



Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru Countryside Council for Wales

**CADEIRYDD/CHAIRMAN: MORGAN PARRY**

Anfonwch eich ateb at/Please reply to:

Khalid. Aazem
Ffôn/Tel: 01792 634982
Ffacs/Fax: 01792 464245
Ebostr/email: k.aazem@ccw.gov.uk

PRIF WEITHREDWR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE: ROGER THOMAS

Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru / Countryside Council for Wales
Rhanbarth Gorllewin / West Region
Llys Tawe
Heol y Brenin / Kings Road
ABERTAWE / SWANSEA
SA1 8PG

Alison Holdsworth
Agriculture Technical Advisor (Intensive Farming)
EM Technical Services
Environment Agency
Kings Meadow House
Kings Meadow Road
Reading RG1 8DQ

Ein Cyf/Our Ref: C.31.18/KA
Eich Cyf/Your Ref: RP3433UF

30 November 2010

Dear Alison

**GAER HOUSE WOODS SSSI
ASHWOOD FARM RP3433UF**

As you are aware, CCW has undertaken some additional work in support of the recent permitting (with conditions) of a number of intensive livestock units. We have given further consideration to the conservation objectives for the affected sites and have visited some of the sites in question. I am writing to inform you of the results of this work in relation to the above pig/poultry unit.

We have investigated the sensitivity of the site and have concluded that an ammonia critical level of $3\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ is the most appropriate for Gaer House Woods SSSI. The designated habitat features within this SSSI have a condition assessment of 'unfavourable'.

Additional analysis of the Environment Agency's modelled isopleths, and overlaying this with our own feature survey maps, has indicated that areas of the designated site that is expected to have ammonia concentrations of $1.5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (i.e. 50% of the site relevant critical level) do not have highly sensitive features. Therefore, it is CCW's opinion that a site survey will not be required for Gaer House Woods SSSI.

On the basis of previous experience it is CCW's view that short term site surveys, such as those requested, would only detect acute impacts from ammonia concentrations. The more subtle impacts consistent with impacts from ammonia would require a longer term integrated monitoring programmes over a number of years.

In conclusion, the predicted risk to the site (as predicted by the Environment Agency's modelling) does not appear to have contributed to changes in the site condition, despite the farm being in existence for a significant period of time. You may wish to re-consider the permit conditions in light of this new information.

We are of course aware that under the terms of an EPR permit it may be reviewed, revised or revoked on the basis of further information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if the content of this letter needs clarification or has raised any further questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K. Aazem".

Khalid Aazem
Project Manager (Review of Consents)