

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Davies Landscape Architects Ltd (DLA) has been engaged by HD Ltd to prepare this Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for proposed development at Island Farm, Merthyr Mawr, Bridgend, an area of approximately 52 hectares lying south of the A48.
- 1.1.2 Outline planning permission is being sought for a proposed sports village (including playing fields, stadia and other employment uses); phase 2 extension to Bridgend Science Park, access roads, strategic landscaping, nature conservation area and related infrastructure.
- 1.1.3 The outline planning application (P/08/1114/OUT) was submitted and registered on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2008, but has not been issued for consultation pending the retrospective submission of the Environmental Statement (ES), Planning Statement, Design and Access Statement and Sustainability Statement. The illustrative plans submitted with the application have subsequently been superseded and replaced with those appended to the ES and Design and Access Statement.
- 1.1.4 The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England & Wales) Regulations 1999, known as the 'EIA Regulations'. The EIA Regulations require that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is undertaken for certain types of projects to identify environmental impacts, assess their significance, and provide mitigation measures for adverse effects. The proposals being submitted for Island Farm are considered to fall within these regulations.

## 1.2 Purpose of the Report and Structure

- 1.2.1 This Environmental Statement documents the EIA for Island Farm and consists of the following structure:
- Volume 1 - Environmental Statement
  - Volume 2 – Key Figures, Plans and Photographs
  - Volume 3 - Appendices
  - Non-technical Summary
- 1.2.2 This report forms Volume 1 of the ES and continues with a description of the site and the project, the general planning policy context of the proposed development, the general method of assessment used in the EIA, followed by chapters on each environmental issue assessed.
- 1.2.3 In addition to this ES, the following material has been submitted as part of the outline planning application:
- Planning Statement
  - Design and Access Statement
  - Sustainability Statement
  - Movement Assessment (Appendix to Chapter 6)

### 1.3 Assessment and Design Team

1.3.1 The ES has been prepared by a team of consultants appointed with all the necessary expertise and experience that the EIA, with its broad based topics, demands. The majority of the client's team comprises local consultants with previous experience of working in the Bridgend and South Wales area.

*Table 1.1 EIA and Design Team*

<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Consultant</b>
EIA co-ordination, Landscape & Visual	Davies Landscape Architects (DLA)
Architects, Design and Access Statement	P J Lee Architects/DLA
Sustainability	Savills/P J Lee Architects/DLA/Opus
Planning Policy & Socio-economic	Savills
Transport & Drainage	Opus
Geotechnical & Geo-environmental Issues	Bay Associates and Wright Developments
Archaeology, Historic Landscape & ASIDOHL 2 Assessment	Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT)
Ecology & Nature Conservation	Just Ecology
Hydrology, Hydrogeology & Flood Risk	Bay Associates and Wright Developments
Air Quality	Air Quality Consultants
Noise & Vibration	Acoustics and Noise Ltd
Minerals Assessment	Savills