



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales**

Ein cyf/Our ref: CAS-210747-Z1F6
Eich cyf/Your ref: P/2023/0074

Maes Y Ffynnon,
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northplanning@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

08/03/2023

Annwyl Syr/Madam / Dear Sir/Madam,

BWRIAD / PROPOSAL: DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DWELLING AND ERECTION OF REPLACEMENT DWELLING

LLEOLIAD / LOCATION: HIGH BARTON, MARFORD HILL, MARFORD, WREXHAM, LL12 8SY

Thank you for consulting Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales about the above, which we received on 28/02/2023.

We have concerns with the application as submitted. However, we are satisfied that these concerns can be overcome if the documents identified below are included in the approved plans and documents condition on the decision notice:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Preliminary Roost Assessment, High Barton Marford Hill Marford LL12 8SY, Andrea Hodgson 25/04/2022
- Bat Emergence and Re-entry Surveys, High Barton, Marford Hill, Marford, Wrexham, LL12 8SY, Arbtech, 11/08/2022.

Please note, without the inclusion of these documents we would object to this planning application. Further details are provided below.

Protected Species

We note that the bat report submitted in support of the above application (Arbtech 2022 Bat Emergence and Re-entry Surveys, High Barton, Marford Hill, Marford, Wrexham, LL12 8SY) has identified that bats are present at the application site (day roost of one common pipistrelle bat). From the information submitted, we consider that the proposed development represents a lower risk for bats, as defined in our guidance document '*Natural Resources Wales Approach to Bats and Planning (2015)*'.

Bats and their breeding and resting places are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Where bats 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 tests set out in the Regulations (please also refer to Paragraph 6.3.7 of Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning). Please note, for the purposes of providing advice at the planning application stage, our comments are limited to the test relating to *“demonstration of no detriment to the maintenance of the favourable conservation status of European protected species”*.

As this is a lower risk case for bats, we consider that the development is not likely to be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. However, we advise that the proposed development is likely to harm or disturb the bats or their breeding sites and resting places at this site and, therefore, we advise that all avoidance and mitigation measures described in the bat report must be undertaken.

The report must be included in the ‘approved list of plans / documents’ condition within the decision notice should consent for the project be granted.

Please consult us again if any further information shows that this is no longer a lower risk case.

NRW would refer the Local Authority to the Chief Planning Officer’s letter dated 01 March 2018 which advises Local Planning Authorities to attach an informative regarding licence requirements to all consents and notices where European Protected Species are likely to be present on site.

Protected Sites and Foul Drainage

We note the application site is within the catchment of the River Dee and Bala Lake Special Area of Conservation (SAC). As you are aware, on the 21st January 2021, we published an evidence package outlining phosphorus levels for all river SACs across Wales. In line with our [Planning Advice](#) (July 2022), under the Habitats Regulations, Planning Authorities must consider the phosphorus impact of proposed developments on water quality within SAC river catchments.

We note the application is for the replacement of an existing dwelling. Therefore, the application as submitted is unlikely to increase the amount of phosphorus entering the catchment. We are therefore satisfied that the proposal is not likely to have a significant effect on the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC.

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,

Pauline Gallagher Brown

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