

**Proposed Construction of Ancillary Workshop Shed at Aberpergwm
Anthracite Mine Glynneath**

Green Infrastructure Statement
(in accordance with Section 6.2.5 of PPW)

ENERGYBUILD LTD
ABERPERGWM COLLIERY
ENGINE COTTAGE SITE
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AC/GIF/AWS/324/1

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CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. The Site
3. The Proposed Development
4. Green Infrastructure (G I) Baseline and Green Infrastructure (G I) Strategy
5. Conclusion

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN (EMMP)

**APPENDIX 2ABERPERGWM COLLIERY MINE WASTE REPOSITORY PLANNING
PERMISSION REF. P2014/0729, AFTERCARE SCHEME TO DISCHARGE CONDITION**

APPENDIX 3....RESTORATIONPLAN....ABERPERGWM SITE

1. Introduction

This statement has been prepared by Energybuild Ltd. It is a simple statement *'proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed and will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal'*.

2. The Site

Energybuild Ltd. is based in the Neath Valley, South Wales. We produce, process, and sell high quality anthracite products which are used mainly as a water filtration medium and for high quality carbon products which are used for the manufacture of carbon electrodes and carbon paste for battery manufacture etc. The mine has been in operation for over 30 years. It currently employs 200 direct employees; this number will expand very shortly with the employment of a further 10 people. Of this number 26 are electrical and mechanical engineering apprentices. We also engage 10 full time contractors on site. The site benefits from a full planning consent (P2014/0729) and full mining license until 2039.

The Anthracite product is mined from a deep drift mine, the entrance of which is situated on the Aberpergwm Mine site itself. The coal production is by means of a board and pillar mechanized techniques utilizing state of the art mining equipment. We currently produce in excess of 2000 tons of product per week. This figure is again set to increase shortly with the onset of an extensive underground development/ expansion program.

Also contained on site is a 400 tons per hour capacity, dense medium Anthracite processing plant which has the sophistication to refine the very specialist grade of products that is required by the specialist markets which we serve. To accompany the processing plant the site holds all the ancillary equipment and services required to pursue the undertaking e.g., product loading facilities, weighbridges, grading, and screening equipment etc. Please refer to Plan Reference AC/AWS/324/1

We produce Specialist anthracites for the following markets.

- Water Purification
- Activated Carbon
- Industrial Colorants
- Carbon Powders
- Carbon Electrodes

3. Proposed Development

Energybuild propose to construct a New Auxiliary Workshop Shed. The shed will be located on previously prepared but unutilized ground and replace an already existing dilapidated structure which is no longer suitable for use.

The development is on a relatively small scale with the footprint measuring 13.38M X 13.095m with a total floor area of 175.2m². Its maximum height is 9.8m. It will be constructed on the same design

as the other site structures which surround it. It is not visible from any highway, footpath, or bridle path. Its construction will consist of a steel framed building encased in profiled steel sheets colored juniper green.

4. GI Baseline & GI Strategy

The green infrastructure baseline and on going strategy must be considered on a site wide basis and on the nature of the operation. All considerations must be viewed in the context of the extant planning consent which governs the wider site and operations. Planning Consent, P2004/097 was approved in October 2018, together with its associated Conditions, Section 106 agreement and guidance in general fulfills GI requirements.

Green Infrastructure (GI) is defined by the Town and Country Planning Association as follows:

Green infrastructure is a network of multi-functional green space and other green features, urban and rural, which can deliver quality of life and environmental benefits for communities.

Green infrastructure is not simply an alternative description for conventional open space. It includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands – and also street trees, allotments, private gardens, green roofs and walls, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and soils. It includes rivers, streams, canals and other water bodies, sometimes called ‘blue infrastructure’.

Key features:

The key features of green infrastructure are that it is a network of integrated spaces and features, not just individual elements; and that it is ‘multi-functional’ – it provides multiple benefits simultaneously.

These can be to:

- *support people’s mental and physical health*
- *encourage active travel*
- *cool urban areas during heat waves*
- *attract investment*
- *reduce water run-off during flash flooding*
- *carbon storage*
- *provide sustainable drainage*

Ecological Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP)

Under the terms of the site planning consent, Energybuild employs a consultant Ecologist who has developed the site Ecological Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP). He has a watching brief to ensure that the plans requirements are met and an active role in its operation. The EMMP role in the organization and management of the site is outlined below.

This Ecological Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) has been commissioned by Energybuild to provide a proposed strategy for the creation and long-term management of the habitat and associated species, which will be included as part of the development strategy at Aberpergwm mine (hereafter referred to as ‘the Site’).

In summary, approval has been granted for an application for an extension to and reconfiguration of the underground coal workings at Aberpergwm; Creation of a mine waste repository with the retention and improvement of the associated haul road (to dispose of mine waste and discard from coal preparation at the mine) and the delivery of further peat habitat mitigation works; Mine Surface development, including - regularisation and time extension of existing mine related operations and mine surface development, consolidation of existing planning permissions and

planning controls, construction of infrastructure/buildings, formation of materials storage and stocking areas, drainage works, and landscaping. This approval is subject to compliance with a number of conditions, the ecological aspects of which are comprehensively dealt with in this EMMP.

Areas with nature conservation designations that are located partially within or immediately adjacent to the Site include Aberpergwm Colliery Coal spoil Biodiversity Priority Site (CBPS), a Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) and a Restored Ancient Woodland Site (RAWS). None of these sites will be directly affected by the works. No other designated protected sites such as Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) or Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) occur within the site boundary.

The Plan has been produced in support of a supplementary planning submission to NPTCBC and is provided in response to conditions laid out in the NPTCBC letter of Approval of Full Planning Permission, Reference No: P2014/0729, dated 23 July 2014.

This Ecological Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) covers all aspects of the ecological conditions outlined by NPTCBC including:

- Details of ecological surveys undertaken and the results of these surveys.
- Measures to protect species and habitats during site preparation, construction and occupation.
- Measures to increase the ecological value of the site once the development is complete, to ensure a net gain for biodiversity.
- Measures to ensure the biodiversity value of the site is maintained for the long term (5 years +) after development is complete, including a monitoring program. The developer and / or site manager will ensure the EMMP is handed over and explained to any operatives or staff responsible for works that might impact upon the conservation interest of the Site.

A full copy of the full **Ecological Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP)** is appended as **APPENDIX 1. Also appended as Appendices 2 and 3 are mine Waste repository aftercare scheme (combined) and Restoration Plan Aberpergwm Site.** We believe that these documents detail our ultimate provisions for ecological, landscape and ultimately provision and criteria relating to the green infrastructure requirements of our whole development. The site is in full operation and planning consent is valid to 2039. It is at the end of this period with the onset of restoration and aftercare periods will the benefits of enhanced restoration be fully apparent.

5 Conclusion

The proposed development will ultimately produce a wide and varied landscape tapestry throughout our operational areas it will introduce new habitats associated, biodiversity enhancements By protecting identified GI features of value, the scheme will also improve links with the surrounding landscape. The new Auxiliary Workshop Shed will form a very small aspect of the existing site infrastructure and will ultimately will be engulfed within the final enhanced restoration of the site. Ongoing site operations will be monitored and controlled by virtue of the Site Ecological Management and Monitoring Plan.

Green Infrastructure connectivity and enhanced landscape and ecological features will be ultimately produced as a result.

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