

25/0445

Ivydene Whitson Road Whitson Newport South Wales

Ecology Officer Consultation Response

I am concerned at the loss of a section of hedgerow, and further reduction of retained hedgerow in order to maintain visibility. The connectivity of hedgerows such as this is important for species such as Dormice, however I do not believe that asking for a Dormouse survey or any other ecological survey is justified on this occasion. Instead, we should use a planning condition to secure the submission and implementation of an ecological mitigation and enhancement plan to ensure that the impact of hedgerow loss is compensated for, such that an overall net benefit for biodiversity is achieved. This could include, for example, replacement hedgerow planting, or infilling hedgerow gaps with native hedgerow plants.

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.

I note that NRW have not raised any concerns over impacts upon the Gwent Levels SSSI, or on any other issues for that matter.