

# INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

**To:** David Cross  
**From:** Ecologist/Countryside Officer  
**Ask for:** Matt Davies  
**Ext:** 5278  
**Version:** 1

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**SUBJECT: P/16/0077 ERECTION OF 23 DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED HIGHWAY WORKS AT LAND TO THE REAR (NORTH-WEST) OF 53-83 EDWARD STREET AND 1-7 TAIR TWYNAU PANT**

Within 500m of the centre of the site there are records for birds (including Schedule 1 species), bats and invertebrates. There are also records of Devil's Bit Scabious (larval food plant of Marsh Fritillary Butterfly) within c.600m.

The site is within c10-20m of a SINC (Blaenmorlais) and a proposed Special Landscape Area - both beyond the north east boundary of the site.

There is a drain running through the centre of the site.

No ecological survey reports have yet been submitted. On the basis of the information received to date, the site will require the following ecological survey work.

- o A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the site to be undertaken by a Suitably Qualified Ecologist. The report will need to provide an overall ecological assessment of the site, identify potential ecological constraints and make recommendations for measures to manage the ecological risk associated with its development.

There is a range of possible ecological issues/ secondary survey work associated with the development of the site that should be flagged up by the PEA:

- o Nesting birds – onsite habitat is suitable for nesting birds, including ground nesting species. Depending on the time of year for the works, a nesting bird survey may be necessary.
- o Invertebrates – depending on the results of the PEA, an invertebrate survey may be required.
- o Bats – there are known bat roosts nearby and the site has low suitability for foraging and commuting bat species with some links to the wider environment e.g., along the dismantled railway line to the north west. Bat transect surveys, (one survey visit per season – Spring/Summer/Autumn) supplemented by a static bat detector survey will be needed to investigate how bats may be using the site allowing a robust impact assessment. These surveys will inform the final layout of the development, whether habitat should be retained and/or

supplemented or have a change in management, whether compensation planting is required, the planting scheme and the lighting scheme for the site.

- o Reptiles – the site is suitable for reptiles and a presence or likely absence survey will be necessary. Depending on the results, a reptile management plan may be required. This could include the following: habitat enhancement; vegetation management; reptile fencing; translocation.
- o Hedgehogs – provision will be required for the passage of hedgehogs through and across the site. Boundaries will be made permeable with ground-level 13x13cm holes.

NB this is not an exhaustive list, there may be other issues identified during the PRA.

Other observations:

- o The drain running through the site could be retained as a feature and designed to provide a natural feel with appropriate native planting. This could be incorporated within a central green area running through the development. The stream has the potential to provide benefits for invertebrates which play a role in maintaining water quality; help to breakdown organic matter and provide a food source for other species such as fish and birds.