

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Civic Centre
Port Talbot
SA13 1PJ

Date: 30th July 2025

Planning Portal ref: PP-13922931

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Planning application submission – Afan Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW), SA13 1RA

The above referenced planning application has been submitted via the Planning Portal for the construction of a sludge storage canopy at Afan WwTW. The submission documents are listed below:

- Site location plan
- Site block plan
- Existing site plan
- Proposed site plan
- Proposed site elevation plan
- Preliminary ecological appraisal
- Planning application form
- Green Infrastructure Statement (contained further on within this cover letter)

Site description

The proposed development is located on an existing operational WwTW site to the south of the town of Port Talbot, and adjacent to the steelworks site. The specific location of the development is at the northern extent of the WwTW site and currently consists of hardstanding. It is currently used for material storage, and there are some grassed areas alongside tall ruderal vegetation.

As well as the main WwTW site, Welsh Water also owns land to the west of the WwTW in and around a sewage pumping station (SPS) compound, part of which will be utilised to deliver biodiversity enhancement.

Proposed development

The development comprises the erection of a sludge storage canopy, consisting of concrete block walls on a reinforced concrete base slab and a steel-framed plastic membrane cover to store sludge produced as part of the wastewater treatment process.

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Dŵr Cymru Cyf. (No./Rhif 2366777)
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Linea, Fortran Road, St Mellons, Cardiff, CF3 0LT

Green Infrastructure Statement

As set out in Section 6 of Planning Policy Wales (Version 12), developers are required to deliver biodiversity enhancement by delivering a biodiversity benefit. In line with the DECCA step-wise approach and as outlined within the Pre-Ecological Appraisal (PEA), the proposed development will affect semi-improved grassland, scattered scrub and tall ruderal and therefore to ensure that a net benefit for biodiversity is delivered, we have established options for the provision of biodiversity enhancement.

The red-line boundary offers limited opportunity for improvement of habitat, however there is scope for enhancement of the poor quality semi-improved grassland situated to the west of the red-line boundary within the wider WwTW boundary (Target Note 3 in Appendix B of the PEA). This can be improved by adopting a suitable wildflower management plan as set out in the PEA.

As outlined, Welsh Water owns the area to the south of the SPS compound which is to the west of the WwTW site. At this location, there is an area of species rich semi-improved calcareous grassland which will be enhanced through the removal of the grass and the sowing of the area with suitable wildflower seed. An insect hibernaculum will also be created in this location. Full details of both enhancements can be found in Section 7 and Figure 1 of the PEA.

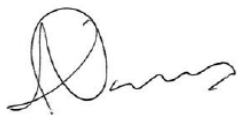
It is considered that by undertaking these enhancements, that the proposed development would enhance biodiversity, build resilient ecological networks and deliver net benefits for biodiversity by increasing the flora biodiversity through appropriate management, and better connecting the habitats to the species rich grassland to the north (see Phase 1 Habitat Map in Appendix B of the PEA), highlighting habitat mitigation measures associated with the project.

Thus, ensuring that any adverse environmental effects are mitigated.

Summary

I trust that the submitted documents allow the planning application to be validated, and I look forward to receiving the details regarding the case officer, reference number and target determination date. If you require any further information, please let me know.

Yours faithfully,



Ryan Norman

Programme Manager – Planning & Consents
Capital Delivery

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