



Appendix 3.9

Socio-Economics Statement (July, 2022)

7 Socio-economics

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 This technical statement was prepared by Quod on behalf of Biomass UK No. 2 Limited and presents evidence of the consideration of the likely socio-economic effects associated with the Barry Biomass Facility (the 'Facility') at Barry Docks. This has been prepared to provide a supporting justification as to why an assessment of the potential socio-economic effects has been scoped out of the EIA. This statement considers whether any significant socio-economic effects are likely to arise from the operation of the Development.
- 7.1.2 The following potential effects have been considered within this note:
- Employment generation;
 - Supply chain impacts; and
 - Recreation, tourism and visitors.

7.2 Background Context

- 7.2.1 Planning permission for the development of the Facility was granted on appeal in 2010 (the '**2010 Permission**', Ref No: APP/Z6950/A/2114605). This permission was not commenced or implemented.
- 7.2.2 The planning permission then went through various revisions and changes to planning conditions. The most recent permission was approved in 2016 (Ref: 2015/00031/OUT). Construction works began in 2016 and Natural Resources Wales granted an Environmental Permit for the Facility in February 2018 and was subject to a Variation application in 2019. The Facility is constructed but was not operational at the time of writing (May 2022).
- 7.2.3 During this time consideration as to whether or not an EIA was required – a number of screening directions and opinions have been issued (these are summarised in Chapter 2: Site and Context of the ES). A voluntary Environmental Statement (ES) was prepared for the appeal in 2010 (the '**2010 ES**') and a retrospective voluntary ES was submitted in 2019 (the '**2019 VES**'). This 2019 VES was updated following a review and submitted in April 2021 (the '**2021 VES**'). Assessment of socio-economics was not scoped into these previous ESs.
- 7.2.4 More detailed information on the background to the Facility and its planning history is provided within Chapter 2: Site and Context of the ES to which this technical statement is appended. This summary is provided here to give an overview and to provide context.

7.3 Baseline Considerations

- 7.3.1 The following section provides baseline information relevant for the consideration of the potential socio-economic effects related to this development. This focuses on key demographic and economic profile data relevant to employment creation and, local recreation and tourism assets.

Existing Site

- 7.3.2 The Site is located on Woodham Road in Barry docks, within Castleland ward in the administrative area of the Vale of Glamorgan Council (VoGC). The Facility is a renewable energy (waste biomass) plant, which is built but not currently operational.
- 7.3.3 Whilst the Facility is not currently operational, a small number of employees are based at the Site to ensure the Facility remains secure and to maintain equipment (circa 14 full-time employees).

Population

- 7.3.4 The 2011 Census remains the most comprehensive demographic dataset available until the 2021 Census is released which is expected in summer 2022. At the time of the 2011 Census there were 4,850 residents living within Castleland ward. VoGC had a population of 126,340, which equated to 4% of the total population of Wales (3,063,500).
- 7.3.5 Castleland ward had a higher proportion for working age residents aged 16 – 65 years (68%) compared to VoGC and Wales (both 63%).

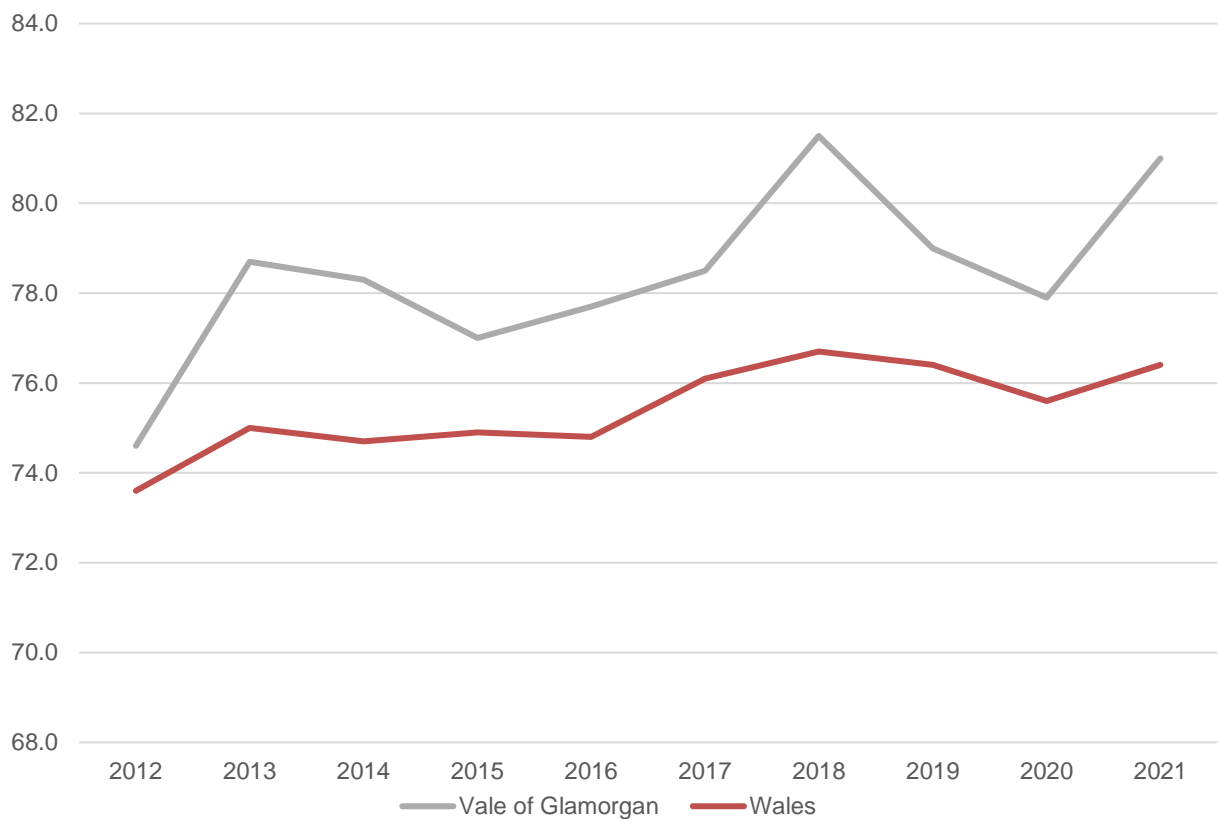
Employment and Economic Activity

- 7.3.6 The economic activity rate at the time of the 2011 Census within Castleland ward was higher (71%) compared to the wider district and regional averages 69% in VoGC and 66% across Wales.
- 7.3.7 The Annual Population Survey provides more up to date data on economic activity since the 2011 Census. This is not available at the local/ ward level, and only provided at district and regional scale. The economic activity rate in VoGC has been consistently higher than the average for Wales. Figure 1 shows the levels of economic activity in VoGC and Wales between 2012 and 2021.
- 7.3.8 There are 4,490 jobs within Castleland ward, this accounts for 11% of all employment within VoGC. The main employment sectors in this area are 'public administration and defence' which accounts for 28% of these jobs. This compares to 5% of all employment within the VoGC within this sector and 8% across Wales. There is also a higher proportion of employment in retail 14%, compared to the average across VoGC (10%) and Wales (9%).
- 7.3.9 Considering employment levels specifically within the recreation and tourism, there are a lower proportion of jobs within 'accommodation and food services' locally (Castleland ward – 4%) compared to the wider district (VoGC – 10%) and Wales (8%) averages. Considering Baruc ward which covers Barry Island, there is a big contrast. Of the 1,185 jobs within this

ward, 25.3% are within the 'accommodation and food services' sector and a further 25% are within retail.

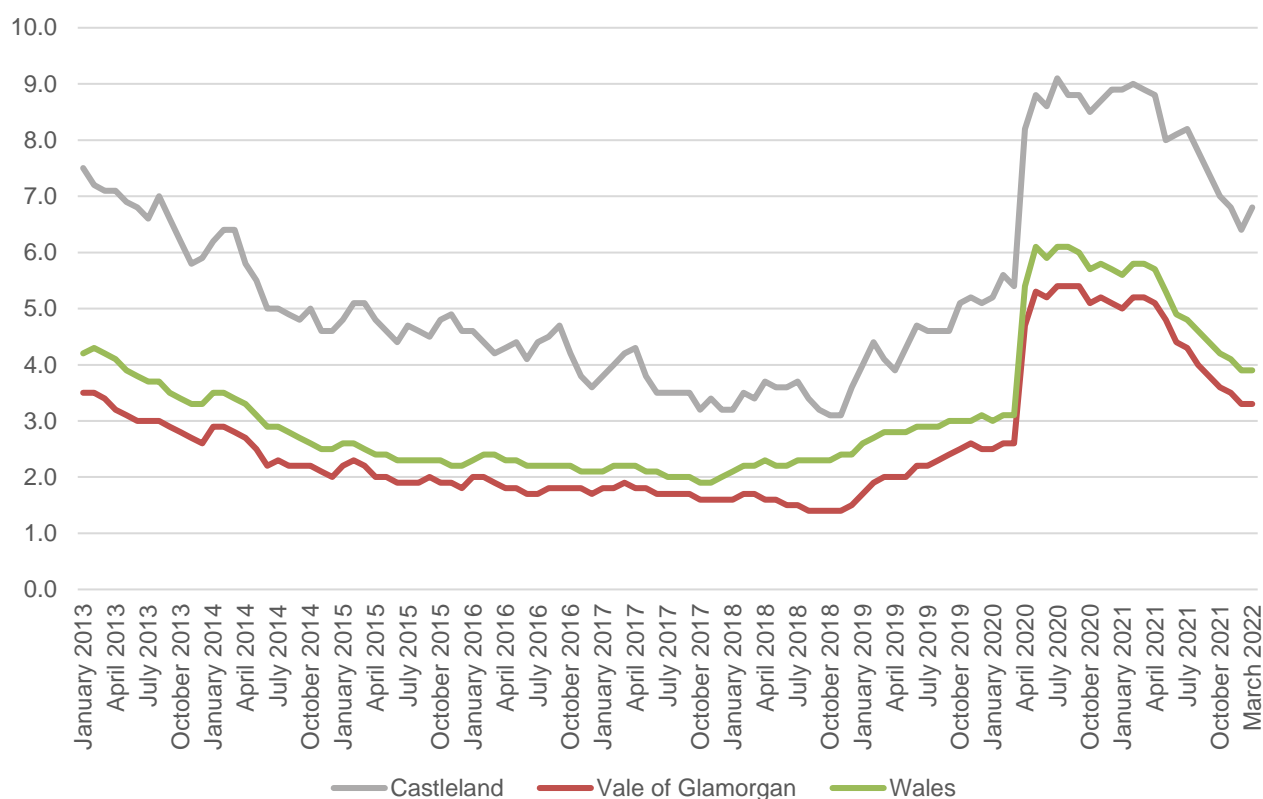
- 7.3.10 There is a similar level of employment associated with recreation locally (2.8%) compared to the wider district (2.4%), but higher than Wales overall (1.5%).

Figure 1: Economic Activity 2012 - 2021



- 7.3.11 Claimant Count rates provides monthly data on the number of working age residents that are claiming benefits for unemployment related reasons. This provides useful information on the level of unemployment and job seekers in areas at various spatial scales.
- 7.3.12 Castleland ward has a significantly higher claimant count rate (6.8%) compared to the average across both VoG (3.3%) and Wales (3.9%). This area has had a persistently higher claimant count rate compared to the wider spatial context – as illustrated by Figure 2.
- 7.3.13 This data shows the baseline position as of March 2022 when there were 250 residents claiming unemployment related benefits in Castleland ward.

Figure 2: Claimant Count Rates 2013 - 2022



Recreation and Tourism

- 7.3.14 Barry's main recreation and tourism offer is focused around Barry Island to the south of Barry Docks. There is a sandy beach and amusement along the sea front. Barry also acts as a base for travellers visiting the rural areas of VoGC.
- 7.3.15 A review has been undertaken to identify the key recreation and tourism assets within the local area surrounding the site. A 1km catchment area from the Site has been reviewed as shown in Figure 3.
- 7.3.16 There are two recreation facilities within this study area. The Barry Leisure Centre (map reference 1) and the Barry Community Water Activity Centre (map reference 2).
- 7.3.17 There are three facilities that offer visitor accommodation in this area. They include serviced apartments (Harbourside by StayBC - map reference 1), a hotel (Tadross Hotel - map reference 2) and a guest house (The Maisonette at No 9 Kitchen - map reference 3).
- 7.3.18 A review of Air B&Bs has also been undertaken but these have not been included within the mapping, as precise addresses/ locations are not given. There are five properties advertised on Air B&B in this location.
- 7.3.19 In terms of visitor attractions there is not a significant leisure or tourism offer in this local area around Barry Docks. Most of Barry's tourism and recreation offer is located on Barry Island further to the south along the sea front.

Figure 3: Recreation Facilities

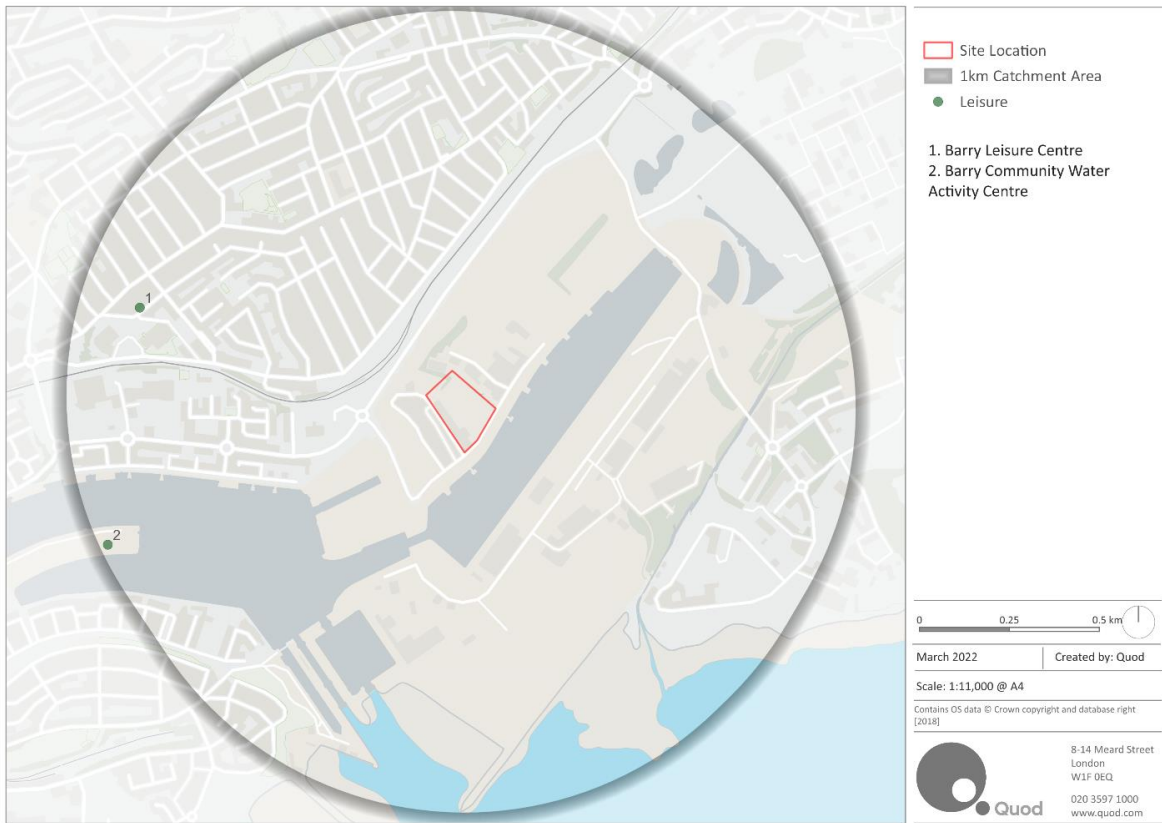
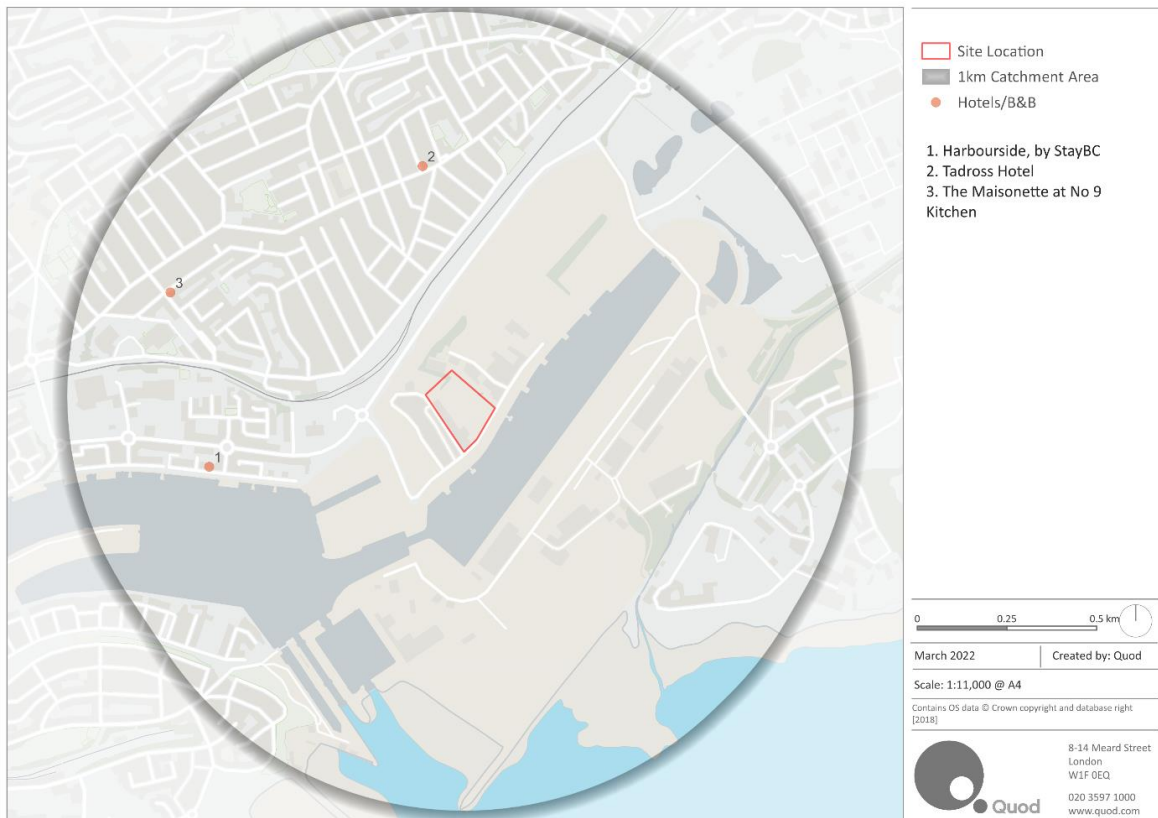


Figure 4: Visitor Accommodation



7.4 Likely Socio-economic Effects

Construction Related Employment Generation

- 7.4.1 No detailed/ quantitative assessment of construction related impacts associated with construction employment is considered within this statement. As the Facility is built the employment related to its construction is no longer relevant.
- 7.4.2 Employment created during the construction of the Facility would not have been a significant effect. As stated in the CPP (Appendix 6.1 of the ES), there was a maximum of 130 staff on-Site at any one time during the construction stage. Construction employment is relatively mobile, and workers move from project to project generally within a regional context but also at a national and international scale. Specialist construction projects such as this, would be more likely to require labour to be drawn from a wider skills profile. Therefore, this is not likely to have resulted in a significant effect within the construction sector at any spatial scale.
- 7.4.3 The following sections consider the potential socio-economic effects associated with the Facility being built and operational.

Employment Generation

- 7.4.4 The operational Facility will support 14 jobs on-Site, some of which will operate in a 12-hourly shift pattern, and 2-3 external contractors and off-site roles dealing with purchasing/finance and compliance. On the busiest days, there will be up to 14 staff on site per day on weekdays and 5 staff on weekends. This will create opportunities within the local labour market, which is beneficial considering there is a high claimant count rate within the local area.
- 7.4.5 However, given the scale of employment created, this is not considered to be a significant effect.

Supply Chain Impact

- 7.4.6 The additional jobs at the Facility would create spending in the local economy. A survey undertaken by Visa Europe provides information on the average spend per day by workers on small purchases within the local area where they work. This estimates that on average in the UK workers spend £13.10¹ per day in the local area near their place of employment.
- 7.4.7 These additional 20 jobs could therefore generate £57,600 per annum in spending. The likely catchment area for this spending is not likely to be significant locally. There isn't retail located close to the Site therefore the spending catchment would depend on how employees travel to work. This level of spending is not considered to be significant.

¹ Visa Europe (2014) UK Working Day Spending Report - spending per worker has been amended using the Bank of England Inflation Calculator Available online: <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy/inflation/inflation-calculator>.

- 7.4.8 There would be some further benefits of the operational Facility in the supply of waste wood, processing of waste ash and haulage. However, these beneficial effects are not likely to be significant.

Recreation, Tourism and Visitors

- 7.4.9 As set out in the baseline analysis there are some recreation and tourism assets within the local area around the Site, however the main recreation and tourism attractions within Barry are in Barry Island to the south of the Site. This surrounding uses around the Site and Barry Docks are largely industrial in nature.
- 7.4.10 A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment has been prepared as part of the EIA, and forms Volume II of the Appeal ES. This considers the landscape and visual impacts upon various receptors. Any landscape or visual impact upon Barry Island could have a knock-on effect on the perception and attractiveness of Barry Island as a recreation and tourist destination. This assessment found that the Facility would have no effect on visual receptors at Barry Island as the Site is sufficiently far away from this area.
- 7.4.11 The Facility would not have any impact upon the capacity of the local visitor accommodation.
- 7.4.12 The operation of the Facility would not impact upon the operation, access or attractiveness of the recreation or tourism assets in the local area. Therefore, it is considered there would be no significant effect upon recreation or tourism arising from the operation of the Facility.

7.5 Conclusions

- 7.5.1 A small number of jobs will be created due to the operational Facility, which will be beneficial to the local labour market, but not of a scale that is considered to be significant.
- 7.5.2 No effects are considered likely upon recreation, tourism or visitors in this area.
- 7.5.3 The operation of the Facility will not result in any significant socio-economic effects.