

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Kate Glover
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278

Memo number: 1
Date of previous memo: -
Date: 07/05/2026

SUBJECT: P/26/0094 | Proposed installation of additional solar PV panels and associated infrastructure on the roof of the existing office building and energy centre building. | Welsh Assembly Government Rhydycar Business Park Merthyr Tydfil CF48 1UZ

SITE DESCRIPTION

Office buildings close to scrub, woodland, grassland and wooded river corridor habitat (these habitats are suitable for a range of priority and protected fauna including bat and bird species).

DESIGNATED SITES WITHIN 500M OF THE APPLICATION SITE

- ✓ Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – x1: Cwm Glo a Glyndyrys (c.267m)
- ✓ Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) – x3: closest, Rhydycar West (c. 227m)
- ✓ NRW Priority Area (Heathland + Grassland) – x1.

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.644m from site;
- ✓ Mammals
 - ✓ Bats (European protected species³ + some Section 7² species) - closest roost record for Unidentified bat species, c.527m from site);
 - ✓ Otter (European protected species³ + Section 7² species);
 - ✓ Hedgehog (Section 7² species);
 - ✓ Water vole.
- ✓ Reptiles (Section 7² species);
- ✓ Amphibians
 - ✓ Great crested newt (European protected species³ + Section 7 species) - closest record c.507m from site);
- ✓ Vascular plants (including Section 7² species).

DOCUMENT SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE ABOVE APPLICATION

1. Rhydycar Merthyr Tydfil CF48 1DH. An Ecological Survey Report, Revision 2 *prepared by* Just Mammals Limited on behalf of Welsh Government. **June 2023. Dated 21st July 2023.**

¹ Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

² Environment (Wales) Act 2016

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

COMMENTS

The survey results as detailed within Document 1 are out-of-date. The results of an up-to-date survey are required. The survey must be undertaken in line with the current best practice guidelines (Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines).

There will need to be enhancement of the site in line with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW 12), Chapter 6 must be considered where relevant to this application.

The main elements of the policy (that are likely to 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 [GIS]** 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 (included within PPW12). The importance of strategic collaboration to identify and capture larger scale opportunities for securing a net benefit for biodiversity is recognised.*

Therefore, a GIS and a long-term habitat management plan are required – a Net Benefit for Biodiversity must be demonstrated. For further information, see here - [Planning Policy Wales - Edition 12 \(gov.wales\)](#)