

Response to Examining Authority's - Requests for further information (issued 15th April 2019)

**Wylfa Newydd DCO – EN010007**

**North Wales Wildlife Trust – interested party 20011639**

This response is provided solely by North Wales Wildlife Trust (NWWT), as an Interested Party to the DCO Examination.

Ref:	Erratum
<b>Erratum R17.2.2.2</b>	<p><b>The ExA accurately corrects NWWT's error in the [REP9-039] response:</b></p> <p>-</p> <p>The ExA states “<i>f(iii) refers to WN23 (4) and (5), which may be in error, WN21 (4) and (5) appears to be the correct reference</i>), ....”</p> <p>Thank you for correcting this error when raising the request for further information with the Applicant.</p>

Ref:	Response
<b>R17.2.1.4</b>	<p><b>S7 Habitats</b></p> <p><b>Does NWWT have any further comments regarding the principle of no net loss or net gain of S7 habitats as described in the LHMS?</b></p> <p>NWWT have a co-joined commentary with National Trust in relation to the LHMS. We therefore note and agree with the response of the National Trust to the ExA's question 17.2.1.5, submitted alongside our response at Deadline 10. The National Trust's comments indicate that there is now broad agreement on the focus of which types of habitat and the amount to be provided within the final operational landscape of the Wylfa Newydd estate, which is to be secured by the controlled chapters of the LHMS - Chapter 4 and Chapter 7 [REP8-063]. However, the matter of the principle of no net loss or net gain of S7 habitats is more nuanced than simply the agreement over figures for habitat creation. Although the LHMS and the original submission ([APP-128] <math>\approx</math> 9.5.126) are rather opaque in presenting figures in tabular form of extent of existing habitat vs net loss, it can be seen - or has been agreed within the Examination - that there will be losses to the following S7 features: -</p> <p><u>Marine Environment Habitats</u> – Not all the habitat loss in the marine environment is Section 7 Habitat. However, it was agreed by both National Trust/NWWT and NRW that the marine mitigation package presented by Horizon [REP4-063] had gone as far as is feasibly possible to compensate for the losses, but that this did <b>not</b> overcome the moderate adverse impacts in this environment (ie marine as opposed to terrestrial) (National Trust [REP5-076] <math>\approx</math> 3.3 response to ExA question 2.8.4, see also NRW [REP5-081] <math>\approx</math> 2.4 <i>et sequel</i> in main response and at Annex B answers to ExA question 2.8.4).</p> <p><u>Temporary Workers Accommodation (TWA) Biodiversity hotspot</u>, which includes Section 7 habitats of both coastal grassland and lowland meadow (unimproved and species rich semi-improved neutral grassland). The evaluation and extent of this resource within and adjacent to the proposed TWA</p>

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	<p>has been well rehearsed within the Examination, with no resulting agreement between the Applicant and NWWT. The restoration of the TWA is currently identified as a matter of biodiversity enhancement rather than mitigation and/or compensation for impacts (most recently [REP9-039] NWWT comments on WN23).</p> <p><u>Hedgerows and cloddiau</u> (cloddiau are an Anglesey Priority Feature) – The Environmental Assessment acknowledges that there will be a loss of 65% (29km present vs 10km recreated) of field boundaries ([APP-128] <math>\infty</math> 9.5.134 and [APP- 237 <math>\infty</math> figure 9-10 for hedgerows only] as a result of the development, although there has not been a detailed calculation of the relative lengths of hedge, cloddiau, drystone wall or fence. Therefore, it is not possible to accurately assess the Section 7 biodiversity net loss, however, Horizon indicates that compensation will be provided by way of providing greater species diversity within the replanted hedgerow and cloddiau. The improvement in species diversity however, would not entirely compensate for the resulting reduction in landscape connectivity. This is not a matter that NWWT has presented detailed evidence to the Examination.</p> <p><u>Ponds</u> (both a Wales and Anglesey Priority Habitat) – Through the advocacy of National Trust and NWWT the LHMS scheme does now include the provision of 9 recreated ponds [REP8-068 <math>\infty</math> Table 4.1], but this represents a replacement rate at about 1:1 or slightly less (cf comments reporting NWWT within the LHMS <math>\infty</math> 3.2.10 as compared with [APP-237] <math>\infty</math> figure D9-10). As the LHMS strategy is only indicative there is no way of assessing whether the recreated ponds would a) be suitable for priority species or b) be located in suitable places to allow priority species to recolonise them. This would apply equally to the loss of 4 toad breeding ponds as well as the two priority ponds identified with high value aquatic invertebrate resources. NWWT did not pursue a detailed case on the pond loss within the Examination.</p> <p>In conclusion, notwithstanding the agreement from the National Trust/NWWT over the final figures of habitat recreation that are presented within the LHMS and the apparent application of the principle of no net loss and biodiversity gain, there is still some deficiency in Section 7 habitat compensation/mitigation.</p>