

## Chapter Two

### SITE DESCRIPTION

#### UPDATE

2.1 Chapter two of the 2008 ES describes the site and its surroundings. The description remains current, save for the following changes.

- i). The principal change has taken place on the application site itself, where construction of phase I of the Enviroparks development is well advanced. This includes a large building, known as the Fuel Preparation Hall, in the south-east part of the site, a gatehouse, an access road running across the site between Ninth Avenue and Fifth Avenue, temporary construction laydown and parking areas and foul and surface water drainage works. Figure 2.1 shows the layout plan for the phase I development, and Figures 2.2-2.4 comprise recent photographs of the site that show construction progress.
- ii). The waste wood processing and storage yard on the southern side of Fifth Avenue to the south-east of the site has closed.

2.2. In the wider neighbourhood the following developments have taken place. All distances cited are minima.

- i). Pen y Cymoedd wind farm has been built on an upland ridge 3.5 km to the south of the application site. This 76 turbine development is located on land managed by Natural Resources Wales in the county boroughs of Rhondda Cynon Taf and Neath Port Talbot.
- ii). An electricity sub-station required to connect Pen y Cymoedd wind farm to the electricity distribution network has been built 475 metres to the west of the Application site on land at Fourteenth Avenue on Hirwaun Industrial Estate, on the southern side of the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road.
- iii). Three further wind farms are built or proposed to the south-south-east of the Enviroparks site, namely the operational nine turbine Mynydd Bwlfa wind farm (3.7 km distant), the operational eight-turbine Maerdy wind farm (5.8 km distant) and the unbuilt Abergorki wind farm (7.4 km distant), for which planning permission has been granted for three wind turbines.
- iv). A Development Consent Order under the Planning Act 2008 was made in July 2015 for an open cycle gas turbine power station to the north of Main Avenue on Hirwaun Industrial Estate, on the site of existing storage and distribution buildings owned by International Greetings UK Limited. The proposed power station would be 340 metres to the south of the Enviroparks site at its closest point.

- v). Planning permission is being sought for the change of use of Unit 43-44 Seventeenth Avenue on Hirwaun Industrial estate for a change of use to a wood pyrolysis unit. This site is a minimum 580 metres to the south-west of the Enviroparks site.
- vi). Green Frog Connect Limited is now operating a diesel-powered generation station providing short-term operating reserve power supply on land off Main Avenue on Hirwaun Industrial Estate, 400 metres to the south of the Enviroparks site.
- vii). Since the original planning permission was granted for the Enviroparks project, open-cast coal mining has taken place over an enlarged area of Tower Colliery, 1.5 km to the south of the site.
- viii). Improvements have continued on the A465 Heads of the Valley Road, which provides strategic road access to Hirwaun Industrial Estate. Upgrades to sections of the A465 between Dowlais and Brynmawr to the east of Hirwaun are complete, and improvements between Dowlais and Hirwaun are programmed to commence in 2018.

2.3 Where significant, these developments are taken into account in relevant chapters of the ES Addendum.