

# Afan Wastewater Treatment Works

## Green Infrastructure Statement

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| <b>Project:</b>     | Afan Wastewater Treatment Works  |                    |              |
| <b>Reference:</b>   | B16399-123532-XX-XX-ME-NB-EI0040 | <b>Date:</b>       | January 2026 |
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| <b>Subject:</b>     | Green Infrastructure Statement   |                    |              |

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The proposed development will comprise of the installation of permanent welfare unit within the current operational site boundary of Afan Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW). It will be located on an area of pre-existing compacted gravel centred approximately on National Grid Reference: SS 76054 87411.

A field survey following UK Habitat Classification (UKHab Ltd, 2023) guidance classified the area as 'u1b – Urban – Vacant or derelict land'. The area hosts sporadic pioneer species such as field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), and perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*).

The Works is not located within or in the 'zone of influence' of sites designated for their international, national and local importance.

The impact on existing green infrastructure will be the loss of 200.9 m2 of habitat described as 'u1b – Urban – Vacant or derelict land' hosting pioneer species.

Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales 2024 requires development proposals to employ and evidence use of a Stepwise Approach in decision making. The Stepwise Approach includes the following 'steps': avoid, minimise, mitigate/restore, compensate on-site and then compensate off-site, as well as providing enhancement at every step.

A 'Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report' has been produced to provide an assessment of the protected and / or notable habitats and species which occur or have the potential to occur within or near to the proposed development, which could be impacted by the proposed works. All report also includes recommendations for mitigation and enhancement.

The proposed permanent welfare unit will be located on area of pre-existing compacted gravel, avoiding other areas of higher value found elsewhere on the site.

The report recommends that the habitat loss is kept to an absolute minimum as per the works plan. Along with this the following enhancements are suggested:

- Introduce control to limit the spread of the field horsetail which can spread excessively and outcompete other species. Including initial treatment of the site and biosecurity by cleaning equipment leaving the area;
  - Installation of a variety of bird / bat boxes to help enhance the roosting opportunities on the site. These can be installed on buildings ideally away from the more active areas of the WwTW; and
  - Installation of enhancements for invertebrates such as insect hotels, bee banks or create an area of brush / wood to provide suitable habitat for invertebrates.
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Please refer to 'B16399-123532-XX-XX-RP-NA-EI0039 - Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report Afan WwTW' for further information on the Step-wise approach for the proposed permanent welfare unit.