

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Rebecca Owens
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278

Memo number: 1

Date of previous memo: -

Date: 16/06/2023

SUBJECT: P/23/0147 | Erection of replacement bridge | Feeder Pipe Bridge (footbridge Crossing River Taff) To The South Of Fiddlers Elbow Viaduct, Off Tramroadside, Treharris

Feeder pipe bridge over River Taff. The river mostly wooded and therefore represents a continuous and connected green link.

Designated sites within 500m of the application site:

- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) – x4 (the site lies partially within the Lower Taf & Edwardsville SINC at the southern end);
- Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) – x7 (closest ASNW site lies immediately adjacent to the northern end of the bridge)

Priority and protected species within 500m of the application site:

- Birds (including Schedule 1¹ and Section 7² species);
- Fish (including Section 7² species);
- Invertebrates (including Section 7² species);
- Bats (closest roost record for unidentified pipistrelle species, c.361m from site);
- Otter (closest, c.53m from site);
- Badger;
- Hedgehog;
- Polecat;
- Reptiles;
- Amphibians;
- Vascular plants

¹ Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

² Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Report submitted in support of the above application:

1. Feeder Pipe Bridge. Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. P01. Date 20/09/2022. Redstart.

COMMENTS

Bats

The bat survey work is now out of date and the updated bat surveys as set out in 6.1.1 will be required. Both surveys will be dusk emergence surveys will be supplemented by the use of night vision aids (NVAs) ^[1].

Otter

A pre-construction otter survey will be undertaken, as set out in 6.1.2. The results will need to be provided as soon as they are available. A further survey (specifically for holts and lying-up places) will be undertaken immediately prior to (within 2-3 days) the commencement of works. Please could the report be amended to reflect this?

Woodland (Ancient Woodland (AW), SINC & Priority Habitat)

The loss of ancient woodland, SINC and Priority Habitat must be quantified (e.g., the area lost, number of trees, species and age of trees etc), so that the specifics and requirements for effective compensation can be fully laid out within the proposals. Trees impacted by the scheme will be translocated where feasible. Lost trees will be compensated on a 3:1 basis – replacement trees will have a range of ages. Please could this information be added to the report?

River (SINC & Priority Habitat)

The measures as referred to in 6.3.2 are appropriate. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be submitted to fully set out the measures to protect the river from silting and pollution events.

Compound Siting and access route?

Could full details please be passed on to the Ecologists so they can comment on the proposed compound area and access route and its impacts on the local ecology?

General Bat, Otter and Badger Mitigation

All works will undertaken during daylight hours. No Artificial Light At Night (ALAN) will be permitted. Could Table 2 please be amended to reflect this?

Design Lighting

No lighting will be permitted post-development. Could 6.4.2 please be amended to reflect this.

^[1] <https://www.bats.org.uk/news/2022/05/updated-guidance-for-use-of-night-vision-aids-for-bat-surveys#:~:text=The%20Interim%20Guidance%20Note%20specifies%20that%20all%20professional,aid%20can%20be%20used%20as%20a%20complementary%20technique.>

Timings

Timings of the works must be firmed up and provided to the ecologists so they are able to fully establish and design the methodology for removal of habitat to avoid impacts (taking into account the active periods of the range of species that may be affected (e.g., bat, otter, dormouse, birds, fish)).

INNS

An Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Method Statement must be submitted for approval prior to determination.

Enhancement Opportunities

All bat and bird boxes will be made of woodstone or woodcrete. Could 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 please be amended to reflect this?

Other survey reports

Please could the reports referred to within 2.3 be provided?

NRW

NRW will be consulted regarding the impacts of the scheme on the main river, ancient woodland habitat, bats and dormice.

Ecological Method Statement

The EMS as referred to in 6.2 will be submitted for written approval prior to planning determination.