

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Emma Watkins
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278
Memo number: 1
Date of previous memo: -
Date: 31/08/2023

SUBJECT: P/23/0196 | Proposed redevelopment to create 30 No. (1 and 2 bedroom) self contained apartments | Former Merthyr Tydfil General Hospital High Street Merthyr Tydfil

Ecological survey submitted in support of the above application:

1. Former General Hospital Merthyr. Ecological Impact Assessment. V1. July 2023. Ethos Environmental Planning.

COMMENTS

The building has high suitability for a range of bat species (crevice-dwelling; roof-void dwelling; those that require a flight space; those that require a flight space *and* flying access into the roost). The building has suitability for a range of roost-types (day; night; feeding; transitional; maternity; hibernation).

The survey effort to date, as detailed within the above report, is not sufficient to allow determination of the application. The following is required (prior to determination):

1. A local biodiversity data search – specifically, Package A: Bats & Roof-nesting Birds (BARB) from the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC).
2. x3 bat activity surveys (dusk emergence) - May to September (at least x2 surveys between May and August) spread out to sample as much of the survey period as possible, with each survey being at least 2 weeks apart. NB x4 surveyors are not sufficient to adequately cover all aspects of this relatively large and complex building. At least x10-12 surveyors will be required depending on whether the courtyard can be safely accessed. Given the possibility of later emerging species being present (NB there are records for lesser horseshoe bat and brown long-eared bat within the immediate vicinity), the dusk surveys will be undertaken for a minimum of 2 hours after sunset (commencing 15 minutes prior to sunset) and will be supported by the use of night vision aids (NVAs). Either infra-red or thermal imaging cameras would be suitable and sufficient numbers of these will be required to cover all features.
3. x3 automated static surveys of any/all safely accessible internal spaces using full spectrum recording detectors, for a minimum of 10 nights per survey period.
4. An assessment of the suitability of the building for hibernating bats will need to be undertaken.
5. An assessment of the suitability of the building for Schedule 1 bird species (e.g., barn owl) will need to be undertaken.