

Our Ref: 25.208
Date: 10th July 2025

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Dear Sir or Madam,

Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Construction of permanent fencing
Furnace Row, Troedyrhiw, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4TR
Planning Portal ref. PP-14166860

Asbri Planning is appointed as planning agent to Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water in respect of the above planning application for the construction of permanent fencing along a circa 80m section of the Taff Trail to allow for a secure long-term solution to address safety concerns.

The planning application has been submitted via Planning Portal and the submission documents are listed below.

The following drawings are submitted:

Drawing name	Drawing reference
Site Location Plan	
General Arrangement	B50730-121316-13-BG-DR-CA-CI1001
Fencing Detail 01	B50730-121316-13-BG-DR-CA-CI1050
Fencing Detail 02	B50730-121316-13-BG-DR-CA-CI1051

In addition, the supporting documents submitted comprise the following:

Document name (reference where appropriate)	Prepared by
Planning Application Forms	Asbri Planning
Covering Letter, including Green Infrastructure Statement	Asbri Planning

Site Description

The site is located along Furnace Row and comprises part of the Taff Trail. This section of the trail is bordered by residential housing to the east and has gabion baskets installed along its length. At present, temporary Heras fencing is located on top of the gabion basket structure, which has been in place for around a year (for safety purposes). The site photos in Figure 1 below display the current position at the site:

Figure 1: Site Photographs





Proposed Development

The development comprises the erection of a 2m high, circa 80m long weldmesh style fence along the outlined section of the Taff Trail. The proposed permanent fencing will replace the temporary Heras fencing that is currently in place, thereby providing a more secure long-term solution to address safety concerns. The positioning of the fence is illustrated on the enclosed General Arrangement drawing (ref. B50730-121316-13-BG-DR-CA-CI1001), whilst the detailed specification is provided in the enclosed Fencing Details Drawings 01 & 02 (ref. B50730-121316-13-BG-DR-CA-CI1050 and B50730-121316-13-BG-DR-CA-CI1051). As part of the application, it is also proposed to install a pole mounted bat/bird box adjacent to the site, in order to provide a net benefit for biodiversity (as set out below).

Material Considerations

Net Benefit for Biodiversity

It is set out at Section 6 of PPW 12 that *“development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species....and it must provide a net benefit for biodiversity and improve, or enable the improvement, of the resilience of ecosystems”*.

Paragraph 6.4.11 of PPW specifies that *“Enhancement must be secured by delivering a biodiversity benefit primarily on site or immediately adjacent to the site, over and above that required to mitigate or compensate for any negative impact”*. In accordance with the step-wise approach, the construction of the section of fencing as proposed will not bring about any adverse ecological impact (ensuring that adverse environmental effects are avoided). No direct compensation is required – however, in order to ensure that a net benefit for biodiversity is delivered, the Applicant has explored options for provision of biodiversity enhancements (within DCWW’s land ownership).

Following a review of the site and surroundings, it is proposed to install a pole-mounted bat box and a bird box adjacent to the site. No suitable trees have been identified within DCWW’s ownership which are in close proximity to the development site – as such, a pole system is proposed upon which a maternity bat box (orientated south)

and an appropriate bird box (orientated north) will be mounted. The proposed location of the pole mounted bird/bat boxes is indicated in Figure 2 below, with example boxes shown in Figure 3.

Figure 2: Net Benefit for Biodiversity: Proposed Location of Pole Mounted Bird & Bat Box



Figure 3: Example Bat Maternity Bat Box and Bird Box (to be attached to pole)



Green Infrastructure Statement

In accordance with PPW 12, a Green Infrastructure Statement is required to be submitted in support of the Planning Application. As set out at Paragraph 6.2.12 of PPW, the Green Infrastructure Statement *"will be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed and will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal. In the case of minor development this will be a short description and should not be an onerous requirement for applicants"*. Accordingly, a proportionate statement is provided below:

The proposed installation of the circa 80m stretch of security fencing as proposed by the Planning Application will have no adverse impact on existing Green Infrastructure, being installed in the vicinity of the existing gabion baskets/tarmac footpath, with no impact on any trees/hedgerows or other existing GI features on or within proximity of the application site. By the nature of the fence type proposed (mesh), there will be no impact upon habitat connectivity/no fragmentation of existing habitats. In accordance with the stepwise approach, adverse environmental effects are avoided. In order to provide a net benefit for biodiversity, it is proposed to install a pole-mounted bat box and a bird box adjacent to the site (as described in detail above). Based on the above, the development will result in a Green Infrastructure and biodiversity Net Benefit upon completion.

Height and Appearance

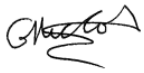
The height of the fencing is proposed to be 2m, required to due to safety reasons. The colour of the fencing is set to be green in order to integrate with the surrounding landscape, as shown on the enclosed Fencing Detail drawings.

Summary

Please note the application fee of £230 has been paid via the Planning Portal as required (PP-14166860). The application fee has been calculated on the basis of £230 for each 0.1 hectare or part thereof (other operations).

I trust that the submitted documents allow the application to be validated and look forward to receiving details of the name of the case officer, application reference number and target determination date. If you have any queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Georgia McColm', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Georgia McColm
Graduate Planner