

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: David Cross
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278

Memo number: 5

Date of previous memo: 21/07/2022

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SUBJECT: P/21/0358 | Residential development and associated engineering, access and landscaping works | Land Off Elm Tree Grove Twynyrodyn Merthyr Tydfil

The following planning conditions will be required. All will need to be agreed in writing by the LPA ecologist prior to commencement of any onsite works.

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- A [revised] soft landscaping scheme (SLS) will be submitted. The SLS will:
 - quantitatively demonstrate that onsite biodiversity has been maintained and enhanced. This must include, but not be limited to the following measures:
 - i. retaining as much onsite habitat as possible in situ;
 - ii. removing and preserving existing onsite habitat features from the existing site for translocation into the new scheme; and
 - iii. recreating existing habitats where necessary from scratch (e.g., recreating the existing onsite grassland types using seed resources collected on site rather than using commercial seed mixes);
 - iv. increasing onsite biodiversity through the addition of appropriate/suitable native species not currently found onsite.

Details of all species recorded on site during the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) will be needed in order to demonstrate biodiversity maintenance and enhancement.

- only include native species of local provenance. No ornamental, cultivar or nativar specimens will be used.
 - include a 2 metre wide (once established) double (as a minimum) hedgerow with trees along the eastern site boundary, which will link in with the offsite scrub and trees along this boundary to create a contiguous linear north-south habitat link along the site. NB hedgerow specimens will be standards and trees will be extra-heavy standards, with a minimum of x5 native species within the mix.
 - stipulate a dual purpose for at least one of the attenuation basins. The basin will be planted and maintained as a biodiversity resource as well as having enough capacity to withstand an inundation event. This will include a permanently wet pond area, as well as marshy margins. Appropriate wetland planting will be included in the SLS.
 - In addition, an early planting scheme will be submitted with respect to the eastern boundary. This will include the locations of planting undertaken prior to any construction, its safeguarding during construction and specific maintenance.
 - Measures for protection of retained habitats will be submitted.
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- An invertebrate survey will be undertaken by a specialist entomologist. This will further inform the SLS by providing information of the type of species and habitat needed to continue to sustain the same mix of onsite invertebrates and to inform enhancements.
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- A full lighting scheme will be submitted to include horizontal and vertical illuminance plans demonstrating dark corridors/routes along the southern and eastern boundaries (together with dark routes for access to integrated bat boxes on new houses) The habitats on these boundaries will not be illuminated. The boxes (bat and bird) and wetland/pond areas will also not be directly illuminated. The dark corridors will need to comply with the following guidelines in terms of lux levels (<0.2 lux on the horizontal plane and <0.4 lux on the vertical plane):

- <https://theilp.org.uk/publication/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/>

In addition, proposed onsite lighting will also need to conform to the above guidelines including, but not limited to appropriate colour temperatures (<2700Kelvin) and peak wavelengths (>550nm) of the luminaires used.

- A revised Reptile Mitigation Strategy (RMS) with a suitable receptor site that has sufficient capacity for the number of animals to be translocated. The RMS must also include a contingency plan if the number of trapped animals rises to a level where the capacity of the receptor site becomes insufficient. The receptor site(s) will need to be safe (for at least the next 25 years) from land-use changes that would harm the population.
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- A Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme setting out the requirements for:
 - bat and bird boxes. 50% of the houses will have either a bat box or a bird box. All boxes will be integral in design and suitably positioned/orientated. There will be a range of bat boxes suitable for a range of bat species and roost types. There will also be a range of bird boxes suitable for different species.
 - suitable gaps in all boundaries to allow free passage for hedgehogs
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- A detailed 25 year Habitat Management Plan will be provided set out how onsite habitats (and also any offsite reptile receptor sites) will be managed for the benefit of biodiversity, along with contingency plans and reporting mechanisms. Consideration for climatic changes will be required.
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- An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed prior to and for the duration of the scheme construction in order to oversee all works related to ecology. The ECoW will provide tool box talks and supervision, and will report back on a monthly basis to the LPA ecologist to confirm all ecological planning conditions have been complied with.
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