

# Land at Berth 31 Port of Barry

## Wood Processing Facility

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Environmental Statement

Chapter 9, 10 & 11

Population and Human Health

Alternatives and:

Climate Change

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## Notice

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## 9 The Population and Human Health

- 9.1 This chapter considers the potential for the change of use to a wood processing facility to impact on the general population and human health, the alternatives that the operator has considered and the impact of climate change. It is important to note though that although this application seeks formal approval of the use of the site for wood recycling, this use has previously occurred in this location and in combination with metal recycling.
- 9.2 Additionally it is important to consider these matters in the context of the technical assessments in the ES which look at the potential for noise, air quality, transport or landscape to be negatively impacted which reflect directly on the potential for the population for human health to be impacted.
- 9.3 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015) has seven goals geared towards improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It directs wider policy and planning to support these goals, a prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal Wales with more cohesive communities, vibrant culture, thriving Welsh language and globally responsible Wales.
- 9.4 Planning Policy Wales seeks to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales (as per the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015)
- 9.5 Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011 – 2023. Health is embedded throughout the LDP, including policy on health protection, health improvement and health care.
- 9.6 For each environmental topic assessed in this ES it has been concluded that the impacts of the development can be controlled satisfactorily without unacceptable detriment to the local community or environment. The general population will not be unacceptably impacted and there are no health issues that would arise.
- 9.7 Further consideration has been given using Department of Health's Screening Exercise for Health Impact Assessment, that has been adopted by other local planning authorities as part of the planning process.

Screening Question	Response
<p><b>Will the proposal have a direct impact on health, mental health and wellbeing?</b></p> <p>For example would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?</p>	<p>No – Whilst there could be potential for wood processing developments to have an impact on health and wellbeing as a result of their operation, both on those working on sites and those living or working in or visiting the local community, the likely impact of these is not significant enough to be considered direct.</p>
<p><b>Will the policy have an impact on social, economic and environmental living conditions that would indirectly affect health?</b></p> <p>For example would it affect housing, transport, child development, education, good employment opportunities, green space or climate change?</p>	<p>No – Whilst there is potential for the site to have an amenity impact on communities living close by, in this case, the nearest communities are not in close proximity so there is no potential for the development to directly impact the living conditions of these communities.</p> <p>Amenity impacts are adequately assessed in the ES, acknowledging where there are residential areas.</p>
<p><b>Will the proposal affect an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?</b></p> <p>For example will it affect their ability to be physically active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking?</p>	<p>No – The development will have no impact on an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing. No public footpaths are being restricted or similar.</p>
<p><b>Will there be a change in demand for or access to health and social care services?</b></p> <p>For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health and Social Services?</p>	<p>No – The development will have no impact on the demand for, or access to services.</p>
<p><b>Will the proposal have an impact on global health?</b></p>	<p>No – The development is of local scale and as such is insignificant in terms of global health.</p>

- 9.8 The outcome of the screening is that there is no identified likely health impact arising and therefore further assessment is not required. The consideration is therefore of the wider benefits of the development proposal and the implications for the local population on the economy and employment.
- 9.9 The use of dockside locations for similar types activities would be expected by local residents and has been on-going for many decades in various forms. The change of use to wood recycling, supported by this ES, is therefore not unexpected or unprecedented to the local community. As noted above and elsewhere in this ES and the wider application the history of the site and its current use are similar.
- 9.10 The diversion of waste, including wood from landfill is a matter of relevance to the wider community. Alternative facilities such as that proposed by this development are required if the general public's support for recycling and diversion of waste from landfill is to be fulfilled.

9.11 Additionally creating a new facility has local economic benefits which in turn benefits the wider community, enhancing local economic development. It offers employment both directly for those working in the recycling site or the transport system and indirectly in other industries in the supply chain or that support the workforce.

9.12 There is significant weight placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity through the planning system and planning decisions should enable the sustainable growth. New development by an established business will have a positive effect on economic growth.

*Conclusion*

9.13 The development proposals do not compromise the quality of life or health for the local or wider population..

9.14 There will also be a beneficial impact from the development proposal in terms of the employment, both direct and indirect, contributing to, and maintaining, the local community.

9.15 Finally, the development proposal will ensure that a facility is provided to meet the need to recycle waste, something that is required to support the sustainable waste management options for the area.

## 10 Alternatives considered by the Operator

- 10.1 The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations requires that where an applicant considers alternative developments to the one proposed, *“A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects”*, Schedule 4, part 2.
- 10.2 In this instance the consideration of alternative sites has not been an extensive factor. The nature of this wood recycling operation and in particular the end users of the product created are best served by the operations being on a dockside with access to shipping. South West Wood Products have maintained dialogue with Associated British Ports (ABP) over a period of time to establish where and when suitable sites in their portfolio would be available. The nature of the location is such there are not usually alternatives to consider, and the site offered by ABP controls the size of the development.
- 10.3 In terms of the development design, the constraints of the site are noted, including the active rail line and extent of the concrete surfacing, along with the existing screening bund, the drainage arrangements and proximity to sensitive receptors. These elements influence primarily where the processing area is located, and the rest of the concrete surfacing required to provide woodpile storage at peak times. Alternative arrangements could have given rise to greater effects but the layout proposed has been considered to provide the optimum one for the reduction of effects.
- 10.4 The technology involved in processing the waste wood for re-use has been adopted from other successful operations and therefore will also be used here. Naturally new technologies are investigated and adopted if suitable over time.
- 10.5 In terms of alternatives to recycling wood, whilst the government and society wish to produce less waste, it is still arising and therefore waste wood need to dealt with and if it is not recycled it can only be disposed of, with landfill being the first disposal option and clearly an undesirable alternative. This facility will create a waste wood product that can either be recovered by producing energy, be recycled by use in particle board or similar, or replace primary product as chipped wood for cattle bedding.

## 11 Climate Change

- 11.1 Climate change is a large-scale, long-term shift in the planet's weather. The impacts of climate change are global and causes of climate change are attributed to emissions of greenhouse gases primarily increases in CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) levels in the atmosphere. Whilst there are many natural causes which contribute to CO<sub>2</sub> levels there has been a significant rise in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels due to humans' activities over past centuries.
- 11.2 The Climate Change Act 2008 is the basis for the UK's approach to tackling and responding to climate change. It requires that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are reduced and that climate change risks are prepared for. The Act includes a target to significantly reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This has been updated to set a target of "net zero" greenhouse gases by 2050.
- 11.3 Recycling wood is at the core of a sustainable option for managing wood waste. It reduces the need for additional wood to be harvested and meets the needs of the end users. This reduces global demand for wood, which helps conserve forests, which act as natural carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in their biomass. Recycling also prevent the wood going to landfill where it would break down and contribute to increasing greenhouse gases.
- 11.4 In this development the recycling activities are co-located with the dock, meaning reducing handling and transportation of the wood. Bulk transport by ship is a lower <sup>1</sup> CO<sub>2</sub> transport option than HGV, therefore a better option for climate change.
- 11.5 In terms of impacts arising as a result of continuing climate change flooding is considered to be one of the clear indications of the adverse impacts of climate change. Flooding has been considered in detail in the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA).
- 11.6 A purpose of the FRA is to demonstrate how development may affect flood risk and if this risk of flooding can be managed whilst taking climate change into account. The FRA has considered the sources of flooding and assessed the operations in terms of flood impacts. This included the anticipated effects of climate change.

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<sup>1</sup> [Here](#)



- 11.7 Similarly the consideration of surface water management includes a climate change allowance, such that the design of the site is able to cope with potential increasing rainfalls over time.
- 11.8 Specific to this development, emissions could arise from use of the plant and machinery on site, therefore a number of measures are adopted as standard working practice, for example:
- All mobile plant operates to the latest European standards in terms of emissions (also Euro VI)
  - All processing plant will be electrically driven where feasible.
  - All plant and equipment will be regularly serviced to ensure operating as intended therefore with the lowest possible emissions.
- 11.9 No other vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change have been considered significant in relation to the development and its location.