

## Parc Llangweydd, Land at West Bridgend

### Laleston Meadows SINC: Habitat Assessment Summary Note

#### edp3980\_r006

#### 1. Background and Summary

- 1.1 To assess the botanical interest of Laleston Meadows Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) and thus inform a masterplan design for its residential development, a DAFOR level botanical survey of Laleston Meadows SINC, was undertaken on 19 May 2019 by a suitably qualified botanist. Within the red line boundary of the proposed development site, the SINC encompasses four distinct grassland areas divided by scrub, broadleaved woodland and relict hedgerows. A plan illustrating survey areas and their comparative botanical value is provided at **Annex EDP 1**.
- 1.2 All woodland identified within the survey area is broadleaved and of relatively recent secondary origin with a canopy dominated by English oak (*Quercus robur*). In places, the understorey has much mature and dense hybrid willow (*Salix sp.*) but is otherwise typically sparse and the field layer is largely species-poor and frequently lacking altogether. Woodland habitat is not considered to be especially species-rich although woodland within the north-west corner of the SINC and woodland delineating the eastern boundary of the SINC are considered to have sufficient botanical interest to be considered as qualifying woodlands in their own right with regard their SINC designation. Woodland habitat present across the two central fields within the SINC are, in contrast notably poorer and thus of lower botanical interest, albeit contributing to maintaining connectivity across the SINC.
- 1.3 The four fields within the survey area are representative of marshy grassland habitats. All four fields qualify for SINC designation, based on the number of 'qualifying' grassland and forb species identified during survey effort and with reference to *Guidelines for the selection of Wildlife sites in South Wales* (2004) prepared by Gwent Wildlife Trust on behalf of the South Wales Wildlife Partnership. However, the two eastern fields are comparatively more species-rich and of high botanical value with occurrences of devil's-bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) of potential value to marsh fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia*), whilst the north-western field is relatively species-poor. However, recorded scrub encroachment from field boundaries will have had negative impacts upon the integrity of species-rich grassland communities. If not managed, this will likely result in the further loss of species-rich grassland across the site.
- 1.4 As such, a masterplan proposal will seek to maintain biodiversity across the SINC, particularly the two eastern fields of greater botanical value, which will predominantly be managed for wildlife and biodiversity with restricted public access, albeit allowing for the continued use of the existing public rights of ways (PRoW) in this area. The two western fields, meanwhile provide opportunities for the provision of informal public open space focused across those areas of lower botanical interest, whilst also providing opportunities for the enhancement and sensitive

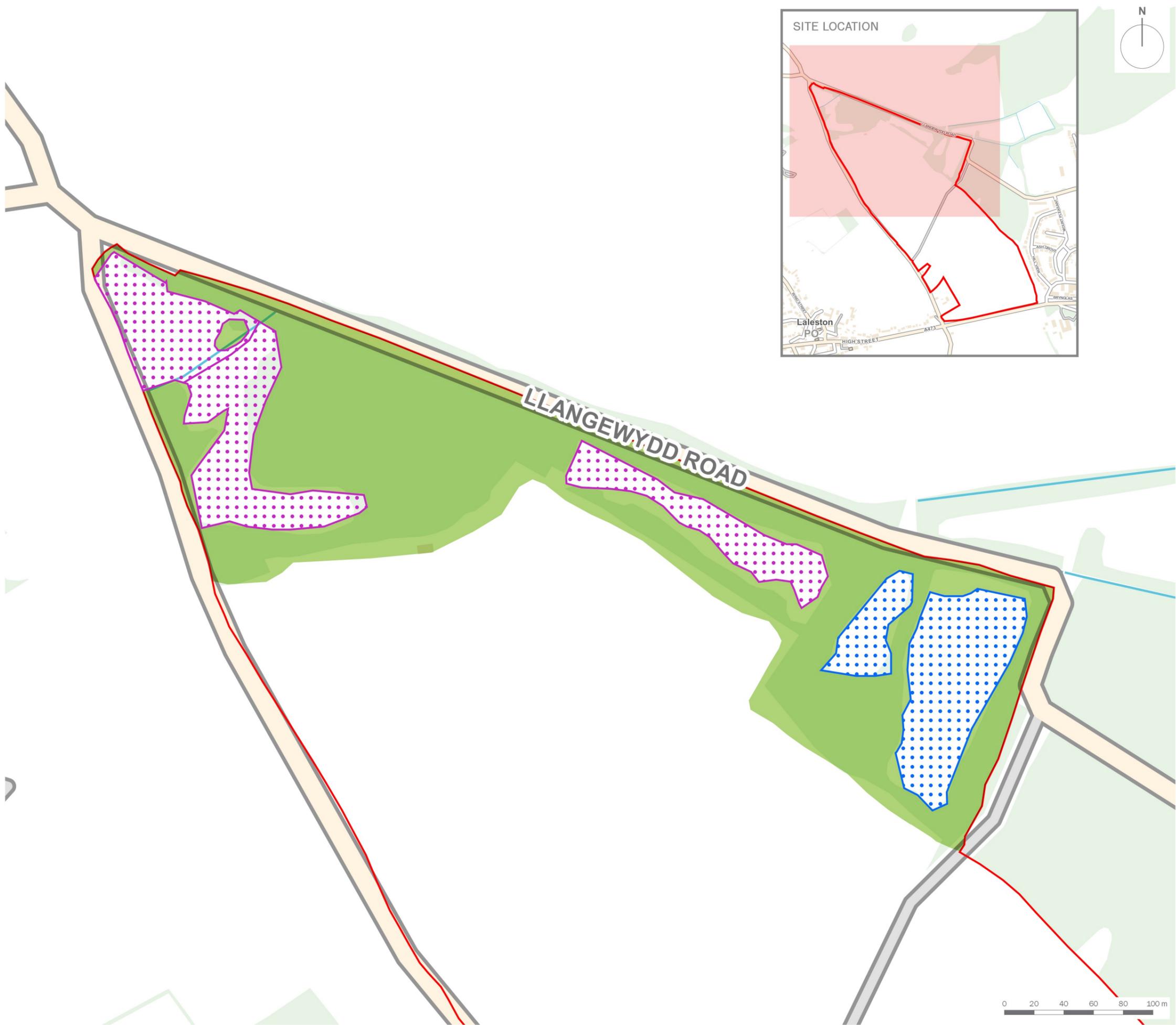
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management of habitat features (including scrub control and removal of undesirable species) to maximise biodiversity and ensure the long term condition of the SINC is maintained.



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**Annex EDP 1**  
**Plan EDP 1: Habitat Assessment**  
**(edp3980\_d017a 03 June 2020 JTF/EWi)**



- Site Boundary
- Grassland Habitats of Comparative Higher Quality to be Enhanced for Biodiversity
- Grassland Habitats of Comparative Lower Quality to be Enhanced for Biodiversity and Informal Public Access
- Broadleaved Woodland Habitat of Uniform Botanical Interest to be Enhanced for Biodiversity and Informal Public Access

client  
**Llanmoor Development Co Ltd**

project title  
**Parc Llangewydd, Land at West Bridgend**

drawing title  
**Plan EDP 1: Habitat Assessment**

date	<b>03 JUNE 2020</b>	drawn by	<b>JTF</b>
drawing number	<b>edp3980_d017a</b>	checked	<b>EWI</b>
scale	<b>1:2,500 @ A3</b>	QA	<b>GY</b>