

Ein cyf/Our ref: CAS-270887-D8W5
Eich cyf/Your ref: P/23/0065

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

Dyddiad/Date: 08 January 2025

Annwyl Syr/Madam/Dear Sir/Madam,

BWRIAD / PROPOSAL: HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT: OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR ERECTION OF A MIXED LEISURE DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING INDOOR SNOW CENTRE (UP TO 39,200 SQ M), WATER PARK (UP TO 7,500 SQ M), INDOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE (UP TO 9,000 SQ M), OUTDOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE, HOTEL ACCOMMODATION (UP TO 418 BEDROOMS), WOODLAND LODGE ACCOMMODATION (UP TO 30 UNITS), CAR PARKING (UP TO 830 SPACES) AND ASSOCIATED EARTHWORKS, ACCESS, DRAINAGE, SERVICING AND UTILITIES CONNECTIONS/INFRASTRUCTURE

LLEOLIAD / LOCATION: LAND TO THE SOUTH WEST OF THE A470/A4102 ROUNDABOUT AT RHYDYCAR WEST, MERTHYR TYDFIL

Thank you for consulting Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on your Habitats Regulations Assessment for the above development, which we received on 11 December 2024.

Our response should be taken as NRW's formal representation, as the appropriate nature conservation body, to your appropriate assessment (AA) under Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended.

We note your conclusion that the project will not have a likely significant effect on the Aberbargoed Grasslands Special Area of Conservation (SAC), either alone or in combination with other projects. We consider this is a reasonable conclusion.

With regard to Blaen Cynon SAC you have progressed to the AA stage. This is due to the likely significant effects (alone) on the SAC due to the presence of an impact pathway, we note the conclusion of the AA that:

'based on this assessment, and subject to the submission of and implementation of appropriate / effective mitigation measures, the proposed project would not produce an adverse effect the integrity of Blaen Cynon SAC or their designated interest features.'

In consideration of the mitigation measures detailed, we are satisfied with your conclusion that the development is unlikely to have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the Blaen Cynon SAC.

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

Yn gywir / Yours faithfully

James Davies

**Uwch Cynghorydd - Cynllunio Datblygu / Senior Advisor - Development Planning
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru/Natural Resources Wales Name>**

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi./Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.