

EIA SCREENING CHECKLIST

EIA Screening Assessment.

Application No.:	P/22/0237	
Site Location:	Ffosyfran Land Reclamation Site, Merthyr Tydfil	
Description:	Variation of conditions 3 (Coal Extraction) and 4 (Final Restoration) of planning permission APP/U6925/A/10/2129921 to extend the life of the existing mine for a further 9 months	
Date of submission:	01 September 2022	
Relevant Regulation:	2017 Regs. Submitted on or after 16 May 2017.	
Schedule 1.		
Is the project Schedule 1 Development?		NO
Does the change or extension in itself meet the thresholds for development described in schedule 1?		NO – not in itself
Schedule 2.		
Is the project listed as a description of development under column 1 of Schedule 2?	Yes – 13 – Changes and Extensions	
Are the applicable thresholds/criteria in column 2 exceeded/met?	Yes – the development as changed or extended may have significant adverse effects on the environment by virtue of an extension of the time required to complete the project and thereby increasing the time period over which potential impacts may be experienced.	
Is the Project located wholly or partly within a 'Sensitive area'? Sensitive Areas are: - SSSI. - National Park. - World Heritage Site. - A scheduled Ancient Monument. - ANOB. - A European Site – SAC, CSAC etc.		NO
Have the Welsh Ministers issued a screening Direction?		NO
Has an ES been submitted?		NO

Based on the above information is a Detailed Screening Opinion Required? - YES

Case Officer's Signature: A H Towns

Date: 21.12.22

EIA SCREENING CHECKLIST

Detailed EIA Screening Assessment.

In answering the following questions due regard must be given to the impact of the development taking into account:-

- (a) the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
- (b) the nature of the impact;
- (c) the transboundary nature of the impact;
- (d) the intensity and complexity of the impact;
- (e) the probability of the impact;
- (f) the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact;
- (g) the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved development;
- (h) the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects likely to be significant?
Criterion 1. Character of Development		
Question 1a Size and Design of Development.		
Will the design, Construction, Operation or decommission of the project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, land use, changes in waterbodies etc)?	YES – the continuation of extraction operations for an additional 9 months and the delay in restoration of the site will result in physical changes	NO - the physical changes will be delayed but the end of the development will result in the same landform and land use as was originally authorised by the grant of planning permission in 2005, which has already been subject of EIA. No significant change to the method of working is proposed such as to materially change the impacts previously assessed as being acceptable.
Question 1b Cumulation with Other Existing Development and/or Approved Development.		
Are there any other factors which should be considered such as: - Consequential development which could lead to Environment effects? - The Potential for cumulative impacts with other existing approved	YES – part of the site is allocated for future employment in the Replacement Local Development Plan. The Trecatti Landfill Site is located on adjacent land.	NO - future use is not likely to come forward within the extended period of operations sought in this application. Trecatti was in operation at the time of the planning permission for the coal mining development in 2005 which was subject to

EIA SCREENING CHECKLIST

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects <u>likely</u> to be <u>significant</u> ?
development or planning activities in the locality? - Any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project? - Transfrontier impact?		EIA at that time. There has been no significant change in circumstances since that permission was granted such as to materially change the impacts previously assessed as being acceptable.
Question 1c Use of Natural Resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity;		
Will construction or operation of the project use natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity etc. which are non-renewable or in short supply?	YES – the excavation of coal will use land and natural resources	NO – the excavations have already been previously permitted and were subject to EIA. No significant change to the method of working is proposed such as to materially change the impacts previously assessed as being acceptable.
Question 1d. Production of Waste		
Will the project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	YES – solid wastes will be produced during excavation and processing of coal	NO – the wastes will continue to be handled in the same way as was previously approved and considered in the EIA for the 2005 application. No significant change to the method of working is proposed such as to materially change the impacts previously assessed as being acceptable.
Question 1e. Pollution and Nuisances.		
Will the project involve use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to human health or the environment or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health?	YES – the generation of dust (nuisance and respirable) from opencast coal operations invariably gives rise to perceived risks to human health. The generation of fumes from fuel used in plant and machinery can also cause concern.	NO - the impacts of dust and air quality have already been considered in the previous grant of planning permission and were subject to EIA. Planning conditions have previously been imposed to mitigate dust impacts to

EIA SCREENING CHECKLIST

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects <u>likely</u> to be <u>significant</u> ?
		an acceptable level. No significant change over and above that included in the previous EIA is envisaged
Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation?	YES – noise and vibration from blasting, plant and machinery	NO - the impacts of noise and vibration have already been considered in the previous grant of planning permission and were subject to EIA. Planning conditions have previously been imposed to mitigate impacts of noise and blasting to an acceptable level. No significant change over and above that included in the previous EIA is envisaged
Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air, or lead to risks of contamination of land or water (including surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea)?	YES – there is potential to release hazardous pollutants to air or water	NO - the impacts on air quality and surface/groundwater have already been considered in the previous grant of planning permission and were subject to EIA. Planning conditions have previously been imposed to mitigate impacts to an acceptable level. No significant change over and above that included in the previous EIA is envisaged
Question 1f Risk of accidents and/or disasters relevant to the development concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge.		
Will there be any risk of accidents and/or disasters relevant to the development concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge during construction or operation of the project?	YES – risks from unexpected geological conditions, land instability, uncontrolled flows of water or contamination releases	NO - the impacts have already been considered in the previous grant of planning permission and were subject to EIA. Planning conditions have previously been imposed to mitigate impacts to an acceptable level. No significant change over and above that included in

EIA SCREENING CHECKLIST

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects <u>likely</u> to be <u>significant</u> ?
		the previous EIA is envisaged
Are there risks to human health for example due to water contamination or air pollution?	YES - the generation of dust (nuisance and air quality issues) from opencast coal operations invariably gives rise to perceived risks to human health. The generation of fumes from fuel used in plant and machinery can also cause concern. There is potential to release hazardous pollutants to air or water	NO - the impacts have already been considered in the previous grant of planning permission and were subject to EIA. Planning conditions have previously been imposed to mitigate impacts to an acceptable level. No significant change over and above that included in the previous EIA is envisaged
Criterion 2 Location of development.		
Question 2a Existing and approved land use.		
Will the project result in social changes for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles employment?	NO	
Are there any routes or facilities or approved facilities on or around the location, which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the project?	YES – the site is partly Common Land and public access post restoration will be delayed	NO – the effects of the delay are not likely to be significant
Are there any transport routes or approved routes which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?	NO	
Is the project located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?	NO	
Are there any areas on or around the location occupied by land uses or approved land uses which could be affected by the project, particularly sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities?	YES	NO - the impacts have already been considered in the previous grant of planning permission and were subject to EIA. Planning conditions have previously been imposed to mitigate impacts to an acceptable level. No

EIA SCREENING CHECKLIST

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects <u>likely</u> to be <u>significant</u> ?
		significant change over and above that included in the previous EIA is envisaged
Question 2b Relative Abundance, Availability, Quality and Regenerative Capacity of Natural Resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground;		
Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, soil, land, water and biodiversity, which could be affected by the project?	NO	
Question 2c Absorption Capacity of the Natural Environment		
Are there any other areas on or around the location which are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology, or are used by protected, important or sensitive species of fauna or floras which could be affected by the project?	YES – areas may be used by bats, Great Crested Newts, breeding birds and Reptiles	NO – Reptiles and amphibians have been captured and relocated outside the working area as part of the previous permission. A Species Licence was obtained in relation to Great Crested Newt relocation. No significant impact on bats or breeding birds is anticipated from a 9-month delay in completing the operations previously approved.
Are there any inland, coastal, marine, river mouths, riparian area or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	YES – potential effects of excavations below the water table and dewatering impacts	NO - the impacts have already been considered in the previous grant of planning permission and were subject to EIA. Planning conditions have previously been imposed to mitigate impacts to an acceptable level. No significant change over and above that included in the previous EIA is envisaged
Are there any areas or feature of high landscape or scenic value on or around the	YES – The Gelligaer and Taf Bargoed Special Landscape	NO - the impacts have already been considered in the previous grant of

EIA SCREENING CHECKLIST

Questions to be considered.	Yes, No, Unknown – provide description.	For Yes/Unknown are effects <u>likely</u> to be <u>significant</u> ?
location which could be affected by the project?	Area lies to the South east of the site	planning permission and were subject to EIA. No significant change over and above that included in the previous EIA is envisaged
Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	YES – some parts of the site are highly visible	NO
Are there any areas on or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, which could be affected by the project?	YES – Merthyr Tydfil/Dowlais	NO - the impacts have already been considered in the previous grant of planning permission and were subject to EIA. No significant change over and above that included in the previous EIA is envisaged
Are there any areas, landscapes, sites or features of historic, archaeological or cultural importance or significance on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	YES - the site lies within Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest and that the Overburden Mounds would be seen from Gelligaer Common Landscape of Special Historic Interest. Along Bogey Road is the Sarn Howell Pond and Watercourse SAM.	NO - the impacts have already been considered in the previous grant of planning permission and were subject to EIA. No significant change over and above that included in the previous EIA is envisaged
Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental quality standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project? Or in which it is considered there is such a failure? Such as AQMA?	NO	
Is the project located susceptible to subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?	NO	

EIA SCREENING CHECKLIST

Statement Of Reasons

In coming to this decision, the Authority has had due regard to all information submitted by the developers; the available results of other environmental assessments as well as the criteria set out within schedule 3. The Authority's main reasons for coming to this decision are set out within the above table.

In conclusion, the Authority is of the opinion that the proposed development, either alone or in combination, is unlikely to have a significant adverse effect on the environment. The extension of 9 months to complete the development previously approved will extend the impacts of the development. However, these impacts have previously been assessed as being at an acceptable level subject to mitigation and limitations provided by planning conditions. There is no proposed change to the method of working and therefore no environmental impacts are envisaged over and above those experienced as part of the 2005 planning permission. As such, the likely effect of the development is unlikely to be significant enough to warrant an EIA.

This is the Screening Opinion of the Local Planning Authority under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017

AUTHORISATION

Case Officer:	Name:	Hugh Towns
	Signature:	A H Towns
	Date:	21.12.22
Authorised by:	Name:	Judith Jones
	Signature:	
	Date:	03/01/23