Rida Mohammad
Mace Group
Newminster House
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Thursday, 05 December 2024

RE: St Illtyds Catholic High School, Cardiff, CF3 1XQ Statement of Actions

Dear Rida

This letter is provided to detail the actions we have undertaken with regards the onsite habitat classification at the site. A preliminary ecological appraisal was undertaken at the site by Wildwood ecology in 2022 with an update in 2023. Since then, the plans were placed on hold until 2024 when a slightly changed design for the MUGA was proposed.

The new design encroached onto the wooded area on the western boundary. With the submission of the plans the local planning authority ecologist expressed concerns that the wooded area on the western boundary should be classified as a woodland and therefore a 15m ecotone would be needed to meet guidelines for protecting and enhancing woodlands.

Mace group, Wildwood Ecology and ARBTS (Arb specialist) worked collaboratively to determine a precise description of the wooded area habitat so that the appropriate considerations were made for protecting and enhancing the habitat. The following was concluded and put forward to the LPA.

Wildwood ecologist assessed that the composition of the wooded area on the western boundary did not meet the full description of the governments criteria for declaring a habitat as woodland. These being:

- a minimum area of 0.5ha;

- a minimum width of 20m;

- a potential tree canopy cover of at least 20%; and

- a canopy consisting of specimens that meet the definition of trees .

The arborist also concluded in his report that the trees were assessed as being a tree group G1, as the structure did not meet the composition through age, stem size height and condition, to be classified as a woodland.

With this information the wooded area to the west of the site was reclassified as a group of trees and not a woodland, which will be reflected in the enhancements proposed for the site.