

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT VOLUME 3 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY: AMENDED RESTORATION PROFILE AT PWLLFAWATKIN LANDFILL SITE

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DRAWING SCHEDULE

Drawing Number	Drawing Title	Scale
WR7816/12/01	Site Location Plan	1:50,000
WR7816/12/02	Planning Application Boundary and Ownership Plan	1:2,500
WR7816/12/03	Proposed Phasing Plan	1:2,500
WR7816/12/04	Pre-Settlement Waste Contours	1:2,500
WR7816/12/05	Post-Settlement Waste Contours	1:2,500
WR7816/12/06	Site Sections Location Plan	1:2,500
WR7816/12/07	Site Sections Through Proposed Landform	1:1,250
WR7816/12/08	Proposed Restoration Plan	1:2000
WR7470/01/01 Rev G	Surface Water Management Scheme	1:1,000



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This Non-Technical Summary (NTS) presents in a simplified form, the results of a detailed assessment of the potential environmental effects from the proposal to revise the restoration profile of Tip 890 at Pwllfawatkin Landfill Site to facilitate closure of waste tipping operation in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

1.2 BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1 Three former coal spoil tips from the majority of FCC Environment's (FCC) landholding at Pwllfawatkin. Two of these tips, Tip 891 and Tip 890, are located to the north of Baran Road. The third tip, Tip 871 is located to the south of Baran Road.
- 1.2.2 Tip 891 has been restored for some time now, however Tip 890 is still accepting non-hazardous waste. Tip 871 is, where necessary, used as a source of engineering material for Tip 890.
- 1.2.3 Two planning consents that allowed the restoration of Tips 890 and 871 expired on 30th September 2018. P2002/1016 was granted in January 2005 and covers the three tips 890, 891 and 871. In December 2011, permission P2011/0537 was granted and allowed the continued restoration of Tip 871 and supersedes the 2005 permission but only on Tip 871. In March 2016 the 2011 consent was updated by P2014/0693 which amended the surface water scheme.
- 1.2.4 An application to vary conditions (reference P2018/0512) to allow an extension of time and revised restoration profile to Tip 890, that reduced the remaining site void from that consented, was submitted to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in 2018 but was refused at planning committee, against officer recommendation for approval, in December 2020 on odour nuisance grounds.
- 1.2.5 A separate planning application (reference P2018/0511) was submitted in 2018 to vary the conditions of planning permission P2014/0693 to extend the period to complete restoration of Tip 871 and amend the restoration profile. To date, the Welsh Government have issued a decision on a call-in request in which it was not considered that the application should be called in for determination by the Welsh Ministers and this application was still awaiting a decision by the local planning authority.
- 1.2.6 As the consent that covered Tip 890 has expired, FCC are submitting a new planning application to allow a revised restoration profile in order to safely close the landfill operation. The red line application boundary is limited to the future operational area of Tip 890 and not the entire landfill landholding. The amendments to the restoration profile and scheme for Tip 890 proposed in this application follow on from the restoration scheme previously approved for the wider landfill.

1.3 THE APPLICANT

- 1.3.1 The planning application is being submitted by FCC Environment which is part of FCC, the international environmental services, infrastructure and energy group.
- 1.3.2 FCC is one of the largest waste and resource management companies in the UK; employing over 2,400 staff and operating more than 200 facilities in England, Scotland and Wales. Each year they handle around 15 million tonnes of household, commercial and industrial waste including waste from contracts with more than 50 local authorities across England, Scotland and Wales.
- 1.3.3 The applicant has a proven track record of developing and operating sustainable, waste management facilities and currently operate a wide range of facilities including waste transfer stations, materials recovery facilities, household waste recycling centres, composting sites, energy from waste plants and landfills.

1.4 WHAT IS LANDFILL?

- 1.4.1 A landfill site is a site for the disposal of waste materials by burial and is one of the oldest forms of waste treatment. Landfill typically takes place in quarries or natural depressions in ground and waste is deposited to form a domed profile to encourage surface water run-off and reduce the risk of differential or excessive settlement.
- 1.4.2 Due to strict environmental controls put in place by the Government landfill sites have to be carefully managed in accordance with an Environmental Permit regulated by Natural Resources Wales to ensure that the deposited waste does not adversely impact the environment. Modern landfill sites are divided into a number of containment cells, each containment cell lined with either compacted clay, HDPE plastic liner or a combination of the two to ensure that waste, liquids (leachate) and gases do not escape from the site.
- 1.4.3 As part of managing the landfill through its entire lifecycle there are environmental control and abstraction systems for leachate and landfill gas. Leachate is the by-product of water percolating through the waste as it degrades and this is collected and removed from site for treatment at a waste water treatment facility. Landfill gas is a by-product of degradation of biodegradable wastes and this is collected through a network of wells and pipes which deliver the gas to on-site gas engines which utilise the gas to generate electricity which is delivered to the grid.
- 1.4.4 Once full, the cell is capped with either a compacted clay or HDPE plastic liner to seal the waste in. Restoration soils are placed on top of the capping layer and landscape planted as required by a scheme of restoration. Landfilling allows former quarries and industrial land to be reclaimed and restored for wildlife, recreation and agricultural afteruse.

2. THE SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

2.1 LOCATION

- 2.1.1 FCC's Pwllfawatkin Landfill landholding is located approximately 5km to the north of Pontardawe on National Grid Reference (NGR) 269817, 208799. The proposal site measures c. 10.4ha located towards the northern portion of the landholding and is illustrated on drawing WR7816/12/02 and indicated on the aerial image below.

Figure 2.1: Aerial Image of Tip 890 looking north



2.2 SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

- 2.2.1 The proposal site incorporates the currently operational area of Tip 890, existing access off Baran Road, weighbridge, landfill gas engines, leachate storage tanks, site staff welfare cabins, the access road and the former household waste recycling centre.
- 2.2.2 FCC's landholding incorporates the restored and operational landfills that occupy the main colliery spoil tips of the former Abernant Colliery which closed in 1988. The past and present uses of the valley for mining and landfill is recognised as a physical characteristic of this area. To the west of the site, the ground rises as part of the western slope of the Clydach Valley and Mynydd Carnellechart and Bryn Mawr. A continuation of woodland largely surrounds the site which provides effective screening.
- 2.2.3 Baran Road bisects FCC's landholding; north of the road the former colliery spoil tips have been developed as a containment landfill for the disposal of imported waste, it comprises areas of active and restored landfill, a household waste recycling centre, a landfill gas management compound and other ancillary development. South of the road is a former colliery tip which does not form part of the imported waste disposal operation to the north other than as a source of engineering materials. A landfill leachate collection facility is also located south of the road.
- 2.2.4 The proposal site is situated within the Upper Clydach Valley and located approximately 350m to the west of the A474. The Upper Clydach Valley runs along the eastern boundary of the proposal site. A small industrial estate is situated c. 300m to the south-east of the proposal site off the A474.
- 2.2.5 Pwllfawatkin Farmhouse lies c. 460m to the west of the site and is currently used as the site

office. The nearest residential properties are Nant y Gafalau approximately 240m to the west of the site boundary and three residential properties on the eastern side of the A474 approximately 340m to the east of the proposal site boundary.

2.3 SITE ACCESS

- 2.3.1 Access to the landfill site is off the A474 to the west of the site along an unnamed road. The A474 runs north to south and connects Pontardawe and the more urbanised Swansea Valley to the south and the more rural Ammanford in Carmarthenshire to the North.

2.4 IDENTIFIED RECEPTORS AND DESIGNATIONS

- 2.4.1 Under the adopted Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan Proposals Map, the site is allocated as a Waste Management Site.
- 2.4.2 The site does not lie within or immediately adjacent to any statutory designations. The nearest statutory ecological site is the Hafod Wennol Grasslands SSSI located approximately 1.6km to west of the site. Four non-statutory SINCs are located within 2km of the proposal site.
- 2.4.3 The nearest designated heritage asset is the Bancbryn Cairn Cemetery Scheduled Monument located approximately 1km to the north-west of the site. There are no Listed Buildings within 1km of the site.
- 2.4.4 The site is located in Flood Zone 1 which is considered to be at little risk of fluvial or coastal / tidal flooding.
- 2.4.5 No public rights of way cross the site or are located in close proximity to the proposed development, the closets footpath runs to the west of the site along the western slope of Bryn Mawr.

2.5 SITE HISTORY

- 2.5.1 There has been a long history of waste activities at the proposed development site, in particular those activities associated with landfilling / restoration. Pwllfawatkin Landfill Site has been operational since the 1970s.



3. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 FCC are seeking to revise the restoration profile of Tip 890 to safely bring the site to closure. The new scheme, when compared to the previously consented scheme (P2002/1016) will result in:

- Revised restoration contours (covering a reduced area than previously consented) to complete the restoration of Tip 890 by constructing a sidewall extension to the operational cell 4 and not developing the previously consented cell 5;
- Localised re-profiling of cells 3 and 4;
- A reduction in void space from that previously consented;
- An amended scheme of surface water management to account for the revised restoration profile;
- Amended phasing scheme; and
- Amended scheme of landscaping.

3.1.2 The planning consent for the restoration of Tip 890 expired in September 2018 with the site not being fully restored. For long term stability, avoidance of differential or excessive settlement, protect capping integrity and for the long-term function of the environmental control systems for gas, leachate and surface water, it is necessary to complete the site to a designed profile. This can only be achieved through waste importation.

3.1.3 Differential or excessive settlement can not only impact on capping, restoration soils and environmental control infrastructure but also the delivery of final restoration and after use with delivering restoration schemes and aftercare management being particularly difficult on differentially settled landforms. Completing the site to a suitable final landform now will reduce the likelihood of needing to return to site at a later date to correct the differential settlement involving cap stripping / repaid, placement of additional wastes or soils.

3.1.4 As outlined in Section 5 of the accompanying Environmental Statement, alternative restoration profiles were considered for the site, however the proposed restoration profile enables a domed shaped profile in line with NRW's minimum requirements on slop angles for landfills designed to prevent differential settlement and associated issues outlined above.

3.1.5 Tip 890 therefore needs to be completed to a profile that meets NRW guidance and ensure long term stability of the site.

3.2 TIMESCALES

3.2.1 The rate of infilling originally anticipated that would have allowed completion of the consented restoration has not materialised. The shortfall in anticipated waste inputs to site is a result of increased recycling rates that have diverted materials from landfill. This together with the economic slowdown over the last decade and more recently the disruption caused by the CVOID pandemic has led to shortfalls in expected waste volumes.

3.2.2 Preliminary forecasting of likely residual waste arising has been undertaken by FCC to estimate likely timescales for completion of the proposed restoration profile. Assuming c. 7,000 to 8,000 tonnes per month of residual waste is deposited on site then an anticipated end date for waste importations is 31st October 2023. A further two years to complete the restoration will be necessary.

3.3 REVISED RESTORATION PROFILE

3.3.1 The previous consent allowed for five containment cells to be constructed across Tip 890. Under the revised restoration profile, FCC is seeking to reduce the number of cells to four but include a sidewall extension to cell 4. Drawing no. WR7816/12/04 presents the proposed pre-settlement profile and drawing no. WR7816/12/05 presents the proposed post-settlement

profile. The footprint of cell 5 will simply be graded to tie into surrounding levels.

3.4 LOCALISED REPROFILING

- 3.4.1 The previously approved contours for Tip 890 reached a maximum height of 192m AOD. From recent topographical surveys of cells 3 and 4 it is clear that the current profile of the cells is lower than the previously approved levels. The difference in height is up to a maximum of 2m in some places. This is largely due to differential settlement in the waste mass.
- 3.4.2 To address this, soils would be used to achieve restoration contours under the requirements of restoration and aftercare as per the previous consent.

3.5 SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT

- 3.5.1 The current scheme of surface water management relies on a gravity drainage system and includes a ditch collection system excavated into the re-profiled tip, feeding under gravity into an attenuation and settlement ponds prior to discharging to the Upper Clydach River.
- 3.5.2 Whilst a new restoration profile for the site is being sought for Tip 890, the area of land to be drained is not increasing, furthermore, the principles of surface water management across the site will not alter significantly. An updated scheme of surface water management is presented in Drawing no. WR7470/01/01 R4.

3.6 LANDSCAPING

- 3.6.1 The main restoration elements of the previously consented scheme are retained in the amended scheme of restoration, including:
- Approximate field pattern, size and distribution;
 - Field treatments of meadow grassland and agricultural pasture; and
 - Distribution of proposed hedgerows, woodland and scrubland; and
 - Retained features of infrastructure.
- 3.6.2 The restoration proposals are shown on Drawing no. WR7816/12/08.

3.7 OTHER OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Hours of Operation

- 3.7.1 The proposed hours of operation will remain unchanged from the previous consent, i.e. 07:00 hours to 17:00 hours Monday to Friday and 07:00 hours to 13:00 hours on Saturdays for waste disposal and up to 19:00 Monday to Friday and 15:00 on Saturday for daily cover and restoration activities.

Traffic

- 3.7.2 Condition 63 of the previous consent, P2002/1016, limited waste imports to 180,000tpa and condition 20 limited the number of HGV daily visits to 125 (Monday to Friday) and 60 on Saturday. FCC anticipate that approximately 7,000 to 8,000 tonnes per month will be imported to site. Taking the higher scenario of 8,000 tonnes of waste per month imported to site, assuming an average load of 18 tonnes per HGV and that waste will be deposited at the site for 2 years (2021 to 2023) based on a 5.5 day working week then circa 20 daily deliveries will be made by HGVs, or 40 vehicle movements.
- 3.7.3 As part of the restoration there will be a requirement to import engineering material for the cap and restoration materials. Clearly, there is significant reduction in vehicles delivering residual waste to site compared to that previously consented.
- 3.7.4 Vehicles associated with the continued operation of the landfill will use the A474 as per the existing consent.

Noise

- 3.7.5 The scale and nature of the operations at the landfill site will remain unchanged from current operations, therefore the potential noise generation will not change from current operations.

Employment

- 3.7.6 The proposed development would not create any additional job opportunities; however, the continued operational use of the Pwllfawatkin Landfill will provide job security for existing employees.

Lighting and Security

- 3.7.7 No additional lighting or security measures will be required as part of the continued operation of the landfill.

Office and Welfare Facilities

- 3.7.8 No additional office or welfare facilities will be required as part of the continued operation of the landfill.



4. PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 In meeting the policy requirements this planning application for revisions to the restoration profile of Tip 890 at Pwllfawatkin Landfill Site have been appraised in terms of the need for development and its potential impact on the environment.
- 4.1.2 Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires planning applications to be determined in accordance with the provisions of the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Given the primary of the development plan in the decision-making process, it is imperative that the application identifies which planning policies are relevant to the proposal.
- 4.1.3 The proposals have been considered in the context of national and local policies for waste management and planning. The development will continue to provide a non-hazardous waste disposal facility and will facilitate closure of the tipping operation in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. Restoration of the site will provide significant benefits to landscaping and biodiversity.
- 4.1.4 A detailed appraisal of Development Plan policy and material considerations is presented in a standalone Planning Statement submitted with the planning application.

4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT

- 4.2.1 The acceptance of non-hazardous waste material to restore Pwllfawatkin is an existing operation and an Environmental Permit for the site is already in place. The Permit differs from the planning permission in that it deals with technical and procedural/management issues. It will include requirements for environmental performance and it may be revoked if the facility fails to meet these requirements. As part of the permit issuing process, the permit application is advertised for public comment. The Environmental Permit is regulated by Natural Resource Wales.
- 4.2.2 An Environmental Permit ref. EPR/BU8819IV, as regulated by Natural Resource Wales, was issued in 2005. Several variations of the permit have since been issued. This Permit regulates the landfill site and the associated activities, including the management of landfill gas, to ensure that operations are controlled in such a way that there is no significant risk of pollution of the environment, harm to human health, or detriment to amenity.

4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 4.3.1 Sirius Planning Ltd was commissioned to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposal for a revised restoration profile of Tip 890 at Pwllfawatkin Landfill Site. The findings of the assessment are presented in an Environmental Statement which accompanies the planning application, as required by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.
- 4.3.2 The purpose of the EIA is to identify how the surrounding environmental resources and people (collectively known as receptors) could be affected by the development proposals and to put forward measures (often referred to as mitigation) that will avoid, minimise or offset any negative effects.
- 4.3.3 To achieve this, the EIA was undertaken and the subsequent ES prepared. Specialist consultants in a wide range of disciplines have been employed to carry out environmental studies and assessments. Details of the independent studies and assessments are contained in the ES.

4.4 NEED FOR CONTINUED LANDFILL CAPACITY

- 4.4.1 Policy SP19 Waste Management in the Local Development Plan states that:

“Provision will be made for the delivery of an integrated network of waste management facilities through the following measures: ... 3. Continuation of the disposal of residual non-hazardous waste and inert waste at Pwllfawatkin landfill site...”.

- 4.4.2 The previous planning consent that allowed the restoration of Tip 890 expired on 30th September 2018. An application to vary conditions (reference P2018/0512) to allow an extension of time and revised restoration profile to Tip 890 was submitted to NPTCBC in 2018 but was refused at planning committee, against officer recommendation for approval, in December 2020 on odour nuisance grounds.
- 4.4.3 As the consent that covered Tip 890 has expired, FCC are seeking to submit a new planning application to allow a revised restoration profile to facilitate early safe closure of the tipping operation.
- 4.4.4 The amount of waste landfilled in Neath Port Talbot increased in 2019-2020 to c. 9,700 tonnes from c. 7,000 during 2016-2018¹.
- 4.4.5 Local Planning Authorities in Wales are expected to identify where landfill capacity falls below both a 7-year and a 5-year void in a region. 7 years is considered sufficient for the market to provide a solution to a shortfall, while 5 years is a trigger for pursuing action necessary to facilitate future provision. Neath Port Talbot's Annual Monitoring Report dated October 2021 states that the Waste Planning Monitoring Report 2020/21 for the South West Wales region indicates that the predicted landfill capacity for the region currently amounts to 6.1 years. Although this falls below the trigger point, the Annual Monitoring Report states that the figure remains above the 5-year threshold for requiring new provision to be made and therefore should not be deemed to trigger identifying future provision in the monitoring period. However, the monitoring report goes on to state that the reduction in voidspace availability and the increase in the amount of waste landfilled seen in 2018 and 2019 will need to be closely monitored in future.
- 4.4.6 The above assumes an operational landfill at Pwllfawatkin. If void was lost at Pwllfawatkin, then remaining capacity would fall below the 5-year threshold.
- 4.4.7 The AMR's published since the adoption of the Local Development Plan in 2016, indicate that no new landfill capacity has been granted.
- 4.4.8 Continuing operations at Pwllfawatkin Landfill Site will ensure a disposal capacity for the local and wider area for the short term. Pwllfawatkin Landfill Site plays a major role in regional resource management with Policy SP19 stating that the remaining capacity at Pwllfawatkin is sufficient to cater for both current and anticipated future demand over the Plan period. This demonstrates the reliance the Local Development Plan places on Pwllfawatkin Landfill Site in meeting the need for landfill capacity in Neath Port Talbot.
- 4.4.9 It is also considered that the restoration of Pwllfawatkin Landfill Site will deliver beneficial use of the site through the restoration scheme providing landscaping and biodiversity enhancements.

¹ Stats Wales: Annual management of waste by management method (tonnes)



5. SUMMARY OF TOPIC ASSESSMENTS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 To determine the extent (or 'scope') of environmental topics to be considered in the EIA and reported on in the ES, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council were requested to provide a formal opinion (Scoping Opinion). This Opinion (presented in Appendix 1.1 to the ES) confirmed the information to be supplied in the ES. The ES has been prepared in accordance with the Scoping Opinion.
- 5.1.2 The remaining sections summarise the environmental topic chapters of the Environmental Statement, Volume 1. Each section includes a brief description of any identified potential environmental effects resulting from the proposed development and the ways, if necessary, to reduce such impacts to acceptable levels.

5.2 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.2.1 The revised restoration proposals, as a result of reducing the landfill capacity of the site, will reduce the scale of the potential landscape effect from what was previously consented. The physical mass and form of the landfill will be reduced on the southern extents of Tip 890.
- 5.2.2 It is concluded that the landscape has a negligible sensitivity to change (from previously consented to proposed restoration scheme). The development is not likely to negatively influence the key characteristics of the landscape (over and above the previously consented scheme) and could accommodate the development with no change in character, with a longer term improvement.
- 5.2.3 The overall significance of landscape effect upon the site and local area of the amended scheme is therefore considered to result in a Minor significance of landscape effect overall, this is a Not Significant effect, but of a beneficial nature.
- 5.2.4 The visual assessment concludes that identified residential receptors may experience moderate to minor adverse visual impacts during the operational phase, however, these visual effects were not considered to be of a significant nature. Overall effects from the amended landform are considered to be of a positive nature due to the reduced physical form of the landfill.
- 5.2.5 The assessment concludes that there would be no 'Significant' visual effects from any of the recreational routes or main road corridors within the study area. Views are generally screened by a combination of alignment, topography and localised vegetation, and when visible the final restored profile considered an improvement over the consented scheme due to the reduced overall landfill mass.
- 5.2.6 Overall, it is considered that the assessment has established that there would be limited landscape and visual effects generated by revised restoration scheme proposals.

5.3 ECOLOGY

- 5.3.1 The proposals will be confined to areas of the landfill site that have been operational and comprise bare ground or ground that is starting to develop a sparse occurrence of ephemeral vegetation which are of low ecological value.
- 5.3.2 Prior to final restoration and habitat creation, minor adverse effects have been identified in relation to habitats and species including birds and reptiles using the site for foraging, breeding and shelter. However, on completion of the landfill, restoration planting and habitat creation will (once established) provide new habitat comprising predominantly grassland, woodland and scrub habitats. Habitats will be established and managed so that they are maintained in a favourable condition and of value to biodiversity. The proposed planting will improve connectivity between established and retained habitats within the application site boundary and the surrounding wider landscape.

- 5.3.3 Through habitat creation, residual effects in the long term are considered to be minor beneficial in relation to habitats and species they support. Good practice measures will be implemented to avoid potential impact on protected species and ensure legislative compliance.

5.4 HYDROLOGY AND SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT

- 5.4.1 The site, in terms of Technical Advice Note 15 (2021) is located within Flood Zone 1 - considered to be at little or no risk of fluvial or tidal/coastal flooding and Zone 2 - areas known to have been flooded in the past evidenced by sedimentary deposits. However, the Site has not flooded recently.
- 5.4.2 The current scheme of surface water management relies on a gravity drainage system and includes a ditch collection system excavated into the re-profiled tip, feeding under gravity into an attenuation and settlement ponds prior to discharging to the Upper Clydach River. Whilst an amended restoration profile is sought for Tip 890, the area of land to be drained is not increasing, furthermore, the principles of surface water management across the site will not alter significantly. All modelling and calculations have been undertaken using the 1 in 100 Year (1% probability) storm frequencies, with an additional 40% climate change allowance to ensure that the discharge rate and risk of flooding is not increased for the site as a result of greater rainfall intensity in the future.
- 5.4.3 Potential adverse impacts from the continued operations include the potential for pollution of downstream watercourses e.g. increased sediment loading through surface water run-off. However, good site practice measures such as silt traps, settlement lagoons, coverings to stockpiles and bunded fuel storage areas would reduce the magnitude of these impacts to a low overall impact. The results of this assessment have been used to identify appropriate mitigation measures, in which all residual risks are considered negligible.

5.5 AIR QUALITY AND ODOUR

- 5.5.1 The proposed development would result in a significant reduction in vehicle numbers compared to that previously approved. Therefore, the impact of the proposed development on air quality due to vehicle emissions would not be significant
- 5.5.2 Given the distance of dust emissions sources at the proposed development from local receptors, the requirement for detailed assessment of dust deposition has been screened out and the impact would be insignificant. Background PM₁₀ concentrations within the area that might be affected by emissions from the proposed development are low and there is little risk that a process contribution would lead to an exceedance of the PM₁₀ objectives; therefore, the proposed development would have an insignificant effect on health due to emissions of PM₁₀.
- 5.5.3 The results of the qualitative odour risk assessment indicate that there is likely to be a negligible to slight risk of odour effects. Continued implementation of the odour controls set out in the OMP, and ongoing review and amendment of the OMP should ensure that odour emissions do not have a significant effect on local receptors.

5.6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

- 5.6.1 Of the environmental topic areas considered as part of the EIA, the significance of impacts from the continued operations that are considered to be greater than negligible are limited to:
- Ecology
 - Visual Amenity
- 5.6.2 The potential impacts on ecology were identified during both the operational and restoration phases. With mitigation measures, minor adverse impacts upon ecological features identified can be reduced to a non-significant level. Once restored and through habitat creation the long-term impacts were considered to be minor-beneficial.

- 5.6.3 Moderate to minor adverse impacts were concluded on visual receptors during the landfill phase, however, during the restoration phase, minor positive impacts were concluded in terms of visual effects as a result of reduced tipping of waste and therefore a reduced physical mass and form.
- 5.6.4 In terms of assessing the cumulative impact from the proposal in isolation, it is considered there are no identified adverse effects that possess synergistic characteristics that would allow for the creation of significant adverse impact on the receiving environment.
- 5.6.5 In terms of cumulative influences from beyond the application site boundary, it should be remembered that the baseline of the EIA included surrounding land-uses. Consideration has also been given to significant planning permissions which have yet to become fully operational within the vicinity of the application site.

5.7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSALS

- 5.7.1 The following environmental considerations are unlikely to be materially affected or give rise to significant environmental effects as a consequence of the proposed development. Following the headings, a justification is provided as to why these assessments have been scoped out of the EIA.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

- 5.7.2 Condition 20 of the previous consent (P/2002/1016) allowed for up to 125 visits (250 vehicle movements) Monday to Friday and a maximum of 60 visits on Saturday (120 vehicle movements). However, based on gate receipts the average number of visits to the landfill over the last couple of years is circa 28 daily visits or 56 HGV movements.
- 5.7.3 To bring the site to an earlier close, FCC is seeking to reduce the amount of landfill void at Pwllfawatkin. This will result in a revised restoration scheme and altered phasing. FCC anticipate that approximately 7,000 to 8,000 tonnes per month will be imported to site. Engineering material will continue to originate, as needed, from Tip 871. Therefore, it is considered that the proposal will result in a significant reduction in vehicle numbers compared to that previously approved.
- 5.7.4 Taking the higher scenario of 8,000 tonnes per month imported to site, assuming an average load of 18 tonnes per HGV and that waste will be deposited at the site for 2 years (2021 to 2023) based on a 5.5 day working week then circa 20 daily deliveries will be made by HGVs, or 40 vehicle movements.
- 5.7.5 As part of the restoration there will be a requirement to import engineering material for the cap and restoration materials.
- 5.7.6 The proposal will not result in additional workers or will it change the working hours of the site.
- 5.7.7 The site will continue to utilise the existing access from the A474 to the east via a priority junction. The A474 connects Pontardwe and Ammanford.
- 5.7.8 As average vehicle movements resulting from the proposal will be less than previously experienced at the site it is considered that in terms of congestion and delay there will be no effect on the local highway network beyond that previously encountered.
- 5.7.9 The potential effect on traffic generation as currently experienced will be negligible. As such, the topic has been scoped out of the assessment.

NOISE

- 5.7.10 The day-to-day operations and practices at the landfill site will remain unchanged. The anticipated end date for waste importation is 31st October 2023 with a further two years to

complete the restoration. It is considered that the additional time and amended restoration profile will not materially affect the existing noise climate in and around the proposal site.

- 5.7.11 Pwllfawatkin Landfill Site already incorporates effective management of activities and has existing measures in place to reduce the impacts of noise on nearby sensitive receptors. Due to the ambient noise climate and the control techniques, together with good operational working practices and regular maintenance of plant and machinery the impacts from excessive noise from the continued operations on nearby noise-sensitive receptors will be negligible. As such, the topic has been scoped out of the assessment.

MAJOR ACCIDENTS AND/OR DISASTERS

- 5.7.12 The scale and nature of the proposal means that the potential for major accidents and disasters are low. The site has been operating as a landfill disposal facility since the 1970s without major incident.
- 5.7.13 Landfill gas and leachate management systems are in place not only to reduce potential adverse environmental impacts, but also minimise the potential risk to human health. Furthermore, the restoration profile of the site has been designed to ensure they are safe far beyond the closure of the landfill site.
- 5.7.14 NRW is the regulatory body responsible for ensuring on site safety. Every aspect of landfill design, implementation, operations and monitoring is scrutinised by experts and the public alike to minimise the potential for major accidents and disasters. Therefore, this topic is scoped out of the assessment and does not require any further consideration.

SOILS, GEOLOGY AND CONTAMINATED LAND

- 5.7.15 The geological suitability of the site for landfill has been established by previous assessments and the previous consents for the site. It is proposed to complete the site to revised contours in Cell 4 and not construct Cell 5. The Cell 5 area will be graded with remaining in situ materials and soils. The ground conditions have not changed since previous assessments and therefore this topic is scoped out of the assessment.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- 5.7.16 Whilst landfill operations will continue to 31st October 2023, there will be a reduction in the total volume of waste being disposed of at the site from that previously consented. There will also be benefits of the scheme once restored.
- 5.7.17 Pwllfawatkin Landfill Site is currently operating under Environmental Permit EPR/BU8819IV which is regulated by NRW. This Permit regulates the landfill site and the associated activities, including the management of landfill gas, to ensure that operations are controlled in such a way that there is no significant risk of pollution of the environment, harm to human health, or detriment to amenity, therefore the topic is scoped out of the assessment.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- 5.7.18 The greatest potential impact to climate change from operating a landfill is the generation of landfill gas from the biodegradable waste degrading in anaerobic conditions. Landfill gas is managed by implementing a positive extraction system that captures the gas, which is 60% methane / 40% CO₂, and uses it as fuel to generate electricity which is delivered to the grid.
- 5.7.19 There is already a scheme of landfill gas management at Pwllfawatkin which collects the generated gasses and utilises them to generate electricity. The collection and utilisation of landfill gas for energy generation has a positive effect in reducing greenhouse gas emissions for the site.
- 5.7.20 Given the short duration of the proposed works to 2023, climate change resilience of the proposal is not anticipated to require consideration. Therefore, the topic is scoped out of the

assessment.

SOCIO ECONOMIC

- 5.7.21 The proposal is to revise the restoration profile of Tip 890 at Pwllfawatkin Landfill Site to facilitate early safe closure of the tipping operation. This will continue landfill operations at the site to 31st October 2023 plus two years to complete restoration. The nature of the consent and the number of staff to be employed will remain as that previously assessed. Therefore, the topic is scoped out of the assessment.

HERITAGE

- 5.7.22 Owing to the historic uses of the site as a colliery and now landfill, the potential for direct impacts on heritage resources will be negligible. Furthermore, as the proposal is to amend the approved landform and continue operations, the potential to indirectly affect identified heritage resources beyond that previously assessed is considered to be limited. Therefore, the topic is scoped out of the assessment.

LAND USE

- 5.7.23 The use of the site has already been established. The proposals seek a continuation of that use over the same area of land as that approved including revisions to the approved profile, therefore consideration of potential effects has been coped out of the assessment.

5.8 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

- 5.8.1 This Non-Technical Summary has outlined the findings of an Environmental Impact Assessment of the revisions to the restoration profile of Tip 890 at Pwllfawatkin Landfill Site, which are contained within the Environmental Statement that accompanies the planning application.
- 5.8.2 Overall, the effects of the development following mitigation are not considered to be significant. The potential impacts have been fully assessed and where appropriate mitigated as a result of an iterative design process for the development, and through careful consideration of environmental control, abatement techniques, and high-quality process and landscape design.



6. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

6.1 NEXT STEPS

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

- 6.1.1 The Town and County Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016, requires pre-application consultation to be undertaken for all planning applications for 'major' development. Given the planning application area is larger than 1 hectare the proposal falls within the 'major' development category therefore pre-application consultation is required.

- 6.1.2 Pre-application consultation was undertaken on the draft planning application between 22 November 2021 and 20 December 2021. A link to the consultation website is provided below:

www.pwllfawatkin.fccenvironment.co.uk

FORMAL SUBMISSION

- 6.1.3 After the pre-application consultation period, the planning application will be formally submitted to the local planning authority for determination. Prior to making a decision on the planning application, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council will seek advice from a number of statutory/non-statutory consultees and key stakeholders, such as Natural Resource Wales and will make the full Environmental Statement available for examination by members of the public.

- 6.1.4 Electronic copies of all the documents submitted in respect of the planning application are available to view at the following website:

<https://planningonline.npt.gov.uk/online-applications/>

- 6.1.5 Paper format copies of the planning application and supporting information are available on request at the following price:

- Full Hard Copy - £75
- Electronic CD Copy - £15

All requests for hard copy information should be addressed to the following:

PlanningConsultations@thesiriusgroup.com

Or,

FCC Environment Ltd

c/o Sirius Planning

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