

# BikePark Wales Environmental Statement

## Vol.1: Environmental Statement Text

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### Chapter 1: Introduction

Final - March 2019

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## CHAPTER 1

### **INTRODUCTION**



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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Introduction**

1.1.1 This chapter sets out the structure of this Environmental Statement.

### **1.2 Purpose of the Environmental Statement and site location**

1.2.1 This Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared to accompany a detailed planning application for development proposed at BikePark Wales. This ES sets out the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment that has been undertaken for the proposed development.

1.2.2 The application site is located in and adjacent to the existing BikePark Wales site. The BikePark Wales site is located to the west of Abercarnaid and the A470. The site is accessible from the A470 via a private road. The total application site area is 3.56ha. Parts of the site are included in the Abercarnaid Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, and the Gethin Woodland Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. Parts are also designated as Ancient / Semi Ancient Woodland. Finally, the site is part of a Landscape of Historic Interest and a Coal Safeguarding Area.

1.2.3 The Local Planning Authority to which the application is submitted is Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (address: Unit 5 Triangle Business Park, Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4TQ).

### **1.3 Applicant and Consultant Team**

1.3.1 The planning applicant is BikePark Wales (address: BikePark Wales, Gethin Woods, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 1YZ).

1.3.2 The consultant team that has undertaken the EIA and prepared this Environmental Statement is identified below:

*Table 1.1: Consultant Team*

| <b>Consultant</b>      | <b>Responsibilities</b>                                           |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Urbanists          | Co-ordination, introductory chapters and, non- technical summary. |
| Wildwood Ecology       | Ecology assessment.                                               |
| Peter Quinn Associates | Landscape and visual impact assessment.                           |

### **1.4 Statement Structure**

1.4.1 The ES covers the requirements of the Regulations as referred to in Chapter 2. The structure of the ES follows that proposed to the Local Planning Authority in the request for a scoping opinion:

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*Table 1.2: Environmental Statement Structure*

| Chapter Number | Subject                                |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| Chapter 1      | Introduction                           |
| Chapter 2      | Legislative Context and EIA Process    |
| Chapter 3      | Site Description                       |
| Chapter 4      | Development Description                |
| Chapter 5      | Design Evolution and Alternatives      |
| Chapter 6      | Ecology Assessment                     |
| Chapter 7      | Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment |
| Chapter 8      | Summary of Residual Impacts            |

- 1.4.2 Each impact assessment follows respective best practice guidance and is structured to include:
- 1.4.3 Introduction: Identifies the environmental topic being assessed in the chapter; the spatial scope assessed; the author of the chapter; and, makes reference to technical appendices (if used). Where figures are used they are provided at the end of each chapter.
- 1.4.4 Context: Identifies the general legislative and policy context, where appropriate national and Local planning policy is identified.
- 1.4.5 Methodology: Identifies the methods used in undertaking the technical study with reference to published standards, guidelines, best practice and relevant significance criteria. Details of consultation with statutory consultation are also provided.
- 1.4.6 Baseline Conditions: Identifies the prevailing environmental conditions against which the potential environmental impacts of the proposals are assessed.
- 1.4.7 Impacts: Identifies the likely significant impacts resulting from the scheme as it is proposed in the applications and considers impacts during construction and once the development is completed.
- 1.4.8 Mitigation: Identifies the mitigation required to address the impact identified. Mitigation consists of design measures to remove or reduce an impact and management measures during the construction and operation phases.
- 1.4.9 Residual Impacts: Identifies the residual impacts following the implementation of the recommended mitigation.

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- 1.4.10 Cumulative Impacts: Identifies the combined impact of the residual impacts and the environmental impact of adjacent existing and permitted development as set out in the following section below (further information on the cumulative impacts is provided in Chapters 3 and 12).
- 1.4.11 Summary: Provides a short summary of the impact assessment.
- 1.4.12 Volumes Two and Three: Volume Two of the ES provides all of the figures and appendices that are referenced in each of the assessments. Volume Three is a Non Technical Summary of the ES.

