

HAWKESWOOD ECOLOGY

Specialists in Ecological Survey and Assessment

17 Heol Henrhyd, Coelbren, Nr. Ystradgynlais, POWYS. SA10 9PG. Tel/Fax: 01639 701304
Mobile: 07957 154794 E-mail: hawkeswoodecology@btinternet.com
VAT Reg No 926 9271 93
(Proprietors: Niki and Eric Hawkeswood)



ADDENDUM ADDRESSING CANDIDATE SITES

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

LAND AT PONT RHYD-Y-CYFF,

MAESTEG, BRIDGEND.

ON BEHALF OF

JEHU LTD

April 2020

Ref: HE/51/2019
Issue 1, Addendum – 23rd June 2020

Copyright and Non-Disclosure Notice

The contents and layout of this report are subject to copyright owned by Hawkeswood Ecology (© Hawkeswood Ecology 2020) save to the extent that copyright has been legally assigned by us to another. To the extent that we own the copyright in this report, it may not be copied or used without our prior written agreement for any purpose other than the purpose indicated in this report.

The methodology (if any) contained in this report is provided to you in confidence and must not be disclosed or copied to third parties without the prior written agreement of Hawkeswood Ecology. Disclosure of that information may constitute an actionable breach of confidence or may otherwise prejudice our commercial interests. Any third party who obtains access to this report by any means will, in any event, be subject to the Third Party Disclaimer set out below.

Third Party Disclaimer

Any disclosure of this report to a third party is subject to this disclaimer. The report was prepared by Hawkeswood Ecology at the instruction of, and for use by, our client(s) named on the front of the report. It does not in any way constitute advice to any third party who is able to access it by any means. Hawkeswood Ecology excludes to the fullest extent lawfully permitted all liability whatsoever for any loss or damage howsoever arising from reliance on the contents of this report. We do not however exclude our liability (if any) for personal injury or death resulting from our negligence, for fraud or any other matter in relation to which we cannot legally exclude liability.

We confirm that in preparing this Report we have exercised reasonable skill and care, taking into account the project objectives, the agreed scope of the work, prevailing site conditions and the degree of manpower and resources allocated to the project.

All habitat and protected species surveys present a ‘snapshot’ of conditions existing and species present, or considered having potential to be present, at the time of survey. Many species are mobile and distributions can vary across time. Results and findings presented in this report should be considered with these factors in mind.

Protected species surveys are recognised as having a ‘shelf life’ of two years maximum. Surveys older than this are unlikely to be accepted by a Local Planning Authority or Natural Resources Wales as viable documentation.

CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Assessment Criteria
3. Conclusions

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Hawkeswood Ecology was instructed to carry out a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) on land at Pont Rhyd-Y-Cyff, Maesteg, Bridgend, approximate central Grid Reference SS 87032 88692, on behalf of Jehu Ltd. The Site is a candidate Site for the new Local Development Plan of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC). Following survey and reporting, BCBC requested evidence of how the PEA has been used to address the negative scores registered against the Site in the Council Sustainability Assessment (SA).
- 1.2 In relation to Biodiversity, the SA showed a minor negative effect when the Site was assessed against its proximity to a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and to Ancient Woodland (AW). In relation to the presence of important trees, hedgerows or TPO's, the Site was considered to show a major negative effect and in relation to the presence of valued habitats and species there was insufficient information to accurately assess any potential effect.
- 1.3 An extract of the relevant part of the table is shown below along with the assessed criteria:

Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Soil	Proximity to European Sites (SAC)	++
	Proximity to SSSI	-
	Proximity to Ancient Woodland	-
	Proximity to RIGS	++
	Proximity to LWS/SINC/LNCS	+
	Presence of Important Trees, Hedgerows or TPOs?	--
	Presence of Valued Habitats and Species	?
	Agricultural Land Classification	+

- 1.4 The elements showing a negative or unassessed impact were discussed in the PEA report (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Land at Pont Rhyd-Y-Cyff, Maesteg, Bridgend - Hawkeswood Ecology April 2020) and are further discussed below.

2 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Proximity to SSSI

- 2.1 The desktop study reported one SSSI within the 2 kilometre search area, Cwm Du Woodlands at a distance of approximately 300 metres from the candidate Site. Further boundary detail acquired shows the nearest point to be some 470 metres to the east of the Site.
- 2.2 The SSSI lies along the Nant Cwm Du valley and is contiguous with woodland along the Afon Llwynfi at the point that it is adjacent to the Site. The SSSI is upstream of the Site and there is no potential effect on the SSSI.

Proximity to Ancient Woodland

- 2.3 Ancient woodland is identified from four areas close to the Site, with ancient woodland in the Afon Llwynfi corridor to the south of the Site being contiguous with woodland on the Site itself. The outline plans presented to Hawkeswood Ecology show that the woodland on the Site is not part of any proposed construction zone and will be retained.
- 2.4 In the PEA report Hawkeswood Ecology made recommendations that the woodland areas, hedgerows and mature trees should be retained and that they should be protected during construction according to specifications outlined in BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. In addition, Hawkeswood Ecology recommended that woodland and hedgerows should be protected by the provision of close boarded fencing and that an appropriate buffer zone should also be considered to prevent dumping of garden waste or other domestic rubbish into the wooded areas.
- 2.5 It is considered that should these recommendations be conditioned in any future planning approval, there will be no impacts on the areas of ancient woodland near to the Site. In addition, fencing the wooded areas will also reduce the potential for footfall into retained areas or important biodiversity features from residents.

Presence of Important Trees, Hedgerows and TPO's

- 2.6 The outline proposals for the Site include the retention of the woodlands and also the wooded corridor crossing the Site on the line of a former tramway. Whilst the former woodlands can be protected against damage (See paragraph 2.4 above) some individual trees may need management attention along the line of the tramway to make the safe.
- 2.7 In the PEA report Hawkeswood Ecology recommend that mature trees should be retained where possible, however, where management work cannot be avoided, a protocol will be agreed to ensure that works are minimised as much as possible and that any legislative requirements (i.e TPO, species etc) are fully complied with during construction and post construction.
- 2.8 Should trees within the corridor or on the woodland edge need to be removed they will be replaced by saplings of similar species of known local provenance.

Presence of Valued Habitats and Species

- 2.9 This element has not been addressed within the SA. In the PEA report Hawkeswood Ecology comment that further survey is necessary to properly assess the Site significance for protected species. The above paragraphs (2.4-2.8) directly relate to the habitats on Site.
- 2.10 Given the habitats on or adjacent to the Site, it was considered that three European Protected Species (EPS) may be present within or near to the Site (Dormouse, bats and otter) and that other protected species using the habitats on Site include birds

and possibly hedgehog. Reptiles could possibly occur in fringe habitats but were not considered likely to be present in substantial populations.

- 2.11 Prior to the granting of planning permission, it would be expected that the proposed surveys would be carried out to properly inform any decision and to ensure adequate compensatory provision in the new build or retained areas.

3 CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The above text when read in conjunction with the PEA report offers suitable mitigation and compensation for points seen as having a negative effect in the SA.
- 3.2 Importantly, further survey for protected species is recommended to ensure that any development is fully in accordance with current legislation. Further targeted compensation will be developed as a result of these proposed surveys to ensure that the scheme offers biodiversity gains.

HAWKESWOOD ECOLOGY

Specialists in Ecological Survey and Assessment

17 Heol Henrhyd, Coelbren, Nr. Ystradgynlais, POWYS. SA10 9PG. Tel/Fax: 01639 701304
Mobile: 07957 154794 E-mail: hawkeswoodecology@btinternet.com
(Proprietors: Niki and Eric Hawkeswood)

**A partnership of professionals delivering
answers since 2001**

*Hawkeswood Ecology is an Ecological Consultancy
working in Wales offering a wide range of expertise in
ecological assessment for a broad range of clients.*

