

Ein cyf/Our ref: CAS-240610-W0J4
Eich cyf/Your ref: P/2023/0664

Wrexham County Borough Council
The Guildhall
Wrexham
LL11 1AY

Dyddiad/Date: 06 November 2023

Annwyl Syr/Madam/Dear Sir/Madam,

BWRIAD/PROPOSAL: Two storey rear extension

LLEOLIAD/LOCATION: West View, Overton Road, Marchwiel, Wrexham, LL13 0TE

Thank you for consulting Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (CNC)/Natural Resources Wales (NRW) about the above, which we received on 18 October 2023.

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 species. 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, the document identified below should be included in the approved plans and documents condition on the decision notice. Without the inclusion of this document we would object to this planning application.

- Approved document: West View, Marchwiel; Bat and Nesting Bird Survey by Enfys Ecology, dated 10/09/2022

Protected Species

Great Crested Newts (GCN)

We note that the ecology report submitted (West View, Marchwiel; Bat and Nesting Bird Survey by Enfys Ecology dated 10/09/2022) states that Enfys Ecology were also commissioned to produce:

“ a separate Ecological Assessment and Method Statement with regards to Great Crested Newts (GCN) (Triturus cristatus) in regards to proposed works at West View, Marchwiel”

However, the separate GCN report does not appear to have been submitted with the planning application.

We note that there is a pond adjacent to the site and several others within 500m. We also note that there are numerous records of GCN within 500m of the application site.

GCN and their breeding and resting places are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Where GCN are present and a development proposal is likely to contravene the legal protection they are afforded, the development may only proceed under licence issued by Natural Resources Wales, having satisfied the three tests set out in the Regulations (please also refer to Paragraph 6.3.7 of Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning). Please note, for the purposes of providing advice at the planning application stage, our comments are limited to the test relating to *“demonstration of no detriment to the maintenance of the favourable conservation status of European protected species”*.

We therefore advise that the GCN report should be submitted with the application so that the potential impacts of the development on GCN can be assessed.

In the meantime, we are unable to give you any assurance that the proposal would not be likely to be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of GCN at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.

Bats

We note that the bat report submitted in support of the above application (West View, Marchwiel; Bat and Nesting Bird Survey by Enfys Ecology dated 10/09/2022) has identified that bats are present at the application site. From the information submitted, we consider that the proposed development represents a lower 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). Where bats are present and a development proposal is likely to contravene the legal protection they are afforded, the development may only proceed under licence issued by Natural Resources Wales, having satisfied the three tests set out in the Regulations (please also refer to Paragraph 6.3.7 of Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning). Please note, for the purposes of providing advice at the planning application stage, our comments are limited to the test relating to *“demonstration of no detriment to the maintenance of the favourable conservation status of European protected species”*.

As this is a lower risk case for bats, we consider that the development is not likely to be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. However, we advise that the proposed development is likely to harm or disturb the bats or their breeding sites and resting places at this site and, therefore, we advise that all avoidance and mitigation measures described in the bat report must be undertaken.

The report must be included in the ‘approved list of plans / documents’ condition within the decision notice should consent for the project be granted.

Please consult us again if any further information shows that this is no longer a lower risk case.

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.

Protected Sites – Foul drainage

We note the application site is within the catchment of the River Dee and Bala Lake 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.

In line with our [Planning Advice](#) (August 2023), under the Habitats Regulations, Planning Authorities must consider the phosphorus impact of proposed developments on water quality within SAC river catchments. We therefore advise you to consider whether the proposals, as submitted, would increase the volume of foul discharge from the site in planning terms.

We note the application, as submitted, proposes a 2-storey domestic extension including loft conversion, i.e. an extension to a dwelling house comprising a single household. We refer you to our Planning Advice and the section titled 'What does this mean for domestic extensions?'

Ultimately it is a matter of judgment for you, as Competent Authority, to satisfy yourselves that the proposed development will not result in a significant effect on the SAC. Therefore, should your Authority conclude that the proposal is likely to have a significant effect on the Dee and Bala Lake SAC, please consult us on your Appropriate Assessment under Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

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.

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

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi./Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.