

Ein cyf/Our ref: CAS-270614-W6Z0
Eich cyf/Your ref: P/24/0241

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Unit 5 Triangle Business Park
Pentrebach
CF48 4TQ

Dyddiad/Date: 30 December 2024

Annwyl Syr/Madam/Dear Sir/Madam,

BWRIAD/PROPOSAL: CONVERSION OF FORMER CHAPEL TO FIVE RESIDENTIAL UNITS, DEMOLITION OF REAR VESTRY AND CREATION OF CAR PARKING AREA.

LLEOLIAD/LOCATION: BETHEL CHAPEL JOHN STREET TREHARRIS CF46 5PS.

Thank you for consulting Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (CNC)/Natural Resources Wales (NRW) about the above, which we received on 11 December 2024.

We have no objection to the proposed development as submitted and provide the following advice.

We note the bat report submitted in support of the above application (Bat Method statement, September 2023) has identified bats are present at the application site.

Bats and their breeding sites and resting places are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Where bats are present and a development proposal is likely to contravene the legal protection they are afforded, the development may only proceed under licence issued by Natural Resources Wales, having satisfied the three requirements set out in the legislation. A licence may only be authorised if:

- i. The development works to be authorised are for the purpose of preserving public health or safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment;
- ii. There is no satisfactory alternative; and,
- iii. The action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.

Paragraph 6.3.7 of Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (TAN5) states that your Authority should not grant planning permission without having satisfied itself that the proposed development either would not impact adversely on any bats on the site or

that, in its opinion, all three conditions for the eventual grant of a licence are likely to be satisfied. Please note, for the purposes of providing advice at the planning application stage, our comments are limited to compliance with the third test only.

On the basis of the above report, we do not consider the development is likely to be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.

A European protected species (EPS) Licence is required for this development, however we note this has already been obtained by the applicant.

This planning permission does not provide consent to undertake works that require an EPS licence.

It is an offence to deliberately capture, kill or disturb EPS or to damage or destroy their breeding sites or resting places. If found guilty of any offences, you could be sent to prison for up to 6 months and/or receive an unlimited fine.

Other Matters

Our comments above only relate specifically to matters included on our checklist, *Development Planning Advisory Service: Consultation Topics* (September 2018), which is published on our [website](#). We have not considered potential effects on other matters and do not rule out the potential for the proposed development to affect other interests.

We advise the applicant that, in addition to planning permission, it is their responsibility to ensure they secure all other permits/consents/licences relevant to their development. Please refer to our [website](#) for further details.

If you have any queries on the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yn gywir / Yours faithfully,

Rhian Isaac

Cynghorydd - Cynllunio Datblygu/Advisor - Development Planning
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru/Natural Resources Wales

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi./Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.