

Site Number and Name:

29. Bottreaux Castle

Official name of monument:

Motte and bailey castle at Boscastle

HE List Entry Number:

1005455

HE Designation:

At Risk

Grid Reference:

SX 09953 90847



AONB Section:

Pentire Point to Widemouth

Nearest notable town/village:

Boscastle/Tintagel

Overview of site:

The Monument includes part of a motte and bailey castle. It survives as a circular mound (motte) with a small bank at the summit representing a possible building. Part of a steeply embanked bailey wall with a terrace is located to the north, with further small terraces and platforms within. Only half of the castle survives, with the southern part (presumably including the bailey) under houses and gardens. It was probably isolated from the high grounds to the south by a ditch across the spur but all trace of this is now effaced by the dwellings and gardens in Fore Street. Known locally as 'Bottreaux Castle', this was the principal residence of the Bottreaux family, one of the most important in medieval Cornwall, who settled here in the reign of Henry II (1154-1189). The castle may date from this time, although one is not actually documented until the 13th century.

Link to Historic England's webpage on this site:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1005455>

Site Management

Landowner(s): Forrabury and Minster Parish Council

Linked stakeholders and community groups:
Cornwall Archaeological Society

Location of the site and the Public Right of Way:

Site 29 - Bottreaux Castle



Key

Public rights of way:

- Footpath
- Bridleway
- Byway
- - - Restricted byway
- Scheduled monuments

Conservation, maintenance and repair

Threats to the Monument and its long-term survival:

Currently the earthworks of Bottreaux Castle are enigmatic and difficult to understand and interpret. The project hopes to change this by carrying out further archaeological analysis to better understand the monument, as well as scrub clearance to better define it, whilst also replacing the current outdated interpretation panel onsite.

Management proposals:

- Supervised contractor scrub clearance of lower slopes/northern edge of outer bailey above scarp, particularly around the area of the probable original entrance
- Supervised volunteer clearance around the base of the outer bailey.
- Geophysical survey
- Enhanced Lidar survey, to add to topographic survey information
- Community based 'garden test-pit' dig, in collaboration with the parish council

Interpretation

Details of current interpretation:

There is an interpretation panel at this site, however it is an outdated.

Plans for future interpretation:

The project is proposing to replace the outdated and factually inaccurate interpretation panel which is currently onsite. There will also be a QR code included on the new panel which will allow visitors to find out more information online about the monument, linking them to the Monumental Improvement pages of the Cornwall AONB website.

Ecology

Key species at this site:

- Mammals
 - Common Pipistrelle Bat
 - Noctule Bat
 - Otter
 - Badger
- Birds
 - Peregrine Falcon
- Reptiles
 - Adder
 - Common Lizard

- Slow-worm
- Flora and Fungi
 - Pale Willowherb
 - Killarney Fern
 - Babington's Leek
 - Cliff Dyer's Greenweed
 - Golden-samphire
 - Lanceolate Spleenwort
 - Maidenhair Fern
 - Monk's-hood
 - Round-leaved mint
 - Sea Carrot
 - Small-flowered Catchfly
- Invertebrates
 - Fern Smut Moth
- Invasive plants
 - Montbretia
 - Gunnera

Please see the Appendix for the full ecological report, including details on types of work which will affect these species, and a calendar for helping to plan work at the Monument. The report also contains opportunities for ecological enhancement of the site.

ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY	BENEFIT
Create brash / log piles from scrub clearance arisings.	Provides refuges and basking opportunities for reptiles.
Install durable woodcrete or similar bat boxes in retained trees.	Provides long-term suitable roosting opportunities for bats.
Install durable woodcrete or similar bird boxes in retained trees.	Provides long-term nest sites for breeding birds.
Clear scrub from areas leaving scalloped / complex edges rather than straight lines. Maintain scrub edges as an ecotone (by varying scrub removal frequency) from tall continuous scrub to short / scattered scrub to grassland & heath.	Provides different light environments and edge habitats for plants, and microclimate and structural diversity for invertebrates.

Activities

The following activities are proposed to take place at Bottreaux Castle during the delivery stage:

- Accessible Visits
- Observational drawing classes
- Pottery making sessions
- Geophysical survey training events
- Garden Test Pit Dig

- Monument Celebration Week events
- Bottreaux 'Garden Finds' events

Responsibilities

The Monumental Improvement Project will, project manage and deliver:

- The SCRUB CLEARANCE: Project staff will oversee the training of, and any volunteer sessions on site during the project, this will include cover for the activities with regard to public liability and first aid provision. The remainder of the clearance works will be carried out by a project contractor.
- The SURVEYING and MONITORING: All surveys will be overseen by project staff/contractor. Survey training will be provided for the volunteers who will continue to monitor the site beyond the lifetime for the project. Project staff will seek Section 42 licence for the geophysical survey.
- The INTERPRETATION: The project will design, manufacture and install a new interpretation panel to include a QR code to link and provide update information about the site for visitors. Project staff/contractor will seek and be responsible for any consents required for this work.
- The DELIVERY OF THE ACTIVITY PLAN: The project staff will deliver public events.

Landowner / tenant responsibilities:

- Provide guidance on interpretation
- Collaborate with the project team when planning community-based activities and help promote the events locally through the Boscastle Blowhole quarterly newspaper
- Permit public access to the site for the duration of the project
- Hold public liability insurance for public access to the site

Responsibilities post project:

- Monument recording and surveying will be delivered by the Monument Watch programme, supported by the Cornwall Archaeological Society (CAS)
- The annual scrub management will be delivered by Monument Watch volunteers, supported by the Cornwall Archaeological Society (CAS)
- Landowner to permit public access to the Monument for 10 years past the end of the project

Site Images





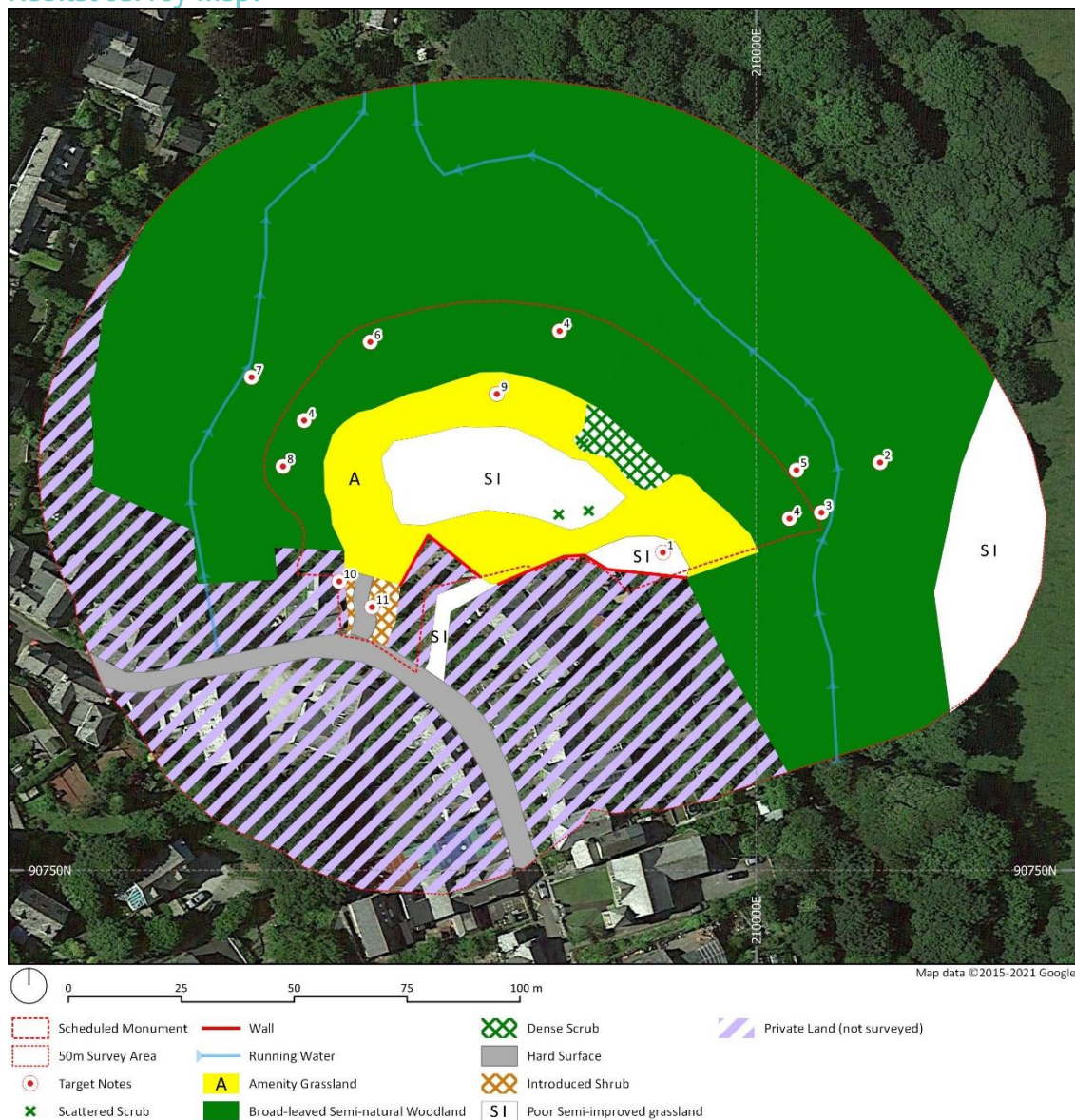
Appendix - Ecology Report

1. Habitat survey

General description of site and context:

Monument comprises a steep-sided circular mound of predominantly amenity grassland leading down to semi-natural broad-leaved woodland along the River Jordan valley in the northern part of the Survey Area. Flatter terraces at the top and bottom of the mound, and less steep areas around the sides are regularly mown, with a taller grassland (occasionally mown) on the steepest sections. Small areas of higher botanical diversity are present, dominated by fine-leaved grasses with locally frequent Common Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, a violet *Viola* sp. and Sheep's Sorrel *Rumex acetosella*. The Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*-dominated woodland to the north appears mostly unmanaged except for occasional pruning along the pathways running through it.

Habitat survey map:



Target notes:

Ref.	Type	Notes
1	Habitat	Damp area within amenity grassland dominated by Mind-your-own-business <i>Soleirolia soleirolii</i> .
2	Habitat	River Jordan – fast-flowing shallow river over rocky substrate, up to c. 8m wide and c. 0.5m deep, assumed to be at low flow at time of survey. Frequent in-channel boulders and small vegetated islands seen and heavily shaded by surrounding woodland. No aquatic plants present but Hemlock Water-dropwort <i>Oenanthe crocata</i> frequent along the banks. Suitable foraging habitat for Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> with steep overhangs along the banks offering suitable resting sites.
3	Invasive Plants	Single Montbretia <i>Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora</i> (Sch 9 WCA) plant growing adjacent to the stream.
4	Bats	Mature trees in woodland contain potential roost features for bats including knot-holes, hollow trunks, peeling bark and ivy - up to <u>high</u> suitability for roosting bats.
5	Invasive Plants	Montbretia (Sch 9 WCA) – established clump on the riverbank.
6	Invasive Plants	Montbretia (Sch 9 WCA) – clump growing next to the footpath.
7	Invasive Plants	Gunnera <i>Gunnera manicata</i> (Sch 9 WCA) – large established stand growing on both banks of a stream tributary of the River Jordan.
8	Invasive Plants	Montbretia – scattered plans alongside path leading to adjacent property. Bamboo and Winter Heliotrope <i>Petasites pyrenaicus</i> (both invasive but not Sch 9 WCA) present and spreading into woodland.
9	Badger	Well-worn pathway leading from woodland and up ramparts onto grassland. Badger guard-hair found.
10	Invasive Plants	Montbretia (Sch 9 WCA) – recently strimmed patch on edge of war memorial.
11	Invasive Plants	Montbretia (Sch 9 WCA) – Scattered plants in war memorial garden borders.

Limitations and caveats:

Most parts of the scheduled area of the monument were fully accessible and readily viewed, except for portions falling within private gardens, which were not entered or surveyed, and a small area of dense impenetrable scrub on the edge of the woodland. It should be noted that whilst a comprehensive plant list (including notable species) was recorded, a detailed botanical assessment was beyond the scope of this survey.

2. Ecological features and protection status

FEATURE		WITHIN DESK STUDY AREA* (1KM RADIUS OF MONUMENT BOUNDARY)	WITHIN HABITAT SURVEY AREA (50M RADIUS OF MONUMENT BOUNDARY)
ECOLOGICALLY DESIGNATED SITES	Statutory Sites	- Bristol Channel Approaches / Dynesfeydd Mor Hafren SAC (c. 800m away) Designated for the presence of the following Annex II species: Harbour Porpoise <i>Phocoena Phocoena</i>. - Tintagel-Marsland-Clovelly Coast SAC (c. 425m away). The site encompasses c. 60km	None present

FEATURE	WITHIN DESK STUDY AREA* (1KM RADIUS OF MONUMENT BOUNDARY)	WITHIN HABITAT SURVEY AREA (50M RADIUS OF MONUMENT BOUNDARY)
	of coastal habitat. The presence of the following Annex I habitats is a primary reason for selection of this site: vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic & Baltic cliffs and old Sessile Oak <i>Quercus petraea</i> woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i>. In addition, European dry heaths Annex I habitat is also present as a qualifying feature. • Boscastle to Widemouth SSSI (c. 425m away) is designated for its high biological and geological value. The dwarf oak <i>Quercus</i> sp. woodland at Dizzard Point is of international importance for its lichen communities. The mosaic of maritime grassland, heathland and scrub on the coastal slopes support notable plant species such as Babington's leek <i>Allium ampeloprasum</i> spp. <i>babingtonii</i> and invertebrates including High Brown Fritillary <i>Argynnis adippe</i>. Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>, Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i> and Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> breed here and the intertidal area is important for breeding Grey Seals <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>. • Tintagel Cliffs SSSI (c. 600m away) designated for its geological interest as well as maritime grassland and heathland which include a rich flora and a number of rare/ restricted species such as Autumn Squill <i>Scilla autumnalis</i>; Hairy Bird's-foot Trefoil <i>Lotus subbiflorus</i>; Golden-samphire <i>Inula crithmoides</i>, Chives <i>Allium schoenoprasum</i> and Yellow Bartsia <i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>. The offshore islands, cliffs	

FEATURE		WITHIN DESK STUDY AREA* (1KM RADIUS OF MONUMENT BOUNDARY)	WITHIN HABITAT SURVEY AREA (50M RADIUS OF MONUMENT BOUNDARY)
		and coastal margins provide valuable breeding sites for a variety of birds including Peregrine.	
	Non-Statutory Sites	None present	Part of Survey Area lies within Valency Valley CWS which is a large site encompassing wooded valleys which extend up to c. 4km to the east of the Survey Area. Habitats include broad-leaved woodland along damp river valleys with a rich ground flora and important lichen and bryophyte communities, scrub, and mire dominated by Purple Moor-grass <i>Molinia caerulea</i> . SPI bryophytes recorded within the site include Dumortier's Liverwort <i>Dumortiera hirsuta</i> and Large Atlantic Pocket-moss <i>Fissidens serrulatus</i> . SPI mammals present include Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> , Greater Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> , Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> and Brown Long-eared Bat <i>Plecotus auratus</i> . Nationally Scarce lichens include <i>Parmelia horrescens</i> and <i>Stangospora ochropora</i> .
IMPORTANT HABITATS	Habitats of Principal Importance (HPIs)	- Deciduous woodland - Lowland meadows - Maritime cliff and slope	The following HPIs were recorded within Survey Area: Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
	Ancient Woodland	Ancient semi-natural woodland c. 300m away at Minster / St Peters Wood.	None present
PROTECTED AND NOTABLE SPECIES	Bats	- Common Pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> - Noctule <i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	No records within Survey Area. Trees within the woodland (TN4) of up to <u>high</u> suitability for roosting bats. Adjacent properties also of up to <u>high</u> suitability for roosting bats, as viewed from a distance only.
	Dormouse	No records	No desk study records. Woodland offers optimal habitat for Dormouse, which is well connected to larger areas of suitable habitat in the wider landscape.
	Otter	1 record from Minster Wood	No records within Survey Area.

FEATURE		WITHIN DESK STUDY AREA* (1KM RADIUS OF MONUMENT BOUNDARY)	WITHIN HABITAT SURVEY AREA (50M RADIUS OF MONUMENT BOUNDARY)
			Suitable foraging habitat along the River Jordan as well as potential lay-up and holt sites in overhanging banks and dense woodland.
	Badger	3 records from St Nectan's Glen	No records within Survey Area. A single Badger path found within the Survey Area (note access limitations).
	Birds	Schedule 1 bird records: - Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i> Notable species: 10 nationally notable (including 3 SPIs) 4 locally notable species	No records within Survey Area. Woodland and scrub habitats offer optimal habitat for breeding birds and nest boxes have recently been installed within woodland to northeast of the Survey Area. No suitable nest sites for Peregrine (recorded from local area) in vicinity of monument. Grassland areas unsuitable for ground nesting birds due to relatively high levels of human / dog disturbance.
	Reptiles	- Adder <i>Vipera berus</i> - Common Lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i> - Slow Worm <i>Anguis fragilis</i>	No records within Survey Area. Moderate suitability around the edges of the grassland areas limited in extent by north-facing aspect and overshadowing from adjacent woodland.
	Amphibians	No records	No desk study records. No standing water noted within Survey Area but taller grassland and woodland may be used as terrestrial habitat.
	Flora & Fungi	Legally protected: - Killarney Fern <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (gametophyte) (Sch 8 WCA, EPS) Notable species: 10 nationally notable plants (including 1 SPI) Babington's Leek, Cliff Dyer's Greenweed <i>Genista tinctoria</i> subsp. <i>littoralis</i>, Golden-samphire, Lanceolate Spleenwort <i>Asplenium obovatum</i> subsp. <i>billotii</i>, Maidenhair Fern <i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>, Monk's-hood <i>Aconitum napellus</i>, Round-leaved Mint <i>Mentha suaveolens</i>, Sea Carrot <i>Daucus carota</i> subsp.	Desk study record of 1 locally notable species (exact location uncertain): Pale Willowherb <i>Epilobium roseum</i> (RPR3). Detailed botanical assessment beyond scope of survey, however no notable species found.

FEATURE		WITHIN DESK STUDY AREA* (1KM RADIUS OF MONUMENT BOUNDARY)	WITHIN HABITAT SURVEY AREA (50M RADIUS OF MONUMENT BOUNDARY)
		<i>gummifer</i> , Small-flowered Catchfly <i>Silene gallica</i> var. <i>anglica</i> • 12 locally notable species • 2 nationally notable mosses • 1 nationally notable liverwort • 2 nationally notable lichens • 1 nationally / locally notable fungi	
	Invertebrates	• 35 nationally notable (including 14 SPIs) • 4 locally notable species	Desk study record of 1 nationally notable moth: Fern Smut <i>Psychoides filicivora</i> (NS). Larvae of this species feed on woodland ferns, which are frequent within the woodland along the River Jordan and its tributaries, including within the Survey Area.
	Invasive Plants	No desk study records obtained.	No desk study records obtained. The non-native and invasive Montbretia <i>Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora</i> (Sch 9 WCA) was noted in multiple locations within the Survey Area and monument boundary (TN3, 5, 6, 8, 10 & 11) and Gunnera <i>Gunnera manicata</i> (Sch 9 WCA) was also located in the Survey Area (TN7).

* Desk study data obtained from Cornwall Biodiversity Network in June 2021. Only records <20 yrs old used in assessment.

3. Potential impacts and mitigation

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES (TAKEN FROM FINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT, AUGUST 2021)

Note: Activities not specifically listed below would require further ecological assessment

Site access	• Pedestrian access only.		
Scrub clearance by brush cutter / chainsaw	• Supervised contractor scrub clearance of lower slopes/northern edge of outer bailey above scarp, particularly around the area of the probable original entrance.		
Scrub clearance by hand	• Supervised volunteer clearance around the base of the outer bailey.		
Non-invasive investigations / surveys	• Geophysical survey.		
Archaeological research / evaluation excavations	• Community based 'garden test-pit' dig, in collaboration with the parish council.		
Information Panel	• New information panel, based on updated results of geophysical survey.		
ACTIVITY	FEATURE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	FURTHER SURVEY AND MITIGATION
Scrub clearance by brush cutter / chainsaw	Bats	Killing / injury / disturbance of bats or damage / destruction of bat roosts	• Most of the area where scrub clearance is proposed has been classified as woodland, and it is not clear if trees would also be removed. Trees within the woodland as a whole were assessed to have up to <u>high</u> suitability for roosting bats. Any trees proposed for removal will require an individual daytime assessment to confirm potential value to roosting bats. • Any trees assessed to be of <u>moderate</u> or <u>high</u> suitability for bats should then be surveyed in detail for the presence of bats prior to any felling works commencing. • Should any bat roosts be identified within a tree proposed to be removed, a Natural England licence would be necessary. This would only be licensable if a demonstrable risk to the monument could be identified.

			Felling of trees assessed to be of <u>low</u> suitability for bats does not require a further survey to be carried out but should be undertaken with ecological supervision.
	Breeding birds	Damage / destruction of active birds' nests during scrub clearance.	Removal of scrub within the wider Survey Area should be undertaken outside the main bird breeding season of March to August inclusive, but timings may also need to consider the presence of Dormice (if found to be present – see below).
	Dormice	Killing / injury of dormice and loss of habitat	- Given the extent of scrub removal proposed, a Dormouse nest tube survey is recommended. - If survey confirms the presence of Dormice, a Natural England licence would be needed, which will require additional mitigation measures including constraints on timing of scrub clearance and provision of replacement scrub / woodland planting elsewhere.

	Invasive Plants	Causing spread of Montbretia	• Montbretia control should be undertaken in work areas prior to scrub clearance via hand pulling / digging out of all corms which can then be dried and burnt or sent to a suitably licenced waste facility. • All contractors should be made aware of the presence of invasive plants and measures required to prevent their spread, which should include cleaning of all soil / mud from boots and equipment in a designated location before leaving the site.
	Soil / water	Pollution events caused by spills or leaks of fuel or oils with potential to adversely affect flora, invertebrates & the aquatic environment.	Standard good working practices to be used, to include: • Use of bio-degradable machine / chain oils; • Fuel to be stored in an appropriate container with a no-spill self-closing nozzle; • Refuelling & fuel mixing only to take place on an absorbent mat (plant mat / nappy); • Spill kit to be available at all times.
Scrub clearance, using hand tools	Breeding birds	Damage / destruction of active birds' nests	• Scrub clearance vegetation should be undertaken outside the main bird breeding season of March to August inclusive. If clearance of individual shrubs is necessary within the breeding season, a pre-clearance check (by trained volunteer) for the presence of nesting birds should be undertaken.
	Dormice	Killing / injury of dormice and loss of habitat	• Given the extent of scrub removal proposed, a Dormouse nest tube survey is recommended. • If survey confirms the presence of Dormice, a Natural England licence would be needed, which will require additional mitigation measures including constraints on timing of scrub

			clearance and provision of replacement scrub / woodland planting elsewhere.
	Invasive Plants	Causing spread of Montbretia	• Montbretia control should be undertaken in work areas prior to scrub clearance via hand pulling / digging out of all corms which can then be dried and burnt or sent to a suitably licenced waste facility. • All volunteers should be made aware of the presence of invasive plants and measures required to prevent their spread, which should include cleaning of all soil / mud from boots and equipment in a designated location before leaving the site.
Archaeological research / evaluation excavations <i>Note – private gardens were not directly surveyed. Potential impacts are given precautionarily, but may not be comprehensive.</i>	Reptiles	Killing / injury of reptiles as a result of archaeological excavations	• Excavations should be undertaken at times of year when reptiles are active and able to disperse of their own accord, specifically April to October and when daytime temperatures >9°C. • Any tall vegetation in the works area should be hand-searched for reptiles and cut short to a height of 150mm or less prior to any turf stripping and excavation. • Any reptiles found should be allowed to freely disperse into adjacent habitat.
	Invasive Plants	Causing spread of Montbretia (or other invasive plants)	• All organisers should be made aware of the presence of invasive plants and measures required to prevent their spread, which should as a minimum include cleaning of all soil / mud from boots and equipment in a designated location before leaving the site.

4. Further survey and mitigation work

FURTHER SURVEYS		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Dormouse survey	Dormouse nest-tube surveys involve monthly visits spread over most of the survey window												
Bat roost survey	Up to two dusk emergence or dawn re-entry surveys are required												
MITIGATION		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Breeding Birds	Avoid vegetation removal during the main nesting period, or undertake a pre-clearance check (by trained volunteer) for nesting birds												
Roosting Bats	Work to areas where bats are present will require a Natural England licence which will impose timing restrictions.	Timings pending results of further surveys and any licence requirements.											
Dormouse	Work to confirmed Dormouse habitat will require a Natural England licence which will impose timing restrictions.	Timings pending results of further surveys and any licence requirements.											
KEY:													
Optimal Periods for Survey													
Periods when certain types of activity within suitable habitat for this species should be avoided or be subject to specific controls													

5. Enhancement opportunities

FEATURE	ENHANCEMENT	BENEFIT
Reptiles	Create brash / log piles (to a maximum of c. 0.75m high and 2m across) from scrub clearance arisings.	Provides refuges and basking opportunities for reptiles.
Ecological Interpretation	Include ecological information on the proposed interpretation boards covering the key wildlife present and the mitigation and enhancement measures in place.	Inform visitors / public.
Bats	Install durable woodcrete or similar bat boxes in retained trees. Suitable boxes include 2F Schwegler Bat Box & 2FN Schwegler Bat Box.	Provides long-term suitable roosting opportunities for bats.
Breeding birds	Install durable woodcrete or similar bird boxes in retained trees. Suitable boxes include 1B Schwegler Nest Box, 2H Schwegler Robin Box, 2HW Schwegler Nest Box & Vivara Pro WoodStone Tawny Owl Nest Box.	Provides long-term nest sites for breeding birds.
Invertebrates & Flora	Clear scrub from areas leaving scalloped / complex edges rather than straight lines. Maintain scrub edges as an ecotone (by varying scrub removal frequency) from tall continuous scrub to short / scattered scrub to grassland & heath.	Provides different light environments and edge habitats for plants, and microclimate and structural diversity for invertebrates.