

Ein cyf/Our ref: CAS-251775-R3G8
Eich cyf/Your ref: P/23/0208

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

Dyddiad/Date: 24 April 2024

Annwyl Syr/Madam/Dear Sir/Madam,

BWRIAD/PROPOSAL: CONSTRUCTION OF MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS, ACCESS TRAILS AND UPLIFT TRACK EXTENSION AND AMENDMENTS.

LLEOLIAD/LOCATION: BIKE PARK WALES, ABERCANAID, MERTHYR TYDFIL, CF48 1YZ

Thank you for consulting Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (CNC)/Natural Resources Wales (NRW) about the above, which we received on 19 April 2024.

We continue to have concerns with the application as submitted. However, we are satisfied that these concerns can be overcome if the document(s) identified below are included in the approved plans and documents condition on the decision notice:

- **Document titled 'Construction Environmental Management Plan – BikePark Wales Trail and Access Track Construction'**
- **Document titled 'Landscape and Ecological Management Plan – BikePark Wales Trail and Access Track Construction'**

Please note, without the inclusion of these document(s) we would object to this planning application. Further details are provided below.

European Protected Species

We previously advised in our letter dated 28 September 2024 (reference CAS-237034-V7Z4) that Reasonable Avoidance Measures are devised to minimise impacts on GCN and their habitats during works. We advised that measures should include sensitive habitat clearance and a contingency for the unlikely event that GCN are discovered during works. We advised that these measures are set out within a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), secured via a condition.

We have reviewed the document titled 'Construction Environmental Management Plan – BikePark Wales Trail and Access Track Construction' and we note that the nearest track is now located around 470m away from the nearest pond. We are satisfied that the measures outlined within the CEMP would sufficiently minimise impacts on GCN and their habitats during construction works.

We advise that the CEMP is included in the approved plans and documents condition, if planning permission is granted.

Pollution Prevention

We previously advised that the proposed additional trails and tracks have potential to cause pollution to the watercourses in the area during and post construction. We advised that measures to prevent pollution were set out within a CEMP, secured via a condition.

We have reviewed the documents titled 'Construction Environmental Management Plan – BikePark Wales Trail and Access Track Construction' and 'Landscape and Ecological Management Plan – BikePark Wales Trail and Access Track Construction' (LEMP).

Silt run-off is considered to have greatest impact due to soil stripping, plant machinery used to construct the trails and potential pathways to watercourses on site.

The CEMP details pollution prevention measures including the installation of bunds, silt fencing and interceptors, to remain in place until permanent management measures have established. The LEMP states that 'All trails are to be formally inspected monthly with any water management or drainage items identified and programmed into the works for the month'. The also note that the trails are to be inspected following extreme weather events i.e., those that trigger an amber warning. We are satisfied that these measures would sufficiently prevent pollution to watercourses during and post construction.

We advise that the CEMP and LEMP are included in the approved plans and documents condition, if planning permission is granted.

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.

Advice for the Developer

We recommend that a record of all inspections relating to water management is kept, including locations and times of inspection/maintenance.

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

Yn gywir / Yours faithfully

Gail Parkhouse

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.