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ECOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENT STATEMENT

Environmental and sustainability solutions provided to
BRYN RECYCLING LTD

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Document Title	Ecological Improvement Statement
Client	Bryn Recycling Ltd
Revision	v1.0
Date	30/11/2023
Document Reference	EIS 01
Project Reference	1213/J05

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REVISION LOG

Revision	Details	Date
0.1	Initial Draft	03/07/2023
1.0	First Issue following client review	30/11/2023

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1.0 OPERATIONAL DETAILS

1.1 Background

Bryn Recycling propose to recover inert waste material for the extension of the existing material processing and storage yard at the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) and creation of a screening bund to the west and southwest at Gelliargwellt Farm. PAS 100 accredited compost will be used as a top layer on the screening bund to provide a growing medium for plantings.

The extension site is essentially a large field of improved grassland with spoil mounds of inert materials, small patches of tall ruderal vegetation, bare spoil and spoil with colonising weedy growth and a small stretch of running water this will be replaced by native woodland on the landscape bund and the streamside strip of native woodland.

The proposed screening bund will form an important visual and biodiversity link, between the established woodland strip on the mitigation banks around the existing MRF building to the south of the Site, and the woodland on and beyond the western Site boundary.

The site is bound to the south by agricultural land and Parc Penallta Country Park, which comprises an area of public open space and woodland is located approximately 850m to the southeast. Nelson Bog Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located 550m to the southeast of the site. Waun Rydd Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) is located to the east of the site and Coed Gelliau'r – Gwellt SINC is located immediately adjacent (west) to the site and comprises an ancient woodland.

1.2 Person with appropriate technical expertise

Prepared by Mr Peter Upham HND FACTS (FE4761) (WRM Ltd).

1.3 Where is the waste to be recovered

Site Address: Bryn Recycling Ltd, Gelliargwellt Farm, Gelligaer, Hengoed, CF82 8FY

- Stockpile grid references: N/A – Material shall be brought to site on an 'as required' basis.
- Area of the receiving land: 3.7 ha
- Quantity to be stored at any one time: 0
- Quantity to be recovered: Approximately 672,000 tonnes inert waste and 3000t PAS 100 Compost non waste
- Location map showing the spreading area**:** ANNEX A

1.4 What is the material to be used

The material to be used would be PAS 100 Compost product status and waste recovered for use on the site would be limited to inert waste materials. The proposals would only use the waste streams specified in NRW guidance; these primary waste types are presented in Table 1 below. The European Waste Catalogue code is provided along with the description of the waste type and qualifying standard for inclusion.

Table 1. EWC Codes, description and source of wastes

01 Waste resulting from exploration, mining, quarrying and physical and chemical treatment of minerals	
01 01	wastes from mineral excavation
01 01 02	Wastes from mineral non-metalliferous excavation
01 04	wastes from physical and chemical processing of non-metalliferous minerals
01 04 08	Waste gravel and crushed rocks other than those mentioned in 01 04 06
01 04 09	Waste sand and clays
02 Waste from agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, forestry, hunting and fishing, food preparation and processing	
02 04	wastes from sugar processing
02 04 01	Soil from cleaning and washing beet
17 Construction and demolition wastes	
17 01	concrete, bricks, tiles and ceramics
17 01 01	Concrete
17 01 02	Bricks
17 01 03	Tiles and ceramics
17 01 07	Mixtures of concrete, bricks, tiles and ceramics other than those mentioned in 17 01 06
17 03	bituminous mixtures
17 03 02	Bituminous mixtures other than those mentioned in 17 03 01[1]
17 05	soil stones and dredging spoil
17 05 04	Soil and stones other than those mentioned in 17 05 03[2]
19 Wastes from waste management facilities	
19 12	wastes from the mechanical treatment of waste (for example sorting, crushing, compacting, pelletising) not otherwise specified
19 12 05	Glass

19 12 09	Minerals (for example sand, stones) only
19 12 12	Other wastes (including mixtures of materials) from mechanical treatment of wastes other than those mentioned in 19 12 11
20 MUNICIPAL WASTES (HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND SIMILAR COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL WASTES) INCLUDING SEPARATELY COLLECTED FRACTIONS	
20 02	separately collected fractions (except 15 01)
20 02 02	Soil and stones

1.5 Operational Details

The waste will be recovered in line with the requirements set out in the Waste for Recovery Permit. Waste accepted onto site, will follow the strict protocols in the Waste Acceptance procedure which makes up part of the environmental management system. The waste acceptance procedures will include robust waste characterisation and testing procedures. No wastes will be accepted from contaminated sites. Only waste that is suitable for the intended purpose will be imported as to do otherwise would undermine the potential to develop the site as in accordance with the obligations of the planning permission.

Materials to be used within the development at the MRF at Gelliargwellt Farm are wastes that will be brought to site directly by small local landscaping contractors or utility companies via the MRF to site either directly from local development sites or via a waste transfer station. 672,000 tonnes of inert waste and 3,000 tonnes of non-waste PAS100 compost are required to complete the proposed development. The PAS 100 compost is produced on site.

Waste materials shall be deposited at its final location using a shovel loader and other agricultural and construction vehicles generally in a series of discrete (loose) horizontal layers. After placement, the material should be tracked-in using the available construction plant until there is no discernible compaction. Succeeding layers can then be placed and the tracking-in process repeated until works area at final level. PAS 100 compost up to a depth of 1m will be laid on top of the inert waste to act as the growing medium for the planted vegetation.

If material to be placed is in a condition (e.g. is too wet) such that it cannot be placed in compliance with the requirements, then one of the following courses of action shall be undertaken:

- The affected material shall be rejected from site, a Reject Waste Form will be completed and the incident will be recorded in the Site Diary;

- The material will be stored within the deposition area until it attains a suitable condition for final placement; or
- The material shall be treated by mixing with other dry material until it attains a suitable condition as appropriate.

1.6 Biodiversity Improvements to the Environment from this Application

The Development will deliver biodiversity enhancement: it will enhance local species and structural diversity, replacing a large, improved grassland field with a landscape bund. At the toe of the bund some improved grassland may remain but in the long term this is unlikely to be grazed by stock (it will be part of a larger woodland management unit) and is likely to increase in structural and species diversity, become more tussocky, and may revert to scrub and woodland in the long term.

The landscape bund will be planted with native woodland (using canopy species such as sessile oak *Quercus petraea*, downy birch *Betula pubescens* and field maple *Acer campestre*). The band of planting between the toe of the bund ditch and the watercourse on the edge of the SINC is likely to be planted with a wet woodland mix including species such as native alder *Alnus glutinosa* and grey willow *Salix cinerea*. The creation of woodland in this location, adjacent to the ancient / SINC woodland will create a much larger local woodland block that will improve local habitat diversity and structure ,along with native wet woodland on the lower part of the field. This will aid establishment of fauna such as invertebrates, birds and potentially small mammals and in particular will provide increased commuting, foraging and long-term roosting opportunities for bats.

Also included in the design is a surface water management system designed to attenuate water from the new bund slope before it enters the local watercourse system. Although this is a practical function it will also increase the amount of open water locally and has potential for further enhancement through the incorporation of native marginal planting to provide additional wetland habitat of value for a wide variety of species. The adjacent woodland will remain unaffected by the proposals.

In summary this enhancement will be a positive impact in the context of the local valley and catchment.

1.7 Potential Negative Impacts to Biodiversity from this Application

Once established, the wooded bund will be of higher biodiversity value than the habitats that it replaces. The grassland it replaces is of low inherent conservation interest, is very common

locally and throughout South Wales. It is readily re-creatable and has a low species and structural diversity. Very small patches of scrub and tall ruderal vegetation will be lost, these are very common habitats and because of their very limited extent they are assessed as being of negligible interest and their loss is not considered important.

Impacts on watercourses - The stretch of watercourse on the southern boundary of the Site is part of a local system of drains and streams that flow into Nelson Bog SSSI to the south. The short length of watercourse may be modified and incorporated into the finished site drainage it is anticipated no significant adverse impact the watercourses will arise.

1.8 Sensitive Human and Environmental Receptors

Sensitive human receptors:

- There are no residential properties within 50m of the extension site. The Parc Penallta Country Park, which comprises an area of public open space and woodland is located approximately 850m to the southeast.

Sensitive environmental receptors:

- The site is bound to the south by agricultural land
- There are no boreholes, wells springs or private water supplies within 250 metres of the site.
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - Nelsons Bog is located 550m to the southeast of the site.
- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) - Waun Rydd is located to the east of the site and Coed Gelliau'r .
- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) - Gwellt is located immediately adjacent (west) to the site and comprises an ancient woodland.

1.9 Practices to Reduce the Impacts of the operation on Identified Sensitive Receptors

During the construction works a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be followed and fugitive emissions from the site will be controlled by following the Fugitive Emissions Plan BRY – BO2.

2.0 CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Machinery Breakdown:

- Replacement field machinery is available;
- Machinery is fully serviced on a regular basis;
- Hire vehicles will be used in the event of transport vehicle breakdown.

Staffing:

- There are sufficiently trained staff to maintain general sickness cover.

Weather:

Operations will not be carried out in:

- Heavy rainfall;
- Strong winds;
- Frozen or snow covered ground as defined in the code of good agricultural practice;
- When weather conditions are assessed to be likely to interfere with the operations.

3.0 ANNEX A LOCATION PLAN