

THE OTTER CONSULTANCY

DRAFT

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

**WATERSTON ECOPARK,
MILFORD HAVEN.**

**OTTER SURVEY
REPORT**

JULY 2016

A report for: EGNEDOL LTD

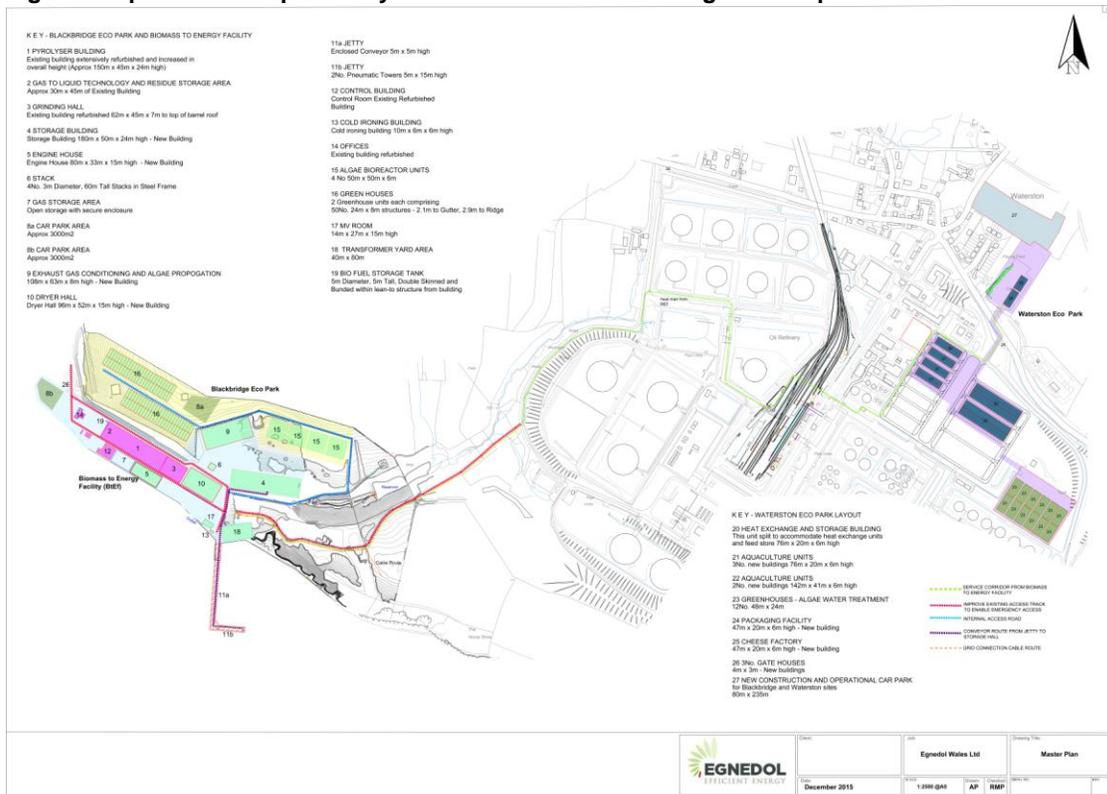
Introduction

The proposed Egnedol Ltd., Eco Park and Biomass to Energy development at Milford Haven is to be constructed on two neighbouring sites known as the Blackbridge and Waterston sites.

Detailed investigations into the potential impacts on otters of developments on the Blackbridge site have already been undertaken.

This short report describes the findings of an otter survey and impact assessment of the Waterston site. The Waterston Eco Park site is within an enclosed and fully operational COMAH site surrounded by security fencing, and a disused car park (Fig 1).

Fig 1 Proposed development layout: Waterston site at the right of the plan.



Site Investigation

The site was surveyed on June 21st 2016 in the company of Duncan Head of Security for Egnedol Ltd.

A search was made for potential otter habitats; actual / potential access routes for otters; and otter signs both within the site and along the stream that borders the site all the way downstream to its outflow into the Daugleddau estuary at Hazelbeach.

Results

Development area.

The land is a brown-field site (Plate 1) with existing roads, large areas of scrub (Plate 2) and scrub-covered rubble mounds (Plate 3).

Plate 1 Brown-field site road



Plate 2 Scrub



Plate 3 Rubble mounds



Plate 4 Small ditches



There are the remains of small ditches (Plate 4) most of which are dry, and ponds now dry (Plate 5).

Plate 5 Remains of pond



Plate 6 Security Fence

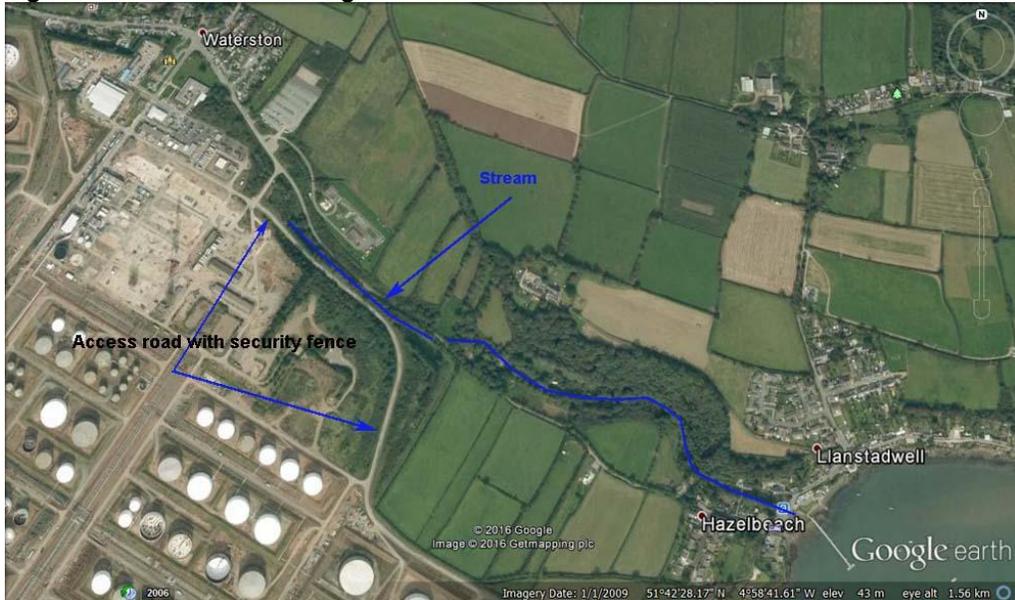


An existing access road runs around the north and west of the site, with a security fence around the site along the road edge (Plate 6 & Fig 2).

Stream

The stream lies outside the site (Fig 2) and flows through a narrow valley dominated by dense scrub & woodland (Plate 7) adjacent to the security fence, and onwards down to Hazelbeach.

Fig 2 Waterston site showing the stream & access road.



Access to the stream for surveys was gained at two locations – through a gate in the security fence by the road, used by Duncan to carry out regular monitoring of water quality; and from the public road from Waterston village to Hazelbeach.

Plate 7 Wooded valley



No signs of otters were found along the stream, or at its outflow at Hazelbeach. However, because otters use the Daugleddau along this stretch it is likely that otters do use the stream.

Conclusions.

- The stream that flows alongside the Waterston site is likely to be used by otters. The dense woodland / scrub cover through which the stream flows is undisturbed and will provide otters with ideal resting site cover.
- It is highly unlikely that otters can gain access into the brown-field site because the security fence along the access road between the site and stream forms a tight fit with the ground (Plate 6).
- The scrub habitats within the brown-field site could provide otters with lying up cover, but there are no significant water bodies present on site to provide foraging habitat. In addition, because of the quality and extent of cover within the stream valley there would be little incentive for otters to use the brown-field site.

Geoff Liles
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