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Our Ref: 35403 R5 Rev2

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Dear Chris,

Copart Expansion, Sandycroft: Shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment / PA2603

This letter provides a commentary for the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Marine Licensing Team to aid with the review of the marine licence application for the Copart expansion site, located at Prince William Avenue, Sandycroft, Flintshire, CH5 2QZ.

A Shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment (sHRA) has been authored by Atmos (report ref: 35403 R2 Rev5). The assessment within this report covers the site as a whole and the potential impacts on the internationally designated sites in proximity to the site.

This commentary has been prepared to highlight the areas with the sHRA which are specifically relevant for the marine licence application, concerning areas around the proposed new headwall.

During the initial screening set out in the sHRA, a likely significant effect (LSE) was identified in the absence of mitigation, relating to potential impacts on the designated features of the River Dee & Bala Lake Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Dee Estuary Special Protected Area (SPA) from potential disturbance from lighting, noise and pollution events.

The sHRA was then taken through to the next stage of the assessment (the appropriate assessment) which confirmed that there was the potential for features of the SPA and SAC to be indirectly affected by the proposed new headwall. Mitigation has been provided within the sHRA and replicated below for ease of review.

The following mitigation measures are incorporated into the proposals:

- There will be a number of pollution prevention measures in place that will be always applied (e.g. provision of a spill kit, inspection of all plant and equipment prior to use and plant nappies).
- All treatment of the water off flow from the Site will be confirming to the Simple Index Approach in the CIRIA Report C753 following the SuDS Manual.
- All material will be disposed of in the appropriate skip with secure lids and no holes in any of the skips so that there are no potential pollution incidents.
- Any dusty operations are to cease in the case of high winds to control the levels of dust entering the SAC and SPA.
- Refuelling: All refuelling will be carried out away from the SAC. At any refuelling point a spill kit will be available, an absorbent spill blanket will be laid out whilst refuelling takes place. Fuel will be contained within its own compound; at the end of each day the fuel will be secured within the compound.

- All plant will be parked in the compound overnight so that there are no potential pollution incidents while staff are not on site.
- A bespoke CEMP will be created prior to construction to ensure pollution prevent measures are in line with British standards.
- The operational silt management will be in line with treatment of TSS (Total Suspended Solids) within the Simple Index Approach of CIRIA Report C753 “The SiDS Manual”.
- Scour prevention will be at the outfall point.
- A site specific Operational and Maintenance Strategy (OMS) will be agreed with Flintshire Council at a later date.
- Prior to works commencing a pre-construction ecology check will be made of the working area and access points. The ecologist will check for protected species such as otter holts, bats, and nesting birds. Should a protected species/roost/holt/resting place be encountered, works will not commence, and Natural Resources Wales will be contacted to discuss it and the potential for licensing elements of any works that may disturb it.
- An experienced Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed and attend Site at regular intervals throughout the project.
- A biosecurity risk assessment will be produced and followed so as not to introduce non-native species into the Dee Estuary and Bala Lake SAC.

The new headwall will provide a new outfall into the River Dee, following the process of the existing outfall, with the above mitigation in place to maintain water quality and avoid discharge of pollutants into the SAC and SPA. Specific information relating to the drainage plan is included on page 18 of the sHRA.

It is considered that with the above mitigation in place, the works can proceed without affecting the integrity of the River Dee and Bala Lake SAC, and the Dee Estuary SPA and Ramsar. Appropriate good practice measures will be in place to minimise disruption to the designated features of the sites, and this will continue throughout the construction and operational phases of the site.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Jess Hosier

Principal Ecologist

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