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Dear Sir

**The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Full Planning Application for Proposed Earthworks on Land at Nant Helen
Surface Mine in both Powys County and Neath Port Talbot County Borough**

Ove Arup and Partners Limited (Arup) have been instructed by Celtic Energy Limited to submit a planning application for proposed earthworks on land at Nant Helen Surface Mine in both Powys County and Neath Port Talbot County Borough.

The proposed earthworks reconcile parcels of land that comprise the present day and wider past extent of coaling operations at Nant Helen Surface Mine. To all intents and purposes this includes land associated with the site's western extent that will be restored at the end of current coaling operations; and land associated with the site's eastern extent that has already been restored following the end of past coaling operations.

Coaling operations on the eastern and western extents of the site were subject to separate planning permissions, and therefore separate red line boundaries. Subsequently, notwithstanding the possibility of using separate section 73 applications making amendments to each respective planning permission, a planning application which takes in the entire extent of land subject to coaling operations over the history of Nant Helen Surface Mine has been identified as the most efficient way to deliver the proposed earthworks. This would reconcile land that has been restored in the past with land that will be restored in the future.

In this context specifically, the proposed earthworks would complement the revised strategy for restoring land emerging from the most recent section 73 application and to be implemented following the end of coaling operations on the western extent of the site, which are currently pursuant to planning permissions granted by PCC under planning application P/2011/0217 and section 73 application 18/1070/REM. A revised section 73 application submitted by Celtic Energy and currently being determined by PCC, has at the time of writing, secured a resolution to grant permission pending finalisation of a revised planning obligation.

The proposed earthworks would provide a comprehensive, flexible and adaptable landform across the entire site that could support a wide range of future uses including agriculture, woodland and nature conservation; and/or amenity, leisure, tourism and employment.

For example, the proposed earthworks would provide a landform that is compatible with emerging proposals for a Global Centre of Rail Excellence.

Subsequently, if the project is found to be viable it could form an integral part of the site's future. Alternatively, the proposed earthworks would also provide a landform that is compatible with various leisure opportunities, such as mountain biking, walking and other outdoor pursuits complimenting the site's location adjacent to 'waterfall country' and the wider Brecon Beacons National Park.

Ultimately, Celtic Energy's intention is for the proposed earthworks to provide a flexible landform that maximises options for the beneficial reuse of land associated with Nant Helen Surface Mine, whilst ensuring not to preclude appropriate future uses that are yet to fully emerge with any degree of certainty.

In accordance with requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 (as amended) the following information has been submitted in support of each planning application;

- Covering Letter (this letter)
- Red line/blue line plan
- Application Forms and Ownership Certificates
- Application Fee
- Pre-Application Consultation Report
- Drawing Package of plans and sections
- Planning Statement
- Drainage Strategy
- Supporting letter from Welsh Government
- Environmental Impact Assessment, split into a Non-Technical Summary;
Environmental Statement and Appendices and Associated Technical Reports

I look forward to hearing from you in due course with respect to the validation of the application.



Damian Barry
Associate Director