

R I C H A R D S

M O O R E H E A D & L A I N G L T D

ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL and LANDSCAPE SPECIALISTS

20110701smb

2909/5 - motorcycles

1st July 2011

If telephoning please ask for: Stephen Blunt

North Wales Minerals and Waste Planning Service
c/o Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
CH7 6NF

FAO Hannah Parish, Senior Minerals and Waste Officer

Dear Sirs,

RESTORATION OF FORMER SAND AND GRAVEL QUARRY AT CEFN Y BEDD P/2011/0272

Further to the comments of consultees, and our site meeting on 27th June, we write with further information and explanation about the proposals which we trust will address the points raised.

EXCLUSION OF UNAUTHORISED MOTORCYCLE ACTIVITY

A Present level of activity

The site has been used without authorisation over several years, but there has been substantial erosion and degradation of the habitat between summer 2010 and summer 2011, as shown by the photographs on following pages.

This degradation will continue as long as the site presents an attraction to motorcyclists. Previous attempts by the owner to fence the boundary were immediately damaged. A trench and bank constructed along the road frontage has reduced the extent of fly-tipping although smaller items are still left, but this bank does not deter motorcycles. Tracks into the site indicate that motorcycles enter from adjacent land, not just from the road.

B Effect on habitats and landscape

The area of grassland and herbaceous vegetation has been reduced substantially by this activity, and much of the site's biodiversity value is at risk. The foraging area for amphibians, and suitability of the site for colonisation by reptiles badgers and breeding birds, are greatly reduced by this disturbance. Similarly the degradation of the site's vegetation is reducing its landscape value for the two properties which have a view into it, and in the filtered views available to pedestrians on Park Lane.



55 WELL STREET, RUTHIN, DENBIGHSHIRE LL15 1AF - Tel +44(0)1824 704366, Fax +44(0)1824 705450

E mail: rml@rmlconsult.com Web: www.rmlconsult.com

Registered in England No. 1848683 VAT Reg. No. 401 4243 13

C Installation of roadside fencing

Drawing 2909/03 shows the proposed fencing for the site. Stockproof fencing (new or existing) will be used to contain areas where livestock grazing is intended, but palisade security fencing will be erected inside the existing boundary hedgerow along Park Road. This is to deter vandalism and fly-tipping during periods when the site is not active, and to meet the operator's obligations for site security if the proposals are approved. The owner is not in a position to install 120 m of palisade fence simply to exclude unauthorised motorcyclists, and it is doubtful that this fence alone would achieve exclusion as they currently use other routes into the site. It is considered that motorcyclists would be deterred if the attractiveness of the site (the challenge of banks and steep slopes) was removed by restoration.

Site photographs showing progressive degradation by motorcycle activity



Internet
aerial
photograph
pre-2010

Early
stages of
motorcycle
activity



6 May
2010



6 May
2010



15 June
2010



13 October
2010

www.rmlconsult.com



13 October
2010

NW corner
near ABC
Day
Nursery



6 May
2010

Pond used
by Great
Crested
Newts



27 June
2011



27 June
2011



27 June
2011



27 June
2011



27 June
2011

We trust that these comments provide sufficient explanation of the proposals as they relate to the queries and concerns raised, but please contact us if you have any further queries.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Blunt

pp. **Ivor G Richards OBE, Managing Director**
RICHARDS, MOOREHEAD & LAING LTD

c. Mr John Williams

www.rmlconsult.com