

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Huw Roberts
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278
Memo number: 3
Date of previous memo: 04/04/2023
Date: 18/04/2023

SUBJECT: P/22/0315 | Re-roofing of the south stables, coach house stables and coach house, to relay the slate roof, provide new ridge details, eaves boards and gutters. Insert conservation rooflights | Pandy Farm Brecon Road Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8PA

Collection of former farm buildings close to valuable habitat suitable for protected species, e.g., woodland, parkland, wooded river corridor.

Documents submitted in support of the above application:

1. Bat Report. Pandy Farm, Merthyr Tydfil. Ecology Planning. **Report Ref: 1703 / 02e. Date: 17/04/23.**
2. Proposed elevations 01. Pandy Farm. Job number 179. Drawing number 3-0115. Revision B. Dated 26.10.22. Document received 27/03/2023.
3. Proposed elevations 02. DRAFT. Pandy Farm. Job number 179. Drawing number 3-0116. Revision B. Dated 26.10.22. Document received 27/03/2023.
4. Existing & proposed roof plans. Pandy Farm. Job number 179. Drawing number 3-0111. Revision B. Dated 26.10.22. Document received 27/03/2023.

Comments

Biodiversity data

Biodiversity data for bats and roof-nesting birds has now been added to the revised Document 1.

Para 3.2 states the nearest roost as being at a distance of 1.2km. However, Cyfarthfa Castle is a known roost (c.300m away from the site) and appears as such in the records. Could the data be re-assessed and the text amended please?

Also, could the unique SEWBRc reference number be quoted? NB this is a standard request for any report where a biodiversity data search has been included.

Hibernation suitability

Works must be undertaken outside of the hibernation season (mid-November to mid-March inclusive). This will be included in an appropriately worded planning condition.

A hibernation box is proposed (para 5.37 of Document 1) – this is acceptable. This will be included in an appropriately worded planning condition.

NRW consultation

As per NRW's consultation response (Ref CAS-205007-S1D2, dated 05/01/23), further consultation should now be undertaken based on the new information/revised report submitted.

Lighting

The inference made from the responses to questions regarding lighting is that any existing lighting will remain.

Any onsite lighting would need to conform to the following guidelines (for example in terms of colour temperature etc):

<https://theilp.org.uk/publication/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/>

New bat roost access points must not be illuminated and there must be dark routes allowing access to the access points.

Positions of existing lighting need to be provided along with the specifications of the luminaires in order to demonstrate the above criteria. Ideally, this would be provided pre-determination, however, this could also be dealt with by an appropriately worded planning condition.

Birds

As per para 5.23 (Document 1) works will take place outside of the nesting bird season (March – August, inclusive) unless a visit by a suitably qualified ecologist immediately prior to works confirms that no [nesting] birds are present. This will be included in an appropriately worded planning condition.

Advisory notes

The following advisory notes will be added to the decision notice if planning is granted:

BATS

Warning: A European Protected Species (EPS) Licence is required for this development.

This planning permission does not provide consent to undertake works that require an EPS licence.

It is an offence to deliberately kill, injure, capture or disturb a bat or to recklessly damage or destroy their breeding sites or resting places. If found guilty of any offences, you could be sent to prison for up to 6 months and/or receive an unlimited fine. To undertake works within the law, you can obtain further information on the need for a licence from Natural Resources Wales on 0300 065 3000 or at <https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/species-licensing/apply-for-a-protected-species-licence/bat-licences/?lang=en>

NESTING BIRDS

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) while they are breeding.

If works to any trees, hedgerows and/or other nesting bird habitat (including buildings with suitable features) are to be undertaken, they will take place outside of the bird nesting season. If the works must be undertaken during the nesting season (generally from 1st March until 31st August, although birds are known to nest outside of these dates in suitable conditions), a breeding bird survey will be required and must be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist. Any active nests identified will be protected until the young have fledged.

Where a Schedule 1 species (as defined in the Wildlife and Countryside Act - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/1>) is involved, compensation for impacts, e.g., loss of nesting sites, will be devised and implemented.