

Philip Forster
Planning Control Department
Wrexham County Borough Council
16 Lord Street
Wrexham
LL11 1LG

Date: 11th February 2016

Dear Mr Forster,

**USE OF LAND FOR THE ERECTION OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ARRAY (UP TO 10 MW)
INCLUDING METERING AND INVERTER KIOSKS, SECURITY CAMERAS, FENCING AND
GATES AND A TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION COMPOUND AND ACCESS TRACK
LAND TO THE WEST AND NORTH OF BORRAS HALL, BORRAS HALL LANE, LLAN Y PWLL,
WREXHAM, LL13 9SG**

Thank you for forwarding the correspondence from the applicants (Jenny Coxon, Caulmert email 26th November 2015 08:43), which we received on the 21st January 2016.

We have re-reviewed the ecological submission (Reference, Grey, R. (2015). Proposed Solar PV Scheme, Borrass Hall Farm, Wrexham: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. Etive Ecology Ltd. Unpublished.

The ecological appraisal was carried out in July 2015. No detailed field survey was carried out to inform the public decision making process. Consequently the ecological submission does not evidence the absence of the species from the site. Furthermore the ecological submission suggests the potential for a breach in species protection legislation.

Our experience of solar arrays is that impacts are most likely to occur during the construction phase. Discussion at a UK level had confirmed that construction of such features should be carried out under licence.

Wrexham Industrial Estate and its environs are considered to support a nationally important population of great crested. Other populations considered to be of at least county importance have been found at Borrass.

We consider the application site to be within the range of known populations of this species. Consequently, we advise that works are subject to licence. Dispersal can be up to 500m from natal ponds.

We therefore wish to reaffirm our advice that works are carried out under licence in this case.

We however amend our previous response. This modification is based on a revision to the last suggested condition in respect of ecology.

The inclusion of a planning condition to any planning permission that prevents the commencement of development, including clearance of vegetation and other propriety works, until your Authority has been provided with:

- (i) Evidence confirming the absence of the species, including breeding sites, or resting places. Evidence shall be submitted to the satisfaction of the LPA; or
- (ii) A licence that has been issued to the applicant by Natural Resources Wales pursuant to Regulation 53 of the Conservation of habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) ; or
- (iii) Natural Resources Wales has informed the applicant that such a licence is not required.

We welcome proposals to manage areas sympathetically for GCN. We would recommend that a condition be included to this effect.

We remind you of our recommended conditions and comments relating to other species, and other aspects of the proposal, within our letter dated 25th November 2015.

Yn gywir / Yours' faithfully,



Mr. GARETH THOMAS
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Deialu uniongyrchol/Direct dial: (0300) 065 3786 **Siaradwr Cymraeg / Welsh Speaker**



cc: Caulmert