

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: David Cross
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278
Memo number: 1
Date of previous memo: -
Date: 23/08/2022

SUBJECT: P/22/0192 | Provision of 29 camping pods, changing village, vehicle workshop, children's play area and associated access, drainage and landscape infrastructure | Gethin Woodland Centre A470 Pentrebach To Rhydycar Northbound Abercanaid Merthyr Tydfil CF48 1YZ

This planning application concerns Phase 3 of the development. The following are documents submitted in support of the application:

1. Ecological Impact Assessment Report. Land at Bike Park Wales, Merthyr Tydfil. Wildwood Ecology Ltd. Document Ref: WWE22067 ECIA REV A. Dated 17/05/2022
2. Tree Survey at Bike Park Wales, Merthyr Tydfil. Treescene, Arboricultural Consultants. Dates 11/11/2019

Comments

Document 1

Survey type	Date(s) of surveys	CIEEM guidance ¹
A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) update and Preliminary Ground Level Roost Assessments (PGLRAs) of x6 trees undertaken.	April 2022	Likely to be valid
Updated desk study – Aderyn (SEWBReC) biodiversity data purchase.	May 2022	Likely to be valid
Nightjar survey Bat transect survey plus Automated/static bat detector surveys.	July – September 2018	Unlikely to be valid – surveys are likely to need to be updated
Reptile presence or likely absence survey	August and September 2018	Unlikely to be valid – surveys are likely to need to be updated

¹ Advice Note. On the Lifespan of Ecological Reports & Surveys. CIEEM. April 2019

Breeding bird survey	July 2018	Unlikely to be valid – surveys are likely to need to be updated
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Due to the age of the data (>3years old), much of the Phase 2 survey work will need repeating (bat and bird surveys). This is required prior to determination. This up-to-date bat survey data is required to inform the lighting plan.

The lighting plan must conform to the following guidelines:

<https://theilp.org.uk/publication/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/>

For example:

- Dark corridors must be demonstrated (the above guidelines defines dark as <0.2lux on the horizontal scale and <0.4lux on the vertical scale. Illuminance plans will be required.
- For any onsite lighting, luminaires must have appropriate specifications, including but not limited to the following:
 - LED
 - A warm white spectrum (colour temperature of <2700K)
 - Peak wavelengths of >550nm

The lighting plan is preferably required prior to planning determination. However, it would be acceptable for this to be dealt with via an appropriately worded planning condition (the lighting plan would need to be submitted for written approval by the LPA ecologist prior to commencement of onsite works).

In addition, all works will be undertaken in daylight hours only with no external lighting used.

The reptile survey work is similarly out of date, but if the habitat can be confirmed as unchanged since the previous survey work then presence can be assumed. The Reptile Mitigation Strategy is largely acceptable subject to the provision of the following information:

- Where is the existing onsite habitat suitable for reptiles? Does this area equate to the area to be made suitable for reptiles forming the receptor site?
 - Are there suitable areas for reptiles within the woodland? NB there are arrows depicting directional cuts for habitat manipulation shown within woodland areas (see Figure 17, page 38).
 - It is mentioned that the proposed receptor site has connectivity into the surrounding habitat. Does this mean connectivity in terms of suitable reptile habitat? Can the connectivity please be shown on a plan?
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There are no details regarding compensation and enhancement measures. These are required for approval prior to planning determination. All measures must be fully specified and stated within Document 1 and also marked on all relevant drawings, plans and elevations.

Document 2

There are c.26 trees or groups of trees across the site with recommendations for complete removal or major works (removal of deadwood, crown reduction).

It is noted that certain trees within the Phase 3 area have had a PGLRA undertaken – this is satisfactory if these trees are the only ones affected by the latest phase of the scheme.

The wider point is that if works are to take place on any of the trees across the site, further ecological consideration/survey work will be required.