Application for Development Consent Order for The Kemsley Mill K4 Combined Heat and Power Generating Station Case Ref: EN010090

Examining Authority's Note of Unaccompanied Site Inspection on Wednesday 12 September 2018

Background

As Examining Authority (ExA) I undertook my second Unaccompanied Site Inspection to support my examination of an application for development consent for the proposed Kemsley Mill K4 Combined Heat and Power Generating Station (the Application) on 12 September 2018. The application has been made by DS Smith Paper Ltd (the Applicant).

The inspection was undertaken from publicly accessible land including highways and public rights of way. No access to private land was sought and therefore I was able to undertake the inspection on an unaccompanied basis.

I undertook the inspection alone. I did not encounter any Interested Parties or other persons during my inspection. Weather conditions were reasonable, being cloudy but dry. Visibility was reasonable at all times. My inspection was undertaken by car and on foot.

Particulars of the Inspection

The purpose of the visit was for me as ExA to experience the acoustic environment in and around Eleanor Drive, Milton Regis. My visit commenced at approximately 12.00 noon and was completed by approximately 12.15pm.

The visit was in order for me to understand the Relevant Representation [RR-004] and Written Representation [REP1-011] submitted by Mr Michael Vick, a resident of Eleanor Drive who had identified noise from existing operations at Kemsley Mill. I also took into account the response of the Applicant to the Written Representations at REP2-029 and in particular Appendix A – Noise Survey at the DS Smith Paper Mill at Kemsley. In undertaking my visit I was aware that the time of my inspection did not correspond with some of the times and/ or atmospheric conditions which had been identified by Mr Vick or in the Applicant's survey.

I spent approximately 15 minutes within the area and walked the full length of Eleanor Drive in both directions as well as the adjoining open space. Sound which was apparent to me included birdsong, dogs barking, traffic noise and aircraft noise. I did not detect any sound from Kemsley Mill.