

Maes Y Ffynnon,
Penrhosgarnedd,
Bangor,
Gwynedd
LL572DW

Wrexham County Borough Council,
The Guildhall,
Wrexham,
LL11 1AY

ebost/email:
northplanning@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
Ffôn/Phone: 03000 65 5236

07/06/2022

Dear Ms Hill,

PROPOSAL: DEMOLITION OF FARMHOUSE AND ERECTION OF REPLACEMENT DWELLING INCLUDING, CONVERSION OF OUTBUILDING AND DEMOLITION OF AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS

LOCATION: COTTAGE GREEN FARM, WORTHENBURY, WREXHAM

Thank you for consulting Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales about the above, which we received on 18/05/2022.

We have concerns with the application as submitted because inadequate information has been provided in support of the proposal. To overcome these concerns, you should seek further information from the applicant regarding protected species. If this information is not provided, we would object to this planning application. Further details are provided below.

We also advise that based on the information submitted to date, a condition regarding biosecurity should be attached to any planning permission granted. Without the inclusion of this condition we would object to this planning application.

Protected Species

We note that the bat report submitted in support of the above application (Dunelm Ecology. Gorse Farm, Worthenbury. Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. April 2022.) has identified that bats are present at the application site. 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)*'. However, we advise that the report has insufficient information to assess the need for avoidance / mitigation measures for both bats and great crested newts. Bats and their breeding and

resting places are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Further information required: Further survey work to inform impacts and mitigation measures in respect of GCN and bats as set out in sections 4.3.2 and 4.3.3 of the above report.

In the meantime, we are unable to give you any assurance that the proposal would not be likely to be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.

Biosecurity Risk Assessment

Condition: No development, including site clearance, with the potential to impact on invasive species, shall commence until a site wide Biosecurity Risk Assessment has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The risk assessment shall include measures to control, remove or for the long-term management of invasive species both during construction and operation. The Biosecurity Risk Assessment shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Justification: To ensure that an approved Biosecurity Risk Assessment is implemented to secure measures to control the spread and effective management of any invasive non-native species at the site.

Protected Site 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. As part of this package, we issued a [Planning Position Statement](#), in which we advised that any proposed development that might increase the amount of phosphate (or phosphorus) within a river SAC catchment could lead to damaging effects to the SAC. Therefore, such proposals should be screened through a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), to determine whether they are likely to have a significant effect on the SAC.

However, recognising the specific nature of the application submitted namely, replacement private sewage package treatment system which meets the screening criteria set out in our [Planning Advice](#) (May 2021), we are satisfied that it is unlikely to increase the amount of phosphorus entering the catchment. Therefore, we are 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.

Yours faithfully,

Joy Evans

Cynghorydd - Cynllunio Datblygu / Advisor - Development Planning

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales