

kite ecology

Ecology Survey

**Scled dau Quarry, Scled dau,
Pembrokeshire**

Mr C Vaughan

Draft Report

August 2025

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This report, and the information contained in it, is intended to be valid for a maximum of 12 months from the date of the survey, providing no significant baseline changes have occurred.

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1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Ecological surveys of Scloddau Quarry, Scloddau, Pembrokeshire were commissioned by Preseli Planning on behalf of the owner, Mr C Vaughan, in relation to a planning application. Under the proposals, the old quarry would be used for landfill.
- 1.2 A walkover survey of the site was carried out on 29th July 2025 when the area was surveyed for evidence of use by protected species including badgers, bats and birds as these were considered the species most likely to utilise the site. Habitats on site were also recorded. All surveys were completed by a suitably licensed and experienced ecologist.
- 1.3 There was no evidence of use by protected species in the survey area. The site comprises an old quarry dominated by bare rock with occasional regenerated scrub. There is a small brick walled office building to the south of the quarry.
- 1.4 While there was no evidence of protected species on site, the development should be used as an opportunity to improve the biodiversity of the site. It is considered unlikely that the development would impact on the biodiversity of the area, particularly if the recommendations of this report are included in the scheme.

2 Introduction and site description

- 2.1 Ecological surveys of Scloddau Quarry, Scloddau, Pembrokeshire were commissioned by Preseli Planning on behalf of the owner, Mr C Vaughan, in relation to a planning application. Under the proposals, the old quarry would be used for landfill. The centre of the site is located at OSGR SM94793357.
- 2.2 The survey relates to an old quarry, as shown on Figure 1.



Figure 1. Survey area.

- 2.3 Unless the client indicates otherwise, all species records will be submitted to the relevant biological records centre.

3 Desk study and survey methodology

3.1 General

A walkover survey of the site was carried out on 29th July 2025 when the area was surveyed for evidence of use by protected species including badgers, bats and birds as these were considered the species most likely to utilise the site. Habitats on site were also recorded. The weather on the day of the survey was cloudy with south westerly winds of Force 2 and an average temperature of 18°C. All surveys were undertaken by a suitably licensed ecologist who is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and a Chartered Environmentalist. Surveys and reports have been completed following accepted guidelines and in accordance with CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing (2015) and BS 42020:2013 *Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development*. (2013).

3.2 Desk study

3.2.1 Local Records Centre Data Search

A data search was not commissioned in this instance due to the relatively small-scale nature of the work and the experience and local knowledge of Kite Ecology in this particular area.

3.2.2 Aerial photographs

Google Earth was used to identify any important landscape features surrounding the site.

3.2.3 Designated sites

The Multi-Agency Geographic Information website (www.magic.gov.uk) was used to identify the presence of any protected sites within 2km of the survey area.

3.3 On site surveys

3.3.1 Phase 1

A Phase 1 habitat survey was carried out following the standard field methodology set out in the *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – A Technique for Environmental Audit*, Joint Nature Conservation Committee 1990 (2016 edition).

3.3.2 Badgers

The site, and where possible, a radius of 30 metres from the site boundary was searched for badger setts. Sett entrances are recognised by entrances c.300mm wide and c.200mm high and tend to have large accumulations of earth outside. Other signs searched for included 'snuffle holes' (holes dug by badgers when searching for invertebrates), 'dung pits' (small pits in which badgers deposit their faeces) and 'day nests' (nests of bedding material made by badgers for sleeping above ground).

3.3.3 Bats

The habitat was assessed for its potential use by bats.

3.3.4 Birds

Any birds seen or heard on site during the survey were recorded.

3.3.5 Other species

Incidental records of any other species seen or heard on site during the survey were also recorded.

4 Results

4.1 Desk study

4.1.1 Aerial photographs

The site is situated to south east of the village of Cleddau. There is woodland to the north and south west (following the course of the Western Cleddau, with agricultural and on all other elevations. The surrounding habitats are visible in Figure 2.

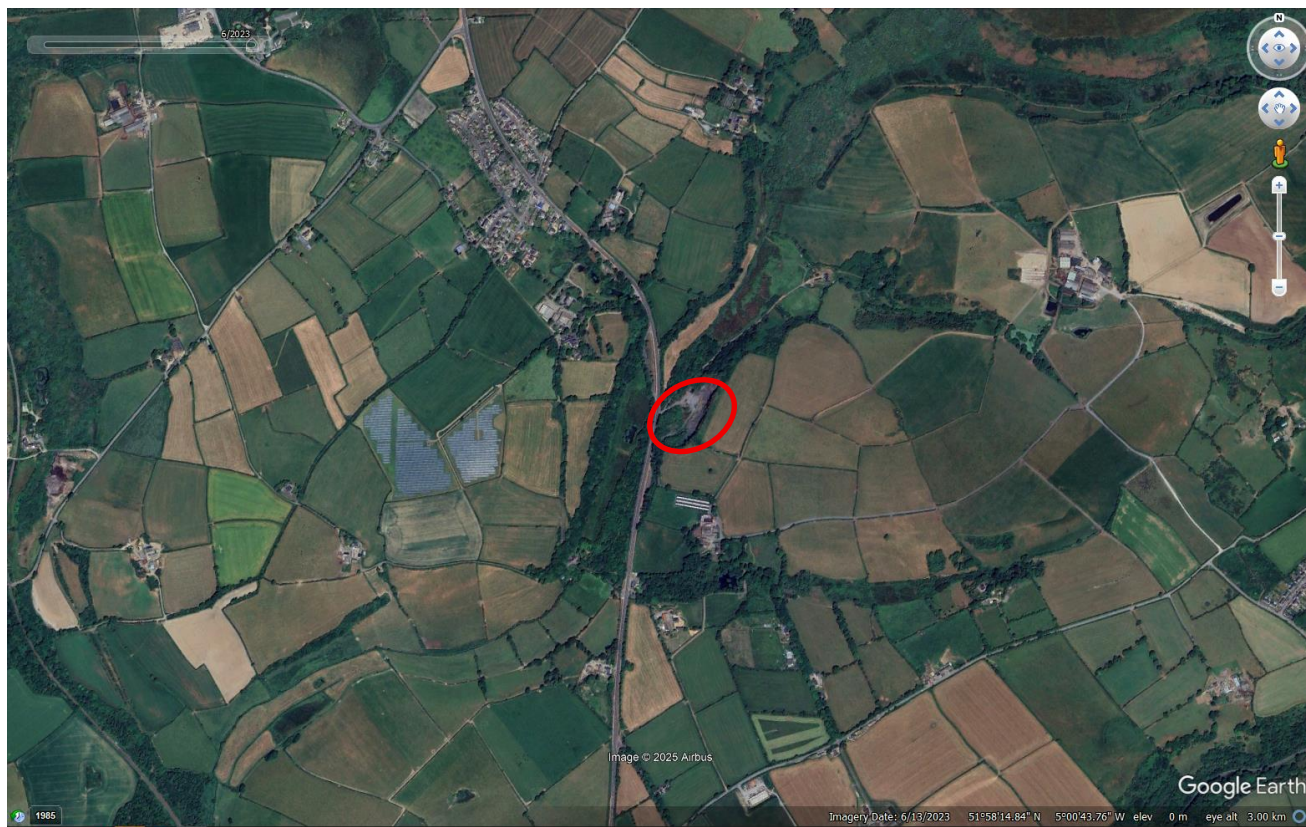


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the site in relation to the surrounding landscape and habitats.

4.1.2 Designated sites

There are sections of the Western Cleddau River Site of Special Scientific Interest which also forms part of the Cleddau River Special Area of Conservation c.20m to the north.

4.2 On site surveys

4.2.1 Phase 1

The quarry floor comprises bare, compacted stone, with the northern and eastern elevations formed by exposed quarry walls (Figures 3 and 4). A row of leylandii trees have been planted along the south western boundary (adjacent to the road), to screen the quarry. There are limited patches of regrowth including bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg, willow *Salix* sp., rosebay willowherb *Chamaenerion angustifolium* and gorse *Ulex* sp.



Figure 3. Panoramic view of the quarry taken from the western boundary facing eastwards.



Figure 4. South eastern corner of the quarry.

4.2.2 Badgers

No evidence of badgers was found on site or within a 30m radius of the survey area.

4.2.3 Bats

There was one small building on site (old site office). This had brick walls that were smooth rendered externally and an unlined flat roof. The building lacked any features suitable for use by roosting bats so can be classed as being of negligible potential. Due to the high number of bat records in the area (pers com.), it is very likely that this area would be used by foraging and commuting bats.

4.2.4 Birds

Crow *Corvus corone*, magpie *Pica pica* and wood pigeon *Columba palumbus* were seen on site during the survey.

4.2.6 Other species

No other species were recorded.

5 Limitations to surveys

- 5.1 The results and recommendations of the report are based on findings as they were at the time of the survey. Kite Ecology cannot be held responsible for any base line changes to the site that have occurred since the survey was carried out that may have any effect on the results and recommendations.

6 Legislation and planning policy

6.1 Designated sites

Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Special Scientific Interest are strictly protected through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

6.2 Birds

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

6.3 Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act places a duty on public bodies listed in the Act to carry out sustainable development.

6.4 Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The Environment (Wales) Act has been designed to complement the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act by applying the principles of sustainable development to the management of Wales' natural resources. The Act puts the ecosystem approach into statute through a set of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) principles, which are based on the 12 principles (Ecosystem Approach principles) contained in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

6.5 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 40 of the NERC Act places a 'Biodiversity Duty' on local planning authorities as far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions.

6.6 Technical Advice Notes 5

TAN 5 gives advice to local authorities on development control issues for Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). It also covers the selection and designation of non-statutory nature conservation sites, such as local nature reserves, and the protection of species, commons and greens.

6.7 Local Development Plan

Policy GN.37 (Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity) from the Pembrokeshire Local Development Plan states:

'All development should demonstrate a positive approach to maintaining and, where ever possible, enhancing biodiversity. Development that would disturb or otherwise harm protected species or their habitats, or the integrity of other habitats, sites or features of importance to wildlife and individual species, will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where the effects are minimised or mitigated through careful design, work scheduling or other appropriate measures.'

6.8 Planning Policy Wales

Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales was updated to include a stronger emphasis on taking a proactive approach to Green Infrastructure, including the submission of proportionate green infrastructure statements with planning applications.

6.9 Additional Regulations

Local Authorities also have a duty under Regulation 9 (Parts 1 and 5) of the Habitat Regulations to have regard for the requirements of the Habitat Directive which includes a requirement to maintain the populations of Protected Species in a 'favourable Conservation Status'.

7 Discussion and key recommendations

7.1 Designated sites

The proposed development will make use of existing utilities so is very unlikely to impact on the designated sites.

7.2 Habitats

The proposed development relates to the phased infilling of the quarry (using aggregates). As sections of the quarry are infilled, these areas will be planted up with locally sourced native species. As the quarry is currently bare rock or crushed stone, the planting up of the site will enhance the biodiversity of the site.

7.3 Note to client and architect

All enhancement measures must be clearly marked up on plans.

8 Conclusions

While there was no evidence of protected species on site, the development should be used as an opportunity to improve the biodiversity of the site. It is considered unlikely that the development would impact on the biodiversity of the area, particularly if the recommendations of this report are included in the scheme.

9 References

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Reason, P.F. and Wray, S. (2023). UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines: a guide to impact assessment, mitigation and compensation for developments affecting bats. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Ampfield.

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