

Penderfyniadau Cynllunio ac Amgylcheddol  
Cymru/Planning and Environment Decisions Wales  
Adeilad y Goron - Crown Buildings  
Parc Cathays - Cathays Park  
Caerdydd - Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

20/12/2021

Annwyl Syr/Madam Dear Sir/Madam,

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990  
THE DEVELOPMENTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (WALES) REGULATIONS 2016  
THE DEVELOPMENTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (PROCEDURE) (WALES)  
ORDER 2016**

**BWRIAD / PROPOSAL: INSTALLATION OF A SOLAR FARM COMPRISING GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR PV PANELS WITH A NET INSTALLED GENERATING CAPACITY (AC) OF UP TO 25 MW, INCLUDING MOUNTING SYSTEM, BATTERY STORAGE UNITS, INVERTERS, UNDERGROUND CABLING, GRID CONNECTION HUB, STOCK PROOF FENCE, CCTV, INTERNAL TRACKS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, LANDSCAPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS, FOR A TEMPORARY PERIOD OF 40 YEARS.**

**LLEOLIAD / LOCATION: LAND AT BRYNWELL FARM, ON LAND BETWEEN THE A4232 AND LECKWITH VILLAGE**

Thank you for consulting Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales about the additional information submitted in support of the above application, which we received on 9 November 2021.

We have reviewed the applicant's report setting out further information (prepared by Savills, dated September 2021) and the additional documents submitted. Based on this latest information we continue to have concerns, however these can be overcome by attaching the following two conditions to any planning permission granted:

Condition 1: Submission and approval of a final Landscape Ecological Management Plan;

Condition 2: Submission and approval of a full and final Construction Environmental Management Plan

### Ecology Conditions

Our previous advice on 23 June 2021 (reference CAS-151561-H8K7) requested that the recommendations from the Ecological Impact Assessment report were secured via a condition. We note that the proposed conditions in Section 7.0 of the latest report does not include this.

To ensure mitigation measures for Protected Species are implemented, we recommend that the proposed Condition 11 – Construction Environment Management Plan -, includes the following bullet point:

- measures to avoid and/or minimise risk of harm to protected species during site clearance and construction activities

With regards to the Landscape Ecological Management Plan (LEMP), we welcome the details provided in the latest report on page 13 (b) i.) which state that “no trees or hedgerow are proposed for removal as part of the proposal” and the clarification provided regarding a maintenance regime for hedgerows on page 9 (e) i.). To ensure appropriate management for dormice we recommend Condition 12 – LEMP, includes the following bullet points:

- full details of the long term management of hedgerows for the period of operation;
- a schedule of management activities, that takes account of good practice working periods;
- a review of the management activities within the LEMP every five years for the period of operation, informed by monitoring of condition of habitats;

### Cwm Cydfin Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

We note point d) of the Ecology section of the applicant’s report setting out further information (prepared by Savills, dated September 2021) which confirms that the Nant Garw runs along the west of the development site but that this flows into Bullcroft brook and eventually into the Cadoxton river, so there is no pathway to the Cwm Cyfedin SSSI through surface water. We agree with this statement.

The Cwm Cydfin SSSI is approximately 1.7km from the proposed development site and benefits from the buffer provided by the wider Leckwith woods and areas of woodland and hedgerows across Michaelston-le-pit and Dinas Powys. The site plan included in the Ecological Impact Assessment dated March 2021 does not appear to show any loss of hedgerow on the development site but references potential losses.

The revised transport scheme (paragraph 4.4.4) states that some hedgerows along the proposed access route may need to be removed to allow temporary passing places. This could impact upon the SSSI if this leads to a reduction in the connectivity of the site. From Annex 027 – Passing bays it appears that the areas to be cleared are relatively small and are in areas where the hedgerow and tree cover is wide enough to maintain connectivity despite clearance works. The amount of hedgerow cleared should be as minimal as possible and the hedgerow should either be allowed to naturally regenerate or native

hedges of local provenance in keeping with the character of the hedge should be planted to fill in any gaps once construction is completed.

The SSSI is sensitive to increases in both nitrogen and acidity levels from air pollution ([APIS](#), 2021) and the access route for the sites does pass Cwm Cydfin SSSI and Leckwith woods. However, the Revised Transport Statement states that there will be no significant increase in traffic travelling along that route with a maximum of 8 trucks per day during the 6 week construction phase.

We note that a dust management plan has been provided and if the measures stated therein are followed there should be low risk of impact to Leckwith woods or Cwm Cydfin SSSI.

Therefore, it has been satisfactorily concluded that there are no likely significant effects on Cwm Cydfin SSSI from the proposed development.

We note the comments at Section 6 of the applicant's report setting out further information (prepared by Savills, dated September 2021) in relation to surface water run-off rates and the confirmation that the cables are not fluid filled. We have no further comment on these matters.

### **Other Matters**

Our comments above only relate specifically to matters included on our checklist, *Development Planning Advisory Service: Consultation Topics* (September 2018), which is published on our [website](#). We have not considered potential effects on other matters and do not rule out the potential for the proposed development to affect other interests.

We advise the applicant that, in addition to planning permission, it is their responsibility to ensure they secure all other permits/consents/licences relevant to their development. Please refer to our [website](#) for further details.

If you have any queries on the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yn gywir / Yours faithfully

### **Mrs C McCorkindale**

Cynghorydd - Cynllunio Datblygu / Advisor - Development Planning  
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales