

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Gareth Davies
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278

Memo number: 1

Date of previous memo: -

Date: 07/04/2026

SUBJECT: P/26/0067 | Refurbishment and change of use of caretakers accommodation to multipurpose rooms for school and community use and external landscaping works | Dowlais Primary School - Junior Department High Street Caeharris Dowlais Merthyr Tydfil CF48 3HB

SITE DESCRIPTION

Internal refurbishment/layout changes and external landscaping works. Close to connected, valuable habitat (e.g., grassland, scrub, woodland) suitable for protected species (e.g., bats, nesting birds, invertebrates etc).

DESIGNATED SITES WITHIN 500M OF THE APPLICATION SITE

✓ Within a Buglife B-Lines Area

PRIORITY AND PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN 500M OF THE APPLICATION SITE

- ✓ Birds (including Schedule 1¹ and Section 7² species);
- ✓ Fungi + Slime Moulds (including Section 7² species);
- ✓ Invertebrates (including Section 7² species)
 - ✓ Marsh fritillary butterfly (Section 7² species), closest record c.554m from site;
- ✓ Mammals
 - ✓ Bats (European protected species³ + some Section 7² species) - closest roost record for Lesser horseshoe bat, c.1512m from site);
 - ✓ Dormouse (European protected species³ + Section 7² species);
 - ✓ Hedgehog (Section 7² species);
 - ✓ Water vole;
- ✓ Vascular plants (including Section 7² species).

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE ABOVE APPLICATION

1. Dowlais Primary School, High St., Caeharris, Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 3HB. Green Infrastructure Statement, *prepared by* Design Management Partnership Ltd. Dated: 12.03.26.
2. Dowlais Primary School, Merthyr Tydfil. Proposed elevations drawing, *prepared by* Design Management Partnership Ltd. Drawing number 220. Rev A. Dated: 13.03.26.

¹ Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

² Environment (Wales) Act 2016

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

COMMENTS

- Document 1 refers to biodiversity net gain (BNG). NB this is the system/policy in place in England. In Wales the system/policy is Net Benefit for Biodiversity. Please amend.
- Please remove the bird boxes from the southern gable end (Documents 1 and 2) – these can be erected on the trees at the south of the site – facing east or north.
- Please remove the bat boxes from the eastern elevation and place them as high as possible on the northern gable end (Documents 1 and 2).
- All bird and bat boxes will be constructed from woodstone or woodcrete (for reasons of longevity) – please amend (Documents 1 and 2). For example:
 - <https://www.nhbs.com/1b-schwegler-nest-box>, 26mm (or equivalent)
 - <https://www.nhbs.com/1b-schwegler-nest-box>, 32mm (or equivalent)
 - <https://www.nhbs.com/2h-schwegler-robin-box> (or equivalent)
 - <https://www.nhbs.com/beaumaris-woodstone-bat-box> (or equivalent)
 - <https://www.greenwoodsecohabitats.co.uk/shop>, two crevice bat box (or equivalent)
- The bat and bird boxes must not be illuminated. There will be no onsite lighting.
- The scheme will remove areas of grass and proposes the introduction of linear sleeper planters. In addition to this there should be overseeding of the grassed areas to remain – one to the south and one to the east as follows:
 - Southern grassed area - <https://wildseed.co.uk/product/mixtures/wild-flower-only-mixtures/wild-flowers-for-woodland/> (or equivalent)
 - Eastern grassed area - <https://wildseed.co.uk/product/mixtures/wild-flower-only-mixtures/basic-general-purpose-wild-flowers/>

Please add in this information (Documents 1 and 2).

- The exact species mix proposed for the sleeper planters must be fully detailed. All must be native species of local (if not Welsh or UK) provenance. Please add (Documents 1 and 2)
- A long-term (25 year) establishment, maintenance and management plan for the species in the sleeper planters and within the grassed areas is required. NB the webpages for the wildflower seed mixes (above) contain establishment and management instructions, which can be used in the GIS document (Document 1).
- A timetable for implementation of the ecological features must be provided, along with details of who will be responsible for the management and how the management will be funded. Please add to Document 1.