

G D HARRIES & SONS LTD

FORMER EDWARDS SITE

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

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Bay Ecology was commissioned by Asbri Planning Ltd care of G. D. Harries & Sons Ltd to undertake an ecological appraisal of a parcel of land located at the Former Edwards Works located in Llandarcy on the 16th December 2020. The preliminary ecological appraisal was conducted to inform the proposed new asphalt plant.

The field survey undertaken at the site identified a limited range of habitats dominated by hard standing with a narrow border of stone aggregate that was sporadically colonised by scrub species and poor semi improved grassland. In terms of the ecological importance of the site the hard standing was of negligible ecological value and represented the most suitable area of the site to support the asphalt plant development. The survey also identified that the Tennant Canal SINC was located the southern boundary of site, which links the Tennant Canal to the west and the Neath Estuary SINC located to the east. The boundary Canal is also designated as a NPT Water Courses SINC. The Red Jacket Fen SINC is also located to the west of site and the Tennant Canal.

A Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) plan has been created to protect the boundary designations and to enhance the biodiversity around the margins of site (see plan below) that were formerly dominated by hard standing and of negligible ecological importance. The SuDS and biodiversity enhancement measures include the implantation of vegetated filter strips and wet swales/ wetland to provide a sufficient level of water quality treatment to prevent pollution entering the adjacent waterbodies. However, the appropriating seeding of the SuDS features will enhance the existing habitats within the site and complement any neighbouring habitats. The filter strip and wet swale/ wetland will be planted with native species of varying heights to provide a range of habitats across the site, to encourage local habitat creation.

The filter strip and wet swale will be lined with low nutrient soil to encourage a diverse botanical range. The features will be seeded with a wet meadow seed mix which will be supplemented with reed, rush and sedge plug planting to provide a variety of sward height and to further clean and treat surface water.

It is recommended that the sown grassland within the features are mown once a year to encourage wildflower development at the end of the growing season in September and the cuttings removed from the site; whilst the features are inspected twice a year for signs of erosion damage, silt deposits, excessive waterlogging and poor vegetation growth.

Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

