CAS-258267-L9V2- LLEOLIAD/LOCATION: HYDRO ALUMINIUM DEESIDE LTD, BRIDGE ROAD, WREXHAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WREXHAM

**Response to Letter from Natural Resource Wales**

1. This response is produced by TEP on behalf of Neil Campbell Pace Architecture and relates to a consultation response provided by Natural Resource Wales (NRW) dated 19 July 2024. The NRW reference is CAS-258267-L9V2.

2. The following paragraphs provide a response to the substantive points made by NRW. Fundamentally, concerns with the application as proposed because inadequate information has been provided. To overcome these concerns, you should provide further information in your planning application regarding protected species and protected sites. The proposal has the potential to kill, injure or disturb GCN, or damage or destroy their breeding sites and resting places at this site. GCN and their breeding sites and resting places are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Where GCN are present and a development proposal is likely to contravene the legal protection, they are afforded, the development may only proceed under licence issued by Natural Resources Wales, having satisfied the three requirements set out in the legislation. A licence may only be authorised if:

3. ***Therefore, when consulted by the LPA in conjunction with a full planning application, we would advise that the following details should be provided to demonstrate no detriment to the maintenance of the favourable conservation status of the local population of GCN:***

***(a) Compensatory habitats must be provided on at least a "like for like" basis in terms of area. Details shall identify areas of terrestrial and aquatic habitat to be maintained enhanced and created;***

***(b) Submission of further details and associated plans concerning GCN avoidance and mitigation measures including, but not limited to: fence design, specifications and locations; considerations of access issues; monitoring and maintenance requirements; and supervised removal. Submission to include proposed timescales and reporting requirements;***

***(c) Submission of a site management scheme.***

***(d) Submission of measures designed to prevent the accidental capture/killing of GCN in operational (and decommissioning) phases of the scheme (i.e., post construction). This is essentially the installation and maintenance of an amphibian friendly surface water management system that does not include gully pots (or other similar features).***

***(e) Management and monitoring plan for the SuDS ponds to include consideration of the potential need for a European Protected Species (EPS) Licence relating to proposed management prescriptions***

***(f) Details of timing, phasing and duration of construction activities and conservation measures.***

***(g) Submission of a biosecurity risk assessment***

4. The nearest GCN record as recorded in the report and information provided from COFNOD is 320m south of the site. Recorded from the grounds of HMP Berwyn GCN mitigation site as part of the trapping scheme for its development.

5. The prison development and Bridge Road, provide barriers to any movements of GCN to the Hydro site. In addition to the barriers and distance, the SUDS pond (P1) situated with the grounds of the prison adjacent to car park and Bridge Road provided a negative EDNA result. The additional ponds located beyond the Hydro also provided negative results. Which proves that animals are not ranging to this site.

6. The site does not contain any GCN breeding ponds, EDNA proved negative results from the SUDS pond on site. Although the SUDS pond (P2) provided an excellent HSI score, it's a SUDS pond and as such water levels fluctuates leaving it dry for lengthy periods.

7. Beyond and adjacent to the Hydro site, a number of recent developments have been implemented with no GCN mitigation evidently. Pond 3 (SUDS) is associated with a recent construction at the rear of the Hydro site, again this was negative.

8. The habitat onsite may provide foraging and ranging for amphibian's species, hence why a Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) is more than adequate for this small-scale extension.

9. The points mentioned above are not justified and a GCN license is not required for this scheme.

10. A biosecurity method statement will be produced as part of the scheme.