



Our ref: AC/2023/131481
 Your ref: EN010110
 Date: 24 March 2023

Medworth EfW - Examining Authority Questions 1

AIR QUALITY AND HUMAN HEALTH		EA ANSWER
AQHH.1.1	Para 8.4.3 of Chapter 8 of the ES [APP-035] states that the spatial extent of the Study Area has been informed by the guidance detailed in Section 8.3 of the same document. As the EfW CHP Facility incorporates a combustion activity with a thermal input exceeding 50MW, in accordance with the Environment Agency’s Air Emissions Risk Assessment for an Environmental Permit (EP), the assessment is required to consider nature conservation sites up to 15km from the emission source. Consequently, the Study Area includes an area encompassing 15km from the location of the chimney emissions. Could the EA confirm that it is satisfied with this approach and why it believes that a 15km radius is appropriate for this project?	Guidance ' Air emissions risk assessment for your environmental permit ' sets the screening distance for 'Larger combustion plants using more sulphurous fuels with more than 50 megawatt thermal input' as 15km for SACs, SPAs, Ramsar and SSSIs.
AQHH.1.2	Table 8B3.6 of Appendix 8A: Stakeholder engagement and consultation comment on Air Quality [APP-078] includes the air quality monitoring results for 2021 of identified sites in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. The percentage of data capture varies considerably from site to site.	As part of the determination process will we check background levels provided against Department for Environment food & rural affairs background mapping data for local authorities. https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data/lagm-background-home

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EIA.1.2	<p>The ES is reliant in numerous aspect chapters on the proposed Environmental Permits (EP) for the delivery of the Proposed Development. The EPs have not yet been agreed with the EA. The existing permits have also not been submitted to the Examination at present.</p> <p>Please can an update be provided as to the stage of the Environmental Permits.</p>	<p>As at the 24/3/2023 the application is currently being assessed for 'duly making'. This process checks that all relevant documents are in place prior to determination.</p>
EIA.1.5	<p>The base configuration was a chimney 3m above the level of the tallest building, this being the minimum requirement of the EA's D1 guidance note. Therefore the assessment parameters ranged between 53m – 150m. The worst case scenario height is considered to be 84m and the limit of deviation is a height of up to 90m. Taking in to account the EA's guidance, the chimney height which has been identified as corresponding to best Available Techniques (BAT) and has been used to model impact of chimney emissions in this assessment is 84m (this is considered a worst case scenario recognising that the Applicant's vertical Limits of Deviation (LoD) includes for chimneys up to 90m in height).</p> <p>Can the Applicant explain why 84m was considered to the worst case scenario, both in terms of visual impact and emissions?</p>	<p>The modelling process used to determine stack height will be assessed as part of the permit determination.</p>
BIODIVERSITY, ECOLOGY AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT		EA ANSWER
BIO.1.3	<p>Can the NE and the EA confirm they are satisfied with the conclusions and the methodology used in the No Significant Effects Report (NSER)?</p>	<p>We defer to Natural England on this matter.</p>