

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Rebecca Owens
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278
Memo number: 1
Date of Memo #1: -
Date: 08/06/2021

SUBJECT: P/21/0194 | ERECTION OF A NEW UNIT OF HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION | AUTUMN LEAVES GRAWEN LANE CEFN COED MERTHYR TYDFIL CF48 2NP

The site is within a residential setting. Onsite habitat appears to include grassland areas along with some semi-mature / mature trees. This habitat is linked to the wider environment that includes woodland, scrub, grassland, wooded river corridor, agricultural fields.

Designated sites within 500m of the application site:

- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – x1: Cwm Taf Fechan Woodlands, 458m
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR) – x1: Cwm Taf Fechan Woodlands, 458m
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) – x5 (closest to site: Cwm Taf Fawr, 71m)
- Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) – x1: Nant Ffrwyd, 399m
- Wildlife Trust Reserve (WTR) – x1: Taf Fechan, 455m
- Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) – x4
- Restored Ancient Woodland Site (RAWS) – x1
- Within a Buglife B-Lines area

Priority and protected species within 500m of the application site:

- Birds (including Schedule 1¹ species);
- Fish (including Section 7² species);
- Invertebrates (including Marsh Fritillary butterfly – 549m from site – and other Section 7² species);
- Bats (closest roost record for unidentified bat (likely maternity roost for pipistrelle), 129m from site). Other bat species (identified to species level) recorded included brown long-eared bat, common pipistrelle, Daubenton's bat, lesser horseshoe bat, Natterer's bat, noctule and soprano pipistrelle);
- Otter;
- Hedgehog;
- Reptiles;
- Amphibians (including great crested newt, closest record 712m from site);
- Vascular plants (including Section 7² species).

¹ Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

² Environment (Wales) Act 2016

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.

NB – a PEA provides the results of initial ecological surveys associated with a proposed development. The PEA report is used to identify further ecological surveys necessary to inform an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA), to identify ecological constraints to a project and make recommendations for design changes, and to highlight opportunities for ecological enhancement. It should not be submitted as part of a planning application unless it can be determined that the project would have *no significant ecological effects, no mitigation is required and no further surveys are necessary*; with the exception of such cases it should be superseded by an EclA report.

Enhancement measures will also be required in accordance with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

An Aderyn data search is required from SEWBRc (Package C 2km). Reports without data will not be accepted.

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

NB these requirements are in line with those provided in relation to the Pre-Application Enquiry – PA/21/0004 in an internal memo dated 27/01/2021.