Brymbo Heritage Trust

Stori Brymbo

Planning Conditions Reference P/2024/1578

CONDITION 3

See attached plan K1.1 EE672.25b RC Brymbo GCN Conservation Plan V2.pdf

CONDITION 4

There is no foundation or piling on the clay cap.

The structures supporting the solar panels and all associated cabling and control gear sit on top of the clay cap and are weighted down with concrete blocks that again sit on the cap and do not penetrate the surface.

The panels are designed to face due south so the support structures and run north south down dip so there is no pooling of water on the cap.

CONDITION 5

We have appointed an Ecological Clerk of Works, Keymar Wake of ENFYS (Instruction letter attached). She has already commenced her watching brief on site, checking for Great Crested Newts on the Wonderbank and overseeing the development and planting of the ponds. She will conduct monthly audits and more frequent visits as required from the commencement of works and will share a report of her findings.

CONDITION 7

Our Ecological Clerk of Works, Keymar Wake of ENFYS will ensure that mitigation and compensation plans that have been approved by NRW are implemented. We have secured a Great Crested Newt licence from NRW ref S096387-1 which is attached with the corresponding Method Statement. We have also attached our Bat Licence S095526-1 and associated Method Statement.

CONDITION 10

No development shall take place until a Method Statement detailing the mitigation measures to ensure the integrity of the remediation works (as detailed in Section 7 of the May 2007 Contamination Certification Report for The Wonder Bank for Brymbo Developments Limited by Smith Grant LLP) during the construction phase of the development has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall thereafter take place in accordance with the approved scheme.

Detailed works were carried out on the Wonderbank commencing May 2004 and were completed by February 2006.

The principal activity being the capping of the plateau between 11th May and 1st June 2005.

The works involved

- Removal of vegetation on eastern slopes
- Construction of access ramp to plateau
- Buttressing of the eastern slopes using compacted coal measures rock and mudstones
- Construction of domed low permeability cap (1-2m depth of material) over the plateau. This cap was carefully excavated on the main site from the mudstones overlying the coal seams. These works were detailed in the Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick report "Wonderbank Capping Construction Certification Report D101082/GEO/1531A, Nov 2005".(It should be noted that the cap was designed to be 1m thick compacted to 10-9 the works achieved 2m of clay at 10-10.)
- Construction of a perimeter drain and pipework down the slope to the main site drainage area
- Surface covered with suitable materials to prevent the cap drying out
- 0.5m replacement soil cover to eastern slopes with planting of shrubs and trees.

The principal purposes of the work were to minimise the ingress of water and air into the Wonderbank.

1. Water would potentially dissolve the heavy metals that were present in the liquid wastes that were deposited in the colliery spoil heap by the steel works operation. If permitted over time these heavy metals would enter the ground water.

2. Air would potentially cause the heating of the coal within the colliery spoil heap causing spontaneous combustion and the bank catching fire with all the associated problems.

All of these works were reported in Section 7 of the May 2007 Contamination Certification Report for The Wonder Bank for Brymbo Developments Limited by Smith Grant LLP The Smith Grant

Sections 8 and 9. of this report summarise the testing taken before during and after the works and allowed Smith Grant Partnership to summarise the conclusions and recommendations in Chapter 10.

10.4 SGP concludes that the appropriate and necessary remedial works have been substantially completed and that the Wonder Bank will be suitable in due course for the use as informal public open space.

10.5 On-going management of the Module will be necessary to ensure maintenance of the integrity of the remediation works. This should comprise management of the site drainage, maintenance of the low permeability cap and enhancing / maintenance of the vegetation on the side slopes.

The slopes have re-established mature tree and shrub growth with dense vegetation prevent any erosion or instability.

The cap has been regularly cleared of tree / shrub growth preventing tree routes penetrating the cap. The dome has remained free draining and the ditches maintained taking any water away safely down the slopes to the drainage lagoons at the foot of the eastern slopes.

The cap has not been disturbed over the last 20 years and remains to the line and level it was laid down in May / June 2005. . There has been no plant or equipment on site other than that used as part of keeping the vegetation short and managed. There was one incident of trespass when the linesmen carrying out replacement of the HV cables to the west of the cap left lengths of discarded cables on the site.

The design and construction of the new solar farm have been carefully designed and detailed to ensure that the integrity of the cap is not breached in any way.

There is a NO DIG rule. The panels will be fixed to a surface mounted frame that sits on the surface. The frame will be weighted (with concrete blocks) preventing movement and ensuring that the cap is not penetrated. The orientation of the ground engaging frame and the weights at any point will be placed so they are parallel to the true dip of the cap at this point. This will ensure that any surface water will flow around any structures on the surface and away to the surround ditch that is then piped down the hill to the base of the wonder back into the newt ponds at the lower level.

All Panels, control equipment, battery packs and cabling will be fixed to the supporting steel work ensuring that nothing touches the ground and is kept clear of any water run off, with in the area of the clay cap.

The supply and control cable will be above ground until it leaves the fenced cap area. At the fence it will be buried below ground in a trench that will carry the cable on th route shown down to the Machine shop in the heritage area. This will carry the generated electrical supply to the heritage area and provide the green energy to operate the visitors centre and reduce the amount of power that has to be bought from the grid.

The ducting around the Machine shop have already been installed as part of the main Heritage project to accommodate this cabling etc.

The solar farm will require annual maintenance, but this will have no effect on the integrity of the cap and will help to ensure that growth on site is kept to a minimum preventing trees potentially breaching the clay seal with penetrating routes etc.

CONDITION 11

No development shall take place until a Management plan detailing the mitigation measures to ensure the integrity of the remediation works (as detailed in Section 7 of the May 2007 Contamination Certification Report for The Wonder Bank for Brymbo Developments Limited by Smith Grant LLP) during the construction phase of the development has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall thereafter take place in accordance with the approved scheme.

The management of the Wonderbank has been in accordance with the recommendations made in section 10.5 of the Smith grant report On-going management of the Module.

- The site management have ensured that the site drainage around the cap has been monitored on a regular basis to ensure that it runs free and there is no blockage that might lead to the pooling of water.
- The surface has been inspected.
- The ecology is being managed see Section 7 and under this guidance the vegetation growth is being managed at suitable times and in accordance with best practice.

This will continue with the Solar farm in place.

CONDITION 14

We look forward to renewing the permission in 2066

CONDITION 15

In the Event of need to Decommission the site we will simply remove all of the components installed on the site during its commissioning and dispose of them in the most environmental manner possible preferably their reuse.

CONDITION 17

Badger Survey Report attached CC672.26.RC Wonderbank Badger Survey.pdf

Conclusion Noted

Suitable habitat for badgers was present within and adjacent to the proposed development area, but no active setts were found within the survey area and signs of recent activity were only found at the eastern end of the survey area. A badger population (and sett) is likely to be present within the heritage area to the east/north-east of the development area but badgers do not appear to be living or regularly foraging within the Wonderbank, or in close proximity to any of the working areas. As there are no active setts in close proximity to the working areas, a licence will not be required for these works. However, mitigation measures should be adopted during the construction phase in order to minimise any potential impacts on badgers that may be using the site or its immediate surroundings:

• Working areas should be kept to the minimum required.

• Works should be avoided within 1 hour of dawn and dusk where possible, in order to avoid disturbance to badgers and other nocturnal animals. If works during this time are needed, all lighting should be directional and directed away from boundary edges and any surrounding habitat.

• Working areas and adjacent areas should be regularly checked for signs of badger activity; if signs of activity are found, works in the vicinity must cease until an ecologist can assess and provide further advice.

• Any badgers seen must be allowed to leave the area on their own. If this is not possible e.g. the animal is injured or trapped then an ecologist must be called.

CONDITION 20

Noted – none of the associated works go anywhere near the SSSI

CONDITION 21

North Wales Wildlife Trust have been commissioned to manage Japanese Knotweed on the site since 2024. Treatment of the knotweed in the area of the Wonderbank was done at the end of 2024 and 2025. NWWT monitor it regularly to ensure the treatment is working and mitigate any spread, as does Ecological Clerk of Works, Keymar Wake of ENFYS.