

## 4 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) sets out the approach taken for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the project. The chapter also includes details of the consultation undertaken to inform the EIA and the overall approach to the assessment of the likely effects of the project. Further details of topic specific methodologies, such as survey methods, are provided in each topic chapter of this ES.

### 4.2 Scoping

- 4.2.1 Scoping is the process of identifying the issues to be addressed during the EIA process. It is an important preliminary procedure, which sets the context for the EIA process.
- 4.2.2 Regulation 15 of the EIA Regulations allows an applicant to request that the local planning authority sets out its opinion (known as a Scoping Opinion) as to the issues to be addressed in the ES. Whilst there is no formal requirement in the EIA Regulations to seek a Scoping Opinion prior to submission of an ES, it is recognised as best practice to do so.
- 4.2.3 A request for a Scoping Opinion was submitted to Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council on 29 April 2020. The Scoping Report is appended to this chapter at Appendix 4.1.
- 4.2.4 Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council provided its Scoping Opinion on 12 June 2020, which is appended to this chapter at Appendix 4.2. The consultees and organisations that responded as part of the scoping process are listed below:
- Cleveland Police;
  - Environment Agency
  - Health and Safety Executive;
  - Natural England;
  - NATS Safeguarding;
  - Network Rail;
  - Northumbrian Water;
  - Ramblers Association;
  - Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
    - Environmental Protection (Contaminated land);
    - Environmental Protection (Nuisance);
    - Highways Team;
    - Local Lead Flood Authority;
    - Natural Heritage Manager;
    - Public Rights of Way Officer;
  - South Tees Development Corporation;
  - Teeside International Airport;

- Lichfields on behalf of Anglo American Woodsmith.

4.2.5 The ES topic chapters also provide a summary of the key points raised during consultation with both statutory and non-statutory consultees.

4.2.6 The scoping exercise highlighted a number of areas that consultees wished to see addressed within the ES. Taking into account the nature, size and location of the project, the information provided within the Scoping Opinion and other consultation responses provided throughout the EIA process, the following topics have been identified as requiring consideration within this ES:

- Landscape and Visual Resources;
- Ecology and Nature Conservation;
- Hydrology and Flood Risk;
- Geology, Hydrogeology and Contamination;
- Traffic and Transport;
- Air Quality; and
- Noise and Vibration.

## 4.3 Climate Change

### Climate Change Resilience

4.3.1 Resilience to future climate change has been considered during the design process. The project design has taken into account future flood risk and resilience to extreme weather events. The conceptual surface water drainage strategy for the project has been designed to take into account the 1 in 100 year flood risk event, plus a 20% allowance for climate change. Further details are provided in Chapter 2 (Project Description) and Chapter 8 (Hydrology and Flood Risk).

### Changes to Future Environmental Conditions

4.3.2 Consideration of predicted changes in baseline environmental conditions, including changes resulting from climate change, has been set out within each ES topic chapter (Chapters 6 to 12), where robust information is available at the time of writing. Details are provided in the methodology section of this chapter.

4.3.3 The assessment of effects for each topic has taken into account identified trends or changes predicted to arise as a result of climate change.

### Effects of the Project on Climate

4.3.4 Atmospheric emissions to air from the energy recovery facility are assessed within Chapter 11 (Air Quality) of the ES.

## 4.4 Topics Scoped out of the EIA Process

4.4.1 Effects on other aspects of the environment are not likely to be significant. The topics scoped out of the assessment are set out in the Scoping Report (Appendix 4.1) and summarised below.

## Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation

- 4.4.2 The Application Site is located within Redcar Bulk Terminal and comprises of predominantly open land which has been used for the storage of materials from the terminal. There are no Public Rights of Way (PRoW) or public access within the Application Site. The nearest PRoW is the Teesdale Way located approximately 175 metres to the north of the Application Site, which provides access to South Gare Lighthouse via the South Gare Breakwater and Tod Point Road.
- 4.4.3 The construction of the proposed development would not result in the loss of any agricultural land. The proposed development is likely to be visible from Teesdale Way, however due to the location of the site within an industrial area, effects on recreation are not likely to be significant. The proposed development would not result in the loss or diversion of any recreation facilities.

## Historic Environment

- 4.4.4 There are no Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings located within or adjacent to the Application Site. The nearest listed buildings are located approximately 2.2 km to the north and to the east of the Application Site. The buildings to the east comprise three Grade II listed buildings: Marsh Farmhouse and Farm Cottage, Barn and Stable, and Garden Wall. South Gare Lighthouse is also a Grade II listed building on the headland to the north of the site.
- 4.4.5 The Application Site does not contribute to the setting or significance of any designated asset outside of its boundary and therefore, the proposed development will not impact upon the significance of any designated heritage assets.
- 4.4.6 The proposed development is located on a brownfield site which has previously been used for storage for the bulk shipping terminal nearby. Due to the Application Site's recent development history, the likelihood of any buried remains being present beneath the site is low.
- 4.4.7 Considering the historic environment baseline, it is not likely that the proposed development would result in significant effects in terms of historic assets or buried archaeology. Therefore, the historic environment has been scoped out of the ES. However, a Historic Desk Based Assessment (DBA) outlining the baseline environment and the likely potential for buried archaeology has been undertaken (see Appendix 13.1). This assessment provides further evidence that significant effects are not considered likely.

## Socioeconomics and Community

- 4.4.8 At the peak of construction, approximately 450 people could be employed at the Application Site. During operation, the proposed development (ie the Materials Recycling facility, Energy Recovery Facility and the IBA Recycling Facility) is likely to result in the creation of between 80 and 100 directly employed full time equivalent employees comprising a combination of appropriately qualified management, commercial, technical (operation and maintenance), clerical and administrative staff. In addition, an average of 100 contractors will be employed for planned annual shutdowns for a period of approximately one month for each shutdown. There will be additional positive multiplier effects in the local economy.
- 4.4.9 Given the temporary nature of the construction phase and the numbers of predicted employees during the operation phase, no additional pressures are envisaged on housing or any existing community facilities and significant effects are unlikely to occur.

## Human Health

- 4.4.10 The Application Site is located within an existing industrial area and is approximately 2.2km from the nearest residential property.

- 4.4.11 Traffic during the construction and operational phases of the proposed development is considered within Chapter 10 (Traffic and Transport) of the ES and effects on air quality (including construction dust) are included in Chapter 11 (Air Quality) of the ES.
- 4.4.12 The proposed development is not likely to generate significant construction traffic flows and best practice measures would be implemented during the construction phase to manage noise and air quality impacts in accordance with a Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) to be prepared post consent. Therefore, a separate assessment of health impacts associated with these pathways is not considered necessary within this ES.
- 4.4.13 Some employment would be generated by the proposed development during construction and operation, however, it is not anticipated that the net increase in jobs would be sufficient to generate significant health effects.
- 4.4.14 Given the nature of the proposed development, the consideration of these topic areas in other sections of the ES and the lack of any additional health pathways likely to result in significant effects, a separate health assessment in the form of an additional chapter or Health Impact Assessment is not considered necessary in this instance and is scoped out of the EIA process.

## **Effects of the Proposed Development on Climate/Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

- 4.4.15 The effects of the proposed development on climate change have been considered within each ES topic chapter. On this basis, no further assessment of greenhouse gas emissions is considered necessary or appropriate at this stage and a separate chapter for climate change is not considered necessary as part of the ES.

## **Daylight, Sunlight and Microclimate**

- 4.4.16 All the proposed works for the proposed development would be undertaken within the boundaries of the Application Site. Due to the location of the proposed works and the nature of the surrounding land use it is not considered likely that the proposed development would have significant effects in relation to daylight and sunlight. In addition, the nature of the proposed development is not likely to result in microclimate changes and therefore this topic is also scoped out of the assessment.

## **Material Assets**

- 4.4.17 The EIA Regulations refer to 'material assets', including architectural and archaeological heritage. The phrase 'material assets' has a broad scope, which may include assets of human or natural origin, valued for socio-economic or heritage reasons. These topics are scoped out of the assessment as significant effects are not considered likely (as set out above), therefore a separate chapter on material assets is scoped out of the assessment.

## **Major Accidents and Disasters**

- 4.4.18 The EIA Regulations require consideration of vulnerability to major accidents and/or disasters. The risk of major accidents and disasters are considered in Chapter 2 (Project Description) of the ES. Furthermore, each topic chapter assesses the likely environmental effects related to a major accident or disaster relating to the particular discipline. Therefore, a separate chapter assessing the risk of major accidents and disasters is not considered necessary.

## Residues, Emissions and Waste

- 4.4.19 The generation and management of flue gas treatment residue (ie air pollution control residues) and bottom ash is described in Chapter 2 (Project Description) of the ES. Other than foul water from the site office and associated catering facilities, no other residues would be generated by the process. Stack emissions are described in Chapter 11 (Air Quality) and would be managed through the Environmental Permit. On this basis, a separate chapter is considered unnecessary.
- 4.4.20 Wastes generated from the construction of the proposed development will be managed through a Site Waste Management Plan that would be prepared post consent. IBA generated from the operation of the proposed development would be recycled at the on-site facility and would be managed through the Environmental Permit along with other operational wastes. A summary of the construction and operational wastes is provided in Chapter 2 (Project Description) of the ES. No significant effects are envisaged and therefore, a separate chapter is considered unnecessary.

## Radiation and Heat

- 4.4.21 Given the nature of the proposed development no significant radiation or heat effects are anticipated, and these effects have been scoped out of the assessment.

## 4.5 Environmental Assessment Methodology

### Relevant EIA Guidance

- 4.5.1 The EIA process has taken into account relevant government or institute guidance, including:
- Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019a) Planning Practice Guidance at <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk>;
  - Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) (1997) Mitigation Measures in Environmental Statements. HMSO;
  - Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2004) Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment;
  - Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2011) The State of Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in the UK. Special Report;
  - Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2015a) Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to Shaping Quality Development;
  - Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2015b) Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation; and
  - Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2016) Guide to Delivering Quality Development.
- 4.5.2 Other topic specific legislation and good practice guidance, including the National Planning Policy Framework (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019b) has been considered and details of these can be found in the topic chapters within this ES.

## Key Elements of the General Approach

- 4.5.3 The assessment of each environmental topic forms a separate chapter of the ES. For each environmental topic, the following have been addressed:
- methodology and assessment criteria;

- description of the environmental baseline conditions;
- measures adopted as part of the project, including mitigation and design measures that form part of the project;
- identification of likely effects and evaluation and assessment of the significance of identified effects, taking into account any measures designed to reduce or avoid environmental effects which form part of the project;
- identification of any further mitigation or monitoring measures envisaged to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy adverse effects (in addition to those measures that form part of the project); and
- assessment of any cumulative effects with other developments planned in the area.

## Methodology and Assessment Criteria

- 4.5.4 Each topic chapter provides details of the methodology for baseline data collection and the approach to the assessment of effects. Each environmental topic has been considered by an appropriately qualified specialist.
- 4.5.5 Each topic chapter defines the scope of the assessment within the methodology section, together with details of the study area, desk study and survey work undertaken and the approach to the assessment of effects. The identification and evaluation of effects have been based on the information set out in Chapter 2 (Project Description) of this ES, EIA good practice guidance documents and relevant topic-specific guidance where available.

## Description of the Environmental Baseline Conditions (Including Future Baseline Conditions)

- 4.5.6 The existing and likely future environmental conditions in the absence of the project are known as 'baseline conditions'. Each topic chapter includes a description of the current (baseline) environmental conditions. The baseline conditions at the site and within the study area form the basis of the assessment, enabling the likely significant effects to be identified through a comparison with the baseline conditions.
- 4.5.7 The baseline for the assessment of environmental effects is primarily drawn from existing conditions during the main period of the EIA work in the period 2019 to 2020.
- 4.5.8 The baseline for the assessment should represent the conditions that will exist in the absence of the project at the time that the project is likely to be implemented. The anticipated start date for construction at Redcar Energy Centre is 2021, with enabling works likely to occur in Q2 2021. The programme would be of approximately 32 months duration (including enabling works and commissioning). Full operation of the site has been assumed to start in 2024. Chapter 2 (Project Description) provides further information about the construction programme assessed as part of the EIA process.
- 4.5.9 Consideration has been given to any likely changes between the time of survey and the future baseline for the construction of the project from 2021 and for operation of the project from 2024. In some cases, these changes may include the construction or operation of other planned developments in the area. Where such developments are built and operational at the time of writing and data collection, these have been considered to form part of the baseline environment. Where sufficient and robust information is available, such as expected traffic growth figures, other future developments have been considered as part of the future baseline conditions. In other cases, planned future developments are considered within the assessment of cumulative effects.



- 4.5.10 The consideration of future baseline conditions has also taken into account the likely effects of climate change, as far as these are known at the time of writing. This has been based on information available from the UK Climate Projections project (UKCP18), which provides information on plausible changes in climate for the UK (Environment Agency and Met Office, 2018) and on published documents such as the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 (Committee on Climate Change, 2016).
- 4.5.11 Climate data from the UKCP18 database has been compiled for a 25 km<sup>2</sup> grid containing the site, based on a medium emissions scenario (RCP6.0)<sup>1</sup>. Mean air temperature and annual average precipitation data for the period 2020 to 2079 have been used to inform the consideration of how environmental conditions may change at the site and within the study area in future.

## Limitations of the Assessment

- 4.5.12 Each topic chapter identifies any limitations identified in the available baseline data and whether there were any difficulties encountered in compiling the information required.

## Mitigation Measures Adopted as Part of the Project

- 4.5.13 During the EIA process, environmental issues have been taken into account as part of an ongoing iterative design process. The process of EIA has therefore been used as a means of informing the design.
- 4.5.14 The project assessed within this ES therefore includes a range of measures that have been designed to reduce or prevent significant adverse effects arising. In some cases, these measures may result in enhancement of environmental conditions. The assessment of effects has taken into account measures that form part of the project.
- 4.5.15 The topic chapters set out the measures that form part of the project and that have been taken into account in the assessment of effects for that topic. These include:
- Measures included as part of the project design (sometimes referred to as primary mitigation);
  - Measures to be adopted during construction to avoid and minimise environmental effects, such as pollution control measures. These measures would be implemented through a CoCP to be prepared post consent; and
  - Measures required as a result of legislative requirements.

## Assessment of Effects

- 4.5.16 The EIA Regulations require the identification of the likely significant environmental effects of the project. This includes consideration of the likely effects during the construction and operational phases. The assessment is based on consideration of the likely magnitude of the predicted impact and the sensitivity of the affected receptor. The process by which effects have been identified and their significance evaluated is set out within each individual topic chapter. The overarching principles are set out below.

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<sup>1</sup> RCP (representative concentration pathway) is a greenhouse gas concentration trajectory for which four scenarios are modelled for UKCP18: RCP2.6, RCP4.5, RCP6.0 and RCP8.5.

## Sensitivity or Importance of Receptors

- 4.5.17 Receptors are the physical or biological resource or user group that would be affected by a project. For each topic, baseline studies have informed the identification of potential environmental receptors. Some receptors will be more sensitive to certain environmental effects than others. The sensitivity or value of a receptor may depend, for example, on its frequency, extent of occurrence or conservation status at an international, national, regional or local level.
- 4.5.18 Sensitivity is defined within each ES topic chapter and takes into account factors including:
- Vulnerability of the receptor;
  - Recoverability of the receptor; and
  - Value/importance of the receptor.
- 4.5.19 Sensitivity is generally described using the following scale:
- High;
  - Medium;
  - Low; and
  - Negligible.
- 4.5.20 In some cases, a further category of very high has been used.

## Magnitude of Impact

- 4.5.21 Impacts are defined as the physical changes to the environment attributable to the project. For each topic, the likely environmental impacts have been identified. For each topic the likely environmental change arising from the project has been identified and compared with the baseline (the situation without the project). Impacts are divided into those occurring during the construction and operational phases.
- 4.5.22 The categorisation of the magnitude of impact is topic-specific but generally takes into account factors such as:
- Extent;
  - Duration;
  - Frequency; and
  - Reversibility.
- 4.5.23 With respect to the duration of impacts, the following has been used as a guide within this assessment, unless defined separately within the topic assessments:
- Short term: A period of months, up to one year
  - Medium term: A period of more than one year, up to five years; and
  - Long term: A period of greater than five years.
- 4.5.24 The magnitude of an impact has generally been defined used the following scale:
- High;
  - Medium;
  - Low; and



- Negligible.

4.5.25 In some cases, a further category of 'no change' has been used.

### Significance of Effects

4.5.26 Effect is a term used to express the consequence of an impact (expressed as the 'significance of effect'). This is identified by considering the magnitude of the impact and the sensitivity or value of the receptor.

4.5.27 The magnitude or size of an impact does not directly translate into significance of effect. For example, a significant effect may arise as a result of a relatively modest impact on a resource of national value, or a large impact on a resource of local value. In broad terms, therefore, the significance of the effect can depend on both the impact magnitude and the sensitivity or importance of the receptor.

4.5.28 Significance levels are defined separately for each topic. Unless separately defined in the topic chapters, the assessments take into account relevant topic specific guidance, based on the following scale and guidance:

- Substantial: Only adverse effects are normally assigned this level of significance. They represent key factors in the decision-making process with regard to planning consent. These effects are generally, but not exclusively, associated with sites or features of international, national or regional importance that are likely to suffer the most damaging impact and loss of resource integrity;
- Major: These beneficial or adverse effects are considered to be very important considerations and are likely to be material in the decision-making process;
- Moderate: These beneficial or adverse effects may be important, but are not likely to be key decision-making factors. The cumulative effects of such factors may influence decision making if they lead to an increase in the overall adverse effect on a particular resource or receptor;
- Minor: These beneficial or adverse effects may be raised as local factors. They are unlikely to be critical in the decision-making process, but are important in enhancing the subsequent design of the project; and
- Negligible: No effects or those that are beneath levels of perception, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error.

4.5.29 The terms minor, moderate, major and substantial apply to either beneficial or adverse effects. Effects may also be categorised as direct or indirect, secondary, short, medium or long term, or permanent or temporary as appropriate.

4.5.30 Each chapter defines the approach taken to the assessment of significance. Unless set out otherwise within the chapter, topic chapters use the general approach set out in Table 4.1. For some topics, a simplified or quantitative approach is considered appropriate.

**Table 4.1: Typical Assessment Matrix**

Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact				
	No Change	Negligible	Low	Medium	High
Negligible	No change	Negligible	Negligible or Minor	Negligible or Minor	Minor
Low	No change	Negligible or Minor	Negligible or Minor	Minor	Minor or Moderate

Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact				
	No Change	Negligible	Low	Medium	High
Medium	No change	Negligible or Minor	Minor	Moderate	Moderate or Major
High	No change	Minor	Minor or Moderate	Moderate or Major	Major or Substantial
Very high	No change	Minor	Moderate or Major	Major or Substantial	Substantial

- 4.5.31 Unless set out otherwise in each topic chapter, effects assessed as moderate or above are considered to be significant in terms of the EIA Regulations within this assessment.

## Further Mitigation and Future Monitoring

- 4.5.32 Where required, further mitigation measures have been identified within topic chapters. These are measures that could further prevent, reduce and, where possible, offset any adverse effects on the environment.
- 4.5.33 Where relevant and necessary, future monitoring measures have been set out within the topic chapters.

## Assessment of Cumulative Effects

- 4.5.34 The EIA Regulations require consideration of cumulative effects, which are effects on a receptor that may arise when the project is considered together with other proposed developments in the area.
- 4.5.35 The cumulative effects of the project in conjunction with other proposed schemes have been considered within each topic chapter of the ES. Other developments considered within the cumulative assessment include those that are:
- Under construction;
  - Permitted, but not yet implemented;
  - Submitted, but not yet determined; and
  - Identified in the Development Plan (and emerging Development Plans - with appropriate weight being given as they move closer to adoption) recognising that much information on any relevant proposals will be limited.
- 4.5.36 Developments that are built and operational at the time of submission are considered to be part of the existing baseline conditions.
- 4.5.37 Details of the developments included as part of the cumulative assessment are provided in Appendix 4.2.

## Interrelationships

- 4.5.38 Each topic chapter considers whether or not there are any inter-related effects with other topics included within the EIA that have not already been considered in order to identify any secondary, or synergistic effects.

## Summary Tables

- 4.5.39 Summary tables have been used to summarise the effects of the project for each environmental topic.

## Consultation

- 4.5.40 The project team has undertaken consultation with, or requested information from, a number of organisations, including (but not limited to):
- Natural England (Chapter 7 – Ecology and Ornithology);
  - Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (Chapter 8 – Hydrology and Flood Risk);
  - Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council Environmental Health Department (Chapter 11 – Air Quality and Chapter 12 – Noise and Vibration);
  - Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council – Highways Department (Chapter 10 – Traffic and Transport).

## Local Planning Authority

- 4.5.41 The proposed development lies within the administrative area of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council. A pre-application meeting was held on 19 March 2020 with the Planning Officer to provide an overview of the proposed development, the key constraints and anticipated timeframes of the planning application.
- 4.5.42 Further to the above, topic specialists have consulted the relevant experts within Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and their consultees on their approach to the EIA through the scoping process. Further information regarding consultation with topic specific organisations is detailed within the individual topic chapters.
- 4.5.43 Consultation with statutory bodies, notably including Natural England, has been undertaken throughout the EIA and design process in order to agree methodologies and request and share information regarding existing environmental conditions. Natural England's feedback has led to modification to the design of the IBA area and boundary treatment. Feedback from statutory bodies has been received directly in the case of Natural England and others and has also been monitored via feedback provided and posted to Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council's website.

## Public Consultation

- 4.5.44 As part of the consultation process, the Applicant has engaged with the local community in order to inform local people about the project, to explain the development and its likely effects and to take on board any concerns or issues raised. Having regard to the COVID19 pandemic and the associated limitations for public consultation it was agreed with the planning authority that remote consultation was appropriate with targeted business and receptors. These were identified from within a 2.5km study area, along with parties not based within the that area but with an interest in the land therein. Homes and business within this area were contacted by letter to inform them of the proposals. The letter provided an address for the project website with further details on the proposals, and an offer of individual contact via telephone or video call was made, should the recipient wish to discuss the proposals further.
- 4.5.45 In addition, The programme of publicity for the consultation was carried out as follows;
- Direct correspondence to all local elected members of the council and relevant stakeholders. Emailed on 16 June 2020.
  - Direct letters and accompanying Q&A to all residential and business receptors identified within the consultation criteria. Posted First Class on 16 June 2020.
- 4.5.46 A project website was also established to provide online access to further information about the project. The project website covered:

- A general introduction to the applicant and proposals;
- More detail on the specifics of the proposals;
- A description of how the energy recovery process works;
- Details on the host site;
- Environmental considerations;
- The planning process;
- An online feedback form during the consultation period, and:
- How to contact the developer to provide feedback and to ask for more information.

4.5.47 A Statement of Community Engagement (SoCE) has been submitted with the application providing further details of the findings of the exhibitions. No comment or feedback was received from those contacted other than an acknowledgment from a local Councillor. This reflected the low response anticipated to the proposals given the proximity to residential reports and the highly industrialised nature of the locality.

## 4.6 References

Committee on Climate Change (2016) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017.

Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (2006) Environmental Impact Assessment: A Guide to Good Practice and Procedures – A Consultation Paper.

Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) (1997) Mitigation Measures in Environmental Statements. HMSO.

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