

File Note

Project title	CiNER - Section 73 (Ref: C/2023/0209)
Job number	2844310-10
File reference	
cc	
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Date	14 December 2023
Subject	Note clarifying reorientation of batch building within the scope of Section 73 application

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Introduction

This note has been prepared following a meeting with officers from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) on 5th December 2023. Further clarification was sought from officers as to whether the changes proposed to the batch building, predominantly relating to its reorientation, fall within the scope of the current Section 73 (s73) application (ref: 07/2023/0209) and that a proportionate assessment of the implications of this on noise has been undertaken.

Proposed Changes to Batch Building

The proposed changes to the batch building which fall within the scope of the current s73 application comprise the following:

- Rotating the proposed batch building by 90 degrees, with the longer elevations now facing east and west. This change was essential in reducing the overall size of the service yard, reducing the overall footprint of the development, and subsequently allowing the relocation of the warehouse to the end of the main production buildings, forming the client's preferred linear layout.
- Omission of 12no. bulk material storage silos, 6 on each side of the building. There will be a reduction in on-site bulk storage, resulting in a reduction to the overall building footprint.
- Introduction of two material feeder units for sand delivery. The previous design's hopper solution resulted in very deep basement structures. The shallower basements result in a more efficient design solution.
- Relocation of the conveyor bridge structure from the end of the building to the side. This was required due to the rotation of the building as noted above.

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Environmental Assessment

This section addresses the officer's request for additional information in terms of the supporting Environmental Statement Addendum (ESA) adequately assessing the impact on noise as a result of the proposed change to the batch building described previously.

The noise sources associated with the batch building, which include the movement of raw material, would not change location considerably. The closest sensitive receptor is located approximately 450m south of the batch building, and so the slight change in distance in the scale of 30-50m (as worst-case scenario) is very unlikely to result in worse impacts than those reported in the ES. Moreover, as noted in the ESA, the noisiest sources of the batch building would be operational only during the daytime when noise limits are not as onerous as the night-time, and therefore it is unlikely that impacts would result in new significant effects.

For all other environmental topics, the proposed change to the batch building was considered as part of the supporting ESA and therefore the conclusions made remain valid. For completeness those topics include air quality, climate change, ecology, health, materials and waste, noise and vibration, socio-economics, transports, visual impacts, water environment and cumulative effects.

Summary

This note reaffirms that the proposed reorientation of the batch building indeed sits within the scope of the current s73, in line with the supporting plans submitted with the application and that the proposed change would result in negligible impacts upon noise. We trust that this supporting information is sufficient in providing a proportionate assessment with regards to this change.