

06/00660

Our Re: ES/141303

27 July 2006

Pembroke House
Charter Court
Phoenix Way
Swansea Enterprise Park
Swansea
SA7 9FS

1 copy

(As Requested)

For the attention of Julian Jones

Dear Julian

DWR CYMRU
CRAI WATER TREATMENT WORKS

Black and Veatch (B&V) are working as designers on behalf of Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) as part of the AMP 4 scheme to upgrade an existing Water Treatment Works (WTW) at Crai. A site visit was made on the 18 August 2005 by a B&V environmental scientist/ecologist to undertake an environmental appraisal of the site. The survey included an extended Phase I habitat and protected species survey of the Crai WTW plus a corridor of 100m where access was possible. This was conducted to determine the scale of impact of the proposed works on the surrounding flora and fauna. Access at this time was limited and so a second survey was undertaken in June 2006 of the proposed site of the WTW extension.

A desk study was also conducted where the following were contacted for existing information on the site and any comments or concerns:

- Brecon Beacons National Park
- Powys County Council (Biodiversity co-ordinator)
- Biodiversity Information Service
- Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)
- Environment Agency (External Relations and Biodiversity)
- Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust
- Brecknock Badger Group
- Brecknock Wildlife Trust

To date, replies are outstanding from the Environment Agency Biodiversity Officer and Brecknock Badger Group.

The results of the desk study and field survey are summarised below:

Impacts and mitigation

Designated Nature Conservation Sites

There are no statutory or non-statutory sites in or adjacent to the proposed working areas. The nearest statutory sites are within the upland hill and cave areas. The nearest is approximately 1km from the site, Ogof Ffynnon Ddu-Pant Mawr Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which is designated for its cave system, limestone pavement and heath.

Habitat

Only low quality pasture habitat will be affected by the WTW extension. There may be a need to remove a few trees adjacent to the river for a new pipeline and these should be replaced. The riverine trees often overhang the field by a few metres and wherever possible works should take place outside the canopy to avoid damage to the trees. Any lopping of trees should be carried out by a qualified arborist.

There may be a requirement for a river crossing for a new pipeline. If possible this should be carried out using threading or no-dig methods to reduce disturbance to riverine habitats, fish and to reduce the risk of pollution. The Environment Agency should be contacted for any restrictions on timing with regard migratory fish; brown trout were seen during the survey. If open cut is required a detailed method statement will need to be prepared and submitted to the Environment Agency Wales and should include the re-instatement proposals. The river bed will need to be carefully re-instated to its existing condition.

Protected Species

The Phase I survey area was searched for field signs of protected species. Areas not accessible at this time are shown on Figure 1.

No field signs of badger were found during the surveys. However, a badger latrine was recorded in 2003 (grid ref SN8523117197) in an adjacent field (Target Note 4, Figure 1) and the landowner reports seeing both fox and badger crossing the site of the proposed extension. There are also known setts to the south of the existing WTW (approx. 250m), although this is on the opposite side of the river. It is likely, therefore, that the proposed site forms a small part of a wider badger territory and the loss of this small area of grassland should not have a significant impact. As a precaution an egress should be left in all excavations left over night during the construction period to ensure badgers do not become trapped.

No signs of water vole were found during the survey. An otter spraint was found on a boulder under the bridge at the site entrance but no holts or resting places were observed. CCW report that otter and water vole are present on the River Tawe. The Nant Tywynni flows into the Tawe approximately 100m downstream and, while there would be no direct impact on these species, pollution control must be implemented to ensure no impact on water quality.

There is a hedgerow along the disused road but this will be retained as part of the scheme. There may be need for some tree removal along the stream if a new pipeline crossing is required. This would not have a significant impact on the nature conservation value of the watercourse but the trees will provide potential habitat for a range of passerine birds. If any

an existing rural WTW at Velindre, which has 8 times the water-flow capacity of Crai has found that the blowers there do not cause a concern. It is also intended to carry out some noise measurements at Velindre and this could be used to set targets for the Crai scheme. A generator used at the Danone plant already causes background noise and any possibility of a partnership to provide mainline electricity to the plant would be of benefit.

No specific odour sources have been identified.

Recreation and Amenity

A public footpath and a bridleway run close to the proposed site. The footpath starts at the entrance to the access road to the existing WTW. Although not directly affected the road will be subject to increased traffic movements during construction and a risk assessment and mitigation should be undertaken accordingly. The bridleway crosses the field to the north east of the construction site but its route is not obvious on site and it does not appear well used. The works will not disrupt the bridleway but may cause minor temporary disturbance to users from increased noise during construction.

Visual Impact

The site is within The Brecon Beacons National Park and, therefore, the design of the works should be sensitive to its setting in a high quality landscape area.

The new site is in a hollow, beneath the embankment of the A4067 and is not visible from cars but can be viewed from standing on the road verge. No residential properties overlook the proposed site. Generally, the site is well screened by the trees along the stream and around the existing WTW. There are more distant views from the hills around but the new site will be adjacent to the Danone plant and the existing WTW. Additional landscape planting will be required, especially along the north east boundary and along the disused road. Additional planting should be appropriate to the natural setting of the scheme and use species characteristic of the area (see above). Overall, therefore, there should be no significant impact on the landscape character and quality of the area.

Archaeology

No known archaeological interest occurs within the proposed site. The nearest known archaeological sites highlighted by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) are over 200m to the south of the site (including a post medieval mounting stone and Maes-yr-eglwys farmstead and pond). These will not be affected by the proposed works. However, as there is high potential for archaeological features spanning the pre-historic through to post medieval periods in this region, CPAT have advised that the proposed scheme should be subject to a multi-staged archaeological assessment. CPAT should, therefore, be provided with the scheme drawings and an archaeological assessment strategy agreed.

Water

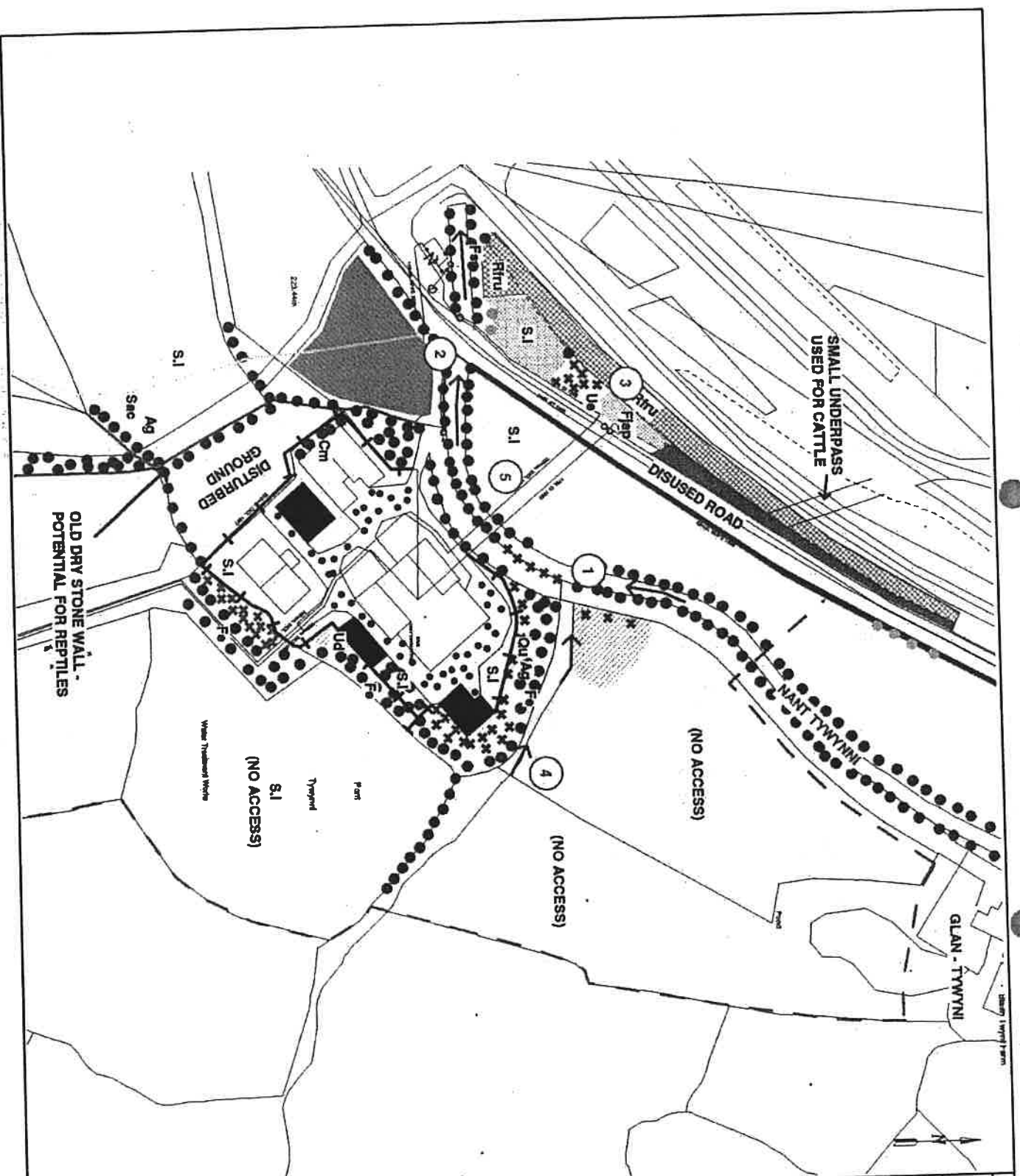
The Environment Agency encourages the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) and these should be incorporated into the design if possible. The Environment Agency objects to any development that generates flows greater than Greenfield run-off and there may be a requirement for regulation of surface water flows. Land Drainage Consent

If you have any questions or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact myself at the Chester office.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Stevens
(Principal Environmental Consultant)

Enclosed:
Proposed Scheme Layout
Figure 1 Environmental Constraints



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KEY + Fence — Intact Hedge — Wall ● Conifer ■ Buildings * Scattered Scrub * Bracken Continuous * Bracken Scattered * Broadleaved Tree * Hard Standing ■ Tall Ruderal ■ Species Poor Semi-Improved ■ Grassland ■ Semi-Improved Grassland ■ Marshy Grassland ① Target Note ■ Bramble → Watercourse — Footpath — Bridgeway Ag Alnus glutinosa - (Alder) CM Crataegus monogyna - (Hawthorn) FPop Fallopia japonica * (Japanese knotweed) Ritu Rubus fruticosus - (Ramble) Ula Ulex europaeus - (Common gorse) Fe Fagus sylvatica - (Beech) Siao Sorbus aucuparia - (Rowan) Ud Urtica dioica - (Common nettle) Fe Fraxinus excelsior - (Ash) Qu Quercus sp. - (Oak)		
Cral Water Treatment Works		
Environmental Constraints		
Contract No. 14/1903	Approved ES	Date July 06
BLACK & VEATCH		
Drawing No. Figure 1		