

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL CASTELL-NEDD PORT TALBOT**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 1999**

**SCREENING OPINION – ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT NOT
REQUIRED**

Name and address of the applicant

**Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
C/O Agent**

Name and address of the agent

**Glenn Lee
Asbri Planning Ltd.
Suite D, 1st Floor
220 High Street
Swansea
SA1 1NW**

DATE REGISTERED: 13 August 2026

APPLICATION NO: P2026/0535

LOCATION:

Marlas Pumping Station Within Bridgend County Borough To A
Location Within TATA Steelworks Adjacent To Heol Heol Cae'r
Bont

PROPOSAL:

Request for Screening Opinion under Regulation 6 of the Town
and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)
Regulations 2017 (Wales) (as amended) for the construction of
a 5.75km linear section of replacement pipeline (Marlas
Wastewater Rising Main).

THE NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL AS THE LOCAL PLANNING
AUTHORITY IN PURSUANCE OF ITS POWER UNDER THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ACT
AND REGULATION HEREBY ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING SCREENING OPINION THAT
THE DEVELOPMENT IS NOT AN E.I.A. DEVELOPMENT AND THAT THE APPLICATION
NEED NOT BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT. THE
REASONS FOR THIS OPINION ARE SET OUT IN THE ATTACHED REPORT.

Signed:



Ceri Morris – Head of Planning & Public Protection

Date: 26 August 2026

OFFICER REPORT

Application Number: P2026/0535

Site Address: Marlas Pumping Station Within Bridgend County Borough
To A Location Within TATA Steelworks Adjacent To Heol
Heol Cae'r Bont

Proposal: Request for Screening Opinion under Regulation 6 of the
Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact
Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Wales) (as amended) for
the construction of a 5.75km linear section of replacement
pipeline (Marlas Wastewater Rising Main).

Applicant: Dwr Cymru Welsh Water

Agent: Glenn Lee

Ward: Margam & Taibach

Application Type: Screening Opinion

Valid Date: 13th August 2026

Statutory Expiry Date: 2nd September 2026

Ext. of Time / PPA date:

Publicity Expiry Date: 24th August 2026

RECOMMENDATION - Not EIA Development

EIA Screening Assessment.

Application No.:	P2026/0535
Site Location:	Marlas Pumping Station Within Bridgend County Borough to a location within TATA Steelworks Adjacent to Heol Cae'r Bont, Margam.
Description:	Request for Screening Opinion under Regulation 6 of the Town

	and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Wales) (as amended) for the construction of a 5.75km linear section of replacement pipeline (Marlas Wastewater Rising Main).	
Date of submission:	13/08/26	
Relevant Regulation:	- 2017 Regs. Submitted on or after 16 May 2017.	
Schedule 1.		
Is the project Schedule 1 Development?	Yes, if so which description of development? EIA is Required.	The Development is not of a type of development listed within schedule 1.
Does the project change or extend development described in schedule 1?	If yes, would the project may have significant adverse effects on the environment? If so describe:	The Development is not of a type of development listed within schedule 1.
Schedule 2.		
Is the project listed as a description of development under column 1 of Schedule 2?	No, the development is not a project listed as a description of development under column 1 of schedule 2.	
Are the applicable thresholds/criteria in column 2 exceeded/met?	No, the development is not a project listed as a description of development under column 1 of schedule 2.	
Does the project change or extend development described in column 1 of schedule 2?	No, the development is not a project listed as a description of development under column 1 of schedule 2.	
Is the Project located wholly or partly within a 'Sensitive area'? Sensitive Areas are: - SSSI. - National Park. - World Heritage Site. - A scheduled Ancient Monument. - ANOB. - A European Site – SAC, CSAC etc.	The development project is partly located within a Sensitive Area – the Margam Moors SSSI.	
Have the Welsh Ministers issued a screening Direction?	No, Welsh Ministers have not issued a screening direction.	
Has an ES been submitted?	No, an ES has not been submitted.	

Based on the above information is a Detailed Screening Opinion Required? Yes a screening opinion is required as part of the project is located within the Margam Moors SSSI.

Case Officer's Signature:
Date: 17/08/26.....

Detailed EIA Screening Assessment.

In answering the following questions due regard must be given to the impact of the development taking into account:-

- (a) the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
- (b) the nature of the impact;
- (c) the transboundary nature of the impact;
- (d) the intensity and complexity of the impact;
- (e) the probability of the impact;
- (f) the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact;
- (g) the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved development;
- (h) the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
Criterion 1. Character of Development		
Question 1a Size and Design of Development.		
Will the design, Construction, Operation or decommission of the project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, land use, changes in waterbodies etc)?	The proposed development is for the replacement of an existing standing main or waste water pipeline. The existing waste water pipeline has reach the end of life and can no longer be repaired without causing further breaches along the line of the pipeline. The existing pipeline is buried underground and the proposal is to replace it on a like for like bases a short distance from its current position. The route starts in North Cornelly, within the Jurisdiction of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC). The route travels in a norther westerly direction entering the Kenfig SSSI. The route then exiting the Kenfig SSSI and enters the jurisdiction of NPTC before passing beneath	The proposed development would after entering the jurisdiction of this Authority pass through predominantly through brownfield land, that was a former railway and sidings. The route then appears to follow the line of the Wales Coastal Path. In these location the proposed replacement pipeline would result in little physical change in the locality, including the topography, land use or water bodies. However once the proposed route enters the Margam Moors SSSI, it will enter an area that is characterised by wet land with a complex network of manmade drainage channels and ditches. In the locality of the route through the SSSI the ditches travel in a south to

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
	the raised section of the M4 and continuing is a westerly direction on land that was a former railway sidings. The route follows the line of the former railway lines in a north westerly direction, before passing along just to the south eastern corner of the Margam Moors SSSI. The route then passes just to the east of the eastern boundary of the SSSI in a northerly direction. The route then turns at a right angle just before Longlands Lane and travels in a south westerly direction, parallel to the lane and entering the Margam Moors SSSI. The route continues in a South easterly direction running parallel to the Lane and the existing route of the wastewater pipeline. The route is then shown terminating at the end of the SSSI site.	north direction before crossing under Longlands Lane and continuing in a northerly direction. The applicants have submitted a detailed route map with chainage points. Showing the new main entering the SSSI at chainage 4600 and ending at just past chainage 5732. The detailed sections through the SSSI show that the proposed replacement pipeline will be located at a sufficient depth to pass beneath the existing water channels and ditches without impacting their existing flow. The applicants have also undertaken joint site visits with NRW who have issued an SSSI Assent (dated 1 May 2026) for works to be carried out by DCWW within the SSSI. It is therefore considered that the proposed development would have only localised and temporary impacts that are not likely to be significant.
Question 1b Cumulation with Other Existing Development and/or Approved Development.		
Are there any other factors which should be considered such as: • Consequential development which could lead to Environment effects? • The Potential for cumulative impacts with other existing approved development or planning activities in the locality? • Any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by	Planning permission has been granted for the construction of an Electric Arc Furnace on land within the existing Port Talbot Steel works under application P2024/0711. These works require the construction of a Port Talbot Substation on land within the southern part of the active steelworks site with underground cable routes passing through the undeveloped field areas further to the south and within the wider Steelworks undeveloped areas. The development also requires an extension to the existing Margam Substation	While there is existing consented development currently under construction on land to the north of the proposed wastewater pipeline, it is considered that as these construction site are located low flow of the SSSI and the proposed waste water route, there would be little opportunity for combined adverse impacts within the SSSI or the rest of the proposed route. It is therefore considered that there are unlikely to and cumulative impacts with these other authorised developments.

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
the project? Transfrontier impact?	which is located to the western side of the mainline railway, with underground cables connecting through land to the south of the substation that connect upon with the underground cable route within the Steelworks site.	
Question 1c Use of Natural Resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;		
Will construction or operation of the project use natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity etc. which are non-renewable or in short supply?	The construction of the project would use land within the existing SSSI during construction. However, once the works have been completed and the ground returned to its former condition, there would be no further use of land, water or biodiversity during the operation of the pipeline.	While the construction operations would use land at the SSSI, these impacts would be localised and temporary and as such are unlikely to be significant.
Question 1d. Production of Waste		
Will the project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	The proposed development would replace an existing pipeline that is also located within the SSSI which is currently failing, resulting in periods of spillage of sewerage from the broken sections of pipe into the adjacent land. The proposed development has identified that water quality within the surrounding area will be monitored during works together with silt mitigation measures to prevent run-of entering waterbodies.	The proposed development would be unlikely to create waste during the construction process over and above that of any similar such infrastructure project and would not in itself produce any waste during its operational phase. As such the proposed development would not be likely to result in a significant impact through waste generation.
Question 1e. Pollution and Nuisances.		
Will the project involve use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to human health or the environment or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health?	The wastewater pipeline is would transport sewerage in a sealed unit from the pumping station through to then end of the route at the Pheonix Wharf Water Treatment Works. The current pipeline has reached end of life and is currently	As such the proposed development would ensure that substances which could be harmful to biodiversity and human health are managed appropriately and as such the proposed development would no result in significant risks to

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
	experiencing regular breaches. If the current pipeline is not replaced the current breaches would worsen and become more regular.	human health.
Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation?	The proposed development would result in a degree of noise during the construction operations, however these would not be over and above any similarly type of infrastructure construction operations. However, there are no identified sources of noise, vibration, or light during the operational phase of development. Similarly, the proposed development would not generate heat energy or electromagnetic radiation during either the construction or operational phases of the development.	As such there would be no likely significant impacts.
Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air, or lead to risks of contamination of land or water (including surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea)?	The proposed development is to replace an existing end of life wastewater pipeline, with a new pipeline to be constructed to the side. The current pipeline is experiencing breaches which have the potential to cause pollution of the SSSI by sewerage, which would have a direct adverse impact upon the nutrient levels within the SSSI. The proposed replacement pipeline would remove this risk of pollution.	The development itself once constructed would reduce the risk of pollution from the existing wastewater pipeline, by building a new and more durable pipeline. As such, the proposed development is unlikely to result in a significant risk of hazardous, toxic or noxious substances contaminating the adjacent land or water.
Question 1f Risk of accidents and/or disasters relevant to the development concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge.		
Will there be any risk of accidents and/or disasters relevant to the development concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific	While all construction works have inherent risks, these should be appropriately managed through the application of appropriate onsite health and safety	As such there would be no likely significant impacts.

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
knowledge during construction or operation of the project?	procedures. Due to the nature of the proposed development, it is not considered that the operational stage of development is likely to increase the risk of accidents and/or disasters and is also unlikely to experience an increase of risks associated with climate change.	
Are there risks to human health for example due to water contamination or air pollution?	As the existing pipeline is at end of operational life there is a risk of its failure should it continue its operational use. The proposed replacement of this existing Wastewater pipeline with a new pipeline would ensue that there would be no increase in risks to human health through pollution released through a pipeline failure.	As such there would be no likely significant impacts.
Criterion 2 Location of development.		
Question 2a Existing and approved land use.		
Will the project result in social changes for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles employment?	No.	No.
Are there any routes or facilities or approved facilities on or around the location, which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the project?	There are two Public Rights of Ways that run adjacent to the proposed development areas, but are located outside of the SSSI. Public Right of Way 5/92.PT/3 runs along Longlands Lane (in a north easterly to southern westerly direction, down towards the sea. Public Right of Way 5/93.PT/1 which is also section 5/WCP/2 of the Wales Coastal Path runs parallel to the eastern boundary of the Margam Moors SSSI in roughly north to south direction, with a slight diversion towards the south	As both Public Rights of Way are located outside of the project development boundary, the proposed works would have no significant impact upon these routes or facilities of public access.

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
	eastern corner of the SSSI where it does cross within the boundary of the Margam Moors SSSI site.	
Are there any transport routes or approved routes which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?	Due to the location of the proposed development, the only time that it is located close to a main road route is at the point that it passes beneath the raised section of the M4. The route also runs adjacent to railway lines managed by Network Rail who have confirmed that they have no objection to the proposed development subject to DCWW undertaking discussion with them. As such, the proposed development would not impact any existing transport routes or approved routes.	No.
Is the project located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?	The section of the proposed route that runs from the boundary with BCBC through to the point where it enters the Margam Moors SSSI, is predominantly land that has historically been used for Industrial or the route of former railway lines and marshalling yard. As such, these area while in part have been returned to nature still have signs of their previous use and would be described as previously used land or brownfield. However, the area of land within the SSSI while historically has been cultivated with the formation of the drainage networks has for some considerable time been largely unused.	While the proposed development would result in the disturbance of ground during the construction process, once operational the ground should return to its previous condition, but without the risk of contamination through the failure of the existing pipeline. It is therefore considered that the proposed development would not result in the loss of greenfield land and as such the impacts and not likely to be significant.
Are there any areas on or around the location occupied by land uses or approved land	The land within the surrounding area that is currently used is largely used by	No.

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
uses which could be affected by the project, particularly sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities?	either heavy industry such as the Port Talbot Steel Works, the BOC chemical plant, and the existing biomass plants or by infrastructure such as the Margam Substation and the main line railway. The closest residential properties are Longlands House and the adjacent 3 Greenacres dwellings. These are located adjacent to the entrance to Margam Crematorium with the Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir SSSI located between. However, it is considered that due to the scale, location and nature of the proposed development that it is unlikely to have an adverse impact upon these approved land uses.	
Question 2b Relative Abundance, Availability, Quality and Regenerative Capacity of Natural Resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground;		
Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, soil, land, water and biodiversity, which could be affected by the project?	As previously identified a section of the proposed project would pass through the Margam Moors SSSI. The proposed development is identified to replace a section of wastewater pipeline that currently already passes through the SSSI and which has reached the end of its operational life. Margam Moors SSSI is protected for its low-lying coastal levels, marsh, fen meadows, and its intricate wetland ditch system. The core conservation objectives focus on maintaining and restoring the favourable conditions of these rare wetland habitats and supporting specialized aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna.	While continued failures of the existing wastewater pipeline that runs the width of the SSSI in a east to west direction adjacent to the boundary with Longlands Lane, could result in nutrient enrichment and contamination of the adjacent land and water to the detriment of the biodiversity of the protected site, the replacement of the failing wastewater pipe would prevent any such potential future contamination events. It is acknowledge that the construction of the new Wastewater pipe would disrupt the land and water environment, these impacts would be short term and would ensure no long term pollution of the site. It is also considered

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
		that the replacement of the existing pipeline would accord with the management objectives for the SSSI which seek to maintain appropriate groundwater and surface water levels to prevent drying out or artificial drainage modification; while ensuring that water running into the fen and marsh systems remains nutrient-balanced and free from agricultural and industrial run off, as well as the control of invasive species, while also preventing physical modification, waste dumping, infilling of ditches or earthworks that compromise the SSSI Integrity. This is demonstrated by NRW's issuing of SSSI Assent (dated 1 May 2026).
Question 2c Absorption Capacity of the Natural Environment		
Are there any other areas on or around the location which are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology, or are used by protected, important or sensitive species of fauna or floras which could be affected by the project?	Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir SSSI is located to the east of a section of the proposed replacement Wastewater Pipeline, while Kenfig SSSI, SAC and local and National Nature Reserve is located to the South of the proposed route within the Jurisdictional boundary of the BCBC. Due to the scale, location and nature of the proposed development these protected sites (located within our Jurisdiction) and their features would not be adversely impacted by the proposed development.	No.
Are there any inland, coastal, marine, river mouths, riparian area or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the	As previously identified a section of the proposed project would pass through the Margam Moors SSSI. The proposed development is	While continued failures of the existing wastewater pipeline that runs the width of the SSSI in a east to west direction adjacent to the boundary with

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
project?	identified to replace a section of wastewater pipeline that currently already passes through the SSSI and which has reached the end of its operational life. Margam Moors SSSI is protected for its low-lying coastal levels, marsh, fen meadows, and its intricate wetland ditch system. The core conservation objectives focus on maintaining and restoring the favourable conditions of these rare wetland habitats and supporting specialized aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna.	Longlands Lane, could result in nutrient enrichment and contamination of the adjacent land and water to the detriment of the biodiversity of the protected site, the replacement of the failing wastewater pipe would prevent any such potential future contamination events. It is acknowledge that the construction of the new Wastewater pipe would disrupt the land and water environment, these impacts would be short term and would ensure no long term pollution of the site. It is also considered that the replacement of the existing pipeline would accord with the management objectives for the SSSI which seek to maintain appropriate groundwater and surface water levels to prevent drying out or artificial drainage modification; while ensuring that water running into the fen and marsh systems remains nutrient-balanced and free from agricultural and industrial run off, as well as the control of invasive species, while also preventing physical modification, waste dumping, infilling of ditches or earthworks that compromise the SSSI Integrity. This is demonstrated by NRW's issuing of SSSI Assent (dated 1 May 2026).
Are there any areas or feature of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	To the eastern side of the M4 is the designated Landscape of Special Historic Interest – Margam Mountain (HLW (WG1/MG1) 2), while to the	No.

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
	south of the Margam Moors SSSI southern boundary is the designated Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest – Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows (HLW(MG1)1). However, due to the below ground location of the replacement Wastewater pipeline, once the temporary construction works are complete the proposed development would have no adverse impact upon these designated landscapes. This approach has been supported by Cadw.	
Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	No, due to the nature of the application, located below ground, the proposed development will not be highly visible to people.	No.
Are there any areas on or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, which could be affected by the project?	The closest built up or populated areas to the proposed development within NPTCBC would be Coed Hirwaun and Margam and Pyle/Cornelly in BCBC. Due to the nature and location of the proposed development these areas would not be affected by the proposed development.	No.
Are there any areas, landscapes, sites or features of historic, archaeological or cultural importance or significance on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	To the eastern side of the M4 is the designated Landscape of Special Historic Interest – Margam Mountain (HLW (WG1/MG1) 2), while to the south of the Margam Moors SSSI southern boundary is the designated Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest – Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows (HLW(MG1)1). There are also a number of listed buildings located within proximity of the	No.

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
	site, the closest being Margam Crematorium (grade II*) and the Morfa Bach Access Underbridges (East and West) (grade II). However, due to the below ground location of the replacement Wastewater pipeline, once the temporary construction works are complete the proposed development would have no adverse impact upon these designated landscapes. This approach has been supported by Cadw.	
Are there any areas on or around the location which area already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g where existing legal environmental quality standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project? Or in which it is considered there is such a failure? Such as AQMA?	There is an AQMA located at Margam/Taibach its closest location to the proposed development site is approximately 1.6km away. Due to the nature of the proposed development it would not have emissions to air and would not impact the AQMA.	No.
Is the project located susceptible to subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?	The southeastern section of the proposed replacement Wastewater Pipeline is located towards Morfa Beach, however the proposed pipeline does not extend down to the NRW identified Coastal Erosion Risk areas. As such the proposed development would not be susceptible to such risks.	No.

Statement Of Reasons
In coming to this decision, the Authority has had due regard to all information submitted by the developers; the available results of other environmental assessments as well as the criteria set out within schedule 3. The Authority's main reasons for coming to this decision are set out within the above table. In conclusion, the Authority is of the opinion that the proposed development, either alone or in combination, is unlikely to have a significant adverse effect on the environment. This is on the understanding that the above identified effects could be avoided or prevent as specified

within the table. As such, the likely effects of the development are unlikely to be significant and do not warrant EIA development.

RECOMMENDATION

Not EIA Development

Subject to the following conditions/reasons, which have been imposed for the reasons stated:-

Case Officer	Nicola Lake
Telephone No.	01639 686737
Date of Recommendation	26th August 2026