



Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol

Blaenau Gwent

County Borough Council

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Rolf Brown

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Civic Centre

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Ref: Ecology at new site for Ysgol y Graig Primary School, Cefn Coed, Merthyr Tydfil

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Technical Services Team has been commissioned to aid with the construction of a new building for Ysgol y Graig Primary School in Cefn Coed, Merthyr Tydfil. As part of the pre-planning site investigations I visited the development site to establish whether any ecological surveys were required prior to the submission of a planning application.

I visited the site on the 9th July 2015 and although I was unable to gain access to the site, I was able to clearly see the extent of the area from the site boundaries.

I understand a former secondary school once stood on the site and this has now been demolished; crushed stone has been spread across the site to create a hard, flat plateau. Vegetation has started to grow across the site which includes areas of rough grasses, buddleia and young self-seeded sycamore. The site superficially looks like it may be suitable for reptiles however the likelihood of reptiles being present can be ruled out due to the history of the site. The site was recently a



Figure 1 Typical view of site

We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh or English. / Croesawn ohebiaith trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.

demolition site which would have been subject to significant disturbance and it is isolated on all sides by tall stone walls, buildings or roads making it very unlikely that reptiles would have colonised the area since the former school was demolished.

The site does, however, have potential for nesting birds to be present in some of the areas of denser vegetation or in the young sycamore. I would recommend that any vegetation is cleared outside of the breeding bird period, which is commonly considered to be March to August inclusive. Clearance of the vegetation should ideally be undertaken this winter and then kept clear to reduce the likelihood of birds breeding on the site in the future; keeping the vegetation to a minimum will enable a prompt start to construction when required.

There are no further ecological issues with this site and no recommendations for further survey.

Yours sincerely,



Katie Partington BSc, MCIEEM
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Ecologist



Figure 2 Site Boundary