

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Rebecca Owens
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278

Memo number: 1

Date of previous memo: -

Date: 10/01/2022

SUBJECT: P/21/0413 | Erection of rear extension, covered seating area, new rear wall, railings and gate and installation of 5 no. fixed benches | Red Spice 1 Bethesda Street Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8LL

Comments identical to those made in relation to a previous planning application for this site – P/21/0215.

Restaurant building situated on immediately adjacent to the Afon Taf.

Designated sites within 500m of the application site:

- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) – x2:
 - Afon Taf (adjacent to south western boundary)
 - Cwm Taf Fechan (465m from site)
- Within a Buglife B-Lines Area

Priority and protected species within 500m of the application site:

- Birds (including Schedule 1¹ species);
- Invertebrates (including Section 7² species);
- Bats (closest roost record for unidentified bat species, 73m from site);
- Otter (closest record 22m from site);
- Hedgehog;
- Amphibians.

Amendments to the application now *exclude* the [initially proposed] extension to external serving area and new flat roof. This structure has now been proposed to remain as a store. The store structure is currently missing slates – see Figure 1 – meaning it has suitability for roosting bats and/or nesting birds.

¹ Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

² Environment (Wales) Act 2016



Figure 1 – missing slate on store structure.

The standard advisory notes regarding bats and nesting birds will be added to the planning decision notice (should planning permission be granted). NB if repairs are undertaken to the roof (outside of planning), offences may be committed without further investigation by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Given the position of the store (with bat and nesting bird suitability) within the site and the site's proximity to a SINC (Afon Taf), no external lighting will be permitted. This will be a condition of the planning permission.

Plants around the boundaries will not be removed, but may be cut back to the boundary line where required. Cutting back of vegetation 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 person. Any active nests identified should be protected until the young have fledged. Where a Schedule 1 species (as defined in the Wildlife and Countryside Act - <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3614> is involved, compensation for impacts, e.g., loss of nesting sites, should be devised and implemented.

With the exclusion of the store structure from the scheme, no ecological survey work is required, however, 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:

- A single bird box (suitably for dipper and wagtail):
<https://www.wildcare.co.uk/schwegler-no19-dipperwagtail-10142.html> (or similar)
- A single bat box (three crevice):
<https://www.greenwoodsecohabitats.co.uk/shop> (or similar)



Figure 2 – position for bat and bird boxes.

Evidence that the above enhancements have been satisfactorily installed will be subject of a condition (should planning permission be granted).