

Rivers House,
St Mellons Business Park,
St Mellons,
Cardiff,
CF3 0EY

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

ebost/email:
southeastplanning@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
Ffôn/Phone: 03000 65 3095

02/10/2020

Annwyl Syr/Madam / Dear Sir/Madam,

BWRIAD / PROPOSAL: CONSTRUCTION A 9ML 2-CELL RESERVOIR AND ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING, ACCESS AND LANDSCAPING WORKS.

LLEOLIAD / LOCATION: PENGARNDDU SERVICE RESERVOIR, PENGARNDDU INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, DOWLAIS TOP, MERTHYR TYDFIL.

Thank you for consulting Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales about the above, which we received on 30 September 2020.

The submitted Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report prepared by Mott Macdonald, dated September 2020, identifies we were consulted on the proposal during statutory preapplication consultation. We provided comments in our letter reference CAS-120750-Q0V4, dated 11/09/2020. The PAC Report acknowledges our comments. We note amended information has been submitted for this application.

We have no objection to the proposed development as submitted and provide the following advice.

European Protected Species

We have reviewed the following documents prepared by Capital Delivery Alliance:

- Pengarnddu Service Reservoir Ecological Impact Assessment Report dated 14 September 2020 (including Pengarnddu SRV Baseline Ecological Survey Report prepared by Arcadis, dated November 2019);
- Landscaping and Planting General Arrangement drawing dated 11.09.20, drawing number B10237-123532-XX-XX-DR-LA-DI9003.

The Habitat Suitability Index assessment of water bodies within 250 metres of the proposed development has shown good suitability for Great Crested Newt (GCN) in Pond 1, and below average suitability for GCN in Ponds 2 and 3. However, the eDNA results of the ponds were

negative. We accept this as sufficient evidence of absence at this site and have no adverse comments to make on the application as submitted in this regard.

We are aware this area of Merthyr Tydfil does support GCN. Therefore, we welcome the approach from the Applicant which seeks to enhance the quality of potential habitats for GCN associated with this application.

Landscape

The proposed development lies approximately 1.9km from the boundary of Brecon Beacons National Park, within upland moorland that extends northwards across Merthyr Common towards the National Park.

Given the distance from the National Park and the low-lying nature of the development, it would be scarcely visible from high ground within the park. The submitted Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment prepared by Mott MacDonald, revision 01, dated July 2020, concludes negligible adverse effects from Viewpoint 6, Castell-y-nos, within the National Park. The viewpoint appears to be just outside the ZTV, however we do not anticipate adverse visual effects at this distance. We are of the opinion there would be no adverse landscape or visual impacts on the National Park.

We note the reservoir roof would be gravel covered. We recommend a dark-coloured gravel finish to the reservoir roof surface to minimise any potential adverse visual effects from high ground.

Protected Sites

The proposed development is approximately 1.9km from the Cwm Taf Fechan Woodlands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). We have considered the information submitted in support of the above proposal. We consider that the proposed development is not likely to damage the features for which Cwm Taf Fechan SSSI is of special interest.

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.

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

Yn gywir / Yours faithfully

Sarah Lund

Cynghorydd - Cynllunio Datblygu / Advisor - Development Planning
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales