

Green Infrastructure Compliance Statement

Reserved Matters Application 2 – Scrap Metal Handling Facility and Associated Scrap Yards

**Hybrid Planning Permission
P2024/0711**

Port Talbot Steelworks, Neath Port Talbot

July 2026

Turley

Contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Approved Green Infrastructure Framework	5
3.	Proposed Green Infrastructure Enhancement	7
4.	Conclusion	9
Appendix 1: Proposed Landscaping Plan		11

1. Introduction

1.1 This Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS) Statement of Compliance (SoC) has been prepared by Turley in collaboration with RSK (Ecology and Landscape teams), JBA Consulting (Drainage), and Lawray Architects (Design). It has been prepared on behalf of Tata Steel UK Limited (“Tata Steel”) (‘the Applicant’) in support of Reserved Matters Application 2 pursuant to the grant of hybrid planning permission under reference P2024/0711 at Port Talbot Steelworks in Neath Port Talbot. The submission seeks approval of reserved matters (appearance, means of access, layout and scale) design details relating to the scrap metal handling facility, associated scrap yards and ancillary works.

1.2 The hybrid planning permission (ref: P2024/0711) was granted by Neath Port Talbot Council (NPT) on 7 March 2025. The description of electric arc furnace (EAF) development approved under the hybrid planning permission is as follows:

“Full planning permission for the demolition of existing buildings and structures, partial infill of the BOS lagoon, and construction of a new electric arc furnace-based steel production facility (1 no. arc furnace, 2 no. ladle furnaces). The development includes chemical/material storage and transfer infrastructure, pipework and cabling (above and below ground), buildings, fume and dust treatment plant, water treatment facility and material handling systems, electrical control rooms and power infrastructure, offices and ancillary facilities, together with new and amended roads and rail lines, landscaping and green infrastructure, lighting, hardstanding, CCTV, drainage and associated engineering operations.

Outline planning permission (with all matters reserved except for access and landscaping) for the construction of a scrap metal handling facility and associated scrap yards, scrap processing facility, new substation, underground and overground electrical infrastructure, and new and amended roads and rail lines, landscape and green infrastructure, lighting, hardstanding, CCTV, drainage and associated engineering operations.”

1.3 This RM Application 2 comprises the second phase of the outline element of the approved development. It follows Reserved Matters Application 1 (ref. P2025/0506), which secured approval for preliminary works and a new electrical substation on 26 September 2025. RM Application 2 seeks approval of the reserved matters relating to the scrap metal handling facility and associated scrap yards.

1.4 The description of the Proposed Development forming the subject of RM Application 2 is as follows:

“Application for the approval of reserved matters (appearance, scale and layout) pursuant to planning permission P2024/0711 for the development of a scrap metal handling facility and associated scrap yards. Works to include earthworks, surface water and drainage management, construction of concrete pads for storage of scrap materials, new and improved internal access roads, rail infrastructure upgrades including single track railway and rail receipt facilities, amenity/welfare facility, workshop building, electrical equipment and infrastructure, boundary treatments,

lighting, CCTV, noise mitigation measures, parking and creation of hardstanding and associated engineering works.”

- 1.5 The RM Application 2 Site Location Plan is provided at Figure 1.1 below.



Figure 1.1: RM Application 2 Site Location Plan (green line representing the site boundary)

- 1.6 It is important to note that landscaping and green infrastructure were approved in detail as part of the hybrid planning permission P2024/0711. A new Green Infrastructure Statement is not required to support this Reserved Matters Application. This Statement is submitted owing to the opportunity for the scrap handling facility to include an at grade attenuation basin as an integral element in the proposed drainage strategy for this phase of development. The Statement demonstrates that RM Application 2 proposals accord with the approved green infrastructure strategy. It demonstrates that inclusion of the attenuation basis will deliver additional green infrastructure benefits as an integral element of the proposed facility.
- 1.7 Planning permission (ref. P2024/0693), known as the P-Fields application, was granted by Neath Port Talbot Council in December 2024 for the: “installation and retention of concrete hardstanding for industrial use associated with the continued operations of the Steelworks, together with landscaping, green infrastructure and drainage works”. The application comprised the construction of concrete hardstanding on a rectangular parcel of land located to the south of the Morfa Colliery Memorial, within the existing Port Talbot Steelworks site.

- 1.8 The P-Fields application was submitted ahead of this RM application to provide an additional laydown and construction area to support the decommissioning of the Steelworks. As originally anticipated, the site is now proposed to form part of the operational Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) facility, serving as the permanent scrap handling area.

2. Approved Green Infrastructure Framework

- 2.1 The approved EAF hybrid planning permission and the separate P Fields planning permission was supported by a suite of environmental, landscape and ecological documents which established the green infrastructure framework for the development.
- 2.2 The approved plans and documents relevant to landscaping and green infrastructure include:
- Plans:
 - Landscape Proposals - 1000 to 1015 - Rev06 – EAF
 - Landscape Proposals - Site Sections - 1 of 2 - 7000 - Rev06 – EAF
 - Landscape Proposals - Site Sections - 2 of 2 - 7001 - Rev06 – EAF
 - Documents:
 - Green Infrastructure Statement by Turley
 - Environmental Impact Assessment by RSK
 - Outline Drainage Strategy – Rev D – Dated November 2024 – JBA Consulting
 - Arboriculture Impact Assessment – Rev 3 – Dated October 2024 - RSK
- 2.3 These documents establish the following key green infrastructure principles for wider (approved) EAF development (including the RM 2 Proposed Development):
- **Sustainable Drainage**
 - Surface water across the scrap storage area and scrap highway route is directed through a piped network, via a pumping chamber, to the existing water treatment system before discharging into the Bristol Channel.
 - The premise across all applications is that the scrap handling facility is a High Pollution Hazard area. The approved strategy states that all surface water will be managed by an underground piped system and pumped to the nautilus (on site water treatment area) area of the existing Tata Steel drainage system for the steelworks. Water quality is to be managed via

treatment within the area through an interceptor. The approved interceptor provided sufficient attenuation for the scrap handling facility.

- **Green Infrastructure**

- 2.4 The approved landscaping proposals plan, as illustrated at Figure 2.1, identifies the locations for mitigation and enhancement works through the comprehensive Green Infrastructure approach across the wider EAF site.

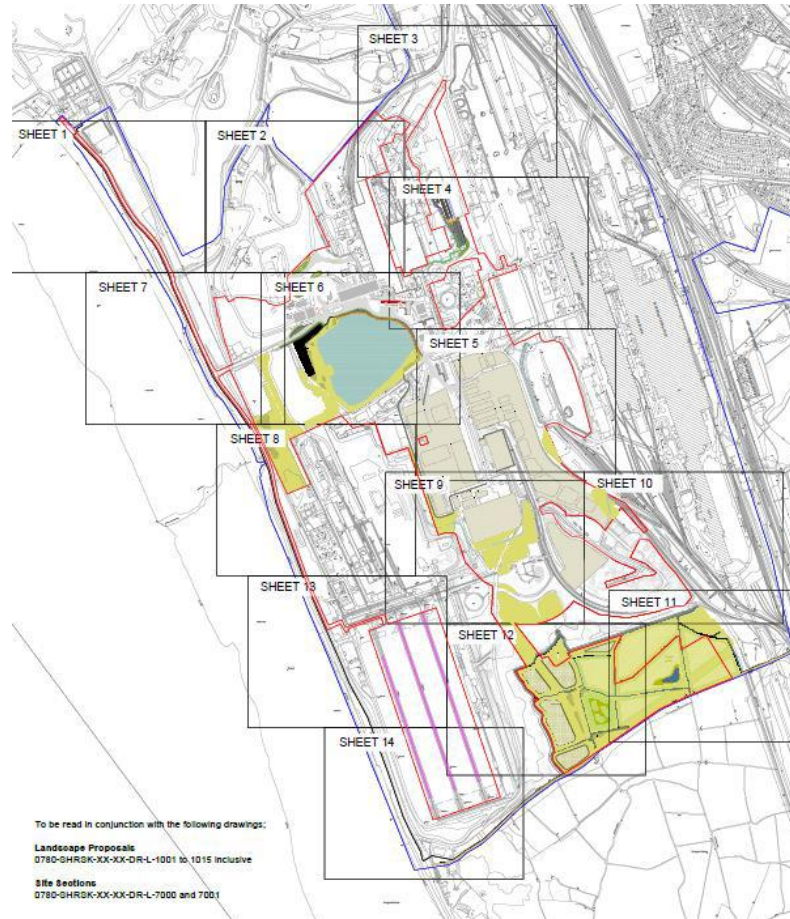


Figure 2.1: Approved Landscape and Habitat Mitigation Proposal Location Plan (1000 to 1016 – Rev 06 – EAF)

- 2.5 The approved detailed landscape design on the RM Application 2 Site is captured on Sheets 5 and 10 of Figure 1.1. The approved design principally comprises the retention of existing vegetation interspersed with the development parcels and build zones for the scrap handling facility. This reflects the functional nature of the scrap handling facility, which is predominantly made up of large concrete hardstanding used to set out handling bays for the receipt and transfer of scrap delivered to the site by rail. There is no active Green Infrastructure planting in this area of the site.

Wider Green Infrastructure

- 2.6 The focus of attention for green infrastructure was on the wider EAF site, including:

- Improve site wide habitat value and increase biodiversity and connectivity through means of landscape restoration and habitat creation.
- Deliver landscape and habitat enhancements within the southern grazing fields, which are unmanaged, resulting in low value scrub encroaching into the drainage ditch network.
- Apply a place and context-based landscape design approach, informed by the landscape character and ecology of the Margam Moors SSSI and expansive coastal grazing mashes.
- Expand the ecology of the Margam Moors SSSI by creating conditions that will accommodate species rich grassland and open mosaic habitat through natural colonisation. Restoration and creation of wetland habitats to further support a range of wildlife and to enhance site biodiversity.
- Extend habitat creation across the wider site, including the northern lagoon through rain garden style drainage features along roadside edges as part of the wider integrated landscape, ecology and drainage strategy

3. Proposed Green Infrastructure Enhancement

- 3.1 Tata has undertaken further design development to confirm the detailed design of the surface water system in the scrap handling facility area of the EAF development forming the subject of the Reserved Matters 2 application. The Drainage Strategy submitted in support of the RM application details the outcome of this assessment. It demonstrates that:
- The scrap handling area remains a high pollution hazard area.
 - All surface water must be discharged from the area via a piped connection to the nautilus, as per the approved drainage strategy.
 - The capacity of the piped connection is dictated by the policy requirement to assess set rainfall events and the capacity of the established drainage system for the steelworks.
- 3.2 An interceptor and additional attenuation are required to control the flow of surface water discharge at the required rate. This remains as per the approved drainage strategy. The difference between the approved strategy and the detailed design proposal forming the subject of RM Application 2 is that the attenuation is proposed in the form of an open basin.
- 3.3 The basin is a drainage necessity but presents a green infrastructure benefit. This benefit is the focus of the remainder of this Statement.

Basin Design Principles

- 3.4 The proposed basin is predominantly concrete due to groundwater conditions in the area. This approach is required to avoid flotation of structures and groundwater ingress, which could otherwise reduce available storage capacity. The basin depth is the minimum possible to allow gravity fed drainage as opposed to a pumped solution.
- 3.5 Green infrastructure measures are incorporated around the basin. A 1-metre-wide strip at the top of the internal slope is proposed to comprise site-won material, including the existing seedbank, to encourage self-seeding vegetation like the habitats present across the wider steelworks environment.
- 3.6 A landscape bund is proposed around approximately two-thirds of the basin perimeter, with an indicative height of approximately 1 m high with a 1 m wide flat plateau top and a 7m wide base. The bund is required as a health and safety measure to discourage unauthorised access to the basin, while also providing a habitat feature for self-colonising vegetation. The bund will be formed from site-won spoil material, creating surface conditions beneficial for open mosaic habitat to establish. This will reinforce the wider site approach to on site habitat creation where local species colonisation take precedent over using commercial seed mixes to create habitat on site.
- 3.7 Fencing is proposed where the bund cannot be provided, including in the vicinity of the lighting column. Controlled access steps are to be provided for maintenance purposes only.
- 3.8 The self-seeding habitat creation above is inline with the proposals of the wider landscape and biodiversity proposals.

Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Benefits

- 3.9 The proposed approach provides enhanced green infrastructure when compared with a wholly underground attenuation solution. The open basin, vegetated bund and self-colonising margins introduce more extensive above-ground habitat opportunities within an industrial setting and support integration with the wider industrial landscape.
- 3.10 The removal of the previously proposed Building 27 in this area also changes part of the land use from impermeable surfacing to spoil-based, permeable surfacing. This is expected to provide similar conditions to that of the rain garden proposals in that the gravel provides opportunities to support windblown seed that will naturally colonise, contributing to brownfield habitat characteristics similar to those already present across the wider Tata site. This will be subject to regular disturbance through the usual working of the site which will ensure that the habitat does not succeed into dense scrub.
- 3.11 The bund and basin margins will utilise site-won material containing the existing seedbank, encouraging vegetation establishment that reflects the wider site character. This will help create a 'habitat stepping stone' through the site for mobile species and improve habitat linkage and wider ecological connectivity

Climate Resilience and Amenity Considerations

- 3.12 Amenity benefits are limited by the industrial setting and location of the Scrap Storage Area. However, the proposals support good site integration by combining functional drainage infrastructure with vegetated margins and a bund that reflects the site wide habitats within this industrial landscape setting.
- 3.13 The strategy also contributes to climate resilience by providing attenuation for significant rainfall events, including the 1 in 100-year plus climate change event, subject to confirmation of final hydraulic performance. The reduction in impermeable surfacing (Building 27) and the introduction of spoil-based permeable areas further supports surface water management and brownfield habitat creation.
- 3.14 The above ground attenuation basin has been informed by a Drainage Options Appraisal which appends the ES Statement of Compliance. It establishes the most appropriate drainage strategy to serve the proposed development. The revised drainage solution provides an opportunity to deliver additional green infrastructure benefits through the incorporation of soft landscaping and habitat creation, whilst maintaining the objectives of the approved hybrid planning permission.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 This Green Infrastructure Statement of Compliance demonstrates that the Reserved Matters proposals broadly comply with the approved green infrastructure strategy established through the hybrid planning permission. The conclusions of the Green Infrastructure Statement and EAF Environmental Statement (ES) remain applicable, and the detailed design proposal is acceptable on this basis.
- 4.2 In addition to maintaining compliance with the approved green infrastructure strategy, the proposals set out in this Reserved Matters application (RM2) provide opportunities to enhance green infrastructure through the introduction of an above ground attenuation basin and associated habitat creation measures. These are an inherent element in the drainage response to the high pollution hazard classification of the site by directing surface water to the on-site water treatment area through a pumped system.
- 4.3 The attenuation basin provides the necessary above-ground storage while incorporating green infrastructure measures through self-colonising margins, a vegetated bund and permeable spoil areas providing conditions to encourage self-colonisation of local flora.
- 4.4 Although amenity opportunities are limited by the industrial context, the proposals provide biodiversity and climate resilience benefits by creating brownfield mosaic habitat, improving habitat connectivity through 'stepping stone' measures and managing surface water during significant rainfall events.

- 4.5 The proposed strategy provides an appropriate and proportionate green infrastructure response for the Reserved Matters Application.

Appendix 1: Proposed Landscaping Plan

