

Our Ref: DCE 1215

11th August 2023

Louis Taylor
WHP Telecoms

Dear Louis

Re: Plymouth Street, Merthyr Tydfil – Ecological Walkover Survey

David Clements Ecology (DCE) were commissioned by WHP Telecoms to carry out an ecological walkover survey of a site on Yew Street, off Commercial Road, Merthyr Tydfil. The site is subject to a planning application to replace the existing telecommunications mast with a more up to date model. The survey has been commissioned in response to a request by the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) ecologist.

The site consists of a small, fenced compound approximately 5m by 5m in size within a sloping band of scrub between the adjacent rail line and Yew Street. There is a residential area on the other side of the rail line to the north and east, with an area of shops and other commercial properties to the south and west.

A walkover survey was carried out on 8th August 2023, based on current Preliminary Ecological Appraisal guidelines by CIEEM. A data search for existing nearby species records and protected sites was not carried out on this occasion, due to the nature of the development and the extremely small size of the site. The weather was cloudy and still with light drizzle and a temperature of 16°C at the start of the survey.

The compound has a concrete base and is surrounded by secure fencing and a padlocked gate. There is currently a base transmitter station situated below the existing mast. The vegetation that grows within the compound, encroaching from the adjacent land, appears to be cut back regularly, so that the equipment can be accessed when necessary for servicing and maintenance. The scrub vegetation is of relatively low value, consisting of buddleia, bramble, ivy, sycamore and dogwood. There are a small number of more mature trees to the north and east of the compound.

In order to facilitate the proposed development it may be necessary to prune a small number of overhanging branches on some adjacent semi-mature trees. The remaining vegetation will also need to be scraped back from the concrete base.

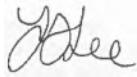
The trees in the near vicinity of the compound are semi-mature and are assessed as having negligible potential to support roosting bats. The scrub growing around the compound and at times encroaching into the compound has potential for bird nesting; therefore, a precautionary approach will need to be followed for nesting birds. Ideally the works will take place outside of the usual nesting season (which is March to August inclusive); if this is not possible then a pre-works nesting bird check will need to be carried out by a suitably experienced person.

Apart from the possible effect on nesting birds, the proposed development is unlikely to have any significant effect on biodiversity and a negligible effect on any other protected species. As an enhancement, two bird boxes will be installed within the developed site. These are likely to be on the new mast and will be sited at between 4-6m from ground level on the north or eastern aspects. Alternatively, the bird boxes will be installed on one of the mature trees on the adjacent land.

Boxes will be of the more durable woodcrete type, such as the Vivara pro 28/ 32mm general box or a similar design.

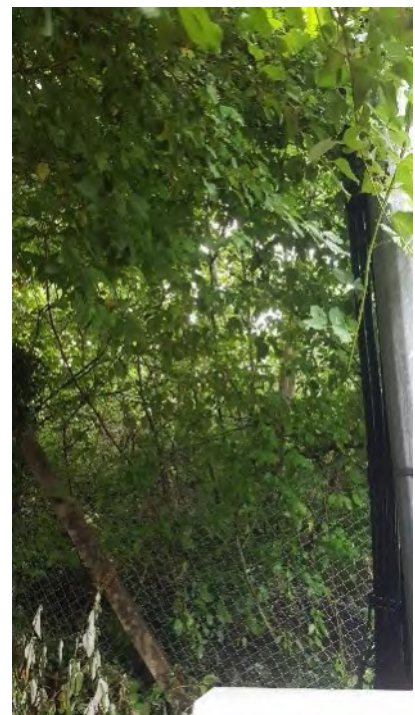
Please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathon Lee
Principal Ecologist, DCE Ltd.

Site Photos (August 2023)



Showing site from outside and inside the compound