

**REFERENCE            BHE4195**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2011**

**ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**

**NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

**RESOURCE RECOVERY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
PRODUCTION FACILITY TOGETHER WITH THE CONSTRUCTION  
OF AN ADDITIONAL SITE ENTRANCE, ASSOCIATED  
INFRASTRUCTURE, PARKING AND LANDSCAPING**

**AT**

**FRYERS ROAD, BLOXWICH, WALSALL, WEST MIDLANDS**

**ON BEHALF OF:            B H ENERGY GAP LLP**

**PREPARED BY:            ALLIANCE PLANNING**

**DATE:                        MAY 2013**

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PARKING AND LANDSCAPING**

**FRYERS ROAD, BLOXWICH, WALSALL, WEST MIDLANDS**

**ON BEHALF OF:                    B H ENERGY GAP LLP**



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**DATE:                                MAY 2013**

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Drawing no 2012-057/101	Site Location Plan
Drawing no 2012-057/106 rev A	Scheme Layout Plan

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 For the Environmental Statement (ES) to achieve its objective of incorporating environmental considerations into the decision making process, potentially significant impacts on the environment must be identified and addressed. Appropriate mitigation measures will need to be provided where there is otherwise likely to be significant adverse impacts. Guidance explains that not all effects or impacts on the environment that may arise are going to be significant and the emphasis is on the identification of the main impacts of wider consequence to the environment.
- 1.2 The detailed findings and technical supporting information for each area of study are set out in the relevant sections of the Environmental Statement.
- 1.3 This Non-Technical Summary (NTS) presents the results of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) carried out in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 (2011 Regulations).
- 1.4 The EIA considers the likely impacts on the environment arising from the development of a Resource Recovery and Renewable Energy Production Facility (The 3Rs) at Fryers Road, Bloxwich, Walsall.
- 1.5 Alliance Planning submitted a formal request for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion to Walsall Council (the Local Planning Authority) in July 2012 to confirm the nature and extent of the topic areas for assessment.
- 1.6 Walsall Council issued a formal 'Scoping Opinion' dated 13<sup>th</sup> August 2012. The topic areas (direct and indirect impacts) set out in the Scoping Opinion included: socio-economic; transportation; natural environment and archaeology; landscape and design; contamination; noise; air quality; flood risk, surface water management and water quality and sustainability. Work on the EIA commenced in May 2012 and was discussed with Walsall planning authority and with all other relevant statutory consultees.

# INTRODUCTION

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- 1.7 In the intervening period, following a technology review, changes to the design of the initial development were made to the scheme by the Applicant, which resulted in amendments to the building height and the through-put of the proposed facility. Based on the amendments to the scheme, the submission of the Application was delayed and an updated Scoping request was submitted to Walsall Council in March 2013 to determine whether there had been any changes that would need to be reflected in the EIA. Walsall Council issued a second Scoping Opinion on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013.
- 1.8 The Applicant is seeking planning permission on land at Fryers Road, Walsall for:
- ‘Resource recovery and renewable energy production facility together with the construction of an additional site entrance, associated infrastructure, parking and landscaping’*
- 1.9 The ES considered all of the potentially significant environmental effects that are likely to arise as a result of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development. Wherever possible discussion was undertaken with the relevant statutory consultees. Relevant comments made during this process were incorporated into the EIA and the resultant ES.
- 1.10 The EIA informed the preparation of the planning application and the detailed design of the development. The application incorporates all of the relevant recommendations from this ES that are designed to protect the environment.

# SITE DESCRIPTION AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

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## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 2.1 The Application Site (the Site) comprises approximately 3.2 hectares of previously developed land within the built up area of Walsall. The land is located approximately 3.5km to the north west of Walsall Town Centre and 0.7km to the South West of Bloxwich District Centre. The Site fronts Fryers Road and is industrial in nature. The Site is identified in the adopted Black Country Core Strategy (February 2011) as a site for new strategic waste management infrastructure and is also located within a designated 'Core Employment Area' and 'Industrial Regeneration Area' defined in the adopted Walsall Unitary Development Plan (UDP).
- 2.2 The Site is shown edged red on the Site Location Plan. All the land shown edged red is within the control of the applicant.
- 2.3 The Site represents open land and there is an existing railhead located in the north part of the Site. The extent of the Site boundary is generally defined by galvanised steel palisade fencing. The Site rises to a high point in the north of 153.76m AOD and falls to low points in the south of 144.12m AOD.
- 2.4 The Site is not at risk from Flood Risk being located in Flood Zone 1. Neither are there any known ecological designations or heritage assets identified on the Site.
- 2.5 Access to the Site is via Fryers Road which forms a junction with Leamore Lane approximately 500m to the south and Willenhall Lane approximately 400m to the north.
- 2.6 The proposed development seeks to recover value from up to 300,000 tonnes of commercial and industrial waste from the local area by the recovery of items for recycling and the use of 'gasification' technology to generate renewable energy from the residual material.
- 2.7 The proposed Resource Recovery and Renewable Energy Production operations will be located within a purpose built main process building located in the southern part of the Site. The process building has been designed to accommodate all the materials, recovery and fuel preparation activities together with the power plant, boilers, flue gas treatment and ash storage

# SITE DESCRIPTION AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

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area. The building will also include three floors of office accommodation, which includes the control rooms, reception, meeting/conference rooms and offices with associated toilet/welfare facilities.

- 2.8 The main process building will include the Tipping Hall, Waste Processing Hall, Furnaces and Boiler Area Flue, Gas Treatment Area and Turbine Hall. The height of the process building has been defined by the operational requirements of the facility and the equipment to be accommodated within the structure. The building will be a height of 19m above the unloading area stepping up to 22m above the Turbine Hall. The nature of the gasification process requires the power plant to be positioned vertically within the building, thus increasing the height of the building to 37m to accommodate the gasifier.
- 2.9 The design and proposed colour scheme for the building has sought to minimise perception of the height of the facility by the use horizontal emphasise unbroken by window openings and lighter colours on the tall elements of the building. The colour palette for the building will include Steel blue, diamond, silver, white and pearl. Glazing will be limited to the entrance area to provide a focal point for staff and visitors
- 2.10 The building will have a single exhaust stack rising above the roof. The stack will house multiple flues and will contain the continuous monitoring equipment, analysing the content of the flue gas. The stacks will be 65 m in height with an external diameter of approximately 3.5m.
- 2.11 The only structures that will be located external to the building are the Air Cool Condensers units (ACCs) that require a flow of air round them for cooling purposes and the fuel storage tanks. The ACCs will be located in the south west of the Site and the storage tanks will be located within the main service yard.
- 2.12 The proposed process building has been set back from the canal frontage and will be situated within new landscaped areas located to the north, east and south of the Site. The landscaping zones will comprise a mix of species rich grassland areas and native woodland planting. The landscape proposals will enhance the character of the scheme and create a unifying element

# SITE DESCRIPTION AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

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throughout the development. The proposed layout creates a series of individual spaces within an overall cohesive framework and provides a landscaped setting for the new building.

2.13 The construction of the proposed development will comprise two key elements:

- Stabilisation of the previous landfill and creation a development platform; and
- Construction of the proposed resource recovery and renewable energy production facility.

2.14 The proposed construction phase will generate approximately 250 construction jobs and is expected to last approximately 3 years.

2.15 The proposed facility will operate on a 24 hour basis, although deliveries to the facility are limited to the following times:

- Monday to Friday: 0730 – 1900
- Saturday: 0730 – 1300

2.16 In the first instance, waste will be delivered to the facility having been collected by waste collection companies from waste producers within the Black Country Area. Upon arrival at the facility, the delivered material will be weighed and recorded in accordance with Environment Agency and trading standards requirements. After passing over the weighbridge the material will be delivered to the Tipping Hall where it will be put into buffer storage in a pit.

2.17 The imported material will then pass through a series of electro-mechanical devices i.e. shredders, screens, ballistic or air separators, magnetic, eddy-current separators and near-infra red (optical) sorting, to undertake initial screening and recovery operations to capture and remove rubble, plastics and metal components from the resource. The separated recyclable materials will be stored and bulked within the building prior to export for re-use at suitable recycling facilities in the local area. Undesirable materials not required in the Advanced Thermal Treatment (ATT) process will also be

## SITE DESCRIPTION AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

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removed, providing a quality control on the feedstock going to thermal treatment.

- 2.18 The residual material will be shredded and prepared as a fuel feedstock prior to treatment within the main processing building by an advanced thermal treatment method known as 'gasification'. The feedstock will be fed into a 'gasifier' within the building where it will be heated to a temperature up to 1400 degrees Celsius. The application of heat to the feedstock will result in the conversion of the waste mass to 'syngas' which will then be combusted to create superheated steam. The steam will then be fed into a condensing turbo-generator to produce approximately 19MW of electricity (sufficient energy to power 42,000 homes). The electricity will be exported into the National Grid via a connection to a local sub-station in Stephenson's Avenue.
- 2.19 The process will produce residues in the form of bottom ash and boiler ash, which can be used as a substitute to low grade aggregates, and air pollution control residue (APCr) which will be collected and removed from the Site for further treatment off-site or disposal by landfill.
- 2.20 The Applicant is committed to maximising the overall energy efficiency of the proposed resource recovery facility by incorporating CHP into the scheme. BH Energy Gap has undertaken an assessment of the potential heat users in close proximity to the Site. Based on the conclusions of the Heat User Assessment, the Applicant is confident that surplus heat from the proposed development can be exported to local companies and users in the vicinity of the Site and that CHP is a viable option on this Site.

# ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

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## 3.0 ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

3.1 This Section sets out a summary of the potential significant impacts on the environment that may arise as a result of the proposed development.

### **Ground Conditions/Contamination**

3.2 An assessment of the effects of the proposed development on the ground conditions including local geology, stability issues, soil resources and potential sources of contamination.

3.3 Based on the results of the assessments the following mitigation measures are recommended:

- The undertaking of a robust intrusive investigation to confirm the conceptual site model and provide data for construction design.
- The compilation of a robust remediation strategy and earthworks management plan (CLAIRE Materials Management Plan).
- The provision of a detailed Remediation Verification/Validation report and Material Management Plan Audit report.
- Application of appropriate measures during the construction phase to protect construction workers and site neighbours from exposure to any contaminated material which is encountered (e.g. dust control procedures, appropriate PPE).
- Suitably qualified supervision during the remediation works in order to manage the treatment of site soils and monitor for unexpected contamination.
- A 'clean' 0.45m thick cover layer (or as otherwise agreed with the Walsall Council EHO) should be placed over in-situ soils in areas of new landscaping excluding that area already provided with the historic clay cap. The cover soils should be validated prior to placement.

# ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

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- Building slabs and membranes should be designed to mitigate the Characteristic Situation classification for the Site. Ground gas monitoring will be undertaken to classify the gas regime, as described within BS 8485 and C665.
- To mitigate the risk of migration of contaminants from site soils and or perched water into deeper underlying aquiferous water both on and off the site made-ground soils within the shallow superficial layer and within the landfill/quarry pits are to be treated by stabilisation methods to encapsulate potential contaminants within the soil matrix. Additionally mine working features on/underlying the Site comprising shafts and shallow workings if within influencing distance of the development surface/foundations are to be treated by capping and grouting.
- If piling through to aquiferous water is required as part of the development a foundation works risk assessment should be completed to mitigate risks to controlled waters. This should take due account of the treatment of mine features and the soil stabilisation.
- The concrete used within the development should be designed in accordance with the concrete classification for the Site (assessed using BRE Special Digest 1).
- The local water supply company should be consulted regarding the pipe material and backfill specification of potable water supply pipes.

3.4 All the above mitigation measures are accepted by the applicant. Based on the assessment and the incorporation of the above measures in the design it is concluded that the risks of harm to human health and pollution of controlled waters subsequent to the completion of the development are **Negligible**.

## **Townscape and Visual Assessment**

3.5 An assessment of the likely significant environmental effects on the local townscape character and the visual amenity of sensitive receptors associated with the Proposed Development has been undertaken. The assessment considers the potential effects during the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development in relation to surrounding sensitive receptors,

# ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

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including existing local residential receptors, the setting of Listed Buildings and Schedule Ancient Monuments.

- 3.6 Replacing previously used land with a scheme combining appropriately designed buildings and landscape treatments represents limited beneficial effects on the landscape of the Site. The assessment has confirmed that all the adverse effects experienced during the construction phase will be temporary and will be experienced in the context of a busy, urban environment.
- 3.7 Overall the Townscape and Visual Assessment has identified that in the long-term, the proposal is likely to have an overall neutral impact on the overall townscape resource and a minor adverse impact on the visual amenity of users of the adjacent canal.

## **Air Quality**

- 3.8 An assessment of the effects of the proposed development activities at the Site on local air quality including emission and odour has been undertaken. Baseline air quality conditions were defined and potential impacts during the construction and operational phase identified, assessed and mitigation options recommended, as appropriate.
- 3.9 Based on the findings of the assessment, it is likely that a temporary elevation in dust levels will occur around the Site, particularly when activities are undertaken during dry and/or windy meteorological conditions. Compliance with a suitable dust control measures should effectively control the potential impacts to local receptors.
- 3.10 The assessment concludes that implementation of good practice measures will ensure potential air quality impacts during the construction phase of the development will be negligible at receptors of medium sensitivity.

# ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

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## *Operational Phase*

- 3.11 The number of vehicle trips generated during the operational phase is not considered significant in the context of the surrounding industrial area. However, any reduction in traffic using the local and regional road networks would be considered beneficial to the local pollutant burden.
- 3.12 Due to the size and nature of the development, and provided that good practice measures are implemented, potential air quality impacts during the operational phase of the development are predicted to range between slight adverse and negligible at sensitive receptor locations in the vicinity of the Site.

## **Transport**

- 3.13 An assessment of the effects of the proposed development on traffic movements and travel patterns on the local highway network has been undertaken. The assessment considers the potential impacts of increased traffic flows on highway safety, severance, driver delay, pedestrian delay and amenity and accessibility by sustainable modes of travel. Any necessary mitigation measures have been identified.
- 3.14 The site is located within acceptable walking and cycling distances of local residential areas and the operator is prepared to introduce measures and policies which will encourage employees to travel via more sustainable modes of transport. Employees also have good pedestrian links to the existing rail and bus networks.
- 3.15 The site previously generated both HGV and car traffic and vehicle connections with Fryers Lane are already established. The proposed development will not generate substantial volumes of traffic and thus will not have any significant traffic impact on the operational capability of the local highway network.
- 3.16 The traffic generation associated with the site is considered to be minimal, and is likely to be substantially less than the variation in daily traffic volumes as experienced on the adjacent highway network and associated junctions.

# ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

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## **Water/Flooding**

- 3.17 An assessment of the proposed development on water resources and flooding has been undertaken. The Site lies entirely within Flood Zone 1 (Low Probability) and therefore outside the floodplain of the extreme flood event. The Site is not subject to any significant adverse water-related effects and it is secure from existing sources of flood-risk.
- 3.18 Construction activity creates the risk of soil erosion during storms and can lead to silt being washed off the site into nearby streams or onto adjacent development. Deep excavations may need de-watering. Plant and equipment carry the associated risk of pollution from spilt fuel, from other plant consumables or from some materials (e.g. cement from concrete) that may affect water bodies around the Site.
- 3.19 Proper management during construction will avoid or alleviate most effects and prevent potential impacts.
- 3.20 The assessment concludes that impacts on water resources would be either negligible or minor beneficial once mitigation has been incorporated into the development.

## **Socio-economic**

- 3.21 An assessment of the main socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed development has been undertaken. The assessment considers the existing situation and the likely impacts associated with the proposed development. In particular, this section also considers the social and economic objectives of Birchills Leamore, Walsall and the Black Country.
- 3.22 During the construction phase of the development, it is estimated that the proposal will generate in excess of 250 jobs, with roles in the following related sectors: administration, construction, instrumentation, mechanical, electrical and civil engineering. The construction-related jobs may be sourced from the local area and thus, will have a direct and indirect impact on the level of employment/unemployment in the local area. Additionally, the £100 million investment provided by BH EnergyGap should also have a significant number

# ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

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of multiplier effects that create jobs for local construction and service-related businesses and boost the wider local economy.

- 3.23 The construction phase of the proposed development is anticipated to last 3 years, thus providing an element of security for the jobs created from this phase of development. Further indirect employment and job security will also result from the provision of goods and services from the local area as a result of the redevelopment at Fryers Road.
- 3.24 The proposed development will result in the creation of a number of full-time and part-time positions once the Resource Recovery and Renewable Energy Production Facility is fully operational. It is anticipated that approximately 50 permanent positions will be created as a result of the proposed development of which approximately 20 will require specialist skills, but 30 that can be recruited from unskilled or semi-skilled personnel. The proposed facility will also support jobs for a number of external jobs, such as truck drivers. The provision of new jobs in the long-term, within a sector that is currently expanding, will bolster the local economy and lower unemployment levels. In turn, this has the potential to raise the affluence of the area, and thus the social position and wellbeing of residents within the Birchills Leamore Ward and the Borough of Walsall. It is considered that this will have a moderate positive Impact on the surrounding area.
- 3.25 The proposed development will address a shortage of waste processing facilities in the region to treat and recover commercial and industrial waste. This method offers a wholly more sustainable alternative operation, which currently involves commercial and industrial waste being sent to landfill for processing, where it produces greenhouse gases and other sources of contamination.
- 3.26 The assessment has identified that the proposed development will have a cumulative positive impact on the socio-economic profile of Birchills Leamore, with wider associated beneficial impacts in Walsall.

# ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

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## Ecology

- 3.27 An assessment of the biodiversity and nature conservation interests of the Site and the surrounding area and the potential effects of the scheme upon those interests has been undertaken. Detailed baseline surveys of the Site have been carried out in accordance with the relevant national guidance including that issued by Natural England and the Bat Conservation Trust.
- 3.28 There is one site of international importance located within 10km of the Site; the Cannock Extension Canal, a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). It is approximately 4km north east of the Site and is designated for its abundance of floating water plantain *Luronium natans*.
- 3.29 There are two SSSIs within 5km of the site. Jockey Fields SSSI is approximately 4.5km east and is designated for its wet grassland and grazing marsh and is an important site for birds including grey heron and snipe. Daw End Railway Cuttings SSSI is approximately 4km south east of the Site and is designated for exposure of Wenlock Shale containing Silurian Period marine fossils.
- 3.30 A section of Wyrley and Essington Canal has LNR status approx. 2km north of the Site where it incorporates marginal areas of grassland and ponds. Where the canal adjoins the south western end of the Site it has the non-statutory designations of Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC) and Wildlife Corridor (WC). Rough Wood Chase LNR is situated approximately 0.8km to the south east and is a mosaic of woodland and grassland with a series of pools that support the Borough's largest great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* population.
- 3.31 No reptiles, great crested newts or other amphibians were recorded during the baseline survey. None of the trees on the Site are considered to have features suitable for roosting bats.
- 3.32 A range of common birds were recorded during the survey and all of the grassland, scrub and wasteland habitats on site have the potential to support nesting birds.

# ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

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- 3.33 All of the plant species on the Site are common and widespread both locally and nationally and there are no hedgerows within the site's interior or along the boundaries.
- 3.34 All vegetation clearance will be undertaken between September and February to avoid committing the offence of damaging/destroying nests during the bird breeding season. This applies to both ground vegetation and scrub/tree clearance.
- 3.35 Based on the results of the ecological survey it is concluded that the Site does not support species or habitats of ecological importance. The proposed development incorporated a detailed landscaping strategy that will bring forward new areas of landscaping, particularly along the canal frontage. The retention of existing trees and the new landscaping areas proposed will enhance biodiversity linkage between the Site and adjacent Wildlife Corridor along the canal.

## **Noise**

- 3.36 A noise survey has been carried out to determine the existing background noise levels in the vicinity of the Site and surrounding noise sensitive premises.
- 3.37 An assessment of the proposed plant items associated with the development has been carried out. Calculations indicate that based on the current proposals providing the proposed external ACC unit is selected to have a sound power level no greater than 68 dB, the external noise criteria will be met at the nearest residential properties on Irvine Road and Moorland Road.
- 3.38 To provide a rating level of 'marginal significance' at the canal tow path that runs along the southern boundary of the site additional attenuation measures are required.
- 3.39 In terms of construction noise the proposed development is not expected to give rise to any issues outside those that are commonly encountered and successfully controlled through the use of standard mitigation measures and controls. Once a detailed construction programme for the proposed development is available, an assessment of the potential impacts of construction noise and vibration issues will be carried out in line with BS 5228.

# ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

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## **Sustainability**

- 3.40 A Sustainability Appraisal of the proposed development has been undertaken. The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal is to gather relevant environmental, social and economic objectives from national, regional and local policies and to critically evaluate the proposed facility against these objectives.
- 3.41 The findings of the appraisal show that the proposed development will be favourable in terms of improving sustainability. In terms of waste going to landfill; associated traffic movements; job creation; the proposed methods of construction; and, regeneration of a vacant site
- 3.42 Overall, the development represents a positive contribution to the improvement in sustainability of the West Midlands and the Borough of Walsall compared to their historical contexts.

## **Heritage Assets**

- 3.43 A Desk-based Assessment of the Heritage Assets on and in the vicinity of the Fryers Road Site has been undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed development. This Desk-based Assessment identified no features of national or local heritage importance on the Site but five sites and structures of archaeological and historic importance were recorded within 1km of the Site.
- 3.44 The Site comprises disturbed land that has been the subject of previous mineral extraction and landfill operations that ceased in the mid 2000's. Based on the above, any remains on the Site will, in general, have been destroyed as a result on the previous operations.
- 3.45 The nearest Listed Building to the Site (Bloxwich Hall) is situated approximately 500m to the north east of the proposed resource recovery and renewable energy building. Based on the nature of the proposed development and the historic context of the Site it is considered that the operation of the facility will not result in an adverse impact on the setting of Bloxwich Hall or other Heritage Assets in the vicinity of the Site.

# ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

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## **Alternatives**

- 3.46 As part of the EIA Process an assessment of possible alternative technologies and alternative sites for the proposed development as a means of testing the most appropriate form of development, to minimise the potential impacts on the environment has been undertaken.
- 3.47 The review of alternative sites and alternative technologies considered by the Applicant has confirmed that the land at Fryers Road is the most sustainable site to bring forward a resource recovery and renewable energy generation facility for the management of commercial and industrial waste or similar waste types.

## **Interactions and Cumulative effects**

- 3.48 The individual topic assessment which collectively form the EIA all identify impacts (both positive and negative) which are likely to be experienced as a consequence of the construction of the proposed facility and during its operation.
- 3.49 Where possible each assessment has identified specific mitigation proposals that are needed to prevent, reduce and where possible off-set any significant adverse effects on the environment. It is recommended that these mitigation measures are incorporated into relevant planning conditions and/or planning obligations.
- 3.50 Table 1.1 below sets out a summary of the effects of the proposed scheme which have been assessed as being potentially significant. The table also highlights whether an effect is positive or negative.

# ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

**Table 1.1**

Topic	Construction Phase		Operational Phase	
	Significance without mitigation	Significance with mitigation	Significance without mitigation	Significance with mitigation
Noise	Minor Adverse	Neutral / Negligible	Minor Adverse	Neutral / Negligible
Geology & Ground Conditions	Major Adverse	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible
Surface Water & Flood Risk	Minor Adverse	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible
Ecology				
• Designated Sites	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible	Minor Adverse	Neutral / Negligible
• Habitats	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible	Minor Beneficial
• Badger	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible
• Birds	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible	Minor Beneficial
• Bats	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible	Minor Adverse	Neutral / Negligible
• Reptiles	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible	Minor Adverse	Neutral / Negligible
Air Quality / Dust / Odour	Minor Adverse	Neutral / Negligible	Minor Adverse	Neutral / Negligible
Transport	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible
Socio-economic	Minor Beneficial	Minor Beneficial	Minor Beneficial	Minor Beneficial
Townscape	Minor Adverse	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible	Neutral / Negligible
Visual	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse

Note: The above table provides a simple summary of grouped impacts, by topic area. This summary is based on the findings of the detailed topic area assessments, which are covered in more detail in the Environment Statement.

**Key**

	Major Beneficial
	Minor Beneficial
	Neutral / Negligible
	Minor Adverse
	Major Adverse

# ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

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- 3.51 Construction operations have the potential to lead to short-term negative impacts in respect of, noise and dust related emissions. A detailed Site Remediation Strategy has been developed to ensure that potential contaminants are contained and/or treated on the Site. Based on the remediation strategy and mitigation measures any potential impacts associated with the proposed development will result in a neutral impact on the environment.
- 3.52 Based on the implementation of suitable mitigation and remediation measures during the construction phase, the proposed development will result in a **neutral effect** on surface water drainage/flooding, ground conditions, ecology, noise, and air quality which will remain unchanged during the operational phase.

## *Operation Phase*

- 3.53 The main potential adverse effects on the environment associated with the operation of the proposed development, without mitigation, relate to the potential long term effect from air emissions/noise on sensitive receptors. In each of these cases the use of acoustic mitigation measures and good site management will minimise potential outbreak from the development to an acceptable level and thus will result in a **neutral effect**, in terms of noise, odour, surface water drainage/flooding and ground contamination in the longer term.
- 3.54 The assessment of predicted air emissions associated with the operation of the proposed development confirms that the mitigation measures incorporated within the design of the facility will ensure that nationally agreed air quality standards will not be exceeded at any sensitive local receptor. In addition, the impact of emissions from vehicles was assessed as imperceptible during the operational phase of the proposed development. No mitigation is proposed and no residual effects are anticipated.

## ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

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- 3.55 The proposed development will introduce a large industrial style building into an existing industrial area. The proposed building will be designed for its purpose but is of a scale significantly larger than existing building in the local area. The choice of materials and colours have been selected to mitigate the overall scale of the proposed development of complete mitigation is not achievable. Based on the above, the proposed development will have a neutral effect on the local Townscape and a minor adverse effect on a number of visual receptors in the local area in the longer term.
- 3.56 In addition, the proposed development will bring forward a number of measures that will enhance the biodiversity potential of the Site in the longer term. These measures include the introduction of native tree planting and species rich grassland on the site boundary with the creation of an enhanced wildlife corridor fronting the canal. Based on the above measures, the proposed development will result in a **slightly beneficial effect** on local habitats in the longer period.
- 3.57 The proposed development will bring forward **significant positive** socio-economic and community benefits to humans as a result of employment opportunities and the delivery of a sustainable approach to waste management incorporating a reduction in the level of waste material being sent to landfill and the generation of renewable energy.
- 3.58 The development will result in **no cumulative adverse impacts** on the Birchills Leamore or Walsall area.
- 3.59 Based on the findings of a comprehensive, systematic and publicly accessible assessment process, the ES concludes that the proposed development will result in an **overall neutral to positive impact** on the environment.

# CONCLUSIONS AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS

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## 4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS

- 4.1 The EIA has considered the potential effects on the environment resulting from the construction of a Resource Recovery and Renewable Energy Production Facility on land at Fryers Road, Walsall. The proposed facility will treat 300,000 tones per year of commercial and industrial waste and generate up to 19MW of electricity.
- 4.2 The ES complies with the requirements of the relevant national legislation including in particular the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011. In carrying out each of the assessments that make up the EIA, regard was had to the best practice guidance covering the relevant areas.
- 4.3 The EIA undertaken has considered in a comprehensive and detailed manner all the significant environmental effects identified in the formal Scoping Opinion that could arise from the proposed development. The EIA has reviewed the environmental implications of the development both at construction and during operation. It identifies suitable mitigation to ensure that the Proposal does not result in an adverse impact on the local environment or human health.
- 4.4 The EIA has confirmed that the likely impacts of the Application are within recognised standards and are therefore acceptable.
- 4.5 The proposed development will bring forward moderate socio-economic and community benefits to humans as a result of employment opportunities and the delivery of a sustainable approach to waste management incorporating a reduction in the level of organic waste material being sent to landfill and the generation of renewable energy. The Proposals will achieve enhancements in sustainability and biodiversity.
- 4.6 Based on the implementation of the Site remediation strategy and suitable mitigation measures during the construction and operational phases, the EIA concludes that development will result in no residual impacts on the Site or wider environment.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS

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- 4.7 The overall balance of impacts is a matter for Walsall planning authority in their determination of the Application. Based on the findings of the assessment process, the ES concludes that the proposed development will result in an **overall neutral to positive impact** on the environment.