



City & County of Swansea / Dinas a Sir Abertawe
Directorate Of Place / Cyfarwyddiaeth Lleodd
Planning and City Regeneration / Cynllunio ac Adfywio'r Ddinas
Civic Centre, Oystermouth Road, Swansea, SA1 3SN
Y Ganolfan Ddinesig, Heol Ystumllwynarth, Abertawe, SA1 3SN

[Redacted]

Nina Kinsey
Planning And Environment Decisions Wales
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Please ask for:

Simon Hughes

Direct Line:

[Redacted]

E-mail:

[Redacted]

Date:

26/11/2021

Dear Ms Kinsey

Application No: 2021/2806/LPA
Site Location: Bryn Y Rhyd Farm Llanedi Pontarddulais SA4 0FD
Proposal: Development of National Significance for a solar farm within the authority boundary of Carmarthenshire County Council (referral from PEDW)

Thank you for the consultation letter in relation to the above DNS application. I have consulted with the relevant internal colleagues on the proposals and I have set out their responses below, which we would request are taken into consideration when determining the application.

Ecology Officer

Bats: Very little research has been undertaken regarding the potential impacts of solar farms on bat populations. Therefore, it is suggested that monitoring surveys are carried out post construction. The static detector surveys that were carried out to inform the application should be repeated in order to compare results. The results should be submitted to the LPA.

Dormice: If dormice are assumed to be present throughout the site then a licence will likely be required to undertake the hedgerow removals, translocations and potentially future management. The LEMP in appendix 7.3 states that dormouse boxes will be installed and monitored by a local dormouse group. The results of this monitoring should be submitted to the LPA. The application also details hedgerow translocation between May and October to avoid the dormouse hibernation season. It is advised that this is refined further to avoid the sensitive breeding season over the summer. Two-stage clearance may be more appropriate, with a cut over winter and then stump removal in the spring.

Hedgehogs: Habitat connectivity for hedgehogs should be considered in the design of the fences. The application notes that the deer fencing would not pose an issue for badgers as they can dig under, but this is not likely to be the case for hedgehogs.

Ancient Woodland: The EPP in Appendix 7.4 states that a buffer of 15m will be provided between - the application site and the adjacent ancient woodland. This buffer might benefit from being increased if there are particularly large veteran trees on the edge of the woodland. The Natural England (2000) guidance "Veteran Trees: A guide to good management" states that: "Ideally, no work should be done closer to the tree than 5 m outside the extent of the canopy, or a distance from the centre of the tree of 15 times the diameter of the trunk at breast height, whichever is the greater.

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I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformatt arall, cysylltwch a'r person uchod.*

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This establishes a "separation distance" or exclusion zone round the tree and gives it the best chance of long-term survival. It can be quite surprising how far away the roots of some of these trees extend, eg up to 50 m."

Local Highways Authority

It does not appear this development would give rise to any objections from the City and County of Swansea, however, there is a lack of information with regard to transportation routes for equipment during the initial set up stage. It is stressed that due consideration is given to safety, construction traffic in terms of volume and frequency, and transportation routes either through or bordering the City and County of Swansea.

Drainage Officer

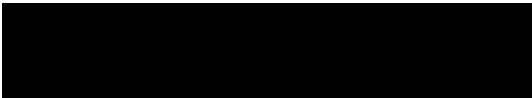
We do not wish to comment on this application as Carms SAB will lead on any SAB requirements.

Conclusion

Having reviewed the proposals, and taking into consideration the above comments, the City and County of Swansea raise no objections to the proposed.

I trust this information is of use to you.

Yours faithfully



Phil Holmes
Head of Planning and City Regeneration