

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: David Cross
Re: Planning Application P/19/0073
From: Landscape Architect
Ask for: Tom Bramley
Ext: 6276

Date : 28th November 2019

Provision of 36 camping pods and 5 chalets, erection of shower/toilet block and creation of play and picnic area. Construction of new parking area (141 spaces) with overflow carpark (85 spaces), together with a trail maintenance yard, new highway access routes, ground profile works, drainage,, infrastructure and landscape works at Bike Park Wales Gethin Woodland Centre Abercanaid

Tree Constraints Plan

The plan is acceptable in its recommendations and for the most part provides a much needed assessment of the existing tree stands with recommendation to take action where necessary. The assessment also lays bare the quality and management considerations for what will remain woodland covered by a tree preservation order post completion of the development.

Masterplan

The masterplan adequately sets out the over-arching strategy for providing an acceptable landscape setting for the proposed development; while at the same time offering a more secure future for the woodland. The newly planted trees will effectively become part of the existing woodland tree preservation order which covers the site and therefore afforded that protection.

Management Plan

The plan identifying the area of landscape management associated with this development is acceptable, there does however not appear to be an accompanying itemised schedule that identifies the management operations that need to be carried out. Operations appear to be covered in general terms the Habitat Management Plan. While this is acceptable from a habitat management perspective it does not provide a contractual management regime and therefore cannot be enforced. An itemised schedule for management is required.

Detailed Landscape Plan Revision D

Ground preparation should avoid ripping, this is not considered to be a necessary operation in this terrain and will do more harm than good as it will destroy soil horizons and create too much disturbance of soil

mycorrhiza, invertebrates, ruderal seed banks and earthworm habitats with unknown consequences; there will already have been excessive disturbance to the area as a consequence of the development and this kind of activity will exacerbate the problem. Avoid imported topsoil, topsoil retained from the site should be stored for the shortest time possible.

Planting Schedule

Transplants would be best planted as cell grown stock. A percentage of grass sward should be included along with the seed mix for woodland wild flowers. To ensure good coverage and ensure that excessive erosion does not take place (use shade tolerant fescues etc).

Otherwise ok.

Kind regards

Tom Bramley
Landscape Architect