



SCOPING OPINION:

Proposed Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility

Case Reference: WS010006

Adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) pursuant to Regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

05 May 2022



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 On 25 March 2022, the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) received an application for a Scoping Opinion from O.C.O Technology Ltd (the Applicant) under Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) for the proposed Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility (the Proposed Development). The Applicant notified the Secretary of State (SoS) under Regulation 8(1)(b) of those regulations that they propose to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Proposed Development and by virtue of Regulation 6(2)(a), the Proposed Development is 'EIA development'.
- 1.0.2 The Applicant provided the necessary information to inform a request under EIA Regulation 10(3) in the form of a Scoping Report, available from:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/WS010006/WS010006-000008-WS010006%20-%20Scoping%20Report.pdf>
- 1.0.3 This document is the Scoping Opinion (the Opinion) adopted by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS. This Opinion is made on the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, reflecting the Proposed Development as currently described by the Applicant. This Opinion should be read in conjunction with the Applicant's Scoping Report.
- 1.0.4 The Inspectorate has set out in the following sections of this Opinion where it has / has not agreed to scope out certain aspects / matters on the basis of the information provided as part of the Scoping Report. The Inspectorate is content that the receipt of this Scoping Opinion should not prevent the Applicant from subsequently agreeing with the relevant consultation bodies to scope such aspects / matters out of the ES, where further evidence has been provided to justify this approach. However, in order to demonstrate that the aspects / matters have been appropriately addressed, the ES should explain the reasoning for scoping them out and justify the approach taken.
- 1.0.5 Before adopting this Opinion, the Inspectorate has consulted the 'consultation bodies' listed in Appendix 1 in accordance with EIA Regulation 10(6). A list of those consultation bodies who replied within the statutory timeframe (along with copies of their comments) is provided in Appendix 2. These comments have been taken into account in the preparation of this Opinion.
- 1.0.6 The Inspectorate has published a series of advice notes on the National Infrastructure Planning website, including [Advice Note 7: Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping \(AN7\)](#). AN7 and its annexes provide guidance on EIA processes during the pre-application stages and advice to support Applicants in the preparation of their ES.
- 1.0.7 Applicants should have particular regard to the standing advice in AN7, alongside other advice notes on the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) process, available from:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

- 1.0.8 This Opinion should not be construed as implying that the Inspectorate agrees with the information or comments provided by the Applicant in their request for an opinion from the Inspectorate. In particular, comments from the Inspectorate in this Opinion are without prejudice to any later decisions taken (eg on formal submission of the application) that any development identified by the Applicant is necessarily to be treated as part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) or Associated Development or development that does not require development consent.

2. OVERARCHING COMMENTS

2.1 Description of the Proposed Development

(Scoping Report Sections 2 and 3)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.1.1	Paragraph 3.34 and Table 3.1	Hours of operation	<p>The Scoping Report does not make clear how the proposed hours of operation for the Development Consent Order (DCO) application differ from those of the current operations at the site or those proposed in the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) application.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.34 confirms the Proposed Development will operate 24 hours per day and 7 days per week, with a more detailed breakdown by activity provided in Table 3.1. In contrast, Table 3.1 states that the <i>"Manufacture of aggregate including production, curing and moving cured materials into the storage areas"</i> will take place <i>"24-hour, 7 days a week including Bank Holidays. Closed Sundays"</i>.</p> <p>The ES should clearly describe the operational activities and their hours of operation and ensure this has been assessed in the aspect chapters, as relevant. In particular, the ES should assess any potential noise impacts at night and other unsocial hours such as weekends and public holidays.</p>
2.1.2	Paragraph 3.47	Construction programme	<p>The Scoping Report outlines a six to eight month construction programme, which assumes that the TCPA application has been granted and thus most of the infrastructure will be in place. The Scoping Report also explains that the entirety of the TCPA application would be included within the DCO application. In the event that the TCPA application is not granted or delayed such that the outcome is not known by the point of the DCO application, the ES should include and assess the construction programme for the entire Proposed</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			Development, including TCPA application works, where these are to be delivered through the DCO.
2.1.3	Paragraphs 3.49 and 3.50	Decommissioning	<p>The Scoping Report briefly describes the likely decommissioning scenario; however, it does not state the likely operational life of the Proposed Development. It is also unclear whether an assessment of likely significant effects associated with the decommissioning phase is to be provided.</p> <p>The ES should make clear the likely operational lifespan of the Proposed Development and include an assessment of the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development, where likely significant effects could occur.</p>
2.1.4	Figure 5	Red line boundary (RLB)	The RLB labelled as 'application site' on Figure 5 appears to be different from Figure 1 in that a small area in the north-east corner has been excluded. Figures accompanying the ES should be clear and consistent with regards to the DCO application site boundary.

2.2 EIA Methodology and Scope of Assessment

(Scoping Report Section 7)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.2.1	N/A	Residues and emissions	The EIA Regulations require an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions. Specific reference should be made to emissions to water, air, soil and subsoil, noise, light, heat and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases, where relevant. This information should be

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			provided in a clear and consistent fashion and may be integrated into the relevant aspect assessments, such as the air quality chapter.
2.2.2	N/A	Assessment methodology – significance of effects	<p>The Scoping Report does not describe the assessment methodology proposed to determine the significance of effects for a number of aspect chapters, including Ecology, Landscape and Visual Impacts, Socio-Economics, and Climate Change.</p> <p>The ES should clearly state the assessment methodology applied to determine the significance of effects. The ES should reference aspect-relevant best practice guidance for the undertaking of environmental impact assessments, such as the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment¹ and the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3 (GLVIA3)², as relevant.</p>
2.2.3	N/A	Mitigation and monitoring	<p>The ES should provide details of proposed measures, identify where and how they are secured, and specify which predicted effects they are intended to address.</p> <p>Noting that the DCO application is proposed to include both the TCPA infrastructure and the additional infrastructure for the DCO, the description of mitigation measures in the ES should make clear those measures that have already been secured and implemented as part of the TCPA application (where granted/implemented) and those that are additional/supplementary measures for the DCO.</p> <p>In these instances, it should also be made clear how those measures are to be secured as part of the DCO, together with a description of their relationship to any existing provisions/conditions attached to the</p>

¹ CIEEM 2018 Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment <https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-ecological-impact-assessment-ecia/>

² Landscape Institute and IEMA (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3 (GLVIA3)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			<p>TCPA permission to aid understanding between the two consenting regimes.</p> <p>An outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) or similar is recommended to be included with the ES/DCO application documents.</p>
2.2.4	Paragraph 3.7	Environmental Permits	<p>The Scoping Report refers to the Environmental Permit (EP) from the Environment Agency to be sought for the operation of the Proposed Development. The ES should make reference to information provided within other DCO application documents regarding the content and progress of all required EP applications.</p> <p>Applicants are encouraged to discuss EP applications with the Environment Agency at the earliest possible opportunity and to consider the timing of their EP application(s) in relation to their DCO application in order to facilitate timely decision-making. If the DCO and permit application(s) are not appropriately coordinated, there is a risk that the Environment Agency will be unable to comment on detailed technical matters raised by the ExA during the Examination of the DCO.</p> <p>Where the EP is relied upon to deliver control measures/mitigation, this should be clearly identified in the ES.</p>
2.2.5	N/A	Transboundary	<p>The Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS has considered the Proposed Development and concludes that the Proposed Development is unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or cumulatively on the environment in a European Economic Area (EEA) State. In reaching this conclusion the Inspectorate has identified and considered the Proposed Development's likely impacts including consideration of potential pathways and the extent, magnitude probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impacts.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			<p>The Inspectorate considers that the likelihood of transboundary effects resulting from the Proposed Development is so low that it does not warrant the issue of a detailed transboundary screening. However, this position will remain under review and will have regard to any new or materially different information coming to light which may alter that decision.</p> <p>NB. The SoS' duty under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.</p> <p>The Inspectorate's screening of transboundary issues is based on the relevant considerations specified in the Annex to its Advice Note Twelve, available on our website at http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/</p>

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT COMMENTS

3.1 Ecology

(Scoping Report Section 5)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.1	Paragraphs 5.6 and 5.16 to 5.18	Assessment methodology	<p>The Inspectorate notes the intention to produce an updated Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) for the Proposed Development. The Inspectorate is aware that CIEEM guidance for PEA³ and Ecological Report Writing⁴ advises that a PEA alone is not appropriate to inform a planning application, unless it can be determined that the project would have no significant ecological effects, no mitigation is required, and no further surveys are necessary.</p> <p>The Inspectorate considers that unless the PEA provides clear evidence that further assessment is not required, an ES Ecology chapter based on the CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment¹ should be provided. The Ecology chapter should clearly identify the important ecological features/receptors considered, identify and characterise the potential impacts on such receptors, identify any measures relied upon to mitigate adverse effects, together with how these are secured, and clearly state whether there would be any significant residual ecological effects. Any enhancement or compensation measures proposed should be identified, including how these are to be delivered/secured.</p> <p>If the Applicant considers that a separate aspect chapter for Ecology is not required, on the basis of the findings of the PEA and the scale and nature of the Proposed Development for the DCO application, robust justification of the reasons for its exclusion should be</p>

³ CIEEM 2017 Guidance on Preliminary Ecological Appraisal <https://cieem.net/resource/guidance-on-preliminary-ecological-appraisal-gpea/>

⁴ CIEEM 2017 Guidance on Ecological Report Writing <https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-ecological-report-writing/>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			provided. The Applicant should ensure that information is provided with the DCO application to demonstrate that the Proposed Development complies with relevant planning policy and legislation.
3.1.2	Paragraph 5.8	Designated sites	The ES should clearly identify and assess the potential for likely significant effects on designated sites, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within the zone of influence of the Proposed Development (as appropriate).
3.1.3	Paragraph 5.21	Pingos	The Scoping Report states that effects on pingos were addressed in the HRA accompanying the TCPA application. It is unclear whether effects on pingos are also to be assessed as part of the ES. The ES should consider effects on pingos where likely significant effects could occur.
3.1.4	Paragraphs 3.24 and 5.10, Figures 5 and 6	Bats	<p>The Inspectorate notes the confirmed presence of a single pipistrelle bat day roost in the Main Process building (currently the Baler Hall – Figure 5), as observed in 2021. The Scoping Report states that it was concluded that <i>“no adverse effects to this roost would occur as long as no additional external lighting is directed upon to the roost site.”</i></p> <p>The Inspectorate notes that the Scoping Report also makes reference at paragraph 3.24 and Figure 6 to the Baler shed building being <i>“repurposed”</i> to its use as the Main Process building. The Scoping Report provides no detail with regards to the extent of the construction activities involved in the repurposing of this building and how any bat roost could be affected by the repurposing works.</p> <p>Additionally, the Inspectorate notes the intention to scope out a lighting assessment from the EIA; however, as noted above lighting is identified as having the potential to impact on bats. The Applicant is directed to the Inspectorate's comments at 3.10.5 of this Opinion in respect of lighting.</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			<p>The updated PEA and any accompanying bat report should confirm the potential impacts on bats and their roosts, including any effects of lighting, together with any mitigation proposed.</p> <p>With reference to point 3.1.1 above, where bats are identified an important ecological feature/receptor and likely significant effects could occur, the ES should clearly describe the likely effects on bat species, including potential effects of lighting at the Proposed Development, together with a description of mitigation proposed and how these measures are to be secured.</p>
3.1.5	Paragraph 5.33	Ecology receptors and air quality effects	<p>The Air Quality and Dust chapter of the Scoping Report includes reference to an assessment of air quality effects on ecological designated sites; however, the Ecology chapter of the Scoping Report contains limited reference to an assessment of air quality changes on important ecological features/receptors. Where likely significant effects could occur, the ES should include an assessment of air quality changes to all sensitive important ecological features/receptors (such as nearby designated sites). The ES should ensure appropriate cross-references are included between the Air Quality and Ecology aspect chapters.</p>
3.1.6	N/A	Trees	<p>Norfolk County Council (see response at Appendix 2 to this Opinion) has identified that the red line boundary within the Scoping Report for the DCO Proposed Development appears to differ from that of the current TCPA application, and that this difference may indicate that trees (including those subject to a Tree Protection Order within Sawmill Plantation) could be affected by the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The ES should clarify whether any trees would be affected by the Proposed Development, including trees that lie outside of the proposed works but are within close proximity (particularly those within 15 metres). Should trees be affected by the Proposed Development, the Applicant should ensure that an Arboricultural</p>

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			Impact Assessment, Arboricultural Method Statement, and Tree Protection Plan are produced in accordance with BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Where likely significant effects could occur to trees identified as important ecological receptors/features, the ES should identify any likely significant effects and include and secure any necessary mitigation measures.
3.1.7	N/A	Confidential Annexes	Public bodies have a responsibility to avoid releasing environmental information that could bring about harm to sensitive or vulnerable ecological features. Specific survey and assessment data relating to the presence and locations of species such as badgers, rare birds and plants that could be subject to disturbance, damage, persecution, or commercial exploitation resulting from publication of the information, should be provided in the ES/DCO application documents as a confidential annex. All other assessment information should be included in an ES chapter, as normal, with a placeholder explaining that a confidential annex has been submitted to the Inspectorate and may be made available subject to request.

3.2 Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy

(Scoping Report Section 5)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.2.1	Paragraph 5.2.8	Baseline data	The Inspectorate notes the intention to provide a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and drainage strategy for the Proposed Development through an update of the FRA prepared for the TCPA application. Where environmental assessment information compiled for the TCPA application has been relied upon for the purposes of the DCO application, this should be provided with the ES. The Applicant should ensure that the baseline data remains representative and fit for purpose. The Applicant should seek to agree the suitability of baseline data with the relevant consultation bodies, including the lead local flood authority.
3.2.2	Paragraphs 5.28 to 5.29	FRA and impact assessment	The ES should be supported by the results of the FRA. The ES should present the baseline conditions, sensitive receptors, assessment methodology, and the potential effects on the receiving environment from the Proposed Development, together with impacts to the Proposed Development from flood risk, where likely significant effects could occur. Mitigation measures, including the proposed drainage strategy for the Proposed Development should also be presented.
3.2.3	Paragraphs 5.20 to 5.29 and 5.58	Climate change and flooding	The Scoping Report confirms that climate change in relation to flooding and drainage will form an integral part of the assessment of flood risk and will be cross-referenced in Climate Change chapter; however, the Scoping Report contains no specific references to climate change in the description of the FRA and its methodology, including what climate change projections may be applied.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			The ES should describe the methodology applied to the FRA, including the information sources and assumptions made, and ensure the latest climate change projections are considered.

3.3 Air Quality and Dust

(Scoping Report Section 5)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.1	N/A	Construction – emissions from Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM)	The Scoping Report does not mention the number, size and type of plant machinery required for construction and therefore any likely significant air quality effects arising from such machinery are currently unknown. The Inspectorate considers that the ES should include an assessment of emissions from NRMM on sensitive receptors, where significant effects are likely to occur.
3.3.2	Paragraph 5.32	Assessment methodology	The assessment methodology in the ES should clearly state how significant effects will be determined and the Applicant should make effort to agree the methodology with the relevant consultation bodies. The air quality aspect chapter should follow best practice guidance for the assessment of dust and air quality effects, such as Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) (2017) Guidance on land-use planning and development control: Planning for air quality v1.2, and IAQM (2014) Assessment of dust from demolition and construction.
3.3.3	N/A	Study area	The ES should include a figure/figures to identify the study area/zone of influence for the air quality assessment, including the location of human and ecological receptors that have been identified and considered.

3.4 Landscape and Visual Impact

(Scoping Report Section 5)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.4.1	Paragraph 5.35	Baseline data	The Inspectorate notes the intention to provide a Landscape Statement for the Proposed Development by updating the Landscape Statement prepared for the TCPA application. Where environmental assessment information compiled for the TCPA application has been relied upon for the purposes of the DCO application, this should be provided with the ES. The Applicant should ensure that the baseline data remains representative and fit for purpose. The Applicant should seek to agree the suitability of baseline data with the relevant consultation bodies.
3.4.2	Paragraph 5.3.5	Assessment methodology	The Inspectorate notes that limited information has been provided in the Scoping Report with regards to the assessment methodology proposed to be used for the Landscape and Visual Impact ES chapter and no detail has been provided with regards to the methodology used for the Landscape Statement produced for the TCPA application. The landscape and visual impact assessment should be based on a recognised methodology such as the 3 rd edition of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment to provide a clear description of the criteria used to determine the significance of effects.
3.4.3	N/A	Lighting and landscape and visual receptors	See also comments at 3.10.5 below regarding lighting. The LVIA ES chapter should include an assessment of lighting on sensitive landscape and visual receptors, where likely significant effects could occur.

3.5 Noise

(Scoping Report Section 5)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.5.1	Paragraphs 5.36 to 5.37 and Figure 4	Noise impact assessment	The ES must include a noise impact assessment carried out in accordance with BS 4142:2014+A1:2019. The Applicant should seek to agree the noise impact assessment, including the noise sensitive receptors to be assessed, with the relevant consultation bodies including the Environmental Health Officer within Breckland Council.
3.5.2	N/A	Mitigation	<p>The ES should clearly describe the measures proposed to mitigate adverse noise impacts, which should be secured, as appropriate, through the Requirements of the draft DCO.</p> <p>The Applicant is encouraged to submit Outline Management Plans, including an outline noise management plan, to ensure the delivery of noise mitigation measures during both construction and operation. Where relevant, the mitigation plans should reflect or be consistent with any conditions agreed with the local planning authority in respect of the TCPA submission.</p>
3.5.3	N/A	Ecological receptors	It is unclear from the Scoping Report whether consideration will be given to noise effects on sensitive ecological receptors. The inter-relationship between identified noise effects and other relevant environmental aspects (such as Ecology) should be described and assessed, where relevant. Appropriate cross-referencing between aspect chapters should be included.

3.6 Transport

(Scoping Report Section 5)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.6.1	N/A	N/A	No comments

3.7 Socio-Economic Effects

(Scoping Report Section 5)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.1	Paragraph 5.53	Assessment methodology – significance of effects	The Scoping Report does not make clear how significance of effects will be determined for this aspect chapter. The ES should clearly state the methodology applied to determine the significance of effects.

3.8 Climate Change

(Scoping Report Section 5)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.8.1	N/A	Assessment methodology – significance of effects	The Scoping Report does not make clear how significance of effects will be determined for this aspect chapter eg through reference to industry standard guidance such as the Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) EIA Guide to: Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation (2020). The ES should clearly state the methodology applied to determine the significance of effects.

3.9 Cumulative and Combined Effects

(Scoping Report Section 5)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.9.1	Paragraph 5.59	Assessment methodology	The ES should set out the proposed methodological approach for the assessment of cumulative effects, taking into account relevant advice (eg the Inspectorate's Advice Note Seventeen: Cumulative Effects Assessment).

3.10 Matters to be Scoped Out

(Scoping Report Section 6)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed aspect/matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.10.1	Table 6.1 (e-page 28)	Historic Environment	<p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out the effects of the Proposed Development on the historic environment on the basis of the site being located on previously developed land and there being no heritage assets located in proximity to the site. In addition, no objection was raised by Norfolk County Council (NCC) Historic Environment Officer to the TCPA application. Historic England have no comments to make on the Scoping Report on the basis of the information provided (see Appendix 2 to this Opinion).</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees on the basis of the information provided and the development already present at the site, that significant effects are unlikely and is therefore content that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.</p>
3.10.2	Table 6.1 (e-page 28)	Major Accidents or Disaster Vulnerability	<p>The Inspectorate notes the statement in the Scoping Report that there have been no major accidents at the site in the last ten years and that the risks from the process are stated to be minimal. However, the Scoping Report contains limited information on the process and likely emissions or risks.</p> <p>The Inspectorate acknowledges that risks associated with accidental events such as fuel spills are to be considered in the FRA and Drainage Strategy ES Chapter; however, the Inspectorate does not consider that the Scoping Report provides a robust justification supporting a decision to scope major accidents or disaster vulnerability out of the assessment at this stage.</p> <p>The ES should include a description and assessment (where relevant) of the likely significant effects resulting from accidents and disasters</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed aspect/matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			<p>applicable to the Proposed Development. The Applicant should make use of appropriate guidance such as the IEMA Major Accidents and Disasters in EIA: A Primer (2020) to better understand the likelihood of an occurrence and the Proposed Development's susceptibility to potential major accidents and hazards. The description and assessment should consider the vulnerability of the Proposed Development to a potential accident or disaster and also the Proposed Development's potential to cause an accident or disaster. The assessment should specifically assess significant effects resulting from the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment. Any measures that will be employed to prevent and control significant effects should be presented in the ES.</p>
3.10.3	Table 6.1 (e-page 28 and 29)	Waste and Materials	<p>The Scoping Report contains limited information on the quantity of each material required to produce the aggregate and the type and volume of waste likely to be produced during the construction or operation phases, although the Inspectorate acknowledges that waste produced from the process is stated to be very little for both phases, and that the TCPA application (where granted) is anticipated to deliver the majority of the construction.</p> <p>The ES should confirm the quantity of each material required and the type and volume of waste produced during the construction and operation phases and provide an assessment of effects associated with waste and materials, where likely significant effects could arise.</p>
3.10.4	Table 6.1 (e-page 29) and paragraph 5.21	Hydrological Impact Assessment	<p>The Scoping Report proposes to scope out the consideration of any effects in relation to hydrology in the EIA, although it does propose to include a separate FRA and Drainage Strategy ES Chapter.</p> <p>The Scoping Report states in Table 6.1 that ground water flows/levels or quality will not be affected by the Proposed Development; however, it also states that water used in the Proposed Developments</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed aspect/matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			<p>process will be supplied via mains and rainwater harvesting and that this will reduce the water infiltrating through the soakaway. Although the Scoping Report states that this is not considered to be significant and that consideration will be given to this elsewhere in the application, it is not clear where such information will be located.</p> <p>The Environment Agency has identified in their consultation response (see Appendix 2) that the site is located within a principal aquifer, a Source Protection Zone (SPZ) 3, and a superficial secondary undifferentiated aquifer. Groundwater receptors in the area are therefore considered to be of high sensitivity, particularly to pollution/contamination.</p> <p>On the basis of the high sensitivity of groundwater receptors in the area, the Inspectorate does not agree that a separate ES chapter for hydrological impact assessment can be scoped out. The ES should include an assessment of likely significant effects on sensitive hydrogeological and hydrological receptors, such as the identified groundwater receptors, including any mitigation relied upon to ensure no likely significant effects (for example, through the proposed drainage strategy).</p> <p>The Applicant may wish to consider providing one ES chapter that contains an assessment of hydrogeology/hydrology receptors, together with the findings of the FRA and the details of the proposed drainage strategy.</p>
3.10.5	Paragraphs 3.44 to 3.46, paragraph 5.10 and	Lighting Assessment	<p>The Inspectorate understands that the lighting proposed for the DCO application remains the same as that for the TCPA application, retaining the existing external lighting but replacing it over time with more efficient LED lighting where necessary. Reference is also made to new safety lighting on the conveyor system and silos, which the Scoping Report states will "...comply with appropriate British</p>

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed aspect/matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
	Table 6.1 (e-page 29)		<p><i>Standards, minimise sky glow and light spill, and use LED light sources where possible to avoid ultraviolet and infrared output affecting wildlife."</i></p> <p>The Inspectorate notes at paragraph 5.10 reference to potential adverse effects on the confirmed bat roost, which would be avoided providing no additional external lighting is directed on to the roost site. Therefore, it appears that the Proposed Development places reliance on lighting specification and location to avoid or mitigate adverse effects. Lighting impacts, coupled with the proposed site hours at night, may also affect landscape and visual receptors.</p> <p>Given the likely limited lighting of the Proposed Development within an already developed site with existing controlled lighting, the Inspectorate agrees that a separate lighting assessment can be scoped out of the ES. However, an assessment of effects due to lighting should be included within relevant aspect chapters, including the Ecology and Landscape and Visual Impact aspect chapters, where likely significant effects could occur. The ES should describe and identify any measures that secure the lighting specification and lighting locations, and such measures should be secured through the draft DCO. A lux level plan should be provided with the DCO application to demonstrate no significant adverse effects on sensitive receptors. The design specification should ensure that warm spectrum LED lighting is considered to minimise effects on species such as foraging bats.</p>
3.10.6	Table 6.1 (e-page 29 and 30)	Population and Human Health Impacts	On the basis that likely significant effects on human health will be considered and assessed in the relevant aspect chapters including noise and air quality, together with the nature and scale of the Proposed Development, the Inspectorate is content to scope out the

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed aspect/matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			requirement for a separate ES chapter for Population and Human Health Impacts.
3.10.7	Table 6.1 (e-page 30)	Soil Resources	On the basis that the Proposed Development is located on previously developed land and does not involve soil stripping, movement or storage, the Inspectorate concurs that there are unlikely to be significant effects on soil resources and this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.10.8	Table 6.1 (e-page 30)	Vibration	<p>The Scoping Report confirms that vibration effects during construction and operation are to be scoped out on the basis that vibration generated during the construction phase would be limited in duration and of a scale unlikely to result in negative impact on nearby receptors; and that the process does not generate any significant amounts of vibration.</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees on the basis of the limited duration and scale of construction works, coupled with the distance to closest receptors, and on the basis that the process does not generate significant vibration, that effects of vibration from construction and operation can be scoped out of the ES.</p>

APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED

TABLE A1: PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES⁵

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
The Health and Safety Executive	The Health and Safety Executive
The National Health Service Commissioning Board	NHS England
The relevant Clinical Commissioning Group	NHS Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Natural England	Natural England
The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England	Historic England
The relevant fire and rescue authority	Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service
The relevant police and crime commissioner	Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
The relevant parish council(s) or, where the application relates to land [in] Wales or Scotland, the relevant community council	Wretham Parish Council
The Environment Agency	The Environment Agency
The Relevant Highways Authority	Norfolk County Council
The relevant strategic highways company	National Highways
The relevant internal drainage board	East Harling Internal Drainage Board
United Kingdom Health Security Agency, an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care	United Kingdom Health Security Agency
The Crown Estate Commissioners	The Crown Estate
The Forestry Commission	The Forestry Commission

⁵ Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the 'APFP Regulations')

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
The Secretary of State for Defence	Ministry of Defence

TABLE A2: RELEVANT STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS⁶

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
The relevant Clinical Commissioning Group	NHS Norfolk and Waveney CCG
The National Health Service Commissioning Board	NHS England
The relevant NHS Trust	East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Railways	Highways England Historical Railways Estate
Universal Service Provider	Royal Mail Group
Homes and Communities Agency	Homes England
The relevant Environment Agency	The Environment Agency
The relevant water and sewage undertaker	Anglian Water
The relevant public gas transporter	Cadent Gas Limited
	Last Mile Gas Ltd
	Energy Assets Pipelines Limited
	ES Pipelines Ltd
	ESP Networks Ltd
	ESP Pipelines Ltd
	ESP Connections Ltd
	Fulcrum Pipelines Limited

⁶ 'Statutory Undertaker' is defined in the APFP Regulations as having the same meaning as in Section 127 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008)

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited
	GTC Pipelines Limited
	Independent Pipelines Limited
	Indigo Pipelines Limited
	Leep Gas Networks Limited
	Murphy Gas Networks limited
	Quadrant Pipelines Limited
	Squire Energy Limited
	National Grid Gas Plc
	Scotland Gas Networks Plc
	Southern Gas Networks Plc
	The relevant electricity distributor with CPO Powers
Energy Assets Networks Limited	
ESP Electricity Limited	
Forbury Assets Limited	
Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited	
Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited	
Independent Power Networks Limited	
Indigo Power Limited	
Last Mile Electricity Ltd	
Leep Electricity Networks Limited	
Murphy Power Distribution Limited	
The Electricity Network Company Limited	
UK Power Distribution Limited	
Utility Assets Limited	

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	Vattenfall Networks Limited
	UK Power Networks Limited
	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
	National Grid Electricity System Operator Limited

TABLE A3: SECTION 43 LOCAL AUTHORITIES (FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 42(1)(B))⁷

LOCAL AUTHORITY ⁸
Breckland District Council
Mid Suffolk District Council
Broadland District Council
South Norfolk Council
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council
West Suffolk Council
North Norfolk District Council
Broads Authority
Cambridgeshire County Council
Norfolk County Council
Suffolk County Council
Lincolnshire County Council

⁷ Sections 43 and 42(B) of the PA2008

⁸ As defined in Section 43(3) of the PA2008

APPENDIX 2: RESPONDENTS TO CONSULTATION AND COPIES OF REPLIES

CONSULTATION BODIES WHO REPLIED BY THE STATUTORY DEADLINE:
Broads Authority
East Harling Internal Drainage Board
Environment Agency
ESP Utilities Group Ltd (on behalf of: ESP Electricity Limited; ES Pipelines Ltd; ESP Networks Ltd; ESP Pipelines Ltd; and ESP Connections Ltd)
Forestry Commission
Health and Safety Executive
Historic England
Mid Suffolk District Council
National Grid Electricity Transmission
National Grid Gas
Natural England
Norfolk County Council
North Norfolk Council
South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council (combined response)
Suffolk County Council
UK Health Security Agency
West Suffolk Council
Wretham Parish Council

Marie Shoesmith
The Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services
Central Operations
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Cheryl Peel
Senior Planning Officer
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@broads-authority.gov.uk

Date 19 April 2022 Our ref BA/2022/0122/SCOCON Your ref WS010006-000007-220329

Dear Marie Shoesmith

Application No: BA/2022/0122/SCOCON
Proposal : EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation for Larkshall Mill Aggregate
Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility
Address : Larkshall Mill, Thetford Road, East Wretham, Thetford
Applicant : O.C.O. Technology Limited

I write further to the above proposal. I can confirm that the Broads Authority does not have any comments to make regarding this consultation.

Yours sincerely

Cheryl Peel
Senior Planning Officer

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Larkshall Mill](#)
Subject: WS010006-000007-220329: East Harling Internal Drainage Board response
Date: 07 April 2022 14:22:09

Dear Sirs

I refer to your scoping consultation in relation to the proposed Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility.

The site is not located within the Internal Drainage District, I understand from the EIA Scoping Report that there will be no discharge of surface water from the facility.

Consequently there will be no impact on the Boards watercourses.

The Board has no comments on the proposed Facility, and no comment in regard to the Environmental Statement.

Kind regards

Andrew Bingham C. Eng.
Engineer
East Harling IDB
Mob [REDACTED]



Marie Shoesmith
Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House 2 The Square,
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Our ref: AC/2022/131021/01-L01
Your ref: WS010006-000007-220329
Date: 26 April 2022

Dear Ms Marie Shoesmith

LARKSHALL MILL AGGREGATE MANUFACTURING AND CARBON CAPTURE FACILITY – DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER SCOPING OPINION

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report dated March 2022. We offer the following comments on the report and look forward to engaging with the applicant throughout the Pre-Application stage of their Development Consent Order and beyond.

Groundwater and Contaminated Land

This site overlies a bedrock principal aquifer (part of the Cam and Ely Ouse Chalk groundwater body, a Water Framework Directive Drinking Water Protected Area), and is located within a Source Protection Zone (SPZ) 3 (Total Catchment). Principal aquifers are geological strata that exhibit high permeability and provide a high level of water storage. They support water supply and river base flow on a strategic scale. The site also overlies a superficial secondary undifferentiated aquifer (Cover Sand). Secondary undifferentiated aquifers have variable characteristics including permeability. The location within a SPZ means the site lies within the catchment of a groundwater abstraction used for public water supply. The regional use of groundwater in this area makes the site vulnerable to pollution, as contaminants entering the groundwater at the site may impact the protected water supply. The groundwater sensitivity of the site is therefore high.

Groundwater is not identified as a potentially sensitive environmental receptor within the scoping report. We recommend that the scoping report be updated to acknowledge the high groundwater sensitivity of the site and further consideration should be given as to whether it is appropriate to scope out groundwater risk from the subsequent EIA.

Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016

The applicant correctly identifies that an Environmental Permit will be required for the site activity. A permit application at this site has been received. The aspect of tonnage will be assessed during the permitting process.

Environment Agency
Iceni House Cobham Road, Ipswich, IP3 9JD.
Customer services line: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cont/d..

Flood Risk

The applicant correctly identifies that the site is within Flood Zone 1 and not within the vicinity of any main rivers. Flood risk and drainage matters should therefore be directed to the Lead Local Flood Authority.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Eleanor Stewart
Sustainable Places - Planning Specialist

Email planning.ipswich@environment-agency.gov.uk

From: [ESP Utilities Group Ltd](#)
To: [Larkshall Mill](#)
Subject: Reference: PE171179. Plant Not Affected Notice from ES Pipelines
Date: 01 April 2022 16:33:03

Larkshall Mill
Planning Inspectorate

1 April 2022

Reference: WS010006

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your recent plant enquiry at: IP24 1QY

I can confirm that ESP Utilities Group Ltd has no gas or electricity apparatus in the vicinity of this site address and will not be affected by your proposed works.

ESP Utilities Group Ltd are continually laying new gas and electricity networks and this notification is valid for 90 days from the date of this letter. If your proposed works start after this period of time, please re-submit your enquiry.

Important Notice

Please be advised that any enquiries for ESP Connections Ltd, formerly known as British Gas Connections Ltd, should be sent directly to us at the address shown above or alternatively you can email us at: PlantResponses@espug.com

ESP have provided you with all the information we have to date however, there may be inaccuracies or delays in data collection and digitisation caused by a range of practical and unforeseeable reasons and as such, we recommend the following steps are taken as a minimum before work is commenced that involves the opening of any ground and reference made to HSG47 (Avoiding danger from underground services).

A. Plans are consulted and marked up on site

B. The use of a suitable and sufficient device to locate underground utilities before digging (for example the C.A.T and Genny)

C. Trial holes are dug to expose any marked up or traced utilities in the ground

D. If no utilities are shown on any plans and no trace is received using a suitable and sufficient device, trial holes are dug nonetheless using hand tools at the

location or at regular intervals along the location that the work is being carried out depending on the length of excavation work being undertaken
E. All location work is carried out by individuals with sufficient experience and technical knowledge who may choose to control this activity under a Safe System Of Work

Yours faithfully,

Plant Protection Team
ESP Utilities Group Ltd



Bluebird House
Mole Business Park
Leatherhead
KT22 7BA



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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Larkshall Mill](#)
Subject: Application by O.C.O Technology Limited (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility (the Proposed Development)
Date: 12 April 2022 09:20:31

Dear Ms Shoesmith,

Thank you for consulting the Forestry Commission on this application. As a Non Ministerial Government Department we provide no opinion supporting or objecting to an application, rather we provide information on the potential impact that a proposed development would have on ancient woodland, and provide the Government guidance on the protection of ancient woodland. The Commission also works with partners on the compensation or mitigation for the loss of woodland cover associated with developments.

Having reviewed the Scoping Report for the proposed development I find there are no impacts on or near ancient woodland or any loss of woodland cover. We therefore have no comment to make for this development.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Local Partnership Advisor
East and East Midlands
Mobile number [REDACTED]

My working days are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Disclaimer

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CEMHD Policy - Land Use Planning,
NSIP Consultations,
Building 1.2,
Redgrave Court,
Merton Road,
Bootle, Merseyside
L20 7HS.

HSE email: NSIP.applications@hse.gov.uk

Mr Todd Brumwell (Associate EIA Advisor)
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol, BS1 6PN
By email only

Dear Mr Brumwell

Date: 20 April 2022

**PROPOSED LARKSHALL MILL AGGREGATE MANUFACTURING AND CARBON CAPTURE FACILITY
(the project)
PROPOSAL BY OCO TECHNOLOGY LIMITED (the applicant)
INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 (as
amended) REGULATIONS 10 and 11**

Thank you for your letter of 29 March 2022 regarding the information to be provided in an environmental statement relating to the above project. HSE does not comment on EIA Scoping Reports but the following information is likely to be useful to the applicant.

HSE's land use planning advice - Will the proposed development fall within any of HSE's consultation distances?

The proposed site does not fall within the vicinity of an existing major hazardous site and although there are pipelines in the vicinity, the site is outside the outer zone. The proposal does not raise any issues from a consent perspective.

Explosives sites

HSE has no comment to make as there are no licensed explosives sites in the vicinity.

Electrical Safety - No comment from a planning perspective.

At this time, please send any further communication on this project directly to the HSE's designated e-mail account for NSIP applications at nsip.applications@hse.gov.uk. We are currently unable to accept hard copies, as our offices have limited access.

Yours sincerely



Allan Benson
CEMHD4 NSIP Consultation Team



Historic England

Ms Marie Shoesmith
The Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services, Central Operations
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

Our ref: PL00771122

25 April 2022

Dear Ms Shoesmith

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

PINS Reference: WS010006 LARKSHALL MILL, WRETHAM, NORFOLK

Thank you for your letter of 29 March 2022 consulting us about the above EIA Scoping Report for a carbon-negative aggregate manufacturing facility and associated works at Larkshall Mill. The site lies 1.5km south-east of the Church of St Ethelbert, a Grade II* Listed Building within the East Wretham Conservation Area. East Wretham Airfield (NHER 5742) lies between the Conservation Area and the site.

The site has been in use for waste management and recycling since 2006. Planning permission was granted in 2011 for the extension of the site and flood lighting. The proposed infrastructure subject to the EIA will not exceed existing building heights nor markedly increase existing footprint.

The Scoping Report identifies that consideration of effects in relation to the historic environment are to be scoped out of the EIA.

On the basis of the information available to date, we do not wish to offer any comments. It is not necessary for us to be consulted on this application again unless there are material changes to the proposals. However, if you would like detailed advice from us, please contact us to explain your request.

Yours sincerely,

Celia Wignall
Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas
[REDACTED]@historicengland.org.uk



24 BROOKLANDS AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 8BU

Telephone [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Larkshall Mill](#)
Subject: Scoping Report
Date: 20 April 2022 14:50:16
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 29th March to which I am responding, as Mid Suffolk DC.

I welcome the intention to consider cumulative effects and socio-economic effects. I would encourage the inclusion of impacts on the tourism industry, as a significant employer and attraction in the region.

I have no other comments on the Scoping Report.

Kind regards,
Bron

Bron Curtis BA(Hons), MA, MRTPI

Principal Planning Officer, Strategic Projects and Delivery - Development
Management **** Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays only ****
Sustainable Communities
Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils - Working Together

Pronouns: She/Her [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

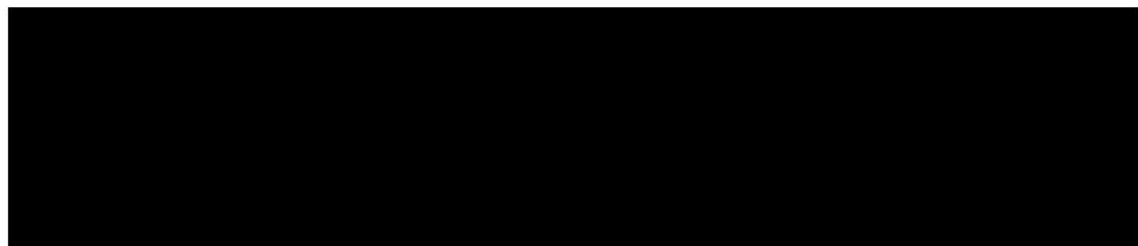
For general enquiries email: planningadmin@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Websites: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for the latest planning news and changes to the service coming up this year.

For our latest Coronavirus response please visit click the following link-

[REDACTED]



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Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council (BMSDC) will be Data Controllers of the information you are providing. As required by the Data Protection Act 2018 the information will be kept safe, secure, processed and only shared for those purposes or where it is allowed by law. In some circumstances however we may need to disclose your personal details to a third party so that they can provide a service you have requested, or fulfil a request for information. Any information about you that we pass to a third party will be held securely by that party, in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and used only to provide the services or information you have requested. For more information on how we do this and your rights in regards to your personal information and how to access it, visit our website.

Anne Holdsworth
DCO Liaison Officer
UK Land & Property

[REDACTED] [@nationalgrid.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com)
Tel: [REDACTED]

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY:

larkshallmill@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

11th April 2022

Dear Sir / Madam

**RE: O.C.O Technology Limited (the Applicant) for an Order granting
Development Consent for the Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and
Carbon Capture Facility (the Proposed Development)
Scoping consultation**

I refer to your letter dated 29th March 2022 regarding the above Proposed Development.

This is a response on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC.

National Grid Electricity Transmission has no apparatus within or in close proximity to the proposed site boundary.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

**Anne Holdsworth
DCO Liaison Officer, Land Rights and Acquisitions**

Anne Holdsworth
DCO Liaison Officer
UK Land & Property

[REDACTED] [@nationalgrid.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@nationalgrid.com)
Tel: [REDACTED]

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY:

larkshallmill@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

11th April 2022

Dear Sir / Madam

**RE: O.C.O Technology Limited (the Applicant) for an Order granting
Development Consent for the Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and
Carbon Capture Facility (the Proposed Development)
Scoping consultation**

I refer to your letter dated 29th March 2022 regarding the above Proposed Development.

This is a response on behalf of National Grid Gas PLC (NGG).

National Grid Gas has no apparatus within or in close proximity to the proposed site boundary.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
**Anne Holdsworth
DCO Liaison Officer, Land Rights and Acquisitions**

Date: 25 April 2022
Our ref: 388824
Your ref: WS010006-000007-220329



larkshallmill@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY

Consultations
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T [REDACTED]

Dear Sir / Madam

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 – Regulation 10 (Application for a scoping opinion): Application by O.C.O Technology Limited (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent at Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility

Location: Larkshall Mill, Wretham, Norfolk

Thank you for seeking our advice on the scope of the Environmental Statement (ES) in the consultation dated 29 March 2022, received on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

A robust assessment of environmental impacts and opportunities based on relevant and up to date environmental information should be undertaken prior to a decision on whether to grant planning permission. Annex A to this letter provides Natural England's advice on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development.

Further guidance is set out in Planning Practice Guidance on [environmental assessment](#), [natural environment](#) and [climate change](#).

Should the proposal be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment then, in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Natural England should be consulted again.

Please note that Natural England must be consulted on Environmental Statements.

Please send any new consultations or further information on this consultation to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Richard Hack
Norfolk & Suffolk Team

Annex A – Natural England Advice on EIA Scoping

General Principles

[Advice Note Seven](#) provides further information on the Environmental Impact Assessment process including the information that should be included in an Environmental Statement (ES) to assess impacts on the natural environment. This includes:

- A description of the development – including physical characteristics and the full land use requirements of the site during construction and operational phases
- Expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation etc.) resulting from the operation of the proposed development
- An assessment of alternatives and clear reasoning as to why the preferred option has been chosen
- A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development including biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land, including land take, soil, water, air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation, cultural heritage and landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors
- A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment – this should cover direct effects but also any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium, and long term, permanent and temporary, positive, and negative effects. Effects should relate to the existence of the development, the use of natural resources (in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity) and the emissions from pollutants. This should also include a description of the forecasting methods to predict the likely effects on the environment
- A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment
- A non-technical summary of the information
- An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information

Further guidance is set out in Planning Practice Guidance on [environmental assessment](#) and [natural environment](#).

Cumulative and in-combination effects

The ES should fully consider the implications of the whole development proposal. This should include an assessment of all supporting infrastructure.

An impact assessment should identify, describe, and evaluate the effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects and activities that are being, have been or will be carried out. The following types of projects should be included in such an assessment (subject to available information):

- a. existing completed projects;
- b. approved but uncompleted projects;
- c. ongoing activities;
- d. plans or projects for which an application has been made and which are under consideration by the consenting authorities; and
- e. plans and projects which are reasonably foreseeable, i.e. projects for which an application has not yet been submitted, but which are likely to progress before completion of the development and for which sufficient information is available to assess the likelihood of cumulative and in-combination effects.

Environmental data

Natural England is required to make available information it holds where requested to do so. National datasets held by Natural England are available at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/data/default.aspx>.

Detailed information on the natural environment is available at www.magic.gov.uk.

Natural England's SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS dataset which can be used to help identify the potential for the development to impact on a SSSI. The dataset and user guidance can be accessed from the [Natural England Open Data Geoportal](#).

Natural England does not hold local information on local sites, local landscape character, priority habitats and species or protected species. Local environmental data should be obtained from the appropriate local bodies. This may include the local environmental records centre, the local wildlife trust, local geo-conservation group or other recording society.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

General principles

The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (paragraphs 174-175 and 179-182) sets out how to take account of biodiversity and geodiversity interests in planning decisions. Further guidance is set out in Planning Practice Guidance on the [natural environment](#).

The potential impact of the proposal upon sites and features of nature conservation interest and opportunities for nature recovery and biodiversity net gain should be included in the assessment.

Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) is the process of identifying, quantifying, and evaluating the potential impacts of defined actions on ecosystems or their components. EclA may be carried out as part of the EIA process or to support other forms of environmental assessment or appraisal. [Guidelines](#) have been developed by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

Designated nature conservation sites

International and European sites

The development site is within or may impact on the following **European/internationally designated nature conservation sites**:

- Breckland Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Norfolk Valley Fens SAC

European site conservation objectives are available at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216>.

The ES should thoroughly assess the potential for the proposal to affect nationally and internationally designated sites of nature conservation importance, including marine sites where relevant. European sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) fall within the scope of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the 'Habitats Regulations'). In addition paragraph 181 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that potential SPAs, possible SAC, listed or proposed Ramsar sites, and any site identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitat (European) sites, potential SPAs, possible SACs and listed or proposed Ramsar sites have the same protection as classified sites (NB. sites falling within the scope of regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 are defined as 'habitats sites' in the NPPF). Under Regulation 63 of the Habitats Regulations, an appropriate assessment must be undertaken in respect of any plan or project which is (a) likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and

(b) not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site. The consideration of likely significant effects should include any functionally linked land outside the designated site. These areas may provide important habitat for mobile species populations that are qualifying features of the site, for example birds and bats. This can also include areas which have a critical function to a habitat feature within a designated site, for example by being linked hydrologically or geomorphologically.

Should a likely significant effect on a European/Internationally designated site be identified (either alone or in-combination) or be uncertain, the competent authority may need to prepare an appropriate assessment in addition to the consideration of impacts through the EIA process. Further guidance is set out in Planning Practice Guidance on appropriate assessment <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment>.

This should also take into account any agreed strategic mitigation solution that may be being developed or implemented in the area to address recreational disturbance, nutrients, or other impacts.

Nationally designated sites

The development site is within or may impact on the following **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**:

- Barnham Heath SSSI
- Barnhamcross Common SSSI
- Breckland Forest SSSI
- Bridgham and Brettenham Heath SSSI
- Cranberry Rough, Hockham SSSI
- East Wretham Heath SSSI
- Elm Road Field, Thetford SSSI
- Grime's Graves SSSI
- Stanford Training Area SSSI
- Swangey Fen, Attleborough SSSI
- Thetford Golf Course and Marsh SSSI
- Thetford Heath SSSI
- Thompson Water, Carr and Common SSSI

Sites of Special Scientific Interest are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and paragraph 180 of the NPPF. Further information on the SSSI and its special interest features can be found at www.magic.gov.

Natural England's SSSI Impact Risk Zones can be used to help identify the potential for the development to impact on a SSSI. The dataset and user guidance can be accessed from the [Natural England Open Data Geportal](#).

The Environmental Statement should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of special interest within these sites and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects. The consideration of likely significant effects should include any functionally linked land outside the designated site. These areas may provide important habitat for mobile species populations that are interest features of the SSSI, for example birds and bats. This can also include areas which have a critical function to a habitat feature within a site, for example by being linked hydrologically or geomorphologically.

Regionally and Locally Important Sites

The ES should consider any impacts upon local wildlife and geological sites, including local nature reserves. Local Sites are identified by the local wildlife trust, geoconservation group or other local group and protected under the NPPF (paragraph 174 and 175). The ES should set out proposals for mitigation of any impacts and if appropriate, compensation measures and opportunities for enhancement and improving connectivity with wider ecological networks. Contact the relevant local body for further information.

Protected Species

The conservation of species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 is explained in Part IV and Annex A of Government Circular 06/2005 [Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System](#).

The ES should assess the impact of all phases of the proposal on protected species (including, for example, great crested newts, reptiles, birds, water voles, badgers and bats). Natural England does not hold comprehensive information regarding the locations of species protected by law. Records of protected species should be obtained from appropriate local biological record centres, nature conservation organisations and local groups. Consideration should be given to the wider context of the site, for example in terms of habitat linkages and protected species populations in the wider area.

The area likely to be affected by the development should be thoroughly surveyed by competent ecologists at appropriate times of year for relevant species and the survey results, impact assessments and appropriate accompanying mitigation strategies included as part of the ES. Surveys should always be carried out in optimal survey time periods and to current guidance by suitably qualified and, where necessary, licensed, consultants.

Natural England has adopted [standing advice](#) for protected species, which includes guidance on survey and mitigation measures. A separate protected species licence from Natural England or Defra may also be required.

District Level Licensing for Great Crested Newts

District level licensing (DLL) is a type of strategic mitigation licence for great crested newts (GCN) granted in certain areas at a local authority or wider scale. A [DLL scheme for GCN](#) may be in place at the location of the development site. If a DLL scheme is in place, developers can make a financial contribution to strategic, off-site habitat compensation instead of applying for a separate licence or carrying out individual detailed surveys. By demonstrating that DLL will be used, impacts on GCN can be scoped out of detailed assessment in the Environmental Statement.

Priority Habitats and Species

Priority Habitats and Species are of particular importance for nature conservation and included in the England Biodiversity List published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Most priority habitats will be mapped either as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, on the Magic website or as Local Wildlife Sites. Lists of priority habitats and species can be found [here](#). Natural England does not routinely hold species data. Such data should be collected when impacts on priority habitats or species are considered likely.

Consideration should also be given to the potential environmental value of brownfield sites, often found in urban areas and former industrial land. Sites can be checked against the (draft) national Open Mosaic Habitat (OMH) inventory published by Natural England and freely available to [download](#). Further information is also available [here](#).

An appropriate level habitat survey should be carried out on the site, to identify any important habitats present. In addition, ornithological, botanical, and invertebrate surveys should be carried out at appropriate times in the year, to establish whether any scarce or priority species are present.

The Environmental Statement should include details of:

- Any historical data for the site affected by the proposal (e.g. from previous surveys)
- Additional surveys carried out as part of this proposal
- The habitats and species present
- The status of these habitats and species (e.g. whether priority species or habitat)

- The direct and indirect effects of the development upon those habitats and species
- Full details of any mitigation or compensation measures
- Opportunities for biodiversity net gain or other environmental enhancement

Ancient Woodland, ancient and veteran trees

The ES should assess the impacts of the proposal on any ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, and the scope to avoid and mitigate for adverse impacts. It should also consider opportunities for enhancement.

Natural England maintains the Ancient Woodland [Inventory](#) which can help identify ancient woodland. The [wood pasture and parkland inventory](#) sets out information on wood pasture and parkland. The [ancient tree inventory](#) provides information on the location of ancient and veteran trees.

Natural England and the Forestry Commission have prepared [standing advice](#) on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees.

Biodiversity net gain

Paragraph 174 of the NPPF states that decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.

Biodiversity Net Gain is additional to statutory requirements relating to designated nature conservation sites and protected species.

The ES should use an appropriate biodiversity metric such as [Biodiversity Metric 3.0](#) together with ecological advice to calculate the change in biodiversity resulting from proposed development and demonstrate how proposals can achieve a net gain.

The metric should be used to:

- assess or audit the biodiversity unit value of land within the application area
- calculate the losses and gains in biodiversity unit value resulting from proposed development
- demonstrate that the required percentage biodiversity net gain will be achieved

Biodiversity Net Gain outcomes can be achieved on site, off-site or through a combination of both. On-site provision should be considered first. Delivery should create or enhance habitats of equal or higher value. When delivering net gain, opportunities should be sought to link delivery to relevant plans or strategies e.g. Green Infrastructure Strategies or Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

Opportunities for wider environmental gains should also be considered.

Landscape and visual impacts

The environmental assessment should refer to the relevant [National Character Areas](#). Character area profiles set out descriptions of each landscape area and statements of environmental opportunity.

The ES should include a full assessment of the potential impacts of the development on local landscape character using [landscape assessment methodologies](#). We encourage the use of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), based on the good practice guidelines produced jointly by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Assessment in 2013. LCA provides a sound basis for guiding, informing, and understanding the ability of any location to accommodate change and to make positive proposals for conserving, enhancing or regenerating character.

A landscape and visual impact assessment should also be carried out for the proposed development and surrounding area. Natural England recommends use of the methodology set out in *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 2013* (3rd edition) produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Management. For National Parks and AONBs,

we advise that the assessment also includes effects on the 'special qualities' of the designated landscape, as set out in the statutory management plan for the area. These identify the particular landscape and related characteristics which underpin the natural beauty of the area and its designation status.

The assessment should also include the cumulative effect of the development with other relevant existing or proposed developments in the area. This should include an assessment of the impacts of other proposals currently at scoping stage.

To ensure high quality development that responds to and enhances local landscape character and distinctiveness, the siting and design of the proposed development should reflect local characteristics and, wherever possible, use local materials. Account should be taken of local design policies, design codes and guides as well as guidance in the [National Design Guide](#) and [National Model Design Code](#). The ES should set out the measures to be taken to ensure the development will deliver high standards of design and green infrastructure. It should also set out detail of layout alternatives, where appropriate, with a justification of the selected option in terms of landscape impact and benefit.

Heritage Landscapes

The ES should include an assessment of the impacts on any land in the area affected by the development which qualifies for conditional exemption from capital taxes on the grounds of outstanding scenic, scientific, or historic interest. An up-to-date list is available at www.hmrc.gov.uk/heritage/lbsearch.htm.

Connecting People with nature

The ES should consider potential impacts on access land, common land, public rights of way and, where appropriate, the England Coast Path and coastal access routes and coastal margin in the vicinity of the development, in line with NPPF paragraph 100. It should assess the scope to mitigate for any adverse impacts. Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP) can be used to identify public rights of way within or adjacent to the proposed site that should be maintained or enhanced.

Measures to help people to better access the countryside for quiet enjoyment and opportunities to connect with nature should be considered. Such measures could include reinstating existing footpaths or the creation of new footpaths, cycleways, and bridleways. Links to other green networks and, where appropriate, urban fringe areas should also be explored to help promote the creation of wider green infrastructure. Access to nature within the development site should also be considered, including the role that natural links have in connecting habitats and providing potential pathways for movements of species.

Relevant aspects of local authority green infrastructure strategies should be incorporated where appropriate.

Soils and Agricultural Land Quality

Soils are a valuable, finite natural resource and should also be considered for the ecosystem services they provide, including for food production, water storage and flood mitigation, as a carbon store, reservoir of biodiversity and buffer against pollution. It is therefore important that the soil resources are protected and sustainably managed. Impacts from the development on soils and best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land should be considered in line with paragraphs 174 and 175 of the NPPF. Further guidance is set out in the Natural England [Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land](#).

As set out in paragraph 211 of the NPPF, new sites or extensions to sites for peat extraction should not be granted planning permission.

The following issues should be considered and, where appropriate, included as part of the

Environmental Statement (ES):

- The degree to which soils would be disturbed or damaged as part of the development
- The extent to which agricultural land would be disturbed or lost as part of this development, including whether any best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land would be impacted.

This may require a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey if one is not already available. For information on the availability of existing ALC information see www.magic.gov.uk.

- Where an ALC and soil survey of the land is required, this should normally be at a detailed level, e.g. one auger boring per hectare, (or more detailed for a small site) supported by pits dug in each main soil type to confirm the physical characteristics of the full depth of the soil resource, i.e. 1.2 metres. The survey data can inform suitable soil handling methods and appropriate reuse of the soil resource where required (e.g. agricultural reinstatement, habitat creation, landscaping, allotments and public open space).
- The ES should set out details of how any adverse impacts on BMV agricultural land can be minimised through site design/masterplan.
- The ES should set out details of how any adverse impacts on soils can be avoided or minimised and demonstrate how soils will be sustainably used and managed, including consideration in site design and master planning, and areas for green infrastructure or biodiversity net gain. The aim will be to minimise soil handling and maximise the sustainable use and management of the available soil to achieve successful after-uses and minimise off-site impacts.

Further information is available in the [Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Development Sites](#) and The British Society of Soil Science Guidance Note [Benefitting from Soil Management in Development and Construction](#).

Guidance for minerals and waste developments

The following additional guidance is provided for minerals and waste development. The ES should consider and, where appropriate, include the following:

- The methods and equipment to be used for the protection, recovery, storage, and sustainable re-use of the different types of topsoil and subsoil, including consideration of any required phasing to minimise soil handling and maximise the sustainable management of the soil.
- The method of assessing whether soils are in a suitably dry condition to be handled (i.e. dry and friable), and the avoidance of soil handling, trafficking, and cultivation during the wetter winter period.
- A description of the restoration criteria, including the proposed soil horizon depths and soil characteristics; normally to an overall depth of 1.2 m over an evenly graded overburden layer (or, in the case of waste reclamation, an evenly graded capping layer), suitable for the proposed end-use, including the restored ALC Grade.
- The effects on land drainage, agricultural access, and water supplies, including other agricultural land in the vicinity. The impacts of the development on farm structure and viability, and on other established rural land use and interests, both during the site working period and following its reclamation.
- The restoration and aftercare of the site, in line with Chapter 17 'Facilitating the Sustainable Use of Minerals' of the NPPF.

- A detailed Restoration Plan illustrating the restored soil profile characteristics, landform and the intended standard of restoration including ALC Grade(s), together with details of surface features; water bodies; the availability of outfalls to accommodate future drainage requirements; and aftercare.

Further guidance is contained in the [Defra Guidance for Successful Restoration of Mineral and Waste Sites](#) and the Natural England guidance note [Planning and aftercare advice for reclaiming land to agricultural use](#). Reference could also usefully be made to the Institute of Quarrying (2021) [Good Practice Guide for Handling Soils in Mineral Workings](#) which comprises separate sections, describing the typical choice of machinery and methods for handling soils at various phases. The techniques described by Sheets A-D are appropriate for the successful reinstatement of higher quality agricultural land. The Natural England [Guide to reclaiming mineral extraction and landfill sites to agriculture](#) also contains useful background information.

Air Quality

Air quality in the UK has improved over recent decades but air pollution remains a significant issue. For example, approximately 85% of protected nature conservation sites are currently in exceedance of nitrogen levels where harm is expected (critical load) and approximately 87% of sites exceed the level of ammonia where harm is expected for lower plants (critical level of 1µg) ^[1]. A priority action in the England Biodiversity Strategy is to reduce air pollution impacts on biodiversity. The Government's Clean Air Strategy also has a number of targets to reduce emissions including to reduce damaging deposition of reactive forms of nitrogen by 17% over England's protected priority sensitive habitats by 2030, to reduce emissions of ammonia against the 2005 baseline by 16% by 2030 and to reduce emissions of NO_x and SO₂ against a 2005 baseline of 73% and 88% respectively by 2030. Shared Nitrogen Action Plans (SNAPs) have also been identified as a tool to reduce environmental damage from air pollution.

The planning system plays a key role in determining the location of developments which may give rise to pollution, either directly, or from traffic generation, and hence planning decisions can have a significant impact on the quality of air, water and land. The ES should take account of the risks of air pollution and how these can be managed or reduced. This should include taking account of any strategic solutions or SNAPs, which may be being developed or implemented to mitigate the impacts on air quality. Further information on air pollution impacts and the sensitivity of different habitats/designated sites can be found on the Air Pollution Information System (www.apis.ac.uk).

Information on air pollution modelling, screening and assessment can be found on the following websites:

- SCAIL Combustion and SCAIL Agriculture - <http://www.scail.ceh.ac.uk/>
- Ammonia assessment for agricultural development <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/intensive-farming-risk-assessment-for-your-environmental-permit>
- Environment Agency Screening Tool for industrial emissions <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/air-emissions-risk-assessment-for-your-environmental-permit>
- Defra Local Air Quality Management Area Tool (Industrial Emission Screening Tool) – England <http://www.airqualityengland.co.uk/laqm>

Water Quality

The planning system plays a key role in determining the location of developments which may give rise to water pollution, and hence planning decisions can have a significant impact on water quality, and land. The assessment should take account of the risks of water pollution and how these can be managed or reduced. A number of water dependent protected nature conservation sites have been identified as failing condition due to elevated nutrient levels and nutrient neutrality is consequently required to enable development to proceed without causing further damage to these sites. The ES needs to take account of any strategic solutions for nutrient neutrality or Diffuse Water Pollution Plans,

[1] [Report: Trends Report 2020: Trends in critical load and critical level exceedances in the UK - Defra, UK](#)

which may be being developed or implemented to mitigate and address the impacts of elevated nutrient levels. Further information can be obtained from the Local Planning Authority.

Climate Change

The ES should identify how the development affects the ability of the natural environment (including habitats, species, and natural processes) to adapt to climate change, including its ability to provide adaptation for people. This should include impacts on the vulnerability or resilience of a natural feature (i.e. what's already there and affected) as well as impacts on how the environment can accommodate change for both nature and people, for example whether the development affects species ability to move and adapt. Nature-based solutions, such as providing green infrastructure on-site and in the surrounding area (e.g. to adapt to flooding, drought and heatwave events), habitat creation and peatland restoration, should be considered. The ES should set out the measures that will be adopted to address impacts.

Further information is available from the [Committee on Climate Change's](#) (CCC) [Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk](#), the [National Adaptation Programme](#) (NAP), the [Climate Change Impacts Report Cards](#) (biodiversity, infrastructure, water etc.) and the [UKCP18 climate projections](#).

The Natural England and RSPB [Climate Change Adaptation Manual](#) (2020) provides extensive information on climate change impacts and adaptation for the natural environment and adaptation focussed nature-based solutions for people. It includes the Landscape Scale Climate Change Assessment Method that can help assess impacts and vulnerabilities on natural environment features and identify adaptation actions. Natural England's [Nature Networks Evidence Handbook](#) (2020) also provides extensive information on planning and delivering nature networks for people and biodiversity.

The ES should also identify how the development impacts the natural environment's ability to store and sequester greenhouse gases, in relation to climate change mitigation and the natural environment's contribution to achieving net zero by 2050. Natural England's [Carbon Storage and Sequestration by Habitat report](#) (2021) and the British Ecological Society's [nature-based solutions report](#) (2021) provide further information.

Contribution to local environmental initiatives and priorities

The ES should consider the contribution the development could make to relevant local environmental initiatives and priorities to enhance the environmental quality of the development and deliver wider environmental gains. This should include considering proposals set out in relevant local strategies or supplementary planning documents including landscape strategies, green infrastructure strategies, tree and woodland strategies, biodiversity strategies or biodiversity opportunity areas.



Norfolk County Council

Community and Environmental
Services Department
Planning Services Floor 6
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
NR1 2SG

Marie Shoesmith
Environmental Services
Central Operations
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

NCC general enquiries: [REDACTED]
Text relay no: [REDACTED]

Your Ref: WS010006-000007-220329
Date: 26 April 2022

My Ref: CP/2022/0001
Tel No.: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@norfolk.gov.uk

Dear Ms Shoesmith,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11: Consultation on Scoping Report

Application by O.C.O Technology Limited (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility (the Proposed Development)

I refer to your letter of 29 March 2022 relating to the proposed development of the Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility.

The site is currently the subject of a planning application for the change of use of the site from a waste transfer station/materials recovery facility to a facility for the manufacturing of carbon-negative aggregates for use in the construction industry including demolition of existing storage shed, construction of feed hopper and conveyor, curing bay shed, covered aggregate conveyor system, 7 no. silos, CO2 tank and associated site works (Ipa ref: 2021/00072). This will allow for the importation and processing of up to 30,000 tonnes of wastes per annum. This application is still under consideration by Norfolk County Council.

It is noted that this proposed DCO application would increase the tonnage at the Larkshall Mill facility to 100,000 tonnes of Air Pollution Control residues (APCr) per annum.

Having reviewed the Scoping Report for this project and consulted with my colleagues here at Norfolk County Council, I can have set out below the information we believe should be provided in the scope of the Environmental Statement.

Ecology

The site is within 450m of the Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA) to the south and 620m of the Brecklands Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to the southwest.

We are satisfied with the approach set out in the ecology section of the EIA Scoping Report which proposes that an updated Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, along with associated detailed protected species survey reports (expected to be limited to bat species) is submitted.

We note that Lighting has been scoped out, however it will be important that the impact of the proposed additional external lighting is fully considered as part of the PEA and associated Bat Survey report.

Please note we have previously recommended that a condition relating to external lighting be required as part of any permission approved under the TCPA application.

The proposed submission of a combined Dust and Air Quality Assessment is welcomed.

In addition to the above documents relating to the site itself, the applicant recognises the need to demonstrate there are no other projects within the immediate vicinity of this site that are considered likely to act in-combination with this scheme and result in likely significant effects.

It is noted that an updated Shadow HRA/HRA Technical Note in relation to the entire proposal at the site under the DCO (i.e. including any development authorised pursuant to the TCPA application) will be submitted as a standalone document, separate to the Environmental Statement.

This approach is acceptable.

Flood and Water Management

The applicant has provided a report requesting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion (Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report by David Jarvis Associates, Ref: WS010006, Rev: P1, Dated: 24 March 2022).

- The inclusion of references to flood risk within the report is welcomed.
- The inclusion of Section 5.0 with specific reference to the section titled 'Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy'.
- The current review of flood risk is relatively basic; however the applicant indicates in the submitted EIA Scoping Report that the proposed development will utilise the existing drainage infrastructure which has been assessed as adequate in the previously submitted Flood Risk Assessment (FRA). This document has not been

submitted or formally reviewed as part of this scoping opinion. We welcome that rainwater harvesting is proposed to be included in the development.

- The site is affected by very minor surface water flooding in the 3.33%, 1.0% and 0.1% AEP events as shown by the Environment Agency (EA) Risk of Flooding from Surface Water (RoFSW) maps. A very small area of localised surface water flooding (ponding) is present along the southern boundary of the site in the 3.33%, 1.0% and 0.1% AEP. We would expect this to be addressed as part of any future FRA and Drainage Strategy along with all other sources of flooding.
- According to Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) datasets (extending from 2011 to present day) we have 0 record of internal or external/anecdotal flooding within proximity of the site. The LLFA highlight the importance of considering surface water, groundwater, and flooding from ordinary watercourses in the best interest of development in the area. In terms of flood risk, the applicant has stated that the site is “has a low probability of flooding”. We would advise that the benefits of a full EIA will only support the site development and far outweigh the loss of not doing so, but ultimately, we recognise that it is the responsibility of the LPA to decide whether a full EIA is required or not.

Whether or not an EIA is required we consider that the following issues should be considered and addressed:

We strongly recommend that any EIA includes, or any planning application for development is accompanied by a FRA / surface water drainage strategy to address:

- All sources of flood risk, including those from ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater to the development.
- How surface water drainage from the development will be managed on-site and show compliance with the written Ministerial Statement HCWS 161 by ensuring that Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are put in place.
- How any phasing of the development will affect the overall drainage strategy and what arrangements, temporary or otherwise, will need to be in place at each stage of the development in order to ensure the satisfactory performance of the overall surface water drainage system for the entirety of the development.

This supporting information would assess the potential for the development to increase the risk of flooding from the proposal or how surface water runoff through the addition of hard surfaces will be managed. It will show how this will be managed to ensure that the development does not increase flood risk on the site or elsewhere, in line with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Paragraph 167).

In this particular case this would include appropriate information on:

- Appropriate assessment and mitigation of all sources of surface water flooding onsite/originating from offsite that may affect the development, in addition to risk of groundwater flooding.
- Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) proposals in accordance with appropriate guidance including “Non-statutory technical standards for sustainable drainage systems” March 2015 by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

- At least one feasible proposal for the disposal of surface water drainage should be demonstrated and in many cases supported by the inclusion of appropriate information. It is important that the SuDS principles and hierarchies have been followed in terms of:
 - surface water disposal location, prioritised in the following order: disposal of water to shallow infiltration, to a watercourse, to a surface water sewer, combined sewer / deep infiltration (generally greater than 2m below ground level).
 - the SuDS components used within the management train (source, site and regional control) in relation to water quality and quantity.
 - identifying multifunctional benefits including amenity and biodiversity.
- The drainage strategy should also contain a maintenance and management plan detailing the activities required and details of who will adopt and maintain all the surface water drainage features for the lifetime of the development.

Please note, if there are any works proposed as part of this application that are likely to affect flows in an ordinary watercourse, then the applicant is likely to need the approval of the County Council. In line with good practice, the Council seeks to avoid culverting, and its consent for such works will not normally be granted except as a means of access. It should be noted that this approval is separate from planning.

Further guidance for developers can be found on our website at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling-and-planning/flood-and-water-management/information-for-developers>

Air Quality/Dust

We are content with the Assessment Methodology that is proposed to be carried out for the development, as detailed in the Scoping Report.

Trees

There are trees to the north-west of the proposed development site, including the southern tip of Sawpit Plantation that has a Woodland Tree Preservation Order, (Breckland Council Ref 2008 No 37). It is noted that the red line of this current application has extended into the area of trees beyond the red line boundary of application FUL/2021/0072 currently being determined by Norfolk County Council under the Town and Country Planning Act.

The Indicative Proposed layout, drawing 2843-10-3-DR-0006-S4-P1 does not appear to show any proposed changes to the north west area of the site, where mature trees are present, however this should be clarified to justify whether an Arboricultural Impact Assessment is required.

As a rule, where trees are within or 15m from the red line boundary, it would be advised that the Environmental Statement (ES) would need to include an Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan in accordance

with BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. This should clearly demonstrate the impact to any trees and the root protection areas of trees to be retained must be adequately protected for the duration of the development as detailed on the Tree Protection Plan.

If trees are to be removed to facilitate the development, these should be clearly annotated on the drawings and mitigation proposed to include biodiversity net gain. A landscape plan with a detailed planting and 5-year maintenance specification would therefore also be a requirement of the ES.

Landscape and Visual Impact

I am satisfied that the approach taken as set out in para 5.35 of the Scoping Report should be sufficient. I understand that an update will be provided to bring the current Landscape Assessment undertaken by David Jarvis Associates for the TCPA application, both up to date and to encompass the full proposals covered by the DCO.

Whilst lighting has been scoped out, this should be included as part of the Landscape assessment to ensure that any visual or landscape impacts of lighting are considered.

Noise

We are content with the proposal to undertake a noise assessment as part of the EIA and that the assessment will be carried out to the BS4142 British Standard, as detailed in the Scoping Report.

Traffic/Transport

The applicant will need to assess the following potential impacts as part of the ES.

the Highway Authority would require a Transport Assessment the detail of which should be fully scoped with the Highway Authority.

For information, the Transport Assessment should include details of the quantum of traffic associated with the current uses of the site and the proposed development proposals, an assessment of the access and the surrounding the highway network and, an assessment of the recorded PIA history, the expected routing of traffic and any proposed wheel cleaning facilities / traffic management proposals.

Socio-economic Impacts

It is noted that information will be provided that addresses the potential impacts on the local and regional area including aggregate supply, job creation and the impact on local services. This is welcomed.

Climate Change

The applicant has recognised the need to include additional information to address environmental, social and economic policy concern. This approach is welcomed.

Cumulative and Combined Effects

It is noted that a review of cumulative impacts with respect to the development itself along with permitted or committed developments in the vicinity of the site will be submitted and will consider noise, traffic and air quality. This is welcomed.

Cultural Heritage (Archaeology)

We are content that with the desk-based assessment that is proposed to be carried out for the parts of the development that are proposed, as detailed in the Scoping Report.

Matters that have been scoped out.

The applicant has scoped out matters relating to the Historic Environment, Major Accidents, Waste and Materials, Hydrological Impact, Lighting, Population and Human Health Impacts, Soil Reserves and Vibration.

Please see the comments above re: lighting and impact on bats in the Ecology section and the wider visual or landscape impact in the Landscape and Visual Impact section above.

Reasons are given for scoping the remaining topics out and, other than the comments relating to lighting, there are no issues raised as a result.

Structure of the Environmental Statement

The applicant has set out what matters the ES will address and what documents will be submitted to address them. No additional comment is made to this proposed submission,

I trust the above information is of use. Should you require any further information or wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Nick Johnson
Head of Planning

NNDC Ref: DE21/22/1067

Marie Shoemith
The Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State
Environmental Services
Central Operations
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Proposal: Consultation on EIA Scoping Opinion

**Location: Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility,
Wretham, Norfolk**

I refer to your consultation for the above proposal, received by the North Norfolk District Council on 29 March 2022.

North Norfolk District Council have no comments to make on the submitted Scoping Opinion request at this stage. Should the proposal change significantly or should you require the District Council should comment upon a specific element of the proposals, please feel free to contact us again.

Date: 26th April 2022

Mr Russell Stock
Major Projects Team Leader
[REDACTED]@north-norfolk.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Larkshall Mill](#)
Subject: WS010006-000007-220329 Scoping Opinion
Date: 19 April 2022 08:04:17
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11
Application by O.C.O Technology Limited (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility (the Proposed Development)

Thank you for your consultation in respect of the Scoping opinion for the above NSIP, I can confirm that South Norfolk Council and Broadland District Council have no comments to make in respect of the Scoping Opinion and will defer to the Host Authorities for comment.

Kind regards
Claire Curtis

Claire Curtis (Mrs)
Area Team Manager

t [REDACTED]@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Larkshall Mill](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Suffolk County Council Scoping response.
Date: 26 April 2022 18:59:06
Attachments: [larkshall Mill Scoping Report response SCC 26.04.2022.docx](#)

Dear Ms Shoemsmith,

I Hope you are well,

Please see attached response from Suffolk County Council regarding the EIA scoping at Larkshall Mill.

Please note that we have not had a response at the time of writing from our Highways Department, I will send any Suffolk County Council Highways comments received in addition to the attached as soon as possible, I hope this is acceptable.

Kind Regards

Ross Walker.

Ross Walker
Planning Officer
Suffolk County Council
T: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]@suffolk.gov.uk

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Our Ref: SCC/0033/22/SCOPIN
Your Ref: WS010006-000007-220329
Date: 26 April 2022
Enquiries to: Ross Walker
Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@suffolk.gov.uk



Planning Inspectorate case team- Larkshall Mill.
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Dear Ms Shoesmith,

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

Proposal: A Scoping Request to inform the scope and level of detail of an EIA for the development of a carbon-negative aggregate manufacturing facility and associated site works at Larkshall Mill, Wretham, Norfolk IP24 1QY

Location: Larkshall Mill, Wretham, Norfolk, IP24 1QY

Thank you for your request for a Scoping Opinion validated on 12th April 2022.

With reference to the Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017 you will need to cover the following aspects which could significantly be affected by the development; Noise, Biodiversity, Water (Hydrogeology & Flooding), Air Quality, Land, Soil, Material Assets, Cultural Heritage, Landscape & Transport. Further details are set out under the headings below.

This assessment is based on the information provided which consisted of: Larkshall Mill Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping report, Dated March 2022.

The following text sets out the consultation responses which form the basis of our comments upon the submitted scoping information and what the Environmental Statement will need to address:

You should consider whether there is land in the area affected by the development which qualifies for conditional exemption from capital taxes on the grounds of outstanding scenic, scientific or historic interest. An up-to-date list may be obtained at www.hmrc.gov.uk/heritage/lbsearch.htm

Suffolk County Council Landscape.

Site description and context

The proposal site is located approximately 7.4km north of the Suffolk/Norfolk Border and approximately 9km north-west of Knettishall Heath Nature Reserve (SSSI).

The site is part of an existing industrial estate and located on the south-eastern side of Thetford Road, A 1075, approximately 4.9km north-east of Thetford in the Breckland District of Norfolk.

Apart from the main road (A1075), the roads in the area are small lanes, which underlines the rural setting of this site. The predominantly flat landscape is interspersed with woodland blocks and tree shelter belts. The bunds surrounding the water reservoirs in the vicinity of the site are noticeable within the landscape.

On a district level the site is within Landscape Character Area D: The Brecks - Heathland with Plantation and Landscape Character Type D2: Stanta Heath. The landscape surrounding the site is also known as The Brecks, which stretches across parts of Norfolk and Suffolk. 'This is an internationally important landscape, of value for its rare and vulnerable biodiversity and for its exceptionally long time-depth and concentration of heritage features' (Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment).

The site is located within 415 metres of Breckland Forest (SSSI), which is part of the Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA) to the south and within 645 metres of East Wretham Heath SSSI to the southwest, which is also part of the Breckland SPA as well as the Breckland Special. Area of Conservation (SAC). East Wretham Heath Nature Reserve, 0.6km to the southwest of the application site, is located within the SSSI designation (see Scoping Report para.2.11 and 2.12).

A high intrinsic sensitivity to development must be assumed for this area.

The Proposal

While it is proposed to utilise much of the existing infrastructure on site and many of the existing buildings, the following new infrastructure is proposed as part of the scheme:

- Filler Feed hopper and conveyor;
- 7 no. silos measuring 21m in height;
- 1 no. CO2 tank measuring 13m in height;
- New mono-pitch roofed curing bay building measuring 13.5m in height; and
- Covered aggregate curing conveyor from the aggregate process building to the aggregate curing bays with a maximum height of 12m.

To accommodate the additional tonnage sought under the DCO application additional infrastructure will be required as set out below to handle the increased tonnage:

- addition of a 3rd line production line in the process building;
- aggregate processing (dry screening) within a new aggregate processing building;
- 3 additional silos for the storage of APCr at 21m in height;
- 1 additional for the storage of cement at 21m in height;
- 1 additional CO2 tank at 13m high;
- sand storage building replacing the sand storage bay; and
- rainwater capture for use in the process.

(These lists were taken from the Scoping Report pp.15-16)

Response to the Scoping Request

The site is located in Norfolk, approximately 7.4km north of the Suffolk border. Given this distance it is unlikely that there would be any direct significant adverse landscape and visual impacts and effects extending into Suffolk as a result of this proposal.

However, as this proposal is located in a highly sensitive landscape, The Brecks, which straddles the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, I offer the following additional comments:

Cumulative and in combination effects

Landscape and visual impacts should be considered within the Chapter about Cumulative and Combined Effects (see Scoping report, para 5.59), including with other proposals located in the Suffolk part of The Brecks.

Landscape and Visual Assessment

I have not seen the Landscape Statement that was prepared for the TCPA application (see para 5.35 of the Scoping Report).

However, as part of the required EIA, I would expect a full Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) to be carried out in accordance with the GLVIA 3rd Edition and an agreed methodology. As GLVIA 3rd Edition states in para. 1.9 (p.6): "Consequently in the context of an EIA, LVIA deals with both effects on landscape itself and effects on the visual amenity of people, as well as with possible interrelationships of these with other related topics." Such topics could be Noise, Air Quality, Biodiversity etc.

Archaeology/Ecology/Lighting/ Dark skies

The proposals may also have archaeological impacts and impacts on the setting of listed buildings that are around the site, which would need to be assessed within the Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Ecological impacts will need to be addressed within the Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA).

I would recommend that the assessment of lighting proposals are not scoped out. I would expect a lux plan be submitted and agreed in writing prior to installation of any additional lighting to demonstrate that there will be no significant adverse effects on wildlife, dark skies and surrounding visual receptors. This appears particularly important as it is proposed that the site will be continuously operational for 24 hours every day.

Thank you again for consulting me in this matter. I hope you find the above comments useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you have any queries.

Public health

This EIA seems to have covered main points and with some considerations at the end of the document for further review, but there was very little linked around and impact on health and wellbeing.

Please see our recommendations below:

1. Air Quality

- We welcome P13 3.5 Air Pollution Control Residue (APCr) which is defined (see below) as hazardous. APCr is a waste material arising from the treatment of flue gases from an Energy from Waste (EfW) plant; Point 3.7: As part of the regulatory control the site will operate under, an Environmental Permit (under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016) required, controlling the types of waste materials that can be brought onto the site, as well as several other environmental controls. P24 also states an AQ Assessment linking with Natural England guidance and Norfolk County Council, which should ensure mitigations will be in place to maintain good air quality during and post construction.
- There will be additional traffic contributing to local air quality from staff and transportation of the materials, and this will be monitored as part of the air quality/dust ES chapter but can anything else be done to mitigate the traffic needed.
- To ensure AQ is monitored during construction and will not impact on nearest residences in Wreham which sits in the All Saints and Wayland Ward and consists of a mixture of residents with higher proportion of people aged 20-30- and 50-70-years. Need to be careful of air and noise pollution which can impact on people's health and wellbeing. Link to local demographic in the Norfolk Insight for further information: <https://www.norfolkinsight.org.uk/quick-profile/?report=d5961299464a491c9e82c93620bef2fc&feature=E05010237#/view-report/d5961299464a491c9e82c93620bef2fc/E05010237>.
- Poor Air Quality can increase asthma, lung conditions such as COPD. For further information please go to The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities website which provides data on lung conditions and other health factors at <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/1/qid/1938132701/pat/6/ati/101/are/E07000149/iid/90366/age/1/sex/1/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/3/cid/4/tbm/1>

2. Noise Pollution

- To ensure that any noise pollution is mitigated through the construction and post construction. This site will be running on a 24 hour basis and should not impact on local residents in Wreham or local wildlife.

3. Travel

- Good routes to the A11 and A1075.
- No public transport options are nearby.

4. Employment

- 36 employees in total, including some working shifts and drivers.
- To ensure the buildings have suitable natural lighting and communal areas for staff.
- Provide some benches and access to green space for employees to use during breaks to help with wellbeing.

- Would there be any opportunities for employees to cycle or use public transport to the site? This may be tricky with shift work and also near A11 and A1075.
- Access to local amenities.

5. Nature and Biodiversity

- The Site is not in an AONB.
- To mitigate any impact on the Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA) 450m to the south and 620m of the Brecklands Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to the southwest.
- Good to see Wildlife friendly lighting (for new lights) can the existing lights be replaced to do the same.
- To ensure there is no impact of air pollution or other toxic impact on the nearby local woodland and biodiversity.

6. Climate Change and Green Spaces

- The site is in a rural site although near some agricultural businesses and a food manufacturer.
- To ensure there is no impact on climate change.
- To ensure the construction materials being used friendly to the environment.

7. Health impacts to staff and residents in the area

- P30 It is stated that given the low population density and scale of the development a separate Health and Population Impact chapter is not needed in the ES. It is stated that any health impacts will be included in the AQ/dust chapter. It is unclear what measure has been used to make that conclusion. The process describes those hazardous chemicals will be produced, and it is not as yet known the baseline air quality for this area or the conclusions from modelling (proposed by the air quality/dust ES chapter). It is also stated that the business is moving from a current site in Brandon (although it's not clear if the same industrial process will be used although the tonnage per annum is the same) – if the process is similar, it is recommended that monitoring information from that site is also considered before a final decision is taken.

Noise (produced by SRL noise consultants).

Introduction

The applicant proposes to develop an aggregate manufacturing and carbon capture facility at Larkshall Mill in Wretham, Norfolk. The site is currently a materials recovery facility. This application will need an accompanying environmental statement due to the potential impact the development will have on the local area. This has not yet been submitted, however, a scoping report outlining the contents of this environmental statement has been submitted for review.

Receptors

The scoping report identifies the following residential receptors as being potentially impacted by the development:

- 1 & 2 Eastwood Main Site, Thetford Road, approximately 50m from the proposed site
- Manager's House, Sawpit Farm, approximately 50m from the proposed site
- Larkshall House, Thetford Road, approximately 100m from the proposed site
- Grove Farm Nurseries, Thetford Road, approximately 150m from the proposed site

Recommendations

The scoping report also outlines the intended actions the applicant will take to demonstrate that noise from this development will not negatively affect the above receptors. Point 5.36 and 5.37 state:

"5.36 - It is proposed to undertake a noise assessment as part of the EIA. The assessment will be carried out to the BS4142 British Standard.

5.37 - The noise-sensitive receptor locations considered in the TCPA remain appropriate for inclusion within the noise assessment for the proposed development. These receptor locations are included in Figure 4 – Noise: Nearest Residential Receivers."

Provided the applicant appoints a suitably qualified acoustician to survey the existing background noise levels and complete the above actions, these steps would accurately demonstrate the expected acoustic impact of this development on the local receptors. A favourable assessment would show that cumulative noise from site operations does not exceed the background noise level when assessed using BS4142:2014+A1:2019 methodology.

It is also noted that NPPF planning guidance relating to waste and minerals sites suggests an operational noise level (LAeq) no more than 10 dB above the measured background noise level may be considered with an upper daytime (07:00 to 19:00 hours) noise limit from operations of 55dB(A) LAeq,1hr.

Vibration must be assessed using guidance from BS5228-2:2009.

Air Quality (produced by SRL air quality consultants)

Introduction

The applicant has proposed the development of an aggregate manufacturing and carbon capture facility at Larkshall Mill in Wretham, Norfolk. The site is currently a materials recovery facility. Due to the potential impact the development will have on the local area, the application will need an accompanying Environmental Statement. A scoping report which outlines the contents of this Environmental Statement has been submitted. The scoping report sets out the assessment methodology for an air quality and dust risk assessment.

Receptors

The scoping report identifies the following sensitive human receptors near to the site:

- 1 & 2 Eastwood Main Site, Thetford Road, approximately 50m from the site
- Manager's House, Sawpit Farm, approximately 50m from the site
- Larkshall House, Thetford Road, approximately 100m from the site
- Grove Farm Nurseries, Thetford Road, approximately 150m from the site

Residential dwellings are considered highly sensitive to air quality impact

Recommendations

The screening criteria in the IAQM's Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction stipulate that a dust risk assessment will normally be required where there is a 'human receptor' within:

- 350 m of the boundary of the site; or
- 50 m of the routes used by construction vehicles on the public highway, up to 500 m from the site entrance(s)

As the above criteria are met, a dust risk assessment will be necessary to assess the air quality impacts associated with the development. The assessment must be completed in line with IAQM's *Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction*.

It is also recommended that an air quality screening assessment is completed, following IAQM/EPUK 2017 Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality guidance. This is required where the:

- total construction area exceeds 1,000m² and
- development has more than 10 parking spaces and/or
- development will have a centralised energy facility or other centralised combustion process

If the screening assessment concludes that a detailed air quality assessment is required, this again should be done following the IAQM/EPUK 2017 *Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality guidance*.

Although the scoping report briefly sets out the assessment methodology for an air quality and dust risk assessment, we recommend these assessments are completed using the guidance outlined above.

SCC Floods.

On review of the application as there are no additional areas of hardstanding being created as part of the proposals (with the existing drainage infrastructure being used for the new proposed development) and the site is not recorded to be at significant risk from either fluvial, tidal or surface water flooding then we would have no comment to make and refer the applicant to the guidance issued by Norfolk CC.

SCC Ecology

Thank you for consulting the Suffolk County Council Ecology Team on the above planning application.

Unfortunately, we are unable to look at such applications in detail so we have set out our general advice below.

Information submitted:

We fully expect that any necessary Ecological Surveys and Reports have been carried out in accordance with BS42020 and CIEEM Report Writing Guidelines, by a Suitably Qualified Ecologist using best practice methodologies and at an appropriate time of year.

Field and desk-top survey results must be adequate and up to date in accordance with Natural England Standing Advice, provide a summary of all species and habitats likely to be affected by the proposals, and any ecological constraints should be clearly identified.

Likely ecological effects:

The application must describe all likely impacts on **Protected and Priority Habitats and Species**, to include assessments on the significance of any potential impacts, whether they are capable of being mitigated and whether the mitigation hierarchy has been applied. **HRA assessments should be produced for sites at Corton and Mildenhall.**

Use of the Mitigation Hierarchy:

It is essential that any work, including cutting back or removal of ecological features (such as – but not limited to - trees and hedgerows) follows the following protocol:

- Avoidance
- Mitigation
- Compensation
- Enhancement

Avoidance: Strenuous efforts must be made in planning any project or development to avoid loss or damage to any ecological feature. These features are valuable in so many ways, not least in the ecosystem services that they offer.

Mitigation: If removal or cutting back of any feature is the only option available, then harm must be mitigated by undertaking the appropriate surveys for, e.g., breeding birds, bat roosts or other essential bat habitat, floral interest and so on. Surveys must meet the appropriate guidelines for best practice (see, e.g., CIEEM website) and be carried out by suitably qualified and experienced personnel.

The application must explain how mitigation will address the likely impacts of the proposal and identify key timing issues to protect biodiversity that may constrain the development. Mitigation proposals must be robust and should be effective.

It is expected that detailed mitigation proposals will be secured through appropriate planning conditions e.g., a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP) and the long-term management secured by way of a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP).

Compensation: The loss of any natural feature must be compensated for. This means that, for example, if there is no alternative to removal of a mature tree, at least three appropriate (suitable species and provenance) trees must be planted elsewhere, as close as possible to the removed feature, two such trees for an immature specimen and one-for-one for saplings.

Enhancement: It is a SCC requirement that all projects and developments deliver Biodiversity Net Gain. The site must be surveyed to establish a baseline (and all data sent to Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service, NBIS) and a Landscape Plan provided showing how Biodiversity Net Gain will be achieved. Such a plan must also show full details of monitoring and maintenance (including replacement where necessary).

By following the mitigation hierarchy set out above, it is to be hoped that developments will be delivered in the most sustainable way possible, always seeking to deliver the maximum gain for our wildlife and habitats as they are so vital to our health and wellbeing and an essential tool in tackling the declared climate emergency.

Legislation:

The application must justify how the proposals are in accordance with the relevant wildlife legislation, which is extensive and far reaching and the penalties for failing to abide by it are most serious.

Biodiversity Net Gain

We fully expect any proposed development to result in a Biodiversity Net Gain as stated in the Environment Act (2021), and Section 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework (HM Government, February 2019).

Conclusion/Recommendations:

It is essential that the mitigation hierarchy protocol is followed, to protect and enhance biodiversity.

We fully expect any proposed development to be compliant with all relevant legislation and to result in a Biodiversity Net Gain as stated in the Environment Act (2021), and in Section 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework (HM Government, February 2019).

Yours sincerely
Ross Walker.
Planning Officer.
Growth Highways and Infrastructure.



UK Health
Security
Agency

Environmental Hazards and Emergencies Department
Seaton House, City Link
London Road
Nottingham, NG2 4LA

nsipconsultations@phe.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/ukhsa

Your Ref: WS10006
Our Ref: CIRIS 59148

Ms Marie Shoesmith
Senior EIA Advisor
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol BS1 6PN

25th April 2022

Dear Ms Shoesmith

**Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility
Development Consent Order (DCO)
Scoping Consultation Stage**

Thank you for including the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) in the scoping consultation phase of the above application. ***Please note that we request views from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the response provided below is sent on behalf of both UKHSA and OHID.*** The response is impartial and independent.

The health of an individual or a population is the result of a complex interaction of a wide range of different determinants of health, from an individual's genetic make-up, to lifestyles and behaviours, and the communities, local economy, built and natural environments to global ecosystem trends. All developments will have some effect on the determinants of health, which in turn will influence the health and wellbeing of the general population, vulnerable groups and individual people. Although assessing impacts on health beyond direct effects from for example emissions to air or road traffic incidents is complex, there is a need to ensure a proportionate assessment focused on an application's significant effects.

Having considered the submitted scoping report we wish to make the following specific comments and recommendations:

Environmental Public Health

We understand that the promoter will wish to avoid unnecessary duplication and that many issues including air quality, emissions to water, waste, contaminated land etc. will be covered elsewhere in the Environmental Statement (ES). We believe the summation of relevant issues into a specific section of the report provides a focus which ensures that public health is given adequate consideration. The section should summarise key information, risk assessments, proposed mitigation measures, conclusions and residual impacts, relating to human health. Compliance with the requirements of National Policy Statements and relevant guidance and standards should also be highlighted.

In terms of the level of detail to be included in an ES, we recognise that the differing nature of projects is such that their impacts will vary. UKHSA and OHID's predecessor organisation Public Health England produced an advice document *Advice on the content of Environmental Statements accompanying an application under the NSIP Regime*¹, setting out aspects to be addressed within the Environmental Statement¹. This advice document and its recommendations are still valid and should be considered when preparing an ES.

It is noted that a number of topic areas, where there are the potential health and/or environmental impacts, have been scoped out. We would expect that promoters should fully explain and justify this within the submitted documentation.

Recommendation

Due to the nature of this proposed development there is the potential for emissions to air during construction, operation and decommissioning phases and the promoter has outlined that further assessment of the potential impacts will be undertaken. We would recommend that these assessments cover all potential emissions and sources. Our position is that air pollutants, particularly particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen are non-threshold; ie, an exposed population is likely to be subject to potential harm at any level and that reducing public exposure to these non-threshold pollutants below air quality standards will have potential public health benefits. We support approaches which minimise or mitigate public exposure to non-threshold air pollutants, address inequalities (in exposure) and maximise co-benefits (such as physical exercise). We encourage their consideration during development design, environmental and health impact assessment, and development consent.

Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs)

The applicant should assess the potential public health impact of EMFs arising from any electrical equipment associated with the development. Alternatively, a statement should be

¹
<https://khub.net/documents/135939561/390856715/Advice+on+the+content+of+environmental+statements+accompanying+an+application+under+the+Nationally+Significant+Infrastructure+Planning+Regime.pdf/a86b5521-46cc-98e4-4cad-f81a6c58f2e2?t=1615998516658>

provide explaining why EMFs can be scoped out. For more information on how to carry out the assessment, please see the accompanying reference for details¹.

Recommendation

We request that the ES clarifies this and if necessary, the proposer should confirm either that the proposed development does not impact any receptors from potential sources of EMF; or ensure that an adequate assessment of the possible impacts is undertaken and included in the ES.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of UK Health Security Agency
nsipconsultations@phe.gov.uk

Please mark any correspondence for the attention of National Infrastructure Planning Administration.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Larkshall Mill](#)
Subject: ENQ/22/0557 - WS0100006-000007-220329 - Larkshall Mill, Thetford, IP241QY
Date: 04 April 2022 16:56:41

I can confirm that West Suffolk Council has no comment to make on this matter.

Kind regards

Dave Beighton
Principal Planning Officer
Planning Development
Direct dial: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

West Suffolk Council
#TeamWestSuffolk

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[REDACTED]

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*****-W-S-

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Larkshall Mill](#)
Subject: WS010006 Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation
Date: 19 April 2022 11:14:53
Attachments: [FUL-2021-0072 Larkshall Mill, Thetford Road.docx](#)

Thank you for your letter dated 29 March 2022 advising my Council its rights and duties in relation to this proposal.

My Council did express its main concerns in relation to the Norfolk County Council application FUL/2021/0072, and I attach a copy of this for your information.

Since then, the company has ben in touch to say that all the concerns were covered in the pile of documentation submitted with that application, but sadly, has not pointed out specifically where these reasurances are hidden.

We would be grateful if you could continue to keep us informed as the process develops.

Julian Gibson
Clerk to Wretham Parish Council

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Village Website: [REDACTED]

WRETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Harold Smith, Esq.

Clerk: Julian Gibson, Esq.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [@btinternet.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@btinternet.com)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com)

FUL/2021/0072: Larkshall Mill, Thetford Road

My Council objects to this application on the following grounds:

1. There are concerns about the possible impact the quantity of waste water the process will produce may have on pingos. The Brecks has the largest concentration of these special ice-age ponds in the UK and any risk to them should be avoided.
2. The Council is also concerned about the potential number of lorry movements, and the resultant impact on the village and its residents. Although this may be less than the numbers which had been permitted previously, they are considerably greater than what has actually been the case in recent years, and we wonder whether any reassurance could be given that, as far as possible, vehicles will be instructed to arrive and depart via the A11 to the south rather than the northern route through the village.
3. The Council is concerned about the continuous noise of the conveyor belt. Although when compared with military exercises on the Training Area this may be relatively quiet, as it seems it will be operating 24/7, the continuous noise on a still summer night can cause great disturbance.
4. These concerns were expressed when Members met with the company a while ago, and we had expected to hear back from them. This has not happened, which is disappointing, and no reference is made in the application documents.

Julian Gibson
Clerk
12 March 2022