

Brynmawr Garnlydan Cycle Route

Breeding Bird Survey

Introduction

It is proposed to construct a cycle route, SE-105, Brynmawr High Level, between Intermediate Road, Brynmawr, and Garnlydan

Methodology

The approach adopted has been to map the whereabouts of individual birds along the lines of the

Wren	1		
Great Tit	1	1	
Blue Tit	1		
Coal Tit	2	2	
Starling House Sparrow		1 overflying	

Starling Nesting in holes in trees or buildings, breeding Starlings will not be affected by changes. A single record of an overflying bird is a reflection of the species' decline locally in recent years.

House Sparrow Birds are breeding in the housing in Brynmawr next to the east end of the route. Although UK Red-listed, numbers have held up across Wales and the bird is abundant locally. The proposed change should have no impact.

Bullfinch A pair was present in the scrubby woodland at the east end of the route on Visit 1 and probably breeds in this area. The cycle route might have some impact on their choice of breeding site although there is ample suitable habitat available.

Reed Bunting One singing male was recorded on Visit 2 close to the route. Reed Buntings are not, despite their name, dependent on reedbeds and will nest in wet undergrowth, as is found around the ponds on Beaufort Common. They are unlikely to be affected by the development of the route.

Conclusions

Although the cycle route would impinge on breeding areas for several species of conservation concern the impact is likely to be very low as the birds have ample suitable habitat further from the route. The following measures are recommended to minimise disturbance: