

ATLANTIC RECYCLING MRF, TY TO MAEN FARM, NEWTON RD, RUMNEY, CARDIFF CF3 2EJ.

Landscape and Visual Statement (LVS)

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Atlantic Recycling MRF
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LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL STATEMENT

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1 INTRODUCTION

General

- 1.1 RPS has been commissioned by Atlantic Recycling Ltd. to provide a Landscape and Visual Statement (LVS) in order to identify any potentially significant effects on landscape and visual receptors / resources as a result of a Proposed Development of a large scale MRF building on their existing recycling site on land at Ty to Maen Farm, Newton Rd, Rumney, Cardiff CF3 2EJ.

Baseline Methodology

- 1.2 For this LVS a desktop review of published information, such as landscape character assessments, OS data, online mapping data (such as Google Maps and Street View) and aerial photography was undertaken. A number of figures were produced, including Figure 1: Landscape Planning Designations and Figure 2: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). This identified potentially sensitive landscape and visual receptors / resources that would be potentially affected by the Proposed Development of the site.
- 1.3 With reference to Figure 2, and to further inform the LVS, 10No. Representative Viewpoints looking towards the site were selected. A site visit was carried out on 4th September 2024 (late summer) in order to record the identified Representative Viewpoints and gain a better understanding of the local landscape, its potential capacity to accommodate a development of the type proposed, potential sensitivities of the receiving landscape and possible visual receptors.
- 1.4 The relevant planning policies are outlined in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.6. The landscape baseline is outlined at paragraphs 2.7 to 2.24 and the visual baseline is outlined at paragraphs 2.25 to 2.28 of this report.

Assessment Methodology

- 1.5 The methodology used to undertake this LVS follows that set out in:
- Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013), Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition (GLVIA).
- 1.6 The LVS describes the existing or baseline conditions, and then assesses the potential effects of the Proposed Development upon the baseline conditions during its operational phase. This LVS provides an overview and summary of potentially significant landscape and visual effects at a high level, through consideration of the sensitivity or susceptibility of the resources/receptor to the Proposed Development. The LVS does not give an assessment of magnitude of change or likely significance of effects.
- 1.7 In accordance with GLVIA, the introduction of built form to a site without buildings is necessarily likely to result in landscape or visual change at a range of scales, notwithstanding the previous disturbance and existing / consented development on the and in proximity to the Application Site.

Study Area

- 1.8 For the purposes of this LVS, and with reference to the ZTV (Figure 2), sensitive landscape and / or visual receptors within 3 km of the Application Site have been included. It is anticipated that any potentially adverse landscape and / or visual effects, resulting from the Proposed Development (at operation) would not be experienced beyond this distance and therefore landscape and / or visual resources beyond 3 km have not been included.

Proposed Development

- 1.9 The Proposed Development (drawing reference Planning Site Plan (Drawing No. 17405-h Planning-b RevB V26) (Appendix A) will comprise a large MRF 'shed', which be an extension of and of a similar design to the existing building within the Application Site.
- 1.10 The maximum ridge height (i.e. worst case) of the Proposed Development, on which the ZTV (Figure 2) has been based, would be 20.8 m above existing ground level.
- 1.11 The Proposed Development would clad using a material of a suitable colour to its location, for example a dark green colour similar to that of the existing MRF building and others within the local landscape. The final cladding colour would be agreed through consultation with the local planning authority as part of planning conditions.

2 BASELINE ENVIRONMENT

Planning Baseline

Local Planning

- 2.1 Local planning policy is contained within the Cardiff Local Development Plan (LDP) 2006-2026 (Adopted January 2016).
- 2.2 It is noted that the currently adopted Cardiff LDP is subject to a review. As of March 2021 the Council agreed to start work on preparing a Replacement LDP for Cardiff. Until such time as this document has been updated, the currently adopted LDP remains the primary source of planning policy relevant to this LVS.
- 2.3 The planning policies contained within the Local Plan, which are of relevance to this LVS, for Cardiff are:

EN1: COUNTRYSIDE PROTECTION

“Development in the countryside, beyond the settlement boundaries identified on the Proposals Map, will only be permitted where the use is appropriate in the countryside, respects the landscape character and quality and biodiversity of the site and surrounding area and where it is appropriate in scale and design. A landscape assessment and landscaping scheme will be required for significant development proposals. Proposals for new housing, rural diversification and rural enterprise, will only be permitted where they comply with National Planning Policy.”.

EN2: CONVERSION, EXTENSION AND REPLACEMENT BUILDINGS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

“...c. The proposed replacement building is demonstrated to:

- i. Not result in any greater impact on the quality and character of the surrounding area in terms of its proposed scale and design, including any residential curtilage;*
- ii. Be on the footprint of the existing building unless relocation can be justified in terms of either being part of an existing group or improving the countryside or landscape setting; and*
- iii. Not replace any building of architectural, historic or visual merit.*

All proposals should be of an appropriate scale and design and be at least as sympathetic in its setting as the existing building.”.

EN3: LANDSCAPE PROTECTION

“Development will not be permitted that would cause unacceptable harm to the character and quality of the landscape and setting of the city. Particular priority will be given to protecting, managing and enhancing the character and quality of the following Special Landscape Areas:

- i. St Fagans Lowlands and the Ely Valley;*
- ii. Garth Hill and Pentyrch Ridges;*
- iii. Fforest Fawr and Caerphilly Ridge;*
- iv. Wentloog Levels; and*
- v. Flat Holm.*

A landscape assessment and landscaping scheme will be required for significant development proposals.”.

EN5: DESIGNATED SITES

“Development will not be permitted that would cause unacceptable harm to sites of international or national nature conservation importance.

Development proposals that would affect locally designated sites of nature conservation and geological importance should maintain or enhance the nature conservation and/or geological importance of the designation. Where this is not the case and the need for the development outweighs the conservation importance of the site, it should be demonstrated that there is no satisfactory alternative location for the development which avoids nature conservation impacts, and compensation measures designed to ensure that there is no reduction in the overall nature conservation value of the area or feature.”

EN8: TREES, WOODLANDS AND HEDGEROWS

“Development will not be permitted that would cause unacceptable harm to trees, woodlands and hedgerows of significant public amenity, natural or cultural heritage value, or that contribute significantly to mitigating the effects of climate change.”

Other Material Considerations

National Policy

Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12, February 2024)

- 2.4 Edition 11 of the Planning Policy Wales (PPW) was published in February 2024 sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. The conservation and improvement of the natural heritage of Wales is one of its objectives noting the following (paragraph 6.02 and 6.03):

“The special and unique characteristics and intrinsic qualities of the natural and built environment must be protected in their own right, for historic, scenic, aesthetic and nature conservation reasons. These features give places their unique identity and distinctiveness and provide for cultural experiences and healthy lifestyles.

“As well as those characteristics regarded as special or unique there are other, environmental qualities of places which are ubiquitous. Environmental components of places, such as clean air, access to open spaces and water quality, are linked to the quality of the built and natural environment. The environmental components of places influence and shape health and wellbeing as well as playing a role in sustaining and creating places which are adaptable and resilient to change. Distinctive and Natural places must maintain or incorporate green infrastructure, recognising the wide-ranging role it can play, as key components of their natural and built fabric. Doing so will maximise health and well-being of communities and the environment.”

- 2.5 PPW also attaches considerable importance to the benefits of good design stating (paragraph 3.10) that:

“In areas recognised for their particular landscape, townscape, cultural or historic character and value it can be appropriate to seek to promote or reinforce local distinctiveness. In those areas, the impact of development on the existing character, the scale and siting of new development, and the use of appropriate building materials (including where possible sustainably produced materials from local sources), will be particularly important.”

Technical Advice Note (TAN) 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (2009)

- 2.6 TAN 5 provides advice about how the land use planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation. This guidance note should be read in conjunction with Planning Policy Wales Edition 11, in particular with Chapter 6: Distinctive and Natural Places, which considers matters including landscaping (Page 133).

Landscape Baseline

Application Site / Proposed Development Description

- 2.7 The site (hereinafter referred to as the Application Site) is located on land to the southeast of Rumney, near Cardiff, South Wales. It is currently developed, including an existing Material Recovery Facility (MRF), and actively used as part of the Atlantic Recycling site. The Application Site is generally flat at an elevation of approximately 6 to 7 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), with some local variation in topography. The landscape in the wider study area is that of generally flat landscape, being part of the Wentlooge Levels, with areas of higher ground to the northwest, inland of the Bristol Channel.
- 2.8 The landscape immediately surrounding the Application Site is formed of irregular-shaped, small-sized fields primarily laid to pasture with other areas of disturbed / developed land including areas associated with the Atlantic Recycling operations. The fields are divided primarily by lengths of hedgerows, linear tree belts and ditches. There are a number of development within the immediate landscape, including the Atlantic Recycling operational site(s), residential properties and other light industrial developments with associated storage areas. This has given the immediate landscape a developed feel to it, though located beyond the settlement boundary as derived from the Cardiff LDP planning policy map. Further to the southeast and east of the Application Site, a linear pattern of narrow fields, delineated by hedgerows, scattered trees and ditches is more prevalent, consistent with the landscape character of the Wentlooge Levels. This area is bordered by the Wales Coast Path. To the northwest and north, beyond Wentlooge Avenue, are a series of larger scale industrial / commercial developments sitting at the edge of the settlement of Rumney with a dense urban landscape to the north and northwest, although still interspersed with areas of pastoral fields similar to those found within the Levels landscape further to the southeast and east.

Landscape Value

- 2.9 GLVIA3 Box 5.1 sets out a range of factors that can help in the identification of valued landscapes, which include: Landscape quality (condition); scenic quality; rarity; representativeness; conservation interests; recreation value; perceptual aspects (including tranquillity); and associations.
- 2.10 Regarding landscape value, the Application Site is an area of cleared and developed land, including the existing MRF building and other associated development. The Application Site is bordered to the east and southwest, adjacent to Newton Road, by tall hedgerows / linear tree belts. With a watered ditch line to the edge of Newton Road. Along the southeast boundary of the Application is a large grass bund with a perimeter fence along the top. The northwesternmost boundary is open to other areas of cleared / disturbed land associated with the operational Atlantic Recycling site. With further linear tree belts / hedgerows evident to the northwest, assumed to have been put in place as mitigation for the existing development.
- 2.11 There is no public access to the Application Site itself, with the nearest publicly accessible route being Newton Road, a narrow road with ditches either side to the immediate west and therefore, there is no public recreational value associated with the Application Site. The character of the Application Site is heavily influenced by the existing light industrial development present on the site and other urbanised elements in the immediate landscape, with a more rural character and scenic quality to the landscape present in areas further to the south and southeast. These urban / developed features impact upon the general tranquillity and scenic quality of the landscape in the immediate vicinity of the Application site. The landscape of the Application Site is not considered rare and is therefore assessed as being of Low overall landscape value.

National Landscape Character

- 2.12 At a national level, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has prepared a National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA) map for Wales (NRW, 2014). This has divided the country into 48 character areas,

the descriptions of which highlight what distinguishes one landscape from another with reference to distinct natural, cultural and perceptual characteristics within each region. The Application Site falls entirely within NLCA 34: Gwent Levels.

- 2.13 NLCA 34 is described as “...a distinctive, flat, lowland landscape with a geometric patchwork of watercourses that run between fertile fields. It is remarkable for having been created by reclaiming marshland and inter-tidal areas during successive periods going back to Roman times. In parts, the older patterns have changed almost beyond recognition over the past 150 years, sections having been built over by a major railway line, two motorways, a large steelworks, and a power station. In addition, there has been a rapid growth of once small settlements into dormitory villages, and urban expansion from both Cardiff and Newport.”
- 2.14 A review of the key characteristics of NLCA 34: Gwent Levels, within which the Application Site is located, has been completed. It is considered that there are no key characteristics which are of relevance to the Application Site itself or that would be directly affected by the Proposed Development.

Regional and Local Landscape Character

- 2.15 LANDMAP is an “all-Wales Geographical Information System (GIS) based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent dataset” (NRW, 2014). It is now administered by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and comprises five spatially related datasets or aspect layers as follows:
- Geological Landscape: “considers the physical, primarily geological, influences that have shaped the contemporary landscape and identifies those landscape qualities which are linked to the control or influence exerted by bedrock, surface processes, landforms and hydrology”;
 - Landscape Habitats: “Focuses on recording habitat features, characteristics and their spatial relationships within the context of the wider landscape”;
 - Visual and Sensory Landscape: “Maps landscape characteristics and qualities as perceived through our senses, primarily visually. The physical attributes of landform and land cover, their visible patterns and their interrelationship”;
 - Historic Landscape: “Landscape characteristics that depend on key historic land uses, patterns and features. Identifies only those classes of historic land uses, patterns and features that are prominent and contribute to the overall historic character of the present landscape.”; and
 - Cultural Landscape: “Describes the links between landscape and people, from the way in which cultural, or human activity shapes the landscape, to the way in which culture shapes the way we respond to landscape. Focus is on mapping the landscape where it has been, or is being, shaped by a particular cultural activity or process, or where it has been directly represented, depicted or described in art, literature or folklore.”
- 2.16 For each dataset the landscape is divided into discrete geographical units referred to as aspect areas. Each is given a unique identification code and is accompanied by a dataset which includes both a description and evaluation of quality and value.
- 2.17 The Application Site is located entirely within the ‘Wentlooge Levels South West’ (CRDFFVS030) Visual and Sensory aspect area. Described as a “Distinctive flat levels landscape around 6mAOD with reens and ditches draining fields which range from small pastures close to the coast [some poor] to large arable fields to the north where boundaries have been removed. The pattern is highly rectilinear to the east but more irregular to the west.”. The overall evaluation for this aspect area is Moderate.
- 2.18 A review of the key characteristics of this Aspect Area, within which the Application Site is located, has been completed. It is considered that there are no key characteristics which are of relevance to the Application Site itself or that would be directly affected by the Proposed Development.

Local Level Landscape Character

- 2.19 At a local level the Gwent Levels Landscape Character Assessment (April 2017) divides the Gwent Levels into 5 separate Landscape Character Types (LCT) which are further subdivided into 34 smaller and more distinct Landscape Character Areas (LCA). Key features and characteristics of each are defined in the Landscape Strategy Update for each LCA.
- 2.20 The Application Site is located within Landscape Character Area (LCA) A3.4: Rumney. This LCA would be directly impacted by a Proposed Development on the Application Site, albeit an existing development landscape.
- 2.21 A review of the key characteristics of LCA A3.4: Rumney, within which the Application Site is located, has been completed. It is considered that there are no key characteristics which are of relevance to the Application Site itself or that would be directly affected by the Proposed Development.

Designated Landscapes

- 2.22 The Application Site is outwith any AONB or National Parks (NP) designations of national importance (refer to Figure 1). As such, there would be no direct physical impacts upon nationally designated landscapes resulting from the Proposed Development.
- 2.23 Other landscape designations, of local / regional importance, which fall wholly or partly within the study area and Application Site, include the Wentloog Levels Special Landscape Area (SLA). *“SLAs are designated to protect areas that are considered to be important to the overall landscape of the County due to their visual and sensory, geological, cultural, historical and habitat landscapes. They are intrinsic to the overall character of the area and provide a living history of the evolution of the area’s landscape as well as a cultural backdrop and visual setting.”* (Cardiff Adopted LDP, paragraph 5.91).
- 2.24 It is considered that the Application Site itself does not contribute to the intrinsic character of the SLA, with areas further to the southeast and east within the wider study area more characteristic of the SLA not directly affected by the Proposed Development

Visual Baseline

- 2.25 A desk-based visual assessment, including Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) (Figure 2), was conducted to establish the possible extent of visual influence of a Proposed Development on the Application Site. An overview of those views, sensitive visual receptors and the approximate, potential visibility of a Proposed Development on the Application Site have been noted in paragraphs 2.24 to 2.28 below.

Overview of Visual Receptors

- 2.26 Visual receptors include people within residential properties, people travelling along roads, people using public rights of way, people involved with other recreational activities, people at their place of work, people using commercial and public facilities. These groups are deemed to have different sensitivities to the proposed change of use.
- 2.27 The nearest visual receptors with potential views to the Application Site include rear and side elevation views by residents of properties located along Newton Road, to the west and south of the Application Site. Other residential receptors with potential views are a number of properties located to the northwest along Harris Avenue. Although intervening development and vegetative cover is likely to prevent any discernible views. Similarly, intervening vegetation, would likely screen views from the rear of properties off Wentloog Avenue to the northeast. With potential heavily screened views being not dissimilar to those views available to existing developments, including the existing Atlantic Recycling MRF building occupying part of the Application Site. With large individual and

groups of commercial / industrial buildings present in the landscape, any filtered views to the Proposed Development would generally be seen in the context of the existing built form.

- 2.28 There are no Public Right of Way (PRoW) passing through the Application Site. The nearest PRoW (Trowbridge No 1), also designated as the Wales Coast Path, with potential views to it is to the southeast of the Application Site traversing the coastline. There are a limited number of other PRoW within the local landscape, predominantly located within the urban areas to the north. Users of PRoW Trowbridge No 1 would have potential views to the Proposed Development, as indicated by the ZTV (Figure 2), along much of the PRoWs length as it traverses along the coastline between the Cardiff Sea Wall Pumping House and Rumney Great Wharf. Beyond these areas, although glimpsed views may remain areas of local landform to the southwest of the Application Site and intervening vegetation would start to limit views. Where views may be available, there are also views available of existing large scale commercial buildings, including the Aldi regional office and distribution centre to the northwest of the Application Site of Wentloog Avenue. Due to the distance from the Application Site, as well as the intervening, undulating topography and the vegetation, it is anticipated that the impact on views from the more distant visual receptors and users of the PRoW network would be negligible.

3 POTENTIAL LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS

General

- 3.1 Using a combination of objective evidence and professional judgement, potentially significant effects on the landscape resource and upon views experienced by people living and travelling through the landscape of a Proposed Development on the Application Site are outlined below.

Potential Landscape Effects

- 3.2 The Application Site is a well contained landholding with clearly defined vegetated / bunded boundaries to the southeast and southwest adjacent to Newton Road. In contrast, its northern boundary is more open, although there are a number of tree belts and other linear hedgerows to the north and northwest forming part of the wider commercial / light industrial landscape. The Application Site is an existing and active part of the wider commercial / light industrial landscape off Newton Road.
- 3.3 The Application Site, although part of an active commercial / light industrial landscape, is outwith the settlement boundary, as defined by the Cardiff adopted LDP, and is therefore defined as countryside. However, it is within and existing and well defined commercial / light industrial area, with areas of disturbed ground, storage areas with shipping containers and medium to large scale industrial buildings a common characteristic of the landscape immediately adjacent to the Application Site.
- 3.4 The Proposed Development of a large Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and associated infrastructure would be of a larger scale to what is currently on the Application Site. However, it would be set in a context of an existing commercial / light industrial landscape and not be uncharacteristic of the existing large scale buildings within the wider landscape. The Proposed Development would retain, where possible, existing boundary trees, bunding and other vegetation, retaining the existing landscape structure. The building would be of a similar arrangement and be of a similar scale to other local developments to the north of Wentloog Avenue. The commercial / light industrial scale and layout of the Proposed Development and use of materials would reflect the existing landscape character.
- 3.5 There would be minimal clearance of existing vegetation due to the Proposed Development. Existing boundary treatment would provide screening to the Proposed Development providing some level of enclosure to retain the local landscape context.
- 3.6 The level of the land within the Application Site is generally flat. The Proposed Development would introduce a new building, which would not substantially alter the topography.

Effects upon Landscape Character Areas

- 3.7 Direct effects on national landscape character areas relate to NLCA 34: Gwent Levels. The Proposed Development would introduce a development of a large commercial / light industrial building in an urban / semi-rural area of low condition. An existing development and areas of cleared land would be replaced by a larger scale development bounded by existing and retained trees, shrubs and hedgerows. As a proportion of the overall NLCA, the change in landscape character of the Application Site would be negligible. Any changes would maintain the overall existing quality of the Application Site and wider character area.
- 3.8 At a regional / local scale, the Application Site is located entirely within the 'Wentloog Levels South West' (CRDFFVS030) Visual and Sensory LANDMAP aspect area and Landscape Character Area (LCA) A3.4: Rumney, as derived from the Gwent Levels Landscape Character Assessment (April 2017). The Proposed Development would not result in a landscape change, insofar as the Application Site is an existing commercial / light industrial development, with no loss of boundary

vegetation which would help to integrate the Proposed Development within the context of the wider area and maintain the characteristics of this small part of the Rumney Landscape Character Area. The Proposed Development would have no direct landscape characterising effects upon the more rural areas of the LCA to the southeast.

- 3.9 The Application Site is currently developed enclosed on 3 sides by mature hedgerow and tree vegetation. Existing vegetation is expected to be retained as part of the Proposed Development. The proposal would not alter the existing character of the Application Site, albeit the Proposed Development is of a larger scale to the existing building(s). There would be potential adverse landscape effects as a result, but on balance given the context of the existing baseline of the Application Site any adverse effects would not be significant.

Effects upon Designated Landscapes

- 3.10 There would be a direct effect upon a small part of the Wentloog Levels Special Landscape Area (SLA). However, with the existing developed nature of the Application Site and immediate landscape, the Proposed Development would not be entirely uncharacteristic of this part of the SLA and therefore not result in a significant adverse effect.

Potential Visual Effects

- 3.11 During the operational phase of the Proposed Development, visual effects would be as a result of views to it. The perceived level of change would be noticeable due to the introduction of a large scale commercial / light industrial development on land, which is currently developed, albeit at a slightly smaller scale than that of the Proposed Development. However, distance, topographical variation and vegetation adjacent to the Application Site and within the wider landscape would limit the level of visual effects to a local level, with views to existing large scale commercial buildings an existing characteristic within local views.
- 3.12 Close views to the Proposed Development would be available, particularly in winter, and especially from Newton Road to the immediate west of the Application Site (Viewpoint 6), together with transient views from a number of location along the Wales Coast Path (PRoW Trowbridge 1) to the southeast (Viewpoints 7, 8 and 9), although existing intervening vegetation and landform would curtail / partially screen potential views from much of the Wales Coast Path so the proposed Development would not be a constant feature within views. Where visible, the Proposed Development would likely be seen in the context of existing development within the immediate landscape. Including large scale commercial developments to the north of Wentloog Avenue. From Wentloog Avenue (Viewpoints 3 and 4), intervening vegetation would limit potential views to the Proposed Development. Similarly, from other parts of Wentloog Avenue to the east (Viewpoint 2) and other local roads, including Heol Las (Viewpoint 1) to the northeast. With the large scale nature of the Proposed Development, it is likely that glimpsed views to it from these locations would be available, particularly in winter months. However, it is anticipated that any available views would be of a similar nature to those currently available of existing large scale developments, such as the Aldi distribution centre. As such, the Proposed Development, parts of which would be seen in glimpsed views, would not substantially alter the existing situation where views to development of this kind is already characteristic of the local landscape and the addition of the Proposed Development would not significantly adversely affect the overall character of views. People travelling on Newton Road would gain close range views of the Proposed Development set within a local landscape setting containing other adjacent built form. During site work, it was noted that site security required visitors to sign in. As such, it is assumed that the general public would not be using this road regularly and these close range views would only be available to workers at the existing site and local residents and so would have an existing appreciation of development such as the Proposed Development and would therefore not be significantly affected.

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- 3.13 Similarly, to landscape effects, it is anticipated that any visual effects would be predominantly confined to those high sensitivity visual receptors closest to the Application Site.

4 SUMMARY

General

- 4.1 Using a combination of objective evidence and professional judgement, the potentially significant effects on the landscape resource and views experienced by people living in and travelling through the landscape during the operational phase of the Proposed Development are summarised below.

Potential Landscape Effects

- 4.2 The Application Site is a contained landholding with defined boundaries and is heavily characterised by its close proximity to the existing development and land use, including that of the Application Site itself. It sits within 'Countryside', outwith the settlement boundary, as defined in the currently adopted Cardiff LDP. However, it is within an existing developed part of the landscape, with characteristics of the Gwent Levels landscape or countryside evident further to the southeast of the Application Site which would not be affected by the Proposed Development, beyond the existing developed areas associated with the existing Atlantic Recycling site and neighbouring developments. As such, the Application Site is currently developed and the Proposed Development, although larger in scale, would be of a similar characteristic and not adversely affect the existing landscape character of this small part of the countryside, be seen largely within the local context of the development within the immediate local landscape and large scale commercial / light industrial development to the north and be of a similar scale.
- 4.3 Clearance of existing vegetation as a result of the Proposed Development would be minimised where possible, particularly to the east and south. Retaining the landscape framework and existing screening elements it is assumed were established as part of the original development.

Effects upon Landscape Character Areas

- 4.4 At a county / regional scale, the Application Site is located entirely within the 'Wentlooge Levels South West' (CRDFFVS030) Visual and Sensory LANDMAP aspect area and Landscape Character Area (LCA) A3.4: Rumney, as derived from the Gwent Levels Landscape Character Assessment (April 2017). The Proposed Development would not result in a landscape change, insofar as the Application Site is an existing commercial / light industrial development, with no loss of boundary vegetation which would help to integrate the Proposed Development within the context of the wider area and maintain the characteristics of this small part of the Rumney Landscape Character Area. The Proposed Development would have no direct landscape characterising effects upon the more rural areas of the LCA to the southeast.
- 4.5 The Application Site is currently an existing development, associated with Atlantic Recycling activities, enclosed by mature trees and hedgerows to three sides. Existing trees and other vegetation is expected to be retained. The Proposed Development would not change the character of the existing development, albeit that it would be of a larger scale than the existing MRF building. As a result, there would be limited adverse landscape effects.
- 4.6 Having considered the likely effects of the Proposed Development, there would be some adverse landscape effects as a result of the larger scale building proposed, particularly upon the Application Site itself. However, given the context of the location, i.e. an existing developed landscape with large scale developments to the north, it is assessed as unlikely to result in any significant landscape effects.

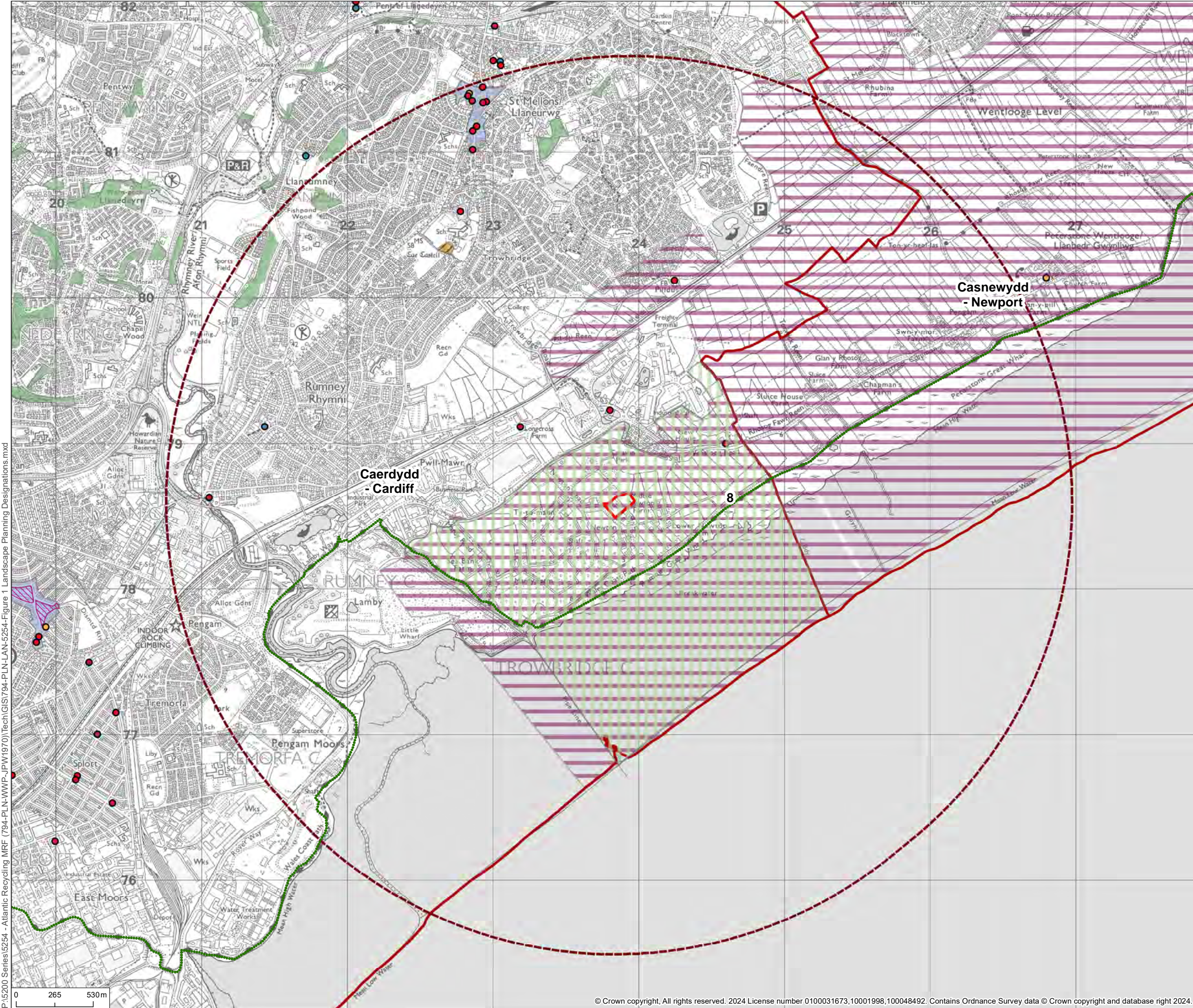
Potential Visual Effects

- 4.7 During the operational phase, there would be effects upon views due to the introduction of the Proposed Development. The perceived level of change would be noticeable; however, distance, topography and existing vegetation would reduce the level of visual effect.
- 4.8 Close views of the Proposed Development would be available from various orientations looking towards the Application Site (Viewpoint 6). From Newton Road, although retained vegetation along the Application Site boundary adjacent to Newton Road would partially screen available views, particularly in summer months, along with bunding to the southernmost boundary. This would result in potentially adverse effect upon a number of visual receptors in close proximity to the Proposed Development, including residential properties and road users. Albeit that access to this local area is not routinely gained by the public and therefore those affected would likely be associated with the Proposed Development or adjacent developments and therefore these adverse effects are not anticipated to be significant.
- 4.9 Within close range views, as would be available from Newton Road (Viewpoint 6), the new building would be noticeable set within the context of a developed / disturbed landscape. Upon completion the Proposed Development would be noticeably larger in scale to that of the existing Atlantic Recycling MRF building but would not be uncharacteristic of the baseline situation where views to large scale commercial / light industrial development is commonplace. This is particularly noticeable within available views from the Wales Coast Path (Viewpoints 8 and 9), where the existing Aldi distribution centre is a noticeably feature within available views. To which the Proposed Development would be added increasing the overall built form, but not to the extent that there would be a significant adverse visual effect.
- 4.10 Middle distance views may be available from the east and northeast of the Proposed Development (Viewpoints 1 and 2). Although these views would be glimpsed, with intervening vegetation preventing any clear view to the Proposed Development in its' entirety. Views of the Proposed Development from these locations would likely be more noticeable in winter, with intervening vegetation devoid of leaf. Existing development within the local landscape, such as the Aldi distribution centre, are similarly glimpsed within middle distant views to which the Proposed Development would be added. The overall character of views available would not be significantly affected by the addition of the Proposed Development. More distant locations would not be available due to the influence of topography, intervening built form and vegetation. In most instances, where the new building is visible, this would be a visually integrated feature in part of a view often seen in context with adjacent or intervening buildings and other developments, in a similar way to middle distant views.
- 4.11 Similarly, to landscape effects, it is anticipated that any visual effects would be predominantly confined to those visual receptors closest to the Application Site, not thought to be the general public.
- 4.12 The Proposed Development is unlikely to result in any significant adverse visual effects.

5 REFERENCES

- *The Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, (2013): Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition);*
- *The Landscape Institute, Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Technical Guidance Note 06/19 (2019);*
- *Adopted Cardiff Local Development Plan (LDP) 2006-2026 (Adopted January 2016);*
- *Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (Edition 12, February 2024);*
- *The National Landscape Character Area (NLCA) profile published by Natural Resources Wales, NLCA 34: Gwent Levels; and,*
- *Landscape Character Area (LCA) A3.4: Rumney (Gwent Levels Landscape Character Assessment, April 2017).*

FIGURES



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- Legend**
- Study Area (3km Radius)
 - Application Site Boundary
 - Wales Coastal Path
- Listed Buildings**
- Grade**
- I
 - II
 - II*
- Historic Parks and Gardens
 - Ancient Woodland
 - Scheduled Monument
 - Conservation Areas
 - Gwent Levels Historic Landscape
 - Wentloog Special Landscape Area (SLA)



P:\5200 Series\5254 - Atlantic Recycling MRF (794-PLN-WWP-JPW1970)\Tech\GIS\794-PLN-LAN-5254-Figure 1 Landscape Planning Designations.mxd

Rev	Description	By	CB	Date

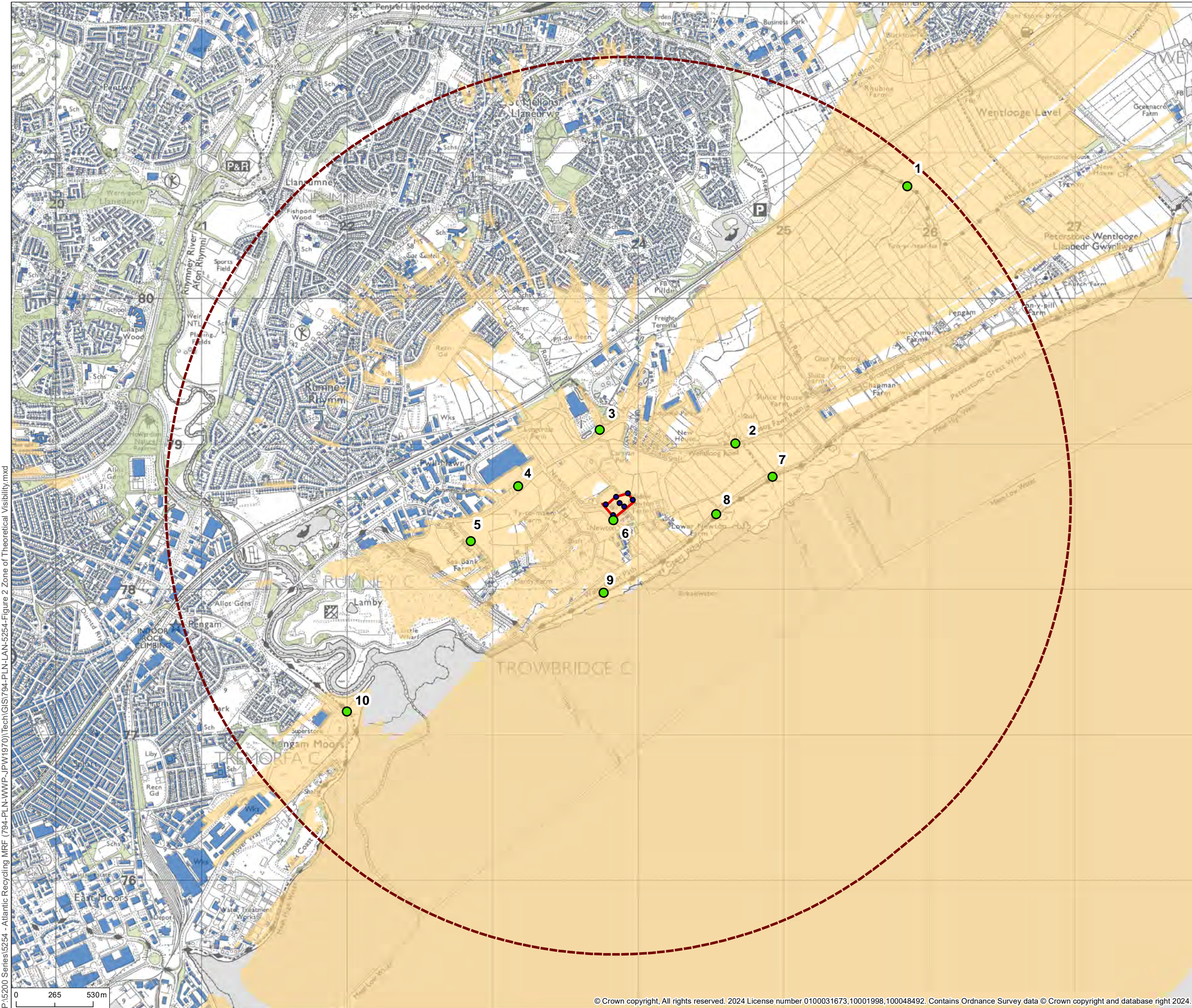


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Client Atlantic Recycling Ltd.
 Project Atlantic Recycling MRF
 Title Landscape Planning Designations

Status	Drawn By	PM/Checked By
DRAFT	GL	PH
Project Number	Scale @ A3	Date Created
794-PLN-LAN-5254	1:25,000	SEP 2024
Figure Number		Rev
1		-

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Legend

- Study Area (3km Radius)
- Application Site Boundary
- Woodland
- Settlement
- ZTV Origin Points
- Representative Viewpoints

ZTV (theoretical extent of the surrounding landscape from where the Proposed Development may be visible)



Rev	Description	By	CB	Date



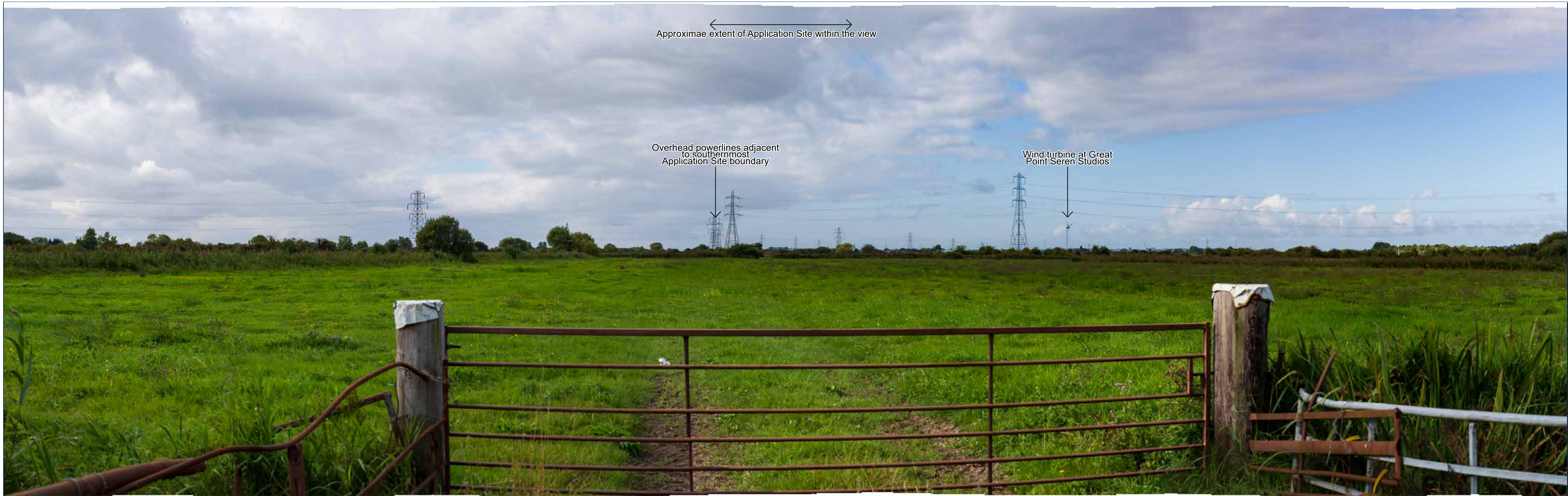
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Client **Atlantic Recycling Ltd.**
 Project **Atlantic Recycling MRF**
 Title **Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) - inc. Viewpoint Locations**

Status	Drawn By	PM/Checked By
DRAFT	GL	PH
Project Number	Scale @ A3	Date Created
794-PLN-LAN-5254	1:25,000	SEP 2024
Figure Number	Rev	
2	-	

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P:\5200 Series\5254 - Atlantic Recycling MRF (794-PLN-WWP-JPW1970)\Tech\GIS\794-PLN-LAN-5254-Figure 2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility.mxd



← Approximate extent of Application Site within the view →

Overhead powerlines adjacent to southernmost Application Site boundary

Wind turbine at Great Point Seren Studios



← Approximate extent of Application Site within the view →

Overhead powerlines adjacent to southernmost Application Site boundary

B4239 Wentlog Avenue



← Approximate extent of Application Site within the view →

Overhead powerlines adjacent to southernmost Application Site boundary

B4239 Wentloog Avenue



← Approximate extent of Application Site within the view →

B4239 Wentloog Avenue

Overhead powerlines adjacent to southernmost Application Site boundary



Representative Viewpoint 4: View from local road (B4239 Wentloog Avenue) to the northwest, looking southeast.

Atlantic Recycling MRF
794-PLN-LAN-5254

Date of photograph: 04/09/2024
OS Grid Ref: 323176, 178709

Horizontal field of view: 90°
To be viewed at comfortable arms length



← Approximate extent of Application Site within the view →

Wind turbine at Great Point Seren Studios

Mardy Road

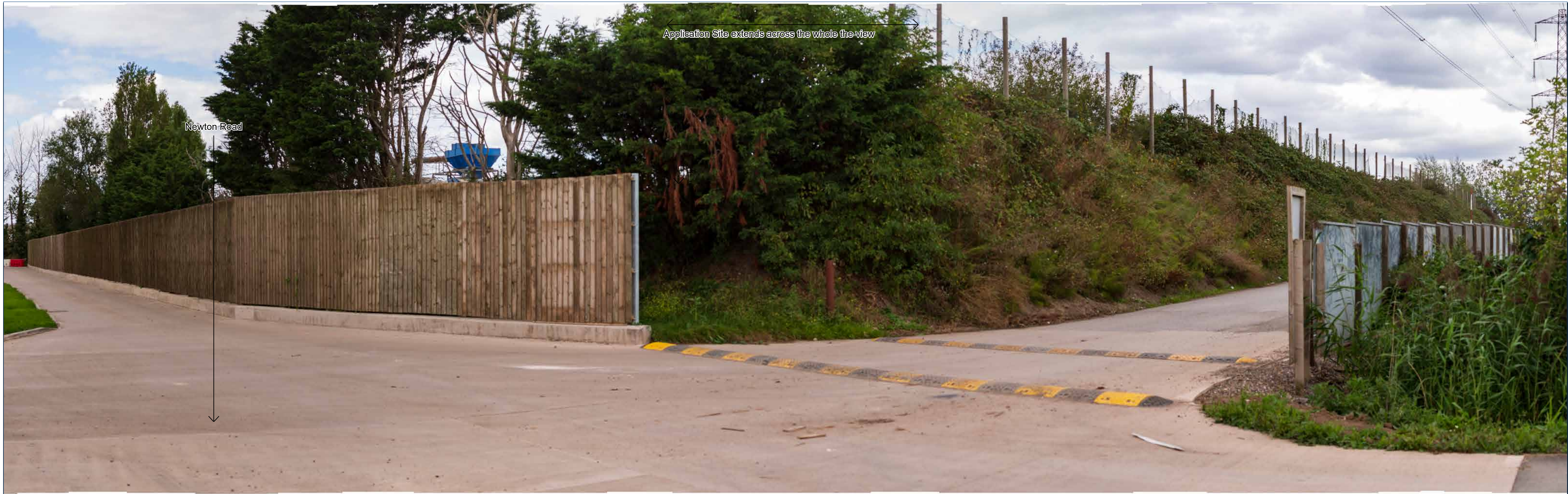


Representative Viewpoint 5: View from local road (Mardy Road) to the west, looking east.

Atlantic Recycling MRF
794-PLN-LAN-5254

Date of photograph: 04/09/2024
OS Grid Ref: 322852, 178330

Horizontal field of view: 90°
To be viewed at comfortable arms length



Newton Road

Application Site extends across the whole the view



← Approximate extent of Application Site within the view →

Public Right of Way Trowbridge 1
(Wales Coast Path)

Overhead powerlines adjacent
to southernmost
Application Site boundary

Wind turbine at Great
Point Seren Studios



Public Right of Way Trowbridge 1
(Wales Coast Path)

← Approximate extent of Application Site within the view →

Overhead powerlines adjacent
to southernmost
Application Site boundary

Wind turbine at Great
Point Seren Studios



Representative Viewpoint 8: View from local Public Right of Way Trowbridge 1 (Wales Coast Path) to the east, looking west.

Atlantic Recycling MRF
794-PLN-LAN-5254

Date of photograph: 04/09/2024
OS Grid Ref: 324537, 178516

Horizontal field of view: 90°
To be viewed at comfortable arms length

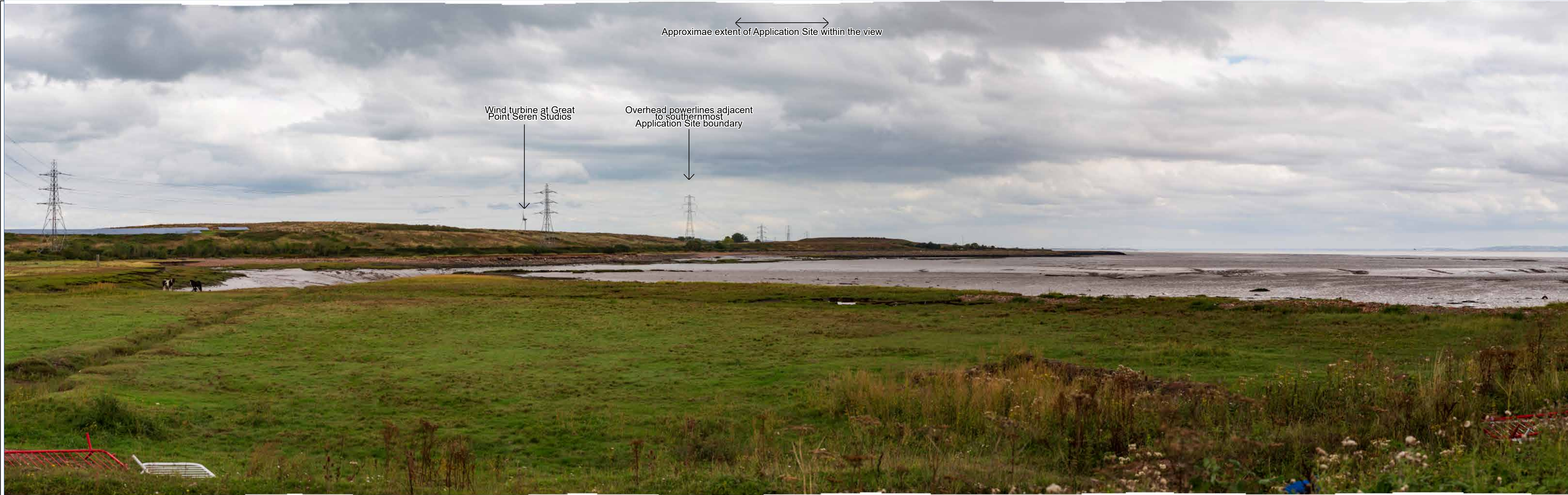


Wind turbine at Great Point Seren Studios

Overhead powerlines adjacent to southernmost Application Site boundary

Public Right of Way Trowbridge 1 (Wales Coast Path)

Approximate extent of Application Site within the view



Approximate extent of Application Site within the view

Wind turbine at Great Point Seren Studios



Overhead powerlines adjacent to southernmost Application Site boundary



Representative Viewpoint 10: View from local Public Right of Way Splott No 1 (Wales Coast Path) to the southwest, looking northeast.

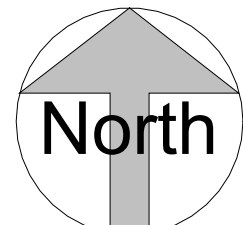
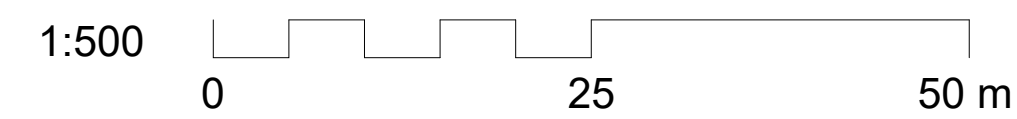
Atlantic Recycling MRF
794-PLN-LAN-5254

Date of photograph: 04/09/2024
OS Grid Ref: 322000, 177161

Horizontal field of view: 90°
To be viewed at comfortable arms length

APPENDIX A:

Planning Site Plan (Drawing No. 17405-h Planning-b RevB V26)



- NOTES**
- All dimensions are in millimetres unless noted otherwise.
 - All levels are shown in millimetres unless noted otherwise.
 - Do not scale from the drawing. Use figured dimensions only.
 - Any discrepancies to be reported immediately to the engineer.
 - This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all relevant Architects, engineers, subcontractors and specialists drawings and specifications.

- CONCRETE NOTES**
- Carry out all concrete works in accordance with BS 8004 & BS 8110 and the specification. Keep a copy of these documents available on site.
 - Granular material is to be thoroughly consolidated in layers and if any soft spots are encountered, they are to be removed and replaced with granular material compacted in layers. Each layer is not to exceed 225mm after compaction.
 - Strip footings to be central under load bearing walls unless noted otherwise.
 - Formation levels of all strip footings to be min. 600mm below existing ground level.
 - All mass concrete grade to be GEN 3 min. (Sulphates = Design class - DS-1, AC/EC class AC-1 (BRE-2005)).
 - All formation levels in excavations are to be inspected by a competent person (Building Inspector / engineer) before concrete strip footings are poured.
 - All dimensions to be checked by contractor prior to construction.
 - Allowable ground bearing pressure of 100kN/m² has been assumed.

- MASONRY & STEELWORK NOTES**
- Carry out all Masonry works in accordance with BS 5628.
 - All load bearing masonry blockwork to be a Min. 7.3N/mm² compressive strength unless noted otherwise.
 - All non load bearing blockwork is to be tied/coursed into load bearing walls to provide restraint to the adjacent panel.
 - Masonry construction is to be fully tied at floor levels with 50x200 mild steel straps @ 1900c/c.
 - All padstones to be 440x100x215mm deep concrete unless noted otherwise.
 - All steelwork to be grade S275 (Grade43) to E.N.10025 & 10210 (UNO).
 - All universal beams, joists, universal columns & channels to be minimum of S355 grade (UNO).
 - Minimum steel grading for flat plates and angles are S275 grade (UNO).
 - Minimum steel grading for CHS, RHS & SHS are to be S235 grade (UNO).
 - All steelwork is to be blast cleaned to B.S. 5493 second quality and have 75 micron High build zinc phosphate primer. All exterior steelwork is to be galvanised.
 - All shop and site bolts are to be sheradised to BS 4921: class 1.
 - All bolts to be grade 8.8. Welds min. 6mm fillet UNO.
 - The steelwork Contractor is responsible for all temporary bracing.
 - Steelwork has been designed in accordance with B.S. 5950, all moments and shear forces indicated are ultimate.
 - Steelwork connections are to be designed by a specialist sub-contractor. All fabrication details and design calculations are to be presented to the Engineer and commented upon before fabrication commences.

PLANNING

rev.	drawn	chkd.	app'd.	date	description
A	JSM	CN		07.08.24	Solar Panels added
B	JSM	CN		12.08.24	Solar Panels removed

Client
Atlantic Recycling

Project
Atlantic Eco Park, Newton Road, Cardiff

Title
PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT

Vale Consultancy
CONSULTING CIVIL & STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS
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Phone: 01656 863794 Email: Enquiries@vale-consultancy.co.uk

date	drawn	checked	approved
JUL 2024	JSM	CN	

scale @ A1
1 : 500

status	drg. no.	rev.
Planning	17405-h Planning-b	V26 B