

**ITEMS RECEIVED AFTER THE PRODUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL REPORTS FOR THE  
PLANNING COMMITTEE ON 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

**TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE RECONVENED PLANNING COMMITTEE ON 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2024**

<b>Application</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
2020/01170/OUT	Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm, Lavernock Road, Penarth	Comments from Barry Friends of the Earth
2023/00032/FUL	Barry Biomass Renewable Energy Facility, David Davies Road, Barry	Representations received Welsh Government Call-In letter
2023/00033/FUL	Land to the North of Barry Biomass Renewable Energy Facility, David Davies Road, Barry	Representations received Welsh Government Call-In letter
2023/00895/FUL	Great House Farm, Penllyn	Comments from Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust and additional neighbour objection

**ITEMS RECEIVED AFTER THE PRODUCTION OF THE REPORT  
FOR THE PLANNING COMMITTEE  
TO BE HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY. 2024**

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<b>Page</b>	<b>Application</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
	2020/01170/OUT	Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm, Lavernock Road, Penarth	<b>1.</b>	Comments from Barry Friends of the Earth
	2023/00032/FUL	Barry Biomass Renewable Energy Facility, David Davies Road, Barry	<b>2.</b>	Representations received
			<b>3.</b>	Welsh Government Call-In letter
	2023/00033/FUL	Land to the North of Barry Biomass Renewable Energy Facility, David Davies Road, Barry	<b>4.</b>	Representations received
			<b>5.</b>	Welsh Government Call-In letter
	2023/00895/FUL	Great House Farm, Penllyn	<b>6.</b>	Comments from Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust and additional neighbour objection

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## MATTERS ARISING FOR COMMITTEE

### COMMITTEE DATE :

<b>Application No.:</b> 2020/01170/OUT	<b>Case Officer:</b> Mr. Robert Lankshear
<b>Location:</b> Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm, Lavernock Road, Penarth	
<b>Proposal:</b> Outline application for residential development, a primary school, community space and public open space with all matters reserved other than access	

**From: Barry Friends of the Earth**

#### Summary of Comments:

- **Development should not be allowed in coastal locations**
- **Urban sprawl and unsuitably located relative to services**
- **Contamination of land and need for further investigation**
- **Drainage associated with contamination of the land**
- **Railway line included in TfW plans for Metro expansion and like suitable safeguarded site for station with the masterplan**
- **Lack of consultation with Cardiff Capital Region with regard to potential conflict with potential barrage**
- **Suggestion that affordable housing will be reduced due to viability**

#### Officer Response:

The matters raised within the letter are considered to be covered within the officer report, particularly those relating to the location of development in terms of the coast and services; contamination and drainage issues.

In terms of the lack of consultation with Transport for Wales, it is noted that consultation has been undertaken with the Council's active travel representatives as part of the consultation with the Council's Highway Development Section, whilst Welsh Government, of which Transport for Wales is part, are the applicant.

The Council's Operational Manager for Transport Services advises that they are progressing active travel route which is funded by WG and is supported by the Transport for Wales active travel team. They further advise that the extension of the rail link along Railway Walk was sifted out as part of WelTAG Stage Two work that was undertaken by TfW using ARUP consultants.

Notwithstanding this, the proposals clearly indicate the retention of the railway line as an active travel route as part of the development and with the exception of the spine road crossing propose no substantive development is shown within this old railway line running

North to South across the site. As such it is considered that the grant of outline planning permission, with details of the exact layout and form of development to be provided, does not preclude further exploration of expansion of the Metro system in this area, should any formal proposals come to fruition. Whilst it is requested that consideration of the application should be deferred, noting the above, this is not considered to be necessary.

In terms of any potential tidal barrage, officers are not aware of any formal proposals for such a development at this time, whilst at the time of writing this report, Welsh Government remain owners of the land in question. The residential development of the site does not strictly preclude any further development of proposals for a tidal barrage, and in the absence of formalised proposals, it is considered that it does not represent a reason to withhold planning permission, particularly noting the sites allocation within the extant development plan and its retention as a site for housing within calculations for housing numbers within the evolving replacement LDP.

With regard to potential viability matters relating to affordable housing provision, no such assessment has been put before the Council at this time and the applicant have confirmed their agreement to the policy compliant provision of 40% affordable housing (with a view to increase this provision to 50%) and to meet the other planning obligations arising from the development of the site. Should a viability case be made this would have to be considered on its merits and reported to members should such an instance arise. At this point there has been no such submission and therefore this does not represent a reason to refuse permission.

**Action required:**

None

**Members are also advised of the following update to report:****Error on page 56:**

Members should note that the recommendation is to approve planning permission subject to the applicant first entering into a Section 106 agreement and subject to the conditions set out in the report. Should members agree and resolve to grant planning permission a planning permission could only be issued following confirmation from the Welsh Ministers that they do wish to call the application in.

**Amend to:**

Members should note that the recommendation is to approve planning permission subject to the applicant first entering into a Section 106 agreement and subject to the conditions set out in the report. Should members agree and resolve to grant planning permission a planning permission could only be issued following confirmation from the Welsh Ministers that they do **not** wish to call the application in.

Late Rep. on

### **Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm, Lavernock Road, Penarth 2020/01170/OUT**

*Development should not normally be proposed in coastal locations unless it needs to be on the coast.. In particular, undeveloped coastal areas will rarely be the most appropriate location for development.* Planning Policy Wales 11.

Being in the LWP does not over-ride this principle. The proposer gives no reasons. It was inserted at the LWP Inquiry stage to make up the numbers; it has not been needed and no other reason is given.

Urban sprawl. It's possible to walk or cycle the 2 miles to Penarth town services. The existing estate shows some do, but most use the car. Just a few catch the bus. Without a range of local facilities, 'sustainable community' is a fiction. The access requirement could have included connection to the Brockhill Rise shop and community centre.

Hazardous waste was found in the 1980s Council tip. Unforseen and uneconomic to dig out. The report misleadingly says "*Contaminants of concern*". The tip has no liner, as buried drums corrode away, the hazardous chemicals leak out.

Hazardous waste problems have to be sorted at the outline stage. The specialist consultant followed English guidance from the 00's, not the 2017 Welsh regs. They failed to determine the hydrological model, and failed to find out how the chemicals will leach into groundwater or the Sully Brook. Rather than further investigate with the necessary new boreholes, the proposers gave up – and now sell the site.

Soakaways for rainstorm-water in contaminated ground with unknown pathways are no-go. Attenuation ponds drain midway in rainstorms into the Sully Brook, which floods. Overloaded drains on the adjacent Cosmeston Drive etc. in the December 2020 storm flooded the Lavernock Rd. No solution – and this development would worsen it.

A rail-line extension to Sully is in some TfW plans, with high priority for expanding the Metro. Safeguarding land for this rail-line and a possible Cosmeston station is necessary at the 'outline' stage, just like road access. The case-officer omitted to consult TfW and the Cardiff Capital Region.

Cardiff Capital Region via the Severn consortium of LAs are strongly interested in developing tidal power. A tidal barrage with landfall at Lavernock Point is still in their sights. Tidal current turbines are possible too. The barrage previously required an access roadway across the Cosmeston land. The Vale being a member of CCR needs to consult them.

Remote from Penarth Town services, a "sustainable community" could only be achieved if planned. It needs good public transport connection, as only the rail service could give. The outline permission with WGovt sale does not ensure this.

The Welsh Govt as owner can prescribe social housing and 50% total "affordable", for PR purposes. Yet the location is bad for bus-dependent residents. Developers of the land will wriggle out of the social housing obligation by the use of "viability" assessment.

Max Wallis  
Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth

## MATTERS ARISING FOR COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE DATE : 22 February 2024

<b>Application No.:</b> 2023/00032/FUL	<b>Case Officer:</b> Mr. Ceiri Rowlands
<b>Location:</b> Barry Biomass Renewable Energy Facility, David Davies Road, Barry <b>Proposal:</b> Retrospective full planning permission for development comprising a wood fired renewable energy plant and associated structures without complying with Condition 5 (Drawings) attached to planning permission 2015/00031/OUT	

**From:** Docks Incinerator Action Group (DIAG) and Friends of the Earth (FoE) and a member of the public

### Summary of Comments:

A series of letters have been received from both DIAG and FoE, and a further member of the public. Each of those letters/emails is appended to this note for Members' information. Some of the attached correspondence was received prior to the report being published, but it is attached for completeness alongside the more recent correspondence. The main points are summarised as follows:

- The report suggests that the task carried out by the Inspector (regarding EIA soundness) was something more than was the case
- Use of diesel is un-quantified and could increase the impacts of the development.
- The Environmental Statement is inadequate and contains inadequate commitments regarding the robustness of the assessments.
- The development is harmful in respect of noise and dust (with videos and photos submitted)
- The photograph on page 135 of the Report is considered to be out of date, and more recent photographs are supplied that show the context of nearby residential sites.
- Impacts of waste wood storage on berth 31 should be considered.
- The plant should be required to be net zero.
- The development should be treated as a Development of National Significance.
- The report does not contain reasoned conclusions and the application has been subject to inadequate scrutiny/expertise.
- There is inadequate assessment of need for this kind of waste facility.
- THE ES is flawed in various ways including its scope, its analysis of Co2 and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, the assumed life of the development, use of diesel, etc.
- There is caselaw which dictates this should not be a Section 73A application.
- Progressing the current planning applications prejudices The Minister's position in considering discontinuance.
- The public have been deprived of a right to respond.

- **Inadequate flood work**
- **Inadequate biodiversity gain**

### **Officer Response:**

The comments are in many areas very similar to representations received prior to the completion of the report and consequently in many areas these points are discussed in the officer's report. Notwithstanding that, in summary the following points are added/re-iterated for Members' benefit:

- The statement referred to (regarding EIA soundness) relates to the previous enforcement appeal as noted in the report '*...when submitted as part of the related enforcement appeal proceedings*'.
- The use of diesel (and its impacts) is quantified and considered to represent a robust assessment/worst case scenario- given the nature of diesel use- i.e. in infrequent unforeseen circumstances where the plant has to be shut down and re-started, or in the event of power outages (related to generator use).
- The ES is considered to be complete for the purpose of the EIA Regulations. The scope is considered justified and it relates to the items scoped in with WG when the developer undertook a voluntary EIA prior to the submission of these applications (save for waste, which is dealt with in a detailed technical note alongside the ES, whose conclusions regarding significance of impacts are considered reasonable and accepted). Consequently and given the scope of the application, it was considered acceptable to scope this out. It should also be noted that this was not included as a stand alone ES chapter when the ES was submitted with the enforcement appeal, and the Inspector considered the ES to be complete in respect of its composition.
- Noise is dealt with in the report, and Members will note the robust conditions which require compliance with acceptable noise levels. The conditions also require compliance with a robust dust management plan.
- The photographs are useful for context but do not alter the assessments of findings.
- Regarding waste wood storage on a neighbouring site, this is an application to amend a previous planning permission, and it is considered that this issue falls outside the scope of this assessment.
- The points relating to DNS, waste, biodiversity and flooding are covered in the officer's report.
- In terms of net zero- this is not considered to be a requirement for this proposal, which is to consider impacts arising from the amendments to a previous proposal.
- In respect of the ES' assessment of emissions, the ES has been considered by a range of technical consultees, including NRW who are responsible for permitting the development. While the objectors' concerns in this regard are noted, the ES is considered to provide a robust assessment of the impacts.
- The public have not been deprived of a right to respond. There has been a number of consultation exercises in line with the regulations, and there has been an extensive line of communication with the interests groups who have submitted these representations.
- Progressing the current planning applications would not, in the Council's view, prejudice The Minister's position in considering discontinuance.
- The officer's report does contain reasoned conclusions and the ES (and all parts of the application) have been considered by technical consultees, who are considered appropriate to give technical responses on the information contained within and it is considered that officers are capable of considering this advice and presenting it to Members. Regulation 25 report – there is no requirement in the EIA Regulations to



produce a separate report for the EIA. These matters are covered in the Officer's report to Planning Committee.

- The caselaw referred to in representations (regarding whether this proposal can be treated as a S73A application) is not considered to be applicable.
- Clean Air Bill – the bill commits Welsh Government to set new targets, but the bill does not set new targets for air quality.
- Heat – Schedule 4 1(D) of the EIA Regulations does not set a specific requirement to quantify heat emission, it is an example (“such as...”). In the context of climate change, in Chapter 7 of the ES, it was not considered necessary to quantify this in the context of this application.

**Action required:**

Members to note

# DIAG

## DOCKS INCINERATOR ACTION GROUP

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07 February 2024

Mr Ceiri Rowlands,  
Principal Planner,  
Civic Offices,  
Holton Rd,  
Barry  
CF63 4RU

Sent by email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Rowlands

**Re: Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 (as amended) Application No. 2023/00032/FUL etc**

Further to my letter of the 02 February 2024 I have recently been advised of matters by the Head of Planning Directorate at the Welsh Government. Could you confirm you are aware of these matters and how the Vale of Glamorgan has decided they impact on the current applications.

We were reminded that:

*Following the identification of a breach of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 (“the 1999 EIA Regulations”) in relation to planning application 2015/00031/OUT, the Welsh Ministers began exploring options to address duty of sincere co-operation under European Law.*

You might recall that a Voluntary Environmental Statement was arranged to assist the Minister with the question of sincere cooperation. The current situation was explained as:

*Welsh Ministers are aware that the duty of sincere co-operation under European Law requires them to exercise any powers available to them under domestic law to remedy any breach that may have occurred if taking such measures is lawful and proportionate. The consultation was an initial step towards meeting the duty but the next step is for the consultation responses to be included within advice to the Minister for Climate Change so that a decision can be taken on whether to make a discontinuance order under section 102 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. You will recall the previous decision about making a section 102 order was an interim one relating to whether to suspend operations while an environmental*

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*statement was prepared and consulted on. The next step would be a final determination about whether to discontinue the use of the site and remove any buildings or plant. I anticipate a decision being made during the first half of this year.*

It may be the case that the Vale of Glamorgan Council is also subject to the need to consider sincere cooperation although the fact that the Council was complicit in the errors in 2015 that lead to the breach of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 might be confusing for some.

With regard to the obligation of sincere cooperation and any responsibility on the Council I appreciate there is the prospect of a conflict bearing in mind the continuing denial of any mistakes by the Council. I can see how that adversely impacts on considering the matter but perhaps that is a reason for waiting for the Minister to decide.

Would you be kind enough to let us as a group know the Council's interpretation of what sincere cooperation requires of it. Would you also confirm what the Council's decisions are with regard to the current position at the Welsh Government bearing in mind the potential for conflicting decisions if your Council proceeds prior to hearing from the Minister.

Sincerely,



Dennis Clarke  
(Vice Chair DIAG)

# DIAG

## DOCKS INCINERATOR ACTION GROUP

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07 February 2024

Mr Ceiri Rowlands,  
Principal Planner,  
Civic Offices,  
Holton Rd,  
Barry  
CF63 4RU

Sent by email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Rowlands

**Re: Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 (as amended) Application No. 2023/00032/FUL Location : Barry Biomass Renewable Energy Facility, David Davies Road, Barry Proposal : Retrospective full planning permission for development comprising a wood fired renewable energy plant and associated structures without complying with Condition 5 (Drawings) attached to planning permission 2015/00031/OUT**

DIAG has asked me to write to you dealing with single points rather than send a comprehensive letter to include all. We hope this is useful. It will mean multiple letters but by keeping the points separate we are hopeful matters might be clearer.

If any one or more of the letters we send to you are based on a misunderstanding on our part please let us know where we are in error in order that we might move on and be better focussed on the issues that need to be addressed. We continue to try to be evidence based in our representations.

In this letter we want to revisit the nature of the 'main' planning application submitted on behalf of Biomass No.2.

We understand the Council is dealing with the application 2023/00032/FUL pursuant to section 73A(2)(c) TPA.

The description of section 73A(2)(c) TPA is similar to what we find in section 73. We have previously referred to the case of Fiske which is a case dealing with the ambit of section 73. We do not understand why the Council refuses the help given by this and similar cases notwithstanding the similarity of wording between s73 and s73A(2)(c).

R(Fiske) v Test Valley Borough Council [2023] EWHC 2221 (Admin) appears to be an important case to confirm the provision (s73) cannot be used to impose or vary conditions in a way which causes there to be any conflict with the description of development in the earlier grant. We see no obvious reason why the Fiske clarification does not apply to the similar wording found in s73A(2)(c). If there a way in which the two sections can be distinguished please let us know.

Can we agree that if the Fiske decision is relevant to s73A(2)(c) then the current planning application 2023/00032/FUL should fail? We assume this is the case due to the extent of the differences previously highlighted by the Vale. We are not sure that the Council has included its own representations on the differences within the register.

The Vale Council assumes that the process in 2015 was lawful when it so clearly breached Regulation 3 of the EIA Regulations. This has been discussed and we understand the Council's view remains that no errors were made in 2015 and therefore the purported grant of planning permission was in accordance with the law.

We have previously discussed how the Vale Council arrives at the decision that the grant of planning permission can survive where it is unlawfully granted and in breach of the international obligations. We deal with this briefly below.

The continuing obligation for sincere obligation has been set out by us previously and remains unanswered. You know that the Welsh Government is still trying to sort this out and yet there seems to be no attempt on the part of the Vale Council to liaise on the point with the Minister. Please let us know if in fact there is correspondence on the point between the Council and the Minister.

As you have so clearly asserted that the 2015 permission is extant you will have considered the points raised but notwithstanding your obvious decision you have never explained how the issue was properly resolved by you.

There is adequate material to show that the Vale acted unlawfully in 2015. There is adequate material to show the developers were not unaware of the unlawful nature of those proceedings. It might be that the relevant parties had similar ambitions to avoid the implications of the EIA Regulations and if that was the case the law would not permit such poor conduct to be rewarded in the way the Vale appears to pursue.

Sincerely,



Dennis Clarke  
(Vice Chair DIAG)

# DIAG

## DOCKS INCINERATOR ACTION GROUP

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08 February 2024

Mr Ceiri Rowlands,  
Principal Planner,  
Civic Offices,  
Holton Rd,  
Barry  
CF63 4RU

Sent by email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Rowlands

**Re: Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 (as amended) Application No. 2023/00032/FUL etc**

I have been asked to comment on the claim made by Mr Philip Murphy on behalf of Aviva at the third paragraph of his email to you and Ms Feist dated 23 February 2023.

There was a lengthy comment purporting to rely on what Mr Murphy says is a decision by the Inspector who was dealing with the Appeal against the Enforcement Notice.

Unfortunately this turns out to be yet another important obfuscation of the real situation where Aviva is looking to gain an advantage where none exists.

It was obvious to everybody that the Inspector's claim was not made in accordance with the law and due process. An explanation was received from PEDW in terms:

*If an ES is found to be complete for the purposes of the EIA Regulations this does not mean that they consider it to be adequate to the point to enable planning permission to be granted, only that it covers the matters prescribed by the EIA Regulations.*

*As the appeal you are enquiring about is an enforcement appeal, the ES will be subject to publicity in accordance with Regulation 52 of the EIA Regulations, and the representations that people wish to make about the contents of the ES can be submitted to PEDW once the Local Planning Authority has instigated those publicity measures.*

*Whether or not the Inspector finds the ES to be complete it does not preclude the Inspector from requesting 'further information' under Regulations 51 and 24.*

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The explanation makes it clear that the claim by Mr Murphy should be considered misleading, it did not and could not have had the impact he claims.

The real position was so obvious that we cannot imagine why the claim was made in the terms we see in the email. If there is any doubt then we suggest you check with PEDW where both Mr Sweet and Robert Sparey will no doubt put paid to such an obvious bad claim on the part of the Applicant.

Sincerely,



Dennis Clarke  
(Vice Chair DIAG)

# DIAG

## DOCKS INCINERATOR ACTION GROUP

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08 February 2024

Mr Ceiri Rowlands,  
Principal Planner,  
Civic Offices,  
Holton Rd,  
Barry  
CF63 4RU

Sent by email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Rowlands

**Re: Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 (as amended) Application No. 2023/00032/FUL etc**

I have been asked to enquire about the matters that the Applicant has refused to deal with in its Environmental Statement (ES) without, so far as we can see, a lawful reason.

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 set out what is required of an ES to comply with the Regulations and the EU Directives.

In particular Regulations 4 and 17 together with Schedule 4 need to be complied with. There has never been a scoping decision in relation to this ES which should mean full compliance with the Regulations.

You will already be aware that the Applicant has refused to cover all of those matters that are required within the Environmental Impact Assessment process and then the ES. As there is no excuse for unilaterally omitting any of the environmental issues please ensure that you so advise the committee in due course.

Alternatively, could you let us know ahead of any committee meeting the basis on which you accept a deficient ES. By failing to follow the Regulations the public is deprived of its right to respond to the issues and the Planning Committee will be prevented from carrying out its responsibilities in a way similar to what occurred in 2015.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Dennis Clarke  
(Vice Chair DIAG)



# DIAG

## DOCKS INCINERATOR ACTION GROUP

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12 February 2024

Mr Ceiri Rowlands,  
Principal Planner,  
Civic Offices,  
Holton Rd,  
Barry  
CF63 4RU

Sent by email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Rowlands

**Re: Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 (as amended) Application No. 2023/00032/FUL etc**

I have been asked to comment on a narrow issue on greenhouse gas emissions. In part this is in answer to the point made by Mr Murphy in his email to you and others on the 31 July 2023.

In that email you will recall the paragraph:

*Greenhouse Gas Assessment - DIAG have commented on the GHG assessment within the ES and questioned the accuracy of the calculations to inform the assessment. The ES assessment was undertaken by a competent expert in GHG and it has been prepared in line with standard industry guidance and factors for wood combustion. DIAG raise additional GHG emissions from residual coatings and finishes (e.g. paints), which as a proportion of the total mass throughput are insignificant and would not affect the findings of the GHG footprint or assessment.*

At paragraph 5.f of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations Wales we see the requirement to deal with:

*(f) the impact of the project on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the project to climate change;*

Mr Murphy is in error when he asserts that DIAG was concerned about coatings etc adding CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere when it was probably obvious to him that DIAG was concerned about other poisons that would affect human health. Clearly he did not want to address that issue.

There are issues with the material relied upon by Mr Murphy.

An error early on in his Chapter 7 is:

*7.3.1 Further to guidance from PEDW that scoping consultation was not necessary there has been no scoping or consultation carried out for this ES.*

DIAG's understanding is that PEDW invited the Appellant to seek a scoping decision but the Appellant refused the offer. If DIAG's understanding is correct the claim is bizarre, plain wrong and very misleading.

The report produced by QUOD does not read as if produced by an independent source. It seems to be an interpretation of something received. It is noticeable that there is no endorsement as required by Planning Inspectorate advice nor as recommended by a governing body.

A reason we question the report in this way is that so much of the content is opaque whereas an expert should be able to analyse and explain. There is a failure to explain at any level.

Rather than add the declaration required by the Planning Inspectorate that is easily amended to fit with the EIA:

*"The evidence which I have prepared and provide for this appeal reference APP/xxx (in this Written Statement of evidence, written statement or report) is true and has been prepared and is given in accordance with the guidance of my professional institution and I confirm that the opinions expressed are my true and professional opinions".*

The Appendices to Chapter 7 include the declaration:

*This report has been prepared by Air Quality Consultants Ltd on behalf of the Client, **taking into account the agreed scope of works.**(our emphasis)*

We (and we include the Vale Council within that) have no idea what the agreed scope of works means but in view of the failure to include a required endorsement it is important to check this. The terms used to endorse/limit the reporting is a far cry from the objectivity required for the ES.

Notwithstanding the terms of paragraph 5(f) of Schedule 4 to the EIA (Wales) Regulations there seems to be no attempt to include any calculation of the GHG quantities produced by the burning of the fuel. This is an important matter as the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> produced is agreed with NRW as at least 130,000 tonnes per annum.

The use of the BEIS appears to us to be inappropriate for EIA purposes. The use of BEIS seems to be relevant to more formal reporting especially for construction purposes. It is over optimistic for the Applicant to use it to avoid obvious issues for the Environmental Impact Assessment.

The Applicant has then confused the whole situation. The assessment of impact of the CO<sub>2</sub> came to the conclusion that notwithstanding:

- the emission of large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum,
- using waste wood produces more CO<sub>2</sub> per unit of energy produced than fossil fuels,
- there is no analysis that supports the claim that use of the present incinerator will off-set other more polluting producers (if such a producer exists),

- the conclusion supports the view that the project will not reduce its emissions towards net zero,
- the assumption of a lifetime of 25 years is incorrect as the applicant has indicated the potential for more,
- the failure to update for the current situation where the earth has already passed the critical limit of 1.5°C,
- the claim that other sources of emissions can be ignored due to alleged low % additions when the comparator (the emissions from the stack) is said to be zero or better,
- the incinerator is wasting an important resource namely the heat dissipated to atmosphere,
- the failure to take note of the very high use of diesel thus far in relation to the project (with similar usage in the sister incinerators at Hull and Boston) demonstrating that the emissions from diesel use are very far from insignificant (the data has been ignored and no reason given for this notwithstanding the data is readily available from NRW and the applicant),
- that assuming a lifecycle of just 25 years the GHG emissions from the processing of the wood fuel will be in excess of 3,250,000 tonnes,
- the applicant is of the view that carbon capture is not financially viable for the project,
- the drive towards genuine renewable energy,

an assessment is claimed that “the Development will be better than net zero over the lifetime of the Development and will result in a very small residual emission in the opening year, even accounting for all of the construction phase emissions.”

With expert advice such as this we cannot be surprised that the world is not really interested in reducing GHG emissions. Perhaps it is just decision makers who are not interested in saving the planet. The public would prefer to see decisions taken that support less GHG emissions.

It will therefore be obvious why we decided we needed to see the non-technical explanation to see if there was more assistance.

We have not found the Non-Technical Summary on the register. See paragraph 9 of Schedule 4 to the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 for confirmation that such a document is a fundamental requirement of any Environmental Statement.

The insistence upon all sorts of assumptions to avoid dealing with the impact of the continuous emissions to atmosphere of in excess of 130,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum over a lengthy period and apparent inconsistencies in comparators shows why the Vale needs to obtain the documentation demonstrating the nature of the instructions.

We also point out that material has been omitted from the report notwithstanding it is referred to, is relied upon, the author knows it is not generally available to the public. This is unacceptable and should be remedied.

A lot of the above will have been apparent to the Vale officers if submissions had been considered.

I would be happy to discuss these issues further if you require.

We look forward to your kind reply.

Sincerely,



Dennis Clarke  
(Vice Chair DIAG)

# DIAG

## DOCKS INCINERATOR ACTION GROUP

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17 February 2024

Ian Robinson  
Civic Offices,  
Holton Rd,  
Barry  
CF63 4RU

Sent by email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Robinson

**Planning Applications: 2023/00032/FUL & 2023/00033/FUL – Barry Docks Incinerator**

Please find with this letter a PDF of an email sent to Friends of the Earth on the 12 July 2022.

This was the description of the task carried out by the Inspector when he was directed to consider the Environment Statement.

The report to the Planning Committee inadvertently suggests that the task carried out by the Inspector was something more than is described in the attached pdf.

Would you kindly ensure that the Committee is made aware that the Inspector's decision following his consideration of the papers is as per the explanation received by Friends of the Earth.

You will of course have appreciated that such early consideration could have been nothing more.

We look forward to hearing from you if you consider the clarification should be kept from the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Dennis Clarke  
(Vice Chair, DIAG)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Procedure over EIA for RE: CAS-01341-N2Q5B8 Biomass UK No.2

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <[PEDW.Casework@gov.wales](mailto:PEDW.Casework@gov.wales)>  
Date: Tue, 12 Jul 2022 at 15:26  
Subject: RE: Procedure over EIA for RE: CAS-01341-N2Q5B8 Biomass UK No.2  
To: <[barryvale.foe@gmail.com](mailto:barryvale.foe@gmail.com)>

Hello Mr Wallis,

Mr Sweet has asked me to respond to your query. On receipt of an Environmental Statement (ES), Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) will appoint an Inspector to assess whether the ES is complete for the purposes of the Regulations, i.e. whether it addresses the requirements of Regulation 17 and Schedule 4 of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (as amended) ['the EIA Regulations'].

At this stage the Inspector may or may not be the Inspector that will determine the case in question. It is our working practice to ensure it is the same Inspector wherever possible but Inspector availability is the determining factor.

This process is not open to consultation, and is a matter of the professional judgement of the Inspector. The Inspector's findings will be captured in a Report which will be added to the relevant file and published if the case is found to be valid and formally started.

If an ES is found to be complete for the purposes of the EIA Regulations this does not mean that they consider it to be adequate to the point to enable planning permission to be granted, only that it covers the matters prescribed by the EIA Regulations.

As the appeal you are enquiring about is an enforcement appeal, the ES will be subject to publicity in accordance with Regulation 52 of the EIA Regulations, and the representations that people wish to make about the contents of the ES can be submitted to PEDW once the Local Planning Authority has instigated those publicity measures.

Whether or not the Inspector finds the ES to be complete it does not preclude the Inspector from requesting 'further information' under Regulations 51 and 24.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Robert Sparey

---

Robert Sparey

(fe | he / him)

Rheolwr Cynllunio a'r Amgylchedd | Planning & Environment Manager

Penderfyniadau Cynllunio ac Amgylchedd Cymru | Planning and Environment Decisions Wales

Llywodraeth Cymru | Welsh Government

Ffôn | Tel:

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**PCAC  
PEDW**

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# DIAG

## DOCKS INCINERATOR ACTION GROUP

---

18 February 2024

Ian Robinson  
Civic Offices,  
Holton Rd,  
Barry  
CF63 4RU

Sent by email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Robinson

**Planning Applications: 2023/00032/FUL & 2023/00033/FUL – Barry Docks Incinerator**

Members have noticed that the photograph on page 135 of the Report to committee might be out of date.

I have been asked to share with you and, through you, the committee some up to date photographs.

The white building closest to the incinerator is understood to be an Extra Care building for residents over the age of 55 years.

I seem to recall that the ES puts this as approximately 100m from the incinerator.

Thank you for your attention.

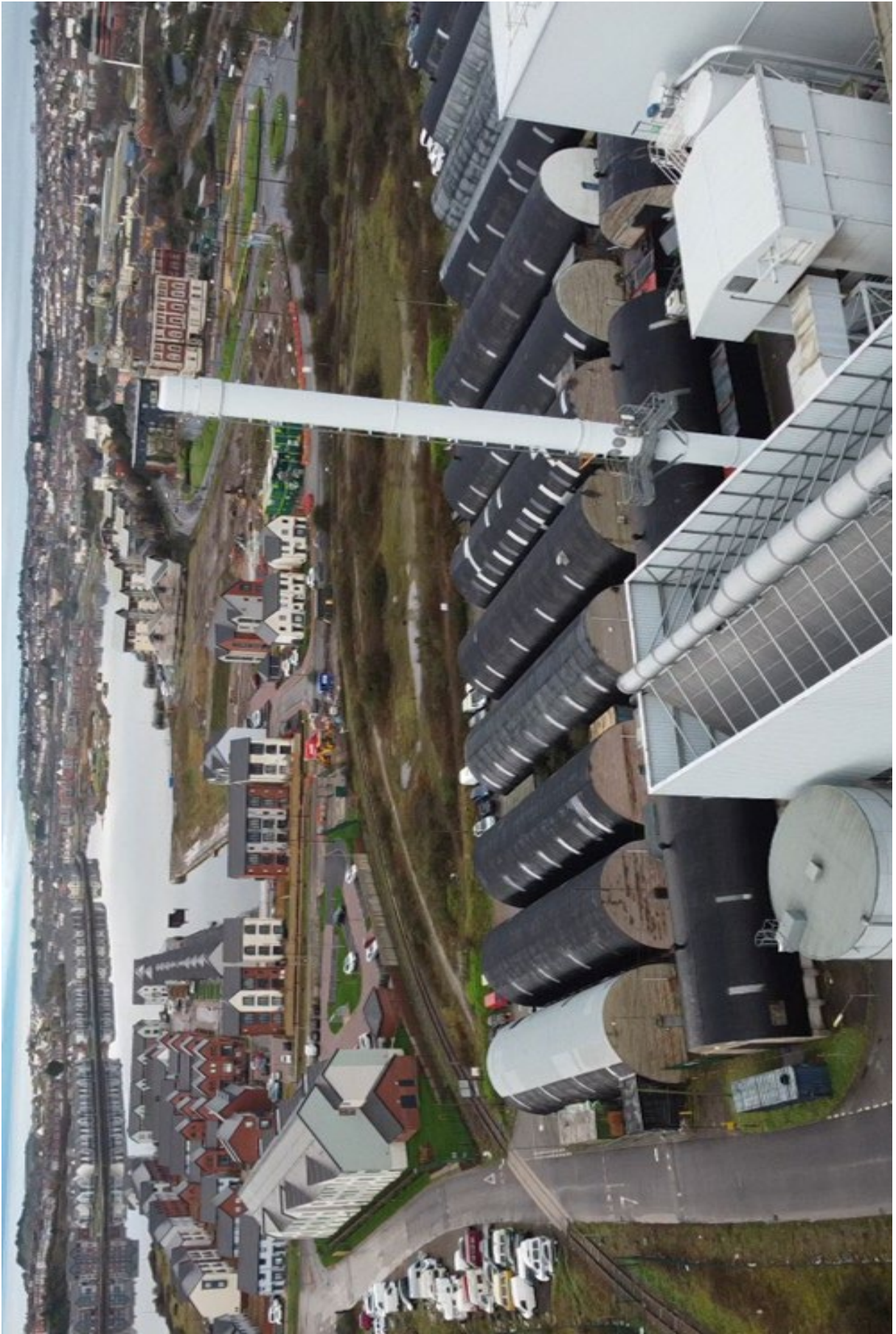
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Dennis Clarke  
(Vice Chair, DIAG)







# DIAG

## DOCKS INCINERATOR ACTION GROUP

---

18 February 2024

Ian Robinson  
Civic Offices,  
Holton Rd,  
Barry  
CF63 4RU

Sent by email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Robinson

### **Planning Applications: 2023/00032/FUL & 2023/00033/FUL – Barry Docks Incinerator – Committee meeting on 22 February 2024**

The attached document was overlooked previously as it found its way into the register at the wrong spot.

It is an email sent by QUOD on the 30 January this year and it might demonstrate their attitude to the process.

Apparently a difference by a factor of over 1,000 is minor having gone through all the checks that we imagine an expert's report would be subjected to. In this case the error was caused by a specific addition to the table referred to, namely adding "(litres)" where it was wrong to do so.

The email raises a few questions;

- 1 in converting 160 tonnes of diesel to ltrs a conversion factor seems to have been used of approximately 0.98. However, a search on the web suggests that diesel is within the range 0.82 to 0.88 kg per litre at 15 degrees centigrade, depending on the grade of diesel. This range would result in the number of litres between 195,000 and 182,000. There is no detail in the email to allow us to see why the difference of at least 19,000 – 32,000 ltrs arises.
- 2 QUOD goes on to raise, but not deal with, another issue. The expert report has assumed continuous use of diesel when coming to a figure of 20kg/hour. But QUOD points out that the diesel is used infrequently for the process, namely on startup. No attempt seems to have been made to identify (admit) how much diesel is used on startup and what impact that increased figure will have locally.

---

We do not believe that QUOD has ever dealt with the issue notwithstanding the potential for significant increases in polluting and health damaging emissions from diesel combustion at times of use.

DIAG has pointed out previously for QUOD's benefit that their expert has failed to deal with the data produced by Aviva at Barry, Boston and Hull as to the actual quantities of diesel used. The quantities are huge and yet the emissions from burning diesel are not included to reflect the real world data in the hands of Aviva and therefore available to the experts. The figures setting out the use of diesel are produced and submitted to NRW and the EA and can therefore be agreed.

Ian, could you ensure the data is available for the committee. QUOD chose not to comment on this point that was highlighted by DIAG some time ago.

The use of diesel is so massive that the failure to add to the ES in a meaningful way is a highly critical issue. Any attempt to argue the data away will be met with incredulity due to the way the experts have hidden it so far.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,



Dennis Clarke  
(Vice Chair, DIAG)

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Phil Murphy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 30 January 2024 16:46  
**To:** Rowlands, Ceiri  
**Cc:** Robinson, Ian  
**Subject:** Barry - GHG

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good afternoon Ceiri

I write further to our recent discussion on the Greenhouse Gas Assessment to provide the following clarifications:

- Table 5.3 refers to diesel usage within the plant as described in paras 5.5.14 to 5.5.16. You queried the reference to 160 litres in Table 5.3. I can confirm that this is a minor typo and should read 160 tonnes – see corrected table below. This aligns with the input data used in the assessment assumptions. We have rechecked all other figures and they are accurate.
- It is important to note that diesel is only used as auxiliary fuel for the start-up burners and for mobile plant. The diesel figures are therefore based on operational estimates around start-ups and mobile plant activity. Under normal operations, the plant would run on solid, waste wood fuel only. However, when the plant is starting up or shutting down or if an incident disturbs the flow of solid, the Plant will consume diesel on a temporary basis to maintain temperatures in the gasifier. Usage is dependent on several factors, although the figures are provided on the basis of the reasonable worst case taking into account the operational profile.
- For the purposes of the climate change assessment, it is necessary to convert tonnes to litres per annum. The figure 163,000 litres per annum applied in Table 7.5 Chapter 8: Climate Change is derived by conversion of 160 tonnes pa to litres pa. The figure in Table 7.5 is therefore correct. The 160 figure in Table 5.3 is also correct (albeit it should refer to tonnes not litres).

Please let me know if you have any queries

Phil

Table 5.3: Heat and Energy Mass Balance – Inputs and Outputs

Process ref. (refer to Figure 5.4)	Process	Per Annum (tonnes)	Per Hour (kg/h, unless otherwise stated)
<b>Inputs</b>			
(1)	Waste wood throughput tonnage (wet)	86,400 (72,000 dry)	10,800
(5) (10)	Water	33.37	0.8 t/h
(2b) (4)	Urea (40% conc)	2,400	300
(10)	Hydrated Lime	536	67
(9)	Activated Carbon	26	3.3
(3)	Limestone	136	17
(5)	Salt	4	0.5
(4)	Diesel	160 (litres)	20
(5)	Anti-scalant Chemicals	De-minimis	0.0
<b>Outputs</b>			
(1)	Wood	88	11
(1)	Metals	88	11
(8)	Fly Ash	2,384	29
(11)	Air Pollution Control Residues	1,544	193
(5)	Condensate	33.37 (31,368 litres)	0.8 t/h
-	Non-combustibles (including used bed material, glass and aggregate)	400	-

5.4.3 The Transport Technical Note (Appendix 5.4.3) considers a worst case scenario of



21 Soho Square  
London  
W1D 3QP

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# DIAG

## DOCKS INCINERATOR ACTION GROUP

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19 February 2024

Ian Robinson  
Civic Offices,  
Holton Rd,  
Barry  
CF63 4RU

Sent by email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Robinson

### **Planning Applications: 2023/00032/FUL & 2023/00033/FUL – Barry Docks Incinerator – Committee meeting on 22 February 2024**

A note to remind your Committee about relevant parts of the independent review carried out by WSP obo the Welsh Government when the Applicant submitted a voluntary environmental statement to avoid a lawful Environmental Impact Assessment and to ameliorate the unlawful grant of planning permission on two previous occasions.

There are important matters raised in the WSP report. We do not claim to have dealt with them all.

The first point to record is that WSP make it clear how and why their report was prepared:

*Technical teams were assigned to review the Environmental Statements **in line with the relevant EIA Regulations** at the time (the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) 1999) and assigned a Red, Amber, Green rating to determine if the assessment was undertaken was adequate. (my emphasis)*

Note the focus on their report being in line with the relevant EIA Regulations.

I believe you will be hard pressed to find a declaration like this in the Environmental Statement under discussion.

And example of a declaration that is totally unacceptable can be found in Appendix 7 where the declaration tells us that the report is:

*This report has been prepared by Air Quality Consultants Ltd on behalf of the Client, **taking into account the agreed scope of works**. Unless otherwise agreed,*

*this document and all other Intellectual Property Rights remain the property of Air Quality Consultants Ltd.*

*In preparing this report, Air Quality Consultants Ltd has exercised all reasonable skill and care, **taking into account the objectives and the agreed scope of works.** Air Quality Consultants Ltd does not accept any liability in negligence for any matters arising outside of the agreed scope of works. The Company operates a formal Quality Management System, which is certified to ISO 9001:2015, and a formal Environmental Management System, certified to ISO 14001:2015. (my emphasis)*

This is important as your council has to make decisions on the basis of these papers. It is too easy to assume that the reports are prepared for the EIA process but this one declaration is objectionable because:

- 1 There is an agreed scope of works but these are not set out. If the scope was to produce a report that satisfied the EIA Regulations then they would say so. The Committee should consider rejecting any report that does not contain the sort of declaration that WSP uses, one that is in line with the advice by Planning Wales, or the declaration recommended by the expert's governing body.
- 2 Note the fact that they are taking into account the **objectives** of the client. These should have been identified as the real objective is the grant of planning permission and to run an incinerator where previously they seemed to do everything they could to avoid complying with the EIA Regulations.
- 3 No liability is accepted for anything advised that is outside the agreed scope of works. It is not clear precisely what this means but it is a further concern. Their focus on the objectives and scope of works is an alarm bell as is the apparent desire to limit liability.

Another endorsement is found in the SLR papers concerned with flooding and noise; in the ES it states:

*This document has been prepared by SLR with reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower, timescales and resources devoted to it by agreement with Biomass UK No.2 Limited (the Client) as part or all of the services it has been appointed by the Client to carry out. It is subject to the terms and conditions of that appointment.*

*SLR shall not be liable for the use of or reliance on any information, advice, recommendations and opinions in this document for any purpose by any person other than the Client. Reliance may be granted to a third party only in the event that SLR and the third party have executed a reliance agreement or collateral warranty.*

*Information reported herein may be based on the interpretation of public domain data collected by SLR, and/or information supplied by the Client and/or its other advisors and associates. These data have been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.*

*... (my emphasis)*

Similar comments apply albeit the terms used by the author are different:



- 1 Their first paragraph is extremely undermining of their role as ‘experts’. The proviso suggests that the quality of their work is affected by the terms of engagement etc. We are not advised where the quality has been adversely affected. If it has not been then why say it?
- 2 They make it very clear that nobody other than their client should rely on the content as SLR has no responsibility to anybody other than their client. I ask rhetorically why would the LPA, the public, other authorities rely on a document where the author warns against reliance. The warning would be inappropriate in a report for EIA Regulations purposes.
- 3 They seem to be saying that they are not prepared to attest to the data they rely on to reach any of their decisions. That might explain their earlier warnings.

This is not something raised by DIAG at the last moment. QUOD is well aware of the point but has not remedied it. The Planning Committee should not look to fix matters that QUOD cannot fix.

The only option open to the Committee, DIAG suggests, is to decide that any report without an appropriate declaration must be rejected. It is then apparent that the ES cannot pass muster (at this time) and the applicant fails in its objectives for now.

The independent report of WSP also demonstrated how it is possible for lay people with some training to fail to realise what they do not know. In the case of WSP they advised the Welsh Government of the Schedule 1 paragraph 10 status of the project which appeared to come as a surprise. It was confirmed WSP had not been asked to consider it.

Following the lead of the developers without independent expert advice has surely been demonstrated to be the wrong path. The report by WSP is attached. It shows the extent to which the applicant will go to try to wrongly convince authorities to follow their lead. Just look at how much of their voluntary Environmental Statement was inadequate notwithstanding it was submitted to the Welsh Government and its purpose was so important.

Thank you for your attention and on behalf of DIAG I ask that this be added to the papers given to committee members.

Yours sincerely,



Dennis Clarke  
(Vice Chair, DIAG)



Welsh Government

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# **BARRY BIOMASS FACILITY**

## Environmental Statement Adequacy Report



Welsh Government

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# **BARRY BIOMASS FACILITY**

## **Environmental Statement Adequacy Report**

**TYPE OF DOCUMENT (VERSION) CONFIDENTIAL**

**PROJECT NO. 70065212**

**DATE: NOVEMBER 2019**

WSP

1 Capital Quarter

Tyndall Street

Cardiff

CF10 4BZ

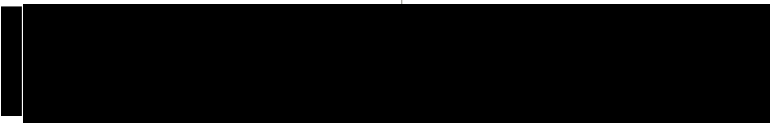
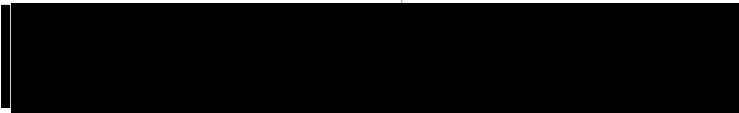

Phone: +44 2920 769 200

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# QUALITY CONTROL

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Issue/revision	First issue	Revision 1
Remarks	Table text	Table text
Date	21/11/2019	22/11/2019
Prepared by	Bryony Stocking Associate	Bryony Stocking Associate
Signature		
Checked by	Chris Clarke Associate	Chris Clarke Associate
Signature		
Authorised by	Marc Thomas Associate Director	Marc Thomas Associate Director
Signature		
Project number	70065212	70065212
Report number	01	01-FINAL
File reference	70065212	70065212

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<b>2.3</b>	<b>2015 PLANNING APPLICATION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.4</b>	<b>ADEQUACY REVIEW</b>	<b>2</b>
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**No table of figures entries found.**

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## ***APPENDICES***

APPENDIX A

SCHEDULE 4 OF THE EIA REGULATIONS

APPENDIX B

TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS AND RAG RATINGS

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An independent review has been undertaken by WSP on the 2010 and 2019 retrospective Environmental Statements produced for a planned biomass facility in Barry, South Wales. WSP is one of the founding members of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment's Environmental Impact Assessment Quality Mark Scheme.

Technical teams were assigned to review the Environmental Statements in line with the relevant EIA Regulations at the time (the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) 1999) and assigned a Red, Amber, Green rating to determine if the assessment was undertaken was adequate.

In summary a variety of topic areas have shown that there were significant gaps in both the 2010 and 2019 Environmental Statements (to ecology, landscape, air quality, ground conditions, noise, water and climatic factors), with the 2019 retrospective being recommended that it should have been written in accordance with the Town and country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017. In addition, a high-level review of the EIA Regulations has led to the recommendation that the applications are deemed a Schedule 1 development whereby EIA should have been undertaken at the time of original planning application in 2008 and 2015.

**Contact name Chris Clarke**

Contact details 

## 2 INTRODUCTION

---

2.1.1. The Welsh Government has commissioned WSP to undertake a review on the adequacy of the Environmental Statements (ES) for the Barry Biomass facility.

### 2.2 2008 PLANNING APPLICATION

2.2.1. In August 2008, the Developer (Biomass UK (No.2) Ltd submitted a screening request from Vale of Glamorgan Council under Schedule 2, 11 (b) of the Town and Country (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 (hereby the 'EIA Regulations') (hereby the 'EIA Regulations'. A copy of the decision letter by Vale of Glamorgan Council is omitted from the planning application site, however, it can be assumed that since various regulators including the Environment Agency Wales and the Countryside Council for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales) concluded the facility would have no adverse effects that the screening decision was successful.

2.2.2. A planning application was subsequently submitted 09 September 2008 without an Environmental Statement but with additional reports to support the development would have no significant adverse effects including:

- Green Travel Plan
- Sustainability Statement
- Noise Assessment
- Fuel Supply Assessment
- Ecology Report
- Flood Risk Assessment

In June 2009, the Welsh Assembly Government contacted Sunrise Renewables Limited that it was believed the facility actually fell under Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations.

Vale of Glamorgan Council subsequently refused planning permission in July 2009 citing the facility contravened policies WAST2, ENV27, ENV29, EMP2, EMP3, and TRAN11 of the Adopted Unitary Development Plan 1996-2011. In addition, further grounds for refusal included that the facility would be a retrograde step for the council's aspirations of the water front in line with the Barry Waterfront Development Principles Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Subsequently, Sunrise Renewables Limited launched a planning appeal, whereby an Inspector appointed by the Welsh Ministers ordered Vale of Glamorgan Council should pay all costs of the appeal proceedings citing that the grounds for refusal had little basis or had not been acted on by the Council

2.2.3. The planning case officer reviewed the application in January 2009 response to Welsh Assembly Governments queries about whether the facility fell under Schedule 1 (10) of the EIA Regulations. The planning case officer reviewed the case and concluded that the facility would have no significant adverse effects on the environment 'by virtue of factors such as its nature size or location' and directed that the facility did not constitute EIA Development. The schedules are summarised in Table 1 below.



**Table 1 – Schedules relating to the Barry Biomass facility application under the EIA Regulations**

Schedule	Detail
1	10. Waste disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment (as defined under Annex IIA to Council Directive 75/442/EEC(3) under heading D9) of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 100 tonnes a day
2	11(b) installations for the disposal of waste (unless included in Schedule 1): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The disposal is by incineration; or</li> <li>ii) The area of the development exceeds 0.5 hectare; or</li> <li>iii) The installation is to be sited within 100m of any controlled waters.</li> </ul>

## 2.3 2015 PLANNING APPLICATION

- 2.3.1. Since this date, a new application was submitted by Sunrise Renewables (Barry) Limited in February 2015 (2015/00031/OUT) for the facility to use new gasification technology and a changed site layout.
- 2.3.2. This application was screened in accordance with the EIA Regulations by Vale of Glamorgan Council in July 2015 and it was concluded that no EIA was required as part of planning application.
- 2.3.3. As a result of the previous planning application, Vale of Glamorgan Council issued the EIA Screening to the Minister of Natural Resources at Welsh Government to review their screening direction. The response from Welsh Government on 30 July stated that they agree that the facility falls within description at 2.11(b) of the EIA Regulations and that the facility exceeds the thresholds of Schedule 2. The letter from Welsh Government concluded that a screening direction by the Welsh Ministers is not required. Subsequently, the outline planning permission was granted on 30 July 2015 with reserved matters.
- 2.3.4. In 2019 an ES was prepared on behalf of the Developer relating to the 2015 application with the intention of presenting to Welsh Government that the facility had due regard to the “protection of the local amenity and the environment as a whole, would have been unaffected by the absence at the time of an ES.”
- 2.3.5. The 2019 ES was prepared retrospectively and focused on the information available at the time of the 2015 planning application. The 2019 ES states that the document has ‘no statutory basis’ with no challenge for the planning application to be judicially reviewed being called in to question. It remains unclear if this ES is meant to be an addendum to the 2010 ES, or a full ES to support the 2015 planning application.

## 2.4 ADEQUACY REVIEW

- 2.4.1. This report is the outcome of the review of both the 2010 and 2019 ESs relating to the facility to inform Welsh Government of whether the information is sufficient for decision making in the light of the nature of the development and the environmental issues of concern and in accordance with the EIA Regulations. The methodology for the review is set out in Chapter 2.

- 2.4.2. This includes an assessment of whether the facility falls under Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations, to determine if an ES should have been provided and more rigorous assessment undertaken prior to the submission of the 2008 and 2015 planning applications.
- 2.4.3. A summary table listing out the key differences in the 2010 and 2015 planning applications are summarised in Table 2 below:

**Table 2 – Differences in the 2010 and 2015 Planning Applications**

	2010 Planning Application	2015 Planning Application
Generation output	9MW	10MW
Building footprint	2,700sqm (one building) Chimney stack 20m Diameter of stack – 1m Car parking for 12 cars	2,497sqm (several structures) including Wood storage and feed building: 52.4 x 21.6 x 13.7m high Turbine, Welfare and Ancillary Buildings: 29.1 x 17.9 x 11m high Main process building: 41.4m x 20.4m x 23m high ACC Unit: 32 x 14.5 x 20m high External equipment: 18.4m high x 6.7m diameter of ash silos. Chimney stack – 43m Diameter of stack – 2.75m Carparking for 12 cars
Building height (worst case)	14m	23m
Syngas Production	Pyrolysis	Fluidised Bed
Technology Brand	Prestige Thermal Equipment	Outotec
Combined Heat and Power	Yes	No
Operational days	Seven days a week	Five days a week (excludes weekends) but plant self-operational

### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1. WSP is one of the founding members of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment’s Environmental Impact Assessment Quality Mark Scheme. It requires a more rigorous and independent check of EIAs produced by those companies signed up to the scheme. The Quality Mark demonstrates that our EIAs are independently rated and regularly monitored to high standards. In addition, our technical specialists are interviewed and appraised by IEMA on their training, knowledge and application of EIA best practice.
- 3.1.2. In conducting the review, qualified and competent technical specialists were commissioned to undertake an analysis of the both the 2010 and 2019 ESs. Each specialist was requested to provide a Red, Amber, Green (RAG) rating the assessments based on professional judgement, best practice with the information available to them at the time of writing.
- 3.1.3. Table 3 below shows the criteria used for this technical review.

**Table 3 – RAG Ratings for Technical review**

RAG	Description
	A full EIA is needed, significant gaps identified in the assessment.
	Potential for significant data gaps or inadequate mitigation, control measures can be corrected without full re-assessment,
	Assessment deemed fit for purpose, minor caveats identified.

- 3.1.4. The following technical specialisms were identified to conduct a review of the ESs:
  - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);
  - Ecology;
  - Landscape and Visual;
  - Air Quality;
  - Ground Conditions;
  - Noise;
  - Water;
  - Materials and Waste;
  - Climate Resilience; and
  - Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases.
- 3.1.5. Traffic and Transport has been scoped out of this review due to the fact that only 9 to 11 Heavy Goods Vehicles loads were proposed (22 vehicle movements per day) in the 2010 ES and were deemed non-significant. The 2015 planning application included a Transport Assessment in Chapter 10 of the Planning Statement, that concluded no material changes were proposed as part of the new planning application compared to the one in 2008.

- 3.1.6. In addition, given the extensive history of the site, being located on a former coal tip / loading dock rail head (1898 to 1900), railway engineering works / rail head (1920-1973) and a builders yard (1989), the Vale of Glamorgan Council in their Officers Report to Committee in relation to the 2008/01203/FUL application concluded that there are no archaeological constraints surrounding the site, and therefore no assessment was undertaken.
- 3.1.7. Within this report, each technical specialist was mindful that the EIA was conducted with now superseded EIA Regulations when making their comments. Once the RAG assessments were undertaken, the ESs were then analysed to establish if they aligned to Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations as detailed in Chapter 3 and shown in Appendix A.

## 4 THE EIA REGULATIONS

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### 4.1 SCHEDULE 1 OR SCHEDULE 2

- 4.1.1. The feedstock for the biomass facility in both ESs propose to utilise reclaimed wood as the fuel feedstock, which will be delivered to site in the form of woodchip that would undergo further chipping and drying to allow the wood to be used as a fuel. The planning applications state that the facility would receive 216 tonnes of woodchip feedstock a day.
- 4.1.2. The fuel accepted is stated as ‘clean wood, pallets, construction timber and other woods which have been removed from the construction and demolition waste stream. Waste wood feedstock is chipped off-site and delivered to site, whereby further chipping and drying of the material would occur prior to be used a fuel’ as detailed in the 2010 ES.
- 4.1.3. As the feedstock will be deemed non-hazardous, it is assumed that the wood chip received on site would need a waste transfer note as per the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 and therefore still deemed a waste product.
- 4.1.4. In relation to whether pyrolysis can be defined as a type of incineration, the key characteristic of pyrolysis is that it is a thermal-chemical process that takes place in the absence of oxygen, or with very low oxygen levels. It is included in the generic ‘incineration’ description of thermal waste treatment processes.
- 4.1.5. An Environmental Permit for the biomass facility was issued by NRW<sup>1</sup> on the basis of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (EPR):
- Incineration of non-hazardous waste in a waste incineration plant or waste co-incineration plant with a capacity exceeding 3 tonnes per hour.
- 4.1.6. The EPR defines ‘waste incineration plants’ and waste co-incineration plants as:
- “waste co-incineration plant” means a stationary or mobile technical unit whose main purpose is the generation of energy or production of material products and which uses waste as a regular or additional fuel or in which waste is thermally treated for the purpose of disposal through the incineration by oxidation of waste as well as other thermal treatment processes, such as pyrolysis, gasification or plasma process, if the substances resulting from the treatment are subsequently incinerated.”*
- 4.1.7. With this definition and on the basis daily delivery of non-hazardous waste (reclaimed wood) exceeding 100 tonnes per day, it is concluded that the biomass facility falls under Schedule 1, 10 of the EIA Regulations: ‘Waste disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment (as defined under Annex IIA to Council Directive 75/442/EEC(3) under heading D9) of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding

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<sup>1</sup> <https://naturalresources.wales/media/683375/barry-biomass-final-draft-decision-document.pdf>

100 tonnes a day'. Therefore, an Environmental Statement is deemed to have been mandatory for both the 2008 and 2015 planning applications.

## 4.2 SCHEDULE 4 OF THE EIA REGULATIONS

- 4.2.1. In this section, the compliance with the Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations is addressed. In line with the requirements of EIA, section headings are a summary of Part 1, Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations as listed in full in Appendix A.

### 1. DOES THE ES CONTAIN A DESCRIPTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AS PER PART 1 SCHEDULE 4 OF THE REGULATIONS?

#### 2010 ES

- 4.2.2. Chapter 2 of the ES, describes a description of the facility, including external features such as the proposed steel portal frame. The description makes clear that external appearances of exterior panels would be agreed with Vale of Glamorgan Council. Elevation drawings are shown of the facility, which also is stated to possess directional floodlights. The project description does not make it clear what operations are being undertaken outside, e.g. will the woodchip feedstock be further chipped and dried within a building, would a conveyor system be used?
- 4.2.3. The project description described that the facility would be open seven days a week, and operate 24 hours a day. The project description lacks information on how the facility will be constructed. It is not made clear until Chapter 7 (Ground Conditions), that construction activity and plant is introduced, in relation to site preparation, excavation, rolling and compaction, piling, welding / cutting steel. It is therefore difficult to establish a holistic scenario where the construction methodology and phasing of the construction phase is complete. However, this does not render the ES non-compliant under the EIA Regulations.
- 4.2.4. Given the nature of data gaps identified Schedule 4 (3) and (4) described below relating to this ES, the description of the development should lead to identification of receptors, assessment of impacts and applied mitigation to determine significance. In a number of topic areas described in this chapter, this review has identified significant gaps in a number of technical assessments (including ecology, flood risk, ground conditions and noise) that render the possibility that the project description was not written in enough detail for a thorough assessment.

#### 2019 ES

- 4.2.5. Chapter 1 (Description of the Development) highlights the key changes to the planning application submitted in 2015 compared to that in 2008. The description includes the revised layout of buildings including dimensions and footprints, allowing the detail as highlighted in Table 2 above. Additional details including high level drainage, access, plant and lighting. Section 1.5 describes the operational detail, including details of process outputs for wood fuel, cooling water, drainage condensate and char/ ash quantities. As per the 2010 ES, no details are given within the project description about the construction of the facility, bar the duration. Therefore, an understanding of the proposed effects isn't gleaned until a review is undertaken of each technical topic area.

## 2. HAS THE ES OUTLINED THE KEY ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED TAKING IN TO ACCOUNT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS?

### 2010 ES

- 4.2.6. The ES stated in paragraph 1.13 that the site in Barry was selected because it met a variety of criteria including:
- Dockside location to ensure wood can be transported via the sea
  - Industrial location
  - Within close proximity of existing and proposed energy consuming land use so that waste heat can be effectively utilised
  - Within close proximity of waste wood processing facilities so that wood need not be transported long distances by road
  - Close to good highway accessibility
  - Within close proximity to the National Grid.
- 4.2.7. The ES states that due to the number of requirements, the number of alternative sites is restricted and therefore no alternative sites were considered.
- 4.2.8. In concluding whether or not this justification was compliant with the EIA Regulations, a review of Circular 11/99: Environmental impact assessment<sup>2</sup> was undertaken. Paragraph 83 of Circular 11/99 states:
- “although the Directive and the Regulations do not expressly require the developer to study alternatives, the nature of certain developments and their location may make the consideration of alternative sites a material consideration. In such cases, the ES must record this consideration of alternative sites. More generally, consideration of alternatives (including alternative sites, choice of process, and the phasing of construction) is widely regarded as good practice, and resulting in a more robust application for planning permission”.*
- 4.2.9. In conclusion, as Vale of Glamorgan Council did not cite alternatives as a material consideration, the ES has noted the reason for site selection and included some environmental considerations such as proximity to marine and road transport networks and wider landscape context. Therefore, the ES is compliant with the EIA Regulations, although further detail would be needed to make in line with best practice.

### 2019 ES

- 4.2.10. Chapter 6 (Alternatives) of this ES is dedicated to the assessment, the chapter relays the reasons for site selection given in the 2010 ES, but goes in to further detail in relation to the choice of technology as the updated 2015 outline application (as highlighted in Table 2 above) included a new type of technology that would use

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<sup>2</sup> Welsh Office (1999). Circular 11/99: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

pyrolysis through a fluidised bed process to generate syngas and ultimately generate electricity. The ES concluded that the Outotec equipment was more efficient and versatile, and cited that the increase in flue stack as a result of the new technology would help aid dispersion of emissions.

- 4.2.11. Ultimately the chapter also raised the ‘do-nothing’ scenario which stated that as there were no other energy recovery facilities in the locale, waste wood would go to landfill or to other energy recovery facilities further afield.
- 4.2.12. The ES also appended the Design and Access Statement that accompanied the planning application in 2015 which provided more detail on to the justification and alternatives considered in relation to the site layout and operational arrangements. However, this appendix was not cross referenced or sign posted in Chapter 6 to provide context, and would have been difficult for stakeholders (including the public) to locate without having detailed planning knowledge. In conclusion, the 2019 ES provided more details on alternatives considered compared with the 2010 ES and still remains compliant in line with Circular 11/99 and the EIA Regulations.

### **3. DO THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENTS (2010 AND 2019) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ASPECTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT LIKELY TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY THE DEVELOPMENT E.G. POPULATION, FAUNA, FLORA, SOIL, WATER, AIR, CLIMATIC FACTORS AND MATERIAL ASSETS.**

#### **2010 ES**

- 4.2.13. Topic areas covered in the 2010 ES include the following:
- Air Quality
  - Ecology – relating to the presence of Rough Marsh-Mallow (*Althaea Hirsuta*)
  - Ground Conditions
  - Landscape
  - Noise
  - Traffic
  - Water resources.
- 4.2.14. A breakdown and technical review of these assessments is detailed in Appendix B.
- 4.2.15. In relation to Ecology, a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) has not been seen to inform whether species for flora and fauna (outside of the Rough Marsh-Mallow) should inform the EIA.
- 4.2.16. In addition, no reference is made to materials and waste therefore it is unknown whether the works achieve a cut and fill balance during construction and whether materials need to be imported to get to site. It is acknowledged that the biomass will create an end product of ash and char that could be re-used in the construction industry, sold as filter media or disposed of at landfill. It is unknown if these have been considered in the traffic and transport assessment.



4.2.17. In summary, acknowledging the EIA was retrospective to inform the planning appeal, there are gaps in the assessment which are contradictory to the detail requested as part of Part 1 (3) of the EIA Regulations.

**2019 ES**

4.2.18. The Developer acknowledged that discussions were undertaken with the Welsh Government to provide a voluntary submission of this ES in the form of an addendum ES. No formal EIA Scoping exercise had been undertaken, and that to determine the baseline conditions in relation to the site and its surroundings the ES was based on the approved documents formed as part of the 2010 submission. Mitigation proposed as part of the 2015 application only constituted to those formed as to the operational practice.

4.2.19. Topic areas scoped into the ES included:

- Air Quality, due to the changed impacts from dispersion and determining the optimal stack height of the new technology provision.
- Noise, again due to the change in technology provision.
- Landscape and visual, due to changes in the built form.
- Alternatives to justify the decision on the new technology provision and the principal reason as to the choice of applying for a new planning permission in 2015.

4.2.20. Topic areas scoped out of the assessment include:

- Transport, as no material changes to the transport details in the 2010 consent and it was confirmed that the background traffic level in 2015 remained comparable (unconfirmed source).
- Ecology due to an updated survey being undertaken for Rough Marsh-Mallow in 2014 in agreement the Vale of Glamorgan’s Ecology Officer, stating no material change to the condition of the site and no sign of Rough Marsh-Mallow.
- Ground Conditions, no material changes to the nature of the proposals upon Ground Conditions were identified.
- Planning Policy, through agreement with the Welsh Government.

4.2.21. At the time of writing this report, there is no evidence to conclude why further assessments relating to climate resilience and the FRA and material assets have been excluded from assessment. In addition, due to the retrospective nature of the ES, no formal EIA Scoping was undertaken. Therefore an assumption has been made that the scope of assessment has been agreed by Regulators, including the consideration of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations and is therefore are deemed acceptable. However, the review of the ES has considered these wider topic areas (climatic factors and material assets) which are outlined in Appendix B.

**4. A DESCRIPTION OF THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT COVERING DIRECT, SECONDARY, CUMULATIVE, SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM, PERMANENT, TEMPORARY EFFECTS.**

**2010 ES**

Ecology

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- 4.2.22. In relation to Ecology, the ES only looks at the relationship with the site having due regard to flora and was specific to the Rough Marsh-Mallow. Therefore, species specific surveys relating to terrestrial and marine fauna were excluded from the assessment. A query arose as to the scope of the air quality assessment relating to emissions from the flue stack and a SPA and Ramsar site located 3.9km east of the site and whether an HRA Screening should have been undertaken and submitted with wider documents accompanying the planning application.

#### Material Assets

- 4.2.23. For assessments of similar size and scale, it would be best practice to have assessments that identify the Bill of Materials and Cut and Fill of any materials and waste.
- 4.2.24. The significant issue in this ES is that it is retrospective at the time of planning appeal. Although most data would have been in date to conduct the assessment (two years old), as a need for EIA had been screened out as part of the planning application implies that the rigour of assessment that would be applied for a development of this scale has been toned down e.g. no technical EIA Scoping was undertaken, or inclusion of discussion of scope of the ES with a Regulatory body.

#### Ground Conditions

- 4.2.25. In relation to Ground Conditions, the chapter focused on the Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA) baseline study and conceptual site model. The assessment does not scope in or out source, receptor pathways and therefore it is unknown whether any intrusive works during the construction phase could cause indirect pollution events. Furthermore, effects to the geology, soils, mineral resources or geomorphology are excluded from the assessment, which may not have been the case if the facility had undergone EIA Scoping.

#### Noise

- 4.2.26. Chapter 9 (Noise) was not undertaken in accordance with best practice at the time for construction and operation. In addition, no reference or assessment was made to any external plant or machinery in the operational assessment including the stack, louvres, doors and HGV movements within the site.

#### Flood Risk & Water

- 4.2.27. In addition, although the Environment Agency Wales did state that the site was not at risk off flooding, the accompanying FRA did not assess climatic factors to determine if the site is resilient over its 25-year operational life span. The FRA was based on the 2009 report which does not have site specific data and extrapolates from surrounding areas. In addition, there appears to have no Water Framework Directive screening or assessment undertaken on water resources or quality in the ES.

#### Climatic Factors

- 4.2.28. Given the fact that the facility is deemed to be renewable, no assessment has been undertaken on greenhouse gases which would be generated as an output from the flue stack and relate to climatic factors identified in Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations.

## 5. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 4.2.29. In terms of cumulative assessment, most of the focus was on the Biogen gasification facility, located approximately 500m from the biomass plant, no significant effects were identified for Air Quality and Noise. The report states that it is stated that the incorporation of practical mitigation measures means the facility will have only a minor/negligible impact on air quality, ecology, noise and traffic – it is uncertain where the ecology and traffic assessments have been detailed in this assessment and what mitigation measures are proposed.

### *Conclusion*

- 4.2.30. In summary, there are a number of gaps in the 2010 assessment that are deemed to require further assessment and therefore renders whether significant adverse effects have been fully considered and appropriately mitigated.

### **2019 ES**

#### Ecology

- 4.2.31. A Red RAG rating has been assigned to the Ecology chapter as biodiversity was scoped out and the 2014 survey only covered botanical impacts. In addition, along with Air Quality, concerns were raised that no additional assessment was undertaken following the increase in width on the flue stack, which raises concerns about whether impact pathways (critical loads) and operational effects had been properly considered in relation to the facility.

#### Landscape and Visual

- 4.2.32. An impact assessment was not undertaken which does not conform with current best practice. The chapter made some observations on the new facility design compared to the 2010 ES. No clarity is given on the building changes and how they would affect landscape character or visual amenity.
- 4.2.33. There is an over reliance in the chapter on the comparison with the BioGen proposals (to which planning permission had lapsed at the time of this assessment which isn't clearly stated). The general narrative is that as the new proposals will be similar in height to the BioGen proposals which got approval, there shouldn't be any issues. There is no comparison or appraisal made with the consented scheme.
- 4.2.34. The chapter refers to the proposed facility changes as having an 'average building height' of 16.3m across three buildings instead of the actual building heights, whereby EIA is based on a worst-case scenario. It is considered likely that the reasoning for this would be to ensure the height is comparable to the 2010 ES building height of 14m.
- 4.2.35. The chapter does not provide appropriate information to fully justify this assessment and has mis-interpreted significance values, with 'Major Beneficial' an incorrect conclusion for combined visual and landscape effects when using their presented methodology significance criteria (which also refers to Major Positive, not Major Beneficial). There is no evidence of consultation over study area, viewpoints or methodology. There is a ZVI presented but no detail of how this was created or what it was based on.

### Ground Conditions

- 4.2.36. Operational impacts did not consider individual receptors in the assessment. A moderate positive residual effect was determined overall based on the ground being remediated. However, the impacts to various receptors from the potentially contaminative processes of the Biomass facility have not been considered, and may be adverse.

### Noise

- 4.2.37. Various issues were identified relating to how the residual effect have been assessed, and that most of the assessment was made on the assumption that the operational noise would be contained with a building. There are no references to outside noise sources such as the ACC, stack, louvres / doors and from HGV movements within the site.

### Flood Risk

- 4.2.38. The Flood Risk Assessment identified gaps in the data on climate change and future resilience (also identified in the 2010 proposal) and therefore does not align with the Well-being and Future Generations Act (Wales).

### Cumulative Effects

- 4.2.39. The chapter focuses on the Biogen gasification plant, where planning permission had expired without ever being constructed. It is reported in the ES (para 3.3.4) that by the time the Vale of Glamorgan Council planning committee met to determine the 2015 planning application, the cumulative effects considered were no longer a consideration due to the fact that the Biogen planning consent had lapsed without being implemented. No further consideration was given to wider developments in the ES.

### Conclusion

- 4.2.40. In summary, there are a number of gaps in the 2019 assessment that are deemed to require further assessment and therefore renders whether significant adverse effects have been fully considered and appropriately mitigated. It is also unknown at the time of writing, why this ES was written in accordance with the EIA Regulations, when they had been superseded by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 which highlight additional topic areas for assessment. These include sustainable availability of resources, light, the disposal and recovery of waste, risks to human health and accidents and disasters, and the impact of the project on climate change (including vulnerability). Therefore, in this instance, this ES does not conform to Part 1 (4) Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations.

## **6. A DESCRIPTION OF THE MEASURES TO PREVENT, REDUCE AND WHERE POSSIBLE OFFSET ANY POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT.**

- 4.2.41. With a number of assessments in the 2010 and 2019 ESs resulting a Red RAG rating, there is the potential that not all likely significant adverse effects have been identified and assessed, and therefore suitable mitigation measures proposed. It is possible that following further clarity on the assessment process and additional work, that further

mitigation measure could be identified. In addition, the monitoring of the facility through the construction and operation phases (including the implementation of the Environmental Permit), it is likely that significant adverse effects could be retrospectively mitigated.

## **7. A NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED**

- 4.2.42. A non-technical summary was included in both 2010 and 2019 ESs that were written in relative plain english and contained a fair representation of the Environmental Statements produced. The key issue is if Part 1 Schedule 4 (3) and (4) relating to the scope and assessment of likely significant effects has not been considered in full, the public may not have been informed in full of the likelihood of significant effects. As the RAG list has identified areas where there are significant deficiencies in both the 2010 and 2019 assessments, it could be assumed that if the non-technical was compliant at the time of writing but would need updating in-line with any updated assessments requested by Welsh Government as a result of this study.

## **8. AN INDICATION OF ANY TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES (TECHNICAL DEFICIENCIES OR LACK OF KNOW-HOW) ENCOUNTERED BY THE APPLICANT IN COMPILING THE REQUIRED INFORMATION.**

### **2010 ES**

- 4.2.43. Chapter 14 relates to difficulties encountered, which in this case only related to the Preliminary Risk Assessment undertaken on site in relation to ground contamination whereby access to part of the site could not be achieved during a site visit.

### **2019 ES**

- 4.2.44. The 2019 ES stated they encountered no technical difficulties during the undertaking of the retrospective EIA. When assessing effects to nearby properties, all surveys were undertaken from public areas and that this has no impact on the thoroughness of the impact assessment. Although as this is a retrospective EIA, undertaken four years later than the planning submission, no baseline information can be re-checked. It is understood at the time of writing this report, that construction of the facility is underway. It is therefore difficult to acknowledge the robustness of an ES whereby baseline data largely relies on out of date data.

## 5 CONCLUSION

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- 5.1.1. WSP have reviewed the 2010 and 2019 retrospective ESs in relation to planning applications made in 2008 and 2015 for a proposed biomass facility in Barry. WSP have used professional judgement to review the assessment in accordance with the EIA Regulations and have found some significant gaps in relation to ecology, landscape, air quality, ground conditions, noise, water and climatic factors which is detailed in Appendix B.
- 5.1.2. As both ESs were written retrospectively, they were written based on the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) 1999. In addition, the 2019 ES was written to take in to account of the 2015 planning application therefore did not take account of the updated EIA Directive 2014/52/EU<sup>3</sup> and updates to the EIA Regulations<sup>4</sup> which have instructed new and/or more detailed assessments relating to topic areas. These include (as per the updated Schedule 4) including sustainable availability of resources, light, the disposal and recovery of waste, risks to human health and accidents and disasters, and the impact of the project on climate change (including vulnerability) that would mean additional topic areas would need a robust assessment should Welsh Government decide to have the Developer update their assessment in line with current best practice and regulatory procedures.
- 5.1.3. In line with the assessment, WSP recommend that gaps relating to these ESs are reviewed by the Developer and an agreement reached with Welsh Government to ensure assessments have been undertaken and mitigated appropriately.

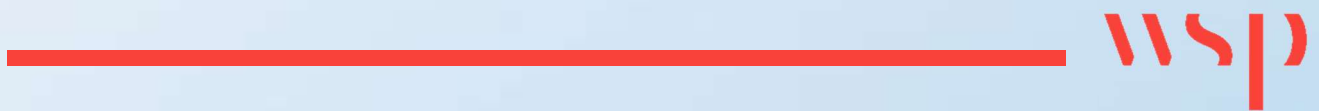
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<sup>3</sup> The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union (2014). Amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment,

<sup>4</sup> The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017

# Appendix A

## **SCHEDULE 4 OF THE EIA REGULATIONS**



## **SCHEDULE 4 – INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENTS WITHIN THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 1999**

### **PART I**

1. Description of the development, including in particular—
  - (a) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases;
  - (b) a description of the main characteristics of the production processes, for instance, nature and quantity of the materials used;
  - (c) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc.) resulting from the operation of the proposed development.
2. An outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant or appellant and an indication of the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects.
3. A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter-relationship between the above factors.
4. A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development, resulting from:
  - (a) the existence of the development;
  - (b) the use of natural resources;
  - (c) the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances and the elimination of waste, and the description by the applicant of the forecasting methods used to assess the effects on the environment.
5. A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.
6. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 5 of this Part.
7. An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information.

### **PART II**

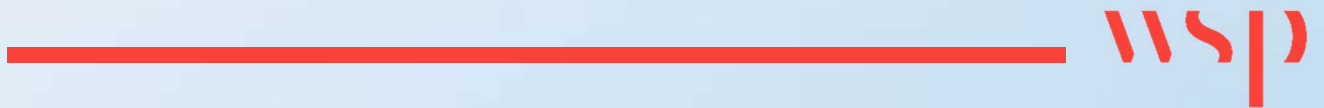
1. A description of the development comprising information on the site, design and size of the development.
2. A description of the measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy significant adverse effects.
3. The data required to identify and assess the main effects which the development is likely to have on the environment.



4. An outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant or appellant and an indication of the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects.
5. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 4 of this Part.

# Appendix B

## **TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS AND RAG RATINGS**



**Table B1 - Ecology Technical Review**

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
<b>2010 Environmental Statement</b>					
6	6.1	65	The chapter only addresses the site suitability for Rough Marsh-Mallow and states that 'no other ecological matters require addressing as there are no other sites with sensitive flora or fauna having a statutory of local nature conservation interest within 500m of the appeal site.'	A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) should have been undertaken as part of the 2008 planning application to rule out further botanical or faunal species. It is noted that the Countryside Council for Wales did not foresee any significant effects at EIA Screening.	
<b>2019 Environmental Statement</b>					
			Biodiversity was scoped out of the 2019 ES and this seems to have been done on the basis of out of date botanical survey work only. No Phase 1 Survey or Preliminary Ecological Assessment (PEA) has been included within the document package. No further justification as to scoping out has been provided.	Undertake a suitable PEA which can assess the baseline ecological conditions and highlight any suitable ecological receptors.	
App 1	9	94	The 2014 Ecological survey only highlights botanical issues, it is also out of date (being undertaken in 2009 and updated in 2014).	An updated survey should be undertaken at a suitable time of year.	

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
App 1	9	94	The 2014 Environ check desk study is out of date and will require updating. The desk study did not include a protected species records search, as such, it is not fit for purpose.	Undertake a full ecological desk study, using records centre data to identify any protected and notable species. This should form part of a PEA.	
App 1	9	201	The survey for rough marshmallow was undertaken in January 2009. This is not a suitable time to undertake a plant survey, particularly for rough marsh-mallow.  Generally, the whole of the report contradicts itself and is inconclusive.	An updated survey to be undertaken at the suitable time of year, to confirm presence / likely absence of rough marsh-mallow.	
App 1	2	55	The Appendix states that the SPA is a 6.2km east and the Ramsar site is 3.9km east. This is incorrect as both the SPA and Ramsar are about 3.9 east (Sully Island)	It is likely that a Habitat Regulations screening process may be required, particularly to screen for impact pathways associated with Air Quality. Additional assessment would be required if likely significant effects could not be screened out at this stage.	
App 1	2	102	States the primary sensitive habitat for the SPA and Ramsar site is improved grassland. This is incorrect and should be updated within the likely updated air quality assessment.	This will have to be updated within an update PEA.	
App 1			The original ecological report is not available only an assessment of rough marsh-mallow.	This will have to be updated within an update PEA.	
App 1	8	90	The air quality impacts on ancient woodland will have to be re-visited and possibly modelled from at height. A quick search of	Update desk study search of the ancient woodland inventory to inform Air Quality.	

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
			MAGIC does not highlight the presence of ancient woodland. Further investigation required.		
App 1			The air quality assessment and impacts on the surrounding habitats / receptors (SINC, woodlands, SPA and Ramsar sites) will have to be re-done with correct stack-size. This may influence % of critical level or the % of the critical load. This may also change for the SPA which has an incorrect distance of 6.2km rather than the correct 3.9km.	A Habitat Regulations Screening Assessment is likely to be required. Additional assessment would be required if likely significant effects could not be screened out at this stage.	

**Table B2 – Landscape and Visual Technical Review**

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
<b>2010 Environmental Statement</b>					
8	8.10	82	Description of baseline visibility of site appears to relate to the ground level only and as such dismisses some potential key views for later assessment.	In general, it is agreed that the proposal (single 14m building and stack <20m) would not have significant landscape or visual effects, its scale and appearance is similar to adjacent development and wider industrial character, and with a limited ZTV. However, the LVIA itself does not provide appropriate information to fully justify this assessment and has inflated significance values, with 'major beneficial' a strange conclusion for combined visual and landscape effects when using their presented methodology significance criteria. Overall, the LVIA reads more as an appraisal than an LVIA appropriate for an ES based on current standards. It perhaps reflects the guidance available at the time, and less stringent consultation approaches and methodologies.	Yellow
8	8.9	82	Landmap reference limited - more discussion on townscape character would be expected.		Yellow
8	8.11	83	Zone of Visual Influence - no methodology given as to how this was constructed and what it was based upon. Not clear if it is based on the site, building height or stack height.		Yellow
8	8.12	83	Methodology - references views rather than visual receptors which may reflect older guidance and date of assessment.		Yellow
8	8.15	84	Construction impacts - Negligible impacts on views of local residents - would agree not significant but not negligible - using their methodology 'minor adverse' would be more appropriate.		Yellow
8	8.16	85	Visual Impacts - use of term 'significant views' rather than 'significant effects upon visual receptors' - likely related to older guidance.		Green
8	8.18	85	Negligible visual impacts assessed could be argued to be too low, in accordance with their own methodology "minor adverse" would be more appropriate.		Yellow
9	8.21	86	Making a combined judgement on landscape and visual impact is not appropriate and the 'major beneficial' judgement is at odds with their methodology.		Yellow

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
8			General comment: No mention of consultation with Regulators or how the study area was defined in the chapter.		
8	App 1		General comment: Limited detail in methodology and approach. No clear methodology defined in establishing landscape or visual receptor sensitivity, or magnitude of change - which were defined by GLVIA2. Confusion over viewpoints and visual receptors.		
<b>2019 Environmental Statement</b>					
5	5.1	73	<i>'This Report addresses the changes though commentary on, and updates to, the previous LVIA for the project, prepared for the 2010 Permission...'</i>	This document does not constitute a LVIA - it is a reconfiguration to account for the 2015 assessment which did not include an updated LVIA and refers to the 2010 LVIA. This is deemed inadequate for the modified proposals and would not conform to current best practice LVIA guidance.	
5	5		General comment: 'No direct comparison given to the change of the modified proposal from the consented scheme which is the most important aspect. Attention is wrongly diverted to the comparison with the BioGen consented (but lapsed) proposal which should have no bearing on an LVIA in 2019.'		
5	5		General comment: 'This document constantly refers to the proposed development changes as having an 'average building height' of 16.3m across three buildings instead of the actual building heights which for a LVIA is a critical part of the assessment. This has clearly been used to more closely relate to the 14m height of the original planning permission which inaccurately infers a minimal change.'		
5	5.2	74	This states that the landscape and visual baseline conditions remain accurate at the time of the 2015 application. However, the 2015 application did not update the 2010 Proof of Evidence and LVIA, and a major change is that the BioGen development's planning consent has lapsed.	Needs further assessment – It would be anticipated that the study area for the modified proposals would be much larger and include additional landscape and visual	

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
				receptors compared to the 2010 assessment.	
5	5.2	75	'Use of the same 2015 VIA reference to the 2010 Inspector's notes that the site lies within an industrial area and mis-uses this statement ' <i>looking down from Dock View Road the new building would be seen in the context of the development within the Docks and , in my view, would sit comfortably in its industrial surroundings.</i> ' This relates to a much smaller development and not the modified proposals.	Not relevant to the modified proposals.	
5	5.2	75/76	A comparison provided of this modified facility with the now lapsed BioGen Project. At no point is discussion given as to how this relates to the modified proposals and why it's presence or now lack of presence would affect the landscape and visual impacts of the modified facility.	Needs further assessment	
5	5.3	78	No evidence is provided to support the following statement and "negligible" is an underestimate of effect:  <i>'The 2015 Application shares the majority of it's characteristics with the approved 2010 permission, and the changes in dimensions to the plant did not fundamentally alter the way in which the development would interact with the landscape and the views to which the plant would be subject during the construction stage. The conclusions about the landscape therefore remained valid, and as such the impacts of the construction phase on Visual Amenity and Landscape Character remained Negligible.'</i>	Needs further assessment	
5	5.2	76	<i>'The 2015 Application proposed changes to the elevations, layout, stack position and height. It remained the case that the principal views were available from Dock View Road and Dyfrig Road and that these views would be available in the context of the industrial setting.'</i> No evidence provided in the 2015	Needs further assessment	



Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
			application to justify that these were the only key views with the modified proposals.		
5	5.3	79	<i>'The rearranged structures in terms of elevation and layout continued to have a comparable impact upon the landscape and available views and from Dock View Road would barely break the skyline, if at all.'</i> No evidence provided in the 2015 application to justify this statement.	Needs further assessment	
5	5.3	79	Reference is made to the principal changes being the stack, but no mention of the two +20m high buildings. The stack or change in mass/height was not explicitly considered in the 2015 VIA and no justification given to the findings presented.	Needs further assessment	
5	5.3	79	Comparison provided with the now lapsed BioGen Project to state that both projects were directly comparable and would have a similar visual impact and 'de facto, viewed as acceptable by VoGC in the context of the available views. No evidence provided in the 2015 application or this chapter to justify this reasoning.	Needs further assessment	
5	5.3	80	<i>'It is considered therefore that these conclusions remained valid notwithstanding the change in elevations, stack and layout associated with the 2015 Application and that as such the impact of the operational phase on Visual Amenity and Landscape Character would be Negligible'.</i>  No evidence to support this is provided to consider 'negligible' is justified. .	Needs further assessment	
5			General comment: 'There were no accompanying photomontages or wirelines of the modified proposals presented or referred to within the LVIA (only a reprint of BioGen Proposal montages and comparison section).	Visualisations required	

**Table B3 – Air Quality Technical Review**

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
<b>2010 Environmental Statement</b>					
5	5.13	36	Dispersion modelling should have been based on the Waste Incineration Directive <sup>5</sup> (WID) emission limits and not a combination of WID emission limits and emission rates for a different plant permitted locally (Barry Energy Recovery Facility, Biogen).	Provide further detail on assessment methodology	
5			No information i.e. trip generation is provided to support the decision to scope out assessment of operational traffic effects on local air quality, or indeed shipping emissions from boats that will deliver the waste wood. A description on how operational dust emissions have been assessed is needed, if an assessment has been undertaken. Mitigation measures are provided for operational dust.	Provide further detail on assessment methodology.	
5	5.23	42	It is unclear as to how the nitrogen and acid deposition calculations have been undertaken, specifically what methodology has been followed, what deposition velocities have been used and where the background deposition rates and critical loads have come from.	Provide further detail on assessment methodology	
5	5.44-49	60	If these mitigation measures are for the operational phase, then where is the assessment of dust during operation, as these mitigation measures are all for this?	Provide further detail on assessment methodology	

<sup>5</sup> European Commission (2000). Directive 2000/76/EC on the Incineration of Waste (the WI Directive).

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
5		64	What significance criteria have been used to determine the significance of effects both before and after mitigation?	Provide further detail on assessment methodology	
<b>2019 Environment Statement</b>					
3	3.2	37	No information i.e. trip generation is provided to support the decision to scope out assessment of operational traffic effects on local air quality.	Chapter updated so that this information is provided.	
3	3.5	44	The Entan assessment referred to, and provided in Appendix 1(2), on which the 2019 ES is reliant for the assessment of operational effects, was undertaken on the basis that the diameter of the flue was 1.23m (see Table C1 of Appendix C). However, according to Section 1.1 page 27 of the 2019 ES, the flue diameter was increased to 2.75m following the increase in flue height from 20m to 43m. Increasing the flue width by c 2m will affect the flue emission characteristics (i.e. plume rise) such that this may have a significant impact on the predicted concentrations.	The dispersion modelling of operational effects should be updated with the correct flue diameter and emission parameters.	
3	3.5.2	46	Local monitoring data for 2009 to 2012 was used by Entran to inform baseline conditions at the Site and in the local area. Given that Entran completed their assessment in June 2015, there is no justification provided as to why more recent data has not been used. The 2019 ES also does not provide an update on baseline air quality conditions in the study area.	Comparison of the annual mean baseline NO <sub>2</sub> concentration used in the Entran report with the latest monitoring data to confirm that it's use is appropriate, and that is representative. Predicted concentrations should be updated with the most recent background concentrations if they are found to be significantly higher. There is no reference to any of the monitoring data	

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
				recently collected by VoGC locally. The number of monitoring sites in Barry has increased in recent years.	
3	3.5.2	47/49	The background concentrations presented in the 2019 ES have been taken directly from the Entran report and are for varying time periods up to 2011 or 2012. Given the Entran assessment was completed in 2015, the background concentrations available at the time of the assessment should have been used.	Check of background concentrations used against the most recent data available.	
3	3.5.3	51/52	Significance criteria used are those provided by the Environment Agency for undertaking risk assessments for the permitting process. Environment Protection UK and the Institute of Air Quality Management have published criteria for the use in air quality assessments for planning purposes and these should also have been used in the 2019 ES Chapter for the assessment of human health effects.	Comparison of assessment results for human health effects against these significance criteria should be undertaken.	
3	3.5.3	51/52	No tables showing the total predicted concentrations (i.e. Process Contribution plus background concentration) are presented for the assessment of human health effects.	Chapter should be updated so that these are provided.	
5	5.3.4	55	Data from the Entran report has been summarised here with no comparison made between the baseline acid and nitrogen deposition rates now (2019) and then (2015), and how changes in these might affect the assessment conclusions.	Chapter should be updated so that these are provided.	

**Table B4 – Ground Conditions Technical Review**

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
<b>2010 Environmental Statement</b>					
7	7.1	71	<b>Ground conditions: General</b> No mention of legislation, guidance or best practice used, specifically for ground conditions.	Without this information we cannot comment on the applicability of assessment.	
7	7.2	71	<b>Ground conditions: Methodology</b> The methodology only describes how the baseline information was obtained and does not detail the methodology of completing the EIA, i.e. how receptor sensitivity was determined etc.	Without this information we cannot comment on the applicability of assessment.	
7		71-79	<b>Ground conditions: General</b> This chapter appears to be taken from the Preliminary Risk Assessment including a baseline study and conceptual site model. Other than a short table at the end, the chapter does not assess receptors in terms of EIA. There is no consideration of the impacts of the development on geology, soils, mineral resources or geomorphology as attributes, and no classification of their significance, etc.	The chapter discusses the risk to the receptors from the site currently as low to high. An ES chapter should discuss the significance of and effects to each receptor associated with the proposed development in line with EIA guidance.	
7	7.3	71	<b>Ground conditions: Technical</b> Non-aquifer and minor aquifer are outdated terms. Mercia Mudstone is a Secondary B Aquifer and the Tidal Flats are a Secondary Undifferentiated Aquifer.		
7	77.17	76	<b>Ground conditions: Technical</b> Groundwater within the Mercia Mudstone not considered to be a receptor. As the bedrock in this area is shallow and classified	Regulators are likely to question the potential contamination risk to the underlying bedrock aquifer.	

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
			as a Secondary B Aquifer, the effects of the proposed development should be discussed in relation to this.	There is no reason for it to have been ruled out as a receptor.	
7	7.15	76	<b>Ground conditions: Technical</b> There does not appear to be any consideration of receptors including geology, soils, mineral resources or geomorphology at attributes, including agricultural land. Although the sensitivity is low, no evidence is available to show that these have previously been scoped out.	Clarification or re-assessment needed.	
7	7.23	78	<b>Ground conditions: Technical</b> Construction impacts: This table does not break down the effects on individual receptors. Groundwater during construction is not considered for example. A moderate residual impact has been determined but it is not specified whether this is moderate adverse or moderate beneficial. In terms of human health for construction workers, due to the short term nature of the works and the assumed health and safety control measures, generally this would be considered negligible, not moderate.	Clarification or re-assessment needed.	
7	7.23	78	<b>Ground conditions: Technical</b> As above, operational impacts have not been considered for each individual receptor. A moderate positive residual effect has been determined overall based on remediation. However, the impacts to various receptors from the potentially contaminative processes of the Biomass facility have not been considered, and may be adverse.	Clarification or re-assessment needed.	
Appendices	16-19	330-435	<b>Ground conditions: Site Area</b>	It would need to be clarified that the information in the main body of the report was	

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
			The Groundsure report including historical maps and the RSK PRA do not cover the full extent of site area - only the southern half.	not based on the information in the PRA and Groundsure report only as information may have been omitted from northern extent of the site.	
7	7.22	78	<p><b>Ground conditions: General</b></p> <p>Conclusions of the baseline study recommend a ground investigation is undertaken in order to further refine these risks. Has this been done? No evidence to suggest so. Negligible/ positive impacts cannot be assumed without this information.</p>		
<b>2019 Environmental Statement</b>					
			<p><b>Ground conditions: General</b></p> <p>No geology and soils chapter or any reference to geo-environmental impacts in this report. The same extract from the 2010 Groundsure report is used in the appendix but not referenced in main body. No evidence of an intrusive geo-environmental survey as recommended by RSK in 2009 has been undertaken.</p>	No evidence that the impacts on ground conditions have been scoped out prior to being omitted in the ES.	

**Table B5 – Noise Technical Review**

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
<b>2010 Environmental Statement</b>					
9	-	-	General comment: BS 5228 which at the time of planning submission was deemed best practice for construction assessment for not considered in the 2010 ES.	This assessment is insufficient and it should be revised in accordance with BS5228 <sup>6</sup>	
9	9.20	92	The operational noise prediction and subsequent assessment are based on the assumption that all noisy equipment will be contained within a building, and that the internal noise level would not exceed 90dB(A).	This assessment is insufficient and it should be revised in accordance with BS4142 <sup>7</sup> .	
9		92/93	The 2010 ES chapter does not make any reference to: external plant shown in the layouts in the ES such as the noise emissions from the stack, louvres/doors on the building envelope, HGV movements within and outside the red line boundary.	This assessment is insufficient and it should be revised in accordance with BS4142 <sup>7</sup> .	
<b>2019 Environmental Statement</b>					
4	4.5	71	An assessment to determine the likely noise and vibration effects arising from the construction phase has not been undertaken. Instead, Section 4.5 refers to the assessment provided in the Voluntary ES Chapter 7 (2010).  The construction noise and vibration assessment undertaken in 2010 fails to identify the assessment methodology or standard	This assessment is insufficient and it should be revised in accordance with BS5228 <sup>6</sup>	

<sup>6</sup> British Standard (2008). Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites. Version superseded in 2014 (draft 13/30258085).



Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
			<p>followed to prepare the construction assessment. No significance criteria are identified.</p> <p>It only provides an indication of the magnitude of impact prior to mitigation and then assigns a 'minor impact' to the residual impacts that are identified.</p> <p>In the 2019 ES, there is no evidence of assessment assumptions, calculations undertaken, or noise levels adopted for construction plant or activities.</p> <p>An impact of magnitude is only estimated at Location 1 (Dock View Road)</p> <p>There is no reference to physical mitigation options or the application of best practicable means. The only mitigation measure which is mentioned is the hours of operation.</p>		
4	4.2.1	63	<p>This section described the revised baseline noise survey undertaken in 2015 by Hunter Acoustics.</p> <p>There are no references to guidance of standards</p> <p>There is no reference to equipment used in the noise survey.</p> <p>Noise measurements were undertaken during extremely short periods during two days only. Statistical analyses suggested in BS4142<sup>7</sup> were not undertaken and there would have been insufficient data to do so in any event. No noise measurements</p>	Assessment methodology and alignment with best practice needed. It needs re-assessment.	

<sup>7</sup> British Standard 4142 (1997). Methods for rating industrial noise affecting residential and mixed areas/ British Standard 4142 (2014) Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound.

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
			<p>were carried out during the weekend. The survey duration was inadequate.</p> <p>Measurements were undertaken during the daytime with wind speeds slightly higher than 5m/s. This exceeds the recommendation in BS4142, there is no commentary to justify the adequacy of the measurements.</p> <p>Wide discrepancies in levels measured by Hunter Acoustics and by AB (in the Voluntary ES 2010) are identified but only subject to a cursory discussion with no reason for the differences suggested.</p>		
4	4.3	67	<p>This section, titled 'Methodology' does not set out the assessment methodology. It simply makes selective references to standards and guidance.</p> <p>The commentary on BS 4142 selectively reports elements of the assessment methodologies and appears to confuse elements of the respective versions of the Standard. This is significant as there some aspects of the two versions are very different.</p> <p>Where the initial impact estimation guidance is set out there is a typographical error in c) where it is stated that 'a difference of around +5dB or more is likely to be an indication of a significant adverse effect - depending on context'.</p> <p>It should read adverse impact instead.</p> <p>The summary of selected World Health Organisation Guidelines is selective and inappropriate.</p>	Removal of the word significant.	
4	4.3	67/68	<p>The summary of mitigation provided is extremely superficial with no details of the noise sources or the acoustic performance required of the containing structure.</p>	Assessment methodology and alignment with best practice needed. It needs re-assessment.	

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
			There is no description of the methodology/standard followed to predict the operational noise levels. We would expect reference to ISO 9613- Part 2 <sup>8</sup>		
4	4.3	67/68	<p>The operational noise prediction and subsequent assessment are based on the assumption that all noisy equipment will be contained within a building, and that the internal noise level would not exceed 90dB(A). The assumptions used in the assessment originates from the 2008 noise assessment prepared by AB Acoustics.</p> <p>There is no reference to any differences in the assumptions or reference to any differences in the design/technology.</p> <p>The 2019 ES chapter does not make any reference to: external plant shown in the layouts in Appendix 1 such as the ACC; noise emissions from the stack, louvres/doors on the building envelope, HGV movements within and outside the red line boundary.</p>	Details of the assessment undertaken are needed and the assessment should be broader in scope to account for external plant and activities.	
4	4.3	68	<p>The chapter refers to the operational noise levels predicted in 2008. It is noted in the chapter that the rating levels have a +5dB correction factor in accordance with BS4142:1997<sup>Error! Bookmark not defined.</sup></p> <p>The chapter refers to differences in rating methodology described in BS4142:2014 but it fails to apply the new corrections appropriately. A +2dB correction due to tonal</p>	Updated assessment needed in-line with best practice.	

<sup>8</sup> International Organisation for Standardisation (1996). Acoustics – Attenuation of Sound during Propagation Outdoors – Part 2: General Method of Calculation (ISO 9613-2:1996).

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
			<p>component is added to the rating level rather than the specific level.</p> <p>As the external sources have not been considered, specific levels and potential feature corrections for these sources have not been identified.</p>		
4	4.3	68	<p>The chapter describes the assessment for operational noise at Location 3 as 'Low impact depending on context'. Based on the values stated, this should correspond to an initial impact estimation of 'adverse impact' instead.</p> <p>No explicit consideration of the context is provided despite this being a key element of an assessment based on the Standard</p>	Updated assessment in-line with best practice.	
4	4.4	70	The text refers to Appendix 4 for the noise impact significance criteria. A table is presented in Appendix 4, It is not clear if this table corresponds to both construction and operational effects, or only operational.	Clarification needed.	
4			There is no discussion/agreement of methodology with the Environmental Health Officer (EHO).	Confirmation methodology and assessment has been agreed with the EHO.	
4			There is no Policy / Guidance section. Technical Advice Note (TAN) 11 <sup>9</sup> is not mentioned in the chapter.	Detail of alignment of facility with planning policy.	
4	App 1		Appendix 1: D&A 2015 states that Best practicable means will be used for construction and that the plant has been designed to	Alignment with Environmental Statement and the	

<sup>9</sup> Technical Advice Note (Wales) 11, Noise, October 1997.

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
			meet Best Available Technology (BAT). This is not mentioned in the 2019 ES chapter 4	Environmental Permit application needed.	

**Table B6 – Water Technical Review (Including Flood Risk Assessment)**

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
<b>2010 Environmental Statement (2009 Flood Risk Assessment)</b>					
FRA	-	-	Very limited information available in this report. FRA does not use site specific data as none was available, this may no longer be the case. The assessment does not include an assessment of future risk or surface water.	New FRA required including site specific data, current climate predictions and surface water risks to site and required access areas.	
11		105	Chapter 11 states that RSK Environment Ltd were commissioned to provide an assessment for flood risk, however consultation with the Environment Agency Wales confirmed that the site was not at risk of flooding. Therefore, no FCA was required.	Regardless of flood risk, no assessment was undertaken for water resources, quality, water framework directive screening. Assessment not deemed fit for purpose as no assessment has been undertaken.	
<b>2019 Environmental Statement (2015 Planning Statement)</b>					
ES	Preamble in Scoping	18	Flood risk matters were discussed in both the original 2010 Application and ES. The original Flood Risk Assessment was included as Appendix 1(13) to this Statement. There was no significant change to the proposed footprint of development or the area within which it was proposed. There was assumed to be no material change to the flood conditions between the original application and the 2015 Application. This was addressed in more detail within the Planning Statement accompanying the 2015 Application, included at Appendix 1. It concluded, as there was no material change proposed to the area of the development, nor the flood risk context between the original and 2015 Application, there are no material impacts to be considered by this ES.	New FRA required to current standards undertaken to be reported in revised ES Chapter.	

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
			Although there is no change in footprint, flood risk guidance and Climate Change have progressed. In addition, there have been no acceptable assessment of future risks.		
1	1.2	30	<p><b>Drainage</b></p> <p>As with the 2010 Permission, under the 2015 Application, all internal surfaces were intended to drain to a sealed sump or foul sewer. External surface drainage was to be directed to a sustainable surface water system, to be agreed with the planning authority, and roof water would drain to a soakaway or be reused in the process.</p> <p>No ground contamination or groundwater level information for use of soakaway is presented. Groundwater Flooding noted as High Risk in Groundsure data (ES Vol Doc 2, ES Apps, Pg 324/355).</p> <p>No information on final drainage design or in-principle agreement from stakeholders so no evidence of Environmental Impacts can be assessed.</p>	An assumption has been made that drainage design and agreement would be subject to 2015 conditions. Ground contamination and groundwater levels should be investigated if infiltration required.	
Planning Statement	2.3.4	5	<p>Internal surfaces will continue to drain to a sealed sump or foul sewer. External surfaces including roof water will drain to a sustainable surface water system.</p> <p>Very limited drainage strategy information, no details.</p>	<p>No assessment undertaken: assumption that drainage design and agreement would be subject to 2015 conditions for planning but no drainage evidence presented for ES.</p> <p>Much more detailed drainage design should be presented.</p>	
Planning Statement	10.1	9	The Project's Flood Risk Assessment from RSK Group continues to be applicable to the Project from 2009. This FRA	An FRA should have been produced in accordance with up to date information and	

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
			<p>lacks specific site flood data, extrapolating from surrounding areas only.</p> <p>Although the Facility did not change between the 2008 and 2015 applications, the policy regime did in relation to flood risk and climate change within the EIA and wider environmental regulations (including Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015).</p>	<p>policy including best practice and outcomes should be reported in up to date EIA.</p>	
Planning Statement	10.3	9	<p>No agreed rates for drainage and general SuDs design.</p>	<p>Planning conditions associated with the 2015 outline application stipulate drainage design should be signed off prior to occupation (planning conditions 10 &amp; 11).</p>	
Planning Statement	10	9	<p>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 not considered in the assessment, which requests that development is resilient and has the capacity to adapt to change e.g. climate. No reference to climate change has been included as part of the assessment.</p>	<p>The assessment has not considered future risk, when the facility is meant to be operational for 25 years.</p>	



**Table B7 – Materials and Waste Technical Review**

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
<b>2010 and 2019 Environmental Statement</b>					
N/A			<p><b>Materials and Waste: General Comment:</b></p> <p>The 2010 Environmental Statement was completed in line with the Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 1999 (as amended) which required a description of materials and waste and to be included 'as is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development'.</p> <p><i>"A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia, the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil ... considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources; and the ... disposal and recovery of waste."</i></p> <p>Given the absence of a 'Materials and waste' chapter, there is no information relating to scope (construction, operation, decommissioning) or baseline assessment made. Waste policy has been included throughout the 2010 and 2019 ES and supporting documentation.</p>	<p>It is recommended that the document is updated in line with the 2017 EIA Regulations, and a material and waste chapter should be prepared.</p>	
			<p><b>Material Resources Consumption - Construction and Operation:</b></p> <p>There is no detailed description of the material resources required for the construction or operational (maintenance / repair) aspects of the development, as required by current EIA regulations. The feedstock material (wood recoverable from waste streams in Wales) is described.</p> <p>The 2010 Environmental Statement (section 2.1 pg 11), as updated by the 2019 Environmental Statement (Chapter 1 pg 27), gives a brief indication of the construction of the project. This comprises 'a steel portal frame construction to be</p>	<p>Given the absence of material resource data, and assessment of the potential significant effects cannot be made. It is however noted that the ES was not produced in line with the 2017 EIA Regulations, and therefore requires a lesser focus on material resources.</p>	

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
			<p>surfaced with micro profile or box profile cladding to all external elevations'. 'The total footprint of the development is 2,497m<sup>2</sup>'.</p> <p>Appendix 13 Sustainability Appraisal of the 2010 ES (pg 239) notes that 'materials used in construction...will be selected for quality and durability. Where possible, timber used...will be sourced from sustainably managed forests...carrying the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) logo.'</p> <p>There is a commitment in Appendix 5 of the 2019 ES (Planning application waste audit and facilities strategy, point 9, pg 2) for 'all raw materials to be sourced from local suppliers to the detailed design specification'.</p>	Should the project need to be updated in line with the 2017 EIA regulations, an assessment of the impacts on material resource consumption should be undertaken for construction and operation. This would require obtaining data on (for example, but not limited to) the type and quantity of material resources required, information on the recycled content or other sustainable features of materials, details of the cut and fill balance.	
	2010 ES - paragraph 2.11; 2019 ES - section 6.2	2010 ES - page 15; 2019 ES - page 8	<p><b>Waste generation and disposal - Operation:</b> The 2010 Environmental Statement stated '<i>The wood feedstock will be produced to specification at the site by appropriate chipping, shredding and screening plant equipped with magnetic separators to remove nails etc.</i>'</p> <p>The 2019 Environmental Statement provided an update and stated that 'Wood-waste feedstock is chipped off-site and delivered to the plant prior to being gasified.' There is no information provided as to how contaminants would be removed before the feedstock is chipped and therefore minimise the chance of hazardous waste materials being delivered to the site.</p>	Information should be provided as to how contaminants would be removed before the feedstock is chipped to ensure that the feedstock is uncontaminated	
	2010 ES - (bullet points after paragraph	3.4	<p><b>Waste generation and disposal - Operation:</b> The 2010 Environmental Statement's 'Predicated Impacts' section does not consider operational waste such as</p>	'Appendix 6 Officer's Report to Committee stated in section 6. Other Material Considerations Handling of	

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
	3.3); 2019 ES - section 1.5; Waste Planning Assessment - section 3.4		<p>char/bottom ash and fly ash. Table 2.1 (Process input requirements and outputs), stated that the process could generate 45.36 tonnes of char/ash per week and that this was 3% of the input fuel.</p> <p>The 2019 Environmental Statement included the same table (Figure 9 Process Outputs, page 31). Section 3.4 of the Waste Planning Assessment (Type and Quantities of Waste to be Managed) stated that 'The Outotec gasifier will process up to 72,000 dry tonnes of waste wood per year...' and 'The process results in residual ash (8% of the input fuel), which is collected automatically from the various stages of the process.' There is no clarification as to whether the 8% is 'by weight' or 'by volume', however, by weight, this would equate to the Outotec gasifier process generating up to 5,760 tonnes of ash per year (72,000*0.08), or up to 120 tonnes per week, based on 48 weeks' operation. This is almost three times the total weight of ash previously estimated.</p>	Waste Outputs that '...a methodology statement condition is recommended which would cover any required storage and subsequent disposal.'	
			<p><b>'Waste generation and disposal - Operation:</b></p> <p>The Transport Statement states '3.4 Ash is a by-product of the gasification process and the majority of it can be used for building products such as block manufacture. It will be removed from site in separate contained loads by the feedstock supplier for recycling. Backloading is not possible due to the need to avoid contamination of incoming feedstock. However, there is a substantial reduction (over 94%) between the weight of wood fuel processed and the weight of ash requiring removal from the site. Therefore, the total amount of ash removed from the site per annum will not exceed 2200 tonnes.' There is no mention of this expected tonnage limit seen anywhere else in the Environmental Statements during the review, nor how it was calculated.</p>	Clarification is needed as to the expected weight and/or volume of char/ash and fly-ash (and how this has been calculated) which is applied consistently across the Environmental Statement.	

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
			'3.5 The filter/abatement process designed to control emissions also produces a low volume of waste residues (fly-ash) which will be transported to specialist landfill in sealed containers by the feedstock supplier. The exact tonnage will depend on the abatement technology which the Environment Agency requires, but is unlikely to exceed 1500 tonnes per annum.' There is no mention of this expected tonnage limit seen anywhere else within the Environmental Statements during the review, nor how this was calculated.		
			<p><b>Waste generation and disposal - Operation:</b></p> <p>There is no information concerning the management arrangements for waste generated by employees on-site (e.g. from welfare facilities), or from the maintenance of on-site plant and equipment - the latter would be expected to generate a range of hazardous waste materials (such as oil and tyres) which will require specialist storage, handling and disposal.</p>	Information should be provided as to how operational waste from employees and maintenance activities would be segregated, stored and managed.	

**Table B8 – Climate Resilience Technical Review**

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>An assessment covering Climate Resilience has not been undertaken and there is no rationale for its omission from the assessment. The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 1999 (as amended) which identifies 'climatic factors' as an aspect of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development.</p> <p>It is best practice that the assessment be undertaken in line with the updated EIA regulations (2017). The EIA Regulations 2017 Schedule 4 Part 5(f) identify 'the vulnerability of the project to climate change' to be addressed within Environmental Statements therefore this ES presents a significant omission in relation to climate vulnerability. Given the close proximity of the Scheme to the docks, particular consideration should be given to projections of sea level rise.</p>	<p>It is recommended that the resilience of the project to climate change be considered over the proposed construction phase (3-4 years) and operation phase (the ES identifies the proposed development to have a design life in excess of 25 years) and decommissioning (should the facility be decommissioned).</p> <p>Baseline climate (current and projected) for the scheme should be presented based on Met Office regional climate profile and UKCP18 projections. Climate variables to consider include temperature (average and extreme), precipitation (average and extreme) and sea level rise. Potential impacts arising from changes in climate variables over the lifetime of the project should be identified and the significance of these effects should be assessed based on the likelihood of occurrence and the consequence if they do occur. Embedded mitigation within the Project</p>	

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
				<p>which contributes to its resilience to climate change should be identified and used to determine the significance of effects.</p> <p>Following the identification of projected changes in climate in the project area and assuming that the design of the project contains measures which ensures its resilience to the projected climatic changes, it is not anticipated that there would be any residual significant effects.</p>	
N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>The FRA identifies the scheme to be in an area 'known to have been flooded in the past' and doesn't require a full flood assessment. A form of assessment has been carried out however it does not appear to consider changes in climate, or a climate change allowance.</p>	See Table B6 above	

**Table B9 - Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases Technical Review**

Chapter Number	Sub-section	Page Number	Gap in Assessment	Recommended Action	RAG Rating
N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>A GHG assessment has not been undertaken, and there is no rationale for its omission.</p> <p>Since the planning application was completed (2015) the EIA regulations have been updated. The EIA Regulations 2017 Schedule 4 Part 5(f) identify the impact of the project on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions), as requiring assessment if the emissions due to the project have the potential to be significant. The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 1999 (as amended) which identifies 'climatic factors' as an aspect of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development.</p> <p>Given that the Project is a thermal power plant (biomass), there is the potential for significant GHG emissions. As such the lack of a GHG assessment is considered to be a gap.</p>	<p>It is recommended that a GHG assessment of the Project is undertaken to determine the significance of any GHG emissions (as well as avoided emissions).</p>	



1 Capital Quarter  
Tyndall Street  
Cardiff  
CF10 4BZ

[wsp.com](http://wsp.com)



# DIAG

## DOCKS INCINERATOR ACTION GROUP

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20 February 2024

Ian Robinson  
Civic Offices,  
Holton Rd,  
Barry  
CF63 4RU

Sent by email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Robinson

**Planning Applications: 2023/00032/FUL & 2023/00033/FUL – Barry Docks Incinerator – For your Planning Committee meeting on 22 February 2024**

I have been asked to send this brief note to you as it demonstrates what sort of impacts arise when the Incinerator is operating other than in optimum mode.

First of all there are two recordings of noise. It is a simple matter to refer to noise but to demonstrate what the words mean is better illustrated with recordings, see below.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/JHuGuAzfOAI?feature=share>

<https://youtube.com/shorts/QjoDZKvRf3E?feature=share>

Unfortunately we have been unable to find a recording of the serious level of noise when the applicant ran the external conveyor. The applicant will have records of this but has not shared them. It seems to be agreed that the level was not acceptable.

The second items is attached as they are a couple of photographs of what amounts to wood dust emitted by the Incinerator. Sweeping up the dust is not adequate as the worst part of the dust will be left behind with no apparent regard to health issues.

Thank you for your attention and on behalf of DIAG I ask that this be added to the papers given to committee members.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Dennis Clarke  
(Vice Chair, DIAG)







Ian Robinson  
 Head of Development Planning  
 VoG Council

9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Ian

**Barry Biomass 2023/00032 and 00033/FUL; EIA Regulations 4(4) and 25**

As Ceiri is away, we have to put it to you that the LPA does not have the expertise required under Reg. 4(4), secondly that Ceiri has shown the task under Reg'25 to reach reasoned conclusions on all relevant aspects exceeds his capacity and/or expertise.

Ceiri's hope to take the Planning Application to committee on 24<sup>th</sup> February was quite premature. Before they can consider approving the planning application, Ceiri has under Reg.25 to examine all the Environmental Information and reach up-to-date

*reasoned conclusions on the significant effects of the proposed development on the environment, taking into account that examination and... their own supplementary examination*

We appreciate that is a herculean task for any one officer and there are multiple judgements to be made. However, Ceiri and QUOD correspondence on file suggest the stage of reaching "reasoned conclusions" is over, despite clear gaps eg. whether the passing of Wales's *Clean Air bill* changes the assessment of harm from emissions; whether 'Net Zero' policy applies to CO2 emissions rather than levels after QUOD's offsetting. Your own letter of 16 January suggests just the noise at Hawkings Antiques remains to check off.

Ceiri may have been taken in by QUOD's argument that McCooley's Reg.17 so-called 'completeness' report is all that's needed. Yet that just covers completeness of documents from the Applicant. The VoG already took its Reg.17 decision in accepting the ES for consideration, though you had not (then) decided if the WPA and FCA were reasonably required (Reg 17(4)(d). QUOD said certain issues were "scoped out" though you had not produced any scoping assessment; Ceiri should have told them that none were scoped out and the ES had to cover all.

Recently (3 Nov.) Ceiri informed QUOD that the Council's Section 6 duty (Env Act Wales 2016) requires applications to be supported by green infrastructure Statements. We're still waiting for their Statement which should include biodiversity gain to aid nature recovery (using the northern part of the site) as covered by the mitigation-compensation measures required in the ES.

"Sufficient expertise".

Though Ceiri's expertise could have sufficed for the EIA Reg.17 stage, Ceiri has to reject QUOD's argument that McCooley's so called 'completeness' report for PEDW's Reg.17 decision is all that's needed.

First Reg.25 says it's the LPA's assessment; second Reg.4(4) specifies the LPA

"must ensure that they have, or have access as necessary to, sufficient expertise to examine the environmental statement".

Do you consider the LPA ensured that, in keeping the process in-house and giving the task to Ceiri alone?

We note that the Welsh Govt brought in consultants WSP to report on their VRES, we believe mistakes you and Ceiri are making imply you should likewise bring in external expertise to ensure you can reasonably fulfil your duty under Reg.25. That Reg.25(1) report should be published (as did WGovt) in advance of considering the planning.

Let's give examples:

1. Your uncertainty over whether noise at the Hawking business in Woodham Road is relevant shows some lack of expertise, including in your SRS advisors: As QUOD's 24 January email explains BS4142 requires identifying occupied "*locations most sensitive to, or likely to be adversely affected*". QUOD cite their 'experts' determined the 'receptors' but omit to say that was in 2015 prior to the closest new dwellings and that ignored the close-by commercial premises.

# Our proposed 'receptors' a) upper floors of the closest housing on David Davies Rd and b) Hawking's Antiques conform to BS4142. SRS's Claire Hartrey ignoring the British Standard, replied claiming the East Quay receptor is "representative", even of the commercial receptors. As we informed Ceiri, this shows her advice can't be trusted.

# You have evidence the *conveyor noise* was and could be significant and disruptive – for the ES it is necessary to include evidence on its noise levels. SRS know noise from the external conveyor was not included in modelling, yet they give a view as if that huge defect is irrelevant.

# Your 16<sup>th</sup> January email to SRS posed the issue as planning alone, whether disturbance to commercial businesses is relevant.

SRS appear unable to advise on the EIA matter and Ceiri has been wrong to defer to them. We asked him to decide the critical point on the nearest residential and commercial receptors, but he's unwilling or unable to over-ride SRS. Your 16 January e-mail's endorsement of his quandry illustrates the expertise required by Reg.4(4) is lacking.

2. Likewise on Net-Zero, Ceiri could not answer on whether he could or should require outline plans for the plant to meet 'net zero' despite the WGovt letter we supplied – Ceiri put the question to NRW though it's clearly a planning decision. He had to reject QUOD's excuse for not providing figures on CO2 emissions (11 Dec. email) where he asserted "This information is not required under [Schedule 4](#)",. The first clause in EIA Schedule 4 says

*1 (d) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions...*

By 1(d) the ES can and has to give the amount of CO2 emissions, yet Ceiri apparently lacked the expertise or experience to press the point. .

3. Likewise too, Ceiri hasn't rejected QUOD's claim that the far-outdated 2015 Waste Planning Assessment is still valid; nor has he required a fresh WPA document

# despite Schedule 4 requiring data relating to current policy and practice for recycling waste-wood (see 5(b) *the sustainable availability of these resources*) and actual (not 'offset') CO2 emissions (see 5(f) *the impact of the project on climate (magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions)*), and

# despite Reg.25(2) requiring up-to-date conclusions.

4. Ceiri's email to QUOD of 15 January asked about the fuel storage hub on the docks, apologising "*it's not part of the planning application but please...*". Why omit that it's necessary environmental information for the ES?

5. Ceiri raised the issue of biodiversity gain (PPW Ch.6) in his 3 Nov. email, requiring applications to be supported by green infrastructure statements, asking QUOD to outline how this "*might be incorporated*

*in the proposals*". The Ecology Officer's response of 16.1.24 gives more context to the strong requirement for a Statement, to comply with your Section 6 duty.

Being focused on planning, Ceiri did not mention the ES needs to cover on-site nature recovery and off-site compensation measures as under EIA Sch.4:7. Planting native shrubs and creating a biodiversity area at the top of the northern extension would be a "reasonable" requirement.

It was reasonable for Ceiri to ask for an ES Addendum to also include compensation for the NOx/NO2 harm to biodiversity over the wider south Wales area – he didn't.

6. *S.106 levies for "nature gain"* come under Sch.4:7. Ceiri has not yet sought S.106 payments, despite general policy. As the LPA lacks specific policy on *nature gain*, QUOD should be asked for proposals in a formal ES Addendum to provide a basis for deciding an appropriate S.106 figure, with 1% (as the Public Art levy) of the project cost as guide,

7. Jane Hutt raised issues of the waste heat and CCS technology, which QUOD (11 Dec e-mail) invalidly dismissed, citing EIA Sch.4. For its first clause contains

*(d) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as ...heat, radiation) and quantities and types of waste produced during the...operation...*

The plant would produce a huge amount of combustion heat (~ 30MW), much up the stack and to heating air, some in radiation, yet Ceiri has not required that QUOD provide figures in the ES, whether counted as "waste" or "emissions". Even if he accepted QUODs' argument about no commercial users of the heat (ignoring public and residential users), those come under planning and regulatory controls, rather than the EIA requirements.

We conclude the ES lacks basic factual information on CO2 and heat emissions, from very wasteful technology. Reg.25 "reasoned conclusions" depend also on the feasibility of this plant complying with Net-Zero policy via carbon-capture (CCS) technology (QUOD gives no information). Ceiri has not posed appropriate questions and is surely not expected to have the expertise to judge this issue. It has no supporting Statements on a) biodiversity gain, b) Waste Planning Assessment and c) Flood Consequences Assessment, each of which would supply relevant environment information. Because of these and other deficiencies above, we ask that the LPA bring in external expert assessors to help comply with Reg.25. The assessors' expert report should be published like the WGovt's WSP report, in advance of any planning decision.

Regards,

Max Wallis [REDACTED]

Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth  
[re-registration pending] 07814 698782

[REDACTED]  
110 Merthyr Street, Barry CF63 4LD

Late Rep. on

### **Barry Biomass Renewable Energy Facility, 2023/00032/FUL**

Your planning officers clearly dislike EIA legislation but should not sidestep the processes and fail to give the Committee required “reasoned conclusions”.

They should not dismiss as “not part of the planning application” indirect environmental impacts of the waste-wood depot needed on Barry Dock, judged by open air storage and processing as in the earlier Berth 31 application and license, with no evidence on any environmental improvement to that.

They cannot dismiss as “not part of the planning application” how the plant intends to comply with the “net zero” CO2 emissions required of power generators, when the Welsh Government have confirmed that incinerators have to comply. This one is of course in the *Development of National Significance* (over 10MW) category.

The above is required information (Schedule 4/5) for EIA processes, if arguably not for the planning decision.

#### **EIA Regulation 25 Consideration of whether planning permission should be granted**

- 25.—(1)** When determining an application or appeal in relation to which an environmental statement has been submitted the relevant planning authority or the must—
- (a) examine the environmental information;
  - (b) reach a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the proposed development on the environment,

The officers report does not give “reasoned conclusions”. The evidence is that there are none; it was a big task, more than any one officer could carry out. The Planning section did not bring in outside expertise to assist

The reasoned conclusion referred to in paragraph (1) must be up to date when the determination is made

The applicant refused to supply the required Waste Planning Assessment, saying they'd rely on that from 2015. That includes the need for waste-wood incineration in SE Wales, whether much could be recycled in view of new Welsh “circular economy” policy. Increased wood recycling and the 2019 waste-wood incinerator at Margam has completely removed the 2015 “need”.

With no reasoned conclusion(s), the LPA cannot say the EIA has been “carried out” and thus are unable to comply with EIA Regulation 3:

- 3.** A relevant planning authority must not grant planning permission or subsequent consent for EIA development unless an environmental impact assessment has been carried out in respect of that development.

We conclude that on the basis of the present report, you must either reject the application or defer it pending an adequate Environmental Statement and completion of the EIA process..

Max Wallis  
for Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth



**From:** [Byron Lewis](#)  
**To:** [Planning](#)  
**Subject:** Planning Application 2023/00032/FUL  
**Date:** 01 February 2024 22:24:46

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Hi,

Further to my objection to planning application 2023/00032/FUL of 6/5/23, I take this opportunity to point out that the Development of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016, under Schedule 7, modifies Section 73(2) of the Town and Country Planning ACT 1990 so that references to local planning authorities are treated as references to the Welsh Ministers.

On that basis, the application made to the Council could not be validly made since the application should be made to the Welsh Ministers and I am minded at this stage that the application is invalid and no further action should be taken on it.

I'm also minded at this stage to submit a FOI request for all legal advice documents relating to this planning application. These can be sent to this email address.

With thanks

Byron Lewis  


Sent from my iPad

Ceiri Rowlands,  
VoG Council Senior Planning Officer,  
Barry Biomass case-officer

### **Objection to accepting Application 00032/FUL as valid**

We have seen your e-mail responses to Cllr Ian Johnson on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

We do not accept that your reasoning over-rides the validated decision by Marcus Goldsworthy in January 2020 (10 Jan. to Mr Frearson, of PCM). That's a formal letter on headed paper and says he (or the case officer Morgan Howell) checked with Welsh Govt officials their reading of the DNS Regs for their decision that the 2017 s.73A application was not validly made.

As a DNS application, the application had to be made to the Welsh Ministers, as set out in S 62D(1) of the 1990 Act (as amended).

Mr Goldsworthy says he expected to meet Mr Frearson on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan; could you post up VoG officer notes of that meeting?

In any event, the 2017 application (2017/01080/FUL) was withdrawn some days later, indicating the company accepted the 10 January 2020 argument.

The 2023 application is a closely similar S.73 application, despite dressing up the title with the inclusion of not conforming to the plans of Condition 5 of the 2015 consent. Your 7 Feb.2023 e-mail to Ian Johnson wrote the "*nature of the application (ie. to regularise differences...).. not amount to a DNS application*", yet that was the same with the 2017 application. The 10 Jan.2020 formal published letter takes precedence over "new" but unpublished "*legal advice*" you told Ian Johnson underlies. In his letter, Mr Goldsworthy stressed "*what has been constructed does not benefit from the previous planning permission*".

That 2020 decision letter also requires you to reject the company argument that the new application benefits from the old Waste Planning Assessment (though that "plan" vanished with 2015 Condition 5). You can inform the applicants that even if it were non-DNS, such a S.73A application to the Vale Council would not be validly made until accompanied by an in-date Waste Planning Assessment.

We are aware that reversing last January's decision to accept (the 2023/00032/FUL application) to now say it was not validly made would be embarrassing. But you did it over the 2017 application after over 2 years with a lot of trouble to the Welsh Ministers over the EIA status as well as to FoE, DIAG and the Town Council over the VRES. The Council reversed its view then, so can do so again. Your change caused the Company trouble and costs at that time; little extra cost is occasioned for them this time as the ES had been prepared for the Appeal. Moreover, you have not informed them in any documents of which we are aware, that the 10 January 2020 Goldsworthy letter no longer applies.

We look forward to your accepting our Objection that the application was not validly made and inform the company that, as in Mr Goldsworthy's 2020 letter, the application has to be made to the Welsh Ministers, as set out in S 62D(1) of the 1990 Act (as amended).

Regards,  
Max Wallis [REDACTED]

Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth  
[re-registration pending] 07814 698782  
[REDACTED]  
110 Merthyr Street, Barry CF63 4LD

## MATTERS ARISING FOR COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE DATE : 7 February 2024

<b>Application No.:</b> 2023/00032/FUL	<b>Case Officer:</b> Mr. Ceiri Rowlands
<p><b>Location:</b> Barry Biomass Renewable Energy Facility, David Davies Road, Barry</p> <p><b>Proposal:</b> Retrospective full planning permission for development comprising a wood fired renewable energy plant and associated structures without complying with Condition 5 (Drawings) attached to planning permission 2015/00031/OUT</p>	

**From: Welsh Government**

### Summary of Comments:

**Welsh Government have issued a Holding Direction** under Article 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 (“the DMPWO”). This enables the Welsh Ministers to give directions restricting the grant of permission by a Local Planning Authority. It directs the Vale of Glamorgan Council not to grant planning permission in respect of:

- (a) application no. 2023/00032/FUL referred to in the heading to this letter; or
- (b) any development of the same kind which is the subject of the application on any site which forms part of, or includes the land to which the above application relates

without the prior authorisation of the Welsh Ministers.

This Direction enables further consideration to be given by WG to whether or not the application should be referred to the Welsh Ministers for their determination. The direction prevents this Council only from granting planning permission; it does not prevent it from continuing to process or consult on the application. Neither does it prevent the authority from refusing planning permission.

Consequently, The Recommendation with this report is amended, such that it is recommended that Members resolve to approve the application, but only subject to and pending Welsh Government considering whether the application shall be called in for determination by the Welsh Ministers.

### Action required:

Members to note



Mr Marcus Goldsworthy  
 Head of Planning & Transportation  
 Vale of Glamorgan Council  
 Civic Offices  
 Holton Road  
 Barry  
 CF63 4RU

By Email: [REDACTED]

Ein Cyf/Our ref: qA1855254  
 Eich Cyf/Your ref: 2023/00032/FUL  
 Dyddiad/Date: 14 February 2024

Dear Mr Goldsworthy

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 – SECTION 77 CALL-IN REQUEST.  
 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)  
 (WALES) ORDER 2012 – DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 18(1)  
 RETROSPECTIVE FULL PLANNING PERMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING  
 A WOOD FIRED RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANT AND ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES  
 WITHOUT COMPLYING WITH CONDITION 5 (DRAWINGS) ATTACHED TO PLANNING  
 PERMISSION 2015/00031/OUT AT BARRY BIOMASS RENEWABLE ENERGY  
 FACILITY, DAVID DAVIES ROAD, BARRY, CF63 4JE  
 APPLICATION NO: 2023/00032/FUL**

1. I am writing to inform you the Welsh Ministers have been asked to call in the application referred to in the heading to this letter for their own determination.
2. Article 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 (“the DMPWO”) enables the Welsh Ministers to give directions restricting the grant of permission by a Local Planning Authority. I am authorised by the Minister for Climate Change to issue such directions and, in exercise of this authority, I hereby direct Vale of Glamorgan Council, with effect from the date of this letter, not to grant planning permission in respect of:
  - (a) application no. 2023/00032/FUL referred to in the heading to this letter; or

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

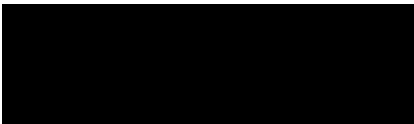
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

- (b) any development of the same kind which is the subject of the application on any site which forms part of, or includes the land to which the above application relates.

without the prior authorisation of the Welsh Ministers.

3. I issue this Direction to enable further consideration to be given to whether or not the application should be referred to the Welsh Ministers for their determination.
4. The direction prevents your authority only from granting planning permission; it does not prevent it from continuing to process or consult on the application. Neither does it prevent the authority from refusing planning permission.
5. Your attention is drawn to 31 of the DMPWO which provides for the Welsh Ministers to vary or cancel this direction in respect of both the land and type of development covered.
6. I will ensure you are informed of the Welsh Ministers' decision as soon as it is made.
7. A copy of this letter has been sent to Quod, agent for the applicant.

Yours sincerely



**Hywel Butts**

Pennaeth Gwaith Achos Cynllunio / Head of Planning Casework  
Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gynllunio / Planning Directorate

Arwyddwyd o dan awdurdod Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd; un o Weinidogion Cymru.  
Signed under authority of the Minister for Climate Change; one of the Welsh Ministers.

## MATTERS ARISING FOR COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE DATE : 22 February 2024

<b>Application No.:</b> 2023/00033/FUL	<b>Case Officer:</b> Mr. Ceiri Rowlands
<b>Location:</b> Land to the North of Barry Biomass Renewable Energy Facility, David Davies Road, Barry	
<b>Proposal:</b> Retrospective planning permission for external storage, vehicle turning and vehicle layover, and perimeter fencing for use in association with the adjacent renewable energy plant	

**From:** Docks Incinerator Action Group (DIAG) and Friends of the Earth (FoE) and a member of the public

### Summary of Comments:

A series of letters have been received from both DIAG and FoE, and a further member of the public. Each of those letters/emails is appended to this note for Members' information. Some of the attached correspondence was received prior to the report being published, but it is attached for completeness alongside the more recent correspondence. The main points are summarised as follows:

- The report suggests that the task carried out by the Inspector (regarding EIA soundness) was something more than was the case
- Use of diesel is un-quantified and could increase the impacts of the development.
- The Environmental Statement is inadequate and contains inadequate commitments regarding the robustness of the assessments.
- The development is harmful in respect of noise and dust (with videos and photos submitted)
- The photograph on page 135 of the Report is considered to be out of date, and more recent photographs are supplied that show the context of nearby residential sites.
- Impacts of waste wood storage on berth 31 should be considered.
- The plant should be required to be net zero.
- The development should be treated as a Development of National Significance.
- The report does not contain reasoned conclusions and the application has been subject to inadequate scrutiny/expertise.
- There is inadequate assessment of need for this kind of waste facility.
- THE ES is flawed in various ways including its scope, its analysis of Co2 and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, the assumed life of the development, use of diesel, etc.
- There is caselaw which dictates this should not be a Section 73A application.
- Progressing the current planning applications prejudices The Minister's position in considering discontinuance.
- The public have been deprived of a right to respond.
- Inadequate flood work

- **Inadequate biodiversity gain**

### Officer Response:

The comments are in many areas very similar to representations received prior to the completion of the report and consequently in many areas these points are discussed in the officer's report. Notwithstanding that, in summary the following points are added/re-iterated for Members' benefit:

- The statement referred to (regarding EIA soundness) relates to the previous enforcement appeal as noted in the report '*...when submitted as part of the related enforcement appeal proceedings*'.
- The use of diesel (and its impacts) is quantified and considered to represent a robust assessment/worst case scenario- given the nature of diesel use- i.e. in infrequent unforeseen circumstances where the plant has to be shut down and re-started, or in the event of power outages (related to generator use).
- The ES is considered to be complete for the purpose of the EIA Regulations. The scope is considered justified and it relates to the items scoped in with WG when the developer undertook a voluntary EIA prior to the submission of these applications (save for waste, which is dealt with in a detailed technical note alongside the ES, whose conclusions regarding significance of impacts are considered reasonable and accepted). Consequently and given the scope of the application, it was considered acceptable to scope this out. It should also be noted that this was not included as a stand alone ES chapter when the ES was submitted with the enforcement appeal, and the Inspector considered the ES to be complete in respect of its composition.
- Noise is dealt with in the report, and Members will note the robust conditions which require compliance with acceptable noise levels. The conditions also require compliance with a robust dust management plan.
- The photographs are useful for context but do not alter the assessments of findings.
- Regarding waste wood storage on a neighbouring site, this is an application to amend a previous planning permission, and it is considered that this issue falls outside the scope of this assessment.
- The points relating to DNS, waste, biodiversity and flooding are covered in the officer's report.
- In terms of net zero- this is not considered to be a requirement for this proposal, which is to consider impacts arising from the amendments to a previous proposal.
- In respect of the ES' assessment of emissions, the ES has been considered by a range of technical consultees, including NRW who are responsible for permitting the development. While the objectors' concerns in this regard are noted, the ES is considered to provide a robust assessment of the impacts.
- The public have not been deprived of a right to respond. There has been a number of consultation exercises in line with the regulations, and there has been an extensive line of communication with the interests groups who have submitted these representations.
- Progressing the current planning applications would not, in the Council's view, prejudice The Minister's position in considering discontinuance.
- The officer's report does contain reasoned conclusions and the ES (and all parts of the application) have been considered by technical consultees, who are considered appropriate to give technical responses on the information contained within and it is considered that officers are capable of considering this advice and presenting it to Members. Regulation 25 report – there is no requirement in the EIA Regulations to produce a separate report for the EIA. These matters are covered in the Officer's report to Planning Committee.

- The caselaw referred to in representations (regarding whether this proposal can be treated as a S73A application) is not considered to be applicable.
- Clean Air Bill – the bill commits Welsh Government to set new targets, but the bill does not set new targets for air quality.
- Heat – Schedule 4 1(D) of the EIA Regulations does not set a specific requirement to quantify heat emission, it is an example (“such as...”). In the context of climate change, in Chapter 7 of the ES, it was not considered necessary to quantify this in the context of this application.

**Action required:**

Members to note



## MATTERS ARISING FOR COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE DATE : 22 February 2024**

<b>Application No.:</b> 2023/00033/FUL	<b>Case Officer:</b> Mr. Ceiri Rowlands
<p><b>Location:</b> Land to the North of Barry Biomass Renewable Energy Facility, David Davies Road, Barry</p> <p><b>Proposal:</b> Retrospective planning permission for external storage, vehicle turning and vehicle layover, and perimeter fencing for use in association with the adjacent renewable energy plant</p>	

**From: Welsh Government**

### **Summary of Comments:**

**Welsh Government have issued a Holding Direction** under Article 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 (“the DMPWO”). This enables the Welsh Ministers to give directions restricting the grant of permission by a Local Planning Authority. It directs the Vale of Glamorgan Council not to grant planning permission in respect of:

- (a) application no. 2023/00033/FUL referred to in the heading to this letter; or
- (b) any development of the same kind which is the subject of the application on any site which forms part of, or includes the land to which the above application relates

without the prior authorisation of the Welsh Ministers.

This Direction enables further consideration to be given by WG to whether or not the application should be referred to the Welsh Ministers for their determination. The direction prevents this Council only from granting planning permission; it does not prevent it from continuing to process or consult on the application. Neither does it prevent the authority from refusing planning permission.

Consequently, The Recommendation with this report is amended, such that it is recommended that Members resolve to approve the application, but only subject to and pending Welsh Government considering whether the application shall be called in for determination by the Welsh Ministers.

### **Action required:**

Members to note

**Y Grŵp Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig**  
**Climate Change and Rural Affairs Group**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
 Welsh Government

Mr Marcus Goldsworthy  
 Head of Planning & Transportation  
 Vale of Glamorgan Council  
 Civic Offices  
 Holton Road  
 Barry  
 CF63 4RU

By Email: [REDACTED]

Ein Cyf/Our ref: qA1855254  
 Eich Cyf/Your ref: 2023/00033/FUL  
 Dyddiad/Date: 20 February 2024

Dear Mr Goldsworthy

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990**  
**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)**  
**(WALES) ORDER 2012 – DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 18(1)**  
**RETROSPECTIVE PLANNING PERMISSION FOR EXTERNAL STORAGE, VEHICLE**  
**TURNING AND VEHICLE LAYOVER, AND PERIMETER FENCING FOR USE IN**  
**ASSOCIATION WITH THE ADJACENT RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANT AT LAND TO**  
**THE NORTH OF BARRY BIOMASS RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY, DAVID DAVIES**  
**ROAD, BARRY, CF63 4JE**  
**APPLICATION NO: 2023/00033/FUL**

1. Article 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 (“the DMPWO”) enables the Welsh Ministers to give directions restricting the grant of permission by a Local Planning Authority. I am authorised by the Minister for Climate Change to issue such directions and, in exercise of this authority, I hereby direct Vale of Glamorgan Council, with effect from the date of this letter, not to grant planning permission in respect of:

- (a) application no. 2023/00033/FUL referred to in the heading to this letter; or

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

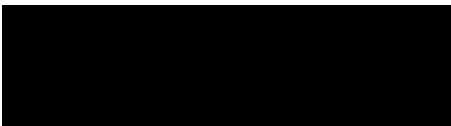
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

- (b) any development of the same kind which is the subject of the application on any site which forms part of or includes the land to which the above application relates.

without the prior authorisation of the Welsh Ministers.

2. I issue this Direction to enable further consideration to be given to whether or not the application should be referred to the Welsh Ministers for their determination.
3. The direction prevents your authority only from granting planning permission; it does not prevent it from continuing to process or consult on the application. Neither does it prevent the authority from refusing planning permission.
4. Your attention is drawn to 31 of the DMPWO which provides for the Welsh Ministers to vary or cancel this direction in respect of both the land and type of development covered.
5. I will ensure you are informed of the Welsh Ministers' decision as soon as it is made.
6. A copy of this letter has been sent to Quod, agent for the applicant.

Yours sincerely



Hywel Butts

Pennaeth Gwaith Achos Cynllunio / Head of Planning Casework  
Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gynllunio / Planning Directorate

Arwyddwyd o dan awdurdod Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd; un o Weinidogion Cymru.  
Signed under authority of the Minister for Climate Change; one of the Welsh Ministers.

## MATTERS ARISING FOR COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE DATE : 22 February 2024**

<b>Application No.:</b> 2023/00895/FUL	<b>Case Officer:</b> Angharad Hobbs
<p><b>Location:</b> Great House Farm, Penllyn</p> <p><b>Proposal:</b> Proposed change of use from agricultural use to glamping visitor accommodation comprising 3 yurts, separate kitchen units and conversion of the existing barn to a shower block and farm storage.</p>	

**From:** Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT)

**Summary of Comments:** No objections to the positive determination of the application.

**Officer Response:** The comments are noted.

**Action required:** None.

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**From:** An additional neighbour objection

**Summary of Comments:** Stating that the plans are not suitable for agricultural land.

**Officer Response:** The comments are noted. However, the impact of the proposals on agricultural land have been addressed in the Officer's report.

**Action required:** None.

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Our ref: A62748/MJ

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLANNING

Head of Planning and Transportation  
The Vale of Glamorgan Council  
Dock Office  
Barry Docks  
BARRY  
CF63 4RT

12<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Sir

**Re: CoU to glamping, conversion of barn**  
**Great House Farm, Penllyn**  
**Pl.App.No.: 2023/00895/FUL**

Thank you for consulting us about this application; consequently we have reviewed the detailed information contained on your website.

You will recall our previous letter, dated January 2024, where we stated that the information in the Historic Environment Record, curated by this Trust, shows that there are no known archaeological sites within the application area itself, and historic Ordnance Survey mapping depicts no features or structures. We also note that adjacent applications (2020/00123) have had no archaeological conditions or restraints. Overall, it is unlikely that significant archaeological remains will be encountered during the course of the application.

The proposed application involves a change of use from agricultural use to glamping visitor accommodation comprising 3 yurts, separate kitchen units and conversion of the existing barn to a shower block and farm storage. The proposal is outside any archaeologically sensitive area, and there are no known archaeological sites within the application area itself.

Our understanding of the archaeological resource remains the same, as a result, there is unlikely to be an archaeological restraint to this proposed development. Consequently, as the archaeological advisors to your Members, we have no objections to the positive determination of this application. The record is not definitive, however, and features may be disturbed during the course of the work. In this event, please contact this division of the Trust.

If you have any questions or require further advice on this matter please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

██████████

Mike Jones BA  
Assistant Stewardship Officer

Glamorgan-Gwent  
Archaeological Trust  
Limited  
Ymddiriedolaeth  
Archeolegol  
Morgannwg-Gwent

SA12 Business Centre  
Seaway Parade  
Baglan Energy Park  
Port Talbot  
SA12 7BR

Tel: (01792)655208  
www.ggat.org.uk

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