

ECOLOGICAL STATEMENT FOR PROCESS BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

PC 9617 – BRITANNIA REFINED METALS

Design of New Bagging Station

Client: Britannia Refined Metals

Botany Road,
Northfleet,
Gravesend DA11 9BG

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1. Introduction

This ecological statement has been prepared for the proposed construction of a process building within the heavily industrialized site of [Brittania Refined Metals], located in [Northfleet], England. The aim is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the potential ecological impacts and outline measures to mitigate these impacts, in line with relevant environmental regulations and guidelines.

2. Site Description

The proposed construction site is situated within the boundaries of [Brittania Refined Metals], an established industrial area characterized by existing heavy industrial activities. The site is predominantly hardstanding with minimal vegetation, surrounded by operational factory buildings and infrastructure.

3. Ecological Baseline

A preliminary ecological assessment was conducted to evaluate the existing biodiversity and habitat conditions within the site. The assessment included the following key findings:

- Limited presence of flora and fauna due to the industrial nature of the site.
- No designated ecological sites or protected habitats within the immediate vicinity.
- No evidence of protected species or significant wildlife corridors.

4. Potential Ecological Impacts

The construction of the process building may have the following potential ecological impacts:

- Temporary disturbance to any transient wildlife during construction activities.
- Limited potential for dust and noise emissions affecting nearby ecological receptors.
- Low risk of accidental spillage or contamination impacting surrounding areas.

5. Mitigation Measures

To minimize ecological impacts, the following mitigation measures will be implemented:

- Conducting construction activities during daylight hours to reduce disturbance to nocturnal wildlife.
- Implementing dust suppression techniques and noise reduction measures to minimize emissions.
- Ensuring proper waste management and spill control procedures to prevent contamination.
- Incorporating green infrastructure elements such as green roofs or walls, where feasible, to enhance local biodiversity.

6. Monitoring and Management

A robust monitoring and management plan will be established to ensure compliance with ecological mitigation measures. Regular site inspections and ecological surveys will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of implemented measures and adaptively manage any unforeseen ecological issues.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, the proposed construction of the process building at Britannia Metals Northfleet is anticipated to have minimal ecological impacts due to the heavily industrialized nature of the existing site. With the implementation of the outlined mitigation measures, the ecological integrity of the surrounding environment will be preserved.

8. References

Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA): These guidelines offer practical advice for professionals involved in ecological evaluation and assessment for proposed developments in various environments.

2. Legislative and policy context

- 2.1.1 Policies relevant to biodiversity conservation are listed in **Table 2.1**, together with a description of the policies and how they will influence any ecological assessment. Further details of the relevant legislations are provided in **Appendix A**.

Table 2.1 Summary of relevant policy

Policy	Description
National Planning Policy Framework (February 2019)	Section 15 (paragraph 170), states that: "Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: protecting and enhancing ... "sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan)..." and "minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures..." Paragraph 175 states that "When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles: a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused; b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest; c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity."
Kent Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)	The policy and provisions of Kent BAP safeguard non-statutory biodiversity sites and habitats and species listed within the BAP.
Gravesham Local Development Plan	Policy CS12 states: <i>Sites designated for their biodiversity value will be protected, with the highest level of protection given to internationally designated Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar sites, followed by nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest, followed by Local Wildlife Sites and then by other areas of more local importance for biodiversity.</i> <i>There will be no net loss of biodiversity in the Borough, and opportunities to enhance, restore, re-create and maintain habitats will be sought, in particular within the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas shown on the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network map and within new development.</i>
Policy	Description
	Where a negative impact on protected or priority habitats/species cannot be avoided on development sites and where the importance of the development is considered to outweigh the biodiversity impact, compensatory provision will be required either elsewhere on the site or off-site, including measures for ongoing maintenance.

BRM Northfleet, Gravesham Preliminary Ecological Appraisal September 2022.

