

# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

**Land South of Rover Way, Cardiff CF24 5PH**

Harsco Metals Group Limited

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## BASIS OF REPORT

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## 1.1.0 Background

- 1.1.1 This Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited (SLR) on behalf of Harsco Metals Group ('the client' and 'the applicant') and sets out the results of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken for the proposed development at the Celsa Steelworks site on Land South of Rover Way, Cardiff CF24 5PH. This ES is to form part of a full planning application submitted to Cardiff Council which seeks consent for the *"Installation of an Asphalt Batching Plant along with associated infrastructure and works"*.
- 1.1.2 The associated planning drawings for the proposed development have been prepared by Harsco Metals Group Ltd and have been guided through an iterative design process by the various technical consultants that are instructed on this project and ad-hoc pre-application consultation with Cardiff Council.
- 1.1.3 A description of the site and surroundings is provided within Chapter 2, whilst a detailed description of the development proposals is provided within Chapter 3. Information relating to the iterative design process and the consideration of 'alternatives' is provided within Chapter 4, whilst the formal scoping exercise and pre-application consultation is detailed within Chapter 5. Finally, the planning policy context and a description of committed developments considered for the purposes of considering 'cumulative effects' are provided within Chapters 6 and 7 respectively.

## 1.2.0 The Applicant & Land Ownership

- 1.2.1 The application site is within the freehold ownership of Cardiff Council, whilst Celsa Steel (UK) Ltd has a long leasehold interest in the site and operate the existing steelworks located on site. The application will be submitted on behalf of Harsco Metals Group Limited, who will operate the asphalt batching plant on behalf of, and utilising materials provided by, Celsa Steel (UK) Ltd.

### Harsco Metals Group Limited

- 1.2.2 Working with customers across the metals, mining and energy sectors, Harsco Metals & Minerals ('Harsco') provides logistics and environmental services for industry. By working onsite under long term service contracts at over 130 customer locations across 32 countries, Harsco have developed an understanding of each industry they operate in.
- 1.2.3 Harsco began life last century by offering steelmakers a metal recovery service for slag, and expanded into other business areas to meet the growing need for recycling in the metals industry, and beyond. Today, Harsco's activities span across multiple industrial sectors, providing beneficiation to a wide range of waste materials.
- 1.2.4 Harsco's resource recovery solutions help minimize the environmental impact of production and derive economic value to the producer. Harsco process by-products and waste materials to recover valuable metal or mineral elements, and commercialize the Co-Products.
- 1.2.5 Harsco are not tied to any technology. Instead, Harsco approach the waste issue from the perspective of the material being treated and possible end applications for the Co-Products after processing. Taking into account local market conditions and environmental regulations, Harsco select a process to achieve the required performance using the best available technologies. These range across mechanical, hydro, thermal, or biological processes.

### Celsa Steel (UK) Ltd

- 1.2.6 Celsa Steel (UK) Ltd ('Celsa Steel') is the largest producer of reinforcement in the United Kingdom and one of the largest manufacturers of other steel long products. From the facilities at Rover Way, Cardiff, Celsa Steel produce and deliver around 1.2 million tonnes of finished product per annum, mainly to the UK and Irish markets.
- 1.2.7 Celsa Steel's facilities consist of a state-of-the-art smelt shop built in 2006, and two production facilities: one for reinforcing products and wire rod, the other for merchant bar and light sections.
- 1.2.8 Celsa Steel employs over 500 staff and several hundred sub-contractors in South Wales.

## 1.3.0 The Planning Application and Environmental Statement

1.3.1 In accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 ('the Regulations'), this ES accompanies the formal planning application submission. As a whole, the planning application submission consists of the following:

- Application forms, including associated certificates Carter Jonas
- Planning, Design and Access Statement Carter Jonas
- Statement of Community Consultation Carter Jonas
- Planning Application Drawings Harsco Metals Group Ltd
- Geotechnical and Geo-Environmental Report\* Terra Firma (Wales) Limited
- Noise Impact Assessment TNEI
- Flood Consequences Assessment (including SW Drainage)\* SLR Consulting Limited
- Transport Assessment SLR Consulting Limited
- Heritage Appraisal SLR Consulting Limited
- Landscape and Visual Appraisal SLR Consulting Limited
- The Environmental Statement & Non-Technical Summary (see below)

1.3.2 Please note that the elements of the planning application submission denoted with an asterisk ('\*') are to be provided as technical appendices to various Environmental Statement Chapters.

### The Environmental Statement

1.3.3 With regard to the Environmental Statement (ES), this document reports the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and comprises of three volumes as follows:

- **Volume 1** – Main Report;
- **Volume 2** – Technical Appendices and Drawings; and
- **Volume 3** – Non-Technical Summary

1.3.4 Within Volume 1, the main report is presented as follows:

- Chapters 1 to 7 are predominantly descriptive in nature, setting out the background to the site, the development proposals, the surrounding area, consultation undertaken and applicable planning policy:
  - **Chapter 1** – Introduction SLR Consulting Limited
  - **Chapter 2** – Description of the Site and Surroundings SLR Consulting Limited

- **Chapter 3** – Description of the Proposed Development SLR Consulting Limited
- **Chapter 4** – Consideration of Alternatives SLR Consulting Limited
- **Chapter 5** – Scoping and Consultation SLR Consulting Limited
- **Chapter 6** – Planning Policy Context SLR Consulting Limited
- **Chapter 7** – Description of Committed Developments SLR Consulting Limited
- Chapters 8 to 22 form the findings of the EIA, with each technical discipline detailing the applicable background information (legislation, policy, guidance etc.), the applicable scope of work, assessing the potential impacts and effects of the development proposals, considering cumulative impacts and effects, recommending mitigation where appropriate and detailing any residual effects. Figures and Tables are included within the body of the Chapters where appropriate.
  - **Chapter 8** – Ground Conditions and Contamination SLR Consulting Limited
  - **Chapter 9** – Air Quality SLR Consulting Limited
  - **Chapter 10** – Water Environment SLR Consulting Limited
  - **Chapter 11** – Ecology SLR Consulting Limited
  - **Chapter 12** – Assessment of Cumulative Effects SLR Consulting Limited
  - **Chapter 13** – Summary of Mitigation and Monitoring SLR Consulting Limited
  - **Chapter 14** – Conclusion SLR Consulting Limited

1.3.5 In accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 ('the Regulations'), and where appropriate, each Chapter has also duly considered a number of new topics which have been introduced (infrastructure, waste, population and human health, climate and carbon balance, and risks of major accidents and/or disasters).

1.3.6 The Technical Appendices to the above chapters will be provided within Volume 2 of the ES and will include a range of selected technical reports, supplementary information and supporting drawings where appropriate. These technical appendices should be read in conjunction with the ES main report provided within Volume 1.

1.3.7 The Non-Technical Summary (NTS) will be provided within Volume 3 of the ES. The NTS provides a brief summary of the proposed development, the technical assessments and the likely effects on the environment in non-technical language.

## Compliance with 2017 EIA Regulations (Wales)

1.3.8 Part 5, Regulation 17 (4) of the 2017 EIA Regulations (Wales) requires that "An environmental statement must –

- (a) be prepared by persons who in the opinion of the relevant planning authority or the Welsh Ministers, as appropriate, have sufficient expertise to ensure the completeness and quality of



*the statement;*

*(b) contain a statement by or on behalf of the applicant or appellant describing the expertise of the person who prepared the environmental statement...”*

- 1.3.9 It is duly confirmed that the technical team identified above (Section 1.3.4) are all accredited professionals within their fields of expertise, with the relevant experience and competency to carry out the Technical Assessment work and preparation of the associated Chapters of the Environmental Statement in support of an EIA.
- 1.3.10 The Technical Assessments contained herein have been prepared in accordance with best practice guidance and following extensive consultation regarding the scope of each assessment. Further information regarding the methodology and appropriate technical guidance is contained within each individual ES Chapter.
- 1.3.11 Finally, in terms of EIA collation and co-ordination, SLR Consulting Limited is an IEMA accredited organisation and is a member of the EIA Quality Mark. A copy of SLR’s EIA Quality Mark Certificate is provided within Appendix 1-1.

## 1.4.0 The Requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment

- 1.4.1 Applications for development that fall to be considered under The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 are required to be supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment. The criteria for considering whether the proposals constitute an 'EIA Development' are defined as either 'Schedule 1' or 'Schedule 2' developments within the Regulations.
- 1.4.2 Schedule 1 developments consist of those which are likely to have significant environmental effects, including significant infrastructure, waste, transport, power and other chemical or petrochemical projects. For all other projects which fall to be considered under Schedule 2, the requirement for an EIA is determined on the basis of the following criteria:
- The development is within a class contained within Column 1 of Schedule 2 (i.e. Class 5: *'Mineral Industry'*);
  - The development either meets or exceeds the thresholds contained within Column 2 of Schedule 2 (i.e. Class 5 (e) *'Installations for smelting mineral substances including the production of mineral fibres' – 'The area of new floorspace exceeds 1,000 square metres'*); and
  - The development proposals are likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as the characteristics of the development, the location of the development and the types and characteristics of the potential impact (as defined by Schedule 3).
- 1.4.3 It should be noted that the Screening Opinion issued by Cardiff Council (as detailed within Section 1.5.0 below) confirms that the development proposals would fall to be considered under Schedule 2 Class 5 (e) – *'Installations for smelting mineral substances including the production of mineral fibres'*. As detailed above, the applicable threshold for Class 5 (e) under the 2017 EIA Regulations (Wales) are that *'The area of new floorspace exceeds 1,000 square metres'*.
- 1.4.4 Further information regarding the Screening and Scoping exercises undertaken are contained within Section 1.5.0 below.

## 1.5.0 EIA Screening & Scoping

### Screening Opinion

- 1.5.1 In accordance with Regulation 6 of the of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017, a person who is minded to carry out development may request the relevant planning authority to adopt a screening opinion which confirms whether the proposals are an 'EIA Development' and must, therefore, be assessed by way of an EIA.
- 1.5.2 A Screening Request, prepared by Harsco Metals Group Ltd, was submitted to Cardiff Council on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019. A copy of the Screening Request is provided within Appendix 5-1.
- 1.5.3 The subsequent Screening Opinion (reference SC/19/00001/MJR), which was adopted on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019, confirmed that the development falls to be considered under Schedule 2 Class 5 (e) – *'Installations for smelting mineral substances including the production of mineral fibres'*. A copy of the Screening Opinion is provided for reference within Appendix 5-2.
- 1.5.4 The Screening Opinion confirms that:
- "... it is concluded that the applicable thresholds for requiring an Environmental Assessment would be met or exceeded and that the Environmental Impacts of the development as described are potentially to realise such environmental effects as to warrant the submission of an Environmental Statement."*
- 1.5.5 When considered against the criteria contained within Schedule 3 of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017, the Screening Opinion identifies that there is potential for significant effects to arise with regard to:
- Ecology and proximity to the Severn Estuary, which is designated as SAC, SPA, Ramsar and SSSI;
  - Air Quality and potential for cumulative impacts upon the Severn Estuary;
  - Ground Conditions and Contamination associated with historic landfill activities on and adjoining the site; and
  - Considerations associated with Flood Risk and Drainage.
- 1.5.6 Given the content of the Screening Opinion adopted by Cardiff Council, a Scoping Request was subsequently prepared and submitted to Cardiff Council. This is detailed further within the section below.

### Scoping Opinion

- 1.5.7 In accordance with Regulation 14 of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017, a Scoping Request Report was prepared by SLR Consulting Limited and submitted to Cardiff Council on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019. A copy of the Scoping Request Report is provided within Appendix 5-3.
- 1.5.8 The Scoping Request Report related to a proposal for an *"...an Asphalt Batching Plant and associated*

*infrastructure at the Celsa Steelworks site on Land South of Rover Way, Cardiff CF24 5PH.*” The Scoping Request Report focused on the following areas, which were proposed to be assessed as part of an EIA:

- Approach to Environmental Statement (including EIA Methodology, Consideration of Alternatives and Cumulative Effects);
- Ground Conditions and Contamination (Land Quality);
- Air Quality;
- Noise and Vibration;
- Flood Risk and Drainage;
- Ecology; and
- Transport.

1.5.9 The Scoping Report also identified that the following areas were considered to be non-significant environmental issues associated with the development proposals and, as such, separate technical chapters within the ES were not considered necessary:

- Landscape and Visual;
- Heritage and Archaeology; and
- Other Environmental Issues.

1.5.10 A Scoping Opinion was subsequently adopted by Cardiff Council on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (reference SC/19/00005/MJR). Notwithstanding the suggested ‘scope’ detailed within the Scoping Request Report, the Scoping Opinion duly identified that matters pertaining to noise and transport were not considered likely to result in significant effects and would therefore sit outside of the EIA. A copy of the Scoping Opinion is provided for reference within Appendix 5-4.

1.5.11 Further information relating to the formal Screening and Scoping exercises, the content of the Cardiff Council Screening and Scoping Opinions, along with other consultation undertaken in support of the development, is contained within Chapter 5: Scoping Opinion and Consultation.

## 1.6.0 EIA Scope and Methodology

### Applicable Regulations

- 1.6.1 The proposed development is subject to the formal EIA process in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended) and The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017.

### Scope of the EIA

- 1.6.2 The ES for the proposed development has been prepared in line with Part 1 of the 2017 EIA Regulations which, in accordance with Regulation 17 (3), states that *“An environmental statement is a statement which includes at least –*
- (a) a description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development;*
  - (b) a description of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment;*
  - (c) a description of any features of the proposed development, or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;*
  - (d) a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the applicant or appellant, which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the development on the environment;*
  - (e) a non-technical summary of the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d); and*
  - (f) any additional information specified in Schedule 4 relevant to the specific characteristics of the particular development or type of development and to the environmental features likely to be significantly affected.”*
- 1.6.3 Regulation 18 (4) continues by stating that *“An environmental statement must –*
- (a) be prepared by persons who in the opinion of the relevant planning authority or the Welsh Ministers, as appropriate, have sufficient expertise to ensure the completeness and quality of the statement;*
  - (b) contain a statement by or on behalf of the applicant or appellant describing the expertise of the person who prepared the environmental statement;*
  - (c) where a scoping opinion or direction has been issued in accordance with regulation 14 or 15, be based on the most recent scoping opinion or direction issued (so far as the proposed development remains materially the same as the proposed development which was subject of that opinion or direction);*
  - (d) include the information reasonably required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the development on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment; and*
  - (e) take into account other relevant environmental assessments required under Union legislation or any other provision of domestic legislation, with a view to avoiding duplication of assessment.*
  - (f) the results of any relevant UK environmental assessment, which are reasonably available to the person preparing the environmental statement, with a view to avoiding duplication of assessment.”*

## EIA Methodology

- 1.6.4 The EIA has been prepared in accordance with the statutory guidance and requirements, and the contents of the ES have been prepared in line with The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017. The technical chapters of the ES address the potentially significant environmental impacts and effects, including cumulative effects with other nearby developments as detailed within Chapter 7: Description of Committed Developments.
- 1.6.5 The EIA has addressed the potential environmental impact and effects of the proposed development and, where appropriate, the following categories of effects have been analysed:
- Residual and Cumulative;
  - Temporary, Intermittent and Permanent (short, occasional and long term); and
  - Beneficial, Neutral/Negligible and Adverse.
- 1.6.6 The ES provides a description of the baseline environment(s) against which the environmental impacts have been assessed and a description of the proposed development, whilst the detailed methodology utilised is outlined within each of the technical chapters contained herein.
- 1.6.7 The significance criteria used in undertaking the EIA have been described within each technical chapter and are based on relevant standards, criteria, guidance and statutory requirements, where applicable. Where possible, quantitative analysis has been utilised, with qualitative analysis undertaken where this is not possible, in line with professional opinion and judgement. For consistency and where possible within the technical chapters of the ES, the significance level of quantitative and qualitative impacts will reference impact criteria as follows:
- Substantial / Major;
  - Moderate;
  - Minor; and
  - Neutral / Negligible.
- 1.6.8 An example significance matrix is provided in Table 1-1 below. However, as outlined above, each technical chapter will define the applicable significance matrix within their methodology in accordance with the applicable relevant standards, criteria, guidance and statutory requirements.
- 1.6.9 Each of the technical chapters contained within the ES has outlined the appropriate mitigation measures which are recommended or required to address, reduce or avoid significant adverse impacts on the environment. These mitigation measures are also summarised within Chapter 21: Summary of Mitigation and Monitoring.

**Table 1-1: Example Significance Matrix**

Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor				
		High	Medium	Low	Negligible
	High	Substantial / Major	Substantial / Major	Moderate	Neutral / Negligible
	Medium	Substantial / Major	Moderate	Minor	Neutral / Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Neutral / Negligible
	Negligible	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible

## Cumulative Effects

1.6.10 The EIA has considered the cumulative effects associated with the proposed development. As detailed within EIA guidance, cumulative effects can be considered as:

- The combined effect of individual effects arising as a result of the Proposed Development: i.e. a single receptor experiencing multiple effects as a result of noise, air quality, transport and daylight and sunlight; and
- The combined effects of the proposed development in combination with other development schemes in the locality: i.e. effects which on an individual basis are insignificant but in combination with other development scheme would lead to a significant effect.

1.6.11 The ‘other development schemes’ to be considered for the assessment of cumulative effects are detailed within Chapter 7: Description of Committed Developments, whilst the consideration of cumulative and in-combination effects is contained within Chapter 20: Assessment of Cumulative Effects.

## Other Environmental Issues

1.6.12 As outlined within Section 1.6.2 above, the ES should provide ‘any additional information specified in Schedule 4’ of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017.

1.6.13 With regard to ‘Other Environmental Issues’ Schedule 4(4) states that a description should be provided of the factors specified in Regulation 4(2) likely to be significantly affected by the development with regard to: *“population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape”*.

1.6.14 Following the formal scoping exercise, it has been agreed that where appropriate each technical chapter will consider whether there have been significant effects on infrastructure, waste, population and human health, climate and carbon balance, and risks of major accidents and/or

disasters. As such, no separate chapter either considering or summarising impacts or effects on 'Other Environmental Issues' will be prepared as part of this ES.

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

- 1.6.15 For ease of reference and to assist the reader, a comprehensive list of acronyms and abbreviations used throughout the ES has been provided within Appendix 1-2. Notwithstanding, first use of any terminology used within the ES has been written in long form prior to subsequent use of any acronyms or abbreviations.

## Qualifications

- 1.6.16 In accordance with Regulation 18 (4), a schedule of staff undertaking the various technical assessments and ES Chapters has been provided within Appendix 1-3. This table confirms that the ES has been prepared by suitably qualified staff with sufficient expertise and experience to ensure the completeness and quality of the statement.



## 1.7.0 Viewing the ES and Representations

### Requesting Copies of ES Documents

- 1.7.1 The ES and associated NTS will be available to view (free of charge) either via the planning applications page of the Cardiff Council website (<https://planningonline.cardiff.gov.uk/online-applications/>) or at the Cardiff Council offices located at County Hall, Cardiff CF10 4UW.
- 1.7.2 Alternatively, a copy of the ES can be requested from SLR Consulting Limited in either electronic (CD) or hard copy. The cost of duplicating the ES will be charged at cost (i.e. no additional uplift) dependent on the format that the copy is requested. These costs are detailed below:
- Electronic copy via CD - £10; or
  - Hard copy via post - £350 + postage.
- 1.7.3 Unfortunately, given the size of the ES, it is not possible to disseminate copies of this document via email.
- 1.7.4 A copy of the NTS can also be requested from SLR Consulting Limited in either electronic (email or CD) or hard copy and is available free of charge. If a hard copy is requested, please send an A4 size stamp addressed envelope to the following address: **SLR Consulting Limited, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Brew House, Jacob Street, Bristol BS2 0EQ.**
- 1.7.5 All other requests for copies of the ES documents can be made via email at [ebright@slrconsulting.com](mailto:ebright@slrconsulting.com).

### Representations

- 1.7.6 Should you wish to make representations to the application or in direct reference to the ES, these must be made within 30 days of the date that the application has been registered by the local planning authority.
- 1.7.7 Any such representations can be submitted to the planning department of Cardiff Council via email ([developmentcontrol@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:developmentcontrol@cardiff.gov.uk)), the planning applications page of the Cardiff Council website (<https://planningonline.cardiff.gov.uk/online-applications/>) or by writing to the Cardiff Council Development Management team located at County Hall, Cardiff CF10 4UW.

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