

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Gareth Davies
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278

Memo number: 1
Date of previous memo: -
Date: 27/11/2025

SUBJECT: P/25/0319 | Two adjoining industrial units | Woodingtons Garage Triangle Cefn Coed Merthyr Tydfil CF48 2PT

SITE DESCRIPTION

Industrial site with some nearby valuable habitat (tree lines, woodland pockets, grassland, wooded river corridor). Construction footprint on tarmacked hardstanding area.

DESIGNATED SITES WITHIN 500M OF THE APPLICATION SITE

- ✓ Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – x1 (Cwm Taf Fechan Woodlands, c.318m);
- ✓ Local Nature Reserve (LNR) – x1 (Cwm Taf Fechan Woodlands, c.318m);
- ✓ Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) – x7 (closest, Cwm Taf Fawr, c.245m);
- ✓ Regionally Important Geodiversity Site (RIGS) – x1 (Nant Ffrwyd, c.331m);
- ✓ Wildlife Trust Reserve (WTR) – x1 (Taf Fechan, c.313m);
- ✓ Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) – x3;
- ✓ Restored Ancient Woodland Site (RAWS) – x2;
- ✓ Important Plant Area (PAWS) – x1;
- ✓ Within a Buglife B-Lines Area

PRIORITY AND PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN 500M OF THE APPLICATION SITE

- ✓ Birds (including Schedule 1¹ and Section 7² species);
- ✓ Fish (including Section 7² species);
- ✓ Invertebrates (including Section 7² species)
 - ✓ Marsh fritillary butterfly (Section 7² species), closest record c.822m from site;
- ✓ Mammals
 - ✓ Bats (European protected species³; some Section 7² species) - closest roost record for unidentified bat species, c.102m from site);
 - ✓ Otter (European protected species³; Section 7² species);
 - ✓ Hedgehog (Section 7² species);
 - ✓ Badger
- ✓ Reptiles (Section 7² species);
- ✓ Amphibians
 - ✓ Great crested newt (European protected species³; Section 7 species) - closest record c.764m from site);
 - ✓ Common toad (Section 7² species)
- ✓ Vascular plants (including Section 7² species)

¹ Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

² Environment (Wales) Act 2016

³ Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

REQUIREMENTS

No ecological survey work required, however, the following is needed.

Any proposed lighting will require a **lighting plan** complying with the following guidance:

- Guidance Note GN08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting At Night. Bat Conservation Trust and The Institute of Lighting Professionals 2023 - <https://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/>
- Good Practice Guidance: Planning for the Conservation and Enhancement of Dark Skies in Wales - <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2025-02/dark-skies-guidance.pdf>

Planning Policy Wales (PPW 12), Chapter 6 must be considered where relevant to this application.

The main elements of the policy (that are or may be relevant to this application) are as follows:

- *GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE: stronger emphasis on taking a proactive approach to green infrastructure, the submission of a proportionate **green infrastructure statement [GIS]** with planning applications and signposting Building with Nature standards.*
- *NET BENEFIT FOR BIODIVERSITY AND THE STEP-WISE APPROACH: further clarity is provided on securing net benefit for biodiversity through the application of the step-wise approach, including the acknowledgement of off-site compensation measures as a last resort, and, the need to consider **enhancement and long-term management** at each step. The use of the green infrastructure statement as a means of demonstrating the stepwise approach is made explicit. A simplified diagram of the policy approach has been developed (included within PPW12). The importance of strategic collaboration to identify and capture larger scale opportunities for securing a net benefit for biodiversity is recognised.*

For further information, see here - [Planning Policy Wales - Edition 12 \(gov.wales\)](#)