Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

Ein cyf/Our ref: CAS-302834-N4F4
Eich cyf/Your ref: P/2025/0143

Wrexham County Borough Council
The Guildhall
Wrexham
LL11 1AY

Dyddiad/Date: 25 March 2026

Annwyl Syr/Madam/Dear Sir/Madam,

BWRIAD/PROPOSAL: Dymchwel adeileddau presennol a chodi cyfleusterau cyflogaeth (dosbarth B2/B8) gyda llety swyddfa ategol (dosbarth B1a) gan gynnwys tirlunio, parcio, mynediad a gwaith cysylltiedig arall / demolition of existing structures and erection of employment facilities (class B2/B8) with ancillary office accommodation (class B1a) including landscaping, parking, access and other associated works

LLEOLIAD/LOCATION: LAND SOUTH OF BRYN LANE, WREXHAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WREXHAM, LL13 9US

Thank you for consulting Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (CNC)/Natural Resources Wales (NRW) about the additional information for the above, which we received on 10 March 2026.

We continue to have concerns with the application as submitted. We advise that further consideration is required regarding foul drainage. Further details are provided below.

We also advise that based on the information submitted to date, the following conditions regarding biosecurity and contaminated land should be attached to any planning permission granted.

Condition 1: Biosecurity Risk Assessment
Condition 2: Contaminated Land – Scheme to deal with Risks Associated with Contaminated Land
Condition 3: Contaminated Land - Verification Report
Condition 4: Contaminated Land – Unsuspected Contamination
Condition 5: Contaminated Land – Surface Water Drainage
Condition 6: Contaminated Land – Piling and/or Foundations Design

We also are satisfied that our concerns can be overcome if the documents identified below are included in the approved plans and documents condition on the decision notice:

Approved Documents:

- Land South of Bryn Lane, Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, reference 10204.004 version 4.0 dated January 2026
- Land South of Bryn Lane, GCN Conservation Plan, reference 10204.005 V3 version 3 dated January 2026
- Soft Landscape Design, Drawing number 1059-01-NLD.151 Bryn Lane South, Revision V5 dated 13/01/2026
- Land South of Bryn Lane, Bat Survey Technical Report, reference 10204.003 version 2 dated July 2025, The Environment Partnership Ltd.

Without the inclusion of these documents and conditions 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 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, under the Habitats Regulations, Planning Authorities must consider the impact of proposed developments on water quality within SAC river catchments.

This application for construction of an industrial unit proposes connection of foul water to the mains sewer. The proposed development could potentially lead to an increase of phosphorus load from the receiving wastewater treatment works into the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC. The majority of the River Dee and Bala Lake catchment is currently failing to meet water quality targets for phosphorus. The nutrient impacts of new connections need to be considered on a case-by-case basis within the Habitats Regulations Assessment process.

We note that no information has been submitted in relation to this proposed development demonstrating no increase in nutrients as a result of the development.

Ultimately, the suitability of foul drainage arrangements for the proposed development is a matter for your Authority to determine. We advise your Authority that further consideration is required and to follow our Advice specifically the section titled '*What does this mean for development proposals involving connection to public wastewater treatment works?*'

We therefore advise you to take the above into account in your determination of whether the development is likely to have a significant effect on the SAC. Should you conclude that an Appropriate Assessment is required, the Applicant will need to provide whatever evidence they consider appropriate (seeking advice from consultants as necessary) to demonstrate no adverse effect on site integrity.

Please consult us on any Appropriate Assessment under Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). However, until the development can demonstrate it will not lead to an increase of phosphorus load from the receiving wastewater treatment works into the river we would be unable to advise you that the proposed development would not result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

Protected Species

Great Crested Newts (GCN)

Section 3.13 (page 22) of the previously submitted Ecological Impact Assessment (The Environment Partnership, Reference 10204.002, Version 5 dated January 2025) confirms GCN records within 100m of the application site and Section 3.15 (page 22) confirms the majority of GCN records are to the south and connected to the application site by a woodland corridor.

The information has identified that GCN are material to the application site.

We have reviewed the following additional information submitted on 10/03/2026:

- Land South of Bryn Lane, Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, reference 10204.004 version 4.0 dated January 2026
- Land South of Bryn Lane, GCN Conservation Plan, reference 10204.005 V3 version 3 dated January 2026
- Soft Landscape Design, drawing number 1059-01-NLD.151 Bryn Lane South, Revision V5 dated 13/01/2026

We note the updates to both reports and the Soft Landscape Design drawing following the points raised in our previous letter dated 1 December 2025 (reference CAS-292629-G1Y6) and consider these to be satisfactory. Whilst the functionality of the site is not considered to reflect best practice in terms of habitat connectivity, given the constraints with site layout we accept the on-site ecological provisions in respect of GCN.

We note that Section 1.59 of the GCN Conservation Plan states that “existing retained habitats within the southern and eastern boundaries have been identified as suitable receptor sites for GCN captured during the proposed works” and therefore our understanding is that there will be no translocation of GCN from the application site to off-site provisions. If this is not the case further information regarding any proposed off-site translocation of GCN should be submitted.

Off-site compensation

We note that the off-site compensation area is to be progressed under a separate application (reference P/2025/0431). Whilst these are separate applications, it should be noted that the off-site provision relating to this application (P/2025/0143) will need to be completed satisfactorily prior to any site works commencing at this application site.

Your Authority should also be satisfied that the off-site provisions under reference P/2025/0431 can be secured through an appropriate planning mechanism and delivered in relation to this application.

Biosecurity

Sections 3.13-3.26 of the submitted Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) discusses measures to be taken in relation to the confirmed presence of *Crassula helmsii* on site. Whilst we note the provisions we advise that any consent includes the imposition of a condition requiring the submission and implementation of a Biosecurity Risk Assessment to the satisfaction of the LPA.

Condition 1: No development, including site clearance, shall commence until a Biosecurity Risk Assessment, and Method Statement that considers invasive non-native species and specific diseases (e.g. Chytrid) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
The risk assessment must include:

(i) appropriate measures to control any INNS on site;
(ii) measures or actions that aim to prevent INNS from being introduced to the site for the duration of construction and operational phases of the scheme.

The risk assessment shall consider landscaping and other related plans.

The Biosecurity Risk Assessment shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Justification: To ensure that an approved Biosecurity Risk Assessment is implemented to secure measures to prevent or control the spread and effective management of any invasive non-native species and listed diseases at the site.

Bats

Section 3.9 of the previously submitted Bat Survey Technical Report (Land South of Bryn Lane, Reference 10204.003, Version 1.0 dated November 2024) reported no roosting bats were present during the nocturnal survey carried out on 05/11/2024, however Section 3.12 stated that there was moderate potential for hibernating bats and that *"hibernation surveys are currently being undertaken*".

We have reviewed the following additional information submitted on 02/09/2025:

- Land South of Bryn Lane, Bat Survey Technical Report, reference 10204.003 version 2 dated July 2025, The Environment Partnership Ltd.

We note that Sections 3.9 and 3.10 of the updated Bat Survey Technical Report (version 2 July 2025) confirms that no roosting bats were recorded using the site, however section 5 recommends precautionary pre work checks to be carried out prior to demolition of the structure, which we agree with.

We consider that the above report provides an adequate basis upon which to consider the potential impacts of the scheme on bats and inform the decision-making process.

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 provided the measures set out in the submitted report are implemented.

Therefore, we advise that the following document is included in the approved list of plans / documents condition within the decision notice:

- Land South of Bryn Lane, Bat Survey Technical Report, reference 10204.003 version 2 dated July 2025, The Environment Partnership Ltd.

Contaminated Land

We have reviewed the following documents submitted in support of this application:

- Preliminary Risk Assessment Report, Land South of Bryn Lane, Reference: TE1891-TE-00-XX-RP-GE-001-V02, Version 2 dated 08/05/2025, Tier Environmental Ltd
- Ground Investigation Report, Land South of Bryn Lane, Reference: TE1891-TE-00-XX-RP-GE-002-V03, Version 3 dated 08/05/2025, Tier Environmental Ltd

The ground investigation report notes that only two groundwater samples were able to be obtained from two locations. There appears to be no discussion regarding groundwater levels within Section 8 of the report or what impact this has on the conceptual understanding of the hydrogeological regime. Additionally, we would advise a minimum of two rounds of groundwater monitoring and this approach is supported by BS10175:2011 (Investigation of Potentially Contaminated Sites - Code of practice).

Therefore, based on the information submitted (and in the absence of the above) we would advise that the following conditions should be applied to any planning permission granted for this proposal.

Condition 2: No development shall commence until the following components of a scheme to deal with the risks associated with contamination at the site has been submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

1. A preliminary risk assessment which has identified:
    - all previous uses.
    - potential contaminants associated with those uses.
    - a conceptual model of the site indicating sources, pathways and receptors.
    - potentially unacceptable risks arising from contamination at the site [Largely completed].

2. A site investigation scheme, based on (1) to provide information for a detailed assessment of the risk to all receptors that may be affected, including those off site.

3. The results of the site investigation and the detailed risk assessment referred to in (2) and, based on these, an options appraisal and remediation strategy giving full details of the remediation measures required and how they are to be undertaken.

4. A verification plan providing details of the data that will be collected in order to demonstrate that the works set out in the remediation strategy in (3) are complete and identifying any requirements for longer-term monitoring of pollutant linkages, maintenance and arrangements for contingency action.

The remediation strategy and its relevant components shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Justification: To ensure the risks associated with contamination at the site have been fully considered prior to commencement of development as controlled waters are of high environmental sensitivity; and where necessary remediation measures and long-term monitoring are implemented to prevent unacceptable risks from contamination.

Condition 3: Prior to the occupation of the development a verification report demonstrating completion of works set out in the approved remediation strategy and the effectiveness of the remediation shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The report shall include results of sampling and monitoring carried out in

accordance with the approved verification plan to demonstrate that the site remediation criteria have been met. It shall also include a long-term monitoring and maintenance plan for longer-term monitoring of pollutant linkages, maintenance and arrangements for contingency action, as identified in the verification plan. The long-term monitoring and maintenance plan shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Justification: To ensure the methods identified in the verification plan have been implemented and completed and the risk associated with the contamination at the site has been remediated prior to occupation or operation, to prevent both future users of the land and neighbouring land are minimised, together with those to controlled waters, property and ecological systems, and to ensure that the development can be carried out safely without unacceptable risks to workers, neighbours and other offsite receptors.

Condition 4**:** If, during development, contamination not previously identified is found to be present at the site then no further development (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority) shall be carried out until a remediation strategy detailing how this unsuspected contamination shall be dealt with has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The remediation strategy shall be carried out as approved.

Justification**:** To ensure the risks associated with previously unsuspected contamination at the site are dealt with through a remediation strategy, to minimise the risk to both future users of the land and neighbouring land, and to ensure that the development can be carried out safely without unacceptable risks. A site investigation may not uncover all instances of contamination, and this condition ensures that contamination encountered during the development phase is dealt with appropriately.

Condition 5**:** No infiltration of surface water drainage into the ground is permitted other than with the express written consent of the local planning authority, which may be given for those parts of the site where it has been demonstrated that there is no resultant unacceptable risk to controlled waters. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approval details.

Justification: To prevent both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of water pollution.

Condition 6**:** No development shall commence until details of piling or any other foundation designs using penetrative methods sufficient to demonstrate that there is no unacceptable risk to groundwater have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The piling/foundation designs shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Justification**:** Piling/foundation details should be submitted to ensure there is no unacceptable risk to groundwater during construction and methods/design are agreed prior to the commencement of development or phase of development.

The treatment and disposal of contaminated soils and groundwater is regulated by waste legislation and requires an environmental permit.

Excavated materials that are recovered via a treatment operation can be re-used on-site under the CL:AIRE Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice. This

voluntary Code of Practice provides a framework for determining whether or not excavated material arising from site during remediation and/or land development works is waste.

Developers should ensure that all contaminated materials are adequately characterized both chemically and physically, and that the permitting status of any proposed on site operations is clear. If in doubt, Natural Resources Wales should be contacted for advice at an early stage to avoid any delays.

We recommend that developers should:

1. Follow the risk management framework provided in Land contamination risk management (LCRM)
2. Refer to 'Land Contamination: a guide for developers (WLGA, 2017) for the type of information that we require in order to assess risks to controlled waters from the site. The Local Authority can advise on risk to other receptors, such as human health.
3. Refer to the Environment Agency's (2017) 'Approach to Groundwater Protection

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

Yn gywir / Yours faithfully,

Rachael Burke
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.