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15/12/2021

Annwyl Syr/Madam / Dear Sir/Madam,

BWRIAD / PROPOSAL: DEMOLITION OF EXISTING CHAPEL AND CONSTRUCTION OF A TWO STOREY BUILDING CONTAINING FOUR TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS.

LLEOLIAD / LOCATION: ENGEDI CHAPEL, HIGH STREET, BRYMBO, WREXHAM

Thank you for consulting Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales about the above, which we received on 02/03/2021.

We continue to have concerns with the application as submitted. However, we are satisfied that these concerns can be overcome by attaching the following condition to any planning permission granted:

Condition 1: European Protected Species

We also advise that based on the information submitted to date, the documents identified below should be included in the approved plans and documents condition on the decision notice. Without the inclusion of the condition and document we would object to this planning application.

Document 1: Marshall, P. (2021) Ecological Appraisal – Bats and Birds: Former Engedi Chapel, High Street, Brymbo, Wrexham, LL11 5BQ. Greenscape Environmental. Unpublished

Protected Species

We note that the bat report submitted in support of the above application (Greenscape Environmental, 2021) has identified that bats are present at the application site. From the information submitted, we consider that the proposed development represents a higher 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).

We advise that the proposed development is likely to harm or disturb the bats or their breeding sites and resting places at this site. Therefore, we advise that the below condition should 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: Protected Species: No development shall commence until a bat Conservation Plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The bat Conservation Plan shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- Build upon the principles outlined in the ecological report (reference Marshall, P. (2021) , Ecological Appraisal – Bats and Birds: Former Engedi Chapel, High Street, Brymbo, Wrexham, LL11 5BQ. Greenscape Environmental . Unpublished.)
- Details of timing, phasing and duration of construction activities and conservation measures
- Timetable for implementation and demonstrating that works are aligned with the proposed phasing of the development
- Measures to prevent incidental capture or killing of bats post development
- Actions to be taken in event previously unidentified species of bat are found
- Ecological Compliance Audit, including key performance indicators
- Persons responsible for implementing the works
- Post construction monitoring and record dissemination for a period of not less than 5 years
- Further details of the outlined external lighting and internal light spillage scheme; together with plans illustrating projected bat emergence points and dispersal corridors between bat roost access points and features planned to be functionally used by bats for foraging/dispersal purposes

The Conservation Plan shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details. We have no objection to the conservation plan including other species considered by the LPA to be material to the planning decision making process.

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 – Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

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. We have also issued [Planning Advice](#) (May 2021) which gives specific advice in respect of foul drainage arrangements for new developments.

We note from the information submitted that the development has the potential to increase the amount of phosphorus being discharged from the site. As such, we refer you to our [Planning Advice](#) and advise you to seek further information from the applicant. We advise you to seek further information as identified in the section titled 'What does this mean for development proposals involving connection to public wastewater treatment works' of that advice.

Provided this advice is followed and you are able to conclude that the development is not likely to have a significant effect on the SAC, we would have no objection to the proposal. However, should you conclude that the proposed development is likely to have a significant effect on the SAC, please consult us on your Appropriate Assessment under Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

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,

Garmon Lewis

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