

# **Appendix 8F**

## **Chapter 8 Terrestrial Ecology Supplementary Information**

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# Upper Ogmores Grid Connection: Draft Environmental Statement

## Chapter 8: Terrestrial Ecology – Supplementary Information

<b>DATE:</b>	10 September 2025	<b>CONFIDENTIALITY:</b>	Restricted
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Chapter 8: Terrestrial Ecology – Supplementary Information		
<b>PROJECT:</b>	UK0028130.1329	<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Nia Bowen
<b>CHECKED:</b>	Megan Brenchley	<b>APPROVED:</b>	Kate Fisher

## INTRODUCTION

The following text provides supplementary information to Chapter 8: Terrestrial Ecology of the Environmental Statement (ES) for the Upper Ogmores Grid Connection Project.

### HABITAT RE-CLASSIFICATION

A UKHab survey was carried out by CSA Environmental in April 2024<sup>1</sup> to inform the Project. The survey identified a parcel of habitat south of Croeserw (located at central grid reference: SS 87035 94997) as belonging to the UKHab classification W1g (Other broadleaved woodland).

Consultation comments received from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) at the Scoping Response stage of the Project indicated that the JNCC Phase 1 methodology<sup>2</sup> was preferred within Wales, and it was advised that *'where any existing classifications have been made, they should be related to Phase 1 as far as possible'*.

All habitats within the Survey Area<sup>3</sup> were therefore re-classified as JNCC Phase 1 habitats, with site visits undertaken by WSP UK Ltd in August 2025 to verify the assessment.

The parcel of habitat that was previously identified as UKHab classification W1g (Other broadleaved woodland), was not considered to qualify as a woodland under JNCC classification and instead falls under the 'scrub habitat' classification.

Vegetation within this habitat parcel was approximately 5 m high, and consisted of predominantly willow *Salix sp* species, with occasional larch *Larix decidua*, Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*, birch *Betula pendula* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior* trees. The vegetation was very dense with no distinct canopy. In accordance with the Phase 1 handbook (JNCC, 2016), this would identify the habitat as scrub rather than woodland, for the following reasons:

- Not more than 5 m high;
- No distinct canopy;
- Dominated by locally native shrubs; and

<sup>1</sup> CSA Environmental (2024). Upper Ogmores Wind Farm – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, August 2024. Report No: CSA/6891/01

<sup>2</sup> Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (2016). Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey – a technique for environmental audit. JNCC, Peterborough

<sup>3</sup> The 'Survey Area' was defined as being the Site plus a 25m buffer on either side of the proposed corridor of the Over Head Line and Under Ground Cable sections of the Project.



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- A few scattered trees present.

In addition, a review of aerial imagery shows that prior to 2003, the area was wooded. However, between 2003 and 2006 there was evidence of the area being cleared, and is now considered to be a scrub habitat, that if left alone with no interventions, would naturally regenerate and transition into woodland habitat in the future.