

# HAWKESWOOD ECOLOGY

## Specialists in Ecological Survey and Assessment

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(Proprietors: Niki and Eric Hawkeswood)



Mr R Sorrel  
Director  
Bike Park Wales  
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02/02/2026

Our Ref: HE/18/2025

Dear Rowan,

### **Ecological Constraints Assessment Relating to Uplift Road Resurfacing.**

Hawkeswood Ecology was instructed to undertake an Ecological Assessment in relation to any constraints from covering an existing forest road with a tarmac layer. Currently the scope of the works is unknown so to ensure the eventual working areas are properly assessed the whole of the length of the road was assessed.

The road is currently a stoned surface which is need of regular repair and re-stoning. The intention is to provide a long lasting durable surface which will have less impact upon the vehicles using it and reduce negative factors such as emissions, quarrying demand for stone and transport of stone to the Site. In addition, a better road surface will result in less wear and tear of the vehicle fleet.

#### *Surveyor experience*

The surveyor and report author is Eric Hawkeswood. Eric has many years experience of broad habitat and detailed botanical and species surveying. He has extensive experience of protected species survey and holds Natural Resources Wales scientific and conservation licenses for bats (no. S094945-1, 2025). He has been a professional in the nature conservation field for thirty six years formerly working as Reserves Manager and Conservation Officer at Gwent Wildlife Trust and Woodland Manager for the Ruperra Conservation Trust. Eric has worked as an Ecological Consultant as joint proprietor of Hawkeswood Ecology since 2001.

#### *Methodology*

The assessment consisted of travelling the current road surface and assessing what, if any impacts there may be by undertaking the proposed works. No works are proposed outside the existing surfaced roadway. The width of laid tarmac will be approximately 7 metres and lie within the existing road surfaced area.

### *Results*

The roadway is currently a stone forestry road which is under regular repair. Pictures taken of the road are shown below.

Drains associated with the current roadway will be maintained and the Local Authority water management official has confirmed the roadway is currently considered to have an impermeable surface.

It is probable that the works will not require storage of materials however if any storage is required there are existing stockpile areas of stone that will be utilised. The whole of the working area is contained within the existing road structure and there will be no direct impacts upon the surrounding woodland.

### *Conclusion*

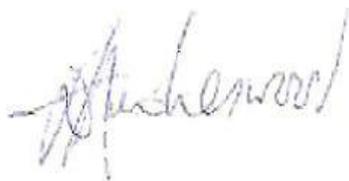
It is concluded that there are no ecological constraints to the works. There will be no additional disturbance to the adjacent woodland fauna as the road is already well used by vehicles.

A number of positive features will be gained from the proposed works however. These are given below:

- A reduction in silt run off from the existing roadway. The current workload of the road and the wet climate of the woodland does mean that there is silt run off to the drains currently. Sealing the surface will prevent this;
- A reduction in the quarrying effort called for to maintain the existing roadway;
- A reduction in vehicle journeys bring stone into the Site;
- A reduction in the amount of stone dust spread into the adjacent habitats;
- A benefit in terms of vehicle maintenance which will offer both financial and environmental benefits as the vehicles will not be subject to the effects of the potholed road surface,

We hope this is of use, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely



Eric Hawkeswood  
Principal Ecologist  
07957 154794

**Photographs:**



**The lower section of the roadway near the uplift loading point**



**Approximately half way up the roadway**



**The Storage area and roadway near to it showing wear.**



**Near the top of the uplift roadway.**

