

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Rebecca Owens
From: Matt Davies (Ecologist)
Ext: 5278
Memo number: 1
Date of previous memo: -
Date: 24/10/2023

SUBJECT: P/23/0251 | Erection of extension to link rugby club building with existing shower block and other associated alterations | Dowlais Rugby Club Blaen Dowlais Dowlais Merthyr Tydfil CF48 3RB

Rugby club site with a number of onsite buildings, hardstanding, grassland and scattered trees. There is nearby scrub, woodland, grassland and reservoir habitat valuable to a range of protected species.

Designated sites within 500m of (or closest to) the application site:

- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) – closest is Blaenmorlais, c.701m from site;
- Within a Buglife B-Lines Area

Priority and protected species within 500m of the application site:

- Birds (including Schedule 1¹ and Section 7² species);
- Fungi (including Section 7² species);
- Invertebrates (including arecord for marsh fritillary butterfly, c.435m from site plus other Section 7² species);
- Bats (closest roost record for lesser horseshoe bat, c.1663m from site);
- Otter;
- Hedgehog;
- Amphibians;
- Vascular plants (including Section 7² species).

A 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 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 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.

A BARB+ data search is required from SEWBReC.

¹ Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

² Environment (Wales) Act 2016

There will need to be enhancement of the site in line with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

As a result of a letter to Local Authority Heads of Planning from Julie James, Minister for Climate Change, Chapter 6 of the upcoming Planning Policy Wales 12 has been pre-emptively published and so has now come into force with immediate effect. Chapter 6 states the following:

'A green infrastructure statement should be submitted with all planning applications. This 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.'