

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

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

Memo number: 1
Date of previous memo: -
Date: 26/11/2025

SUBJECT: P/25/0304 | Erection of 2 no. dugouts | Pentrebach Playing Fields Duffryn Road Pentrebach Merthyr Tydfil CF48 4BJ

SITE DESCRIPTION

Highly managed amenity grassland – including football field with treelines at boundaries.

DESIGNATED SITES WITHIN 500M OF THE APPLICATION SITE

- ✓ Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC): x4 (closest, Afon Taf, c.244m from site);
- ✓ Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW):
- ✓ Restored Ancient Woodland Site (RAWS):

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.1397 from site;
- ✓ Mammals
 - ✓ Bats (European protected species³; some Section 7² species) - closest roost record for unidentified bat species, c.597m from site);
 - ✓ Otter (European protected species³; Section 7² species);
 - ✓ Hedgehog (Section 7² species);
 - ✓ Polecat;
- ✓ Reptiles (Section 7² species);
- ✓ Amphibians
 - ✓ Common toad (Section 7² species);
- ✓ Vascular plants

REQUIREMENTS

No ecological survey work required, however, there will need to be enhancement in line with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Welsh Government Circular 'Securing Biodiversity Enhancements' sent to Heads of planning in October 2019.

The following will be required:

- Green roofs on the dug-outs.
- Build-in sparrow terrace at the rear of one of the new structures.

The above enhancement measures will be a condition of the planning permission if granted.

¹ Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

² Environment (Wales) Act 2016

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

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 [GIS]** 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 \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/planning-policy-wales-edition-12)