**Date issued:** 20th of October 2023

**Freedom of Information Request** 207/23

We are writing in response to your Freedom of Information request. Your request has been considered in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and our Data and Information Management Policy.

**YOU ASKED US…**

**Wildlife report - please provide a wildlife survey as trees have been removed that used to home Owls, wood pigeons/squirrels etc,'**

**RESPONSE**

Please see the below link for relevant ecological reports and method statements in relation to Ystrad Mynach. Report files are too large to send via email:

[https://we.tl/t-3stfv71c5B](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwe.tl%2Ft-3stfv71c5B&data=05%7C01%7CFreedomofinformation%40tfw.wales%7C40e143cc639a40297d0408dbcfc59c7a%7C87dcd024301948269956ba76b2a04ff4%7C0%7C0%7C638332219855031075%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BqmnC9E%2BnSsgWS4ED%2BgSVcvjE0%2BoXZeR2y%2B2RW8wYHQ%3D&reserved=0)

**The link will expire in 7 days so must be accessed prior to this.**

N.B. the ecological reports include the area in question as part of the route wide ecological surveys undertaken. Method statements are included for nesting birds, reptiles and low potential bat trees, the processes for which are undertaken prior to any vegetation works which may support these species. Please note sensitive ecological information - including those pertaining to locations of bat roost records - have been redacted from the reports.

A summary of our approach to nesting birds is also included below:

*We try to minimise vegetation works being undertaken during nesting season. Where this is not possible, we follow an agreed process to ensure there are no impacts on nesting birds during works including a pre-check of vegetation suitable to support nesting birds prior to removal.*

*Before any vegetation is removed, we conduct a thorough pre-check of the area, including at ground level, to identify any active nests, chicks, or nesting birds that may be present. If we do find any signs of nesting, a safety zone around the area using hazard tape or markers will be instated. This remains in place until all the chicks have flown the nest and an ecologist has confirmed that it's safe to proceed.*

*It's important to note that an ecologist may not be always present on-site, especially if the habitats in question are deemed unsuitable or if the works that may affect the species have already been completed or checked.*

Our Vegetation Management FAQs are also included for reference.

We hope this information is of use to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Transport for Wales**

**Appeal Rights**

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, please write to the Head of Freedom of Information at either Transport for Wales, 3 Llys Cdwyn, Pontypridd, CF37 4TH or [freedomofinformation@tfw.wales](mailto:freedomofinformation@tfw.wales). Your request must be submitted within 40 working days of receipt of this letter. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

The Information Commissioner (ICO) can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or you can contact the ICO through the 'Make a Complaint' section of their website on this link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

The relevant section to select will be "Official or Public Information".