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Wrexham County Borough Council,
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26/07/2021

Annwyl Syr/Madam / Dear Sir/Madam,

**BWRIAD / PROPOSAL: CAIS I DROI YSGUBOR GARREG DDIDDEFNYDD YN DDAU
FWTHYN GWYLIAU / PROPOSED CONVERSION OF REDUNDANT TWO STOREY
STONE BUILT BARN INTO 2 NO. HOLIDAY LET COTTAGES**

LLEOLIAD / LOCATION: TY MAWR, PONTFADOG, LLANGOLLEN (MINOR)

Thank you for consulting Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales about the above, which we received on 12/07/2021.

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 sites and foul drainage. 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 European protected species should be attached to any planning permission granted. Without the inclusion of this condition we would object to this planning application.

Protected Sites and Foul Drainage

We note the application site is within the catchment of the River Dee and Llyn Tegid 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 a new septic tank is to be installed to provide foul drainage for the conversion of the barn to two holiday let cottages. As such, we refer you to our [Planning Advice](#) and advise you to seek further information from the applicant, as identified in the bullet point list given in the section titled 'What does this mean for development proposals involving private sewage treatment systems' 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).

Protected Species

We note that the bat report submitted in support of the above application (Cutmore, S. (2020). Barn at Ty Mawr, Pontfadog, Llangollen, Wrexham: Building Development – Protected Species Survey: Stephen Cutmore Arboricultural and Ecological Services) 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. We therefore advise that it is carried out under licence.

We note that outline mitigation and compensation proposals could be undertaken. However, no clarity or detail has been provided in respect of measures that are proposed to be undertaken if the application is approved.

We consider that the proposed development is not likely to be detrimental to the maintenance of the favourable conservation status of each of the local populations of bat present at this site provided any subsequent consent is subject to suitable planning conditions, which would address the current uncertainty issues associated with the submission.

Condition: No development shall commence until a Conservation Plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Conservation Plan shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- Build upon the principles outlined in the ecological report (reference. Cutmore, S. (2020). Barn at Ty Mawr, Pontfadog, Llangollen, Wrexham: Building Development – Protected Species Survey: Stephen Cutmore Arboricultural and Ecological Services)
- Submission of further details including plans for proposed bat roost retention, enhancement or compensation measures.
- 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.
- Actions to be taken in the event that previously unidentified species of bat are found.
- Measures designed to minimize or prevent incidental capture or killing of bats post construction.
- 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 3 years.
- Further details concerning any external lighting 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. We advise that proposals accord with Institute of Lighting Professionals/Bat Conservation Trust Guidance Note 08/18: Bats and Artificial lighting in the UK).

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.

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.

Advice for the Developer

Pollution Prevention

During the construction phase you should take any precaution to prevent contamination of surface water drains and local watercourses. Oils and chemicals should be stored in bunded areas and spill kits should be readily available in case of accidental spillages.

For further guidance please refer to GPP 5 and PPG 6 at the following link:
<http://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/pollution-prevention-guidelines-ppgs-and-replacement-series/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-gpps-full-list/>

If you have any queries on the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yn gywir / Yours faithfully,

Rhys Jones

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