

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT

Land at Baglan Energy Park, Chosen Industrial Park, Briton Ferry, Neath SA11 2HZ

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS) supports the planning application for the **Aldustria Baglan Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project**, located at **SA11 2HZ**. The site will facilitate a **30.6MW / 65.207MWh BESS** with a **132kV Grid Connection** and is designed to support the transition to renewable energy. The GIS aligns with **Planning Policy Wales (PPW 12)**, **Future Wales: The National Plan 2040**, and the **Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Local Development Plan (LDP 2011-2026)**.

2.0 Step-Wise Approach & Compliance with Policy

- 2.1 This GIS follows the Step-Wise Approach as outlined in PPW 12 (Section 6.4.11 - 6.4.16) to ensure a net benefit to biodiversity (NBB) and Green Infrastructure (GI):

- Avoidance: The project has been sited to avoid direct impacts on significant ecological features, including existing vegetation and biodiversity-rich areas.
- Minimization: The development footprint has been optimized to reduce habitat loss and disturbance to existing biodiversity.
- Enhancement: A dedicated Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Zone is incorporated into the site plan to improve ecological connectivity and habitat value.
- Mitigation & Compensation: Native planting, habitat creation, and appropriate SuDS measures will be implemented to offset any unavoidable impacts.

- 2.2 The project also aligns with:

- Policy 9 of Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (Resilient Ecological Networks & GI)
- SP15 (Biodiversity & Geodiversity), EN6 (Important Biodiversity & Geodiversity Sites), EN7 (Important Natural Features) of the Neath Port Talbot LDP
- Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (Biodiversity Duty)

3.0 Existing Green Infrastructure & Site Analysis

- 3.1 The site is located within an industrial estate with existing infrastructure and some areas of vegetation.

- 3.2 Key ecological features: Identified vegetation will be retained where possible.

4.0 Landscape & Biodiversity Enhancements

- 4.1 To support biodiversity net gain and comply with PPW and LDP policies, the following enhancements are proposed:

- Planting of native species within the BNG Zone to support pollinators and wildlife.

- BNG Zone: This designated area aims to improve habitat quality through native planting and biodiversity-friendly design.
- Provision of bird boxes, bat boxes, and insect hotels to enhance habitat diversity.
- Retention and protection of existing vegetation, with additional buffer planting where feasible.
- Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), including gravel filter drains, to manage surface water sustainably.
- Sensitive lighting strategy to minimize disturbance to nocturnal wildlife.

5.0 Hard & Soft Landscaping Measures

5.1 A Landscape Masterplan can be secured through condition, covering:

- Existing & proposed vegetation: Identification, retention, and enhancement plans.
- Hardscaping elements: Access roads (asphalt), gravel surfacing, drainage structures.
- Soft landscaping: Planting schedules, species selection, and establishment strategies.
- Irrigation & water management: SuDS integration to enhance ecological resilience.

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 This GIS demonstrates compliance with all relevant policies and outlines a clear strategy for integrating Green Infrastructure into the Aldustria Baglan BESS Project. The proposed BNG Zone, retention of existing vegetation, biodiversity enhancements, and SuDS measures ensure that the development provides a net benefit to biodiversity while supporting renewable energy infrastructure.