

Our Ref: 2575/01

Your Ref:

17 April 2026

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Development Control,
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council,
Sardis Rd, Pontypridd,
CF37 1DU

BY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

To whom it may concern,

RE: Proposed development at: BikePark Wales, Gethin Woodland Centre, Abercarnaid, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 1YZ.

This cover letter accompanies a planning application for the resurfacing of the BikePark Wales uplift track in a tarmac finish. The majority of the development is located within the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough area, but part of the route also falls within the boundary of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. The application is accompanied by a site location plan, supporting application drawings, and an ecological technical note.

The works will be undertaken on the existing stone forest road and are proposed to upgrade the route, improving its sustainability by reducing the annual import of materials to maintain it. The upgrade will also reduce the impact on the Park's vehicles and reduce the silt/sediment transfer into existing drainage channels.

The tarmac specification will be 100mm deep and made up from a two-course makeup. A 60mm dense bitumen Binder/base course and a 40mm dense bitumen wearing/top course. The works will be undertaken across the extent of the track that will be 3,830 metres in length and 7 metres (average) in width.

The total area will therefore be 26,810m² or 2.68ha. The area that falls within the Merthyr Tydfil Council boundary is 20,223sqm, and the area that falls within Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council boundary is 6,783sqm. The Uplift Route sections that are in the two different Council boundaries are shown on the supporting plan submitted as part of this application titled "260129_OT_BPW26_RCT Site Location_1-2500_A0"

The proposed works will be focused on the uplift track only and not include any works to trees or the adjacent landscape. Visual impact will be restricted to the change in colour and will be limited to the local site area, as the adjacent trees and levels screen views. All the existing side ditches and culverts serving the uplift road will

be retained and will be suitable to continue draining the uplift track. There will be a net gain in the reduction of silt runoff by creating a bound surface.

Planning Policy

The proposal is considered to comply with the following policies of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan 2006-2021, including;

- The proposed works are appropriate to their local context in terms of scale and materials, would not cause unacceptable harm to the character and quality of the landscape setting, and therefore comply with Policy AW 6 - Design and Placemaking
- The proposed works would have no impact on people, residential amenity, property and / or the natural environment and avoid unnecessary flood risk, demonstrating compliance with Policy AW 10 - Environmental Protection and Public Health
- The proposed works maintain biodiversity and landscape, and are deemed to comply with Policy AW 8 - Protection And Enhancement Of The Natural Environment.

In light of the above, the proposal is considered to represent sustainable development and in line with the placemaking-led approach of Planning Policy Wales.

Green Infrastructure

Given the nature of the proposals, a full Green Infrastructure Statement document is not deemed to be needed. The proposals are for an area of built development only, and will avoid adjacent green infrastructure and biodiversity. It is therefore deemed to be fully compliant with the avoidance first principle of the Stepwise approach as advocated in Planning Policy Wales.

Conclusion

The proposed works are relatively minor in nature, albeit over a large spatial area. The works are needed to improve the operation of the Park and will be undertaken in a way that does not impact the site's landscape and biodiversity. It is therefore considered that they are policy-compliant and suitable for the grant of permission.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me via the details on the application form.

Yours faithfully,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Liam Hopkins.

Liam Hopkins, Director, Enc.