



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT

**Use of Existing Waste Wood Recycling Yard as a
Material Recovery & Recycling Facility (MRF), including the
Construction of Two Portal-Framed Operational Sheds
At Griffiths Waste Management Site,
Bryntywod,
Llangyfelach
Swansea SA5 7LE**

**On behalf of
Griffiths Waste Management Limited**

Our Ref: 1112.i
Date: September 2024
Prepared by: Richard Banks

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Evans Banks Planning has been instructed by Griffiths Waste Management Limited to prepare a proportionate Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS) to accompany an application seeking full planning permission for the “*Use of Existing Waste Wood Recycling Yard as a Materials Recovery & Recycling Facility (MRF), with the Construction of Two Portal Framed Operational Sheds*” at Land at Bryntywod, Llangyfelach, Swansea.
- 1.2 The GIS is intended to supplement proposals presented before the Local Planning Authority in an application for full planning permission which seeks to utilise an existing recycling yard without any incursion into adjoining rough pasture, nor any further encroachment to the southern perimeter with the wooded corridor of the River Llan at Llangyfelach.
- 1.3 This proportionate GIS has been prepared with full regard to the guidance as set out in Chapter 6 of *Planning Policy Wales* (Edition 12) (February 2024) and in particular the ‘**Stepwise Approach**’ detailed in Paragraph 6.4.21 and Figure 12, which is reproduced below.

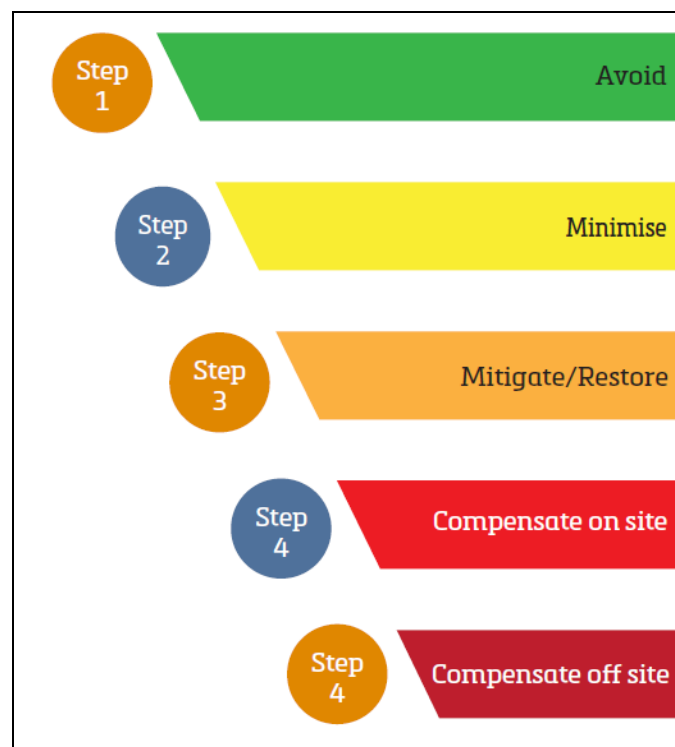


Figure 1 – PPW Stepwise Approach

- 1.4 This GIS has also, where relevant, given due consideration to the guidance and standards as set out in the document *Building with Nature - Standards Framework*, which are summarised as follows:

CORE Standards

- Standard 1 Optimises Multifunctionality and Connectivity
- Standard 2 Positively Responds to the Climate Emergency
- Standard 3 Maximises Environmental Net Gains
- Standard 4 Champions a Context Driven Approach
- Standard 5 Creates Distinctive Places
- Standard 6 Secures Effective Place-keeping

WELLBEING Standards

- Standard 7 Brings Nature Closer to People
- Standard 8 Supports Equitable and Inclusive Places

WATER Standards

- Standard 9 Delivers Climate Resilient Water Management
- Standard 10 Brings Water Closer to People

WILDLIFE Standards

- Standard 11 Delivers Wildlife Enhancement
- Standard 12 Underpins Nature's Recovery

2.0 EXISTING SITE

2.1 THE SITE

- 2.1.1 The site comprises part of a level former steelworks complex set off the western flank of Bryntywod, being the C Class road extending north off the A48 Penllergaer to Llangyfelach road, and under-passing the M4 motorway, west of Junction 46. The site extends to several acres already devoted to waste recycling and management activities, off a linear private access roadway branching off Bryntywod for a distance of some 100 metres to extensive yards containing modern, portal framed sheds used for recycling purposes.
- 2.1.2 The western part of the Waste Management enterprise is given over to a large, open yard used to segregate and stockpile waste wood products ready for export from the site to recycling clients throughout the UK and Europe. An existing Multi-Recycling Facility is centred upon two interconnecting sheds set within the eastern part of the former steelworks, which gained planning permission in 2016. It benefits from front and rear surfaced yard space, the rear of which lies south of the units, and to the wooded copse which runs parallel with the River Llan. In fact, the River Llan gently meanders along the entire southern perimeter of the site, having culverted under the Bryntywod carriageway some 200 metres to the east.
- 2.1.3 The existing waste management facility's northern yard bounds to a further portal framed shed accommodating a heavy vehicle workshop, shed to maintain the Applicant's HGV fleet. Off the northern flank of that shed, lies the private access roadway to the western wood recycling yard. That accessway lies parallel to another copse of deciduous woodland, which parallel with a main railway line. That line runs of a linear east to west alignment set in its own cutting, being heavily tree-lined off both flanks. Bryntywod bridges the railway at this point, before being stopped up to prevent general vehicular access to the Parc Felindre Business Park to the north.
- 2.1.4 The Applicants' office headquarters lie off the eastern flank of Bryntywod at this point, known as Beechwood House, and equipped with adjoining surfaced yard. The "Tin Masters" metal printing factory complex lies to the south of the site entrance, set equi-distant to where the Bryntywod carriageway underpasses the motorway. Open, rough pasture lies directly opposite off the western flank of the road.
- 2.1.5 The residential enclave of Bryntywod lies off the southern side of the motorway, set close to the junction with the A48. It comprises some 25 residential properties together with a building roofing depot.

- 2.1.6 Figure 1 below provides an extract from the Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the application site identified by a red arrow. Figure 3 is an extract from a more detailed OS plan, with the site edged in red for ease of identification. Figure 2 provides a Google Earth image from July 2024, which is typical of the current employment setting of the site and immediate surroundings.

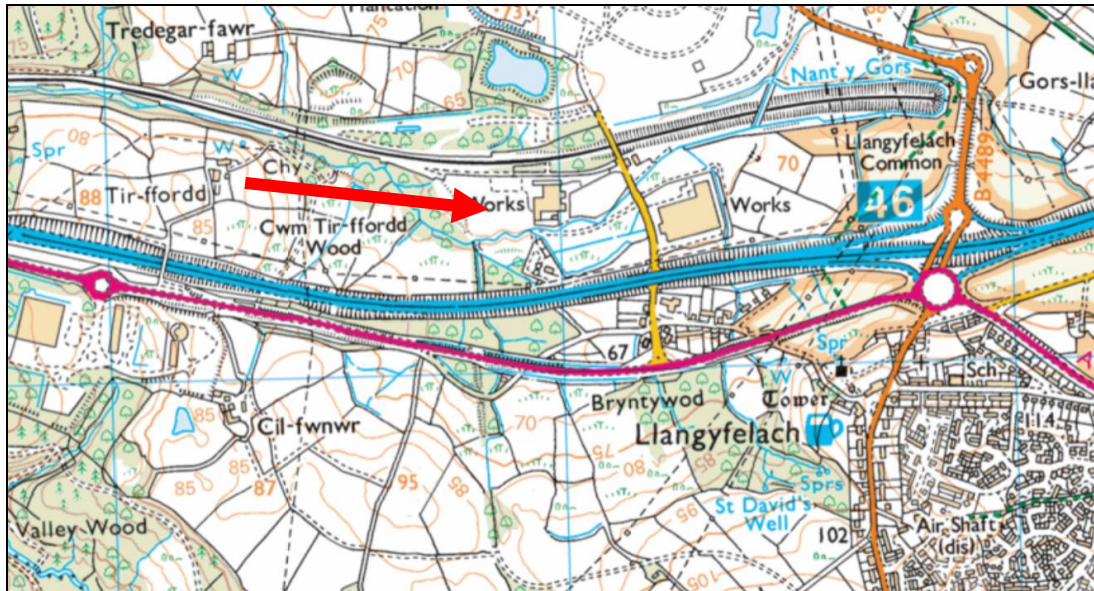


Figure 1 – location of site near Llangyfelach and M4 Motorway



Figure 2 – Google Earth image of the application site locality – July 2024

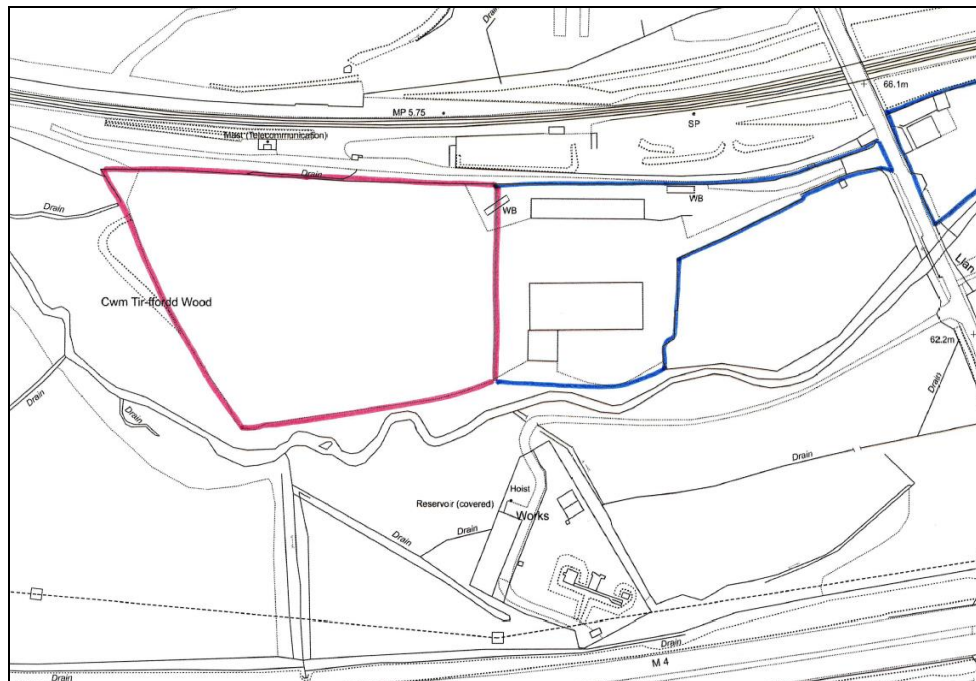


Figure 3 – Location plan of western part of Waste Recycling and Management uses at Bryntywod, with open stockpiles of waste wood

2.2 EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

- 2.2.1 The application site has been the venue and active operation base for a waste wood recycling yard for the last 17 years. The site is set with a linear, southern perimeter to the River Llan and copse of mature, deciduous trees which line its banks to both sides. The northern flank is marked by the railway cutting which itself is enveloped in mature woodland as shown in the following aerial photography taken in summer 2024.
- 2.2.2 At ground level, the nature of the yard without stockpiles of waste wood is evident at Photos 4 and 5 below. The ground is bare of any vegetation, and free of any flora or fauna.



Photo 1 – aerial view over waste wood yard and adjoining MRF sheds and yard



Photo 2 – aerial photo over River Llan illustrating a narrow channel set between trees and high grassed embankment bund to southern flank of recycling yard, and extending across entire western perimeter



Photo 3 – aerial photo over Bryntywod looking over enveloped railway cutting to site



Photo 4 – bare ground at recycling site with reduced wood stockpiling



Photo 5 – close-up view of waste wood stockpiling

- 2.2.3 The above photographs identify that the site is bordered with an almost and uniform perimeter of broad leaf scattered trees to the northern, western and southern perimeters, with existing Materials Recovery buildings and associated yard bordering to the east. Existing green assets are very limited at the site.

3.0 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

3.1 THE PROPOSAL

- 3.1.1 The proposal is to construct two adjoining portal framed sheds over the existing waste wood recycling yard to form additional waste materials recovery and recycling facility. The proposed sheds will be sited centrally within the eastern yard, which will accordingly require significant quantities of waste wood stockpiles to be completely removed from the site.
- 3.1.2 Both new sheds will be of a portal frame design to match the existing buildings upon the eastern half the recycling operations at Bryntywod. They will complement the existing sheds in scale, form and external appearance. The proposed shed would extend to lengths of 54 and 55 metres respectively, and be staggered in conjunction with depths of 25 metres and 36 metres respectively. The layout of both sheds in the context of the existing materials sheds is shown in Figure 5 below, being set with one projecting north. The new floorspace would add a further 3380 square metres of

floorspace to enable increased mechanisation and a higher import of waste streams into the whole Recycling Facility.

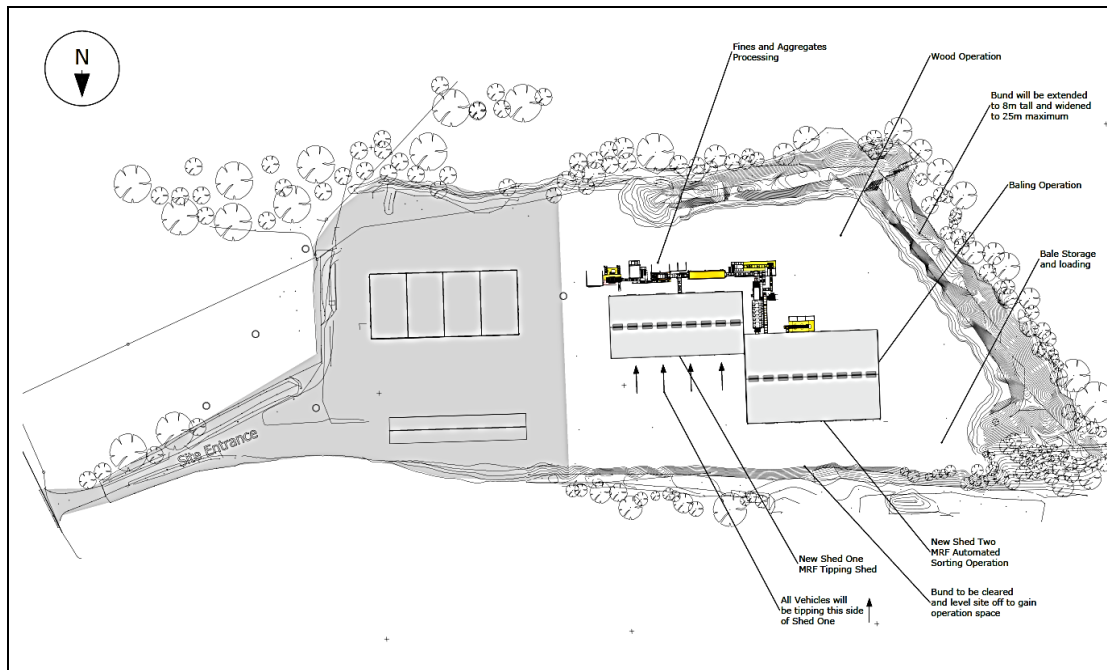


Figure 5 – proposed site layout plan

3.1.3 The proposed sheds facility will appear no different to that of an industrial complex on an active working yard. Figure 6 below illustrates that the shed will rise to a roof eaves height of 12.0 metres, with modest, pitched roof covering, extending the ridge height to 15.0 metres to match the existing sheds. The sheds will be constructed of concrete sleepers as a lower wall surround to 5.0 metres height, with grey coloured profiled cladding to the upper walls and roof covering

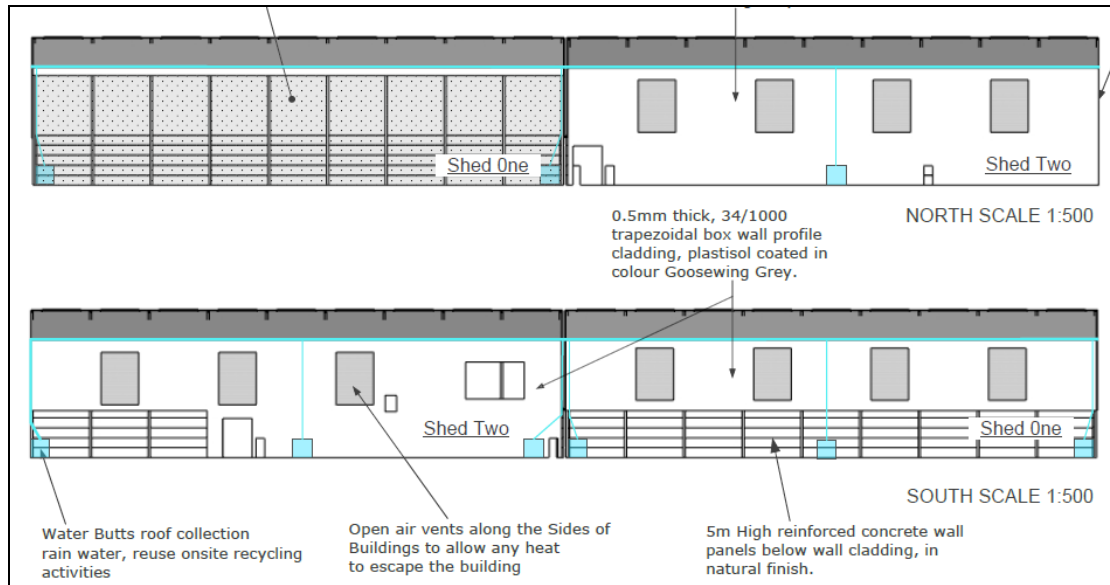


Figure 6 – proposed new buildings design and appearance

3.2 PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

- 3.2.1 The proposed development will see the retention of the existing mature trees about the northern, western and southern perimeters. Furthermore, the existing grassed embankment bund which surrounds the recycling yard will also be retained to continue to form a physical buffer about that operational area.
- 3.2.2 The scheme will provide extensive ecological enhancement, being part of promoting biodiversity as part of retaining the perimeter vegetation, which in turn will ensure that **ecological connectivity around the site is retained**.

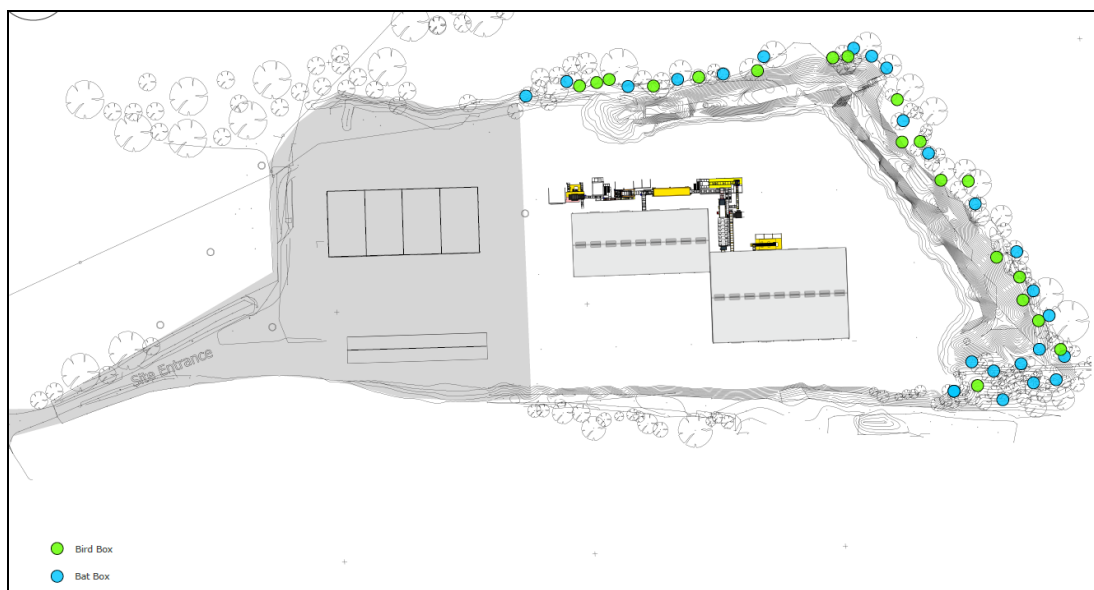


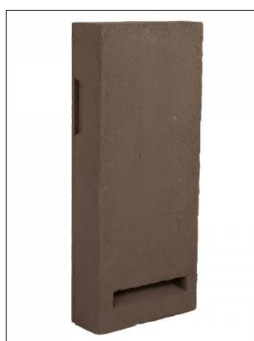
Figure 7 – proposed ecological enhancements layout of new bird and bat boxes within site boundaries

3.2.3 The scheme will also seek to introduce the following permanent physical structures as ecological enhancements throughout the proposed scheme.

Bat roosting boxes and **bird nesting** boxes can be installed upon existing tree specimens at a height of not less than 2.0 metres above existing ground levels.

Artificial Bat Roots

Integral



Vivara Pro Build-in Bat Tube

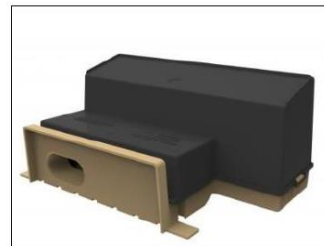
See <https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/bat-boxes> for further information.

Bird Nesting Boxes

Below Left: Example of an open-fronted nest box. Below Right small-holed nest box.



Below: Examples of Swift bricks.



4.0 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 This Green Infrastructure Statement provides an illustration of the lack of current green infrastructure present on the application site. However, perimeter features are to be retained as part of the proposed development, as well as the extensive proposed habitat boxes to be affixed to western and southern trees.
- 4.2 As detailed herein, the current green infrastructure assets of the site are highlighted and largely to be retained about all perimeters. The site is presently in operation as industrial development, but nevertheless is therefore recognised to “**avoid**” encroachment onto the perimeter vegetation those green infrastructure assets that are present.
- 4.3 In response to the above required balance, the loss of any existing green infrastructure has been **minimised** wherever possible, with such losses being **mitigated** and **compensated** through the provision of on-site additional green infrastructure assets.