

Ein cyf/Our ref: CAS-278626-V2H9
Eich cyf/Your ref: 25/0269

Newport City Council
Civic Centre
Newport
NP20 4UR

Dyddiad/Date: 28 April 2025

Annwyl Syr/Madam/Dear Sir/Madam,

BWRIAD/PROPOSAL: REPLACEMENT OF OLD FENCE WITH SECURE BRICK WALL AND GATES (PART RETROSPECTIVE)

LLEOLIAD/LOCATION: OAKFIELDS NURSERIES, LIGHTHOUSE ROAD, NEWPORT, NP10 8SF

Thank you for consulting Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (CNC)/Natural Resources Wales (NRW) about the above, which we received on 10 April 2025.

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

Designated Sites: Gwent Levels - St. Brides Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

The Gwent Levels SSSIs are notified for the range of aquatic plants and invertebrates associated with the reens and ditches of the drainage system. The special interests of the SSSI are dependent on the water quality, water quantity, the existence of the drainage system and its continued management. Any development which has an adverse impact on any of these factors will have an adverse impact on the wildlife for which the area is notified.

To protect the SSSI, we usually request that buffer zones of a minimum 7m from works to the top of the ditch bank and 12.5m to the top of reen bank should be implemented in the Gwent Levels. In this buffer there should be no physical development, no storage of materials including soil piles or fuel storage, no refuelling of machinery, and where possible no trafficking of vehicles. This is required to ensure that contamination of watercourses and impacts on the interest features of the SSSI are avoided.

Whilst we note that the proposed development is within these buffer zones, in this instance we are satisfied that impact to the SSSI can be avoided through implementation of pollution prevention measures to avoid contamination to watercourse. We emphasise that only clean, uncontaminated water is to be discharged to watercourse, and this must not exceed greenfield run-off rate.

We therefore advise the applicant that all works at the site must be carried out in accordance with Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP) 5: Works and maintenance in or near water (available on the [NetRegs website](#)) to avoid impact to the watercourse/SSSI.

Internal Drainage District

The application site is located within NRW's Internal Drainage District. We have no objection to the proposals in this regard provided the masonry walls are built/located as depicted in the proposed drawings, so as not to encroach on adjacent watercourses. With regards to the foundations, we advise that near watercourses/drainage ditches foundations are to be set below bed level so that loadings do not compromise the banks of watercourses/drainage ditches.

Protected Species

Please consult your ecologist regarding the need for, and if appropriate scope of, any ecological survey to support the application.

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

Annabelle Evans

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.