

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Adam Foote
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278
Memo number: 1
Date of previous memo: -
Date: 09/01/2024

SUBJECT: P/23/0293 | Demolition of industrial buildings and erection of 20 no. dwelling houses (C3 use) | Phelps Roofing And Garage Bryntaf Aberfan Merthyr Tydfil CF48 4PJ

The site is found in the south of Aberfan along the western edge. Nearby habitat includes woodland, trees, grassland, scrub, cliff face, drain/stream, garden.

Designated sites within 500m of the application site:

- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) – x3 (closest: West of Aberfan, 32m from site centre);
- Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) – x6;
- Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) – x1;
- NRW Priority Area (Woodland) – x1.

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

- Birds (including, for example, cliff-nesting peregrine and Schedule 1¹ plus Section 7² species);
- Invertebrates (including Section 7² species);
- Bats (closest roost record for unidentified bat species, c.177m from site centre);
- Otter;
- Hedgehog;
- Vascular plants (including Section 7² species).

Ecological reports and documents submitted in support of the above application:

1. Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. Bryntaf Garage. Sylvan Ecology (for JT Planning). Document number J M050- PEA Report-V1.1. Issue date **15/10/21**.
2. Protected Species Report. Bryntaf Garage. Sylvan Ecology (for JT Planning). Document number M050- Eco Report-V1.1. Issue date **15/10/21**.

COMMENTS

NB the survey information within Documents 1 and 2 (including biological data) is out-of-date and will require updating prior to determination.

¹ Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

² Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The next edition of Planning Policy Wales (PPW12) is due to be published in the near future. On the 11th October 2023, ahead of the full document being published, the new Chapter 6 came into force with immediate effect.

The commissioned ecologist must take PPW 12, Chapter 5 into account where relevant to this application.

The main changes to policy (that are or may be relevant to this application) are as follows:

Green Infrastructure: stronger emphasis on taking a proactive approach to green infrastructure, the submission of a proportionate green infrastructure statement 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 (which will be further refined in the consolidated version of PPW12). The importance of strategic collaboration to identify and capture larger scale opportunities for securing a net benefit for biodiversity is recognised.

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.
