

Green Infrastructure Statement

Land at Former Uskmouth Power Station, Newport (August 2025)

Introduction

This Green Infrastructure Statement relates to a planning application for the for installation of below ground cables, alterations to electrical banking compound (including raising ground levels, additional access and fencing), with all associated works on Land at the former Uskmouth Power Station in Newport.

Policy Context

The definition of Green Infrastructure in Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (12 February 2024) is as follows:

‘Green infrastructure is the network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect places. Component elements of green infrastructure can function at different scales and some components, such as trees and woodland, are often universally present and function at all levels. At the landscape scale green infrastructure can comprise entire ecosystems such as wetlands, waterways peatlands and mountain ranges or be connected networks of mosaic habitats, including grasslands. At a local scale, it might comprise parks, fields, public rights of way, allotments, cemeteries and gardens or may be designed or managed features such as sustainable drainage systems. At smaller scales, individual urban interventions such as street trees, hedgerows, roadside verges, and green roofs/walls can all contribute to green infrastructure networks’.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 provides a context for the delivery of multi-functional green infrastructure. Its provision can make a significant contribution to the sustainable management of natural resources. Green infrastructure is capable of providing several functions at the same time and as a result offers multiple benefits, for social, economic and cultural as well as environmental resilience and respond to challenges presented by the climate emergency.

A Step-Wise Approach is required to be demonstrated in the Green Infrastructure Statement to assess impacts on habitats and species, as set out in Figure 12 of PPW12.



Site Context

The application site is subject to no nature, biodiversity or other environmental protection designations such as National Nature Reserves (NNR), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) or Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI). The closest ecological designation site is Newport Wetlands (SSSI) which is located approximately 250m south of the site.



The site constitutes brownfield land within a former Power Station site and is therefore wholly industrial in nature. The application site itself comprises an existing electrical banking compound, hardstanding and industrial structures. There are no features of biodiversity value within the site itself, save for a very small, grassed area including 1 no. tree to the immediate north of the banking compound, where the new access tracks are proposed.

In line with the stepwise approach, the proposed access tracks have been designed and positioned to avoid the removal of the existing tree, which will be retained, along with as much of the grassed area either side of the new access tracks as possible. It is considered that the loss of a minimal area of grass is offset by the biodiversity enhancements underway as part of the overall BESS development. This includes substantial ecological and landscape improvements related to the attenuation pond, including new planting and long term habitat monitoring and maintenance, which is being implemented in accordance with an approved Landscape and Environmental Management Plan (as per permission ref: 23/0835). As a result, the proposed development is not considered to materially, adversely affect habitats and species on site.

Summary and Conclusions

Considering the industrial context of the site, together with the landscape, ecological and biodiversity enhancements being delivered as part of the approved BESS scheme (of which this proposal forms an integral part) it can be concluded that the overall impact on green infrastructure has been adequately avoided and minimised where possible and appropriately mitigated, in accordance with PPW. Overall impact on green infrastructure is not significant.

