

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

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

Memo number: 1
Date of previous memo: -
Date: 09/09/2024

SUBJECT: P/24/0211 | Timber frame classroom | Cwm Golau Intergrated Childrens Centre Duffryn Road Pentrebach Merthyr Tydfil CF48 4BJ

SITE DESCRIPTION

Onsite pocket of woodland directly linked with a further woodland belt (running north-west to south east. The woodland belt is itself inked via stepping stone habitat (trees and smaller woodland pockets, scrub and grassland) to the wider environment.

PROPOSED WORKS AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS

See table below.

Proposed works	Works likely to impact protected species (if present)
Construction of a timber framed classroom building within a block of woodland with associated lighting. No trees to be removed, however, some clearance work will be required to facilitate construction of the building.	<i>There may be impacts on protected species (e.g., foraging, commuting, roosting bats, nesting birds, invertebrates) through direct removal f habitat, disturbance and illumination,</i>

DESIGNATED SITES WITHIN 500M OF THE APPLICATION SITE

✓ Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC): x4 (closest, Afon Taf, c.194m 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.1297 from site;
- ✓ Mammals
 - ✓ Bats (European protected species³; some Section 7² species) - closest roost record for unidentified bat species, c.699m from site);
 - ✓ Otter (European protected species³; Section 7² species);
 - ✓ Hedgehog (Section 7² species);
 - ✓ Polecat (Section 7² species);
- ✓ Reptiles (Section 7² species);
- ✓ Amphibians
 - ✓ Common toad (Section 7² species);
- ✓ Vascular plants

¹ Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
² Environment (Wales) Act 2016
³ Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION

1. Little Rascals Pre-School, Cwm Gloau Integrated Children's Centre, Dyffryn Rd, Pentrebach, CF48 4BJ. Green Infrastructure Statement prepared by Cwm Planning & Design Ltd. Dated 24th June 2024.

The GIS (Document 1) will need to be informed by the results of the PEA (see requirements box below). Comments regarding the GIS at this stage:

- o Only native species (of local, or at least Welsh or UK, provenance) will be acceptable for compensation and enhancement planting.
- o The GIS needs to demonstrate a Net Benefit to Biodiversity and that the step-wise approach has been followed. It must also be accompanied by a long-term management plan (for new and existing onsite habitat) alongside agreed enhancement measures. NB details of the funding mechanisms in place to meet the management plan objectives will be needed. Reference to DECCA, to demonstrate how the resilience of the local ecosystem will be promoted is required. For further information, see here - [Planning Policy Wales - Edition 12 \(gov.wales\)](#)
- o A *self-cleaning*, woodstone or woodcrete bat box design would be preferable, for example <https://www.greenwoodsecohabitats.co.uk/shop> - single or double crevice bat box (or equivalent).
- o New lighting is proposed. This will inevitably have impacts on wildlife. Any lighting will need to be informed by the results of the PEA. If lighting is allowed, it will need to conform to [Guidance Note 8 Bats and Artificial Lighting | Institution of Lighting Professionals \(theilp.org.uk\)](#), for example, in terms of colour temperature (<2700K) and wavelength (>550nm). the use of waymarking inground lighting rather than bollard-style lighting may be more appropriate and help to reduce any impacts. A lighting plan is likely to be required. There will also need to be restrictions on when the lighting can be active.

REQUIREMENTS

- o A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the site (undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist) is required. This must provide sufficient information for the local planning authority to assess any potential adverse impacts of the proposed development on priority and protected species and/or habitats, or to identify what further information is required before a full assessment is possible.

The results of the PEA will be used to inform whether further surveys are required, or to establish the need for and extent of any mitigation and compensation measures required as part of the proposed development.

An Aderyn data search is required from SEWBRcC (Package B 1km).

- o There needs to be enhancement of the site in line with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- o The application form states:

Trees and Hedges

Are there trees or hedges on the proposed development site?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

And/or: Are there trees or hedges on land adjacent to the proposed development site that could influence the development or might be important as part of the local landscape character?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

If Yes to either or both of the above, you will need to provide a full tree survey with accompanying plan before your application can be determined. Your local planning authority should make clear on its website what the survey should contain, in accordance with the current 'BS5837: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations'

Therefore, a tree survey is required (as stated above).