Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

Ein cyf/Our ref: CAS-296081-S0L9
Eich cyf/Your ref: P/2025/0832

Wrexham County Borough Council
The Guildhall
Wrexham
LL11 1AY

Date: 12 January 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

PROPOSAL: ENGINEERING OPERATIONS TO INSTALL NEW DRAINAGE SYSTEM AND THE SITING OF SHIPPING CONTAINERS AND LANDSCAPING WORKS

LOCATION: DARLAND SCHOOL AND SPORTS CENTRE, CHESTER ROAD, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, LL12 0DL

Thank you for consulting Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (CNC)/Natural Resources Wales (NRW) about the above, which we received on 22 December 2025.

We have no objection to the proposed development as submitted and provide the following advice.

Flood Risk

The planning application proposes less vulnerable development (new drainage system and shipping containers) The Flood Map for Planning identifies the application site to be at risk of flooding and within Flood Zone 2 Rivers

Given the nature of the proposed development (and in the absence of a flood consequences assessment) we consider the proposals could be acceptable, subject to the developer being made aware of the potential flood risks and consequences. Please note that a detailed hydraulic modelling is available (Rossett_5_V1.0_2020) to help inform any drainage design

Guidance on resilient design can be found in Chapter 13 of Technical Advice Note 15: Development, flooding and coastal erosion, dated 2025, which references advice from Construction Industry Research and Information Association, including a Code of Practice and Guidance for Property Flood Resilience.

We provide advice on our website Natural Resources Wales / Preparing for a flood which may be useful for the developer or occupant of the proposal.

Addtionally, given the nature of the proposed, we strongly recommend consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority LLFA to advise on drainage matters.

Protected Species

Bats
We note that the information submitted in support of the above application (Davies, B. (2025). Darland Academy Phase 2: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. Tetra Tech. (unpublished)) has identified that bats are present at the application site.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 its natural range. We recommend that you discuss the need to secure any avoidance or mitigation measures with your internal ecological advisor.

Great Crested Newt
We have reviewed the following information which has been submitted in support of the application: (Davies, B. (2025). Darland Academy Phase 2 : Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. Tetra Tech. (unpublished))

The information has identified that great crested newts (GCN) are material to the application site.

GCN and their breeding sites and resting places are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. 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. A licence may only be authorised if:

i. The development works to be authorised are for the purpose of preserving public health or safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment;
ii. There is no satisfactory alternative; and,

iii. The action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.

To avoid developments with planning permission subsequently not being granted a licence, the Local Planning Authority should take Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Note 5 into account when considering development proposals where a European Protected Species is present.

Please note, for the purposes of providing advice at the planning application stage, our comments are limited to the 3rd test "demonstration of no detriment to the maintenance of the favourable conservation status of European protected species". We advise that before any consent is given, as informed by the provisions of Regulation 9 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) the LPA satisfy itself as to whether the scheme satisfies the other two tests, namely a relevant Habitats Regulations purpose and whether there is no satisfactory alternative to the proposal.

We advise that the works are carried out under licence. We refer you to the Chief Planning Officer's letter dated 1 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.

Please note, any changes to plans between planning consent and the licence application may affect the outcome of a licence application.

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). In line with our Advice to Planning Authorities for Planning Applications Affecting Nutrient Sensitive River Special Areas of Conservation (22 October 2025), under the Habitats Regulations, Planning Authorities must consider the impact of proposed developments on water quality within SAC river catchments.

However, recognising the specific nature of the application submitted that n foul drainage is proposed. we are satisfied that there is unlikely to be a source of additional nutrients and/or a pathway for impacts. As such, in our opinion, it would be reasonable for your Authority to screen out this proposal as not likely to have a significant effect on the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC in relation to nutrient inputs.

Other Matters

The advice in this letter relates to matters which are included on our consultation topics list. We do not rule out the potential for the proposed development to affect other environmental interests that are not included on this list.

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 about the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

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

E-bost/E-mail: northplanning@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

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.