



Land at Berth 31 Port of Barry

Wood Processing Facility

Environmental Statement

Chapter 3 - The Development

8th July 2024



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3 The Development

- 3.1 The proposal is for a change of use to a wood processing facility. The planning statement sets out the details of why planning is required in a move away from the existing operations carried out under Permitted Development rights. Ancillary to the change of use are existing elements of site infrastructure such as including weighbridge, offices, stores, substation, and pile retention structures, lighting and water tank. It is proposed that where necessary these will be refurbished or replaced and brought to current standards. Agreeing the wood storage requirements with National Resources Wales though the Environmental Permit may require some of the walls to be removed or re-located. An area for HGV parking has also been allocated.

Site Layout

- 3.2 The plan reference LMM 072-2A shows the general arrangements for site layout. All plant used on site will be mobile, not fixed, unless the planning determination process dictates otherwise. Location of the processing operations in the south west corner has been informed by the noise assessment work and the sensibility of keeping this operation as remoted from noise sensitive receptors as possible.
- 3.3 Similarly the site utilises large concrete blocks in various configurations to both assist in the storage of word piles, particularly processed, but also to act as containment for surface water, further elaborated on in the appropriate ES chapter.
- 3.4 Access to the site is shown and following comments noted from the 2015 IBA application, adequate site visibility splays have been considered. This is further expanded in the Transport Statement. An area for parking has been designated on the area that is currently hardstanding, close to the access, however HGVs may also utilise any unused space within the site if necessary.
- 3.5 Wood storage, whether processed or unprocessed will be flexible within the site boundaries and dictated by fluctuations in supply and demand as well as the direction of Natural Resources Wales as part of maintaining adequate separation distances, heights and pile sizes with reference to adequate fire prevention.

Site Operations

Processing Operations

- 3.6 The processing operations involve the sizing of the waste 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.

3.7 The main processing plant is specialist mobile wood shredding equipment, such as a Doppstadt, which includes magnets to remove any metals (e.g. nails) that may be in the wood. Mobile screens also form part of the processing operations as they size the wood pieces. The other main elements of plant are the machines used to load the processing plant and move material about site, loading shovels and 360-degree excavators, which are used across the site.

3.8 There is an element of metal salvaging involved as metal is removed from the wood that is being processed. It is then cleaned further if possible before being sent off to specialist metal recovery facilities. Metal from some of the applicant's other, smaller wood processing facilities may also be brought to Berth 31 for this treatment, but overall it makes up a very small element of the overall.

Waste Type and Sourcing

3.9 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.

3.10 All suppliers are given pre-contract details to specifying the types of wood that will be accepted so only preselected wood is accepted to site i.e. any wood failing to meet this set criteria is 'rejected' and not accepted to site. This avoids any contaminated wood or general waste being accepted to site.

Throughput and Operational Hours

3.11 For the purposes of assessment a maximum annual tonnage of wood (and 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.

3.12 The wood (and metal) will arrive at site in HGVs, but around 125,000 tonnes of the wood product will leave via a ship from the docks, being loaded direct from Berth 31. Under current contracts these loads will be those going to Latvia, Sweden and Scotland but obviously destinations will vary.

- 3.13 The nature of the facilities supplied, the modes of transport, the volumes required to be processed at times to meet demand and the established industrial location of the site mean that it will be potentially operational 24hrs per day and 7 days per week. As noted above in relation to the tonnages, for the purposes of planning this is assumed to provide flexibility, but it is likely to happen only on occasions. Processing will be restricted to 0700- 23-00, the noise impact of this has been assessed and is addressed in the relevant chapter of the ES.

Storage

- 3.14 A considerable part of the site is given over to the storage of wood, SWWP need to ensure they have stock provision to maintain continuity of supply 365 days of the year. The form of the storage will be dictated as noted above by National Resources Wales in securing an Environmental Permit, but pile sizes will be no greater than 7m and will likely have 12m separation between them. The scale of each pile is determined by different factors such as whether the wood has been processed or not, so there will be some flexibility on pile sizes.
- 3.15 Generally speaking there is a peak of storage in the summer with the converse of almost empty yards in the winter. Wood is processed to contract requirements so SWWP effectively process wood to order and typically keep only limited amounts of processed wood on site at any one time. The reason for this is that processed wood can deteriorate, primarily due to changes in moisture levels. The Environmental Permit, with operational requirements including stock rotation, will ensure that no unprocessed wood is stored on site for over 6 months.