P/2024/1285 – Response to Natural Resources Wales

This letter explains further design evolution which has taken place on the above scheme, notably after discussion with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) at a meeting on 30 April 2025.

NRW issued a letter dated 6 March 2025. Whilst progress had been made since their previous letter, there were points raised under the following themes:

Ecological features

NRW commented on three areas within the previous scheme – trees, ponds, and open ditches.

The Applicant has revised their drawings to reference the presence of an existing open ditch within the red line boundary. This connects into a wider network of ditches running around the Wrexham Industrial Estate.

The drawings also now include five wildlife ponds which is an increase of three on the originally submitted drawings. This is a high quality, on-site provision of a feature which will directly support the Favourable Conservation Status of Great Crested Newts.

The Applicant notes that there are 82 proposed trees within the proposals, including 45 'heavy standard' trees of which 12 are "quercus robus (pedunculate oak) trees. This considered an appropriate provision and has a positive impact from an ecology perspective.

The updated proposals were discussed with NRW at the April meeting and feedback was positive. The Applicant believes that the overall ecology provision proposed within the Section 73 application is a substantial improvement on previous plans.

Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

NRW made comments on specific features (attenuation ponds) which were not included within the scope of the LEMP. This has now been referenced, alongside the existing ditches identified above.

The Strategic Ecology Corridor

The NRW letter noted the Applicant's emerging plans for delivering strategic approach for ecology, noting their significant legal interest in land within and in the environs of the Wrexham Industrial Estate. Proposals for the Strategic Ecology Corridor were presented at a meeting to NRW in April 2025 and, based on the pre-application consultation response received, this has been received favourable. A planning application will come forward in due course; however, it is not relevant to the determination of this Section 73 application.