

Recommendations

5.1 Designated Sites

Cwmavon Coal Tips SINC directly borders the survey site to the east along the River Afan. This means that the any proposed works cannot extend beyond the existing boundary of the site nor negatively impact the SINC in any way. Due to this, it will be necessary to implement a 10m buffer strip between this site and the development area.

It is also noted that the survey site falls within an NPT Watercourse area. This means that a 'flood defence consent' will be required to be applied for from the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. This is to ensure that the works do not negatively impact the natural environment through flooding, pollution, loss of habitats or damage to wildlife.

5.2 Habitats

5.2.1 Priority Habitats

No habitats of conservation concern were located on the site itself. Therefore, the proposed scheme of works will not impact upon any rare or valuable habitats.

5.2.2 Wildlife Corridors

It is recommended that designated wildlife corridors are incorporated into the design scheme of the site. This will be identified within a soft landscaping plan that will also offer a management strategy that is required to be adhered to. Linear features that enhance the site for a number of species should also be included into the scheme of works.

5.2.3 Rubble Pile

For the rubble pile, this will need to be removed by hand following an approved protected species method statement. This is to ensure that no protected, rare or notable species are harmed by its removal. This advice can be disregarded if the rubble pile is to be retained, leading to the creation of suitable refugia for species to continue to use.

5.3 Species

The site was found to contain the potential to support protected and/or rare species. Therefore, the following recommendations are required for the

5.3.1 Bats

As B1 contains low bat roosting potential, one bat emergence/re-entry survey is required on the structure during the optimal survey season of mid-May to August. It has been deemed that two surveyors are required to cover all elevations adequately.

No artificial lighting is to be shone on any scattered trees, shrubs, linear features, woodland or waterways. For the site itself, an artificial lighting plan is required. All lighting must avoid the features of interest for the local bat populations. This is required due to the habitats within the local landscape meaning there is likely to be foraging and commuting bats within the local landscape.

5.3.2 Birds

If any of the trees or dense vegetation around the site are proposed for removal, then this needs to be undertaken outside of the bird breeding season (which runs from March to August, inclusive). If this time scale cannot be achieved, the vegetation should be inspected for active bird nests by a suitably qualified ecologist no more than 24 hours prior to the removal process. If bird nests are found, no vegetation removal can take place in that area until the nests become inactive, with an exclusion zone set up to prevent any unlawful damage.

5.3.3 Hedgehogs

As a purely precautionary measure, it is recommended that provisions are incorporated during the construction phase. This will be to create provisions for hedgehogs to escape in the form of creating slopes or the inclusion of ramps at the end of each working day from all trenches dug into the ground. Additionally, any pipework left on site that is greater than 150mm in diameter will need to be planked off. Should this information be strictly adhered to, then the development works will not negatively impact on the local mammal populations.

Post development, two Eco Hedgehog Nest Boxes should be included into the site within appropriate locations. It is also recommended that small gaps are left within any boundary fencing to enable the specimens to continue to commute through the area (an example can be found within figure 3). This will ensure that the local hedgehog populations do not become fragmented within the local landscape. Additionally, wildlife corridors should be included around the site to ensure populations don't become fragmented or isolated.

5.3.4 Reptiles

As several habitats suitable for reptiles have been identified on site, it is recommended that a full presence/absence survey is undertaken on the site to establish if any hotspot areas are identified. This will enable adequate compensation and mitigation to ensure the specimens identified remain in favourable conservation status. This consists of setting artificial refugia around the site, with these allowed to 'bed-in' for two weeks. Following this, seven separate visits are undertaken to establish presence/absence on site.

See Elite Ecology P.E.A. Survey Report (November 2021) for details of possible site enhancements post-development



The Planning Studio, Hayston Bridge
Johnston, Haverfordwest
Pembrokeshire SA62 3HJ
01437 891 817
07515 851 704
andrew@haystonplanning.co.uk
www.planningpembrokeshire.co.uk

Creation of Gypsy Pitch with One Residential Static Unit, Touring Caravan, Utility/Day Room from Partly Converted Stable Block with Parking & Turning Area
Land between Cwmavon and Dan Y Bont on the B4286
Near Pontrhydyfen, Neath

Designed by	Checked by	File name	Date	Scale	Client
		AVH_711	08.11.2021	A3 @ nts	Mr Jim Janes

Drawing Title	Dwg No.
Ecological Site Enhancements	12