



Land at Berth 31 Port of Barry

Wood Processing Facility

Environmental Statement

Chapter 1 Introduction and EIA

8th July 2024



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1. Introduction and EIA

- 1.1 This document is the Environmental Statement (ES) prepared to accompany a planning application for a change of use to a wood processing facility at Berth 31 in the Port of Barry, (the Site).

Development Proposals

- 1.2 The proposal is for a change of use to a wood processing facility. Ancillary to this there will be HGV parking, provision of an updated office, weighbridge and welfare facilities. The existing water tank will be retained and used. The existing concrete blocks used to facilitate storage of materials will also be retained and used.
- 1.3 The processing operations involve the sizing of the wood to meet set specifications dependant on the product being made. The machinery and plant involved in processing operations includes loading shovels, excavators, screeners, shredder, trommel and eddy current. The extent of the processing depends on the product specification, which is generally set by the customer, therefore does change.
- 1.4 The wood material is both virgin wood and end of life timber, i.e. waste wood, which makes up the majority of the inputs. The wood is sourced from the construction, demolition, commercial, industrial and municipal (household) waste streams. This includes the wood collected by local authorities in their household recycling facilities.
- 1.5 For the purposes of assessment a maximum annual tonnage of wood (and associated metal) is proposed of 250,000 tonnes. This does not mean that the site will operate to the maximum proposed levels at all times as it may be restrained by Permitting requirements or commercial factors such as the availability of wood which can be impacted seasonally or demand for the products created.

Site and Surroundings

- 1.6 The proposed wood processing facility area extends to 425 hectares, the majority is composed of an extensive concrete area. Existing infrastructure on site includes a water storage tank, lighting columns, offices, weighbridge, and ancillary structures as noted above of the blocks used to delineate areas. A live dock rail line passes through the site.
- 1.7 The immediate surrounds are the docks themselves with various dockside operations and other industrial operations together with large areas of open, unused land. To the immediate north-west of the site is a small construction yard utilised as a mobile plant training area. Beyond this,

and to the west and south-west of the site, is an extensive area of waste ground allocated for employment uses. To the north of the site, and north of Wimborne Road, there is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) known as the Cadoxton Wetlands. This is an area of restored wetland comprising tall herb, scattered scrub and grassland habitat, together with two small lakes and a reedbed.

- 1.8 Further to the west and north of the site, the nearest residential properties are located at Cadoxton. It is understood that planning for residential properties at the former sidings, Ffordd y Mileniwm, was granted in March 2023 and has now gained approval of reserved matters.

Environmental Impact Assessment

- 1.9 The ES provides the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that has been undertaken in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017.
- 1.10 An EIA is not required for all development proposals but for certain development proposals EIA can be considered necessary where there is a potential for a significant impact on sensitive receptors. These are outlined in Schedule 2 of the Regulations, and although wood processing for the purpose of recycling or recovery is not specifically referenced, under section 11 convention has been that any waste related operation is considered as “disposal” and in section 13, any change of use can be considered to fall within Schedule 2 if it may have significant adverse effects on the environment.
- 1.11 Although no formal, Screening or Scoping of this ES has been carried out, the information available from the previous applications on the site and in particular the findings of the EIA carried out for the Incinerator Bottom Ash recycling facility that was consented for the same location have been used to inform this ES.

Aim of Environmental Statement

- 1.12 The Environmental Statement (ES) is an objective account of the assessment process of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment based on a comprehensive set of environmental criteria.
- 1.13 This ES provides the relevant environmental information and addresses all the relevant likely significant environmental impacts. This ES has been prepared to follow the advice provided by the Government, the EIA Regulations and the professional standards of those involved.

- 1.14 The 2017 EIA Regulations in Schedule 4 specify the information for inclusion in an ES. Where this ES includes specific assessments by experts in their own specialities, then relevant baselines, methods of assessing impact, likelihood and degree of impact and mitigation measures are included specifically within those specialist chapters.

Vulnerability of Development

- 1.15 The 2017 EIA Regulations (Schedule 4 part 8) require consideration of the vulnerability of the development in terms of major accidents and/or natural disasters. This relates to the exposure and resilience of the development to such events and the possible implications for significant adverse effects on the environment.
- 1.16 The Proposed Development is located within a politically, geologically and meteorologically stable part of Wales. Accordingly, the facility is not at material risk from, for example, civil unrest, war, earthquakes or extreme weather conditions (hurricanes etc.).
- 1.17 The Proposed Development lies within an area which could be susceptible to flooding, but that has been fully assessed and mitigation described in this ES.
- 1.18 The Proposed Development is for a type of development that has been successfully deployed around Europe for many decades and without, to the Applicant's knowledge, any major accidents and / or disasters. The most notable incidents being accidental fire damage. Thus, the development is proven and well understood..

Cumulative Impact

- 1.19 The EIA Regulations require that a description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment should be included in the ES, including cumulative effects. On this basis, each technical chapter provides an assessment of likely significant cumulative environmental effects with other projects in the area where relevant. The cumulative effects of operational projects already form part of the baseline and as such are assessed within each of the discipline Chapters.
- 1.20 The committed development noted for this proposal and considered in the technical assessments is residential consent not yet built on land to the north of the eastern end of Ffordd y Mileniwm. Additionally, where of relevance, consideration has been given to the biomass plant to the south which was not operational at time of the ES preparation.

Information Sources

- 1.21 The information and knowledge required to produce this ES was acquired from a number of professional sources to ensure that all reasonable impacts were assessed. These sources included:

- discussions with technical consultees;
- discussions with the landowner,
- review of public files and records;
- review of historical mapping and aerial photography;
- site surveys;
- specialist studies, such as modelling of potential impacts; and,
- expert knowledge from the applicant's consultancy team.

Assessment Team

- 1.22 In accordance with the EIA Regulations 2017, SWWP has engaged competent experts to prepare the ES. As per Regulation each of the technical assessment chapters include a statement outlining the relevant expertise and / or qualifications of the experts that prepared the chapter.
- 1.23 The ES was coordinated by Land & Mineral Management (LMM), a planning consultancy. Additionally, a wider team of specialist consultants have provided expert assessment in respect of the following:

- ESP –Landscape and Visual impact.
- Isopleth – Air Quality
- Clarke Bond – Traffic and Transport
- 24 Acoustic - Noise
- Amber Planning – Surface Water and Flood;.

Non-Technical Summary

- 1.24 A separate Non-Technical Summary accompanies this ES.

Availability of Documents

- 1.25 Copies of the Non-Technical Summary and the ES can be obtained from Land & Mineral Management (01373 465739 or lmm@landandmineral.co.uk). The Non-Technical Summary is free and emailed as requested. The ES costs £480 in paper format including postage and

packaging. Alternatively, the documents can be viewed via Vale of Glamorgan Council's website for planning applications¹.

<https://vonline.planning-register.co.uk/>