

Crymlyn Tip, Coed Darcy, Swansea**Introduction**

This Green Infrastructure Statement has been prepared in support of a full planning application for engineering works to the Crymlyn Tip, Coed Darcy ('the Site').

The application seeks full planning permission for:

"Engineering works to Crymlyn Tip including installation of a low permeability wall, localised reprofiling and placement of restoration soils".

The Site

The Tip is located on the western side of the land allocated for the Llandarcy Urban Village (Policy SRA1). The Site is accessed from the wider site via the security barrier adjacent to Llancoed House, off Darcy Business Park, located approximately 1km to the north east of the Site.

The Application Site boundary comprises several distinct areas. The Tip itself is defined by the Tip Permit area; to the north and west of the Permit area are the perimeter ash bund and a 'peripheral trench' used for the recovery of free phase hydrocarbons. Overall, the Tip landfill covers an approximate area of 6ha and is approximately 600m long by 130m wide, tapering at the eastern and western ends. In addition to these are the areas which includes a temporary laydown area, ecological mitigation area and the Coed Darcy Wetlands. The total site area is approximately 14.18ha (141,827m²).

The Crymlyn Bog, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Ramsar Site and Special Area of Conservation is located adjacent to the northern and western Tip boundaries. Immediately south of the Tip are West Bay, Crymlyn Bog Lagoon and South Bay, known collectively as the Coed Darcy Wetlands. These Wetlands will remain unchanged under the proposed works.

Development Proposals

The proposed engineering works to the Tip are required in order to enable a future permit surrender. The works include, but are not limited to the re-profiling of the Tip which is intended to enhance the long term stability of the Tip and facilitate capping on suitable slope angles. In addition, the re-profiling will also promote drainage of the surface and create a more natural appearance in the long term. A thick cap will be installed over the top of the Tip and will be landscaped to return the Site to a more natural appearance.

Green Infrastructure

The proposed development is for engineering works that will ultimately result in the capping of the Tip and returning the Site to a more natural appearance. The whole site will comprise green infrastructure as shown on the landscaping plan (04020-B-922-P1). The landscaping proposals include:

- Retaining woodland buffering.
- Existing vegetation to be re-instated in the temporary laydown area post development. This will comprise of predominately recolonising vegetation.
- Natural colonisation of reeds in the peripheral trench.
- Bare ground / open mosaic habitat which will naturally recolonise vegetation for invertebrates and ground nesting birds.
- Seeding and landscaping will be undertaken to encourage ground nesting birds and reptiles. Regenerative species and local native mixed scrub planting will be incorporated and all planting will be conducive to the function of the engineered cap.
- The existing SINCE is to be fully retained.

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The landscaping proposals will deliver green infrastructure enhancements on the Site that will provide a betterment when compared to the existing position. Overall, the landscaping proposals form the final stage of the development and will deliver a Site that comprises entirely green infrastructure.

Biodiversity Enhancements

The Site is not identified to support habitats of raised ecological significance. The ecological assessment submitted with the application concludes that the proposals would not be likely to result in impacts of raised ecological significance in the local area. Where there is potential for ecological impacts to arise, appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures can be readily secured.

The landscaping proposals seek to provide biodiversity enhancements on site through new planting and natural colonisation.

During construction all retained habitats and features adjacent to the Earthworks Area shall be protected during the proposed works by the installation of appropriate fencing.

Conclusion

Overall, the proposals are for engineering works to the Tip, with the end result comprising significant landscaping on the Site. The proposals seek to deliver environmental benefits ahead of the current programme for the wider outline application (LPA ref: P2021/1193).

