

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Kate Glover
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278
Memo number: 1
Date of previous memo: -
Date: 03/10/2024

SUBJECT: P/24/0224 | Construction of new skate park with associated landscape works | Land Adjacent Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre

SITE DESCRIPTION

Existing Skate Park that includes landscaping and lighting. Close to wooded River Taff corridor.

DESIGNATED SITES WITHIN 500M OF THE APPLICATION SITE

- ✓ Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): x1 (Cwm Glo a Glyndyrys, c.458m from site)
- ✓ Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC): x3 (closest, Afon Taf, c.67m from site)
- ✓ NRW Priority Area (Heathland + Grassland): x1, c.350m from site

PRIORITY AND PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN 500M OF THE APPLICATION SITE

- ✓ Birds (including Schedule 1¹ and Section 7² species);
- ✓ Invertebrates (including Section 7² species)
 - ✓ Marsh fritillary butterfly (Section 7² species), closest record c.839m from site;
- ✓ Mammals
 - ✓ Bats (European protected species³; some Section 7² species) – closest record for soprano pipistrelle bat, c.69m from site and closest roost record for unidentified bat species, c.393m from site);
 - ✓ Otter (European protected species³; Section 7² species);
 - ✓ Hedgehog (Section 7² species);
 - ✓ Water vole;
- ✓ Amphibians
 - ✓ Great crested newt (European protected species³; Section 7 species) - closest record c.713m from site)

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION

1. Merthyr Tydfil – Proposed Skatepark. Existing Site Plan – Site Analysis. Drawing Identifier: 0175-WSP-ZZ-XX-DR-A-910002_P02. Prepared by ESA Architecture. Dated 30.04.24
2. Merthyr Tydfil – Proposed Skatepark. Demolition Plan. Drawing Identifier: 0175-WSP-ZZ-XX-DR-A-040001_P02. Prepared by ESA Architecture. Dated 30.04.24
3. Merthyr Tydfil – Proposed Skatepark. Proposed Site Plan. Drawing Identifier: 0175-WSP-ZZ-XX-DR-A-061010_P02. Prepared by ESA Architecture. Dated 30.04.24
4. Merthyr Tydfil – Proposed Skatepark. Existing Site Plan/Trees. Drawing Identifier: 0175-WSP-ZZ-XX-DR-A-910007_P02. Prepared by ESA Architecture. Dated 30.04.24

¹ Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

² Environment (Wales) Act 2016

³ Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

5. Merthyr Tydfil – Proposed Skatepark. Soft Landscape Layout_Details. Drawing Identifier: 0175-WSP-ZZ-XX-DR-A-940003_P02. Prepared by ESA Architecture. Dated 30.04.24
6. Merthyr Tydfil – Proposed Skatepark. Flood Lighting. Drawing Identifier: GC4243-WSP-13-XX-DR-E-1302_P00. Prepared by ESA Architecture. Dated 30.04.24
7. Merthyr Tydfil – Proposed Skatepark. Footpath Lighting. Drawing Identifier: GC4243-WSP-13-XX-DR-E-1301_P00. Prepared by ESA Architecture. Dated 30.04.24

COMMENTS

- *General*

Any removal of suitable habitat for nesting birds will take place outside of the breeding bird season (generally from 1st March until 31st August, although birds are known to nest outside of these dates in suitable conditions). NB existing trees will be retained where possible.

- *Landscaping (Documents 2, 4, 5)*

Any new planting within the Landscaping Scheme will include native species only (of local or at least UK provenance) – amendments will therefore be required to Document 5.

- *Lighting (Documents 6, 7)*

Please can both horizontal illuminance plans be amended to include contours for 0.2, 0.5, 1, 5, and 10 lux (as well as appropriate contours for values above these)? The plans will then be re-evaluated.

Please can the colour temperature of the proposed luminaires be reduced to 2700K or less? (example of an available product - <https://www.dwwindsor.com/products/kirium-pro/>)

Question Document 6 shows that the proposed footpath is already illuminated by the proposed floodlighting to levels similar to those shown in Document 7, so why is the footpath lighting required/necessary?

An outline of when lighting is proposed to be in use (e.g., times of the day, times of the year) must be submitted for consideration.

- *Enhancements*

There will need to be maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity in line with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Welsh Government Circular 'Securing Biodiversity Enhancements' sent to Heads of planning in October 2019.

- *Planning Policy Wales 12 (PPW 12)*

Planning Policy Wales (PPW 12), Chapter 6 must be considered where relevant to this application.

The main elements of the policy (that are or may be relevant to this application) are as follows:

- GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE: stronger emphasis on taking a proactive approach to green infrastructure, the submission of a proportionate green infrastructure statement with planning applications and signposting Building with Nature standards.
- NET BENEFIT FOR BIODIVERSITY AND THE STEP-WISE APPROACH: further clarity is provided on securing net benefit for biodiversity through the application of the step-wise approach, including the acknowledgement of off-site compensation measures as a last resort, and, the need to consider enhancement and long-term management at each step. The use of the green infrastructure statement as a means of demonstrating the stepwise approach is made explicit. A simplified diagram of the policy approach has been developed (included within PPW12). The importance of strategic collaboration to identify and capture larger scale opportunities for securing a net benefit for biodiversity is recognised.
- PROTECTION FOR SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST: strengthened approach to the protection of SSSIs, with increased clarity on the position for site management and exemptions for minor development necessary to maintain a 'living landscape'. Other development is considered

unacceptable as a matter of principle. Exceptionally, a planned approach may be appropriate where necessary safeguards can be secured through a development plan

- TREES AND WOODLANDS: closer alignment with the stepwise approach, along with promoting new planting as part of development based on securing the right tree in the right place.

For further information, see here - [Planning Policy Wales - Edition 12 \(gov.wales\)](#)