

Non-Technical Summary

Introduction

This is the non-technical Summary (NTS) of the assessment undertaken for this Environmental Statement Addendum (ESA). The original Environmental Statement (ES) was submitted in support of the planning application (reference: C/2021/0278) for the CiNER Glass Bottle manufacturing facility within Rassau Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale. Full planning approval was granted by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) in March 2023. Since the approval of planning, a design review seeking to deliver operational efficiencies associated with the approved development has been undertaken. As a result, changes to the design of the facility are proposed which therefore requires the 2022 ES to be reviewed to determine whether the design changes would result in any changes to the environmental impacts identified. This NTS should be read alongside the NTS produced for the original application.

The consented development is for the construction and operation of a purpose-built glass bottle manufacturing facility, and associated works comprising:

- A total site area of approximately 14.4 ha on a wider land parcel extending to 21.5 ha;
- 2no. furnaces with associated filters and 2no. chimney stacks;
- 2no. cullet buildings and stores for the storage and processing of rejected and recycled glass;
- 1no. batch and 2no. silo buildings for the storage and mixing of raw materials;
- 2no. production lines for hot and cold processing, inspection and packaging of glass bottles including workshops and storage areas within the process building;
- Office space and welfare facilities including canteen, infirmaries and changing facilities (located internally at eastern extent of the facility);
- An automated warehousing facility for the storage and distribution of glass bottles;
- Utilities building which includes plant space and workshops;
- Waste materials store;
- Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) store and Regulating and Metering Station (RMS) building;
- Back up fuel storage facilities;
- Main entrance security lodges and associated weighbridge;
- External hard standing for the storage of materials, parking and loading; and,
- Landscaping to the eastern side of the facility.

Rassau Industrial Estate (RIE) is located adjacent to the A465 Heads of the Valleys road that runs between Abergavenny and Neath, approximately 0.7km north of Rassau village and 3km north of Ebbw Vale town centre. The site is approximately 21.5ha in area and comprises a vacant plot within the RIE, currently within the ownership of Welsh Government and BGBBC.

Proposed design changes

The design changes that are being proposed have resulted from operational efficiencies being identified. Proposed changes are concerned with several key details relating to height, scale, layout, appearance, access and landscape. A brief summary is set out below:

Proposed change	Description
Height	Reduced height of the main process building (from 28m to 23m) Reduced height of furnace roof (from 35m to 23m) A 12m furnace 'pop-up' building to be included above the furnace area on the southern elevation. Reduced height of warehouse building (from 28m to 12.5m)

Scale & layout	<p>A reduction in the area of the incoming materials yard from 10,800sqm to 5,800sqm</p> <p>Re-orientation of the warehouse to sit behind the packaging area creating a single linear building with a reduced footprint and more opportunities for existing landscaping and ecology to be retained.</p> <p>Moving the main process building away from the northern boundary by 20m and the southern boundary by 24m, along with a reduced width of each process line by 7m.</p>
Appearance	Some changes to the materials being proposed for external parts of the buildings in order to assist with breaking up the massing and lessening the visual impact. Green roofs are also being proposed for the Security building, RMS building, LPG building and Pump House.
Access	Introduction of a dedicated access route each for deliveries and staff vehicles. Delivery access now proposed to the north of the site, with staff access along the southern boundary.
Landscape	<p>Reduced overall extent of the landscaping on the site, retaining more of the existing woodland to the south of the site and around site boundaries where possible, as well as retaining all of the peatland area to the east of the watercourse.</p> <p>However, landscaped corridors are proposed between buildings and the north and south perimeters providing pedestrian access. In addition, amenity areas are being included within the landscaped areas, car park areas would be landscaped with meadow grassland and trees, and four small biodiverse green roofs are proposed on small buildings. Trails and tracks would be provided around the water detention basin which is one of several proposed sustainable water management features.</p>

Assessment outcome

Overall, no new or materially different significant adverse effects have been identified as a result of the proposed amendments to the consented scheme. The proposed amendments have been reviewed against the assessment and conclusions of the original 2022 ES for each of the environmental topics previously considered. For all topics, the changes that are being proposed to the approved planning application are not expected to result in more adverse outcomes or effects than those in the original ES and in some cases indicate an improvement on those previously assessed. This is summarised below in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Addendum Summary

Topic	2022 ES Conclusions	2023 Addendum Conclusion
Air Quality	No significant effects	<p>There are no changes in construction methodology and construction traffic volumes remain the same, therefore there is no increase in adverse air quality effects in relation to construction and the effect remains as not significant.</p> <p>The operational nature of the revised scheme remains the same as the consented scheme and the distance of the receptors are similar. No increased air quality effects are predicted and the effect remains as not significant. No further odour assessment is required.</p>
Climate Change	<p>Significant effects in relation to greenhouse gases.</p> <p>Not significant in relation to climate change resilience.</p>	The changes are likely to result in minor reductions of GHG emissions during construction but remain the same during operation as no changes are proposed to the design of the furnace. As 98% of emissions are associated with operational energy GHG emission outcomes remain the same as those identified in the original ES.

Topic	2022 ES Conclusions	2023 Addendum Conclusion
Ecology	<p>No significant effects</p> <p>Some positive and minor beneficial significance in relation to habitat loss and degradation/disturbance</p>	<p>No significant effects - reduced effects expected.</p> <p>The changes result in no changes to the assessment outcomes. Total habitat loss has been reduced overall and is estimated to be 11.67 ha of habitat areas, and 280 m of linear habitats, compared to a previous loss of 15.82 ha and 280 m of linear habitats.</p> <p>In relation to protected species, the area and extent of impact remains the same for fungi, invertebrates, amphibians, breeding birds, badger, otter, and notable mammals. Bats are likely to experience reduced effects as a result of less loss of habitat and foraging resource.</p> <p>A great crested newt (Amphibian) report has now been prepared in line with the requirements of [planning] Condition 33.</p>
Health	<p>Minor</p> <p>Minor to moderate positive effects in relation to access to and work and training</p>	<p>Minor to moderate effects.</p> <p>The proposed changes that are unlikely to result in more adverse health outcomes than those identified in the ES.</p>
Materials and Waste	<p>No significant effects</p>	<p>No significant effects.</p> <p>The total quantity of excavated materials is expected to increase for the proposed design although the reduced scale of the buildings would result in reduced quantities of imported manufactured materials during construction and less construction waste being generated.</p> <p>The change in the design of the building will not affect the quantities of materials required to operate the manufacturing activities on the site or change the amount of operational waste generated.</p> <p>Potential effects during construction and operation remain as not significant.</p>
Noise and Vibration	<p>No significant effects</p>	<p>No significant effects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the construction programme or methodology to change impact significance during construction.</p> <p>Operational road traffic noise impacts remain not significant.</p> <p>Operational noise sources (chimney stacks and louvres of production building) assessed in the 2022 ES have not been substantially moved, therefore noise effects for these elements will not change. The changes in the batch building, includes the introduction of a new noise source associated with the movement of sand. However, this activity only occurs during the daytime and is not expected to result in more adverse impacts than those presented in the original 2022 ES.</p>
Socio-economics	<p>Minor to moderate beneficial effects</p>	<p>Minor to moderate effects.</p> <p>During construction it is considered unlikely that the workforce required would decrease and so the effect on the local labour market of employment and supply chain impacts would not be worse than under the original design.</p> <p>As there is no change in estimated employment during operation, there is no change in the effect on employment and the local supply chain.</p>

Topic	2022 ES Conclusions	2023 Addendum Conclusion
Transport	Minor adverse effects	<p>Minor adverse effects – some improvements expected.</p> <p>The proposed segregation of access for heavy vehicles from staff vehicles provides a betterment through limiting vehicular conflict.</p> <p>There is no change in the number of HGV movements to/from the site and total staff numbers are also unchanged hence there is no change in the total number of car parking and cycle parking spaces required.</p> <p>The new proposed layout can accommodate over and above the vehicle stacking capacity that was outlined in the previous design, ensuring there is sufficient capacity within the site for goods vehicles to load, unload and wait before departing.</p> <p>These changes result in no increase in adverse transport effects than those identified in the 2022 ES.</p>
Visual Impacts	<p>Moderate adverse effects</p> <p>Some substantial adverse effects relating to Community of Beaufort and Brecon Beacons National Park</p>	<p>Moderate adverse effects.</p> <p>Construction effects from the amended design will be very similar to those previously assessed.</p> <p>The Amended Development will be less prominent and visually intrusive in all assessed views where the main bulk of the built form is visible, however, it remains a large and detracting feature in people’s views and will therefore continue to give rise to adverse visual change. The magnitude of this change will be reduced, but not to the extent that outcome of the assessment of significance will be any better than for the Approved Development.</p> <p>As with the Approved Development, the proposed changes are predicted to give rise to moderate significant visual effects on the Community of Rassau, the Community of Garnlydan, the walkers on Mynydd Carn-y-cefn and users of the B4560 Llangynidr Road. In views where only unchanged elements such as the chimneys are visible, there will be no discernible change to visual effects.</p>
Water Environment	Neutral to slight adverse effects	<p>Neutral to slight adverse effects – reduced effects expected.</p> <p>The elimination of deep basements and some of the underground structures would remove the need for dewatering during construction. Therefore, the previously identified impacts such as potential changes to groundwater levels and flows or land contamination mobilisation will no longer have a potential to occur.</p> <p>The elimination of the basements and other underground structures would also eliminate potential impacts during the operational phase associated creating barriers to groundwater flows. The reduced development footprint would further reduce the potential impact on the aquifer recharge.</p> <p>It is also considered that other potential impacts such as management of risks associated with land contamination would remain unchanged.</p> <p>Given the above, water environment impacts associated with the proposed amendments are expected to not increase in relation to those assessed in the original ES.</p>
Cumulative Effects	No significant effects with the exception of the potential to lead to impacts on labour supply (i.e. finding suitable people to employ).	<p>No significant effects.</p> <p>The proposed amendments to the development do not result in any increase in construction footprint or programme within the consented scheme and on this basis the committed developments and associated potential cumulative effects identified in the original 2022 ES remain relevant.</p> <p>Potential cumulative impacts were only identified in the 2022 ES in relation to ecology and socio-economic factors. Cumulative effects in relation to these topics are not expected to worsen for the proposed design changes and therefore remain as not significant.</p>