

**ABP** 

# ABP Port of Barry Solar Farm Design and Access Statement

Report R.2305

September 2014

Creating sustainable solutions for the marine environment



## ABP Port of Barry Solar Farm Design and Access Statement

#### **ABP**

## ABP Port of Barry Solar Farm Design and Access Statement

Date: September 2014

Project Ref: R/4233

Report No: R.2305

#### © ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd

Version	Details of Change	Date
1.0	Draft	12.09.2014

Document Authorisation		Signature	Date
Project Manager:	Hannah Bodley	May 1	12.09.2014
Quality Manager:	Stephen Hull	Steve Kull	12.09.2014
Project Director:	Claire Brown	Clair & Bran	12.09.2014

#### ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd

Quayside Suite, Medina Chambers, Town Quay, Southampton, Hampshire SO14 2AQ

Tel: +44 (0) 23 8071 1840 Fax: +44 (0) 23 8071 1841 Web: www.abpmer.co.uk Fax: +44 (0) 23 8071 1841 enquiries@abpmer.co.uk





#### Disclaimer:

- Any 'Draft' issue of this report, and any information contained therein, may be subject to updates and clarifications on the basis of any review comments before 'Final' issue. All content should therefore be considered provisional, and should not be disclosed to third parties without seeking prior clarification from ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd ("ABPmer") of the suitability of the information for the intended disclosure and should not be relied upon by the addressee or any other person.
- Unless previously agreed between the addressee and ABPmer, in writing, the 'Final' issue of this report can be relied on by the addressee only. ABPmer accepts no liability for the use by or reliance on this report or any of the results or methods presented in this report by any party that is not the addressee of the report. In the event the addressee discloses the report to any third party, the addressee shall make such third party aware that ABPmer shall not be liable to such third party in relation to the contents of the report and shall indemnify ABPmer in the event that ABPmer suffers any loss or damage as a result of the addressee failing to make such third party so aware.
- Sections of this report rely on data supplied by or drawn from third party sources. Unless previously agreed between the addressee and ABPmer, in writing, ABPmer accepts no liability for loss or damage suffered by the addressee or any third party as a result of any reliance on third party data contained in the report or on any conclusions drawn by ABPmer which are based on such third party data.



## ABP Port of Barry Solar Farm Design and Access Statement

## Contents

			Page
1.	Conte	ext	7
	1.1	Site History	
	1.2	Project Need	
2.	Plann	ing Policy Context	
	2.1	National Policy Advice	
	2.1	2.1.1 Government of Wales Act 2006	
		2.1.2 Planning Policy Wales (Welsh Government, 2014)	
		2.1.3 Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8: Planning for Renewable Energy (Welsh Assembly Government, 2005)	10
		2.1.6 Planning for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy - A Toolkit for Planners (Welsh Assembly Government, 2010b)	
	2.2	Local Policy Advice	
		2.2.1 Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (LDP)	
	2.3	Other Considerations	12
3.	Site S	Selection and Character	12
4.	Desic	n Principles	13
	4.1	Scheme Design	
		4.1.1 Ground levelling	
		4.1.2 How the scheme will be constructed	
		4.1.3 Demolition of buildings	
	4.2	Grid Connection and cabling	
	4.3	Environmental Sustainability	
		4.3.1 Water Quality and Flood risk	
		4.3.2 Landscape and Visual effects	
		4.3.3 Geo Environmental risk assessment	
		4.3.4 Heritage and Archaeology	
		4.3.6 Ecology	
	4.4	Community safety	
5.	Acces	Access Arrangements	
٥.	5.1	Public and Disabled Access	
6.	Sumr	nary and Conclusions	
7.		ences	



## **Appendices**

- A. Cross and long sections developed from 3D model to illustrate the existing and proposed levels within the development boundary
- B. Supporting Documents
- C. 1. Environmental screening report (submitted 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014)
- D. 2. Screening opinion from the Vale of Glamorgan Council (dated 11th June 2014)
- E. 3. Pre application advice received from the Vale of Glamorgan Council (letter dated 19th August 2014)

## **Figures**

- 1. Location Plan
- 2. Block Plan
- 3. Location of Existing Substations

## **Images**

1.	An example of bunding on the perimeter of the redline boundary	8
2.	Image of the likely design of the array and how the panels will be mounted	
3.	Preliminary side elevation and dimensions of the proposed PV scheme at ABP Barry	
	(please note values in the figure are in millimetres)	15
4.	Image of the potential switch gear container	16
5.	Single story portable building to be demolished as part of the proposed works	
6.	Steel framed building to be demolished as part of the proposed works	17



#### 1. Context

This Design and Access Statement (DAS) has been prepared to support the submission of a planning application for the development of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system to generate electricity, which will be fed into the National Grid (NG), known as 'the Port of Barry Solar Farm'. The proposed development will include the installation of up to 1000 solar PV panels/tables containing a total of around 25,000 modules.

Energy calculations indicate that the site has a maximum peak power capacity for 10 Megawatts (MW) sufficient to generate an estimated 11,000 MWh/annum.

This DAS will firstly provide an overview of the site history followed by a description of the project need, planning policy context and design principals of the proposed works.

The DAS is a statutory requirement that has to be submitted with a planning application and should be read in conjunction with the supporting documentation as referenced throughout this report which have all been submitted for approval and form part of the planning application for the development.

It should be noted that as part of the planning application process the proposed site area has been refined from an original wider area totalling 75 acres (incorporating site 1 and 2 as in supporting documentation such as the screening report and pre-application response within this planning application) to the current size of 41 acres or 16.5 hectares (predominantly focusing on site 1 only).

### 1.1 Site History

The application site lies to the south east of Number 2 Dock within of the Port of Barry which is operated by ABP. Barry docks are located to the south east of the town of Barry in South Wales and has direct access to the Bristol Channel. The Port of Barry is a key facility for the region's chemical industry, handling liquid bulks for major companies including Dow Corning. As well as chemicals, Barry also has considerable expertise in the handling of steel, scrap metal, containers, dry bulks, coal, and aggregates. The port has direct rail connections and a link road connects the port to Junction 33 of the M4.

The location is a brownfield site on the port estate which has lain underutilised for a number of years. Figure 1 shows the proposed redline boundary for the proposed works and provides details of the existing site layout.

The majority of the site is surrounded by bunds as shown in Image 1 which will be retained as part of the works. The northern perimeters of the redline boundary are based on the inside extent of the bunding within the disused coal yard and the perimeter to the east, south and west of the site are based on the outside extent of the bunds.





Image 1. An example of bunding on the perimeter of the redline boundary

## 1.2 Project Need

The Port of Barry and its various activities and tenants is a large scale consumer of electricity. This project has the potential to generate green energy that can provide a significant portion of this requirement from a renewable source, thus reducing the carbon footprint of the Port and reducing local environmental impacts.

The proposed development is considered to present a substantial investment opportunity for the Port of Barry, with the prospect of secure and long term energy supplied at a local level. The development has the potential to create a more sustainable and highly energy efficient operation within the Port and offering the opportunity for further energy supply to the local network. In the long term the development also has the potential to create further inward investment at the Port and thus additional employment opportunities.

## 2. Planning Policy Context

Consideration has been given to both national planning policy and local development plan policies in assessing the acceptability of the proposal in planning and environmental terms. Reference should also be made to a separate planning statement as part of this planning



application which provides further details on planning policy. This section refers to some of the key policy considerations.

#### 2.1 National Policy Advice

#### 2.1.1 Government of Wales Act 2006

The Welsh Assembly Government has a duty under the Government of Wales Act 2006 (Section 79) to commit to the principles of sustainability and sustainable development.

#### 2.1.2 Planning Policy Wales (Welsh Government, 2014)

The Planning Policy Wales (Edition 7, July 2014), hereafter referred to as PPW7, notes that the planning system will play an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and dealing with the consequences of climate change. It supports the need to tackle the causes of climate change by moving towards a low carbon economy. This includes facilitating development that reduces emissions of greenhouse gases in a sustainable manner, provides for renewable and low carbon energy sources at all scales and facilitates low and zero carbon developments.

PPW7 confirms that the planning system has a fundamental role in delivering sustainable development in Wales. In particular, the planning system, through both development plans and the development control process, must provide for homes, infrastructure, investment and jobs in a way which is consistent with sustainability principles and the urgent need to tackle climate change.

Sections 4.3 and 4.4 of PPW7 set out the principles and objectives which underpin the Welsh Government's approach to planning policy for sustainable development. The most relevant to the proposed development being:

#### Principles:

- Respect for environmental limits, so that resources are not irrecoverably depleted or the environment irreversibly damaged. This means, for example, mitigating climate change, protecting and enhancing biodiversity, minimising harmful emissions, and promoting sustainable use of natural resources; and
- Tackling climate change by reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change and ensuring that places are resilient to the consequences of climate change.

#### Objectives:

- Preference for the re-use of suitable previously developed land and buildings, wherever possible avoiding development on greenfield sites;
- Support the need to tackle the causes of climate change by moving towards a low carbon economy. This includes facilitating development that reduces emissions of



greenhouse gases in a sustainable manner, provides for renewable and low carbon energy sources at all scales and facilitates low and zero carbon developments; and

Promote a greener economy and social enterprises.

In addition, PPW7 encourages a strong preference for the re-use of land, confirming that previously developed land should, wherever possible, be used in preference to greenfield sites.

## 2.1.3 Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8: Planning for Renewable Energy (Welsh Assembly Government, 2005)

A series of 21 Technical Advice Notes (TANs) supplement PPW7, which sets out Welsh land use planning policies (outlined above), and should be taken into account by local planning authorities when they are preparing development plans.

The provision of electricity from renewable sources is an important component of the UK energy policy. The UK has an established target of producing 10% of electricity from renewable energy sources by 2010 (DTI, 2003). The Welsh Assembly Government has a target of 4TWh (terawatt-hour) of electricity per annum to be produced by renewable energy by 2010 and 7TWh by 2020. Therefore, TAN8 recognises that other than in circumstances where visual impact is critically damaging to a listed building, ancient monument or a conservation area view, proposals for appropriately designed solar thermal and PV systems should be supported. Local planning authorities should also consider ways in which further encouragement can be given to these technologies.

#### 2.1.4 Energy Policy Statement (Welsh Assembly Government, 2010a)

The Energy Policy Statement (A Low Carbon Revolution) explains the plans and ambitions of the Welsh Assembly Government for low carbon energy. In particular, it promotes 'further use of brownfield or local sites for smaller-scale projects appropriate to their locations'.

#### 2.1.5 Generating Your Own Energy

Renewable energy systems can offer householders a sustainable solution to reducing their energy dependency and carbon footprint. Recommendations for solar projects are set out in various leaflets within this series: 'A Planning Guide for Householders, Communities and Businesses' and 'Solar Electricity'.

## 2.1.6 Planning for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy - A Toolkit for Planners (Welsh Assembly Government, 2010b)

The Welsh Assembly Government has made a commitment to tackling climate change, resolving that the Government and the people of Wales will play the fullest possible part in reducing its carbon footprint and meeting statutory UK and EU targets on greenhouse gas emission reduction. AECOM prepared this toolkit to set out how a Local Authority can prepare a robust evidence base to underpin a number of local development plan policies that can support and facilitate the deployment of renewable and low carbon energy systems. It also



notes that in changes were made to 'permitted development' rights in September 2009 to make provision for the installation of certain types of micro-generation by householders without the need for planning permission, including solar photovoltaic panels.

#### 2.2 Local Policy Advice

#### 2.2.1 Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (LDP)

In 2013, the Vale of Glamorgan Council published a Local Development Plan (LDP), aiming to foster a sustainable future which manages the natural and built resources of the Vale of Glamorgan, whilst making a positive contribution towards reducing the impact of climate change by promoting sustainable development and transport, energy conservation and renewable energy generation. In particular, one objective is to ensure that development within the Vale of Glamorgan makes a positive contribution towards reducing the impact of and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. New development will be located in sustainable locations that incorporate sustainable design and building solutions, promote energy conservation and local renewable energy generation and avoid areas susceptible to flooding.

The Managing Development Policy 19 (MD 19) suggests that proposal which provide low carbon and renewable energy generation will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there will be no unacceptable impact on the interests of the following receptors (including cumulative impacts):

- Agriculture;
- Electrical, radio or other communication systems;
- Landscape important;
- Natural and cultural heritage;
- Nature conservation;
- Residential amenity;
- Soil conservation; and
- Wildlife.

The Council's Renewable Energy Assessment which supported the LDP assessed the potential renewable energy capacity within the Vale of Glamorgan and identified significant opportunities for a range of small scale renewable energy proposals, particularly from micro generation schemes including Building Integrated Renewables (BIR) and biomass schemes. These generally relate to schemes within the 'micro' (up to 50kw) and 'sub local authority' (up to 5MW) scales defined under national planning policy.

The LDP also notes that, although there are significant opportunities for small scale renewables within the Vale of Glamorgan, there may be occasions where larger scale schemes are technically viable and appropriate in planning terms. These are likely to relate to 'local authority-wide' scale schemes (i.e. schemes from 5MW to 25MW for onshore wind and from 5MW to 50MW for all other technologies). Other larger scale schemes where there is potential and a high level of interest includes proposals for standalone solar farms arrays. Within the Vale, individual solar farm proposals have generally ranged from 5 to 10MW. In



assessing 'local-authority wide' scale schemes, the cumulative impact of proposals (when compared with other existing and proposed developments) is likely to be a particularly important consideration.

#### 2.3 Other Considerations

The development of a PV system at the Port of Barry fits with ABP's policy for sustainable development and aspiration to obtain energy from renewable sources. Objectives in ABP's current Sustainable Development Policy (ABP, 2010) include using natural resources in an efficient and responsible manner and ensuring all new developments and business growth prospects have regard for the environment and look for opportunities of environmental improvement. In particular, ABP aims to measure, set targets and reduce carbon, energy usage, water, and waste across the entire business and to formally consider sustainability criteria and best available technology in all business growth opportunities, whilst ensuring that new developments are designed with regard to future climate change impacts.

One of our ABP values is to act as a good neighbour, the purpose of this project is to produce green energy and reduce electricity bills the benefits of which ABP want to share with the local community. ABP therefore also propose to put together a fund alongside this scheme to support the local community.

#### 3. Site Selection and Character

When selecting a suitable site for the solar farm the primary criteria for site selection was the availability of underutilised, brownfield land. As outlined in Section 1 as part of this planning application the site has been refined from an original wider area (e.g. as considered within the screening report and pre application response) to the current size of 16.5 hectares. As part of the planning application process the redline area was refined based on environmental factors such as to avoid potential impacts on a Scheduled Ancient Monument located within the wider area and further archaeological features noted during the assessment work (see Section 4.3 and the Archaeological desk based assessment accompanying this application).

The proposed location of the development is to the east of Dock No 2 and north of Dock No 3. The development is split into two. The south of the site (approximately 5 acres) is currently an operational inert waste recycling operation. At the time of writing ABP are in discussions regarding relocation of the operation to an alternative site within the port. The north of the site is a disused coal yard which finished operation in 2013. The middle of the site contains a strip of predominantly scrub vegetation. The southwest boundary backs onto the entrance channel and east breakwater of the outer harbour of the Port of Barry. In addition, the south east boundary is adjacent to the Bristol Channel and the Hayes Point to Bendrick Rock Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Cadoxton River runs alongside the northern boundary of Site where it then flows into the Bristol Channel.



### 4. Design Principles

#### 4.1 Scheme Design

The proposed development is for a ground mounted solar Photovoltaic (PV) system with an output of approximately up to 10MW, located on a brownfield site within the port estate over an area of approximately 16.5 hectares. The site is an industrial area and not within any statutory or local area designated for landscape quality and nature conservation, making this an appropriate site to consider development of a solar PV system. The life of the proposed PV system will be at least 25 years.

#### 4.1.1 Ground levelling

A 3D model of the proposed development has been created using LSS Modelling software. As part of the proposed development some levelling of the land is required. A flat development plateau will be created to the south, lying at approximately 11.5m AOD. The plateau will then gradually slope down to the northeast and to the northwest until the slope converges with the existing level of the old coal yard and Atlantic Way respectively. Cross and long sections have been developed from the 3D model to illustrate the existing and proposed levels within the site boundary, these are shown in Appendix A together with a figure showing the location of the sections within the development model.

The proposed levelling works will create a development area of approximately 13.7 hectares within the redline boundary, upon which the solar panels will be constructed.

#### 4.1.2 How the scheme will be constructed

Final design aspect will be confirmed once the PV system installation contract has been awarded. It is anticipated the solar panels would be installed on ground mounted frames in arrays, approximately 6m apart and angled southwards to maximise power generation. Image 2 provides an example of how the arrays are expected to look.





Image 2. Image of the likely design of the array and how the panels will be mounted

Fixed solar panels are proposed that can be installed within a few months and removed from the site with minimal effects on the environment. It is anticipated the panels will be up to 3 m in height and ground mounted to a shallow depth dependant on ground conditions. An indicative side elevation is shown in Image 3. The frame structures consist of steel uprights and aluminium cross bars. The uprights will be set into concrete 'feet' (see Image 2) and therefore no excavation is required. This method is also considered to keep construction noise to a minimum. Once the frame is constructed and put into place, the panels will be mounted to the frames, with an expected front height of 0.8 m and back panel height of 2.705m.

An indicative site or block plan is provided in Figure 2. The rows of panels will be set back from current bunds on the site to prevent overshadowing. There will also be a separation gap of approximately 6 m between each row of panels to ensure that the panels are not overshadowed and that access can be gained between each row (Image 3).



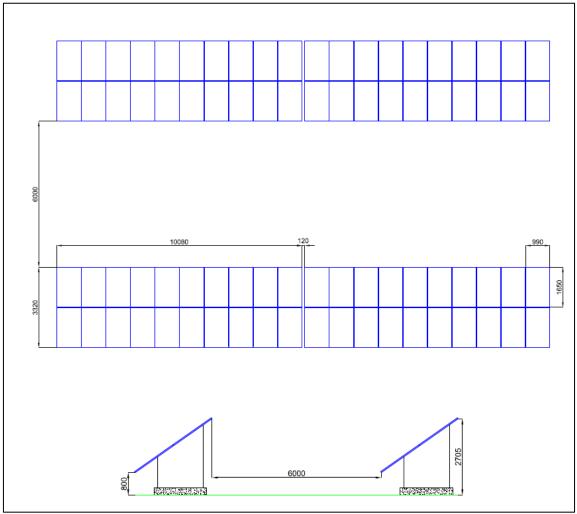


Image 3. Preliminary side elevation and dimensions of the proposed PV scheme at ABP Barry (please note values in the figure are in millimetres)

Details of the proposed development are to be confirmed, however it is likely to include the construction of a security fence and associated infrastructure such as switch gear containers. Green weld mesh fencing approximately 2.9m high with a barbed wire topper is currently anticipated to border the perimeter of the site. Image 4 provides an indication of how the switch gear containers may look. These containers will contain the inverters and transformers and be laid on a concrete platform (without foundations) and are made out of glass reinforced plastic.





Image 4. Image of the potential switch gear container

The surface of the panels are likely to be made from toughed glass, beneath which is a non-reflective layer, electrical connections, silicon and a backing layer, all fixed within an aluminium frame. As the frames are set into concrete feet no excavation is required during installation. In addition, it will mean that during decommissioning, minimal remediation works will be required as the 'feet' do not penetrate the subsoil, instead they are placed on top of the existing ground level.

The installation method will have very limited impact on the vegetation and existing ground conditions as there will be no penetration of the subsoil. Therefore vegetation will be able to continue to grow underneath and between the panels which will need to be maintained occasionally.

#### 4.1.3 Demolition of buildings

Two derelict buildings are proposed for demolition as part of the works and are shown in Images 5 and 6 with firstly a single story portable building (Image 5); and secondly a steel framed building with corrugate metal sheeting forming the walls and roof. Both buildings are disused and in a poor state of repair.





Image 5. Single story portable building to be demolished as part of the proposed works



Image 6. Steel framed building to be demolished as part of the proposed works

### 4.2 Grid Connection and cabling

It is anticipated that the array will be connected to the grid via three existing sub-stations (Sully Moors Road substation, Rank's substation and Cross Berth Substation). Access to all three existing substations is across land owned by ABP. Figure 3 also provides an indicative cabling route which is anticipated to follow existing roads and rail infrastructure.

R/4233 17 R.2305



#### 4.3 Environmental Sustainability

The environmental reports which accompany this planning application provide details of the environmental investigations which were undertaken to determine the potential environmental effects of the proposed solar PV system and to technically underpin the planning application submitted by ABP. ABPmer produced an environmental screening report (submitted 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014) and received a screening opinion from the Vale of Glamorgan Council (dated 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014) which confirmed that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was not required under the Town and Country Planning (EIA) regulation 1999. In addition pre application advice was received from the Vale of Glamorgan Council (letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> August 2014) for the wider area as originally considered. A copy of these documents is provided separately.

Particular focus in this section has been given to visual impact, flood risk, contaminated land and waste, heritage and archaeology and ecology in response to the formal advice in the form of the screening opinion and pre application advice given by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The supporting documents forms part of this application and are summarised in this section.

#### 4.3.1 Water Quality and Flood risk

A Flood Consequences Assessment has been carried out by PFA consulting for the proposed redline boundary as part of this planning application and has concluded that the majority of the site is at a very low to low risk of flooding. The northern sector of site has been accessed as an acceptable level of flood risk through ground raising. The Flood Consequences Assessment reports that the proposed site will have adequate flood protection for extreme events over the lifetime of the development and that the risk and consequences of flooding can be acceptably managed. It is also reported that the development will not increase flood risk elsewhere.

#### 4.3.2 Landscape and Visual effects

A landscape and visual impact assessment was undertaken by ACLA ltd which considers the site is brownfield, set within an existing industrial context and consequently is considered to have good potential to accommodate change. Overall it concludes that the proposed works as part of this planning application may not be considered greatly adverse or cause unacceptable landscape or visual impacts, subject to proposed mitigation measures.

#### 4.3.3 Geo Environmental risk assessment

A soil and groundwater assessment has been undertaken by ExCAL limited for the original wider area (encompassing site 1 and 2) the site. Historical use of the sites, (specifically site 1 which is within the redline boundary as part of this application), indicate it could potentially have residual contamination of the soils and groundwater beneath it. However a detailed inspection as part of this assessment shows that the majority of the site surface is capped. The construction of the proposed development requires no significant excavations. Therefore based on the data collected, it is considered that the potential risk that may be caused by



residual contamination in deeper soils is reduced to an acceptable level by the presence of competent capping layers.

In addition, water samples have been taken as part of this assessment from water that passes through the site and no detectable deterioration in surface water quality was observed. Overall there is no evidence that groundwater is having any adverse impact upon the surface water receptors in the vicinity of the site. Monitoring is proposed and will be discussed with the regulators and undertaken where necessary.

#### 4.3.4 Heritage and Archaeology

A desk based study including site visit of the wider study area (site 1 and 2) was undertaken by Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust and is included in the supporting documentation to this planning application. As part of the planning application process the redline area was refined due to factors including to avoid potential impacts on a Scheduled Ancient Monument located within the wider area and further archaeological features noted during desk based study. Consequently a supporting addendum focusing of the refined site for this planning application has also been produced. Based on the redline area in this planning application mitigation is recommended such as a general watching brief with contingencies to record unknown sites or features has been recommended on any ground intrusion works, with particular regard to the area closest to the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM GM 310), i.e. the area of the coal yard.

#### 4.3.5 Transport Assessment

A transport assessment has been undertaken by PFA consulting. During the construction period it has been anticipated that there will be approximately 205 HGV deliveries to the site for all equipment and materials. These 205 deliveries will be spread throughout the construction period of the project which is expected to last a minimum of 12 weeks. This equates to the proposed project typically generating no more than 4 deliveries per day. In addition there will be staff trips to the site. It is estimated that there will be no more than 30 staff on site during the construction period. It is expected that the majority of staff will travel to site in crew buses. During the operational stage the proposed project will have negligible trip generation, with trips being made to the site associated only with maintenance or cleaning of the site. Such work is estimated to require 10-20 visits per year.

#### 4.3.6 Ecology

The closest designated site to the proposed works is Hayes Point to Bendrick Point SSSI which is adjacent to the site. Designated in 1986, the SSSI is approximately 29.5 hectares in area and located over a 1.8 km stretch of coastline to the south east of Barry on the northern shore of the Bristol Channel. The two key features of the SSSI are of geological significance, specifically rock exposures and "dinosaur" footprints/tracks. Considering the nature of the significant features of this site and the distance from the proposed developments, no effects on this or any other designated site are anticipated, however consideration will be given to this sensitive area where necessary including as part of the Flood Consequences Assessment.



A Phase 1 ecology survey was undertaken and the results accompany this planning application. Results suggest that there are breeding birds in all areas of dense scrub and scattered trees or woodland.

As a result of the Phase 1 habitat survey, the following mitigation has been recommended:

- All site clearance to be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season, between September to February, inclusive;
- Destruction on the rabbit burrow with hand tools or mini-digger to allow any rabbits present to escape; and
- Remediation of Japanese knotweed from the site.

The detailed mitigation will be discussed with the Vale of Glamorgan County ecologist. The extended Phase 1 habitat survey also identified the need for further surveys that are currently ongoing or have already been completed and are outlined below.

#### 4.3.6.1 Bats

A bat potential survey was undertaken by Thomson Ecology May 2014 for the original wider area (site 1 and 2) and included the two buildings proposed for demolition as part of the works (see Section 4.1.3). No bat potential has been identified for the building proposed for demolition as part of this application (Image 5 referenced as 'B7' and Image 6 'B4' in the associated report). Separate bat activity surveys for builds identified as having bat potential but outside this planning application have been commissioned by ABP to be completed by the end of September 2014.

#### 4.3.6.2 Reptiles

Reptile surveys were undertaken by Thomson Ecology (August 2014). At the time of writing following the identification of a low population of slow worm within the redline boundary, reptile mitigation is currently underway through liaison with the Vale of Glamorgan County ecologist.

#### 4.3.6.3 Inverts

The extended Phase 1 habitat survey identified the potential for the site to support assemblages of terrestrial invertebrate species. Invertebrate surveys are currently ongoing and anticipated to be completed by the end of September 2014. To date, no scarce invertebrates have been recorded on site and following liaison with the Vale of Glamorgan County Ecologist the report will be submitted separately as part of this planning application upon completion.



#### 4.3.6.4 Scare Plants

As outlined in the extended Phase 1 habitat survey report enclosed, further surveys were recommended to establish if the site qualifies as open mosaic habitat and to record the location of protected plant species if present. A separate priority habitat assessment and scarce plan survey was therefore undertaken including additional surveys undertaken July 2014 (Thomson Ecology, 2014).

In summary no scarce plants were been recorded on site, however open mosaic habitat was identified. Mitigation is to be agreed with the Vale of Glamorgan County Ecologist as part of the proposed works.

#### 4.4 Community safety

The proposed development will be located within the Port of Barry which is privately owned estate with restricted access via a 24 hour controlled gatehouse. The safety of ABP employees, as well as subcontractors, will be maintained during construction works with any potentially hazardous areas, such as cable installation works, being fenced off. The construction process will fall under the Construction Design and Management Regulations and health and safety will therefore be managed through these procedures. The area will be fully segregated by the contractor during the construction process. During operation, the area will be fenced and will be subject to frequent patrols, Close Circuit Television and other security measures. Access to the site will therefore be restricted to ABP employees and authorised contractors.

## 5. Access Arrangements

All deliveries to the site will come by road transport via the port's main access gate on Atlantic Way. A contractor's compound will be allocated within the Port boundary.

#### 5.1 Public and Disabled Access

The development is located on the Port estate, which is privately owned land that is not accessible to the public, and so there are no formal rights of way crossing the Port of Barry. Access to the port is therefore restricted to ABP employees. The site is accessible by road vehicle for construction, operation and maintenance purposes. There are no special access requirements for the site. ABP is committed to the principles of equal opportunity for all and will ensure that access complies with its Equal Opportunities Policy.



## 6. Summary and Conclusions

This report has assessed the site's full context including physical, social and economic characteristics. The proposal is considered to be compliant with all relevant planning policies, and will not have an adverse environmental impact. The site has been carefully selected and the proposed works are considered to have positive benefits arising from a renewable energy. We hope therefore that the scheme will receive the support of the Council.

#### 7. References

Associated British Ports (ABP). 2010. ABP's Sustainable Development Policy. November 2010.

Thomson Ecology, 2014. Priority Habitat Assessment and Scarce Plant Survey. Prepared for Associated British Ports. AABP103/005

Vale of Glamorgan Council. 2013. Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026. Deposit Plan: Written Statement. November 2013.

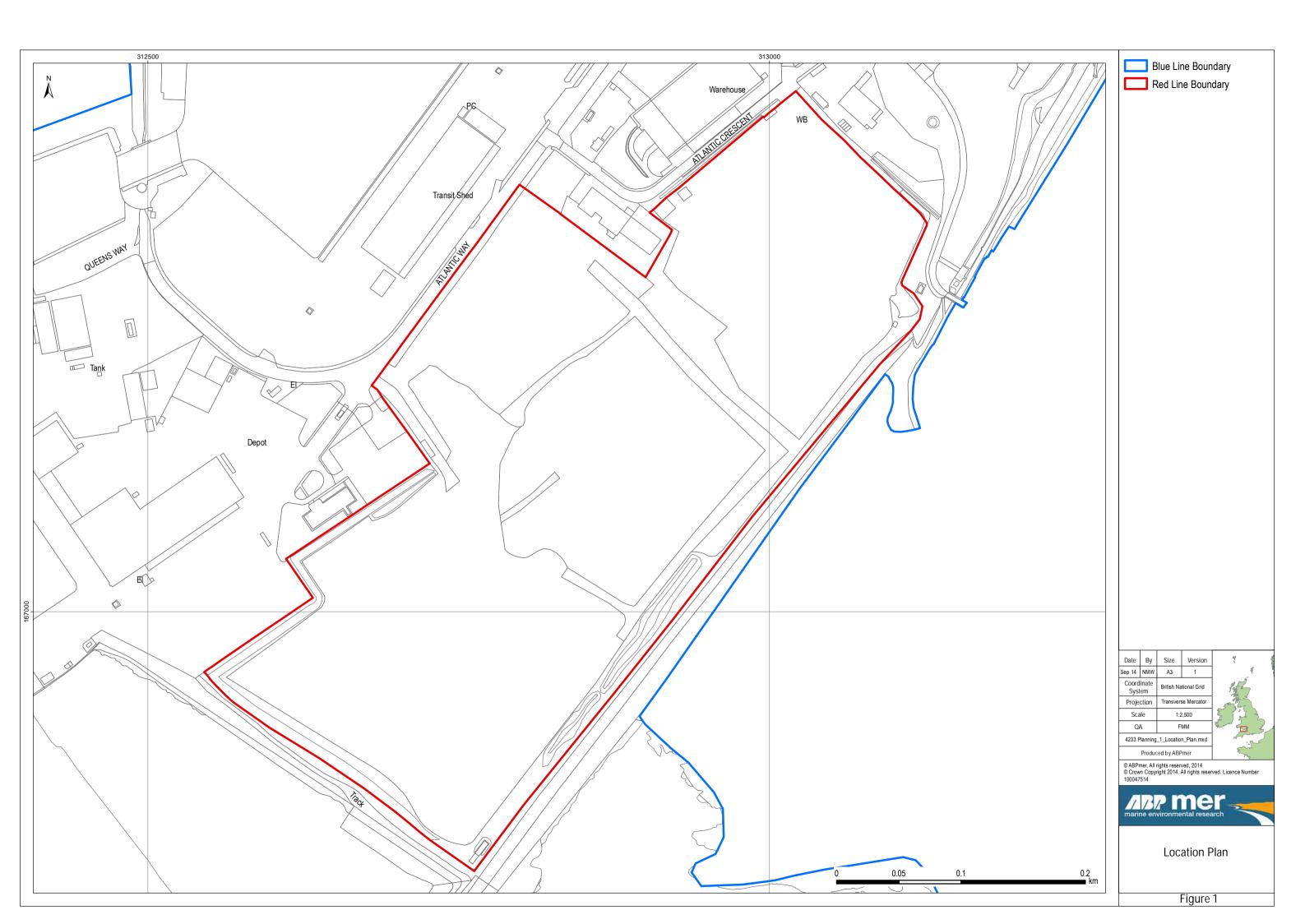
Welsh Assembly Government. 2005. Planning Policy Wales. Technical Advice Note 8: Planning for Renewable Energy. July 2005.

Welsh Assembly Government. 2010a. A Low Carbon Revolution – The Welsh Assembly Government Energy Policy Statement. March 2010

Welsh Assembly Government. 2010b. Planning for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy - A Toolkit for Planners. July 2010.

Welsh Government. 2014. Planning Policy Wales. Edition 7. July 2014.











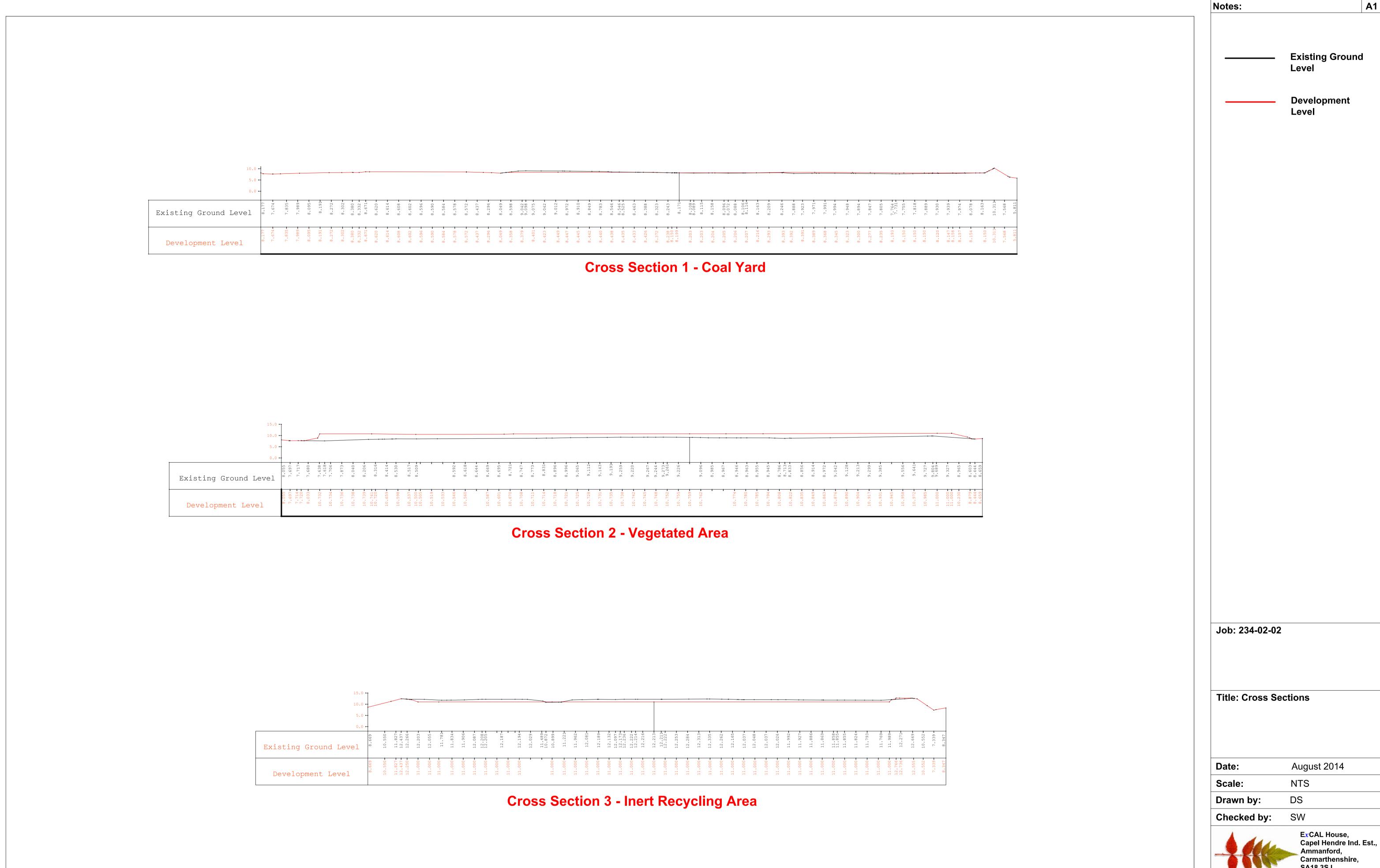


# Appendix A

Cross and long sections developed from 3D model to illustrate the existing and proposed levels within the development boundary







Carmarthenshire,
SA18 3SJ
Tel: 01269 831606
Fax: 01269 841867
Website: www.excaluk.com
E-mail: info@excaluk.com Date:

**A1** 

**Drawing No:** 234-02-02.d02 Revision No:

