

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

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

Memo number: 1

Date of previous memo: -

Date: 19/10/2021

SUBJECT: P/21/0338 | ERECTION OF 10 DETACHED DWELLINGS | FORMER YSGOL SANTES TUDFUL SCHOOL QUEENS ROAD TWYNYRODYN MERTHYR TYDFIL

Site of former school, includes hard standing remaining following demolition of the buildings (sometime between December 2010 and July 2013) – there appears to be a level of encroachment of pioneer species into the hardstanding. On or near the boundaries of the site, there are lines of trees, grassland, scrub and woodland habitat.

As this is a reserved matters application to discharge conditions placed on the outline permission (P/18/0242), ecological survey work cannot be requested.

Documents received in support of the application:

1. Landscape Layout 21/0839/01 Rev A – date received 21/09/21
2. Landscape Scheme V2 – date received 21/09/21
3. Tree Survey & Arboricultural Impact Assessment – date received 21/09/21

Comments:

Landscape

The table outlining trees to be planted (in Documents 1 and 2) contains a number of non-native species (*Tilia euchlora*, *Betula ermanii* and *Malus evereste*). These will be swapped for native species (*Tilia cordata*, *Betula pendula* and *Malus sylvestris*). All other chosen species in the landscape scheme are acceptable.

Ecology

Possible site-specific ecological issues include the following:

- ***Bats (tree roosting/commuting/foraging)***
- ***Nesting birds***
- ***Reptiles***

Bats: tree roosting

Documents 1 and 3 show trees will be removed as part of the scheme. The applicant will be advised that these trees should be assessed by a suitably qualified bat ecologist prior to works. In addition, as ecological work cannot be requested, the following advisory note regarding roosting bats must be added to the decision notice.

Warning: this planning permission does not provide consent to undertake works that require a European Protected Species (EPS) licence.

All bats and their roosts are protected under UK and European legislation. It is an offence to deliberately kill, injure, capture or disturb a bat or to recklessly damage or destroy their breeding sites or resting places.

If works are planned on a building/tree in which bats are found to be roosting, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) must be contacted on 0300 065 3000 or at <https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/species-licensing/apply-for-a-protected-species-licence/bat-licences/?lang=en>.

If work has already commenced and bats are found, or if any evidence that bats are using the site as a roost is found, work should cease and NRW should be contacted immediately.

Under these circumstances, an EPS licence is likely to be required to undertake the works within the law.

Bats: commuting/foraging

Proposed onsite internal and external lighting will conform to <https://theilp.org.uk/publication/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/>. In addition there must be no lighting of boundary habitats, which will provide a dark corridor for nocturnal species.

A lighting plan is required to demonstrate compliance with the guidelines and demonstrate the dark corridor.

Nesting birds

Documents 1 and 3 show trees will be removed as part of the scheme. As ecological work cannot be requested, the following advisory note regarding nesting birds will be added to the decision notice.

Warning: all birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) while they are breeding.

If works to any trees, hedgerows and/or other nesting bird habitat (including buildings with suitable features) are to be undertaken, they will take place outside of the bird nesting season. If the works must be undertaken during the nesting season (generally from 1st March until 31st August, although birds are known to nest outside of these dates in suitable conditions), a breeding bird survey will be required and must be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist. Any active nests identified will be protected until the young have fledged.

Where a Schedule 1 species (as defined in the Wildlife and Countryside Act - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/1> is involved, compensation for impacts, e.g., loss of nesting sites, will be devised and implemented.

Reptiles

There is habitat onsite suitable for reptile species. The following advisory note regarding nesting birds will be passed on to the applicant.

Adders, slow worms, grass snakes and common lizards are protected against killing and injuring under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This legislation makes it illegal to intentionally kill or injure a common reptile. As a result, reptiles must be removed from areas of development and relocated onto suitable release sites before any site works can commence.

Enhancements

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:

- One in five of the proposed houses will have an integrated bat box and an integrated bird box. Specification of boxes will be supplied and boxes will be added to all relevant plans/drawings for the scheme.
- The entrances of the bat boxes will not be illuminated and there will be dark flight lines to allow access to the boxes for bats.
- In order to benefit invertebrates, garden lawned areas will be seeded with:
Emorsgate EL1 – Flowering Lawn Mixture
(<https://wildseed.co.uk/mixtures/view/56>) – responds well to regular short mowing. This will be incorporated into the Landscape Layout (Document 1) and Scheme (Document 2).