

14th March 2016

Norman Jones
Planning & Public Protection
Torfaen County Borough Council
Ty Blaen Torfaen
Panteg Way
New Inn
Pontypool
NP4 0LS

Our Ref: 404.0542.0002
Your Ref: 03/P/09336

Dear Norman

**RE: TIR PENTWYS
PLANNING APPLICATION REF: 03/P/09336**

I refer to my letter dated 7th March, and as promised I am pleased to enclose:

- (i) An Ecological Updated report, which has been prepared to review the ecological baseline and impact assessment presented in 2012, and which concludes that the conclusions and proposed mitigation measures set out in the ES Supplement (2012) remain valid; and
- (ii) A programme setting out the key stages post issuing of a planning permission leading up to the commencement of the operations at the site.

As discussed at our meeting on 12th February, the Applicants are content to undertake the required geotechnical investigations of the access road corridor prior to the construction of the road, but wish to undertake these works in the context of, and the security provided by, a planning permission for the overall development. You will note from the enclosed programme that subject to a receipt of a planning permission in May this year, the geotechnical study would be undertaken in August / September this year, which will then inform the final designs for the access road to be completed in September / October. The access road works would then be undertaken in the first quarter of 2017. As indicated at our meeting, it seems readily possible to address these issues by planning condition requiring a geotechnical programme to be submitted for approval; for the approval to be issued; and for all access works to be completed prior to the formal commencement of aggregate sales from the site.

You will also note from the programme that there are numerous other works which would be required to be undertaken in a logical sequence prior to the commencement of aggregate recovery at the main site in the third quarter of 2017. With this lead in time and the timing constraints involved, we are anxious to obtain an approval as soon as possible.

In relation to the ecological report, I understand that you will wish to re-consult NRW with particular reference to the incorrect stance they have taken in their most recent response regarding an alleged 'lack of need / planning policy conflict'. I am pleased to note that you now regard that position to be unsustainable and that you will be advising NRW accordingly.

In these circumstances I would hope that NRW will be able to review the enclosed ecological update report expeditiously given its straightforward nature and conclusions reached. We recognise of course that there will be EPSL issues to address with NRW but these are separate to the planning determination and re-enforce are anxiety for the planning determination to be made to allow us to progress those wider EPSL issues.

At our meeting we touched upon a programme whereby we would submit the remaining items of information by Mid March (enclosed), which would allow you to undertake any further consultations to a deadline of Mid April, and which in turn would then allow the application to be reported to Committee in May. I trust that this timescale remains achievable and I will liaise with you in the next few days to ensure that matters are in order.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter by e mail with electronic copies of the enclosures. Please let me know if you require additional hard copies.

Yours sincerely
SLR Consulting Limited

Graham Jenkins
Technical Director