

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: David Cross
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278
Memo number: 1
Date of Memo #1: -
Date: 16/06/2021

SUBJECT: P/21/0198 | USE OF LAND FOR OUTDOOR STORAGE OF SKIPS FOR A TEMPORARY PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS | LAND AT TAFF BARGOED DEVELOPMENT TRUST TEH OLD DRIFT MINE TRELEWIS TREHARRIS CF46 6RD

Area of hard standing set within woodland habitat, there is an industrial building adjacent to the northern boundary. There is a nearby wooded river corridor, reed beds and grassland.

Designated sites within 500m of the application site:

- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) – x3:
 - Lower Cwm Bargod (33m)
 - Afon Bargod Taf (54m)
 - Gelligaer Common (134m)
- Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) – x5
- Restored Ancient Woodland Site (RAWS) – x1
- Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) – x1
- NRW Priority Area (Woodland – PAWS) – x1

Priority and protected species within 500m of the application site:

- Birds (including Schedule 1¹ species);
 - Brambling
 - Goshawk
 - Kingfisher
 - Merlin
 - Peregrine
 - Red crossbill
 - Red kite
 - Redwing
- Fungi (including Section 7² species);
- Fish (including Section 7² species);
- Invertebrates (including Section 7²);
- Bats (closest roost record for likely Daubenton's bat, 158m from site);
- Otter;
- Water vole;

¹ Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

² Environment (Wales) Act 2016

- Badger;
- Hedgehog;
- Stoat;
- Reptiles;
- Amphibians;
- Vascular plants (including Section 7² species).

Storage, for example, of an empty skip within the onsite hardstanding area is unlikely to have significant adverse impacts on priority and protected species, habitats and / or nearby protected sites as listed in this memo. NB however, there may be some leaching of pollutants from the skips during periods of rainfall.

In terms of the vehicles that transport the skips on and off site, there will be adverse impacts created – not just near the hardstanding area, but along the whole route taken by the vehicles from the site up to the main road (B4255).

Assuming no habitat will be physically lost, these adverse impacts will include:

- Water pollution: from accidental spillages, de-icing chemicals, run-off, road spray plus an increase in sediment and solid loads. This can result in adverse changes in aquatic biodiversity.
- Soil pollution: from road spray, vehicle emissions, dust and other particulates can be deposited directly on the land or by polluted precipitation and by polluted groundwater. These can change soil pH and structure.
- Air pollution: emissions of lead, zinc, nitrogen, de-icing materials and particulates such as dust can affect biodiversity.
- Disturbance: fauna can be disturbed by noise, lighting and vibrations created by vehicles. Examples include the following, certain bird species are afforded special legal protection against disturbance during the breeding season under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). An increase in lighting will impact nocturnal species (including bats). Vibrations can reduce the abundance and richness of some insects, amphibians and birds.
- Increased direct mortality due to wildlife casualties

During any planning application, but especially early in the process, ecology should be the first consideration. The stepwise approach referred to both in national and local planning policy (Avoid / Minimise, Modify / Mitigate / Compensate / Enhance) should be employed.

To summarise, the following issues need to be taken into account:

- the site position (adjacent to locally designated sites and other valuable habitat, e.g., woodland, waterbodies);
- the vehicle route;
- the local biodiversity records; and
- the likely adverse impacts created (as detailed above)

Avoidance is therefore appropriate in this instance and this application should not be supported.