29th August 2025

To whom it may concern,

Dear Sirs

Re: Ecological Impact Assessment Overview – Margam Substation Extension

Stantec has been commissioned by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) to prepare an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) to support the planning application for the proposed extension of the Margam Substation in Port Talbot, South Wales.

The EcIA sets out a comprehensive assessment of the potential ecological effects of the Proposed Development, including both construction and operational phases. The assessment has been informed by detailed desk studies, extensive field surveys undertaken between 2024 and 2025, and consultation with ecological stakeholders including Neath Port Talbot Council, Natural Resources Wales, and other relevant parties.

It is important to note that certain ecological mitigation measures, such as species translocation and habitat enhancement works, have already been implemented within the Site as part of the Enabling Works/Early Works undertaken by NGET's Contractor under NGET's Permitted Development rights. These works have been carried out in accordance with relevant legislation and best practice guidance and have been subject to appropriate licensing and oversight by suitably qualified ecologists (RSK Biocensus, working with Laing O Rourke).

While these Early Works are not part of the planning application for the Proposed Development, the EcIA has taken full account of their ecological implications, where relevant to the delivery of the permanent works assessed in the EcIA (i.e. where the permanent works footprint assessed within the EcIA overlaps the Early Works area). The assessment assumes a "future baseline" in which the Site is restored to its pre-Enabling Works condition, in line with good practice guidance from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). As explained in the EcIA, the reality is that the Permitted Development and permanent works will proceed in parallel, and the Site will not be restored between these phases, therefore there will be no further species translocation work required prior to commencement of permanent works within the Early Works area. However, the approach taken to the assessment in the EcIA ensures that all relevant impacts associated with the proposed permanent works, particularly in relation to protected species and habitat condition, have been considered in the evaluation of impacts and the design of mitigation and compensation measures for the Proposed Development.

The Landscape and Habitat Management Plan (LHMP) for the Margam Substation Site, along with the Habitat Management Plan for the off-site compensation area at Margam Burrows, will be submitted alongside the EcIA. Subject to approval, implementation of both plans will commence in alignment with the construction programme for the Proposed Development, ensuring that mitigation, compensation, and enhancement measures are delivered in a timely manner and in the correct season following confirmation of planning approval and delivery of the works. The LHMP sets out a 30-year management and monitoring strategy for the retained and restored habitats within the Site, also taking into account species considerations, while the Margam Burrows 30-year plan will be delivered within Tata Steel land, commencing in the relevant season following planning approval. Both plans are anticipated to be subject to appropriate planning mechanisms (e.g. condition and/or Section 106 agreement). These measures are

Caversham Bridge House
Waterman Place
Reading
Berkshire RG1 8DN

Telephone: +44 (0)118 950 0761
email: reading.uk@stantec.com

Registered Office:
Stantec UK Ltd
Stantec House, Kelburn Court,
Birchwood,
Warrington WA3 6UT
Registered in England No. 01188070

designed to ensure that ecological benefits are realised as close to the time and place of impact as possible and maintained over the long term, supporting the delivery of Net Biodiversity Benefit and ecosystem resilience in accordance with Planning Policy Wales and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding the scope or conclusions of the EcIA, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Evriviades
Technical Director – Ecology
on behalf of Stantec UK Ltd