

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

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

Memo number: 1
Date of previous memo: -
Date: 02/06/2025

SUBJECT: P/25/0142 | Change of use to Welsh Ambulance Transport Hub to include new Ambulance Maintenance facility, MOT Bay and associated storage / office areas and other external alterations which include changes to the roof and installation of solar panels | Units 2-3 Triangle Business Park Pentrebach Merthyr Tydfil CF48 4TQ

SITE DESCRIPTION

Welsh Ambulance Transport Hub site, bounded on three sides by connected treelines and scrub.

PROPOSED WORKS AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS

See table below.

Proposed works	Works likely to impact protected species (if present)
Ambulance Maintenance facility, MOT Bay and associated storage / office areas and other external alterations which include changes to the roof and installation of solar panels	Possible impacts on protected species, e.g., bats, birds etc

DESIGNATED SITES WITHIN 500M OF THE APPLICATION SITE

- ✓ Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC): x2 (closest, Afon Taf, c.245m from site);
- ✓ Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW): x1

PRIORITY AND PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN 500M OF THE APPLICATION SITE

- ✓ Birds (including Schedule 1¹ and Section 7² species);
- ✓ Invertebrates (including Section 7² species)
 - ✓ Marsh fritillary butterfly (Section 7² species), closest record c.762m from site;
- ✓ Mammals
 - ✓ Bats (European protected species³; some Section 7² species) - closest roost record for common pipistrelle, c.643m from site);
 - ✓ Otter (European protected species³; Section 7² species);
 - ✓ Hedgehog (Section 7² species);
 - ✓ Polecat;
- ✓ Reptiles (Section 7² species)

REQUIREMENTS

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) / Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) for bats and nesting birds of the site (undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist) is required. This must provide sufficient information for the local planning authority to assess any potential adverse impacts

¹ Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

² Environment (Wales) Act 2016

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

of the proposed development on priority and protected species and/or habitats, or to identify what further information is required before a full assessment is possible.

The results of the PEA / PRA will be used to inform whether further surveys are required, or to establish the need for and extent of any mitigation and compensation measures required as part of the proposed development.

An Aderyn data search is required from SEWBRcC (Package C 2km).

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 or may 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.*
- *PROTECTION FOR SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST: strengthened approach to the protection of SSSIs, with increased clarity on the position for site management and exemptions for minor development necessary to maintain a 'living landscape'. Other development is considered unacceptable as a matter of principle. Exceptionally, a planned approach may be appropriate where necessary safeguards can be secured through a development plan*
- *TREES AND WOODLANDS: closer alignment with the stepwise approach, along with promoting new planting as part of development based on securing the right tree in the right place.*

For further information, see here - [Planning Policy Wales - Edition 12 \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/planning-policy-wales-edition-12)