



Ein cyf/Our ref OAQ(5)0096(ERA)

Suzy Davies AM

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12

February 2017

Dear Suzy

During Plenary on 1 February 2017, I stated I would provide an update in relation to the potential bat roost at the Mynydd y Gwair development. My officials have contacted both the Local Authority and the developer in order to establish the most recent position on this matter.

As you are aware, there have been concerns in relation to the potential bat roost in trees scheduled for removal along the access road and Bioscan, who are consultant ecologists, were commissioned to provide a report entitled 'Tree Survey – Bat Roosting Potential.'

The report focused on the trees to be felled as part of the construction works. It concluded there are a number of trees along the access road that will need to be removed, which have been inspected on a number of occasions for their potential to roost bats. However no bat roosts have been found in any of the affected trees.

The report states '*...While a suspected maternity roost of noctule bats was confirmed in June - July 2015, this is in a tree some distance from the proposed construction works.*' The tree in question is an ash tree situated to the East of the access road and this tree is due to be retained.

Following a conflicting report from Dr David Waterhouse, a recent site meeting was organised, attended by Bioscan, the developer Innogy, the Local Authority's own ecologist, and Principal Planner David Owen. The site visit was held to physically identify the tree in question.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The local authority are satisfied the construction of the proposed access road will not have a detrimental impact on the identified tree and the works would not harm the roost, so a European Protected Species Licence will not be required.

I hope this helps to clarify the situation as understood by both the Local Authority and the developer.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lesley'.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs