

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Rebecca Owens
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278
Memo number: 1
Date of previous memo: -
Date: 21/08/2023

SUBJECT: P/23/0180 | Extension to an agricultural building | Meadowsweet Farm, High Street, Trelewis, Treharris, CF46 6TB.

All metal construction agricultural building with nearby tree and hedgerows. Set within agricultural fields (possibly hay meadows) bounded by hedges and tree lines. In the wider environment, there are woodland blocks, wooded streams and wooded river corridors.

Designated sites within 500m of the application site:

- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) – x2 (closest, Lower Cwm Bargoed, c.98m from site);
- Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) – x 11;
- 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);
- Bats (closest record for common pipistrelle, c.741m from site);
- Otter;
- Water vole;
- Badger;
- Hedgehog;
- Stoat;
- Reptiles;
- Amphibians;
- Vascular plants

The proposal will double the size of the building and the proposed extension would therefore be likely to be within the Root Protection Zone of the retained tree to the southeast. The tree would also be likely to be impacted by lighting (either outside or inside the new extension).

An arboricultural survey is required to assess the impacts of the proposal on the health of the tree.

¹ Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

² Environment (Wales) Act 2016

A Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) for bats and nesting birds of the tree (undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist) is required. This must provide sufficient information for the local planning authority to assess any potential adverse impacts of the proposed development on priority and protected species, or to identify what further information is required before a full assessment is possible.

The results of the PRA will be used to inform whether further surveys are required, or to establish the need for and extent of any mitigation and compensation measures required as part of the proposed development.

There is a low likelihood of bats being impacted by tying the proposed extension into the existing building, however, this can also be assessed by the commissioned ecologist during the PRA visit.

The results can be presented in a brief technical note.

A BARB+ data search required from SEWBReC will not be required in this instance.

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.

The following will be required:

- Details of the proposed hedgerow along the south eastern boundary. This will need to consist of at least x5 native woody species of local if not Welsh/UK provenance.
- Bat and bird boxes on the western elevation of the proposed extension - the ecologist undertaking the PRA can advise on this.