Indaver Rivenhall IWMF DCO

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT [PINS Ref: EN0101038]

ES CHAPTER 6:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Document Reference: EN0101038/APP/6.1

Revision Number 1.0

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

November 2023
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6 EIA Methodology

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This chapter sets out the scope and methodology adopted in the EIA process for the ES. It explains how the scope of the EIA was defined, the baseline assumptions, methods used to assess the environmental effects and the general criteria used to evaluate their significance. The methodology to be applied to each of the technical impacts is set out in each technical chapter.

6.1.2 This ES chapter is accompanied by **Appendix 6.1: Cumulative Schemes Schedule** in **ES Volume 2, Appendices (Doc Ref. 6.2)**.

6.2 Regulatory Requirements and Good Practice

6.2.1 This ES was prepared to satisfy the requirements of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017[1] (as amended) ('EIA Regulations'). **ES Volume 2, Appendix 1.1: Location of Specified Information in the ES (Doc Ref. 6.2)** sets out the information requirements of the ES, in line with Regulation 14(2)/(3)/(4) and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations, together with their location within the ES.

6.2.2 The following list outlines the key legislative and policy documents to which regard was had during the EIA process:

- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023)[2];
- Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1)[3];
- NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)[4];
- Draft: Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)[5];
- Draft: National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)[6]; and
- Planning Act 2008[7].

6.2.3 In preparing this ES, reference was made to the following guidance and advice:

- Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process for major infrastructure projects[8];
- Advice Note 3: EIA Consultation and Notification[9];
- Advice Note 6: Preparation and submission of application documents[10];
- Advice Note 7: Environmental Impact Assessment, Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping[11];
- Advice Note 17: Cumulative Effects Assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects[12];
- Planning Practice Guidance ('PPG') – Environmental Impact Assessment[13];

- Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment: Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment ('IEMA')[14];
- Special Report: The State of Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in the UK (IEMA)[15];
- EIA – Shaping and Delivering Quality Development (IEMA)[16]; and
- Delivering Proportionate EIA (IEMA)[17].

6.2.4 Topic specific guidance referred to in the technical chapters of this ES was used where appropriate. Each technical assessment followed respective national and local planning policy and guidance as appropriate to their discipline.

6.3 Scope of the ES

6.3.1 The Scoping Report and a request for an EIA Scoping Opinion pursuant to Regulation 10(1) of the EIA Regulations was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 25th April 2023 (**ES Volume 2, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report (Doc Ref. 6.2)**). The Scoping Report was produced to document the proposed scope of the environmental assessment, including a description of the aspects and matters to be included in the ES. The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the SoS, reviewed and consulted on the Scoping Report and published the Scoping Opinion on 6th June 2023 (**ES Volume 2, Appendix 5.2: Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion (Doc Ref. 6.2)**). A summary of Scoping Opinion comments and how they were addressed by the EIA is provided in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.1).** Further detail is provided in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 7: Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases, ES Volume 1, Chapter 8: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref. 6.1)** and **ES Volume 2, Appendix 5.3: Schedule of Scoping Opinion Comments and Responses (Doc Ref. 6.2)**.

6.3.2 As set out in Scoping Report, and agreed via the Scoping Opinion, the topics included in the ES are:

- Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases; and
- Noise.

6.3.3 Topic specific cumulative inter-project effects were assessed in each technical chapter.

Basis of Assessment

6.3.4 The EIA reported within this ES was based on the detailed planning and technical drawings submitted alongside the DCO application.

6.3.5 The assessments considered a set of default scenarios, as follows:

- 2025 Future Baseline Scenario – A future date when the EfW plant in the Consented Scheme is built and with its theoretical operation based on the Consented Scheme; and
- 2025 Operational Scenario with the Proposed Development – The assessment of the incremental change associated with the Proposed Development for comparison with the 2025 Future Baseline Scenario (i.e. the assessment of any operational changes relative to the Consented Scheme).

6.3.6 The present-day baseline is not outlined in the technical chapters, unless needed to determine the Future Baseline. This scenario adds no value to the process, as the changes associated with the Proposed Development was assessed against the EfW plant in the Consented Scheme being built and in-situ. This approach was agreed through the Scoping Opinion.

Scoped Out Topics

6.3.7 The Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion concluded that 15 topics did not need to be considered as part of the EIA for the Proposed Development. It was concluded that those aspects of the environment were unlikely to be significantly affected from the Proposed Development and therefore could be scoped out of further assessment. Justification to support scoping out these topics is provided in **ES Volume 2, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report (Doc Ref. 6.2)**, taking account of factors set out in Advice Note 7, including considerations of impact pathways, scale of impact, potential for avoidance or mitigation, and potential for cumulative effects with other environmental aspects. Table 6.1 sets out the scope of the assessment.

Table 6.1: Scope of Assessment

Technical Topics	Future Baseline	Proposed Development Operation	Scope Topic In / Out
Scoped In			
Noise[1]	Determine conditions with Consented Scheme using latest methods	Model noise emissions to demonstrate impacts	Scope in
Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases	Determine conditions with Consented Scheme using latest methods	Assess impact of incremental increase in MW output	Scope in

[1] Note that that the assessment of Vibration was proposed to be scoped out of the ES in the Scoping Report (**ES Volume 2, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report (Doc Ref. 6.2)**). The Scoping Opinion state that the Inspectorate considers that the scoping report provided insufficient justification for scoping this matter out. Further rationale for scoping out this assessment is provided in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 8: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref. 6.1)**.

Technical Topics	Future Baseline	Proposed Development Operation	Scope Topic In / Out
Scoped Out			
Air Quality	No change	No change	Scope Out
Land Use and Contaminated Land	No change	No change	Scope Out
Ground and Surface Water (and Flood Risk)	No change	No change	Scope Out
Ecological Impact and Ecological Risk Assessment	No change	No change	Scope Out
Landscape and Visual Impacts	No change	No change	Scope Out
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	No change	No change	Scope Out
Travel and Transport	No change	No change	Scope Out
Social and Community Issues	No change	No change	Scope Out
Nuisance Impact Assessment (air emissions, dust, bioaerosols, odour, litter, insects, vermin and birds and light pollution)	No change	No change	Scope Out
Human Health	No change	No change	Scope Out
Waste and Materials	N/A	No effects expected	Scope Out
Vulnerability to Major Accidents and Disasters			Scope Out
Aviation			Scope Out
Energy and Utilities			Scope Out
Electromagnetic Fields			Scope Out
Telecommunications			Scope Out

Scoped Out Phases of Assessment

Construction Phase

6.3.8 The Scoping Report proposed to scope out an assessment of construction phase effects. The Scoping Opinion sought additional clarification on the timing of implementation of the Proposed Development to provide agreement to this approach and justification as to why likely significant effects would not arise.

6.3.9 Paragraphs 3.13.1 and 3.13.2 of this ES provide details of the construction programme and timeframes for both Work Options. The engineering operations for the construction of the Proposed Development, as described in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development and Construction (Doc Ref. 6.1)**, will be undertaken within the enclosed consented IWMF building. The scale and timing of the engineering operations and the location of them within an enclosed space will limit the potential for likely significant construction effects to arise.

6.3.10 The Consented Scheme incorporates various environmental management controls that avoids, reduces or compensates for the environmental effects of the Consented Scheme (e.g. embedded in the design, through planning conditions or Section 106 obligations).

6.3.11 Given the above, the construction of the Proposed Development does not result in a material change in construction phase effects from the Consented Scheme. Therefore, a construction phase assessment was scoped out of the EIA.

6.3.12 Notwithstanding, relevant information and an indicative construction programme for the Proposed Development is presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development and Construction (Doc Ref. 6.1)**.

Decommissioning Phase

6.3.13 An assessment of any decommissioning effects is not specifically required under Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations, although item (5)a) refers to the *'the construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works'.*

6.3.14 The Scoping Report proposed to scope out an assessment of decommissioning phase effects. The Scoping Opinion requested additional clarification on how the Environmental Permit would apply to the Proposed Development and the nature of measures to be considered in the Closure Plan. Further details are provided in Section 3.15 of **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development and Construction (Doc Ref. 6.1)**.

6.3.15 The decommissioning of the Proposed Development will be undertaken in accordance with industry standard good practice. Decommissioning would be subject to regulatory control through a variation to the Environmental Permit. This will not result in a material change in the controls on decommissioning from the Consented Scheme, including compliance with the Closure Plan. A decommissioning phase assessment was scoped out of the EIA.

6.4 Consultation

6.4.1 The Proposed Development has been subject to statutory and non-statutory consultation. For details see **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Consultation (Doc Ref. 6.1), ES Volume 2, Appendix 5.4: Schedule of Statutory Consultee Comments and Responses (Doc Ref. 6.2)** and the **Consultation Report (Doc Ref. 5.1)**.

6.5 Defining the Baseline

Study Area

6.5.1 The study area, also known as the spatial Zone of Influence (ZoI), for each topic was based on the geographical scope of the potential impacts relevant to the topic or the information required to assess the likely significant effects, as well as topic specific guidance and consultation with stakeholders. This is defined in the technical ES chapters as the study area varies from topic to topic and between the construction and operational phases in some cases. A summary of the study areas applied to the topics in this EIA is provided in Table 6.2.

Table 6.2: Study Areas of Assessment

Topic	Operational Proposed Development
Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases	Climate change is a global environmental effect and as such the study area for the assessment is not limited by any specific geographical scope. The assessment considers the release of greenhouse gases from activities associated with the Proposed Development which the Applicant has some ability to control or influence.
Noise	The Site and closest noise sensitive receptors.

Determining Baseline Conditions

6.5.2 Baseline environmental conditions need to be established to enable an accurate assessment of potential changes to such conditions that may occur and to assess the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development.

6.5.3 To predict the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Development, it was necessary to consider the environmental conditions predicted to exist within the Site boundary and surrounding area when the EfW plant in the Consented Scheme is fully constructed and ready for operation, if not operational (i.e. what will happen in the absence of the Proposed Development being granted a DCO). These are known as the 'Future Baseline' conditions. Implementation of the Proposed Development will only be possible once the EfW plant in the Consented Scheme is constructed (other than the installation of the inlet control valves in the event that Work No. 2 is to be carried out). Therefore, the assessment was based on a 'Future Baseline Scenario', this being the future date at which the EfW plant in the Consented Scheme is ready for operation. This requires all elements of the Consented Scheme outside of the consented IWMF building to be constructed and for the relevant part of the IWMF building to be fully constructed.

6.5.4 In applying the 'Consented Scheme Future Baseline' approach, the EIA assesses the effects of the different/additional activities arising from the Proposed Development. The Consented Scheme planning documents for approval, such as the approved plans, form the basis for the Future Baseline assumptions.

6.5.5 By adopting this approach, the EIA focusses on the effects of the different or additional activities associated with the Proposed Development and does not provide reassessment of other aspects that would be unchanged, such as access, land take or external built form of the facility.

6.5.6 The future baseline takes into account natural changes from the existing baseline scenario as far as they can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge and any other developments or works (e.g. quarrying activity) that may occur and affect the Site and surrounding area.

Sensitive Receptors

6.5.7 As part of the EIA process, the environmental effects of a given development or scheme are typically assessed in relation to sensitive receptors, including human beings (e.g. future site users), built resources (e.g. buildings) and natural resources (e.g. controlled waters). The criteria used for identifying potentially sensitive receptors include:

- proximity to the Site;
- presence or absence of impact pathways;
- extent and duration of potential exposure to environmental impacts; and
- vulnerability and ability to respond to change.

6.5.8 Further details on sensitive receptors are provided in the baseline assessment section of the technical chapters of the ES (**ES Volume 1, Chapter 7: Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases (Doc Ref. 6.1)** and **ES Volume 1, Chapter 8: Noise and Vibration (Doc Ref. 6.1)**). The chapters consider future sensitive receptors, on-site and off-site. A summary of the receptors and their sensitivity is provided in each technical chapter.

6.6 Assessment of Effects

Operational Phase Assessment

6.6.1 The likely significant effects of the completed Proposed Development were assessed for the anticipated year of completion of the EfW plant, assumed to be 2025. The assessment assumed that the Proposed Development (and the EfW plant in the Consented Scheme as amended by the Proposed Development) will be fully completed and operational at that date. Full operation may occur slightly earlier or later than this assumed date, but this is unlikely to affect the likely significance of effects stated.

6.6.2 It is expected that the Proposed Development would allow for the EfW plant to operate at a generating capacity between 60 and 65 MW. The expected operational

generating capacity was assumed to be the same for Work Option 1 and 2; therefore, only one operational phase assessment scenario was required in the assessments. For the 2025 Operational Scenario with the Proposed Development, assumptions were made that the EfW plant would operate at a generating capacity for the purpose of the providing worst-case scenarios for technical assessment, as follows:

- Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases: 62.37 MW, the design point of the turbine.
- Noise: 65 MW.

6.6.3 The EIA assessed the potential environmental effects with embedded measures in place. If significant adverse effects were identified after considering these embedded measures, 'additional mitigation measures' were proposed.

Identifying and Determining the Significance of Environmental Effects

Identifying Impacts and Effects

6.6.4 The Proposed Development has the potential to create a range of 'impacts' and 'effects' on the physical, biological and human environment. The definitions of impact and effect used in this assessment are as follows:

- Impact: a change that is caused by an action. For example, excavation works would lead to a removal of underlying soils and lithology (impact). Impacts can be classified as direct, indirect, secondary, cumulative and inter-related. They can be either positive (beneficial) or negative (adverse); and
- Effect: is used to express the consequence of an impact. For example, removal of soils and lithology (impact) has the potential to disturb underlying buried heritage sensitive receptors (effect).

6.6.5 For consistency, the findings of the various studies undertaken as part of the EIA adopt the following terminology to express the nature of the effect:

- Adverse: Detrimental or negative effect to an environmental resource or receptor; and
- Beneficial: Advantageous or positive effect to an environmental resource or receptor.

6.6.6 Where adverse or beneficial effects are identified, these were assessed against the following scale:

- Negligible: imperceptible effects to an environmental receptor;
- Minor: slight, very short or highly localised effect of no significant consequence;
- Moderate: limited effect (by extent, duration or magnitude) which may be considered significant; and

- Major: considerable effect (by extent, duration or magnitude) of more than local significance or in breach of recognised acceptability, legislation, policy or standards.

6.6.7 Following their identification, significant beneficial or adverse effects were classified based on their nature and duration as follows:

- Temporary: Effects that persist for a limited period only (due, for example, to particular activities taking place for a short period of time);
- Permanent: Effects that result from an irreversible change to the baseline environment (e.g. land-take) or which will persist for the foreseeable future (e.g. noise from regular or continuous operations or activities);
- Direct: Effects that arise from the effect of activities that form an integral part of the scheme (e.g. direct employment and income generation);
- Indirect: Effects that arise from the effect of activities that do not explicitly form part of the scheme (e.g. off-site infrastructure upgrades to accommodate the development);
- Secondary: Effects that arise as a consequence of an initial effect of the scheme (e.g. induced employment elsewhere);
- Cumulative: Effects that can arise from a combination of different effects at a specific location or the interaction of different effects over different periods of time.

6.6.8 In the context of the Proposed Development, short term, temporary effects (up to 4 weeks duration) are generally determined to be those associated with construction activities, and the long term, permanent effects are those associated with the completed and occupied development.

6.6.9 Local effects are those effects affecting receptors within and in close proximity to the Site, whilst effects on receptors in the wider study area are considered to be at a district level. Sub-regional effects are those affecting adjacent boroughs/wards, whilst effects on the East of England are considered to be at a regional level.

Defining Sensitivity of Receptor and Magnitude of Impact

Sensitivity of Receptor

6.6.10 Sensitive receptors were defined as the physical or biological resources or user groups that would be affected by the potential impacts of proposed development. The identification of sensitive receptors were informed by baseline studies carried out as part of the EIA. The sensitivity of a receptor was based on the relative importance of the receptor, taking into account:

- legislative/designated status;
- the number of individual receptors;
- the characteristics/rarity; and
- ability to absorb change.

6.6.11 A summary of sensitive receptors was provided within each baseline assessment sections of the ES technical chapters. Sensitivity was defined within each topic according to the following scale:

- Negligible;
- Low;
- Medium; and
- High.

Magnitude of Impact

6.6.12 For impacts assessed in this ES, a magnitude of impact was assigned, taking into account the spatial extent, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact, where relevant. Scales of magnitudes of impact were defined in each chapter of this ES where this is possible, otherwise professional judgement was applied to the following scale:

- No change;
- Negligible;
- Low;
- Medium; and
- High.

Evaluation of Significance of Effect

6.6.13 The assessment of environmental effects was undertaken in accordance with definitive standards and legislation where such material were available. In cases where it was not possible to quantify effects, qualitative assessments were carried out and based on the available knowledge of the Site and potential effect, alongside professional judgement. Where uncertainty existed, this was detailed in the 'Assumptions and Limitations' under 'Assessment Methodology' in the respective technical chapters.

6.6.14 Each technical chapter provided the specific criteria, including sources and justifications, for quantifying the level of effect significance. Where possible, this was based upon quantitative and accepted criteria, together with the use of value judgements and expert interpretations to establish to what extent an effect was significant.

6.6.15 There is no statutory definition of what constitutes a significant effect and guidance is of a generic nature. However, it is widely recognised by EIA practitioners that 'significance' reflects the relationship between the magnitude of an impact and the sensitivity (or value) of the affected resource or receptor. Statutory designations and any potential breaches of environmental law take precedence in determining significance because the protection afforded to a particular receptor or resource is already established as a matter of law, rather than requiring a project or site-specific evaluation.

6.6.16 Specific criteria for the assessment of each potential effect gives due regard to the following:

- extent and magnitude of the effect;
- effect duration (whether short, medium or long term);
- nature of effect (whether direct or indirect, reversible or irreversible);
- performance against environmental quality standards;
- whether the effect occurs in isolation, is cumulative or interactive;
- sensitivity of the receptor; and
- compatibility with environmental policies.

6.6.17 Where adverse or beneficial effects were identified, these were generally assessed against the scale set out in each technical chapter. Each of the two technical chapters provides topic-specific matrices that define the criteria of EIA significance to determine the scale or magnitude of effects within the ES.

Mitigation, Monitoring and Residual Effects

6.6.18 The development of mitigation measures is an integral part of EIA. Mitigation measures are set out in each of the technical assessment sections where significant effects are identified, with the aim of avoiding, reducing, or offsetting for potential adverse effects and maximising potential beneficial effects. In each technical chapter, the specialists undertaking the EIA identified appropriate mitigation measures based on their assessment of potential significant impacts.

6.6.19 The following types of mitigation measures were considered where relevant:

- Inherent mitigation measures - those which are ‘designed in’ or embedded to the scheme and certain to be delivered (i.e. what is proposed by the application forms and drawings).
- Standard mitigation - e.g. construction mitigation with a high degree of certainty over delivery.
- Actionable mitigation measures - those that require a controlling mechanism or legal undertaking to be implemented, but are under the control of the Applicant, ECC, BDC or statutory bodies (e.g. planning conditions, Section 106 agreement).

6.6.20 Residual effects are those that remain following the consideration of mitigation within the assessment. When applying the matrix set out in Table 6.4, these are defined as either ‘significant’ (i.e. major or moderate residual effect) or ‘not significant’ (i.e. minor residual effect or negligible). ‘Not significant’ effects would not be considered material to the planning decision and ‘significant’ effects could be considered material to the planning decision process.

6.7 Cumulative and Combined Effects

6.7.1 Cumulative effects can occur either when different effects from the Proposed Development interact to exacerbate effects on sensitive receptors, or when the magnitude of an effect is exacerbated by other future neighbouring developments, thus creating a more significant effect on a receptor. The cumulative assessment is important to ensure that the combined impacts of other schemes are understood and appropriately considered in decision making.

6.7.2 The EIA Regulations (Schedule 4) specify the information to be included and require that in assessing the effects of a particular development, consideration should be given to cumulative effects. Potential cumulative effects can be categorised into two types:

- Cumulative effects - are those that accrue over time and space from a number of different development activities and projects in geographical proximity to one another, which individually might be insignificant, but when considered together could create a significant cumulative effect (also referred to as 'inter-project' effects).
- Effect interactions - occur when two or more different environmental effects from the Proposed Development (e.g. dust, noise and traffic) act together to produce a different level of effect/impact experienced by a receptor. These combined effects (or 'intra-project') can be additive or synergistic such that the sum of the impacts can be less or more than the individual impacts (i.e. because they may exacerbate or neutralise one another). As set out in the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion, this aspect of cumulative assessment is scoped out of this ES as noise and climate change impacts act on different receptors and cannot have combined effects.

Inter-Project Effects Assessment Methodology

6.7.3 The recommended four-step approach set out in Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 17[7] for cumulative assessment of inter-project effects was followed. This is outlined in Table 6.3.

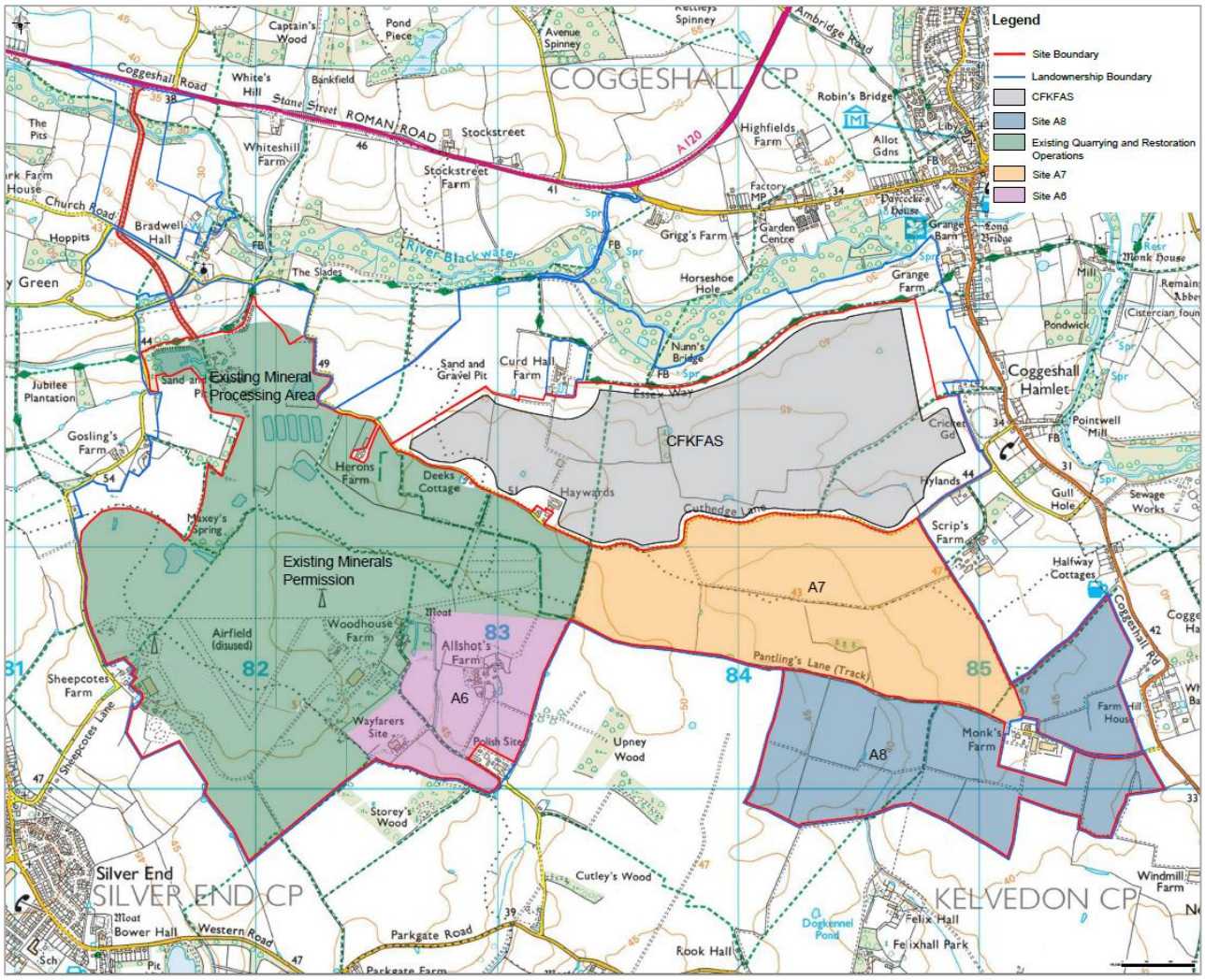
Table 6.3: Cumulative Assessment Process

Step	Description
Step 1: Identify Zones of Influence (ZoI) and long list of cumulative schemes	▪ Identify ZoI of the scoped-in technical assessments of ES. ▪ Identify a long list of other 'existing development and/or approved development' within ZoI of Proposed. Development, for review in consultation with the local planning authorities, statutory consultees and other relevant organisations. ▪ Assign a level of certainty to identified cumulative schemes.
Step 2: Identify short list of cumulative schemes	▪ Exclude all cumulative schemes of a nature, scale or temporal overlap without the potential to result in cumulative effects to ensure a proportionate assessment, in consideration of ZoI of Proposed Development and consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

Step	Description
	▪ Identify topic specific receptors and their geographical locations based on the study areas. Complete screening exercise based on a source-pathway-receptor approach to identify what, if any, sensitive receptors can be discounted from cumulative assessment.
Step 3: Information gathering	▪ Gather detailed information on each of the cumulative development shortlisted at Stage 2. This may be collected from the public sources, LPAs, the Planning Inspectorate or directly from the Applicant. It will include but not be limited to - proposed design and location information; - proposed programme of demolition, construction, operation and/or decommissioning; and - environmental assessments that set out baseline data and effects arising from the cumulative scheme.
Step 4: Assessment	▪ Assessment of the cumulative schemes with the Proposed Development. This will be carried out in accordance with the assessment methodology set out in Advice Note 17 and documented in a matrix format, in-line with Matrix 2 (Appendix 2).

6.7.4 **ES Volume 2, Appendix 6.1: Cumulative Schemes Schedule (Doc Ref. 6.2)** provides the long list and short list of cumulative schemes considered in the EIA. This demonstrates that the only potential cumulative schemes for the Proposed Development relate to mineral extraction works in the vicinity of the Site. The spatial extent of these works is illustrated in Figure 6.1.

Figure 6.1: Cumulative Scheme Extent and Site Referencing



6.7.5 Quarrying and restoration works are complete within the Existing Minerals Permissions area. Excavation of minerals is expected to commence in 'Site A7' in 2023, and likely to continue for up to 10 years (to 2033). Site A6 will also likely come forward for excavation for a duration of approximately four years, although commencement date is unknown. ECC have advised during email correspondence in May 2023 that review of their Minerals Local Plan (MLP) is currently underway to extend policies for mineral development to 2040. Consultation is ongoing and this is due for adoption in 2025. The potential adoption of other quarrying sites (e.g. Site A8, CFKFAS) in the updated MLP is currently unknown. Therefore, the EIA assessed the in-combination cumulative effects with the allocated quarrying works (i.e. Site A6 and A7) at minimum. The embedded mitigation and controls related to the quarrying activity to minimise adverse noise and air quality effects are also taken into account in the assessment.

6.7.6 As the Proposed Development is a proposed 'extension' to the Consented Scheme, the Consented Scheme was not assessed within the cumulative effects assessment. Instead the Consented Scheme was considered within the 'Future Baseline Scenario', as construction of the EfW plant in the Consented Scheme is required for the Proposed Development to be implemented. Additionally, the associated development associated with the Consented Scheme (such as the grid

connection) was treated as cumulative development in the ES (as amended) for the Consented Scheme. As there are no changes proposed to these elements of the Consented Scheme, consideration of these aspects were scoped out of the cumulative assessment for the EIA of the Proposed Development.

6.7.7 The cumulative effects of the Proposed Development with other planned or committed development in the local area, were considered on a topic-by-topic basis and reported in the separate technical chapters of the ES, and mitigation measures proposed where necessary.

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