

**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT OF A PROPOSAL LIKELY TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT
ON A EUROPEAN SITE**

CONSERVATION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES REGULATIONS 2017



PART A: The Proposal

1. Type of permission: Full	2. Consents and ROMP references: P/2022/0820	3. National Grid reference: 338510 346705
4. Map of Application site with Permission reference(s) Map Attached No	4. Brief description of consents and options To amend condition 7 of APP/H6955/A/183216187 which limits processing at the facility to 1,000,000 birds per week, and increase to 2,000,000 birds per week.	
6. European site name(s):	RIVER DEE AND BALA LAKE	
7. List of interest features: H3260. Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot S1095. <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ; Sea lamprey S1096. <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ; Brook lamprey S1099. <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ; River lamprey S1106. <i>Salmo salar</i> ; Atlantic salmon S1163. <i>Cottus gobio</i> ; Bullhead S1355. <i>Lutra lutra</i> ; Otter S1831. <i>Luronium natans</i> ; Floating water-plantain		

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PART B: Identification of effects being considered and relevant features affected			
Significant effect being considered (attribute affected)	Affected qualifying feature(s)	Favourable condition target(s) for relevant feature(s) based on conservation objectives set for SPA/ Ramsar	Contribution of attribute(s) to site integrity (ecological structure and functioning of site)
1. Pollution – risk to the aquatic environment through increase in effluent from the site.	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation Sea lamprey Brook lamprey River lamprey Atlantic salmon Bullhead Otter Floating water-plantain	<i>Taken from Core Management Plan Including conservation objectives for River Dee and Bala Lake version 3 2022.</i> Water quality Lower limit – Chemical GQA class: A Biological GQA class: A Targets for Chester Weir to Ceiriog Management Unit Total Ammonia (90%ile, mg l-1) 0.25 Phosphorus 50ug/l Trophic diatom index equivalent to WFD High	Water quality is essential to maintain populations of all the SAC features of interest. The Dee Chester Weir to Ceiriog is now showing a failure for phosphorus with mean value of 56.5ug/l up from 49.6ug/l.

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PART C: Assessment				
Significant effect being considered (attribute affected)	Adverse Effect of proposal alone on attribute and/or feature and in relation to conservation objective for the feature.	Adverse Effect of proposal in combination with other plans or projects, on attribute and /or feature	Adverse effect on the integrity of the site? : Long term/ short term Yes/ Uncertain No	What mitigation could prevent an adverse effect on the integrity of the site?

Pollution risk – particularly potential to increase Phosphorus and Ammonia levels in the River	High concentrations of phosphorus and ammonia lead to the process of nutrient enrichment, also known as eutrophication, and can alter the balance of plant species in our rivers causing significant ecological damage to all aspects of the ecosystem..	No specific in combination projects identified. However, approximately 48% of phosphorus within the catchment comes from rural land use which is outside the planning process.	Long term – no Short term – no	A previous permission was granted by the LPA in April (P/2022/0840) for a new treatment plant and new permit issued by NRW. The new permit will result in an overall improvement of the discharge <table><tr><th></th><th>Current Limits</th><th>New Permit Limits</th></tr><tr><td>Maximum Daily Volume</td><td>1500 m³/day</td><td>3120 m³/day</td></tr><tr><td>Mean Daily Volume</td><td>1200 m³/day</td><td>2400 m³/day</td></tr><tr><td>Phosphate as P</td><td>2.5 mg/l</td><td>1 mg/l</td></tr><tr><td>Calculated Maximum Phosphate</td><td>3.75Kg/day</td><td>3.12Kg/day</td></tr><tr><td>Calculated Mean Phosphate</td><td>3Kg/day</td><td>2.4Kg/day</td></tr></table> There will be a planning condition on this proposal to the effect that production cannot increase above 1,000,000 birds per week until the works granted permission under P/2022/0840 have been completed and made operational.		Current Limits	New Permit Limits	Maximum Daily Volume	1500 m³/day	3120 m³/day	Mean Daily Volume	1200 m³/day	2400 m³/day	Phosphate as P	2.5 mg/l	1 mg/l	Calculated Maximum Phosphate	3.75Kg/day	3.12Kg/day	Calculated Mean Phosphate	3Kg/day	2.4Kg/day
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PART D: Wrexham County Borough Council's Conclusion

CAN IT BE ASCERTAINED THAT THE PLAN OR PROJECT WILL NOT ADVERSELY EFFECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE EUROPEAN SITE(S)?

Direct Effects

Provided that the condition effectively prevents the increase of bird processing until the new treatment plant is in operation, and the factory remains in compliance with its new permit levels, there will be no direct increase in the levels of biological or chemical pollution in the River Dee.

Indirect Effect

None identified.

In Combination Effects

No in combination projects have been identified.

Conclusion

The increase in production will not result in adverse impacts to the SAC provided the limits of the new permit issued by NRW are not exceeded. Compliance with this separate permitting regime must be assumed.

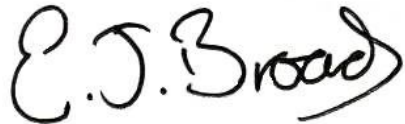
Name of Assessing Officer:
Emma Broad

Name of Supervising Officer:
Matthew Phillips

Job Title:
Ecology and Biodiversity Officer

Job Title: Head of Planning Development Management

Signed:



Date:

10/04/25

Signed:



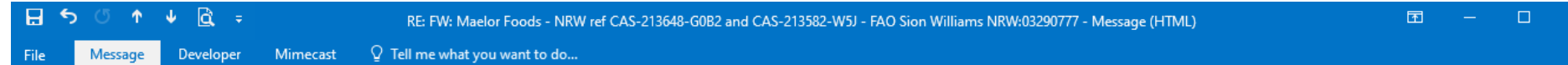
Date:

17/04/2025

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PART E: Consultation with NRW on Part D

Natural Resource Wales comment on conclusion:



RE: FW: Maelor Foods - NRW ref CAS-213648-G0B2 and CAS-213582-W5J - FAO Sion Williams NRW:03290777 - Message (HTML)

File Message Developer Mimecast Tell me what you want to do...

Ignore X Reply Reply All Forward More Meeting Move to: ? To Manager Team Email Done Reply & Delete Create New Rules OneNote Actions Mark Unread Categorize Follow Up Translate Find Related Select Zoom Send to OneNote



Tue 29/04/2025 13:49
North Planning <NorthPlanning@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
RE: FW: Maelor Foods - NRW ref CAS-213648-G0B2 and CAS-213582-W5J - FAO Sion Williams NRW:03290777

To: Matthew Phillips

If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

Good afternoon Matthew,

Thank you for consulting Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on your Habitats Regulations Assessment for the above development, which we received on 17/04/2025.

Our response should be taken as NRW's formal representation, as the appropriate nature conservation body, to your appropriate assessment (AA) (referenced/dated) under Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended.

In consideration of the mitigation measures detailed we agree with your conclusion that the development is unlikely to have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the River Dee and Bala Lake Special Area of Conservation.

Kind regards,

Siôn M. Williams
Cynghorydd - Cynllunio Datblygu / Advisor - Development Planning
Gwasanaeth Cynghori Cynllunio Datblygu / Development Planning Advisory Service
Fo/Fe / He/Him

