

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Caroline Pulley
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278

Memo number: 3

Date of previous memo: 17/01/2022

Date: 30/03/2022

SUBJECT: P/21/0388 | Proposed dwelling at 2 Carn Gwilym Goch, Cefn Coed, Merthyr Tydfil

Amended report and plan submitted in support of the application:

1. Ecological Assessment. Land at Carn Gwilym Goch, Merthyr Tydfil. Issue 1. VC. Dated 21/03/22. Supplied in an e-mail dated 24/03/22.
2. Site plan (799.002A) Proposed new dwelling at Land at Cefn Coed, Merthyr Tydfil. November 21. Supplied in an email dated 24/03/22.

Comments:

Comments from previous memo in *italics*.

Mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures

All mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures (for bats, birds, reptiles, invertebrates etc) must be fully specified and explained within the report text and shown on all relevant plans/drawings submitted in support of the scheme.

7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, page 35. Within this section it is stated that both the bird box and bat box will be 'attached to' the property elevations. The language needs to be amended here. The boxes (bird and bat) will be integrated within the walls.

The positions of the bird and bat boxes should be swapped. So the sparrow terrace will be integrated into the north western elevation and the bat box integrated within the south eastern elevation.

Document 2 has some detail, but it needs to be more specific, for example, the number of gaps or the frequency of gaps (e.g., 1 gap every 15-20m) along the boundaries will be stated. A plan showing the areas to be kept dark is required (see 'Dark Zones' below).

Buffer zone

A buffer needs to be required to protect the adjacent SINC habitat (Cilsanws Common South), which bounds the site along the north eastern site boundary. The dimensions and ecological make-up of the buffer will be specified.

5.6.1.2 – 'It is anticipated that the areas of scrub within the red line development boundary will be lost to the development.'

7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, page 35 – ‘A buffer area will be planted on the sites northern boundary between the site and the SINC. This area will comprise of a wild flower meadow behind a retaining wall which will be planted with a native species hedge.’

Does this mean that the buffer zone will be stripped of vegetation, and then reinstated with a hedgerow and wildflower area?

The vegetation within the buffer zone must remain as it is (mostly a mix of bramble and bracken based on the site photographs), rather than being removed and reinstated.

How wide will the buffer zone be? There will be no access to the buffer zone; how will this be achieved?

LEMP

A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) required to include, for example, bat boxes, bird boxes, new planting etc. NB only native species will be used – resultant habitat must compensate for species lost and benefit, birds, bats, reptiles, invertebrates etc. Devil’s bit scabious should be considered for inclusion to provide stepping-stone habitat for Marsh Fritillary butterfly. The Landscape Plan will therefore be produced in liaison with the ecologist.

This can be the subject of an appropriately worded planning condition. The LEMP must be produced prior to commencement of works. Written approval of the LEMP by the LPA ecologist will be required in order to discharge the condition.

Dark zones

More information is required regarding which areas are proposed to be kept dark. A plan showing these areas is required.

Document 2 includes a statement regarding areas to be kept dark, however, this is a little vague (and may contain a typo), ‘Proposed post all of the boundaries excluding the front will be kept dark.’ It would be more informative to have a plan showing these areas to be kept dark, i.e., with the dark areas marked on, see below for an example:

