



Chapter 1 – Introduction

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The Environmental Statement (ES) and its associated Non-Technical Summary have been prepared by WYG on behalf of Biffa Waste Management Ltd (hereafter termed the applicant). This ES accompanies a suite of agreed documents that together form a single planning application being submitted to the City and County of Swansea Council (CCSC) for the proposed redevelopment of the existing waste management and transport depot at Clarion Close, Swansea.

1.2 Introduction to the Site

Site Location

- 1.2.1 The Application Site ('the Site' hereafter) is shown edged red on the Site Location Plan (Drawing No. 6454-P001 Rev P0) and comprises approximately 1.3 hectares of previously developed land on Clarion Close, within the built-up area of Swansea. The Site falls within the administrative boundary of Swansea Council.
- 1.2.2 The UK grid reference for the centre of the Site is SS68279797 (Easting 268273, Northing 197973).

Site Description

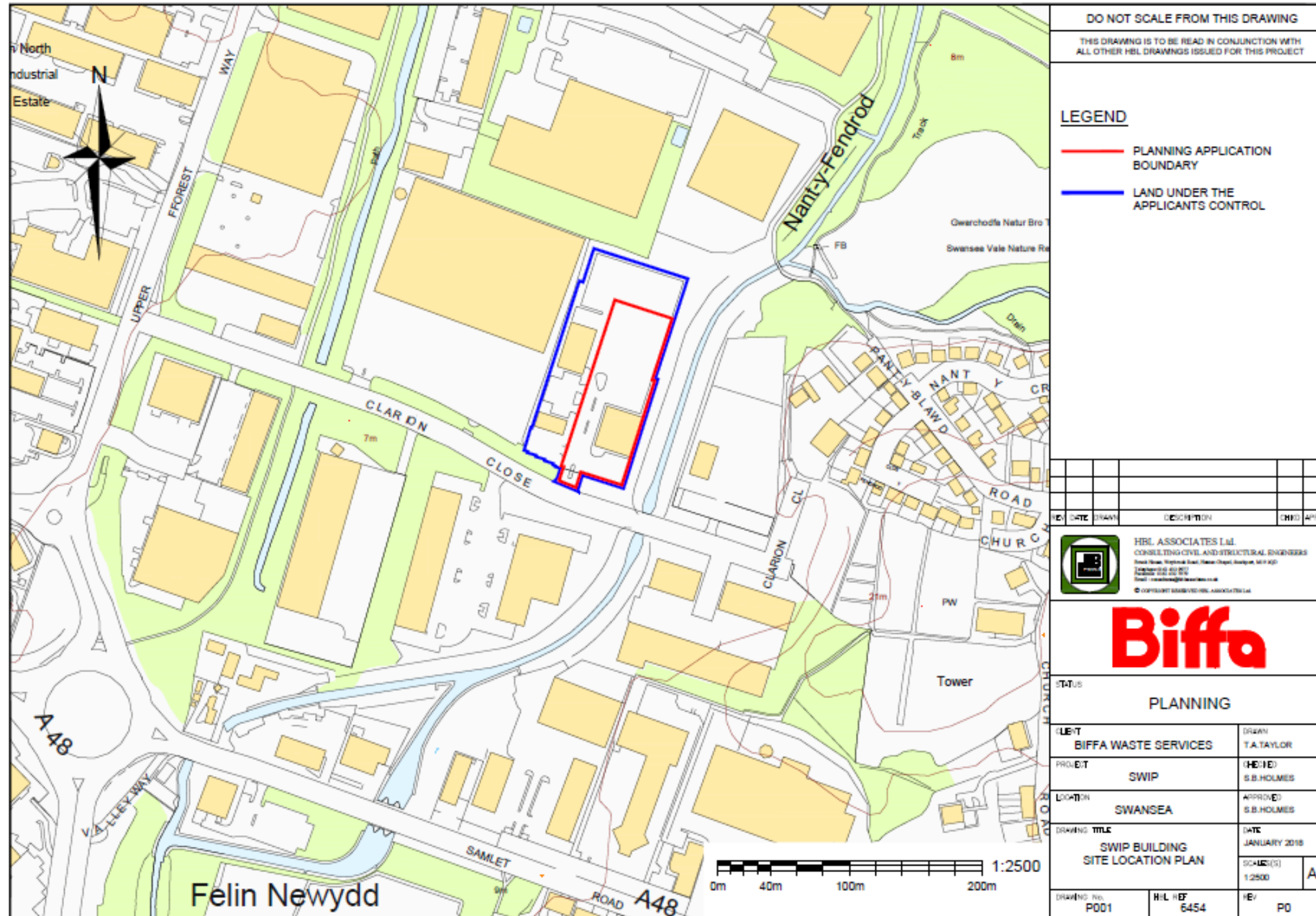
- 1.2.3 The Site forms part of an existing waste management and transport depot operated by Biffa Waste Services Ltd situated circa 5 km to the north-east of Swansea City Centre and with direct access to the A48, M4 and A4067. The Site is located at the eastern edge of Swansea Enterprise Park which occupies the flat land in the bottom of the Tawe Valley between central Swansea and the M4 to the north. The Enterprise Park consists of large industrial units which are separated by bands of mature trees, which also line many of the roads in the area.
- 1.2.4 The existing depot comprises site offices, maintenance building, a large unused storage building and on-site parking for the company's fleet of waste collection vehicles. The storage building is not used as part of the depot operations and thus currently surplus to requirements. The extent of the depot is shown outlined in blue on drawing Ref: 6454-P001 Rev P0.
- 1.2.5 The depot is accessed from Clarion Close to the South and bounded to the north and west by existing industrial units. The eastern boundary is defined by the Nant y Fendrod, a tributary of the River Tawe, with further industrial units beyond. Nant y Fendrod forms part of the Fendrod Lake and Nant y Fendrod site of interest for nature conservation (SINC).
- 1.2.6 The closest residential properties are located 165 m to the east of the Site and situated on the western edge of Llansamlet. The residential properties are located on higher ground which rises in a small hill, topped by St. Samlet's Church, a prominent landmark in the surrounding area. The nearest school is located approximately 420m to the east of the Site. The River Tawe is located approximately 750 m to the south-west of the Site.
- 1.2.7 The Site of the proposed resource recovery facility is rectangular in shape, flat and consists of hard standing and a surplus storage building located in the eastern portion of the existing depot. There is an existing boundary planting located along the eastern and southern boundaries of the Site with the northern and western boundaries undefined. The existing boundary planting will be retained.
- 1.2.8 The Site is located within C1 Flood Zone, i.e. land within the floodplain [$>0.1\%$ annual probability of flooding], on the Natural Resource Wales Development Advice Map but is not the subject of any ecological designations or heritage assets.

Site History

- 1.2.9 The Site is located within the Swansea Enterprise Park and falls within the wider planning applications, dated from the 1970's and 1980's, associated with the reclamation and development of industrial and warehousing uses.
- 1.2.10 There is no recent planning history for the Site and thus the current operations are considered to represent B1, B2 and B8 uses as per the wider Enterprise Park approvals



Figure 1.1 – Site Location and Application Boundary





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1.3 Overview of the Proposed Development

1.3.1 The application proposes a:

“development of small scale energy recovery facility together with external plant and associated structures on land at Biffa Depot, Clarion Close, Swansea”.

1.3.2 The proposed facility will manage 21,000 tonnes per annum of commercial and industrial waste (C&I), currently collected by the Applicant, for recovery and use the residual material as a fuel to generate electricity and heat. The proposals will complement the existing operations at the depot by treating the collected commercial and industrial waste which is currently transferred to landfill, in a more sustainable and beneficial manner.

1.4 The Applicant

1.4.1 Biffa is a UK leading integrated waste management company providing collection, recycling, treatment, disposal and technologically driven energy generation services across four operating divisions.

1.4.2 Biffa controls a significant proportion of waste arising in the UK, which places us at centre of dynamic and growing sector, providing indispensable services to all UK businesses as well as household waste management.

1.4.3 Further information on the company: www.biffa.co.uk.

1.5 Legal Framework for the Environmental Statement

1.5.1 The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (hereafter termed the ‘EIA Regulations’), require that, before consent is granted for certain types of development an EIA must be undertaken. The EIA Regulations set out the types of development which must always be subject to an EIA (Schedule 1 development) and other developments, which will only require assessment if they give rise to significant environmental effects (Schedule 2 developments).

1.5.2 A screening opinion (to determine whether a particular development requires an EIA), was requested by the applicant from the local planning authority, (WYG, January 2018), the Screening Report is contained within Appendix 1.1. The applicants and WYG determined that the characteristics of the development fall under the following development types within the EIA Regulations:

- Schedule 2, Part 3(a) industrial installation for the production of electricity, steam and hot water and/or Schedule 2, Part 11 (b) installation for the disposal of waste.

1.5.3 The threshold set out in the schedule that indicates whether a development is likely to require an EIA is where ‘the area of the development exceeds 0.5 hectares’ or if ‘the installation is to be sited within 100 metres of any controlled waters’. In this case, the development has an area of approximately 1.3 Hectares (Ha) and it has been determined that the development has the potential to give rise to potentially significant environmental effects, so therefore the project is defined as a Schedule 2 development. CCSC’s Screening Opinion is contained within **Appendix 1.1**.

1.5.4 No formal scoping process was undertaken with the Council, instead an informal scoping process was undertaken within the project team to determine the key topics that needed to be considered as part of the assessment and any particular surveys or investigations that were required as part of the EIA process at an early stage in order to influence the EIA from the outset. As this was an informal process, no

formal Scoping Report was submitted to the Council and as such, no formal Scoping Opinion has been received.

1.5.5 Further information on the informal scoping process undertaken for the EIA is included in Section 2.1.1 of this ES. The overall process that has been followed in undertaking this EIA is detailed below:

- Collating existing baseline data for the development Site and the surrounding area;
- Identifying features of the existing environment likely to be affected by the Proposed Development;
- Liaison with consultees;
- Undertaking environmental surveys to supplement existing baseline data;
- Identifying the environmental impacts of the Proposed Development;
- Substantiation of the environmental impacts and effects arising from the Proposed Development;
- Providing feedback into the design process;
- Identifying mitigation and enhancement measures; and,
- Reporting the process and assessment findings in an ES report to support the planning submission.

1.6 Structure of the Environmental Statement

1.6.1 In undertaking the EIA, current best practice has been referred to, and in particular the guidance set out in Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) Environmental Impact Assessment: A Guide to the Procedures (DETR, 2000) and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment, IEMA Perspectives (IEMA, 2004).

1.6.2 The structure of this ES follows the provisions of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations.

- A description of the development;
- An outline of the main alternatives studied and reasons for the choice of the development Site, taking into account environmental effects;
- A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development;
- A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment;
- A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant effects on the environment;
- A non-technical summary of the information provided above; and
- An indication of any difficulties encountered by the applicant in making the assessment of environmental effects.

1.6.3 This ES contains the findings and the information of the full EIA, together with the information and data collected during the assessment. The ES comprises the Non-Technical Summary and two volumes, as described below:



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Non-Technical Summary

1.6.4 This is a summary of the ES in a non-technical language; it presents the existing Site conditions, provides a description of the scheme and details the predicted environmental effects of the proposals.

Volume 1: Environmental Statement Main Text and Figures

1.6.5 This comprises the introduction and policy context, followed by a discrete chapter for each environmental issue examined, and a summary, based on the findings of the technical reports.

1.6.6 The format of the ES written statement (Volume 1) is as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.6.7 Presents the background to the development and provides an overview of the assessment process.

Chapter 2: Environmental Impact Assessment Approach

1.6.8 Describes the approach followed in undertaking the EIA, including an outline of the approach followed in undertaking the assessments and details of the consultation process.

Chapter 3: Description of Proposed Development

1.6.9 Outlines the main characteristics of the Proposed Development that have been assessed as part of the EIA, covering both the construction and operational phases of the development.

Chapter 4: Scheme Development and Alternatives Considered

1.6.10 Outline of the main alternatives studied and reasons for the choice of the development Site, taking into account environmental effects.

Chapters 5-10: Impact Assessment and Mitigation

1.6.11 Describes the baseline conditions for various environmental topics and provides an assessment of significant environmental effects taking into account mitigation measures to be implemented. The following topics have been assessed:

- Landscape and Visual Impact
- Ecology
- Noise
- Air Quality;
- Ground Conditions; and
- Flood Risk/Hydrology.

1.6.12 Each environmental topic listed above is reported in the same format for ease of comparison (outlined below), except in cases where topics have been scoped out of the assessment, this is explained in the relevant chapters where appropriate.

- Introduction
- Methodology and Scope
- Baseline Environment

- Mitigation Within the Submitted Design
- Potential Environmental Effects of the Scheme
- Additional Mitigation, Compensation and Enhancement Measures
- Assessment Summary and Residual Environmental Effects
- References

Chapter 11: Conclusion

1.6.13 Outline of the main conclusions drawn by the assessment including identification of any residual significant effects and a consideration of the potential for secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects. The chapter will also set out all mitigation commitments, including the roles and responsibilities for their delivery and implementation and means by which their effectiveness can be monitored.

Volume 2: Appendices

1.6.14 This comprises the specialists' technical reports (as appropriate), and provides supportive background and technical information for the chapters in Volume 1.

1.7 Project Team

1.7.1 The EIA project team has been led by competent consultants from WYG with input from specialists within WYG. The project team and demonstration that the ES has been prepared by the appropriate persons in line with the new EIA Regulations is set out in Table 1.1 below:

Role / Topic	Author	Qualifications	Verifier	Qualifications
EIA Management and Co-ordination	Mark Walton	BSc (Hons), Dip TP, MRTPI	Sarah Butterfield	BSc (Hons), Dip TP, MRTPI
Noise and Vibration	Graham Davies	BA AMIOA	Nigel Mann, WYG	MSc Msc, AMIEMA, MIOA
Air Quality	Dan Clampin, WYG	BA	Nigel Mann, WYG	Msc, AMIEMA, MIOA
Ground Conditions	Louise Murphy	BSc, Ph.D, MIEEnvSc	David Howes, WYG	MSc, CEnv
Hydrology and Flooding	Colin Davidson	BEng (Hons) CEng MICE	Marton Lythgoe	MBA BEng (Hons) CEng MICE
Landscape and Visual Impact	Marcus Pinker	MA, BSc (Hons), CMLI	Lee Morris	BSc (Hons), PG Dip LA, MA, CMLI, PIEMA
Ecology	Chris Meddins	BSc (Hons), MCIEEM	Rachel Kerr	BSc (Hons), MSc, CEnv, MCIEEM



1.8 References

Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO), 2017. The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.