Design and Access Statement for Proposed Replacement Agricultural Slurry Lagoon at Halghton Villa, Horsemans Green, Whitchurch. SY13 3DY

P/2024/1655

Response to queries from third parties and Consultees

- **SAC Areas**, new or substantially altered manure / slurry store - all manure types including other 'organic manures' for example digestate or compost.
  Manure and slurry are not considered waste when they are used to improve soil or support crop growth. When manure or slurry are applied to land with no demonstrable benefit to the soil or crop growth or when they exceed the nutrient requirements of the crop, they are considered waste material. There is no anaerobic digestion, composting or other treatments that produce a product for sale.

  The manure management plan indicates that the application of farm produced FYM and slurry is vital crop production.

- **Great Crested Newts in the vicinity, that a preliminary ecological appraisal be carried out**. Ecological report from PJ Ecological Solutions, submitted 13/05/25.

- **Correct legislation.** DAS has been amended

- **Have other locations away from other residences been considered?** Yes, the proposed was conceded the most appropriate, as there are no additional heavy agricultural vehicles movements, from the Ecology'stepwise approach' the site was seen as located in an area generally unsuitable for newt habitat and the location is close to farm buildings and the current slurry store.

- **Has a cover for the slurry lagoon been considered?** Due to the size of the earth banked lagoon it is consider unpractical and uneconomical to install a cover.

- **Will the construction and usage of the lagoon increase or decrease the number of journeys undertaken by heavy agricultural vehicles?** The number of journeys is like to remain as existing or reduce if an umbilical pipe and pump are utilised.

- **Can the applicant confirm that the proposed slurry lagoon is for use for waste from this site only, or will other waste/slurry be brought in from other owned sites?** See below

- **Has the applicant considered how overspill from slurry transportation will be appropriately mitigated?** As the number of journeys is not increasing the risk of over spill will not change, the applicant is aware of nuisance cause by over spill and measures will be put into place clean any significant spillages that may occur. The

reduction of FYM transportation is likely to reduce and thus risk spillage from open top spreaders.

- **SAB**. Has the applicant engaged with the SAB team? (SAB@wrexham.gov.uk). No, Generally SAB teams only require involvement / application when the lagoons are covered and thus causing rainwater runoff.

- **Land Spreading of Manures and Slurries** We confirm that all manures and slurries produced on the holding are applied exclusively to the land held under the farm business.

- **Treatment or Export of Manures and Slurries** The farm business neither imports nor exports manures or slurries for any purpose, including as feedstock for anaerobic digestion.

- **Control Over the Destination of Material for Land Spreading** The transportation and application of slurries and manures are managed either by utilising the farm's own slurry tanker and FYM (Farmyard Manure) spreader or through the engagement of an agricultural contractor.
- **Manure Management Plan (MMP)** A detailed manure management plan is currently under development. However, in the interim, we have attached a nitrogen loading document that confirms the spreadable land area required to accommodate all manures and slurries produced.
  This calculation identifies a minimum spreadable area of 89.91 hectares, based on a nitrogen application rate of 250Nkg/Ha per annum. Mr Huxley has confirmed that there is over 300Ha of available spreadable land.

- **Comments from Applicant.** *We have tried to respect the other residences as much as possible, but the area of land owned directly joining the farm is relatively small which is a limiting factor. We have tried to keep the lagoon up towards the farm as much as we could but have also had to consider access and making sure the drainage system could work. We also wanted to keep away from water courses as much as possible too.*
  The lagoon is solely for the farm to comply with new nvz regulations, no expansion is planned and no slurry will be imported in.
  The lagoon will enable us to have more slurry storage so constant movement of heavy agricultural vehicles of carting slurry/ FYM will no longer be needed easing traffic concerns. Only movement will be in open periods in accordance with MMP.

  More slurry storage on farm will reduce the amount of semi solid waste. This means we can utilise a tanker rather than a manure spreader reducing the overspill issue raised and we can also utilise an umbilical pumping system to export some of our waste which does not require road traffic.