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27/08/2021

Annwyl / Dear James Healey,

The Chester to Bangor Trunk Road (A55) (Junctions 14 and 15 Improvement Realignment and Slip Roads) Order 202-

The Chester to Bangor Trunk Road (A55) (Junctions 16 and 16a Improvement Realignment and Slip Roads) Order 202-

Further to our response dated 09/08/2021 we have now received the supplementary reports/assessments for both schemes that address our previous concerns we, therefore, withdraw our previous objections to both Draft Orders. We provide the following comments:

Water Quality and Water Framework Directive

- A55 J14 and J15 Improvement Scheme, Supplementary Report on Surface Water Quality and Water Framework Directive, 1620000620, Version 1 Dated 28 July 2021
- A55 J16 and J16a Improvement Scheme, Supplementary Report on Surface Water Quality and Water Framework Directive, 1620000620, Version 1 Dated 28 July 2021

We note the clarifications and are satisfied that all our previous concerns have been addressed and we have no further comments to make.

Groundwater Protection and Land Contamination

- A55 Junction 15, ES Chapter 6 Geology Soils: Additional Desk Based Review, 1620000620, Version P1 Dated 5 August 2021
- A55 Junction 16, ES Chapter 6 Geology Soils: Additional Desk Based Review, 1620000620, Version P1 Dated 5 August 2021

The reports provide additional information on the history of the site, previous ground investigation and works undertaken during the construction of the A55 indicating removal of made ground along the route, including the former petrol stations (J15).

The Junction 16 report proposes investigation at the western end of the former gas works and in the location of the former tar well, due to the location of these historic features the additional investigation is proposed during construction i.e. after commencement.

The reports propose “contaminated land management strategy (remediation strategy) and earthworks specification will be prepared prior to commencement of the construction works which will include measures relating to suitability of excavated material for re-use”. In addition, a watching brief will be implemented, and a Contamination Watching Brief Protocol has been included in Section 6.1 of the above report.

We agree with the assessments provided and consider further investigation necessary, this should be secured in the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC).

Flood Risk

- A55 Junction 16 and 16a, Hydrological Calculations Record and Flood Risk Update, 162000620 Version 1 Dated 28 July 2021

We are satisfied with the content of the report and accept that the increase in flows by the revised calculations (by 2 to 3%) are well within the sensitivity checks of the 20% increase previously carried out. The sensitivity of increasing flows by 20% increased water surface levels by 150mm and therefore gave a reduced freeboard of 450mm on the 0.1% annual exceedance probability (1 in 1000) event.

As per our previous correspondence on submitted the Flood Consequence Assessments, further assessments will be carried out during the details design stage to ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere as part of the scheme proposal.

We are therefore satisfied with the approach taken and agree with the proposed updates to the REAC.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information or clarification on any of the above.

Our comments above only relate specifically to matters that are listed in our ‘Consultation Topics’ document (September 2018) which is published on our website: (<https://cdn.naturalresources.wales/media/686847/dpas-consultation-topics-august-2018-eng.pdf?mode=pad&rnd=13181925684000000>). We have not considered potential effects on other matters and do not rule out the potential for the proposed development to affect other interests.

The applicant should be advised that, in addition to planning permission, it is their responsibility to ensure that they secure all other permits/consents relevant to their development.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely,

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