

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: David Cross
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278
Memo number: 2
Date of previous memo: 07/06/2023
Date: 05/10/2023

SUBJECT: P/23/0126 | Construction of new single storey detached class room building | Dowlais Primary School Market Street Dowlais Merthyr Tydfil CF48 3HW

Relevant documents submitted in support of the above application:

1. Ty Dysgu, Market Street. Dowlais, Methyr Tydfil, CF48 3HW. Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. Document Ref: WWE22195 PEA REV_B FINAL | 10/03/2023 | Wildwood Ecology Ltd
2. Ty Dysgu Primary School, Market Street, CF48 2 AJ. Drainage Strategy Report (DSR) For: New Build Classrooms. Ref: 16991 – DSR Ro6 Iss6 | Vale Consultancy
3. Landscape Management Plan. Ty Dysgu School, Merthyr. Report Number. LB398/R01. Dates 21st August 2023. Laird Bailey Landscape Architects.
 - a. Soft Landscape Proposals (Sheet 1 of 2). Drawing Number: LB398_D01. Dated 23 August 2023
 - b. Soft Landscape Proposals (Sheet 2 of 2). Drawing Number: LB398_D01. Dated 23 August 2023
4. Ty Dysgu School Merthyr. Elevations drawing. Reference 2221-04F

COMMENTS

- a) The proposed new native species trees (x6) and shrubs (x4) proposed in Document 3, 3a and 3b are sufficient to compensate for the loss of the x3 broad-leaved trees (possibly alder, cherry and/or silver birch) are earmarked to be removed.
- b) The statement from the head of Ty Dysgu regarding the installation of a pond is noted. The infiltration basin and associated native planting will therefore be sufficient in this instance.
- c) All planting within Documents 3, 3a and 3b must be native species of local (if not Welsh/UK) provenance. **Amendments are therefore required prior to determination.** NB the larval foodplant for the Marsh Fritillary butterfly – Devil's bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) – should be included (NB there are records of both Marsh Fritillary and Devil's bit scabious c.600m to the north east of the site).

When Documents 3, 3a and 3b have been amended and agreed – these new versions will then be referred to in the Drainage Strategy Report (Document 2 above).

Document 3 refers to the use of glyphosate herbicide. This is not acceptable. Any unwanted plant growth will be removed by hand or mechanically. The text will be amended.

Documents 3 and 3a refers to the severing of ivy on the perimeter wall and to the removal of a relatively small area of bramble and scrub on the boundary. These should all remain and be fenced off if required.

- d) The bat and bird box as marked on Document 4 above are acceptable, however, the text must make it clear the boxes are to be integrated into the fabric of the building and not surface-mounted.
- e) The requirement for an internal and external lighting plan can be conditioned if appropriately worded. All onsite lighting ('external *and* internal') must comply with the following guidance:

Guidance Note 08/23. Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night. Bat Conservation Trust and Institute of Lighting Professionals. 2023.

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

The lighting plan must also demonstrate:

- no direct illumination of the bat boxes;
 - dark routes away from the bat boxes to link up with surrounding commuting and foraging habitat; and
 - Dark site boundaries.
- f) If there are to be any new boundary features, gaps (13cm x 13cm) will be included at ground level to allow free passage of hedgehogs through the site. This can be conditioned.