# Appendix 6.5 Kidney Vetch Survey Report

## 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Small blue butterfly (*Cupido minimus*) (Welsh Section 42 Priority Species) was observed within the Order Limits during the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey. It was recommended in the *Ecological Constraints Report* (AECOM, September 2012) that a survey for the common blue butterflies' larval food plant kidney vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*) was conducted within the semi-improved grassland within the Order Limits.

1.1.2 The small blue butterfly has suffered severe declines in recent years and although it has no legal protection it is a notable species and has recently been given Welsh Section 42 Priority Species status which recognises the severity of these declines. Kidney vetch is the larval food plant of this species and the larvae overwinter in the roots of the plant.

1.1.3 The aim of the survey was to identify the presence and extent of kidney vetch at the proposed development site to inform recommendations to mitigate for the small blue butterfly and its host plant.

1.1.4 Below is a summary of the kidney vetch survey results and recommendations.

## 1.2 Methodology

1.1.5 The semi-improved grassland within the proposed development site boundary was surveyed on 17th June 2013 by Ursula Jones (CMIEEM) for presence of kidney vetch. A structured transect was walked over the grassland to search for kidney vetch plants and the location of individuals was recorded.

## 1.2 Results

1.2.1 Kidney vetch was found across the semi-improved grassland in abundance particularly to the north of the proposed development site boundary where the grassland is unmanaged and along the embankments adjacent to the site entrance road.

1.2.2 Figure 1 shows the areas in which kidney vetch was found within the proposed development site boundary. In excess of 30 plants were identified in total.

## 1.3 Recommendations

*Translocation of Kidney Vetch*

- If areas shown to support kidney vetch are to be removed or disturbed, translocation of the kidney vetch plants from within the proposed development boundary to another area within the Port Talbot site is recommended. This is to ensure that areas of kidney vetch required for the survival of the local small blue population are maintained.
- A Habitat Management Plan should be produced to inform the methods of relocation and management and safeguarding of the receptor area.
- Consultation should be undertaken with the Applicant to identify potential receptor areas and to ensure areas of semi-improved grassland that have been identified as receptor sites for the kidney vetch plants are retained and managed sympathetically.
- If a receptor area within the Port Talbot site cannot be found, an external receptor site will be required.
- Relocation should commence late autumn to ensure the butterfly species are in their overwintering larval stage in the roots of the plant and can be moved to successfully enhance the survival of this population of small blue butterflies.