

From: Harris, Matthew (Ecology Officer) <Matthew.Harris@newport.gov.uk>
Sent: 02 March 2026 17:15
To: Roberts, Geraint (Principal Planning Officer) <GeraintN.Roberts@newport.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: 25/0983 - Liberty Steel (Minor) V2 - NRW Response NRW:06552789

Hello Geraint, as the proposed project entails conversion of part of an existing industrial building into a data centre, and re-cladding the same building, then significant impacts upon protected species such as Otters and Great Crested Newts are unlikely. Therefore I would not ask for any protected species surveys on this occasion.

I note that NRW have accepted the conclusions of the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report, and agree that the proposed project is not likely to have a significant effect on the SAC. Therefore in respect of our responsibilities under Regulation 63 the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), we can adopt the Screening Report as our HRA, and do not need to consult NRW further, as an Appropriate Assessment is not necessary.

I note the proposal to re-clad the existing portal frame roof. I would not ask for a bat survey, as the nature of the building and the roofing materials is generally not suitable for bats. The roof is relatively flat and may support nesting birds such as Gulls. The Applicant should be reminded to avoid disturbance to nesting birds which are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981: Part 1, 1(1)(b), whereby it is an offence to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built.

Matt