedgerow Regulations (1997) would also be required. Under the 1997 Regulations, Schedule 1 contains details of the criteria required for a hedgerow to be considered as important – in relation to wildlife and landscape, Part 6 of the Schedule states that a hedgerow is important if it includes:

(a) at least 7 woody species;

(b) at least 6 woody species, and has associated with it at least 3 of the features specified in sub-paragraph (4);

*(c) at least 6 woody species, including one of the following—black-poplar tree (*Populus nigra* ssp *betulifolia*); large-leaved lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*); small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*); wild service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*); or*

(d) at least 5 woody species, and has associated with it at least 4 of the features specified in sub-paragraph (4),

and the number of woody species in a hedgerow shall be ascertained in accordance with sub-paragraph (3).

(3) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1) (and those of paragraph 8(b))—

(a) where the length of the hedgerow does not exceed 30 metres, count the number of woody species present in the hedgerow;

(b) where the length of the hedgerow exceeds 30 metres, but does not exceed 100 metres, count the number of woody species present in the central stretch of 30 metres;

(c) where the length of the hedgerow exceeds 100 metres, but does not exceed 200 metres, count the number of woody species present in the central stretch of 30 metres within each half of the hedgerow and divide the aggregate by two;

(d) where the length of the hedgerow exceeds 200 metres, count the number of woody species present in the central stretch of 30 metres within each third of the hedgerow and divide the aggregate by three.

(4) The features referred to in sub-paragraph (1)(b) and (d) (which include those referred to in paragraph 8(b)) are—

(a) a bank or wall which supports the hedgerow along at least one half of its length;

(b) gaps which in aggregate do not exceed 10% of the length of the hedgerow;

(c) where the length of the hedgerow does not exceed 50 metres, at least one standard tree;

(d) where the length of the hedgerow exceeds 50 metres but does not exceed 100 metres, at least 2 standard trees;

(e) where the length of the hedgerow exceeds 100 metres, such number of standard trees (within any part of its length) as would when averaged over its total length amount to at least one for each 50 metres;

(f) at least 3 woodland species within one metre, in any direction, of the outermost edges of the hedgerow;

(g) a ditch along at least one half of the length of the hedgerow;

(h) connections scoring 4 points or more in accordance with sub-paragraph (5);

(i) a parallel hedge within 15 metres of the hedgerow.'

- 1.6 In addition to the above criteria, the presence of Dormice within either of the site hedgerows would meet other criteria specified in the Regulations for importance. No evidence of Dormice has been recorded at the site to date (July 2022).

2.0 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 In order to establish if either of the southern or western hedgerows at the site met the criteria set out above, a survey was undertaken on 17 May 2022 by a suitably experienced ecologist² and assistant. The survey was undertaken as an additional element of the first check of Dormouse nest tubes at the site. Within each of the sampled sections of hedgerows, all woody species were noted along with the ground flora and other climbing species such as Bramble. Both sides of the sampled sections were surveyed – i.e. from within the site and from the footway on Lavernock Road or Fort Road.

- 2.2 Selection of sample sections followed the stipulation in the Hedgerow Regulations (see section 1.5 above) and was identified using a 30m long tape measure. The Lavernock Road hedge measures approximately 95m in length so a central 30m section was sampled, while two sections were sampled along Fort Road, where the hedgerow measures approximately 180m.

² Dr Matthew Watts, Full member of CIEEM with 20 years experience of ecological consultancy
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3.0 RESULTS & INTERPRETATION

3.1 The findings from the site survey are summarised in the following sections, although neither of the surveyed hedgerows would meet the criteria as Important under the Hedgerow regulations.

Lavernock Road

3.2 The sampled section of hedgerow only contained two woody species – Hawthorn and Dog Rose. Sycamore also present but is not listed as a Woody Species under Hedgerow Regs. Woody species noted outside the surveyed 30m section included Elder and Ash.

3.3 Ground cover & climbers noted included Bramble, Nettle, Hedge Bindweed, Cow Parsley, Black Bryony, Traveller's Joy, Ivy, none of which are listed as Woodland Species in the Hedgerow Regulations. The Lavernock Road Hedge does not meet criteria as Important.

Plate 1 Lavernock Road Hedge looking north



Fort Road

- 3.4 In the western section of the hedgerow, no trees were present but seven woody species were recorded - Dogwood, Elm, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Elder, Dog Rose and Ash. Sycamore also present but not listed as a Woody Species under the hedgerow regulations. In the eastern section of the hedge, five woody species were noted - Blackthorn, Dogwood, Hawthorn, Ash, Field Maple - giving an average of 6 woody species under the Hedgerow Regulations guidance.
- 3.5 Ground cover and climbers present in the western section were Bramble, Nettle, Honeysuckle, Ivy, Cleavers, Traveller's joy, Cow Parsley, Black Bryony, Herb Robert, Ground Ivy, Garlic mustard. In the eastern section, Cleavers, Dock, Bramble, Traveller's Joy, Black Bryony, Honeysuckle, Nettle, Cow Parsley, Herb Robert and Ground Ivy were noted. None of the ground cover or climbers are listed as Woodland species under the Hedgerow Regulations.

Plate 2 West section of Fort Road, looking east



Plate 3 East Section of Fort Road. Viewed from road looking east



3.6 An average of six woody species requires that the hedgerow also has at least 4no. features listed in subparagraph 4 of the Regulations. These criteria are as follows with ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ added as appropriate for the Fort Road hedge. Only 3no. are associated with the Fort Road hedge and it would not meet the criteria as Important under the Hedgerow Regs.

- i. a bank or wall: **NO**;
- ii. Gaps which do not exceed 10% of the length of the hedge: **YES** (no gaps in the hedge);
- iii. At least 1 tree for each 50m section of the hedgerow: **YES** (tree survey by Steve Ambler shows 5no. trees in this length of hedgerow (ca. 180m); trees only present to west end)
- iv. At least 3 woodland species within 1m of the outermost edge of the hedgerow: **NO** (see notes above)
- v. A ditch along at least one half of the length of the hedgerow: **NO**
- vi. Connections scoring 4 points or more: **NO** (connection to Lavernock Rd scores 1 point, connection to woodland to eastern boundary scores 2 points)
- vii. Parallel hedge within 15m: **YES** (to southern side of Fort Road).

3.7 It should be noted that, while neither of the hedgerows currently meet the criteria as important, if evidence of Dormice were found over the course of surveys in 2022, this would qualify the relevant hedgerow. In addition, the appraisal under the Hedgerow Regulations does not effect the need for mitigation/enhancement required under the more recent 2016 Act (i.e. Section 7 Biodiversity Duty). As illustrated on the enclosed layout plan, mitigation and enhancement for breaches to these hedgerows has already been incorporated.

APPENDIX I PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT



- Porous block paving to car park
- Pedestrian Resin Bound Gravel
- Feature Flag Paving
- Porous Macadam Colour: To be confirmed To MUGA
- Vehicle grade macadam
- Playground Safety Rubber Mat Colour: To be confirmed
- Artificial pitch Artificial grass
- Concrete Base To bin store and sprinkler tank. Note that bin store will have a central gully. With bin store with capacity for 10no. 660L bins
- Retaining wall with guardrail Indicative only. Extent to be confirmed

- SOFT LANDSCAPE**
- Existing Hedge To be protected and retained. Areas that are removed are to be translocated to a suitable location within the site as advised by ecologist.
 - Area allocated for translocated hedge species Area allocated along Laverock Road
 - Existing Tree Retained
 - Proposed Trees
 - Proposed Shrub planting
 - Proposed Rain Gardens Ornamental Shrub Planting
 - Proposed Grass General amenity mix. Existing grass to be made good where necessary with this mix too.
 - Proposed Meadow Mix For ecological benefit.
 - Proposed Planting to Raised Beds in Horticulture Area To be planted by school students

- SITE FURNITURE**
- Fixed Seating With back & arm rest
 - Pergola Timber pergola
 - Cycle Shelter with green roof. Cycle and scooter storage underneath.
 - Raised Planters Timber planters. A number to have wheelchair accessible design.
 - Storage shed A large metal shed, with security features to keep all playground equipment locked away safely
 - Play equipment A range of play equipment to be provided across all play areas. Exact type to be confirmed with school.
 - Thermoplastic playground markings A range of playground linemarkings in various colours to be provided across all play areas. Indicative graphics indicated only.
 - Canopy / shelter Anticlimb design

Notes
Check all dimensions on site. Do not scale from this drawing. Report any discrepancies and omissions to HLM Architects. This Drawing is Copyright ©

Soft Landscaping Strategy

- Designed to connect the proposed school with the surrounding context, creating a cohesive landscape character within the site, which will aid the biodiversity of the site and define a range of external spaces for all
- Planting provides seasonal and sensory diversity with chosen species providing visual interest, through form, colour, texture and movement.
- We will review the use of planting to subdivide areas of surfacing. Existing trees and hedgerow will be retained as much as possible with further enhancements proposed to enhance wildlife such as birds, bees and insects
- Soft landscaping will provide the school with opportunities to play, explore, and study as well as further enhance the biodiversity of the site, the areas will include:
 - Areas to socialise and dine
 - Place for relaxation and calm with seating and shelter from the elements
 - Habitat areas created using natural materials such as logs, boulders and landform
 - A safe, accessible, and stimulating environment with fencing where appropriate with a high-quality attention to design and material choice

Rev	Description	Date	By	Chk
P08	Electric vehicle and car-share labels added.	12.05.2022	AMS	IB
P06	ISSUED FOR STAGE 3 COMMENTS	05.04.2022	SL	IB
P07	ISSUED FOR PLANNING	24.03.2022	SL	IB
P08	ISSUED FOR STAGE 3 REPORT	10.03.2022	IB	HLM
P05	Updated with new road layout and FFL +15.800	03.03.2022	IB	HLM
P04	Issued for Client engagement meeting	10.02.2022	IB	HLM
P03	Issued for Stage 2 Report	13.01.2022	SL	IB
P02	Tender Submission	21.10.2021	AMS	GW
P01	Preliminary Issue for Comment	07.10.2021	AMS	GW

Revisions
Project
15-1077-01
Ysgol Y Deri -
Primary School

Client
Vale of Glamorgan Council
VALEofGLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Title
Proposed Site Layout -
Facing Fort Road

Drawing No. **YYDE-HLM-00-00-DR-L-00005** P09

Scale @ A1
1:500
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Drawn
AMS
Checked
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