

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Kate Glover
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278

Memo number: 1
Date of previous memo: -
Date: 21/04/2026

SUBJECT: P/26/0068 | To resurface with tarmac the uplift track that currently serves Bike Park Wales | Gethin Woodland Centre A470 Pentrebach To Rhydycar Northbound Abercanaid Merthyr Tydfil CF48 1YZ

SITE DESCRIPTION

Uplift track for Bike Park Wales within a connected woodland and some grassland habitat.

DOCUMENT SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE ABOVE APPLICATION

1. Bike Park Wales. Construction Environmental Management Plan (Wales Trail Uplift Road Surfacing). Date received 02/04/2026.
2. Bike Park Wales, Gethin Woodland Centre. Letter-style report – Ecological Constraints Assessment Relating to Uplift Road Resurfacing. Ref: HE/18/2025. Prepared by Hawkeswood Ecology. Dated 02/02/2026.

REQUIREMENTS

Document 1 (CEMP)

The CEMP has no version number, date or details of authorship. This must be added.

There needs to be reference to Artificial Lighting At Night (ALAN) and its avoidance during the process. No works should take place outside of daylight hours and there should be no use of ALAN.

As NRW specified the need for a CEMP – they should perhaps be re-consulted on the submitted CEMP document.

Document 2 (Ecological Statement)

The document is acceptable and no further ecological survey work will be required.

There will need to be enhancement of the site in line with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

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)