

Ein cyf/Our ref: CAS-242655-Y5V2
Eich cyf/Your ref: P/2023/0482

Wrexham County Borough Council
The Guildhall
Wrexham
LL11 1AY

Dyddiad/Date: 01 December 2023

Annwyl Syr/Madam/Dear Sir/Madam,

BWRIAD/PROPOSAL: Adeiladu cyfleuster gweithfynhychu a maes parcio a gwaith tirlunio cysylltiedig / Construction of manufacturing facility and associated car parking and landscaping.

LLEOLIAD/LOCATION: Land at Ash Road North, Wrexham Industrial Estate, Wrexham, LL13 9JT

Thank you for consulting Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (CNC)/Natural Resources Wales (NRW) with additional information about the above, which we received on 16 November 2023.

We continue to have concerns with the application as submitted because inadequate information has been provided in support of the proposal. To overcome these concerns, further consideration is required regarding foul drainage. Further details are provided below.

We also advise that based on the information submitted to date, conditions regarding contaminated land and protected species should be attached to any planning permission granted and the document identified below should be included in the approved plans and documents condition on the decision notice.

- **Hall, C. (2023). Preliminary Ecological Assessment: preserve Site, Wrexham Industrial Estate. Cambrian Ecology Ltd.**

Without the inclusion of these conditions and document we would object to this planning application.

Contaminated Land

We have reviewed the Ground Investigation Report (Ipsen East, Phase 1 & 2 Ground Investigation Report. 14 July 2023. Ref: 2867/01 Rev A, prepared by GroundSolve Ltd.) and the email received from the applicant's agent dated 14.11.23.

We advise that the following conditions should be applied to any planning permission granted -

Condition 1: Unsuspected Contamination - If, during development, contamination not previously identified is found to be present at the site then no further development (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority) shall be carried out until a remediation strategy detailing how this unsuspected contamination shall be dealt with has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The remediation strategy shall be carried out as approved.

Justification: To ensure the risks associated with previously unsuspected contamination at the site are dealt with through a remediation strategy, to minimise the risk to both future users of the land and neighbouring land, and to ensure that the development can be carried out safely without unacceptable risks.

Condition 2: Piling - No development, or phase of development, shall commence until details of piling or any other foundation designs using penetrative methods sufficient to demonstrate that there is no unacceptable risk to groundwater have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The piling/foundation designs shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Justification: Piling/foundation details should be submitted to ensure there is no unacceptable risk to groundwater during construction and methods/design are agreed prior to the commencement of development or phase of development.

Foul Drainage and Protected Sites

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 (August 2023), under the Habitats Regulations, Planning Authorities must consider the phosphorus impact of proposed developments on water quality within SAC river catchments. We therefore advise you to consider whether the proposals, as submitted, would increase the volume of foul discharge from the site in planning terms.

This application for a new manufacturing facility proposes connection of foul water to the mains sewer. We note from the information submitted that there would be a reduction in the overall building footprint from 8000m² to 4000m² in addition to the proposed staff levels of 24 compared to 60 staff prior to the demolition of the buildings in 2018. However, we also note that the site has been vacant for nearly 5 years. We would therefore advise that you determine whether this can be viewed as a reduction given that the current site will not have discharged any foul drainage for several years. The information set out in the section titled 'What does this mean for development proposals involving connection to public wastewater treatment works' has been submitted with the application.

Your Authority will need to take the above into account in your determination of whether the development is likely to have a significant effect on the SAC. Should you determine that an Appropriate Assessment is required, the Applicant will then need to submit whatever evidence they deem appropriate (seeking advice from consultants as may be necessary) to demonstrate no adverse effect on site integrity. You should then consult us on your Appropriate Assessment under Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Ultimately, the suitability of foul drainage arrangements for the proposed development is a matter for your Authority to determine.

Protected Species

Great Crested Newts

We note that the following documents have been submitted in support of the application -

- Preliminary Ecological Assessment for Proserve Site, Wrexham Industrial Estate by Cambrian Ecology Ltd. Dated 22.05.2023)
- Great Crested Newt Survey report (GCN Survey Report for Ipsen East, Ash Road, Wrexham Industrial Estate by Etive Ecology, dated October 2023)
- Planning_Newt Hibernaculum for NDPF Wrexham Drawing No. 7035 Rev P3

These documents identified that Great Crested Newt (GCN) have been recorded in the vicinity of the application site therefore the overall proposal has the potential to cause disturbance to GCN and/or loss or damage to their resting places.

GCN and their breeding and resting places are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Where GCN 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 would be limited to the test relating to “*demonstration of no detriment to the maintenance of the favourable conservation status of European protected species*”.

We note that Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) have been included in section 4 of the Great Crested Newt Survey report, however we consider that further details should be submitted to ensure these cover site wide activities rather than just the removal of the stockpile. Therefore, we advise that the following condition be attached to any planning permission for this scheme to ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures.

Provided those measures are implemented, we do not consider that the proposed development is likely to be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.

Condition 1: No development shall commence until a Great Crested Newts Method Statement has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Method Statement shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- Submission of great crested newt avoidance and mitigation measures, building upon the principles outlined in Section 4 of the ecological report (Great Crested Newt Survey report (GCN Survey Report for Ipsen East, Ash Road, Wrexham Industrial Estate by Etive Ecology, dated October 2023).The details to include identified Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) such as barrier fencing; and measures to be carried out that ensure working areas are clear of GCN prior to the commencement of construction and related works.

- Biosecurity Risk Assessment to include appropriate measures to control any Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) (e.g., Chytrid) on site; and measures or actions that aim to prevent INNS being introduced to the site for the duration of construction and operational phases of the scheme.

The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Justification: To ensure that an approved GCN Method Statement is implemented, which protects GCN affected by the development.

This advice applies to the proposal in its present form. If the plans are changed in ways that may affect GCN on this site, you would need a revised ecology report that takes account of such changes.

Bats

We note that the bat report submitted in support of the above application (Preliminary Ecological Assessment for Proserve Site, Wrexham Industrial Estate. By Cambrian Ecology Ltd. Dated 22.05.2023) has identified that bats are likely to be using the site for foraging and commuting. 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).

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.

Furthermore, we advise that the proposed development is not likely to harm or disturb the bats at this site, provided the avoidance measures described in section 8.2.2 of the Preliminary Ecological Assessment detailed above are implemented.

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.

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,

Sara Thomas

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

E-bost/E-mail: northplanning@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

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.