

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

20120718smb

2909/5

18th July 2012

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 AT CEFN Y BEDD P/2011/0272– ARBORICULTURE

Further to your email dated 7.6.2012 relaying comments from the County's Arboricultural Officer on our report of January 2012, we wish to respond as follows:

1. 'Not all trees have been recorded on the tree survey on the northern and western boundaries of the site.'

The survey covers all significant trees, as set out in paragraph 2.1.2 of the report.

Trees with root protection areas outside the limit of proposed disturbance were not surveyed for the reason stated in 2.1.3.

2. 'I disagree with some of the findings of the tree survey, in particular the BS 5837:2005 grading of some of the tree'

Without knowing which trees Moray is referring to and what his judgement of their grading would be, it is difficult for us to comment other than to confirm that the surveyor is fully qualified, highly experienced and was working to the accepted best practice grading system.

3. I strongly object to the location of ground disturbance and fill on the western boundary of the site adjacent to Wat's Dyke. This will result in the majority of the trees on the eastern slope of the dyke being lost.

This comment is contrary to the findings of the survey, which was carried out in conjunction with setting out and pegging the boundary of the proposed filling, so that the arboriculturist could see exactly the limits of work. As the Tree Protection Plan 2909-13 shows, the extent of ground disturbance is at least 3m below the ridge of Wat's Dyke, and while this encroaches on the canopy spread of the smaller self-sown trees on the western boundary (as plotted from aerial photograph) this disturbance at the margin would not cause significant root damage. Wat's Dyke would therefore retain a woodland cover as the backdrop to views westwards across the site. The proposed level of fill at this edge matches the edge of former mineral extraction, and so any trees that are lost (other than those recommended for removal for reasons stated in the report) are growing on the face of the mineral extraction rather than on Wat's Dyke itself. You will recall that the landscape and visual effects of the proposals were covered in the Statement which accompanied the planning application.



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

We have sent our report on the background noise measurement separately, and await the completion of the Article 16 form relating to Protected Species from the County Ecologist in order that we can discuss details of the degree to which the proposed works would affect Great Crested Newts.

We look forward to resolving the outstanding matters soon.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Blunt

pp.

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

www.rmlconsult.com

