

Sarah Jones
Principle Planning Policy Officer
Monmouthshire County Council

27th June 2025

Sent by Email

Dear Sarah

Re: Update on the Concern over the Spraying of Fields at Priory Farm in mid-May 2025.

I thought it may be helpful to advise and update on the concerns raised last month in relation to the spraying of fields at Priory Farm.

We were advised that concerns had been raised by local residents worried about the impact of the spraying activity on local wildlife and specifically the local bat population.

I can advise that

- Spraying did take place on the fields at Priory Farm in early May.
- The spraying took place across 7 fields and not just those proposed for development.
- The spraying was undertaken as part of a regular land management regime to keep weeds at bay (dock and buttercup) and thus to keep the grass of good quality for grazing purposes. This procedure is undertaken every three years.
- The works were undertaken on the advice of an agronomist and the spraying was carried out by specialist Contractors. The agronomist and contractors retain records of all spraying activity. This was not the first time the land has been sprayed as alleged.
- The sprays used on the fields are MCPA500 and Depitox500. These are herbicides designed to improve grasses which improves the grazing for the cows.

Redrow and the landowners subsequently contacted officers at NRW to discuss the above. Subsequent discussions were held between landowners and NRW as this was a land management matter rather than a development or planning matter. It was resolved by NRW that nothing untoward or unlawful had happened and no further action was needed.

I thought this update would be helpful in case you had any further questions or queries about the matter. If you do have any further concerns reported, then please do let me know and I shall endeavour to assist.

Yours sincerely

J Carpenter

Jane Carpenter
Planning Director