

19/09/2018

Er sylw / For the attention of: Mared Rees

Dear Ms Rees,

**BWRIAD / PROPOSAL: OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR DEMOLITION OF
EXISTING DWELLING AND ERECTION OF 2 NO. NEW
DWELLINGS WITH ALL DETAILED MATTERS
RESERVED**

LLEIOLIAD / LOCATION: Tintern, Pistyll Hill, Marford, Wrexham - P/2018/0599

Thank you for consulting Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales about the above, which was received on 03/09/2018.

We have significant concerns with the proposed development as submitted. We recommend that you should only grant planning permission if the scheme can meet the following requirement. We would object if the scheme does not meet this requirement.

Requirement – EPS – Further bat emergence survey to be undertaken as recommended in the ecological report, prior to the determination of this application.

Requirement – Foul drainage – further information is required to demonstrate that either the foul drainage will be discharged to the main sewerage system or that it is not reasonable to connect to the mains.

Protected Species

We note that the bat report submitted in support of the above application (reference Worsfold, S. (2018). Protected Species Survey at Tintern, Pistyll Hill, Marford, Wrexham. Worsfold and Bowen. Unpublished) has identified the potential for bats to be present at the application site. The report recommends further survey.

Bats and their breeding sites and resting places are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Any development that would contravene the protection afforded to bats under the Regulations would require a derogation licence from Natural Resources Wales. A licence may only be authorised if:

- i. There is no satisfactory alternative and
- ii. The action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range. In addition,
- iii. the development works to be authorised must be for the purposes of preserving public health or safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment.

Paragraph 6.3.7 of Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (TAN5) states that your Authority should not grant planning permission without having satisfied itself that the proposed development either would not impact adversely on any bats on the site or that, in its opinion, all three conditions for the eventual grant of a licence are likely to be satisfied.

Although a bat report has been submitted, we consider that there is not enough information to assess potential effects of the proposal on any species of the bat that may be present at this site. We therefore concur with the recommendations of the ecological report that further survey is required for the purposes of informing the planning decision making process.

Requirement – EPS – Further bat emergence survey to be undertaken as recommended in the ecological report, prior to the determination of this application.

Therefore, we have significant concerns with the development as currently proposed, and recommend planning permission is refused until it can be demonstrated that the proposed development will either not harm or disturb the bats or their breeding sites and resting places at this site, or all 3 conditions for the eventual grant of a licence under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 are likely to be satisfied.

NRW would refer the Planning Authority to the letter from the Welsh Government to Chief Planning Officer's 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.

Foul Drainage

Requirement – Foul drainage – further information is required to demonstrate that either the foul drainage will be discharged to the main sewerage system or that it is not reasonable to connect to the mains.

No information has been submitted regarding the disposal of foul waters from the proposed development. We refer you to Welsh Government Circular 008/2018 on private drainage, specifically paragraphs 2.3-2.5 which stress the first presumption

must be to provide a system of foul drainage discharging into a public sewer. Only where having taken into account the cost and/or practicability it can be shown to the satisfaction of the local planning authority that connection to a public sewer is not feasible, should non-mains foul sewage disposal solutions be considered. We note the proposed development is in a publicly sewered area and as such, we would expect the site to connect to the mains sewerage system.

We therefore advise that if they haven't already done so, the Applicant should thoroughly investigate the possibility of connecting to the foul sewer by taking the following steps:

- Formally approach the sewerage undertaker regarding a connection under Section 106 or a requisition under Section 98 of the Water Industry Act (WIA) 1991.
- Serve notice for connection under Section 106 of the WIA 1991 if the sewerage undertaker has refused connection.
- Provide details of the reasons given by the sewerage undertaker if it has refused connection under section 98 or section 106 of the WIA 1991 and confirmation that they have appealed against this decision.
- Demonstrate that it is not reasonable to connect to the public foul sewer.
- Where it is not reasonable to connect to the public foul sewer, demonstrate that they have considered requesting that the sewerage undertaker adopt their proposed system.

The Applicant should be aware that should a connection to the mains sewer not be feasible, they will need to apply for an environmental permit or register an exemption with us. The Applicant must obtain any necessary permit or exemption prior to commencement of work on site. Septic tanks and small sewage treatment works may be registered as exempt from the requirement to obtain an environmental permit if certain criteria is met. Please note, should a permit be required, further information may be required as part of that application and the Applicant is therefore advised to hold pre-application discussions with our Permitting Team on 0300 065 3000, at the earliest opportunity, to try to ensure that there is no conflict between any planning permission granted and the permit requirements. More information, including a step by step guide to registering and the relevant application forms are available on our [website](#). Where private sewage treatment/disposal facilities are utilised, they must be installed and maintained in accordance with British Standards 6297 and Approved Document H of the Building Regulations. We also refer the Applicant to [Pollution Prevention Guideline 4](#) which provides further information.

Please note, lack of capacity or plans to improve capacity in the sewer is not a valid reason for a sewerage undertaker to refuse connection under Section 106 of the Water Industry Act 1991 and we may refuse to issue an environmental permit for private treatment facilities in such circumstances.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information or clarification of any of the above.

Our comments above only relate specifically to matters that are included on our checklist "Natural Resources Wales and Planning Consultations" (March 2015) which is published on our website:

(<https://naturalresources.wales/media/5271/150302-natural-resources-wales-and-planning-consultations-final-eng.pdf>). We have not considered potential effects on other matters and do not rule out the potential for the proposed development to affect other interests, including environmental interests of local importance.

The applicant should be advised that, in addition to planning permission, it is their responsibility to ensure that they secure all other permits/consents relevant to their development.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely,

Joy Evans

Ms J Evans
Cynghorydd Cynllunio Datblygu / Development Planning Advisor
Gwasanaeth Cyngor Cynllunio Datblygu/
Development Planning Advisory Service