

MA19.3

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Ms Jeanette John
Programme Officer
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
The Works Site
Steel Works Road
Ebbw Vale
Blaenau Gwent
NP23 6YL

July 19 2012

Your reference: ED.1
Representor ID No: 80

Dear Ms John

Matters Arising from Hearing Session 19 (MA19.3)

Alternative Site reference: AS (N) 21

Alternative Site name: Ty Pwdr

In accordance with the Matters Arising (MA19.3) from Day 8 Session 19 – Cwmtillery Settlement Boundaries, the following addresses such requirements and is in accordance with your email dated 10 July 2012. Consequently this letter **supersedes** my previous letter dated 9 July 2012.

The purpose of this letter is to seek clarification over SINC designation that was partially raised at the Hearing session on Friday July 6 2012.

It should be noted that the following request for clarification of Ty Pwdr/Greenmeadow Farm as a designated SINC is **not** a new issue. This

concern has been highlighted (paragraphs 4.17 – 4.19) in the previously supplied ‘Responder’s Comments on Council Analysis – Summary of Representations’ and in the document my client provided at the Hearing. Copies of the latter were provided on the day to the Inspector, Planning Officers and Ecologist.

At the Hearing, the Inspector asked the ecologist to respond to issues regarding SINC indicator species as challenged in our tabled report provided on the day. In this report reference was made to what is construed to be a flawed Authority approach in the SINC designation and it is this aspect that my client would have further highlighted if the opportunity had presented itself on the day. The concerns relate to the need for transparent publically available records of SINC designation as stipulated in paragraph 5.5.2 of TAN 5 – Nature Conservation and Planning.

Consequently it would be appreciated if in the Ecologist’s response, the following matters could also be answered, namely:

1. A copy of the Management Plan for Greenmeadow Farm produced by Wye Valley Surveys in 2001. This should provide an understanding as to how the Ty-Pwdr section of the Greenmeadow SINC is intended to be managed and what financial commitment the Authority has made to the land’s maintenance since 2001? Such comment has been raised under Appendix 2 Issue 5 on page 9 of the Friday July 6 2012 tabled Hearing paper.
2. Uncertainty remains as to how the SINC came into being. Details provided to date are not robust and there is opaqueness as to what and when ‘rigorous criteria’ was applied. A paper audit/trail should be provided including amongst others, a copy of the Committee/Panel report confirming the

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transition from a candidate to designated SINC. The response should provide accurate records of the criteria and dates of when such actions occurred.

It would be appreciated if you could bring the above letter to the officers and Inspector's attention.

Yours sincerely

Ian Roberts