

Fencing Application - Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS)

March 2024

Introduction

- 1.1 This Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS) has been prepared by Turley on behalf of Tata Steel UK Ltd ('the Applicant'). It supports a full planning application for the installation of perimeter fencing and access gates on land at Port Talbot Steelworks, Port Talbot.
- 1.2 The description of development is as follows:

"Installation of perimeter fencing and access gates."
- 1.3 The Site Location Plan for the proposed development is shown below:



Background

- 1.4 Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) was updated on 18 October 2023. The updates were published in a Chief Planning Officer letter with immediate effect. These include the need for all planning applications to be accompanied by Green Infrastructure Statements (paragraph 6.2.5).
- 1.5 These updates have subsequently been included in the updated PPW (Edition 12), which was published in February 2024.

Site Selection

- 1.6 The site selection process for the proposed development was undertaken in February 2024. During this time, the applicant recognised the significance of the chosen location for installing the fencing and access gates, ensuring that the Steelworks could be securely closed off from public access.
- 1.7 There are no other options in relation to the location of the fencing and gates. The predominant reason for installing the fencing is to secure the Tata Steelworks from public access.
- 1.8 The principle of development is established in this location. The wider area forms established industrial land. The site has been allocated for development over a prolonged period.

Stepwise Approach

Avoidance Measures

- 1.9 Once the location of the proposed fencing was established, the potential to avoid sensitive habitats within the application site was considered.
- 1.10 It was decided that the fence line would not be buried and the posts along Longland Lane would be installed into the gravel road rather than within any fields/greenfield land.
- 1.11 A road width of 3.5m will be retained.

Minimisation of Impacts

- 1.12 The applicant has been working closely with a qualified ecologist at RSK to ensure that no habitats are adversely impacted by the proposal.
- 1.13 RSK's desktop survey of the site established that there is an outlier badger sett located circa 990m from the site. It is important to ensure that badgers can continue to migrate between the sett and the adjacent Margam Moors SSSI to the east. The proposed fence ensures this will be the case through the inclusion of badger access point wherever a field boundary intersects the fence along Longlands Lane. The access gate will be a steel plate lined gap in the fence with a minimum of 225mm in diameter, as specified by the ecologist.

Conclusion and Planning Balance

- 1.14 A stepwise approach has been broadly followed during the design of the development.
- 1.15 The avoidance and minimisation measures outlined above will ensure a positive biodiversity outcome in the context of achieving a net benefit for biodiversity (NBB) meeting the requirements of Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and PPW Edition 12.

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