GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT

IN SUPPRT OF APPLICATION: P/2024/1348

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL SLURRY STORE WITH ASSOCIATED RECEPTION PIT AND SEPARATOR

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The following statement supports an application for the construction of an agricultural slurry store with associated reception pit and separator at Borras Head Farm.

In accordance with Section 6 of Planning Policy Wales Edition 12 February 2024, a stepwise approach has been taken to ensure the development will have a net biodiversity benefit.

Context and Location

1.1. The proposed slurry store is to be located immediately adjacent to the existing farm buildings at Borras Head Farm.

1.2. The proposed location of the slurry store is agricultural land that is already of low ecological value, being intensively grazed.

1.3. The development will not result in the removal of any trees or hedgerows. All existing nearby hedgerows are to be retained and improved. Wildlife corridors will not be adversely affected by the proposal.

1.4. The proposed development will not cause a loss of habitats.

1.5. The site is adjacent to the established farmstead, being bordered to the southwest by existing farm buildings. This area comprises a regularly disturbed track and pasture ground adjacent to the farm buildings.

1.6. The proposed location lies adjacent to the existing farm buildings which are already subject to frequent machinery movements during the day-to-day farming operations. The short-term increase in plant on the site during construction will not cause disturbance and habitat loss to species.

1.7. The applicant has ensured that the location of the slurry store will not have a detrimental impact on existing green infrastructure.

1.8. The location of the slurry store has been chosen to be situated as far away from nearby homes as possible, whilst being located adjacent to the existing farm buildings to allow for ease of use and mitigate disturbance to other areas of the farm with greater ecological value.

Mitigation Measures

2.1. There will be no disruption to habitats on adjacent sites and there is no reason why the development will have a negative impact on surrounding habitats and ecosystems.

2.2. The site is not located within any designated sites and the proposed location should therefore be acceptable.

2.3. It is proposed that two bat boxes and one bird box will be erected on the southwest side of the nearby agricultural building.

2.4. The siting of these bat and bird boxes will provide a location for bats and birds to shelter. The boxes will be positioned at least 3m from the ground.

2.5. The installation of these will result in an overall net biodiversity benefit to the site and provide connectivity for potential habitats off-site.

2.6. The applicant will ensure the bat and bird boxes will be maintained in a useable condition for the future.

2.7. Ancillary apparatus required for the slurry store will be situated on the southeast side of the store where possible, to mitigate visual impact to neighbouring properties.

2.8. There is no proposed off-site compensation as there will be no negative effect on the biodiversity of the site.

2.9. The proposal does not have any adverse effect on biodiversity or ecosystem resilience. The installation of bat and bird boxes and the management and maintenance of existing hedgerows will enhance potential on-site species and habitats. This will therefore result in a net biodiversity benefit in comparison to leaving the site undeveloped.

Conclusion

3.1. There will be minimal disturbance of the habitats within the development site which lies immediately adjacent to the existing farm buildings.

3.2. The development will result in a net biodiversity benefit to the site, due to the siting of bat and bird boxes and management and maintenance of existing hedgerows.

3.3. This development will result in an overall net biodiversity benefit.