

# Penlands DAS 38 01– Ecological Constraints Plan

|                        |                                        |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>ELR and mileage</b> | VTB 36m                                |
| <b>Project:</b>        | Cellnex BAF1455                        |
| <b>Proposed works</b>  | Vegetation management and construction |
| <b>Client:</b>         | Bam Nuttal                             |
| <b>Author:</b>         | Chris Ayre BSc (Hons)                  |
| <b>Survey date:</b>    | 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2026          |
| <b>Report author:</b>  | Chris Ayre                             |
| <b>Report no:</b>      | DAS_38_01_Eco_rev1                     |

**BS 42020:2013:** This study has been undertaken in accordance with British Standard 42020:2013 Biodiversity, Code of practice for planning and development.

**Code of Professional Conduct:** The information which we have prepared is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

**Validity of survey data and report:** The findings of this report are valid for 24 months from the date of survey. If work has not commenced within this period, an updated survey by a suitably qualified ecologist will be required.

## Phase 1 habitats

| UK Habs - Habitat types                                                                      | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Habitat value |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| h3h – Mixed Scrub                                                                            | Behind the trackside building and ditch, a raised bank with thick, mixed scrub on it and surrounding it. The scrub gets lighter and patchier on lower ground, heading south between the CESS and a chain-link fence, with more mature scrub species with hazel stands dominating amid ground-level scrub such as bramble and common nettle. Other species present include rosebay willowherb, wood spurge, buddleia, rose sp., tutsan, alder, European gorse, hazel, common ivy, male fern, polypoides sp., birch, sycamore and pendulous sedge. | Site          |
| u1c – Artificial, unvegetated land; unsealed surface<br>Secondary code: 10 – Scattered scrub | The CESS has variable and scattered scrub running along it, from the trackside building, running south. In many places, the ballast is visible. Species here include buddleia, bramble, wood sage and rosebay willowherb.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Site          |
| r1g – Other standing water<br>Secondary code - 50 ditch                                      | There is a man-made ditch with still water, running from behind the trackside building between the CESS and the scrub bank. It then becomes deeper and faster running as it runs immediately adjacent to the chain-link fence. No plants are associated with the ditch.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Site          |
| Scattered trees                                                                              | Some trees are growing along the scrub bank and then on the southern part of the trackside vegetated strip. More mature trees dominate the southern part of the site. Tree species here include alder, birch, sycamore, hazel and goat willow.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Site          |
| Scattered scrub                                                                              | From behind the trackside building along the CESS heading south, scrub is growing patchily within the ballast. Species present are buddleia, bramble, hazel, common nettle and rosebay willowherb.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Site          |
| Buildings                                                                                    | A metal shed/building is present close to the trackside, at the northern end of the site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Negligible    |

## Assessment

| Survey data                         | Assessment of feature value                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Likely Impacts and Mitigation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Statutory nature conservation sites | There are no statutory sites within 1km.                                                                                                                                                                                                    | No mitigation is required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Other sites                         | Wickham Woods County Wildlife Site (CWS) is adjacent to the site, to the east.                                                                                                                                                              | Works will be contained within the rail corridor. No impact predicted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Notable habitats                    | No notable habitats are associated with this site                                                                                                                                                                                           | No impact likely and no mitigation required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Bats                                | There is a birch tree slightly below the CESS, which has a split running through the trunk.                                                                                                                                                 | Works to manage or remove this tree may have an impact on roosting bats. Mitigation is required. See Species Mitigation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Badgers                             | No evidence of badger setts was found                                                                                                                                                                                                       | No impact likely and no mitigation required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Breeding birds                      | Thick, mature scrub and trees have potential for nesting birds.                                                                                                                                                                             | Scrub and tree clearance have the potential to harm nesting birds. Precautionary working methods should be adopted during the period 1 March to 31 August when removing scrub/tree habitat towards the railway boundary. This should comprise a toolbox talk before work and the usual bird nesting checks. If nesting birds are found, all work must stop within 5 metres, and the Environmental manager must be contacted for further advice. |
| Great Crested Newt                  | There is a pond 280m to the northeast and one record of GCN 900m to the southwest. There are no European Protected Species Records for GCN within 2km. However, there is low potential for GCN to forage and find refugia within the scrub. | While the potential for encountering GCN is very low, Precautionary working methods should be adopted. See Species Mitigation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Reptiles                            | The scrub habitat is continuous for a few hundred metres north and south, and has low potential for widespread reptiles. Some opportunities for reptile refugia and basking.                                                                | Precautionary working methods (PWMs) should be adopted before vegetation clearance. See Species Mitigation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Dormouse                            | There is potential for Dormice to use the scrub for foraging and nesting. There are populations of Dormice within 1km of the site.                                                                                                          | There are populations of Dormice within 1km of the site. Removal of woody species has the potential to disturb and harm Dormice. See Species Mitigation for Precautionary Working Methods.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Invasive, non-native plants         | No invasive non-native plants were recorded within this site.                                                                                                                                                                               | No impact likely and no mitigation required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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### Species Mitigation

#### Great Crested Newt

Scrub clearance has the potential to harm GCN, and precautionary working methods should be adopted. During the active GCN season (March to November inclusive), vegetation should be cut to a minimum of 10cm, working toward all retained habitats, to encourage any amphibians present to relocate into uncut adjacent areas.

The following toolbox talk should be given prior to work starting during the hibernation period (November to February inclusive), covering precautionary working methods in the unlikely event that an amphibian is found during works:

- 1) All site staff should be made aware of the low potential risk of uncovering hibernating GCN during works and their protection under the law.
- 2) Within the works footprint, ensure staff are vigilant for any hibernating GCN during works. This includes working in areas of cut brash, wood piles, rock and earth piles and works materials.
- 3) If a GCN is found, work should stop immediately and a suitably experienced person, wearing gloves, should remove the animal into suitable retained vegetated habitats and placed close to any area of ground vegetation or log piles.

In the unlikely event that a Great Crested Newt is discovered, all works must stop immediately, and the Environmental Manager or Natural England should be contacted for advice.

#### Dormice

There are populations of Dormice within 1km of the site, with good connectivity to the habitats present within the site.

1. All clearance works to remove woody species will be under the supervision of an ecological watching brief. The ecological watching brief will be conducted by a suitably experienced ecologist and will be experienced in dormouse ecology.
2. During each day's clearance operations, the ecologist will undertake a toolbox talk on dormouse ecology, legislation and procedures to follow if a dormouse or dormouse nest is located. The ecologist will be present during all vegetation clearance operations.
3. The ecologist will carefully check each woody species for the presence of dormice before any vegetation clearance is undertaken. If evidence of a dormouse is encountered during the works, all works will stop, and Western Ecology will be contacted.
4. Woody vegetation removal will be completed by the use of hand saws. No chainsaws will be used. If limited areas of bramble removal are required to allow access, this will be done with a brush cutter once it has carefully been checked by the ecologist.
5. Any brash will be immediately removed from the site to prevent dormice sheltering in these areas

**This mitigation is set out for the removal of only a 5m x 5m section of woody material for the construction works. If a larger area is required to be removed, this ecological report needs to be revisited and amended.**

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### Reptiles

Scrub clearance has the potential to harm reptiles, and precautionary working methods should be adopted. During the active reptile season (March to November inclusive), vegetation should be cut to a minimum of 10cm, working toward all retained habitats, to encourage any reptiles present to relocate into uncut adjacent areas. This should comprise a toolbox talk before work to ensure staff are vigilant for any reptiles during work.

If a reptile is found, work should stop immediately and a suitably experienced person, wearing gloves, should remove the animal to suitable retained vegetated habitats and placed close to any area of thick, ground vegetation or log piles. A record must be kept of any reptiles discovered during works.

The following toolbox talk should be given prior to work starting during the hibernation period (November to February inclusive), covering precautionary working methods in the unlikely event that a reptile is found during works:

- 1) All site staff should be made aware of the low potential risk of uncovering hibernating reptiles during works and their protection under the law.
- 2) Within the works footprint, ensure staff are vigilant for any hibernating reptiles during works. This includes working in areas of cut brash, wood piles and rock and earth piles.
- 3) If a reptile is found, work should stop immediately and a suitably experienced person, wearing gloves, should remove the animal to suitable retained vegetated habitats and placed close to any area of thick, ground vegetation or log piles. A record must be kept of any reptiles discovered during works.

### Roosting bats

There is a birch tree just below the CESS, which has a split in the trunk, which could provide potential for roosting bats. Works on and close to this tree have the potential to impact roosting bats. Should this tree require management or removal, a bat-licenced ecologist is required to assess the tree before any works take place. Mitigation will be set out on the determination of the presence or absence of bats from the tree assessment.

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Great Crested Newt/ Common and widespread Amphibians and Reptiles

Scrub clearance has the potential to harm GCN, Amphibians and Reptiles, and precautionary working methods should be adopted. During the active GCN/Amphibian/Reptile season (March to November inclusive), vegetation should be cut to a minimum of 10cm, working toward all retained habitats, to encourage any GCN , amphibian and reptile present to relocate into uncut adjacent areas.

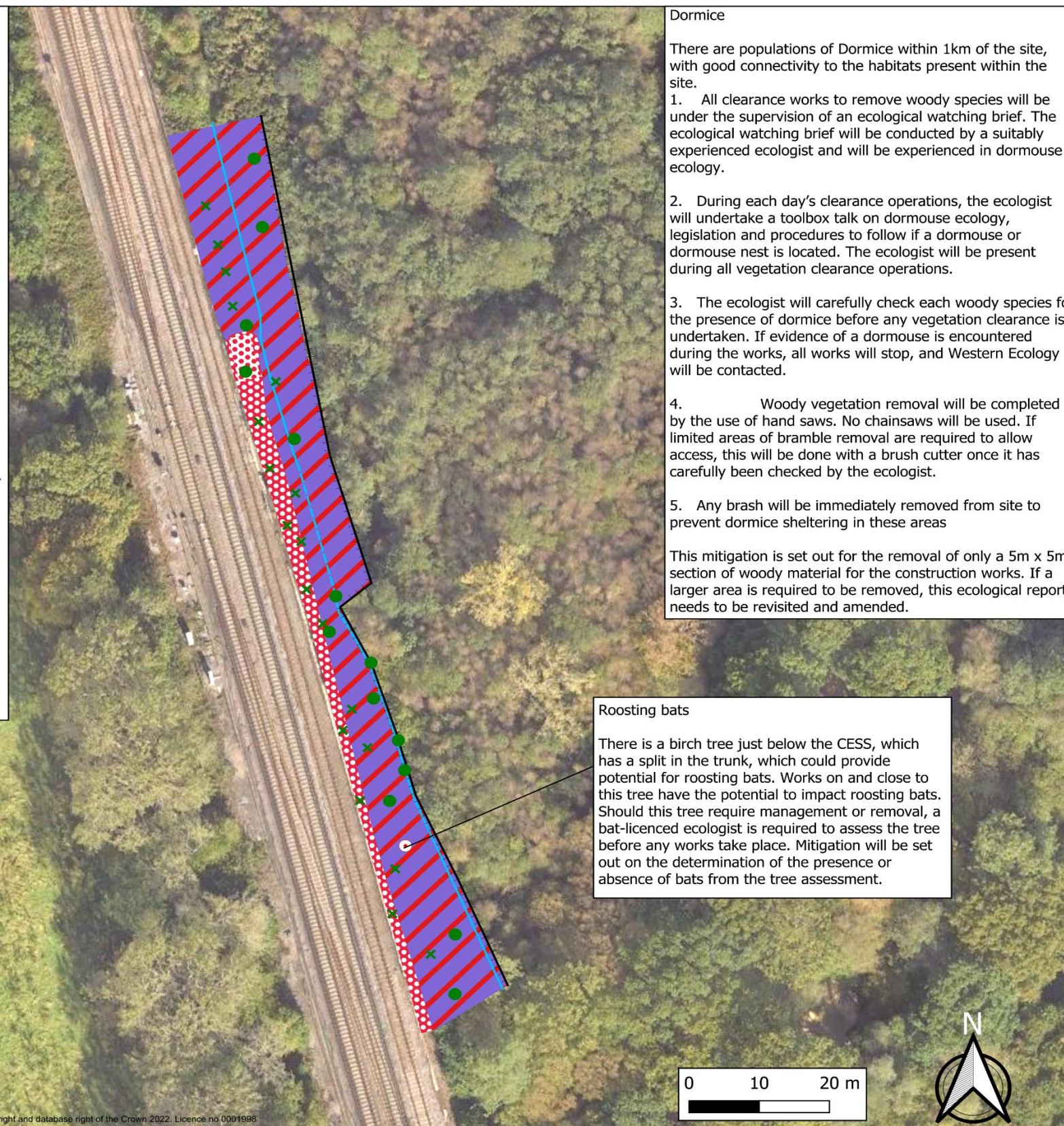
The following toolbox talk should be given prior to work starting during the hibernation period (November to February inclusive), covering precautionary working methods in the unlikely event that an GCN, amphibian or reptile is found during works:

- 1) All site staff should be made aware of the low potential risk of uncovering hibernating GCN/Amphibians/Reptiles during works and their protection under the law.
- 2) Within the works footprint, ensure staff are vigilant for any hibernating GCN/Amphibians/Reptiles during works. This includes working in areas of cut brash, wood piles, rock and earth piles and works materials.
- 3) If a Amphibian or Reptile is found, work should stop immediately and a suitably experienced person, wearing gloves, should remove the animal into suitable retained vegetated habitats and placed close to any area of ground vegetation or log piles.

In the unlikely event that a Great Crested Newt is discovered, all works must stop immediately, and the Environmental Manager or Natural England should be contacted for advice.

Nesting Birds

Scrub and tree clearance have the potential to harm nesting birds. Precautionary working methods should be adopted during the period 1 March to 31 August when removing scrub/tree habitat towards the railway boundary. This should comprise a toolbox talk before work and the usual bird nesting checks. If nesting birds are found, all work must stop within 5 metres, and the Environmental manager must be contacted for further advice.



1 Geffery Close  
Landrake  
Saltash  
Cornwall  
PL12 5HA

Tel: 0800 622 6828  
email: office@westernecology.co.uk

## Legend

- Target note
- ✕ Scattered scrub
- Scattered trees
- +++ Fence
- r1g - Other standing water
- h3H - mixed scrub
- u1b5 - buildings
- u1c - artificial unvegetated unsealed surface

Title: Map 1. UK Habs - Habitats

Project: Cellnex BAF1455 -  
Penlands - DAS 38 01

Checked by: CDH

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