

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL CASTELL-NEDD PORT TALBOT**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 1999**

**SCREENING OPINION – ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT NOT
REQUIRED**

Name and address of the applicant

**Rob Morgan
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12 Orchard Street
Swansea
SA1 5AD**

DATE REGISTERED: 18 December 2024

APPLICATION NO: P2024/0811

LOCATION: Ynysymaerdy Road To Collins Road, Briton Ferry, Neath,
Neath Port Talbot, SA11 2TS - SA11 2HH

PROPOSAL: Request for Screening Opinion under Regulation 6 of the Town
and Country Planning (Environment Impact Assessment)
(Wales) Regulations 2017 for a Flood Alleviation Scheme.

THE NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL AS THE LOCAL PLANNING
AUTHORITY IN PURSUANCE OF ITS POWER UNDER THE ABOVE MENTIONED ACT
AND REGULATION HEREBY ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING SCREENING OPINION THAT
THE DEVELOPMENT IS NOT AN E.I.A. DEVELOPMENT AND THAT THE APPLICATION
NEED NOT BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT. THE
REASONS FOR THIS OPINION ARE SET OUT IN THE ATTACHED REPORT.

Signed:



Ceri Morris – Head of Planning & Public Protection

Date: 27 January 2025

Detailed EIA Screening Assessment.

In answering the following questions due regard must be given to the impact of the development taking into account:-

- (a) the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
- (b) the nature of the impact;
- (c) the transboundary nature of the impact;
- (d) the intensity and complexity of the impact;
- (e) the probability of the impact;
- (f) the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact;
- (g) the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved development;
- (h) the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
Criterion 1. Character of Development		
Question 1a Size and Design of Development.		
Will the design, Construction, Operation or decommission of the project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, land use, changes in waterbodies etc)?	Yes – there would be some physical changes to the site as part of the development with most of the works constituting engineering operations associated with fluvial flood risk and surface water drainage, such as replacing culverts, headwalls, buried surface water tank, ground level changes and excavation works. There would be the need for above ground construction compounds (which is permitted development by virtue of Part 4 of the GPDO) as well as possible localised removal of trees and vegetation. On completion of the engineering works reinstatement works, landscaping and planting is identified.	The physical changes are considered to be localised in nature and are unlikely to result in significant effects in EIA terms.
Question 1b Cumulation with Other Existing Development and/or Approved Development.		
Are there any other factors which should be considered such as: - Consequential development which could lead to Environment effects? - The Potential for	No.	N/A

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
cumulative impacts with other existing approved development or planning activities in the locality? - Any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project? - Transfrontier impact?		
Question 1c Use of Natural Resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;		
Will construction or operation of the project use natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity etc. which are non-renewable or in short supply?	Yes – the application site extends for approximately 1.5km and would use natural resources and unnatural resources as part of the development.	The proposed development is considered to be of a scale and nature that is unlikely to result in a significant effect on natural resources.
Question 1d. Production of Waste		
Will the project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Yes – the proposal includes the replacement of some existing infrastructure, such as culverts.	The waste generated is unlikely to be significant and could be appropriately addressed as part of the planning application through the submission of a waste management plan.
Question 1e. Pollution and Nuisances.		
Will the project involve use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to human health or the environment or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health?	All construction operations have a risk to human health however appropriate site management in accordance with HSE regulation should mitigate any such effects.	Due to the nature and scale of the development it is not of a nature that should be harmful to human health or the environment.
Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Yes - some noise and vibration likely during the construction phase, though this would be localised and time limited and in proximity to a number of existing noise sources, e.g roads and railway lines.	Given the location of the site within a built up area, and the localised nature of the impacts, it is considered that any effects in terms of noise and vibration would be localised and unlikely to be of a magnitude that would be significant, such that they would warrant EIA.
Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to	Yes – the proposed scheme has the potential to effect surrounding hydrology with	It is considered that subject to further hydrological surveys and mitigation and separate

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
air, or lead to risks of contamination of land or water (including surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea)?	the risk of contaminants infiltrating the water course and ground disturbance.	consent(s) such as Ordinary Water Consent and the condition for a CEMP as part of an acceptable planning application, the works are not considered to be of a scale or nature that would be likely to result in significant effects in EIA terms. The Screening report also identifies that a contaminated land risk assessment has been undertaken and would need to be submitted in support of any planning application.
Question 1f Risk of accidents and/or disasters relevant to the development concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge.		
Will there be any risk of accidents and/or disasters relevant to the development concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge during construction or operation of the project?	Yes, there is a potential for accidents, disasters or contribution to climate change.	Due to the scale and nature of the proposed works the impact are unlikely to be significant.
Are there risks to human health for example due to water contamination or air pollution?	Yes – small risk due to nature of proposed works to a water course.	Appropriate site management in accordance with HSE regulation should mitigate any such effects and as such impacts are unlikely to be significant.
Criterion 2 Location of development.		
Question 2a Existing and approved land use.		
Will the project result in social changes for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles employment?	No, the development is not considered to be of a nature or scale that would result in these impacts.	N/A
Are there any routes or facilities or approved facilities on or around the location, which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the project?	Yes- there are public rights of way through parts of the application site, with access to a children's play area also to be affected. Temporary diversions or closures may be required during construction to ensure safety.	Any closures and diversions would be temporary in nature for the duration of the works and subject to careful design and the imposition of planning conditions and the effects are unlikely to be significant.
Are there any transport routes or approved routes which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental	Yes - During construction, there will be an increased level of traffic and plant on the roads along and around the	In order to reduce traffic related disruption, a Transport Statement could be submitted with a planning application to

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
problems, which could be affected by the project?	application site as a result of delivering personnel, materials and plant to site. A temporary road closure / road works are likely to be required across the A474(Pant Yr Heol), Old Road, Brook Court and Ynysmaerdy Road to install / replace culverts.	confirm vehicle movements and proposed measures together with suitable highway conditions. The proposed works would be temporary in nature and localised and as such is not considered to be of a scale that would result in significant effects in EIA terms.
Is the project located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?	No – the site is located within the settlement of Britton Ferry and predominately follows an existing drainage route.	
Are there any areas on or around the location occupied by land uses or approved land uses which could be affected by the project, particularly sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities?	Yes – the application site would be partially located within school grounds (Ysgol Carreg Hir), sports grounds and a park.	The proposed work would predominately be engineering operations below ground level and would be localised. While the works would cause a degree of disruption, this would be temporary in nature and would not be of a scale that is considered to result in significant effects.
Question 2b Relative Abundance, Availability, Quality and Regenerative Capacity of Natural Resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground;		
Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, soil, land, water and biodiversity, which could be affected by the project?	Yes – the application site is partially located within high risk coal, surface waters, a Schedule Ancient Monument and biodiversity.	Whilst there would be physical changes to surrounding hydrology and ecology, it is considered that any changes would be localised in nature and not be likely to result in significant effects in EIA terms, subject to further hydrological and ecological surveys and appropriate mitigation.
Question 2c Absorption Capacity of the Natural Environment		
Are there any other areas on or around the location which are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology, or are used by protected, important or sensitive species of fauna or floras which could be affected by the project?	Yes – There are 4 locally designated sites within 1km of the application site, 5 SINCs within 1km and 1 designated SSSI site within 2km. The application has the potential to result in habitat loss and impact upon ecology.	The potential biodiversity impacts of the development can be adequately assessed through the submission of an ecological impact assessment and surveys, construction mitigation measures and appropriate compensation, mitigation and enhancement. As such the ecological effects are considered to be localised and are not considered to be

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
		of a scale that is likely to result in a significant impact.
Are there any inland, coastal, marine, river mouths, riparian area or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Yes – the proposed works are designed to provide additional capacity in the drainage system to alleviate fluvial and surface water flooding with associated alterations to outfall.	The works proposed are predominately to improve the existing system and the effects are considered unlikely to be of such a magnitude that would be significant, such that they would warrant EIA.
Are there any areas or feature of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No, the application site runs through existing built development and will predominantly be below ground.	N/A
Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	No – the development will predominantly be below ground.	N/A
Are there any areas on or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, which could be affected by the project?	Yes - The proposed works are designed to provide additional capacity in the drainage system to alleviate fluvial and surface water flooding of existing properties in Britton Ferry and the implementation of the improved culvert system is intended to reduce the frequency and severity of flooding in the area.	Due to the scale and nature of the proposed works the development it is unlikely to have a significant effect on the population of the immediate and wider area.
Are there any areas, landscapes, sites or features of historic, archaeological or cultural importance or significance on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Yes – A Schedule Ancient Monument and Jersey Park Historic Park and Garden is partially located within the application site.	The proposed works in the area near Ynysymaerdy Railway Incline and Jersey Park are likely to require archaeological mitigation in the form of a watching brief and written scheme of investigation. A desk based Archaeological assessment should be submitted with any planning application submission and Schedule Ancient Monument Consent would also be required. A response from CADW acknowledges that mitigation measures would be introduced to the scheme to reduce the direct impacts on the scheduled monument and Jersey Park and as such concluded that the implementation of these measures would be sufficient

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
		to conclude that the proposal would not have an significant impact. Subject to careful design, full details of mitigation measures, a desk-based assessment and the possibility of a written statement of investigation it is considered that the impacts can be appropriately assessed and the impacts are likely to be significant.
Are there any areas on or around the location which area already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g where existing legal environmental quality standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project? Or in which it is considered there is such a failure? Such as AQMA?	No	N/A
Is the project located susceptible to subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?	Yes – part of the site is located within a high risk coal and partially located within the flood zone.	The impacts associated with high risk coal and flooding can be assessed through Contaminated Land surveys and a Coal Mining Risk assessment and a Flood Consequence Assessment. Planning conditions can also control remediation and verification works on site with necessary consultations undertaken during the application process. As such the impact of the development is not likely to be significant.

Statement Of Reasons

In coming to this decision the Authority has had due regard to all information submitted by the developers; the available results of other environmental assessments as well as the criteria set out within schedule 3. The Authority's main reasons for coming to this decision are set out within the above table. In conclusion, the Authority is of the opinion that the proposed development, either alone or in combination, are unlikely to have a significant adverse effect on the environment. This is on the understanding that the above identified effects could be avoided or prevent as specified within the table. As such, the likely effects of the development are unlikely to be significant and

would not be EIA development.