Ein cyf/Our ref: CAS-271629-B8Z8
Eich cyf/Your ref: P/2024/1348

Wrexham County Borough Council
The Guildhall
Wrexham
LL11 1AY

Dyddiad/Date: 28 January 2025

Annwyl Syr/Madam/Dear Sir/Madam,

BWRIAD/PROPOSAL: ADEILADU STORFA SLYRI AMAETHYDDOL GYDA'R PWLL DERBYN A'R GWAHANWR CYSYLLTIEDIG / CONSTRUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL SLURRY STORE WITH ASSOCIATED RECEPTION PIT AND SEPARATOR

LLEOLIAD/LOCATION: BORRAS HEAD FARM, BORRAS ROAD, BORRAS, WREXHAM, LL13 9TL

Thank you for consulting Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (CNC)/Natural Resources Wales (NRW) about the additional information for the above, which we received on 06 January 2025.

We have no objection to the proposed development as submitted and provide the following advice.

Pollution of Controlled Waters

We understand this proposal is to improve the existing slurry management system on the farm to conform with the requirements of The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021. The storage requirements of these Regulations came into force on 1 August 2024.

Provided the structure is designed and built by a suitably qualified engineer to meet the standards set in the Regulations and BS 5502 (Building and Structures for Agriculture Code of Practice for Design, Construction and Loading), we have no objection to the proposal.

We should be informed of any substantial changes at least 14 days before construction begins. Further information on what we require is available on our website at Natural Resources Wales / Silage and slurry storage.

The slurry should be applied to land in accordance with a suitable manure management plan (MMP) based on an underlying nutrient management plan (NMP). The Code of Good Agricultural Practice (COGAP) has standard formats for the MMP and associated NMP.

Protected Sites

River Dee and Bala Lake Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

We note the application site is within the catchment of the River Dee and Bala Lake Special Area of Conservation (SAC). In line with our *Advice to Planning Authorities for Planning Applications Affecting Nutrient Sensitive River Special Areas of Conservation* (28 June 2024), under the Habitats Regulations, Planning Authorities must consider the impact of proposed developments on water quality within SAC river catchments. We refer you in particular to the section of our Advice titled '*What does this mean for agricultural developments?*'

We note from the information submitted that there is an intention to increase the number of dairy cattle on the farm to 220, as detailed in Section 1.7 of the planning statement and included in the submitted slurry calculations and therefore an increase in slurry production.

We note the submission of drainage plans and farm risk map and have no further concerns relating to the management of effluent from the development.

Should you conclude that the proposed development is likely to have a significant effect on the SAC, please consult us on your Appropriate Assessment under Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

The application is located within approximately 620m of Vicarage Moss SSSI and 4.8km of Llay Bog SSSI.

Agricultural units have the potential to impact protected sites through ammonia emissions.

We note from Section 1.7 of the Planning Statement that the intention is to increase the dairy cattle to 220, with the current stock confirmed as 190 during a site visit carried out on 24/09/24 by NRW Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations (CoAPR) team.

An 'Ammonia screening assessment' (Ammonia screening assessment' for the Borras Head farm using the SCAIL model, dated 10/11/2024).

The SCAIL assessment shows betterment in terms of a reduction in the process contribution from the existing operation at 27% of the ammonia critical level to the proposed development producing 24% process contribution of ammonia critical level.

We have considered the SCAIL report submitted in support of the above application. Based on the information submitted, we consider that the proposed development is not likely to damage the features for which Vicarage Moss SSSI is of special interest.

Modifications to the scheme as currently proposed may affect our view and may merit a further consultation with us.

Other Matters

Our comments above only relate specifically to matters included on our checklist, *Development Planning Advisory Service: Consultation Topics* (September 2018), which is published on our website. We have not considered potential effects on other matters and do not rule out the potential for the proposed development to affect other interests.

We advise the applicant that, in addition to planning permission, it is their responsibility to ensure they secure all other permits/consents/licences relevant to their development. Please refer to our website for further details.

If you have any queries on the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yn gywir / Yours faithfully,

Rachael Burke
Cynghorydd - Cynllunio Datblygu/Advisor - Development Planning
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru/Natural Resources Wales

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi./Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.