

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Gareth Davies
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278
Memo number: 1
Date of previous memo: -
Date: 19/11/2025

SUBJECT: P/25/0300 | Change of Use from Industrial (use class B1, B2, B8) to a learning facility (use class D1) | Units 2 To 4 Compass Court Merthyr Tydfil Industrial Park Pentrebach Merthyr Tydfil CF48 4DR

SITE DESCRIPTION

Vacant industrial unit (constructed from metal sheeting) close to vegetated railway corridor and wooded river corridor.

DESIGNATED SITES WITHIN 500M OF THE APPLICATION SITE

- ✓ Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC): x3, closest being Afon Taf (c.91m);
- ✓ Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW): x5;
- ✓ Restored Ancient Woodland Site (RAWS): x1

PRIORITY AND PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN 500M OF THE APPLICATION SITE

- ✓ Birds (including Schedule 1¹ and Section 7² species);
- ✓ Invertebrates (including Section 7² species)
- ✓ Mammals
 - ✓ Bats (European protected species³; some Section 7² species) - closest roost record for unidentified bat species, c.506m from site);
 - ✓ Otter (European protected species³; Section 7² species);
 - ✓ Hedgehog (Section 7² species);
 - ✓ Polecat;
- ✓ Reptiles (Section 7² species);
- ✓ Amphibians
 - ✓ Common toad (Section 7² species);
- ✓ Vascular plants.

REQUIREMENTS

No ecological survey work required, however, there will need to be enhancement in line with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Welsh Government Circular 'Securing Biodiversity Enhancements' sent to Heads of planning in October 2019.

Ecological enhancement details need to be supplied.

The enhancement measures will be a condition of the planning permission if granted.

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:

¹ Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

² Environment (Wales) Act 2016

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

- *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.*
- *PROTECTION FOR SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST: strengthened approach to the protection of SSSIs, with increased clarity on the position for site management and exemptions for minor development necessary to maintain a 'living landscape'. Other development is considered unacceptable as a matter of principle. Exceptionally, a planned approach may be appropriate where necessary safeguards can be secured through a development plan*
- *TREES AND WOODLANDS: closer alignment with the stepwise approach, along with promoting new planting as part of development based on securing the right tree in the right place.*

For further information, see here - [Planning Policy Wales - Edition 12 \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/planning-policy-wales-edition-12)