

EIA Screening Assessment.

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| Application No.:                                                                    | P2021/1129                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Site Location:                                                                      | Afan Waste Water Treatment Works, Phoenix Wharf, Port Talbot, SA13 1RA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Description:                                                                        | Request for screening opinion under Regulations 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2017 for works to create secondary containment areas, through the implementation of bunding , kerbs, speed humps and walls and the replacement of all permeable ground areas with impermeable.                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Date of submission:                                                                 | 03/11/21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Relevant Regulation:                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1999 Regs submitted between 1999 and the 29 Feb 2016</li> <li>- 2016 Regs submitted on or between 1 March 2016 and 15 May 2017.</li> <li>- 2017 Regs. Submitted on or after 16 May 2017.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                           | 2017 Regulations are Relevant.                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Schedule 1.</b>                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Is the project Schedule 1 Development?                                              | The development is for alterations to the existing waste water treatment plant and not for the creation of a new plant. As such it is not schedule 1 development.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Does the project change or extend development described in schedule 1?              | The proposed development seeks to make amendment to the existing surfacing within the site and does not appear to seek to increase the capacity or extend the existing facilities. These changes would not in themselves meet or exceed the thresholds or description of development set out within schedule 1. As such the development is not schedule 1 development. |                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Schedule 2.</b>                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Is the project listed as a description of development under column 1 of Schedule 2? | The site is a Waste Water Treatment with advanced digestion plant, combined heat and power plant. Therefore the relevant column 1 C category are: 3(a) Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam or hot water and 11(c) Waste water treatment plant -                                                                                          | If no proceed.                                                                                                                                                   |
| Are the applicable thresholds/criteria in column 2 exceeded/met?                    | Category 3(a) column 2 threshold is the area of development exceeds 0.5 hectare and category 11(c) threshold is the area of development exceeds 1000sq.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                              | The area outlined in red on the location plan has a site area of 13.119.4 sqm or 1.3119 hectares. So the area to be altered would exceed the column 2 threshold. |

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| Does the project change or extend development described in column 1 of schedule 2?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | The site area of the development to amend the existing Waste Water plant would exceed the column 2 threshold and the development will need to be screened to assess whether the development would have significant adverse effects on the environment. | If no, proceed. |
| Is the Project located wholly or partly within a 'Sensitive area'?<br>Sensitive Areas are:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SSSI.</li> <li>- National Park.</li> <li>- World Heritage Site.</li> <li>- A scheduled Ancient Monument.</li> <li>- ANOB.</li> <li>- A European Site – SAC, CSAC etc.</li> </ul> | No the site is not located wholly or partly within a sensitive area.                                                                                                                                                                                   |                 |
| Have the Welsh Ministers issued a screening Direction?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | No the Welsh Ministers have not issued a screening direction.                                                                                                                                                                                          |                 |
| Has an ES been submitted?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | The application is a request for a screening opinion.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                 |

Based on the above information a detailed Screening Opinion is required.

Case Officer's Signature: .....  .....

Date: .....16/11/21.....

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? |
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| 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 existing waste water treatment works was granted permission in 1997, with amendments in 1998. The proposed works involve the resurfacing of areas with an impermeable surface, the installation of kerb lines, the creation of speed humps, and the formation of gullies. The proposed works would be located in and around the existing compound area and would replace existing permeable areas or extend existing kerb lines, humps and gullies. As such the proposed development would not cause a physical change in the locality. |                                                       |
| Question 1b Cumulation with Other Existing Development and/or Approved Development.                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                       |
| Are there any other factors which should be considered such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consequential development which could lead to Environment effects?</li> <li>The Potential for cumulative impacts</li> </ul> | There does not appear to be any consequential development, nor is there any potential for cumulative impacts or planning actives in the locality. Nor are there future plans in the public domain which would be effected by the proposed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                       |

| Questions to be considered.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?                                                                                                  |
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| <p>with other existing approved development or planning activities in the locality?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?</li> <li>Transfrontier impact?</li> </ul> | development or any transfrontier impacts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Question 1c Use of Natural Resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;</b>                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 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 proposed works area is located within the existing compound area, would not use significant natural resources which are non-renewable or in short supply.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Question 1d. Production of Waste</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                        |
| Will the project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?                                                                                                                                                                                | The proposed development is likely to result in some waste during construction.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | The amount of waste likely to result from the construction of the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant effect.               |
| <b>Question 1e. Pollution and Nuisances.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 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 waste water treatment works deals with sewerage and has an advanced digestion plant with combined heat and power plant. However the proposed works in themselves are designed to help to prevent potential contamination to adjacent sites if the advanced digestions plant was not operating correctly. As such the proposed development would not result in an increase in risk to human or environmental health. |                                                                                                                                                        |
| Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation?                                                                                                                                                                 | The construction of the development may result in an increase in noise and vibration.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | This would be of a temporary nature and due to the location of the site would not be likely to have a likely significant effect.                       |
| Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air, or lead to risks of contamination of land or water                                                                                                                              | The proposed development is designed to ensure that should the existing plant's operation be faulty that the potential foaming substance produced                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | The proposed development is design to reduce the potential for any potential impacts on adjacent land, as such there would not be a likely significant |

| Questions to be considered.                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant? |
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| (including surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea)?                                                                                                                                                                  | would not impact adjacent land.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | impact upon the surrounding area.                     |
| 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 knowledge during construction or operation of the project?       | The proposed development seeks to reduce the risk associated with an incident where the existing plant was not operating correctly, therefore the proposed development would not result in an increased risk of accident or disaster including those associated with climate change. |                                                       |
| Are there risks to human health for example due to water contamination or air pollution?                                                                                                                                             | The proposed development seeks to reduce potential risks associated with a potential fault with the operation of the existing plant.                                                                                                                                                 |                                                       |
| 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                       |
| 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?                              | No – there is no public access to this area of land or the beach.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                       |
| 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?                                                                 | No, the site is accessed via the internal roads within Steel works or via the dock road network.                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                       |
| Is the project located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?                                                                                                                                 | No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                       |
| Are there any areas on or around the location occupied by land uses or approved land uses which could be affected by the project, particularly sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities? | No, the application site is an existing waste water works, with the Port Talbot Steel works located to the north and east, with the Port Talbot harbour located to the west and the sea and a beach area located to the south, all with                                              |                                                       |

| Questions to be considered.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.                                                                                                                                                                                   | For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?                          |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | restricted public access.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                |
| 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? | No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                |
| 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?                                     | Not within the immediate area or within the wider area which would be effected by the proposed development.                                                                                                               |                                                                                |
| Are there any inland, coastal, marine, river mouths, riparian area or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the project?                                                                                                                 | The existing waste water works is located in a coastal location, but the proposed works are designed to reduce the potential impacts associated with a situation where the waste water works was not operating correctly. | Not likely to have a significant effect.                                       |
| Are there any areas or feature of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project?                                                                                                                                         | The proposed development would be viewed against the backdrop of the Steel works site and docks, so there would be no adverse impact on high landscape or scenic value areas.                                             |                                                                                |
| Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?                                                                                                                                                                                       | The site would only be visible at long distance and the proposed works are very low level so the works would not be highly visible.                                                                                       |                                                                                |
| 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 area is Sandfields which is located over 1.5km away from the development site.                                                                                                                       | The proposed development would not be likely to have a significant impact upon |
| Are there any areas, landscapes, sites or features of historic, archaeological or cultural importance or significance on or around the                                                                                                                                     | No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                |

| Questions to be considered.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.                                                                                                                                                              | For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| location which could be affected by the project?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 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? | The site is located adjacent to the existing Port Talbot Steel Works which is a HSE Hazardous Installation. However the Afan Waste Water Works is already in full operation at this site.            | The proposed works are designed to reduce the potential impacts associated with a failure at the existing waste water works, as such the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant impact upon the Steel Works. |
| 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 existing Waste Water Works is located in a coastal location but the proposed development works would not present environmental problems associated with extreme natural event or climate change. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

#### 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 prevented as specified within the table. As such, the likely effects of the development are unlikely to be significant enough to warrant EIA development.