Medworth Energy from Waste
Combined Heat and Power Facility

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Preliminary Environmental Information Report
Chapter 15: Socio-Economics Tourism and Recreation and Land Use

June 2021

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Report for

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15. Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation and Land Use

15.1 Introduction

15.1.1 This chapter presents the preliminary assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development with respect to socio-economics including tourism, recreation and land use. The preliminary assessment is based on information obtained to date.

15.1.2 The chapter should be read in conjunction with the description of the development provided in **Chapter 3** and with respect to relevant parts of other chapters including **Chapter 6: Traffic and Transport**, **Chapter 7: Noise and Vibration**, **Chapter 8: Air Quality**, **Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual**, **Chapter 10: Historic Environment**, and **Chapter 16: Health**, where common receptors have been considered and where there is an overlap or relationship between the assessment of effects.

15.1.3 Terms and abbreviations used within this chapter are defined in **Appendix 1F: Terms and Abbreviations**.

15.2 Consultation and stakeholder engagement

15.2.1 The assessment has been informed by consultation responses and ongoing stakeholder engagement. An overview of the approach to consultation is provided in **Chapter 4: Approach to the EIA.**

15.2.2 A summary of the relevant responses received in the EIA Scoping Opinion in relation to socio-economics, and confirmation of how these have been considered within the assessment to date, is presented in **Table 15.1** below. The EIA Scoping Report initially addressed health within the Socio-economics chapter. However, in light of comments received from stakeholders, the assessment of health impacts is now addressed in a standalone chapter, **Chapter 16**. A summary of the EIA Scoping Opinion responses in relation to health is therefore included in **Chapter 16**.

Table 15.1 Summary of EIA Scoping Opinion responses for Socio-Economics

Consultee	Issue raised	Response
Planning Inspectorate	The Scoping Report concludes that, on the basis of professional judgement, there would be no significant effects beyond 2km from the Grid Connection corridor and CHP Connection route; therefore, the study areas are confined to within 2km of the routes. The Inspectorate is unclear how this relates to the statement in paragraph 14.3.1 that the study area covers a local, District and County level. No justification has been provided to support the Developer's statement, and the	The study areas are set out in **section 15.4** with **section 15.6** providing details of those effects scoped in and scoped out of further assessment with justification provided. Any significant effects on employment are set out in **section 15.9**.

Consultee	Issue raised	Response
	Inspectorate considers that impacts, particularly those related to employment, should be assessed on a sufficiently wide scale to identify any likely significant effects.	
Planning Inspectorate	Amenity of local residents and community due to traffic, noise, air quality and visual impact The Inspectorate agrees that a detailed assessment of these matters can be scoped out of the Socio-economic aspect chapter as they will be addressed within the relevant aspect chapters of the ES. However, the Inspectorate expects that adequate cross-referencing and signposting to these matters will be made within the Socio-economic chapter of the ES, with a clear explanation of the significance of these effects in relation to amenity.	The assessment sections of this chapter cross reference as relevant the findings of the transport, noise, air quality and landscape and visual impact assessments. See **paragraph 15.6.12** for reference to matters which are scoped out of the assessment.
Planning Inspectorate	The Inspectorate agrees that significant direct effects are unlikely from construction and operation of the EfW CHP Facility as it is located within an industrial estate and no known tourism or recreational facilities are located within or in close proximity to it. The proximity of tourism and recreational facilities to other project elements, including the Grid Connection corridor is unclear and any likely significant direct effects to tourism and recreation should be assessed in the ES. The Inspectorate is however content that given the nature of the Grid Connection once operational, significant effects from the operation of the Grid Connection corridor are unlikely to occur and can be scoped out of the ES.	An assessment of the effects of the other project elements (CHP Connection, Grid Connection) during the construction phase is assessed in this chapter in **Section 15.9**. See **section 15.6.12** for reference to matters which are scoped out of the assessment.
Planning Inspectorate	The ES should identify the location of receptors relative to the Proposed Development, ideally through the provision of figures depicting static receptors.	Locations of relevant receptors are identified in this assessment and assessed in **Section 15.9**.
Planning Inspectorate	Whilst paragraph 14.5.1 states that effects from change of land use will be considered, this is not identified as a potential significant effect requiring further assessment in paragraphs 14.5.4-14.5.6. Nevertheless, Tables 14.2 and 14.3 provide definitions for the various levels of sensitivity and magnitude for land use. For the avoidance of doubt, any significant effects to socio-economic receptors from changes in land use should be assessed within the ES.	Effects on land use are considered in this assessment in **Section 15.9** with clear justification provided where effects are scoped out from any further assessment.
Planning Inspectorate	The ES should include a breakdown of the likely jobs and roles created by the Proposed Development and any mitigation measures such as skills and training programmes that would promote local employment. This should include	**Section 15.9** provides an overview of MVV and the Applicant's approach to skills and employment. A full strategy will be developed by the Applicant and

Consultee	Issue raised	Response
	consideration of the potential to create apprenticeship opportunities during construction and operation.	included in the Environmental Statement (ES) which will be submitted as part of the DCO Application.
Planning Inspectorate	Whilst the Scoping Report proposes to assess impacts to businesses, it is unclear whether this includes the Belgrave Retail Park. Construction phase effects to these businesses should be assessed, where significant effects are likely to occur.	Consideration is given to effects on Belgrave Retail Park in this socio-economic assessment in **Section 15.9**.
Planning Inspectorate	Some of the definitions provided in Table 14.7 in relation to magnitude of change are ambiguous and lack clear definition e.g., 'a small number' or 'a large number'. Definitions relating to magnitude of change should be quantified where possible. Where this is not considered to be possible and where professional judgement is applied, a clear justification should be provided in the ES for assigning a magnitude of change.	Where professional judgement is applied this is clearly justified in this socio-economic assessment. **Section 15.8** sets out the assessment methodology and provides more detail on the use of applying professional judgement.
Planning Inspectorate	The Scoping Report states that is has been assumed the CHP elements of the Proposed Development will sustain economic activity in the surrounding area. The Socio-economics assessment should take into account any uncertainty relating to whether the CHP elements of the Proposed Development would be implemented.	Any uncertainties identified are documented in this assessment in **Section 15.9**.
Planning Inspectorate	The Scoping Report notes there would be up to 700 personnel engaged with the construction and up to 350 at any one time. During operation there would be up to 40 full time jobs created. The Inspectorate agrees that the number of operational workers is unlikely to give rise to an increase in population such that there would be a significant increase in demand on housing, local services (such as schools), and community facilities (such as sport and recreation), and that this matter can be scoped out of the ES. However, during construction the numbers will be greater, and the Inspectorate considers that an assessment should be undertaken, where significant effects are likely.	This socio-economic assessment considers and assesses any significant effects from construction workers in **Section 15.9**.
Planning Inspectorate	The Scoping Report has assumed that construction workers requiring accommodation would be accommodated within the existing visitor/private rented accommodation sector. The ES should assess any likely significant effects to this sector.	This socio-economic assessment considers and assesses any significant effects to the visitor/private rented accommodation sector in **Section 15.9**.
Cambridgeshire County Council	Table 14.1: The broader socio-economic objectives of the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy	**Chapter 5** provides details of relevant planning policy. Those policies referenced by

Consultee	Issue raised	Response
	are addressed in Core Strategy Policy CS2 Strategic Vision and Objectives for Sustainable Waste Management Development, which are not reflected in this Chapter. Similar policies in the emerging Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mineral and Waste Local Plan (Proposed Submission) include Policy 4: Providing for Waste Management, which is also omitted.	Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) as relevant to this socio-economic assessment are set out in **Section 15.3**. Health information is now presented in **Chapter 16**.
Cambridgeshire County Council	The Summary of the Data Sources in paragraph 14.3.4 of the scoping report should include reference to local Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA) https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/jsna/published-joint-strategic-needsassessments/, in particular the JSNA core data set and the Transport and Health JSNA. The data contained in these JSNA should form part of the baseline evidence base on human health to supplement health data already proposed as part of the EIA/ES.	Health baseline information is now presented in **Chapter 16** and this baseline information has been refined and updated as needed.
Cambridgeshire County Council	The data used and quoted for the scoping report and hence the EIA/ES needs to be checked for accuracy e.g., the child health data quoted in paragraph 14.4.3 of the scoping report has quoted the wrong year for the data. The data of 20.9% of year 6 pupils in Fenland being obese is the 2018-19 figures not the 2019 figures as quoted.	Health baseline information is now presented in **Chapter 16** and this baseline information has been refined and updated as needed.
Cambridgeshire County Council	Paragraph 14.5.9 of the scoping report proposes to scope out direct effects on tourism and recreation, although not a formal Right of Way the disused railway line maybe being used by local residents as an amenity, this needs to be ascertained and clarified before it is scoped out of the assessment.	Consideration has been given to effects on this right of way in **Section 15.9**, with clear justification provided where direct effects are scoped out.
Norfolk County Council	It is suggested the population estimate for the King's Lynn Borough is reviewed because this is considered to be too low.	The baseline information presented in **Section 15.5** of this assessment has been reviewed and updated where needed.
Norfolk County Council	While Norfolk County Council welcomes the employment opportunities the development would have within the local/regional economy both during construction and once operational, it is felt that given the proposal's proximity to Norfolk and the likelihood of additional major construction projects in Norfolk there is a need to consider wider cumulative impacts with other projects and wider impacts with neighbouring authorities. The County Council would therefore suggest that the Developer develops an outline skills and employment strategy to accompany any application. This will need to address the above potential cross boundary issues. Such strategies have been taken forward in other NSIPs covering	**Section 15.9** provides an overview of MVV and the Applicant's approach to skills and employment. A full strategy will be developed by the Applicant and included in the ES which will be submitted as part of the DCO Application.

Consultee	Issue raised	Response
	for example the offshore wind energy sector developments.	
Norfolk County Council	The EIA will need to consider the following issues: a) Whether the existing overhead lines and substation/s are sufficient to be able to cope with the energy proposal; b) Whether there would be a need to upgrade any existing overhead power lines; c) Whether there is a need for a new electricity substation. The EIA should also address the cumulative impact on the Grid Network arising from any existing or proposed energy schemes in the area.	**Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development** provides a description of the works required to the surrounding electricity network. The plans/projects screened into the cumulative impact assessment are defined in **Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects**. However, on the basis that the District Network Operator (DNO) provides the Applicant with a connection offer, it can be assumed that the electricity network has sufficient capacity to accommodate the development as proposed. Connection offers take into consideration all other commitments made by the DNO at the point the offer is made. Therefore, it is not proposed to undertake a cumulative assessment of effects upon the grid network.
Norfolk County Council	With regards to the new power lines needed (or existing power lines up-graded) or any other infrastructure needs up-grading (e.g., sub-station) there would need to be a description of the route(s) including plans at an appropriate scale. The ES should incorporate: - an assessment of their impact (these elements of the scheme should be included and fully assessed within the scope of the relevant Landscape / Biodiversity / Archaeology / Traffic etc sections of the ES, as set out elsewhere in this letter); - details of temporary construction compounds; - identification of any sensitive features along route.	**Section 15.9** presents an assessment of the Proposed Development including the Grid Connection (Options 1 and 2). All environmental topic chapters consider the effects of the Grid Connection, these include **Chapter 6: Traffic and Transport** which presents the traffic assessment. **Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual** which presents the landscape and visual assessment, **Chapter 10: Historic Environment** which presents the historic environment assessment.
Norfolk County Council	The EIA/PEIR should consider the possibility of putting overhead power lines underground in order to minimise their impact.	**Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development** provides a description of the underground cables and overhead line sections of the Grid Connection. **Chapter 2 Alternatives** and **Appendix 2A** set out the alternatives considered and the approach to undergrounding relative to national policy and guidance.
Public Health England	Paragraph 14.5.7 identifies the following receptors will be scoped out:	Where effects are scoped out of the assessment clear justification

Consultee	Issue raised	Response
	• Direct effects on tourism and recreation during construction and operation; • Demand for local services; • Impacts on nearby recreational facilities and businesses; and • In addition, effects on the amenity of local residents and the local community due to traffic (Chapter 5), noise (Chapter 6), air quality (Chapter 7), visual impact (Chapter 8), and traffic, are not included in this chapter as these would be considered in the relevant EIA Report chapter as noted.	is provided in this assessment in **Section 15.9**. See paragraph 15.6.12 for reference to matters which are scoped out of the assessment.
	The scoping report identifies that during the construction of the Proposed Development there will be a sizeable influx of construction workers into Wisbech (up to 700 construction personnel are anticipated over the estimated 3-year construction period for the Proposed Development) and that this could put pressure on health services and facilities in the local area. It also states in paragraph 14.6.12 that indirect effects upon tourism and recreation will be scoped in.	The effects of the temporary construction work force are assessed in this chapter in **Section 15.9**.
	The report also proposes to scope out any impacts on local housing, but with insufficient justification. The presence of significant numbers of workers could foreseeably have an impact on the local availability of affordable housing, particularly that of short-term tenancies, for certain communities and should be assessed.	The effects of the temporary construction work force on the local housing are assessed in this chapter in **Section 15.9**.
	Recommendation The PEIR should identify the number of non-home based construction workers (both for the plant and connection corridor) and whether these are likely to be from within the existing population or non- home based. Demand for temporary accommodation by the construction work force should be identified and an assessment made regarding the impact on local housing and homelessness.	Comments noted. As above – this chapter assesses effects from the temporary construction workforce in **Section 15.9**.
Public Health England	Cumulative effects The East of England is experiencing a large number of development schemes, with the potential for concurrent increases in non-home based workers seeking housing within the area and an increased presence of HGVs on the highway network. Individual schemes, albeit of limited scale can add to this situation.	The plans/projects screened into the cumulative impact assessment are set out in **Chapter 18 Cumulative Effects**. Cumulative socio-economic effects are considered in **Section 15.9. Chapter 18** presents the cumulative effects assessment.

Consultee	Issue raised	Response
Public Health England	Tourism and Leisure Industries The Developer should assess the impact of the proposed development on retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community and residential development needed in town centres. In rural locations assessment and evaluation of potential impacts on sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit businesses in rural areas, communities and visitors should be undertaken.	**Section 15.9** presents an assessment of the findings of this socio-economic assessment and this includes effects on tourism and recreation.

15.3 Relevant legislation, planning policy, technical guidance

Legislative context

15.3.1 There is no legislation specific to the socio-economic assessment.

Planning policy context

15.3.2 There are a number of policies at the national and local level that will be relevant to the Proposed Development. The overarching national policy statements, which provide the primary policy basis for the consideration of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP), are provided in **Table 15.2** This section should be read in conjunction with **Chapter 5: Legislation and policy overview**.

Table 15.2 Planning policy context for Socio-Economics: National Policy Statements

Policy reference	Implications	Section addressed
Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)[1]	Under paragraph 4.1.3, in considering any proposed development the Secretary of State should take into account potential benefits of development proposals including "contribution to meeting the need for energy infrastructure, job creation and any long-term or wider benefits". In this context, the Secretary of State should take into account environment, social and economic benefits and adverse impacts at national, regional and local levels (paragraph 4.1.4).	**Section 15.9** presents an assessment of the findings of this socio-economic assessment.
	For socio-economics EN-1 states that the assessment should consider all relevant socio-economic impacts, including job creation and training,	**Section 15.9** presents an assessment of the findings of this socio-economic assessment, which covers potential economic

[1] Department for Energy & Climate Change, 2011. Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/47854/1938-overarching-nps-for-energy-en1.pdf [Accessed January 2021].

Policy reference	Implications	Section addressed
	provision of additional local services, effects on tourism, effects of influx of construction workers and cumulative effects (paragraphs 5.12.1 – 5.12.3). Socio-economic impacts may be linked to other impacts, for example the visual impact of a development is considered but may also have an impact on tourism and local businesses (paragraph 5.12.5). EN-1 notes that an energy infrastructure project will have direct effects on the existing use of the proposed site and may have indirect effects on the use, or planned use, of land in the vicinity for other types of development. The ES should identify existing and proposed land uses near the project, any effects of replacing an existing development or use of the site with the proposed project or preventing a development or use on a neighbouring site from continuing. Applicants should also assess any effects of precluding a new development or use proposed in the development plan.	effects, including job creation, effects on tourism and the effects of the temporary construction workforce. **Section 15.9** considers the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development. **Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual** assesses the visual impacts of the Proposed Development with relevant findings cross referenced in this assessment. **Section 15.9** presents an assessment of the findings of this socio-economic assessment and this includes consideration of effects on tourism and local businesses. Effects on land use are considered in **Section 15.9**. **Chapter 5 Legislation and Policy** provides an overview of relevant national and local planning policy.

15.3.3 Other relevant national and local policies are summarised in **Table 15.** below.

Table 15.3 Planning policy context for Socio-economics: National and local planning policies

Policy reference	Summary	Section addressed
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)[2]	The NPPF seeks to help build a strong and competitive economy. Planning decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand, and adapt. Significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development (paragraph 80). In addition, the NPPF also seeks to promote healthy and safe communities. Planning decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive, and safe places.	**Section 15.9** assesses the effects of the Proposed Development. This assessment considers the economic effects from the Proposed Development, as well as tourism and recreation and on the local housing market and education facilities. Effects on Health are assessed in **Chapter 16**.

[2] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019. National Planning Policy Framework. [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf [Accessed January 2021].

Policy reference	Summary	Section addressed
	To provide the social, recreational, and cultural facilities and services a community needs, planning decisions should guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs (paragraph 92). It is important that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive, and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education (paragraph 94).	**Chapter 5 Legislation and Policy** provides an overview of relevant national and local planning policy.
Local Policy		
Cambridge and Peterborough Waste Adopted Core Strategy (2011)[3]	Policy CS2 sets out the 'strategic vision and objectives for sustainable waste management development'. Policy CS34 Protecting Surrounding Uses states that development should not significantly harm neighbouring land uses or loss to residential or other amenities. Policy CS37 concerns protection of public rights of way and states that proposals should make provision for their enhancement where practicable.	**Section 15.9** presents an assessment of the findings of this socio-economic assessment and this includes consideration of effects on local communities with cross reference to findings of other assessments, for example on noise and air quality. Effects on land use, including Public Rights of Way (PRoW) are also considered here.
Cambridge and Peterborough Waste Local Plan: Proposed Submission (Publication) Draft (Nov 2019)[4]	Policy 3 Waste Management Needs indicates that the waste planning authorities will seek to achieve net self-sufficiency in relation to the management of waste. Policy 4 Providing for Waste Management makes reference to new / extended facilities being located within the settlement boundary of the existing or main urban areas of locations including Wisbech. Policy 18 Amenity Considerations states that development must not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts upon the amenity of existing occupiers of land or property. Policy 23 Traffic Highways Rights of Way includes for the protection and enhancement of existing rights of way.	**Section 15.9** presents an assessment of the findings of this socio-economic assessment and this includes consideration of effects on PRoW. **Chapter 5 Legislation and Policy** provides an overview of relevant national and local planning policy.
Fenland Local Plan (Adopted) (2014)[5]		

[3] Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, 2018. Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Preliminary Consultation Draft May 2018. [online] Available at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qIgUKbBCqjzjMjs6H0GODP2FeaoGH10z/view [Accessed January 2021].

[4] Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, 2019. Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Proposed Submission (Publication) Draft November 2019. [online] Available at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xCDsm0HuFDFvOKBdo02yT03njM526jqP/view [Accessed January 2021].

[5] Fenland District Council, 2014. Fenland Local Plan. [online] Available at: https://www.fenland.gov.uk/media/12064/Fenland-Local-Plan-Adopted-2014/pdf/Fenland_Local_Plan-Adopted_2014.pdf?m=637267078575000000 [Accessed January 2021].

Policy reference	Summary	Section addressed
Policy LP1 – A Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	At the heart of the Strategy for Fenland is a desire to deliver sustainable economic growth; growth that is not for its own sake, but growth that brings benefits for all sectors of the community – for existing residents as much as for new ones. When considering development proposals, Fenland District Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the NPPF. It will always work with applications jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in Fenland.	The overarching requirements of the NPPF will be applied throughout the assessment. **Section 15.9** presents an assessment of the findings of this socio-economic assessment and this includes consideration of any socio-economic benefits from the Proposed Development. **Chapter 5 Legislation and Policy** provides an overview of relevant national and local planning policy.
Policy LP2 – Facilitating the Health and Wellbeing of Fenland Residents	Development proposals should contribute to the Council's goal of Fenland's residents achieving the highest attainable standard of health, irrespective of their race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition, sex, or age. Development proposals should contribute to creating a healthy, safe and equitable living environment by (e.g.): • Creating an environment (built and social) in which communities can flourish (see all policies in this plan); • Creating opportunities for employment in accessible locations; • Promoting and facilitating healthy lifestyles; and • Avoiding adverse impacts.	**Section 15.9** presents an assessment of the findings of this socio-economic assessment and this includes details of any employment opportunities. Health impacts are assessed separately in **Chapter 16: Health** with relevant findings cross referenced in this assessment.
Policy LP6 – Employment, Tourism, Community Facilities and Retail	Opportunities for new job growth in the District will be maximised with the aim of achieving 7,200 net additional jobs over the period 2011-2031. Existing cultural, tourism and visitor facilities will be protected and where possible enhanced.	**Section 15.9** presents an assessment of the findings of this socio-economic assessment and this includes potential economic effects, including job creation, and cross references a skills and employment strategy that will be prepared by the Applicant and submitted as part of the DCO Application.

Policy reference	Summary	Section addressed
Policy LP8 - Wisbech	Wisbech, alongside March, is the main focus for housing, employment and retail growth. All development should contribute to the promotion of Wisbech into a strong, safe and community focused market town, preserving and enhancing its unique character and making appropriate use of its heritage assets to benefit its regeneration, tourism potential and sense of place.	Socio-economic effects on Wisbech are assessed and any findings documented in **Section 15.9**.
Policy LP14 – Responding to Climate Change and Managing the Risk of Flooding	Renewable energy proposals will be supported and considered in the context of sustainable development and climate change. Proposals for renewable energy technology, associated infrastructure, and integration of renewable technology on existing or proposed structures will be assessed both individually and cumulatively on their merits taking account of the following factors: • Surrounding landscape, townscape, and heritage assets; • Residential and visual amenity; • Noise impact; • Specific highway safety; and • High quality agricultural land.	**Chapters 6: Traffic and Transport, Chapter 7: Noise and Vibration, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual and Chapter 10: Historic Environment** assess effects on landscape, townscape and heritage, residential and visual amenity, noise impacts and highway safety respectively. Relevant findings from these chapters are cross referenced in this chapter in **Section 15.9**.
Policy LP16 – Delivering and Protecting High Quality Environments across the District	The Local Plan seeks to deliver and protect high quality environments throughout the District. All new developments should: • Make a positive contribution to the local character and distinctiveness of the area; • Not adversely impact on the amenity of neighbouring users such as noise, light pollution, loss of privacy and loss of light; • Provide a safe environment and incorporate security measures to deter crime in accordance with Policy LP17; • Identify, manage, and mitigate against any existing or proposed risks form sources of noise, emissions, pollution, contamination, odour and dust, vibration, landfill gas and protect from water body deterioration; and Not result in any unreasonable constraint(s) or threaten the operation and viability of existing or nearby or adjoining businesses or employment sites.	Potential effects from the Proposed Development are considered in **Section 15.9.** Measures already incorporated into the design, which may demonstrate a high quality design, are described in **Section 15.7**. **Chapter 6: Traffic and Transport**, **Chapter 8: Air Quality**, **Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual**, **Chapter 10: Historic Environment** present details of the measures already incorporated in the design to help avoid adverse effects. An outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has also been prepared in support of this PEIR (see **Appendix 6A)**. Mitigation measures are described in **Section 15.11**.
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Local Development Framework	The Core Strategy recognises that tourism plays a significant role in the local economy (see Policy CS10 and paragraph 7.3.7).	Potential effects from the Proposed Development are considered in **Section 15.9** including effects on tourism.

Policy reference	Summary	Section addressed
Core Strategy (2011)[6]		**Chapter 5 Legislation and Policy** provides an overview of relevant national and local planning policy.
15.9King's Lynn and West Norfolk Local Development Framework Site Allocations and development Management Policies (2016)[7]	Policy DM20 Renewable Energy states that applications will be assessed to determine whether the benefits in terms of energy generated are outweighed by the impacts with reference to e.g., tourism and other economic activity.	Potential effects from the Proposed Development are considered in **Section 15.9** including effects on tourism and job creation. A skills and employment strategy will be prepared by the Applicant and included with the ES which will be submitted as part of the DCO Application. **Chapter 5 Legislation and Policy** provides an overview of relevant national and local planning policy.
Norfolk County Council Core Strategy and Minerals and Waste Development Management Policies Development Plan Document 2010-2026 (2011)[8]	Core Strategy Policy CS14 – Environmental Protection - seeks to protect Norfolk's natural and built environments. In particular, developments must ensure that there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on, and ideally improvements to, residential amenity e.g., noise, vibration, dust, lighting, and visual intrusion. Development Management Policy DM12 seeks to protect local amenity and this is a key consideration for waste management facilities.	Potential effects from the Proposed Development are considered in **Section 15.9** this includes cross referencing the findings of other chapters as relevant, including **Chapter 7: Noise and Vibration, and Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual.** **Chapter 5 Legislation and Policy** provides an overview of relevant national and local planning policy.

Technical guidance

15.3.4 There is limited guidance setting out the preferred method for, or content of, an assessment of potential social and economic effects as part of an EIA. Otherwise, where relevant, the following guidance has been taken into account:

- Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment (IEMA 2004).

[6] King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council, 2011. Local Development Framework – Core Strategy. [online] Available via: https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/downloads/download/68/core_strategy_document [Accessed January 2021].
[7] King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council, 2016. Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan. [online] Available via: https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20220/site_allocations_and_development_management_policies_plan/514/adopted_plan [Accessed January 2021].
[8] Norfolk County Council, 2011. Core Strategy and Minerals and Waste Development Management Policies Development Plan Document 2010-2026. Available via: https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/minerals-and-waste-planning-policies/adopted-policy-documents [Accessed March 2021]

15.3.5 The assessment has been carried out following good practice methodology taking account of assessments for comparative schemes.

15.4 Data gathering methodology

15.4.1 Data gathering to inform this socio-economic, tourism, recreation and land use assessment has been undertaken through desk-based research, drawing on a range of publicly accessible information.

Study area

15.4.2 The socio-economic study area for the Proposed Development is set out below and is also shown on **Figure 15.1: Socio-economic Study Area**

EfW CHP Facility Site, Temporary Construction Compound no.1 (TCC1), Access Improvements and CHP Connection

15.4.3 For these components of the Proposed Development the study area is:

- Local level – Medworth Ward;
- District level – Fenland District; and
- County Level – Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

15.4.4 For these components of the Proposed Development there would be no direct tourism or recreation effects and it is considered that there would be no indirect effects on tourism or recreation beyond the local level given the location of the EfW CHP Facility and TCC1, the Access Improvements and CHP Connection are within an existing industrial estate. Therefore, the study area for indirect tourism and recreation effects is confined to the local level. Economic and employment effects, and effects on the housing market and education, are considered at the District and County levels given the potential for wider effects.

Grid Connection Options 1 and 2 and TCC Options 2 and 3 and TCC4

15.4.5 For these components of the Proposed Development, the study area is:

- Local level – Medworth, Wisbech, Elm, Elmneth, Walsoken, West Walton and Walpole;
- District level – Fenland District and King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough; and
- County Level – Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

15.4.6 It is considered that there would be no significant effects on tourism and recreation beyond 2km from the Grid Connection or TCC1 to 4 given the nature of the infrastructure required for the Grid Connection and the route proposed to both of the optional points of connection, Walpole and Walsoken. The study area is therefore confined to within 2km of the route for the tourism and recreation assessment presented in **Section 15.9**.

Desk study

15.4.7 The desk study comprises desk-based research using a variety of publicly available information sources to gather information for the socio-economic baseline. The scope of the baseline information presented is the same regardless of the Grid Connection option that would be utilised. Further details of the Grid Connection options under review can be found in **Section 3.3 Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development**.

15.4.8 A summary of the desktop data used to inform the assessment is provided in **Table 15.4** below.

Table 15.4 Desktop data for socio-economic assessment

Desktop data	Source of desktop data	Details of the information
Demographic Statistics	Office for National Statistics[9]. Fenland District Council[10]. Norfolk Insight[11]	Population statistics for the baseline information.
Labour Market Statistics	NOMIS[12]	Labour market statistics for baseline information.
Health Statistics	Public Health England[13] Cambridgeshire Insight[14] Fenland Public Health Profile[15] King's Lynn and West Norfolk Public Health Profile[16] Joint Strategic Needs Assessments[17] Indices of Multiple Deprivation[18]	Health statistics for baseline information.
Economic and Employment Statistics	Fenland for Business[19] Norfolk County Council[20]	Economic and employment information for baseline information.

[9] Office for National Statistics demographic statistics. Available via www.ons.gov.uk [Accessed June 2021]
[10] Fenland District Council. Available via www.fenland.gov.uk [Accessed June 2021]
[11] Norfolk Insight demographic statistics. Available via www.norfolkinsight.org.uk [Accessed June 2021]
[12] Nomis labour market statistics. Available via www.nomisweb.co.uk [Accessed June 2021]
[13] Public Health England health information. Available via https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england [Accessed June 2021]
[14] Cambridge Insight demographic statistics. Available via https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/ [Accessed June 2021]
[15] Fenland Public Health Profile data. Available via https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data [Accessed June 2021]
[16] King's Lynn and West Norfolk Public Health Profile data. Available via https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data [Accessed June 2021]
[17] Joint Strategic Needs Assessments for Cambridgeshire. Available via https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/jsna/ [Accessed June 2021]
[18] Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Available via https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019 [Accessed June 2021]
[19] Fenland for Business. Available via https://www.fenlandforbusiness.co.uk/ [Accessed June 2021]
[20] Norfolk County Council. Available via www.norfolk.gov.uk [Accessed June 2021]

Desktop data	Source of desktop data	Details of the information
	King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council[21]	
Housing Market Statistics	Fenland District Council King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	Housing market statistics for baseline information.
Tourism Statistics	Visit West Norfolk[22] Visit Cambridgeshire[23]	Tourism statistics for baseline information.

Survey work

15.4.9 The assessment has relied on existing desktop information as confirmed within the EIA Scoping Report. No survey work has been undertaken for this socio-economic assessment.

15.5 Baseline

Current baseline

EfW CHP Facility Site, TCC1, Access Improvements and CHP Connection

15.5.1 Socio-economic activity does not confine itself to local authority boundaries. The urban area which is recognisable as Wisbech is largely within the District of Fenland but parts of the built-up area in the southwest of the town are in the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. Baseline information on population, economy and employment, housing market, education, tourism and recreation and land use for these components of the Proposed Development in Fenland are set out in the paragraphs below but it is also important to consider information on the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk which is found under the headings Grid Connection and TCC2 to 4 in paragraphs **15.5.40** - **15.5.41**. below.

Population

15.5.1 Based on ONS data, at the time of the 2011 census, the town of Wisbech had a population of 31,573. The population had risen to 33,933 in 2016. In the 2011 census the population of Fenland was 95,262 and was made up of approximately 51% females and 49% males. In 2018, at the District level, the population of Fenland was 101,491. 71% of the population of Fenland live within the four market towns, including Wisbech. The population projection for Fenland in 2019 was 101,850, a

[21] King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council. Available via https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/ [Accessed June 2021]
[22] Visit West Norfolk Tourism Statistics. Available via https://www.visitwestnorfolk.com/ [Accessed June 2021]
[23] Visit Cambridgeshire Tourism Statistics. Available via: https://www.visitengland.com/things-to-do/region/cambridgeshire [Accessed February 2021]

small increase from 2018. There is an almost equal number of males (49.6% of the population) and females (50.4% of the population).

15.5.2 At the District level, 96.8% of the population in Fenland are White: British or White: Other (90.4% and 6.4%).

15.5.3 At the County level, the population for Cambridgeshire was 651,482 in 2018[24] and there is also an almost equal number of males and females.

Economy and Employment

15.5.4 The economy of Fenland features a diverse mix of sectors and is made up of 3,405 businesses which combine to produce a GVA of around £2.2bn a year, operating at a productivity level of £69,500[25] per worker. According to 'Fenland for Business', Fenland's economic growth has outstripped other regions of the UK for the last three years due to a thriving entrepreneurial spirit amongst a small but industrious population. It records that over 70% of businesses that were set up within the last 5 years in Fenland remain actively trading.

15.5.5 During the period October 2019-September 2020 (the most recent figures available) 74.7% of the population was economically active (lower than the East of England (80.4%), and the national average (79.1%)). Economic inactivity rates are higher than the equivalents regionally and nationally – 25.3% for Fenland, 19.6% for the East of England and 20.9% for Great Britain as a whole. For the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk(KLWN) area, 83.9% of the population is economically active, higher than the East of England and nationally. Consequently, economic inactivity rates at 16.1% are lower than the East of England (18.8%) and nationally (21%).

15.5.6 At the District level for Fenland, **Table 15.5** below shows that manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade are the dominant industries for employment – both employing 6,000 people, closely followed by administrative and support service activities which employs 5,000 people. Education and human health and social work activities are also important local industries for employment.

Table 15.5 Employee Jobs by Industry in Fenland[26]

Employee Jobs by Industry	Fenland (Employee Jobs)	Fenland (%)	East (%)	Great Britain (%)
B: Mining and quarrying	20	0.1	0.1	0.2
C: Manufacturing	6,000	17.1	7.7	8.0
D: Electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply	20	0.1	0.2	0.4

[24] Figures from Office for National Statistics: Available via: https://www.ons.gov.uk/ [Accessed January 2021]
[25] Figures from Fenland for Business. Available via: https://www.fenlandforbusiness.co.uk/invest-in-fenland/the-fenland-economy [Accessed November 2019]
[26] Source: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157207/report.aspx?town=fenland

Employee Jobs by Industry	Fenland (Employee Jobs)	Fenland (%)	East (%)	Great Britain (%)
E: Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	400	1.1	0.8	0.7
F: Construction	1,750	5.0	6.0	4.9
G: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	6,000	17.1	16.1	15.0
H: Transportation and storage	3,000	8.6	5.0	4.9
I: Accommodation and food service activities	1,500	4.3	6.9	7.7
J: Information and communication	450	1.3	3.9	4.3
K: Financial and insurance activities	300	0.9	2.5	3.5
L: Real estate activities	400	1.1	1.7	1.7
M: Professional, scientific, and technical activities	1,500	4.3	9.6	8.8
N: Administrative and support service activities	5,000	14.3	10.3	8.9
O: Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	1,250	3.6	3.3	4.4
P: Education	3,000	8.6	9.3	8.7
Q: Human health and social work activities	3,500	10.0	12.0	13.1
R: Arts, entertainment, and recreation	450	1.3	2.6	2.5
S: Other service activities	600	1.7	1.9	2.0

15.5.7 At the District level 74.7% of those of working age are economically active in Fenland, lower than the corresponding figures for the East of England (80.4%) and Great Britain as a whole (79.1%). Males are more economically active compared with regional and national averages, but female rates are considerably lower – 59.9% compared with 76% for the East of England and 75.3% for Great Britain.

15.5.8 ONS analysis employment based on occupation and presents these in Major Groups. An analysis of the existing occupational profile of the resident workforce shows that the groups for employment by occupation are groups 1-3 (managers, directors and senior officials), 8-9 (process plant and machine operatives and elementary occupations) at 30% compared with regional and national averages of 14.6 and 24.8%, followed by groups 4-5 (administrative and secretarial and skilled trade occupations) at 25% compared to regional and national averages of 20.9 and 19.3%. Groups 1-3 occupations (managers, directors and senior officials, professional occupations and associate professional and technical) is considerably lower with 30.3% employed in these occupations compared to regional averages of 48.9% and 50.2%.

15.5.9 Gross weekly pay is an indicator of the health of the local economy. In general, higher earnings indicate a prosperous economy consisting of sectors that pay well, whilst low earnings indicate the opposite. For Fenland, the gross weekly pay is £524.30, this is lower than the East of England (£604.80 per week) and nationally (£587.10). For King's Lynn and West Norfolk, gross weekly pay in 2020 was £559.40, also lower than the East of England and national figures.

15.5.10 There are a number of businesses in the area surrounding the main development site reflecting its location within an industrial estate including the Belgrave Retail Park and companies located within the Wisbech Industrial estate including a food products supplier, a courier service, and a machine services company. There are also a variety of local services in Wisbech including schools, shops, supermarkets, hotels and bed and breakfast and health facilities (GP surgery and dentist).

Housing Market and Education Facilities

Housing Market

15.5.11 The Fenland Local Plan[27] (adopted in May 2014) sets out a requirement for 11,000 new homes in the District between 2011 and 2031 (550 dwellings per year). The following table shows the proposed split of these new homes between different areas. This shows that the majority of growth is directed towards the Market Towns - Chatteris, March and Whittlesey (89%) and 11% of the growth directed towards the rural areas. For Wisbech (which is also one of the market towns) provision is made for 3,000 new homes up to 2031 (plus a further 550 on the edge of Wisbech in the KLWN area), which is 27% of the total number of new homes set to be delivered through the Local Plan.

Table 15.6 Split of New Homes Delivery in Fenland[28]

	District Total	Wisbech	March	Chatteris	Whittlesey	Other Locations
Total Housing (Numbers)	11,000 (100%)	3,000 (27%)	4,200 (38%)	1,600 (15%)	1,000 (9%)	1,200 (11%)

15.5.12 Delivery of housing in Fenland has underperformed against Government targets[29] for housebuilding. 2019 housing monitoring data shows unimplemented permissions provide sufficient supply of sites to meet the five year housing land supply requirements.

15.5.13 Many of the issues which cause this underperformance point towards market failure to deliver the growth targets. The latest monitoring data shows that over 3,000 homes are permitted, and the vast majority are classed as minor development (under 10 dwellings), yet only around 400 dwellings per year have previously been delivered. Therefore, it is not a lack of consent or available land which appears to be the problem, but rather a lack of investment and delivery by landowners and developers that is inhibiting delivery of housing in Fenland.

[27] Fenland Local Plan (2014). Available via https://www.fenland.gov.uk/core-strategy [Accessed February 2021]
[28] Source: Fenland Local Plan
[29] The Local Housing Need figure for Fenland District is 538 dwellings per year.

15.5.14 Some of the issues affecting the delivery of sites include lack of viability within the District. As part of the production of the new Local Plan, a viability report has been published.

15.5.15 Although infrastructure provision has been identified as an issue, Fenland Council notes that there are currently no barriers preventing the delivery of permitted sites. However, more work is required with the developers and infrastructure providers to deliver the larger scale strategic sites and Broad Locations of Growth[30].

15.5.16 At the time of the 2011 census[31], the population of Fenland was 95,262 who made up 40,620 households. The breakdown of these households was:

- Social and affordable rented: 12% of households, or around 5,054, were renting from a housing association;
- Private renters: 16% of households (around 6,341) were renting privately from a landlord or letting agent or were living "rent free"; and
- Homeowners: 70% of households, or around 28,436 owned their home, including those with a mortgage, owned outright, and including 205 households in "shared ownership".

15.5.17 More recent statistics[32] for 2020 show that there were 45,770 properties in Fenland, 561 net new dwellings per annum, and that the median price of property was £188,000.

15.5.18 2011 census information for Fenland shows that the average household size was 2.3, lower than for Cambridgeshire and England as a whole which was 2.4.

15.5.19 The number of new households is projected to increase steadily from the 40,620 quoted above to over 50,000 in 2043[33].

15.5.20 **Table 15.7** below shows that bungalows accounted for the highest percentage of dwelling type in Fenland, a higher percentage of all dwellings than for Cambridgeshire and England as a whole, closely followed by detached houses and then semi-detached houses.

Table 15.7 Dwelling Types in Fenland District[34]

	Fenland Count	Fenland %	Cambridgeshire Count	%	England Count	England %
Bungalows	11,520	25.4	38,390	13.5	2,281,310	9.3
Flats/Maisonettes	3,970	8.7	41,760	14.6	5,665,030	23.2

[30] These are broad locations within the District which the Council has identified for growth
[31] 2011 census information. Available via https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census [Accessed February 2021]
[32] https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/housing/report/view/e9f4df857f3246a8b36fc0708ad08ac6/E07000010 [Accessed February 2021]
[33] Source: https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/housing/report/view/e9f4df857f3246a8b36fc0708ad08ac6/E07000010 [Accessed February 2021]
[34] Source: https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/housing/report/view/e9f4df857f3246a8b36fc0708ad08ac6/E07000010 [Accessed February 2021]

	Fenland Count	Fenland %	Cambridgeshire Count	%	England Count	England %
Terraced Houses	7,520	16.6	60,300	21.1	6,427,560	26.3
Semi-detached houses	9,680	21.3	64,930	22.8	5,801,880	23.8
Detached houses	11,210	24.7	71,810	25.2	3,812,000	15.6

15.5.21 **Table 15.8** below shows that there are 413 long-term vacant dwellings in Fenland, representing 34% of the vacant stock. Few long-term vacant dwellings are in either the public or private rented sector, with both sectors possessing a percentage vacancy rate lower than for Cambridgeshire and England as a whole.

Table 15.8 Dwelling Ownership Types in Fenland District[35]

	Fenland Count	Fenland %	Cambridgeshire Count	%	England Count	England %
Long Term Vacant	413	34.6	2,265	32.4	225,845	34.8
Owned by the local authority	5	0.4	152	2.2	23,782	3.7
Owned by a Private Registered Provider (Housing Association)	30	1.5	198	2.8	25,264	3.9
Long-term vacant and owned by a Private Registered Provider (Housing Association)	3	0.3	82	1.2	12,859	2
Owned by other public sector bodies	0	0	0	0	3,421	0.6

Education Facilities

15.5.22 There are nine primary schools in Wisbech:

- Peckover Primary School;
- Elm Road Primary School;
- West Walton Community Primary School;
- Leverington Primary Academy;

35 Source: https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/housing/report/view/e9f4df857f3246a8b36fc0708ad08ac6/E07000010 [Accessed February 2021]

- Ramnoth Junior School;
- Elm CofE Primary School;
- St Peter's CofE Aided Junior School;
- Orchards Church of England Primary School; and
- Meadowgate Academy.

15.5.23 There are three high schools in Wisbech:

- Wisbech Grammar School;
- Cambian Wisbech School; and
- Thomas Clarkson Academy.

15.5.24 The Department for Education recommendation is that schools should plan for a surplus of a minimum of 2% (National Audit Office and Department for Education, 2017) to avoid the risk of having insufficient capacity as a result of unexpected fluctuations in pupil numbers and to allow for flexibility and reasonable parent choice.

15.5.25 At a County level, Cambridgeshire had, in the 2018-19[36] period, 11,133 unfilled secondary school places, which equates to 18.1% of the capacity of secondary schools which shows that there is capacity for secondary school places in Cambridgeshire.

15.5.26 However, there is pressure on school places in Wisbech. Fenland Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan[37] highlighted that pupil forecasts demonstrate that there is currently no existing spare capacity in Wisbech and March for Primary Schools.

15.5.27 Fenland's Infrastructure Delivery Plan also highlighted that new secondary school provision should be made in Wisbech to ensure that CCC can meet the overall demand for secondary school places.

15.5.28 At the District level, the future demand for additional places is greatest within Wisbech. By 2024 it is forecast that an additional 210 Year 7 places (7 forms of entry FE) will be required for children transferring from primary to secondary school. This is based on school's census and birth data.

15.5.29 If all of the housing allocated in the Fenland Local Plan comes forward in the period to 2031, an additional 15 forms of entry (FE)[38] or 2250 places for 11-15 year olds would be required across the District as a whole. However, not all this housing will be built at once and the growth in pupil numbers of secondary school age often takes some time to appear as new housing tends to be occupied by younger families.

15.5.30 Fenland District Council, in anticipation of the need to provide additional secondary school capacity in the District, undertook, during 2015, extensive site search work

[36] Department for Education school capacity statistics. Available via: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/school-capacity-academic-year-2018-to-2019 (Accessed March 2021)

[37] Fenland District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2013). Available via http://fenland.gov.uk/localgov/Data/Council/201301241600/Agenda/att4116.pdf [Accessed May 2021]

[38] A form of entry (FE) = 30 children e.g., secondary school described as 5FE has capacity to provide for 150 children in each of the 5 year groups, 750 in total (30x5x5).

in both Wisbech and March to identify potentially suitable sites for a secondary school. This work identified the former College of West Anglia (CWA) horticultural and equine facility adjacent to Meadowgate School as having the most potential for the development of a secondary school and was identified as an available site.

15.5.31 Plans for a new school located to the west of Wisbech in the Barton Road area have been approved by the Government. There are no timescales yet for when this new school may be built but once completed, it would provide additional school places in Wisbech.

Tourism and Recreation

15.5.32 There are a range of tourism and recreation facilities and attractions in the District of Fenland and, more widely in Cambridgeshire, including accommodation, food and drink, heritage and other attractions and outdoor pursuits.

15.5.33 In the centre of Wisbech, the conservation area on the Nene (North Brink) includes most of the buildings that constitute the town's tourist attractions including the Elgood Brewery and Peckover House and Garden, (which is owned by the National Trust) both of which are located to the north of the EfW CHP Facility Site Access Improvements and CHP Connection.

15.5.34 The Nene Way[39] is a waymarked long-distance footpath in England running through the English counties of Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, and Lincolnshire. It generally follows the course of the River Nene and passes within 1km of the Proposed Development to the south. National Cycle Route 63 (or NCR 63) is a route of the National Cycle Network, running from Burton on Trent to Wisbech. This route passes within 1km of the Proposed Development to the south.

15.5.35 There are other more general recreational facilities in Wisbech, including gyms and outdoor sports and leisure facilities including Fenland Gym, Lakers Gym, Hudson Leisure Centre, Wisbech Park, and Wisbech Town Cricket & Hockey Club.

15.5.36 The Landscape and Visual assessment (**Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual**) has considered the following visual receptors for the Proposed Development that are overlapped by the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) for the Landscape and Visual assessment:

- Recreational visual receptors using long distance trails within the Landscape and Visual study area that have a section(s) that are within the ZTV:
  - Nene Way;
  - Hereward Way; and
  - Ouse Valley Way / Fen Rivers Way.
- Recreational visual receptors using Sustrans National Cycle Routes within the study area that have a section(s) that are within the ZTV:
  - NCR 63;
  - NCR 1; and

[39] Information on Nene Way available via https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nene_Way [Accessed February 2021]

- NCR 11.

- Recreational visual receptors visiting Nature Reserves within the study area that are within the ZTV:
  - Rings Nature Reserve;
  - WWT Welney Wetland Centre; and
  - Nene Washes Nature Reserve.
- Recreational visual receptors visiting attractions within the study area that are within the ZTV:
  - Elgood's Brewery Gardens; and
  - Wisbech Pocket Park.
- Recreational visual receptors using open access land within the study area that is within the ZTV:
  - Sluice Common[40].
- Recreational visual receptors using PRoWs networks within the study area that are within the ZTV including:
  - Halfpenny Lane;
  - PRoWs west of Begdale; and
  - PRoW – Elm – Collett's Bridge.
- Vehicular visual receptors using main transport routes that are within the study area that have a section(s) that are within the ZTV including:
- A47;
- B198 Cromwell Road; and
- A1101.

15.5.37 The historic environment assessment (**Chapter 10: Historic Environment**) has considered the following receptors for indirect effects:

- Wisbech Conservation Area;
- Elm Conservation Area;
- Peckover House Grade II Registered Park and Garden;
- Greens Cottage Grade II listed building;
- Ingleborough Mill Grade II listed building;
- Mill House Grade II listed building; and
- Austin House Grade II listed building.

[40] Also known as Denver Sluice

15.5.38 From the above list, only Wisbech conservation area[41] and Peckover House Grade II Registered Park and Garden are publicly accessible.

Grid Connection Options 1 and 2 and TCC2 to 4

15.5.39 These components of the Proposed Development predominantly fall within KLWN and Norfolk County Council (NCC) and so information on population, economy and employment, housing market and education, tourism and recreation and land use is set out in the paragraphs below.

Population

15.5.40 In 2019, at the Borough (District) level, the total population[42] of King's Lynn and West Norfolk stood at 151,400. There were more females than males – 77,400 and 74,00 respectively.

15.5.41 The mid 2018 estimate of the population was 903,680[43].

Economy and Employment

15.5.42 At the County level, Norfolk's economy is large, ranking 15th for jobs and 10th for business numbers out of 206 upper tier authorities. It has in excess of 37,000 business and 348,000 jobs. Norfolk has grown faster than the non-London UK average since the recession in 2008 and is now worth £18.5bn[44] to the UK economy.

15.5.43 At the Borough level, 78.6% of the population is economically active. This is lower than the East of England (80.9%[45]) and marginally lower than England as a whole. From 2003 to 2016, there was a 12 per cent increase in jobs, with 6,500 net new jobs. Projected to 2022, a further 4 per cent increase in jobs is expected (from 2016), representing 2,500 net new jobs; together with replacement there are expected to be 16,000[46] job openings over that time. Jobs are weighted towards labour-intensive roles, with fewer high-skilled roles than much of the region.

15.5.44 Gross weekly pay in King's Lynn and West Norfolk is £559.40, this is lower than the East of England (£604.80) and Great Britain (£587.10).

[41] Elm conservation area is somewhat remote from the town of Wisbech so is not included.
[42] Population statistics from Nomisweb. Available via http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157235/report.aspx [Accessed February 2021]
[43] ONS Population Estimates for UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
[44] Figures from Norfolk County Council Available at: https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/jobs-training-and-volunteering/living-and-working-in-norfolk/our-economy [Accessed November 2019]
[45] Figures from NOMIS labour market statistics available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/contents.aspx [Accessed November 2019]
[46] Figures from King's Lynn and West Norfolk Business Premises Needs Assessment April 2018. Available at: https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=2ahUKEwjxq_KXyormAhWiunEKHXWsD6kQFjAAegQIAxAH&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.west-norfolk.gov.uk%2Fdownload%2Fdownloads%2Fid%2F5162%2Fbusiness_premises_needs_assessment.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3s-017K88uDNamd2UfdgsS [Accessed February 2021]

Housing Market, Homelessness, and Education Facilities

Housing Market

15.5.45 The 2016-based household projections indicated that the number of households in King's Lynn & West Norfolk has increased by 2.3% since 2011, reaching 64,355 households in 2016. This compares to the regional average of 4.6% and the national figure of 4.1%[47]. In King's Lynn & West Norfolk, the East of England region and at national level, the number of households has risen at the same rate as the population in households and the average size of households has remained unchanged.

15.5.46 The KLWN Development Plan Review makes provision for at least 550 dwellings to the east of Wisbech town, reflecting that although the town is beyond the borough's administrative area it does provide services and employment to people living in the borough.

15.5.47 The KLWN Housing Needs Assessment[48] notes that entry-level prices in King's Lynn & West Norfolk range from £92,625 for a one bedroom home, up to £273,000 for a four bedroom property.

15.5.48 Terraced and semi-detached houses accounted for over 30% each of the dwelling types.

15.5.49 At a District level, **Table 15.9** shows that house prices in King's Lynn town are cheaper than for Norfolk and England as a whole. Detached houses are over £100,000 cheaper and flats are also considerably cheaper, almost half the price for Norfolk as a whole, and over £140,000 cheaper than for England.

Table 15.9 House Prices in King's Lynn and West Norfolk[49]

	North Lynn (King's Lynn and West Norfolk)	Norfolk	England
Detached houses (£)	£222,000	£295,000	£340,000
Semi-detached houses (£)	£138,500	£210,000	£215,000
Terraced Houses (£)	£126,498	£180,000	£189,000
Flats or maisonettes (£)	£75,000	£141,094	£216,500

15.5.50 **Table 15.10** shows that social rented housing accounts for over 40% of the housing stock in King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough, a figure which is considerably higher than that for Norfolk and England as a whole. Private rental is also higher

[47] All figures from King's Lynn & West Norfolk Housing Needs Assessment (March 2020). Available via https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/downloads/download/969/housing_needs_assessment_2020 [Accessed May 2021]

[48] King's Lynn & West Norfolk Housing Needs Assessment (March 2020). Available via https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/downloads/download/969/housing_needs_assessment_2020 [Accessed May 2021]

[49] Source: https://www.norfolkinsight.org.uk/housing/report/view/d1cfcb22a23446f7a8e49bd75b8ae734/E05005821/

than for Norfolk and England. Consequently, the number and percentage of homes owned outright is considerably lower than is the case for Norfolk and England as a whole.

Table 15.10 Home Ownership and Tenancy in King's Lynn and West Norfolk[50]

Ownership and Tenancy Type	North Lynn (King's Lynn and West Norfolk) Count	North Lynn (King's Lynn and West Norfolk) %	Norfolk Count	Norfolk %	England Count	England %
Owned: Owned outright	398	16.5	138,288	37.2	6,745,584	30.6
Owned: Owned with a mortgage or loan	564	23.4	110,552	29.7	7,229,440	32.8
Shared ownership (part owned and part rented)	4	0.2	2,204	0.6	173,760	0.8
Private rented: Private landlord or letting agency	357	14.8	49,675	13.4	3,401,675	15.4
Private rented: Other	50	2.1	6,011	1.6	314,429	1.4
Social rented	973	40.3	59,297	15.9	3,903,550	17.7
Social rented: Rented from council (Local Authority)	326	13.5	27,322	7.3	2,079,778	9.4
Social rented: Other	647	26.8	31,975	8.6	1,823,772	8.3

[50] Source: https://www.norfolkinsight.org.uk/housing/report/view/d1cfcb22a23446f7a8e49bd75b8ae734/E05005821/ [Accessed February 2021]

Ownership and Tenancy Type	North (King's Lynn and Norfolk) Count	North (King's Lynn and Norfolk) %	Lynn West	Norfolk Count	Norfolk %	England Count	England %
Living rent free	67	2.8		6,058	1.6	295,110	1.3

Homelessness

15.5.51 Fenland Council has produced a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy[51] to tackle homelessness in the District. This strategy highlights affordability problems, rental costs and high rental demand as issues which contribute to homelessness. The council received Flexible Housing Support Grant, £125,000 from central Government in 2018/19 along with Homelessness Reduction Act implementation funding of £61,000. Both funding streams are confirmed as continuing for 2020/21 with an increase to £140,000.

15.5.52 The strategy highlights that female lone parents are the group that most need help, followed by single people and couples with children who present to us as homeless (i.e., when prevention or relief is either too late or not applicable e.g., domestic abuse cases).

15.5.53 There is a downward trend in homelessness in Fenland District, this is due to the fact that the Council are now preventing many people from becoming homeless.

Education Facilities

15.5.54 As noted in the baseline information for the EfW CHP Facility, Access Improvements, CHP Connection and TCC1, there are a number of primary and secondary schools in Wisbech and school capacity is an issue, although this may be alleviated by plans to build a new school in Wisbech. There is a primary school and high school in West Walton. There is no evidence that there are capacity issues at these schools.

15.5.55 There are also a number of schools in King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough (both primary and secondary schools). NCC's School Growth and Investment Plan[52] notes that there are opportunities for expansion of existing primary school provision. There is no evidence that there are capacity issues with the secondary schools in King's Lynn.

15.5.56 At the County level, Norfolk had, in the 2018-19[53] period, 9,147 unfilled secondary school places, which equates to 12.5% of the capacity of secondary schools, which shows that there is capacity for secondary school places.

[51] Fenland District Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2022. Available via https://www.fenland.gov.uk/media/15686/Homelessness-and-Rough-Sleeping-Action-Plan/pdf/Homelessness_and_Rough_Sleeping_Strategy.pdf?m=637340317660370000 [Accessed June 2021]
[52] Norfolk County Council's School Growth and Investment Plan. Available via: www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk%2F-%2Fmedia%2Fschools%2Ffiles%2Fschool-management%2Fchanges-to-schools%2Fschools-local-growth-and-investment-plan-april-2020.pdf [Accessed February 2020]
[53] Department for Education school capacity. Available via https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/school-capacity-academic-year-2018-to-2019 [Accessed May 2021]

Tourism and Recreation

15.5.57 At a County level Norfolk has a range of tourist attractions and recreational pursuits on offer. Popular attractions include the Norfolk Broads, Norwich's ancient market and castle, Oxburgh Hall, Blickling Hall, the North Norfolk Railway, Blakeney point and Thetford Forest. Recreational pursuits available include walking, cycling, running, boating, and sailing, and golf.

15.5.58 Tourism is the largest sector industry in the County, supporting 67,188 jobs (18.7% of all employment) and contributing £3.337 billion to the local economy. Tourism is estimated to support nearly 12,000 indirect jobs in Norfolk.

15.5.59 Visit Norfolk records that Norfolk's tourism trade has hit a new record high with the value of tourism to the economy of Norfolk totaling £3.25bn. Figures released by Visit Norfolk show the number of visitors to the County in 2017 grew by 7% and the value of tourism was up 3% from £3.15bn, increasing by more than half a billion pounds since 2012. Figures[54] from 2019 (the most recent available) show that the total value of tourism to the economy of Norfolk was £3.4bn.

15.5.60 Overnight visits also increased 7% to 3.3m with the number of staying nights increasing by over 1m, up 9% to 13.5m. Length of stays grew by 2.4%.

15.5.61 Research estimates that in 2018 there were 3,130,000 staying trips to Norfolk, staying a total of 12,560,000 nights. The total number of day visitors was estimated at 47,776,000[55]. In 2019 (the most recent figures available), day trips had increased to 48,835,000 with the associated value increasing to £1,639,298,000.

15.5.62 For King's Lynn and West Norfolk one of the main tourist attractions is Sandringham House. There is also Houghton Hall built in the 1720s by Sir Robert Walpole, Britain's first Prime Minister. The village of Castle Acre contains the 12th century Castle Acre Priory and ruins of its Norman castle and Bailey Gate. Holkham Hall and its parkland and Oxburgh Hall near Downham Market are additional, historic tourist attractions. None of the attractions quoted are within 2km study area of the Grid Connection.

15.5.63 At the regional level for the East of England, analysis from Visit Britain shows that, in January 2021, there was a 29% room occupancy and a 38% occupancy in February 2021. There was also a 35% occupancy rate in December 2020. Bedspace occupancy figures are below 50%. This highlights that there is considerable availability of rooms in hotels, bed and breakfast and other tourist accommodation in the East of England, albeit that the Coronavirus pandemic has clearly impacted tourism and the number of accommodation bookings.

15.5.64 Room occupancy rates for the East of England have fluctuated around 80% since 2015 and bedspace occupancy around 56% since 2015.

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[54] Statistics from Visit Norfolk. Available via: https://mediafiles.thedms.co.uk/Publication/ee-nor/cms/pdf/Economic%20Impact%20of%20Tourism%20-%20%20Norfolk%20Report%202019.pdf [Accessed June 2021]

[55] All tourism statistics from Visit Norfolk. Available via: https://www.visitnorfolk.co.uk/Tourism-info-and-stats.aspx [Accessed February 2021].

15.5.65 At the Borough level, for King's Lynn and West Norfolk, there are also a number of recreational pursuits available including birdwatching, fishing, cycling, golf, and horse-riding[56].

15.5.66 In addition to the above, and in the area surrounding the Grid Connection and TCC 2 to 4, there is an equine sports massage business located between Walpole St Peter and Walpole St Andrew at the northern end of the Grid Connection, Chestnut Farm equestrian centre is located to the southern end of the Grid Connection and south east of Walton Highway. There are also several informal recreational facilities in the area surrounding the Grid Connection, for example West Walton playground and Walpole Highway play area.

15.5.67 As noted in **paragraphs 15.5.36-15.5.38** above, the Landscape and Visual assessment (**Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual**) and the Historic Environment assessment (**Chapter 10: Historic Environment**) have considered a number of tourism and recreation and heritage receptors including PRoW, tourist attractions, conservation areas and Peckover House Registered Park and Garden.

Land Use

15.5.68 Land uses along the Grid Connection Options route and TCC2 to 4 comprise mainly agricultural land and associated farms. There are some existing businesses in Wisbech, West Walton, Walton Highway, Walpole St Peter, and Walpole St Andrew. These include agricultural businesses and also others including haulage and storage and bike sales and repairs.

Future baseline

EfW CHP Facility Site, TCC1, Access Improvements and CHP Connection

15.5.69 From the information acquired for this assessment, there is no indication that the baseline is in the process of any significant transitions, other than that future development will be guided by the emerging Fenland Local Plan and King's Lynn and West Norfolk Development Plan Review and that the population of Wisbech is expected to increase. The Fenland Local Plan Issues and Options document was issued for consultation in October 2019, and it suggests, for example, that a potential new housing figure of 11,550 dwellings will be required in the District by 2040. The contents of the plan will be monitored as it progresses through the various stages to adoption.

15.5.70 The population of Fenland is predicted to grow to 115,144 by 2036, an increase of 13,653 people (13.5%[57]). Fenland has the second highest levels[58] of economic migration in Cambridgeshire, largely from EU8 and EU2 areas[59]. This migration

[56] Tourism information from Visit West Norfolk, Available at: https://www.visitwestnorfolk.com/things-to-do/attractions/attractions-around-west-norfolk/ [Accessed November 2019].
[57] Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Core dataset, 2020. Available via: https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CP_JSNA_CDS_DRAFT_2020-FINAL_PUBLISHED20200706.docx [Accessed May 2021]
[58] Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Core dataset, 2019. Available via: https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/CP_JSNA_CDS_FINAL_July2019.pdf [Accessed May 2021]
[59] **EU8:** Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia.
EU2: Bulgaria, and Romania.

contributes to the observed population growth in Fenland but is likely to be affected by Brexit.

Grid Connection Options and TCC2-4

15.5.71 As noted above there is no indication that the baseline is in the process of any significant transitions other than that future development will be guided by the emerging Fenland Local Plan and the West Norfolk Development Plan Review.

15.6 Scope of the assessment

Spatial scope

15.6.1 The spatial scope of the assessment of socio-economics covers the study areas as set in **Section 15.4** above.

Temporal scope

15.6.2 The temporal scope of the assessment of socio-economics is consistent with the period over which the development would be carried out and therefore covers the construction and operational periods.

15.6.3 Construction is scheduled to commence in 2023 and would last for approximately 3 years, and the Proposed Development would operate from 2026 – 2066. Decommissioning would then take place after 2066.

Potential receptors

15.6.4 An initial desk-based review was undertaken to identify potential receptors that could be subject to significant effects due to the construction and operation of the Proposed Development.

15.6.5 The potential receptor locations to be considered are provided in **Paragraphs 15.6.10 – 15.6.11.**

Likely significant effects

15.6.6 The Proposed Development is expected to generate a range of socio-economic effects, some of which will be temporary, whilst others will be permanent and may be significant. Receptors subject to effects that may be significant are set out below.

15.6.7 In their scoping response PINS requested that an assessment of the impacts of construction workers on housing, local services and community facilities is undertaken. This assessment has therefore been undertaken as part of this socio-economic assessment with findings detailed in **Section 15.9**.

15.6.8 CCC have requested that a health impact assessment is undertaken. Health effects on local people have been considered separately in **Chapter 16: Health**, therefore

not assessed within this socio-economic assessment. Relevant findings are, however, referenced in this assessment.

Receptors and effects scoped into the assessment

15.6.9 The potential effects of the Proposed Development that are likely to be significant with regards to socio-economics, and those which would be subject to further assessment, are set out below for construction and operation.

Construction

15.6.10 During the construction phase of the Proposed Development, the following socio-economic effects upon identified receptors are considered to be potentially significant and are therefore scoped into the assessment:

- Direct economic effects: jobs and capital spend that are wholly or largely related to construction of the Proposed Development (there would be up to 700 temporary full time equivalent (FTE) construction personnel during the construction phase, excluding the Grid Connection, with a maximum of 500 workers on site at any one time;
- Indirect economic effects (positive and negative), jobs and capital spend generated in the economy of the study area in the chain of suppliers of goods and services to the direct activities;
- Effects on housing and local education facilities from the temporary construction workforce;
- Induced economic effects: jobs and capital spend created by direct and indirect employees' spending in the study area or in the wider economy;
- Wider economic effects (positive and negative): employment and income generated in the economy related to the construction of the Proposed Development. This includes the effects on inward investment, elsewhere within the construction sector (e.g., as a result of worker supply) and on other sectors of the economy;
- Effects on nearby recreational facilities and businesses;
- Health (this will cross reference the findings of the health assessment (**Chapter 16: Health**); and
- Indirect effects on tourism and recreation, including PRoW.

Operation

15.6.11 During the operational phase the following socio-economic effects are considered to be potentially significant and are therefore scoped into the assessment:

- Direct economic impacts: jobs and capital spend that are wholly or largely related to the operation of the Proposed Development (there would be 40 skilled full time jobs created);
- Indirect economic impacts (positive and negative): jobs and capital spend generated in the economy of the Study Area in the chain of suppliers of goods

and services to the direct activities (there would be other goods and services needed such as cleaning, catering and maintenance staff which would generate further local employment beyond the 40 full time jobs). There is also the potential for manufacturing parts for the plant/supply of mobile plant equipment.

- Induced economic impacts: jobs and capital spend created by direct and indirect employees' spending in the Study Area or in the wider economy; and
- Indirect effects on tourism and recreation from the EfW CHP Facility.

Receptors and effects scoped out of the assessment

15.6.12 The following receptors have been scoped out from being subject to further assessment because the potential effects in relation to the Proposed Development are not considered likely to be significant. This was agreed with PINS in the EIA Scoping Opinion:

- Direct effects on tourism during construction and operation of the EfW CHP Facility, (assumed to now include for the CHP Connection and Access Improvements) and construction of the Grid Connection;
- Demand for housing, local education facilities, and community facilities during operation;
- Effects on nearby recreational facilities and businesses during operation;
- Effects on tourism and recreation from operation of the Grid Connection; and
- Effects on the amenity of local residents and the local community due to Traffic (**Chapter 6: Traffic and Transport**), Noise (**Chapter 7: Noise and Vibration**), Air Quality (**Chapter 8: Air Quality**), Visual Impacts (**Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual**) and Health (**Chapter 16: Health**) are not included in this chapter as they are assessed in these chapters respectively, with findings cross referenced as relevant in this chapter. Interrelating effects will be considered in the Cumulative Effects Assessment of the ES (**Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects Assessment**).

15.7 Embedded environmental measures

15.7.1 A range of environmental measures have been embedded into the Proposed Development as outlined in **Section 3.5** in the **Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development,** which also describes the evolving design review process, and what steps have been taken through consultation and design, to minimise environmental effects to date. This process will continue to the point of submission of the DCO.

15.7.2 **Table 15.11** below outlines the embedded environmental measures and how these will influence the socio-economic assessment.

Table 15.11 Summary of the embedded environmental measures and how these influence the socio-economic assessment

Receptor	Changes and effects	Embedded measures and influence on assessment
Local Housing Market and Education Facilities	An influx of temporary construction workers could put pressure on the local housing market and education facilities to the detriment of local communities.	**A skills and employment strategy:** The Applicant will prepare a skills and employment strategy to be included within the ES to be submitted in due course. This strategy will set out how the Applicant will maximise use of, and upskill, the local workforce. This will be secured through a DCO Requirement.
Local businesses and recreational facilities. **Tourism and recreation facilities.**	Construction and operation of the Proposed Development could have a range of direct and indirect adverse effects on local businesses and recreation facilities and more widely on tourism and recreation facilities.	**Standard best practice:** All development would be subject to standard best practice mitigation measures employed to avoid and minimise potential effects on local businesses and recreational facilities and more widely on tourism and recreation facilities. **Construction Environmental Management Plan:** An outline CEMP has been prepared for the PEIR in support of the Proposed Development, see **Appendix 6A** which provides an outline of the measures which would be employed during construction to control the environmental effects of the Proposed Development. An outline CEMP will be secured through a DCO Requirement. A detailed site-specific CEMP would be provided prior to construction works starting on site to ensure that there are no adverse environmental effects from construction.

15.8 Assessment methodology

15.8.1 The generic project-wide approach to the assessment methodology is set out in **Chapter 4**, and specifically in **Sections 4.5 to 4.7.** However, whilst this has informed the approach that has been used in this socio-economic assessment, it is necessary to set out how this methodology has been applied, and adapted as appropriate, to address the specific needs of this socio-economic assessment.

General approach

15.8.2 The assessment will focus on the impacts of construction and operation on the employment and economy, health, the local housing market, education facilities and (indirectly) tourism and recreation.

Determination of significance

15.8.3 The EIA Regulations recognise that developments will affect different environmental elements to differing degrees, and that not all of these are of sufficient concern to warrant detailed investigation or assessment through the EIA process. The EIA Regulations identify those environmental resources that warrant investigation as those that are "*likely to be significantly affected by the development".*

15.8.4 The EIA Regulations do not define significance and it will be necessary to state how this will be defined for the EIA. The significance of an effect resulting from a development during construction or operation is most commonly assessed by reference to the sensitivity (or value) of a receptor and the magnitude of the effect. This approach provides a mechanism for identifying areas where mitigation measures may be required and the most appropriate measures to alleviate the risk presented by the development.

15.8.5 As there is no prescribed methodology for undertaking socio-economic assessments professional judgement is used to determine effects, taking account of the sensitivity and magnitude of change criteria set out below. These criteria have been used for other socio-economic assessments.

15.8.6 The approach for determining the sensitivity and magnitude of change on employment and the economy, and tourism and recreation is set out below.

Economy and Employment Effects

15.8.7 For employment effects, the availability of labour and skills is critical in accommodating the demands, needs and requirements of the Proposed Development. Adequate labour and skills capacity results in a low sensitivity, while limited labour and skills capacity results in a high sensitivity. Sensitivity criteria in terms of employment are shown in **Table 15.12** below. As there is no prescribed methodology for undertaking socio-economic assessments, professional judgement is used to determine sensitivity.

Table 15.12 Employment, Economy, and Land Use Sensitivity

Sensitivity	Definition
Very High	Employment – Where there is the requirement for very technical specialist input, which is difficult to source, at a national level and/or there is very low labour or skills at a local level. Economy – Where the economy is very sensitive to financial change. Land Use – Where there are many (more than 10) different land use types (i.e., agriculture, fishing, recreation, residential, employment).
High	Employment – Where there is some requirement for technical specialist input, which is difficult to source at a national level and/or where there is limited labour or skills available at the local level. Economy – Where the economy is sensitive to financial change. Land Use – Where there are multiple (7-10) different land use types.
Medium	Employment – Where there is limited requirement for very technical specialist input, which is difficult to source at a national level, and/or where there are some constraints to the availability of labour or skills at the local level. Economy – Where the economy is resilient to change. Land Use – Where the Site has several (5-7) different land use types.

Sensitivity	Definition
Low	Employment – Where there is no requirement for technical specialist input, and/or where there is a readily available labour force and skills. Economy – Where the economy is very resilient to financial change. Land Use – Where there are few (less than 5) different land uses.

15.8.8 The magnitude of potential changes on employment and the economy would be assessed as defined in **Table 15.13** below. This would be based on participants within the labour force and the level of occupational skills available in the Study Area as set out in **Table 15.12** above. As there is no prescribed methodology for undertaking socio-economic assessments, professional judgement is used to determine the magnitude of change.

Table 15.3 Employment, Economy, and Land Use Magnitude of Change

Magnitude of Change	Definition
Very High	Changes as a result of the Proposed Development are of national scale.
High	Changes as a result of the Proposed Development that are of greater than local scale.
Medium	Noticeable changes as a result of the Proposed Development.
Low	Slight changes as a result of the Proposed Development that may not be perceptible or are within the normal seasonal/annual variation range.

Housing Market and Education Facilities

15.8.9 During the construction of the Proposed Development there will be a sizeable influx of construction workers into Wisbech (up to 700 construction personnel are anticipated over the estimated 3 year construction period for the Proposed Development, though only around 500 workers would be on site at any one time). Once operational, there will be up to 40 direct employees on site as well as those employed in the local supply chain related to site operation and maintenance). This could put pressure on the local housing market and education facilities.

15.8.10 Drawing on the baseline data the chapter assesses how much of the overall construction workforce would be met by local workers, how many workers would be likely to be brought in from elsewhere, and what effects this would have on the housing market and demand for additional school places.

15.8.11 The assessment of effects on the housing market uses the significance evaluation matrix in Table **15.15** below, where the Ward level (Medworth) is considered to be of very high sensitivity to any changes, the District level (Fenland) is considered to be of medium sensitivity to change and the County level (Cambridgeshire) is considered to be of low sensitivity to change.

Tourism and Recreation

15.8.12 The main factors considered relevant when defining the sensitivity of receptors relating to recreation and tourism are outlined in **Table 15.14**. Again, as there is no prescribed methodology for undertaking socio-economic assessments, professional judgement has been used in defining the sensitivity of recreational and tourism receptors, and magnitude of change, taking account of previous socio-economic assessments. The importance of the recreational or tourism receptor and its proximity to the Proposed Development is also a key consideration.

Table 15.4 Sensitivity of Recreational and Tourism Receptors

Sensitivity	Definitions
Very High	Where the receptor or resource is defined as being of national status or has high visitor numbers (in excess of 50,000 visitors per annum).
High	Where the receptor or resource is defined as being of national status or has high visitor numbers (in excess of 25,000 visitors per annum).
Medium	Where the receptor or resource is defined as being of regional status or has medium visitor numbers (10,000-24,999 visitors per annum).
Low	Where the receptor or resource is defined as being of local status or has low visitor numbers (less than 10,000 visitors per annum).

Table 15.5 Recreational and Tourism Magnitude of Change

Magnitude of Change	Definition
Very High	Where the extent of changes on receptors (activities, resources, or businesses) is very large scale and a very large number of people or activities would be affected.
High	Where the extent of changes on receptors (activities, resources, or businesses) is large scale and a large number of people or activities would be affected; or where other technical chapters conclude that there may be significant effects that this assessment considers may affect visitors to the recreation/tourist receptor (for example close views of turbines, in the case of a wind farm development).
Medium	Where the extent of changes on receptors is small in scale, but a large number of people or activities would be affected; alternatively, where the extent of changes on activities, resources and/or businesses is large in scale but only a small number of people or activities would be affected.
Low	Where the extent of changes on receptors is small in scale and would only affect a small number of people or activities; or would be at a considerable distance from receptors.

15.8.13 In line with standard EIA practice, and taking into account professional judgement, the sensitivity of receptors will be considered against the magnitude of change to determine the significance of resultant effects. In the case of the injection of money into the economy resulting from the capital investment however, the assessment of significance for economic effects is effectively based on the sensitivity of the

receptor and the magnitude of change in monetary terms, with a large magnitude of change (for example an injection of millions into the economy at a Ward level) being considered to result in a significant effect.

15.8.14 Based on the approach summarised in **Table 15.16**, effects that will result in a change identified as major or moderate are considered to be significant or probably significant in terms of this assessment, taking account of the significance evaluation matrix below and using professional judgement.

Table 15.16 Significance Evaluation Matrix

		Magnitude of change				
		Very high	**High**	**Medium**	**Low**	**Very low**
Sensitivity/importance/value	**Very high**	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)	Moderate (Probably significant)
	High	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)	Moderate (Probably significant)	Minor (Not significant)
	Medium	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)	Moderate (Probably significant)	Minor (Not significant)	Negligible (Not significant)
	Low	Major (Significant)	Moderate (Probably significant)	Minor (Not significant)	Negligible (Not significant)	Negligible (Not significant)
	Very Low	Moderate (Probably significant)	Minor (Not significant)	Negligible (Not significant)	Negligible (Not significant)	Negligible (Not significant)

15.8.15 Many of the socio-economic assessments undertaken in this chapter consider the effects of the Proposed Development at a certain geographical level – usually the local (Ward) level, District level and County levels. This approach is largely driven by how much information is available at these different levels in the baseline study. With regards to sensitivity and taking account of the tables above, the Ward level is generally considered to be of high sensitivity to change - it covers a small geographical area and therefore any changes would be very noticeable and would be likely to have a great effect. The District level is considered to be of medium sensitivity to change – Fenland District and the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk cover a larger geographical area than a Ward, so any changes would be less noticeable and therefore it is considered to be of lower sensitivity to change than the Ward level. At the County level, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk are considered to be of Low sensitivity to change - they cover a larger geographical area, and any changes would generally be less noticeable, and therefore are considered to be of lower sensitivity to change than the Ward of Medworth and Fenland District.

15.8.16 Each geographical area i.e., local (Ward) level, District level and County levels are considered for each of the receptors taken forward for assessment in **section 15.9** below.

15.9 Preliminary assessment of socio-economic effects

15.9.1 The predicted construction and operational effects of the Proposed Development on the socio-economic receptors identified in this assessment are considered in further detail in the sections below, including explanation of any receptors scoped out from further assessment. This section considers the entire study area.

15.9.2 The disused railway line running alongside the site was raised in the Scoping Opinion as a potential recreational receptor. However, this is wholly in the ownership of Network Rail and is not publicly accessible or in use as a recreational route with any legal or formal status. There are also no known formal plans to designate or develop this line as a recreational asset in the future. There would therefore be no recreational effects on this route from the construction or operation of the Proposed Development and this railway line is therefore not assessed any further.

15.9.3 Effects on the amenity of local residents and the local community due to Traffic (**Chapter 6: Traffic and Transport**), Noise (**Chapter 7: Noise and Vibration**), Air Quality (**Chapter 8: Air Quality**), Visual Impacts (**Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual**), and Health (**Chapter 16: Health**) are not included in this chapter as they are assessed in those chapters respectively, with relevant findings cross referenced in this assessment. Interrelating effects will be considered in the cumulative effect's assessment in the ES **(Chapter 18)**.

15.9.4 The only tourism and recreational receptors considered and assessed in this chapter are those where Landscape and Visual assessment **(Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual)** and Historic Environment assessment **(Chapter 10: Historic Environment)** have identified significant adverse effects. This approach is adopted because if no significant effects have been identified in the Landscape and Visual and Historic Environment Assessments then it is not considered that there could be any significant tourism or recreation effects for example if there is limited or no visibility of the Proposed Development.

15.9.5 The following paragraphs provide an assessment of the construction and operational phases of the EfW CHP Facility Site, and TCC1 for employment, housing market and education facilities, local recreational facilities and local businesses.

EfW CHP Facility: Construction

Economy and Employment

15.9.6 The Applicant will seek to provide a range of community benefits as part of the construction of the EfW CHP Facility. Such benefits may include:

- A skills and employment strategy for upskilling and use of local workforce;
- Holding a local supplier's event; and

- The provision of apprenticeships, work experience and skills development.

15.9.7 The paragraphs below assess in detail the economic and employment effects associated with construction, including the potential community benefits listed above.

Economy

15.9.8 There would be considerable spend by the Applicant arising from the capital cost of the construction of the Proposed Development. For MVV's Devonport EfW CHP Facility, the figure was in excess of £220 million. Whilst the exact amount of money which would be spent on the Proposed Development could only be fully determined in due course, it is anticipated that in the region of £300m would be spent during construction. This level of investment is considered to be a beneficial economic effect, though it should be noted that not all of this money may be spent in the UK (for example some equipment may need to be sourced from abroad) and it is uncertain exactly how much would be spent in the local area (Medworth Ward and Fenland District).

15.9.9 Taking account of the sensitivity criteria described in **paragraph 15.8.9** above, the Ward of Medworth is considered to be of High sensitivity to change. Given the uncertainty about how much of the capital investment by the Applicant would be spent within Medworth Ward, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that there would be a very low magnitude of change. Minor beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with construction which is considered to be a **not significant** economic effect.

15.9.10 At the District level, Fenland is considered to be of Medium sensitivity to change. Given the uncertainty over how much of this capital investment would be spent within the District, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that there would be a low magnitude of change from the capital investment by the Applicant. Minor beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with construction which is considered to be a **not significant** economic effect.

15.9.11 At the County level, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk are considered to be of Low sensitivity to change. Given the uncertainty over how much of this capital investment would be spent within these Counties, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that there would be a low magnitude of change from the capital investment by the Applicant. Negligible beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with construction which is considered to be a **not significant** economic effect.

Direct Employment

15.9.12 The construction phase offers the opportunity to create a large number of short-term roles. These roles include a wide range from labouring, ground works, scaffolding and civil engineering, to office-based roles such as project management, document control and administration.

15.9.13 For all new projects, there is active sourcing of a wide range of local suppliers of goods and services, such as catering, cleaning, component supply, print services,

site security and temporary accommodation; all contributing directly to the local economy.

15.9.14 The Applicant has advised that the Proposed Development is expected to support approximately 700 direct construction jobs with up to a maximum of 500 workers on site at any one time. In total, construction will run for an estimated build period of 36 months. Levels of construction employment are not, however, anticipated to remain uniform over the duration of the build but will, instead, ebb and flow over time to reflect the differing skill requirements of the various stages of the build programme. For instance, the early stages of the build (site enabling works, groundworks, and foundation preparatory works) are anticipated to require lower levels of construction labour.

15.9.15 Effects from any direct employment are assessed below, taking account of the information presented about skills and employment strategy.

Skills and employment strategy

15.9.16 At the Devonport and Baldovie EfW CHP Facilities, MVV operated a skills and employment strategy (known at Devonport as a Local Employment Scheme (LES)) during the construction phase, the aim of which was to ensure that at least 70% of the workforce employed on the construction site was drawn from the local area. These obligations continue under a LES covering the operational phase. The Applicant also aims to maximise the use of the local workforce for the construction of the Medworth EfW CHP Facility.

15.9.17 Whilst the exact number of construction workers which would be sourced directly from the local area could only be fully determined at a later stage, a broadly similar approach would be followed at Medworth. Therefore, if a reasonable proportion of the 700 construction jobs for the EfW CHP Facility was sourced locally from the 1,750 jobs in the local construction sector (see **Table 15.4**), this would bring beneficial economic effects for the local area (Medworth Ward and Fenland District). The Applicant would also seek to include part of KLWN within a LES developed for this project.

15.9.18 Taking account of the sensitivity criteria described in **paragraph 15.8.9** above, the Ward of Medworth is considered to be of High sensitivity to change. It is presently uncertain how many construction jobs would be sourced from the Medworth Ward and the potential 490 local jobs quoted above (70% of 700) has therefore not been taken forward for assessment at this stage pending further work and consultation ahead of the ES. This preliminary assessment, therefore, takes a conservative approach that there would be a very low magnitude of change arising from construction jobs within the Ward. Minor beneficial economic effects would be associated with construction, which is considered to be a **not significant** economic effect.

15.9.19 At the District level, Fenland is considered to be of Medium sensitivity to change, it is uncertain how many construction jobs would be sourced from the District and the potential 490 local jobs quoted above has therefore not been taken forward for assessment at this stage pending further work and consultation ahead of the ES. This preliminary assessment therefore takes a conservative approach that there would be a low magnitude of change from any construction jobs taken from the

District. Minor beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with construction, which is considered to be a **not significant** economic effect.

15.9.20 At the County level, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk are considered to be of Low sensitivity to change, it is uncertain how many construction jobs would be sourced from these Counties and the potential 490 local jobs quoted above has therefore not been taken forward for assessment at this stage pending further work and consultation ahead of the ES. This preliminary assessment therefore takes a conservative approach that there would be a very low magnitude of change from any construction jobs taken from these Counties. Negligible beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with construction, which is considered to be a **not significant** economic effect.

Indirect and Induced Employment

15.9.21 Construction typically involves purchases from a range of suppliers, who in turn purchase from their own suppliers further down the supply chain. The relationship between the initial direct and total economic effects is referred to as the 'multiplier effect'. It demonstrates that an initial investment can have much greater 'spin-off' effects as it works through the economy. The construction sector is recognised as being a part of the UK economy where there is a particularly large domestic effect in the supply chain.

15.9.22 In this context, it is anticipated that businesses in the local and wider impact areas would benefit from supply chain linkages and trade connections established during the construction phase. This would create additional indirect jobs in suppliers of construction materials and equipment etc.

15.9.23 In addition, local businesses would be expected to benefit from a temporary increase in demand as a result of expenditure by direct and indirect workers during construction. This could be expected to include wage spending of workers in shops, bars, restaurants and other services and facilities in the local area around the Proposed Development, which helps to create additional induced jobs.

15.9.24 There is also the potential for manufacturing parts for the plant/supply of mobile plant equipment and the possibility of working with local aggregate companies, all of which would also provide employment benefits in the local area.

15.9.25 Research[60] published in 2019 indicates that the construction industry has an indirect multiplier of 2.17 (ONS, 2019). Applying this to the 700 construction workers to be employed during the construction phase indicates that the EfW CHP Facility, could be expected to create 1,519 additional indirect jobs (in addition to the direct jobs derived above, and any additional induced effects that it is not possible to quantify). It is uncertain how many of these additional indirect jobs would be sourced locally (i.e., from the Medworth Ward and Fenland District) as some would be from the supply chain which may be located elsewhere.

[60]Royal Haskoning, Boston Alternative Energy Facility Environmental Statement (2021). Available via https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/boston-alternative-energy-facility-baef/?ipcsection=docs&stage=app&filter1=Plans [Accessed May 2021]

15.9.26 Effects from any direct employment are assessed below, taking account of the information presented about the potential for use of local suppliers and apprenticeships, work experience and skills development.

Use of Local Suppliers

15.9.27 Prior to the commencement of construction and during the construction period for the Devonport EfW CHP Facility, MVV worked with the local Council's Economic Development Team, the Career Transition Partnership, and other local organisations, to identify ways to support local suppliers, including supporting skills development. A 'Meet the Buyer' event was also held, and local companies were encouraged to attend and meet MVV and its sub-contractors; this helped to identify opportunities for supplying goods and services during the construction and operational phases of the project. As a result, over 100 local suppliers were engaged during the construction period, including 30 directly contracted MVV, with the remainder being employed by the MVV's construction sub-contractors.

15.9.28 The Applicant intends to identify ways to support local suppliers as part of the construction of the Proposed Development and hopes to engage as many local suppliers as possible which would have a beneficial economic effect. At this preliminary stage the extent of use of local suppliers is unknown as is the exact location of any local suppliers. The local (Ward level) is considered to be of High sensitivity, the District of Medium sensitivity and County of low sensitivity. Taking account of this uncertainty the preliminary assessments takes a conservative approach that any use of local suppliers would represent a very low magnitude of change for each of these receptors. Any beneficial economic effects are therefore considered to be **not significant**.

Apprenticeships, Work Experience and Skills Development

15.9.29 A number of new apprenticeships were created during the construction period for the Devonport EfW CHP Facility, either by MVV directly or through its sub-contractors. MVV's apprenticeships were specifically targeted at local young people and small local businesses. The civils sub-contractor provided 14 workplace training apprenticeships for locally based young people. Many of the apprentices remained with that contractor, and went on to well paid, full time employment with them. In addition, a number of work experience placements were provided for local secondary school students during the construction period.

15.9.30 Prior to, and during, the construction of the Devonport EfW CHP Facility, MVV worked with local educational establishments, such as the City College to identify how they could support training programmes to enable local people to benefit from the roles available during the construction and operational phases of the project. MVV also supported a weekly work club, providing laptops and advice to help local people find employment. The Applicant intends to adopt a similar approach for the construction of the EfW CHP Facility to help provide opportunities for local people to benefit.

15.9.31 Taking account of the sensitivity criteria described in **paragraph 15.8.9** above, the Ward of Medworth is considered to be of High sensitivity to change. It is uncertain how many of the 1,519 indirect and induced construction related jobs would be

sourced from the Medworth Ward, in addition to the Applicant's commitments to use local suppliers and provide apprenticeships, work experience and skills development. The preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that there would be a very low magnitude of change from any indirect jobs sourced from the Medworth Ward. Minor beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with construction, which is considered to be a **not significant** beneficial economic effect.

15.9.32 At the District level, Fenland is considered to be of considered to be of Medium sensitivity to change. It is uncertain how many of the 1,519 indirect construction related jobs would be sourced from Fenland District in addition to the Applicant's intentions to use local suppliers and provide apprenticeships, work experience and skills development. The preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that there would be a low magnitude of change from any indirect jobs sourced from Fenland District. Negligible beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with construction, which is considered to be a **not significant** beneficial economic effect.

15.9.33 At the County level, Cambridgeshire is considered to be of Low sensitivity to change. It is uncertain how many of the1,519 indirect construction related jobs would be sourced from the County of Cambridgeshire in addition to the Applicant's intentions to use local suppliers and provide apprenticeships, work experience and skills development. The preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that there would be a very low magnitude of change from any indirect jobs sourced from Cambridgeshire County. Negligible beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with construction, which is considered to be a **not significant** beneficial economic effect.

Housing Market, Education Facilities and Local Businesses

Housing Market

15.9.34 With an estimated 700 temporary construction workers required for construction, and a maximum of around 500 workers on site at any one time, there could be pressures on the local housing market during the construction phase. This section assesses the effects of this temporary workforce on the local housing market.

15.9.35 The Applicant has confirmed that it would seek to maximise the use of a local construction workforce through the development of a skills and employment strategy and this would reduce demand for accommodation in the local area. It is also acknowledged that some construction workers may commute from elsewhere to access the temporary construction jobs. As well as the skills and employment strategy, the Applicant also intends to engage with the local Tourist Board and Chamber of Commerce to raise awareness of opportunities associated with the need for temporary accommodation for construction workers. Tender documents would include contacts for local accommodation and details of accommodation would be advertised on site.

15.9.36 MVV has confirmed that, based on past experience from construction of their other EfW CHP Facilities, the temporary construction workers brought in from elsewhere

would be likely to source their own accommodation e.g., from bed and breakfast and hotels in the local area.

15.9.37 As set out in the baseline in section 15.5, there are 3,000 new homes planned for Wisbech through the Fenland Local Plan (and over the plan period) though there is some uncertainty given the known problems with housing delivery in Fenland, also 34.6% of existing vacant dwellings are classed as long term vacant in Fenland. As highlighted in the baseline information in **Section 15.5**, there is also significant capacity for bed and breakfast accommodation at the wider regional level – in January 2021 for the East of England there was a 29% room occupancy and a 38% occupancy in February 2021. There was also a 35% occupancy rate in December 2020. Bedspace occupancy figures are below 50% albeit that Covid has clearly impacted on occupancy rates. There is therefore capacity in the housing and tourism accommodation market to absorb temporary construction workers associated with the construction of the EfW CHP Facility.

15.9.38 As set out in **Section 15.5**, there are 45,770 homes in Fenland District and Wisbech itself has plans for 3,000 new homes. The baseline information in **Section 15.5** (also detailed in the above paragraph) shows that there is also capacity within the tourism accommodation sector to cater for demand generated by the temporary construction workforce.

15.9.39 Taking the above into account, and the predicted low level of demand for housing from construction workers, any housing market effects of the EfW CHP Facility, Access Improvements and CHP Connection during the construction phase are considered to be temporary, short term and Negligible, and therefore **not significant** at the Local, District and County Levels. On this basis it is also considered that there would not be any adverse effects in respect of homelessness given that homelessness as in issue in Fenland is on a downward trend (as set out in the baseline information in **Section 15.5**) and there are a significant number of vacant dwellings in Fenland (as set out in the baseline information in **Section 15.5**) and any additional demand from the temporary construction workforce is Negligible in comparison to the total number of available dwellings in Fenland District.

15.9.40 Taking account of the sensitivity criteria described in **paragraph 15.8.9** above, the Ward of Medworth is considered to be of High sensitivity to change; there would be a very low magnitude of change from the predicted low demand from temporary construction workers for homes. Minor effects on the housing market would therefore be associated with temporary construction workers, which is considered to be a **not significant** effect.

15.9.41 At the District level, Fenland is considered to be of Medium sensitivity to change; there would be a very low magnitude of change from demand from the predicted very low demand for homes from construction workers. Negligible effects on the housing market would therefore be associated with temporary construction workers, which is considered to be a **not significant** effect.

15.9.42 At the County level, Cambridgeshire is considered to be of Low sensitivity to change; there would be a very low magnitude of change from the predicted low level of from construction workers. Negligible effects on the housing market would therefore be associated with temporary construction workers, which is considered to be a **not significant** effect.

15.9.43 Opportunities associated with the need for temporary accommodation for construction workers would result in beneficial effects for the providers of this accommodation through increased bookings. Whilst the exact number of bookings is unknown at this stage, this is considered to be a beneficial effect from the construction of the EfW CHP Facility, and over the 3 year construction period would be likely to (taking account of the sensitivity criteria described in **paragraph 15.8.9** above) have a beneficial effect. The magnitude of change would be likely to be very low from any such bookings and therefore a **not significant** effect at the local (Medworth Ward) level and at the District (Fenland) and County (Cambridgeshire) levels.

Education Facilities

15.9.44 Construction of the EfW CHP Facility, Access Improvements and CHP Connection could, by attracting construction workers to move into the local area, create additional demand for education with a requirement for school places. The baseline information set out in **Section 15.5** demonstrates that whilst there is no current capacity in primary schools and there is pressure on secondary school places in Wisbech, there is overall capacity in Fenland with respect to school places to accommodate additional demand. There is also capacity at the wider County level for Norfolk and Cambridgeshire.

15.9.45 The Applicant has confirmed that it would seek to maximise the use of a local construction workforce through the development of a skills and employment strategy, and this would reduce demand for schools in the local area. Furthermore, the Applicant has confirmed that based on similar previous projects constructed elsewhere there will be very few, if any, construction workers that would potentially bring families to the local area for the 3 year construction phase. Apart from management, who would be on the project throughout its life cycle, the construction workforce would vary and rotate, not being on the project for the full 3 years of construction works. This would in turn be likely to result in very low demand for any additional school places.

15.9.46 Taking the above into account, and the sensitivity criteria described in **paragraph 15.8.9** above, the effects of the EfW CHP Facility, Access Improvements and CHP Connection during the construction phase on education facilities are considered to be temporary, short term and Minor and **not significant** at the Local (Medworth Ward) level, Negligible, and **not significant** at the District (Fenland) and County (Cambridgeshire) levels.

Local Businesses

15.9.47 The construction works have the potential to have an adverse effect on local businesses in the wider area for example through disruption from construction activities and therefore a potential loss of income but could also benefit from spending by the construction workforce on food and leisure activities. There are a number of businesses in the area surrounding the Proposed Development, including the Belgrave retail park and on the Wisbech industrial estate.

15.9.48 The preliminary assessment presented within **Chapter 7: Noise and Vibration** does identify some potentially significant effects from noise from the operation of the

Proposed Development and it is likely that additional mitigation may be necessary to ensure that there are no adverse effects. Implementation of additional mitigation measures would help to ensure no adverse effects from noise. The preliminary assessments presented within **Chapter 8: Air Quality** and **Chapter 16: Health** conclude that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures there would be no significant adverse effects on air quality and health arising from the construction of the EfW CHP Facility, Access Improvements and CHP Connection.

15.9.49 In addition, an outline CEMP has been prepared in support of the Proposed Development which provides an overview of measures to control the environmental effects of the construction. Subject to approval of the Proposed Development, a fully detailed CEMP would be submitted prior to construction with details of site-specific mitigation to ensure that there are no adverse environmental effects from construction. Furthermore, a Code of Construction Practice[61] would also be submitted which would provide details of standard construction best practice mitigation measures. These measures would help to mitigate any adverse effects (for example from traffic, dust, or noise) on local businesses from the construction of the EfW CHP Facility, Access Improvements and CHP Connection.

15.9.50 Taking account of the sensitivity criteria described in **paragraph 15.8.9** above, the Ward of Medworth is considered to be of High sensitivity to change. With the implementation of mitigation measures such as the CEMP, there would be a very low magnitude of change on local businesses from construction of the EfW CHP Facility, Access Improvements and CHP Connection. Minor effects would therefore be associated with the construction of the EfW CHP Facility, Access Improvements and CHP Connection which is considered to be a **not significant** effect on local businesses.

Tourism and Recreation

Tourism and Recreation – Indirect Construction Effects

15.9.51 Construction of the EfW CHP Facility has the potential to indirectly affect tourism and recreational activities through construction activities, and also generate landscape and visual effects at tourism destinations of a scale which could potentially dissuade visitors. Areas/routes where recreational pursuits are undertaken, and communication routes regularly frequented by tourists also have the potential to be affected.

15.9.52 Wisbech Park is a key local recreational site and is located to the north of the town centre and approximately 2km from the EfW CHP Facility Site, CHP Connection and Access Improvements. Due to the distance away from this important local amenity there would be no pathway for any of the construction works to have any effects on this park.

15.9.53 The landscape and visual assessment (**Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual**) has concluded that no tourism or recreational visual receptors will sustain significant visual effects from the construction or operation of the EfW CHP Facility, Access Improvements or CHP Connection except for one PRoW (Halfpenny Lane) and the

[61] In effect a considerate constructor's scheme.

Nene Way. This is set out in further detail in the Visual Assessment (**Appendix 9J**), in which there are several subsections for tourist attractions, and at recreational visual receptors including National Cycle Routes, the Nene Way and Public Rights of Way.

15.9.54 The preliminary assessment of effects on the historic environment (**Chapter 10: Historic Environment**) has considered construction effects on a number of heritage assets. Only those assets which are accessible to members of the public are included in this assessment of indirect tourism and recreation effects potentially arising from the construction of the Proposed Development. Those heritage assets considered further here are:

- Wisbech Conservation Area; and
- Peckover House Grade II Registered Park and Garden.

15.9.55 Wisbech Conservation Area forms part of the town centre and contributes to the overall character and offer of the town, including for tourism purposes. The preliminary historic environment assessment of construction effects on Wisbech Conservation area is that this would not affect the heritage significance of this asset.

15.9.56 The preliminary historic environment assessment of construction effects on Peckover House Grade II Registered Park and Garden is that this would not affect the heritage significance of this asset.

15.9.57 Taking account of the findings of the landscape and visual assessment (**Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual**) and the preliminary assessment of effects on the historic environment (**Chapter 10: Historic Environment**), it is not considered that there would be any significant tourism or recreation effects on the relevant receptors.

15.9.58 Taking account of the sensitivity criteria described in **paragraph 15.8.9** above, the Ward of Medworth is considered to be of High sensitivity to change; there would be (taking account of the findings from the Landscape and Visual and Historic Environment assessments) a very low level of tourism and recreation change and therefore a Minor and **not significant** effect.

15.9.59 At the District level, Fenland is considered to be of considered to be of Medium sensitivity to change, there would be a very low level of tourism and recreation change and therefore a Negligible and **not significant** effect.

15.9.60 At the County level, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk are considered to be of Low sensitivity to change, there would be a very low level of tourism and recreation change and therefore a Negligible and **not significant** effect.

Construction: Grid Connection Options and TCC2-4

15.9.61 The following paragraphs present an assessment of the construction of the Grid Connection options and TCCs on the economy and employment (direct employment and indirect and induced employment), housing market and education facilities, tourism and recreation and land use. As two possible routes for the Grid Connection are being considered, both routes are assessed here:

- Option 1: Walpole Substation route; and

- Option 2: Walsoken Substation route.

15.9.62 The description of the Proposed Development **(Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development)** provides further details on these grid connection routes with a summary provided below for context.

15.9.63 **Grid Connection – Common Route**; consisting of:

- 4km underground cable route from a substation at the EfW CHP Facility Site to Meadowgate Lane where it crosses beneath the A47; and
- A 132kV overhead line consisting of 15 poles between the A47 and Broadend Road.

15.9.64 **Grid Connection – Option 1: Walpole Substation Route** ('Option 1'); consisting of a 132kV overhead line between the end of the Common Route at Broadend Road and Walpole Substation, and the associated Grid Connection TCC2 to 4; and

15.9.65 **Grid Connection – Option 2: Walsoken Substation Route** ('Option 2'); consisting of a 132kV overhead line between the end of the Common Route at Broadend Road and Walsoken Substation.

Economy and Employment

Economy

15.9.66 There would be considerable spend by the Applicant from the capital cost of the construction of the Proposed Development. For the Grid Connection, based upon the assumed route of the underground and overhead cable travelling to a point of connection at Walpole, indicative cost estimates are more than £5million; this investment is considered to be a beneficial economic effect. If the Grid Connection used the alternative option of Walsoken which is a shorter grid connection route, the indicative cost estimates would be likely to be less than £5million. There is some uncertainty for both Grid Connection routes as to how much of this capital investment would be spent locally (Medworth Ward and Fenland District and King's Lynn and West Norfolk) subject to where for example materials and equipment is sourced.

15.9.67 Taking account of the sensitivity criteria described in **paragraph 15.8.9** above, the Ward of Medworth is considered to be of High sensitivity to change. Given the uncertainty over exactly where this capital investment would be spent the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach there would be a very low magnitude of change from the anticipated level of capital investment by the Applicant. Minor beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with construction, which is considered to be a **not significant** economic effect for both grind connection options.

15.9.68 At the District level, Fenland is considered to be of considered to be of Medium sensitivity to change. Given the uncertainty over exactly where this capital investment would be spent the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach there would be a low magnitude of change from the anticipated level of capital investment by the Applicant. Minor beneficial economic effects would

therefore be associated with construction, which is considered to be a **not significant** economic effect for both grid connection options.

15.9.69 At the County level, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk are considered to be of Low sensitivity to change, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that there would be a low magnitude of change from the anticipated level of capital investment by the Applicant. Negligible beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with construction, which is considered to be a **not significant** economic effect for both grid connection options.

Direct Employment and Indirect and Induced Employment

15.9.70 Direct employment associated with the construction of the Grid Connection is expected to amount to around 10 FTE jobs. Applying the indirect multiplier of 2.17 used above to assess the effects of the temporary construction workforce for the EfW CHP facility 10 FTE jobs could result in a further 11.7 indirect and induced employment jobs. In total there could therefore be up to 21.7 direct and indirect jobs for the construction of the Grid Connection.

15.9.71 Taking account of the sensitivity criteria described in **paragraph 15.8.9** above, the Wards of Medworth, Wisbech, Elm, Elmneth, Walsoken, West Walton and Walpole are considered to be of High sensitivity to change; there would be a very low magnitude of change from the employment related to the construction of the grid connection. Minor beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with construction of the Grid Connection, which is considered to be a **not significant** economic effect.

15.9.72 At the District level, Fenland and King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough are considered to be of Medium sensitivity to change; there would be a very low magnitude of change from the employment related to the construction of the grid connection. Negligible beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with construction of the Grid Connection, which is considered to be a **not significant** economic effect.

15.9.73 At the County level, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk are considered to be of Low sensitivity to change; there would be a very low magnitude of change from the employment related to the construction of the grid connection. Negligible beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with construction of the Grid Connection, which is considered to be a **not significant** economic effect.

Housing Market and Education Facilities

15.9.74 Direct and indirect employment associated with the construction of the Grid Connection (Options 1 and 2) is expected to amount to a maximum of 21.7 FTE jobs. Any effects on the local housing market and education facilities or any other local services from this temporary workforce would result in a very low magnitude of change (any demand for housing or school places would be very low) which would result in a Negligible effect, which would be **not significant** at the Local, District and County levels. No further consideration is therefore given to the construction effects of the Grid Connection on the local housing market and education facilities.

Local Businesses

15.9.75 There are some existing businesses in Wisbech, West Walton, Walton Highway, Walpole St Peter, and Walpole St Andrew. Construction of the Grid Connection (Options 1 and 2) could potentially have negative effects on these local businesses for example from traffic, noise, air quality or health.

15.9.76 **Chapter 6: Traffic and Transport**, **Chapter 8: Air Quality** and **Chapter 16: Health** contain preliminary assessments which conclude that, with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, there would be no significant adverse effects from noise, or on air quality and health from the construction of the Grid Connection.

15.9.77 For the PEIR an outline CEMP has been prepared in support of the Proposed Development which provides an overview of measures to control the environmental effects of the construction; an updated version of which will be submitted with the DCO application. Subject to approval of the Proposed Development, a fully detailed CEMP would be submitted prior to construction with details of site-specific mitigation to ensure that there are no adverse environmental effects from construction. A Code of Construction Practice[62] would also be submitted which would provide details of standard construction best practice mitigation measures. These measures would help to avoid any adverse effects on local businesses from the construction of the grid connection. Careful siting of the route of the Grid Connection would also help to avoid adverse effects on local businesses.

15.9.78 Taking account of the sensitivity criteria described in **paragraph 15.8.9** above, the Wards of Medworth, Wisbech, Elm, Elmneth, Walsoken, West Walton and Walpole (which the grid connection routes pass through) are considered to be of High sensitivity to change. Through implementation of mitigation measures such as the CEMP there would be a very low magnitude of change with Minor effects associated with construction of the Grid Connection, which is therefore considered to be a **not significant** effect on local businesses.

Tourism and Recreation

15.9.79 Construction of the Grid Connection has the potential to have direct effects on recreational receptors and indirect effects on tourism and recreational receptors through the construction works and also the generation of landscape and visual effects at tourism destinations. Areas/routes where recreational pursuits are undertaken, and communication routes regularly frequented by tourists, also have the potential to be affected.

15.9.80 The sections below provide an assessment of the Grid Connection route on tourism and recreation receptors.

Public Rights of Way

15.9.81 Construction of the Grid Connection will require some control of access to public rights of way (PRoW), e.g., to enable stringing of conductors, and so the construction works would have short term effects on PRoW.

[62] The Applicant intends to register the Proposed Development with the Considerate Constructors Scheme.

15.9.82 A **Public Rights of Way Management Plan Appendix 6B** (PRoWMP) has been prepared which is appended to the **Preliminary Construction Traffic Management Plan Appendix 6A** (PCTMP) with both documents prepared to support **Chapter 6: Traffic and Transport**. Four PRoW that would be affected by the Grid Connection are identified in Table 2.1 of the PRoWMP – these are a byway, a restricted byway and two local public footpaths (all of low level of sensitivity as they are local routes and therefore of low importance). Included within the PRoWMP are overarching mitigation methodologies and detailed proposals for the four PRoW which would be affected by the construction of the Grid Connection. The measures to mitigate the effects of construction works on the identified PRoW include appropriate signage and active management measures such as contractor staff patrolling affected routes and also speed limit restrictions for construction workers.

15.9.83 Without the implementation of any mitigation, there would be some short term and temporary disruption to recreational access for PRoW users during the construction of the Grid Connection. As the affected PRoW are of low sensitivity, any temporary and short term disruption would represent a low magnitude of change, which is considered to be **not significant** effect at the Local, District and County levels.

15.9.84 The four PRoW that would be affected are all local routes of low importance and therefore low sensitivity. It is considered that there would (with implementation of the PRoWMP mitigation measures) be a low magnitude of change. Negligible recreational effects would therefore be associated with the construction of the Grid Connection, which is considered to be a **not significant** effect.

15.9.85 The landscape and visual assessment (**Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual**) has also considered visual effects on PRoW within the ZTV for the landscape and visual study area. This assessment concludes that Halfpenny Lane would experience significant visual effects, but no other recreational visual receptors will sustain significant visual effects from the construction or operation of the Grid Connection (Options 1 or 2). This is set out in further detail in the Visual Assessment (**Appendix 9J**) in which there are several subsections for recreational visual receptors including PRoW.

15.9.86 Notwithstanding the significant visual effects on Halfpenny Lane, overall recreational effects on PRoW are considered to be **not significant**. This is because no other PRoW would experience significant visual effects and that for Halfpenny Lane visibility of the Grid Connection on a low sensitivity local recreational route would not prohibit use of this route for recreational purposes.

Tourism and Other Recreational Receptors

15.9.87 The Grid Connection (both options) would cross two routes on the National Cycle Network (NCN63 and NCN1). For NCN63, as the excavation for the cable would be undertaken via horizontal directional drilling (and possibly as part of larger scale works to be undertaken by the highway authority), no significant effects or disruption directly attributable to the Grid Connection works are anticipated on this route. NCN1 would be subject to temporary closure (with an appropriate diversion put in place to ensure continuity of access) so no significant effect is anticipated.

15.9.88 The landscape and visual assessment (**Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual**) has concluded that no recreational visual receptors will sustain significant visual effects

from the construction or operation of the grid connection (Options 1 or 2) except for the Nene Way and a local PRoW (Halfpenny Lane). This is set out in further detail in the Visual Assessment (**Appendix 9J**) in which there are several subsections for recreational visual receptors including for National Cycle Routes, the Nene Way, and at tourist attractions.

15.9.89 **Chapter 10: Historic Environment** has considered construction effects on a number of heritage assets. Only those assets which are accessible to members of the public are included and these have been considered for any indirect effects from construction of the Grid Connection. Those heritage assets considered are:

- Wisbech Conservation Areas; and
- Peckover House Grade II Registered Park and Garden.

15.9.90 These assets have been scoped out from any further assessment in **Chapter 10: Historic Environment** in relation to the construction of the Grid Connection. This is due to a combination of the distance of these assets from the Grid Connection, the nature of the assets and their current settings and the nature of the Grid Connection. Taken together, this means that there will be no potential for significant effects on the settings of these assets.

15.9.91 Notwithstanding that significant visual effects are identified for the Nene Way; no other visual receptors would experience any significant effects and there would be no significant effects on heritage assets. The overall tourism and recreation effects from construction of the Grid Connection are considered to be **not significant**. This is because no tourism or heritage receptors would experience significant effects and that for recreation, the visibility of the construction of the Grid Connection would not prohibit the recreational use of the Nene Way.

Land Use

15.9.92 Land use along the Grid Connection route comprises mainly agricultural land and associated farms. There are some existing businesses in Wisbech, West Walton, Walton Highway, Walpole St Peter, and Walpole St Andrew within 2km of the Grid Connection routes. Construction of the Grid Connection could have localised and short term adverse effects on these land uses (for example from traffic, dust, and noise).

15.9.93 For the PEIR, an outline CEMP has been prepared in support of the Proposed Development which provides an overview of measures to control the environmental effects of the construction of the Proposed Development. Subject to approval of the Proposed Development, a fully detailed CEMP would be submitted, prior to construction, with details of site specific mitigation measures to ensure that there are no adverse environmental effects arising from construction. A Code of Construction Practice[63] would also be submitted which will provide details of standard construction best practice mitigation measures. These measures will help to avoid any adverse effects on land uses from construction of the Grid Connection. Careful siting of the Grid Connection route will also help to avoid adverse effects on land uses.

[63] As noted previously the Applicant intends to register the project with the considerate constructor's scheme.

15.9.94 Construction effects along the Grid Connection route will not prevent existing land uses from continuing. All construction works associated with the Grid Connection will be sited to avoid having any adverse effects and to ensure that existing land uses can continue unaffected by construction. It is acknowledged that a small amount of agricultural land would need to be used for the Grid Connection infrastructure, for the poles and for some temporary working areas (with the land restored afterwards). It is considered that any effects associated with this small land take would be Negligible and **not significant**.

15.9.95 Taking account of the sensitivity criteria described in **paragraph 15.8.9** above, the Wards of Medworth, Wisbech, Elm, Elmneth, Walsoken, West Walton and Walpole are considered to be of High sensitivity to change. Through implementation of mitigation measures such as the CEMP there would be a very low magnitude of land use change. Moderate land use effects would therefore be associated with the construction of the Grid Connection which is considered to be a **not significant** effect at the Local (Medworth, Wisbech, Elm, Elmneth, Walsoken, West Walton and Walpole Wards) level.

Operation – EfW CHP Facility, CHP Connection, Access Improvements and Grid Connection

15.9.96 The following paragraphs present an assessment of the operational effects of the Proposed Development.

15.9.97 Direct effects on tourism during operation are scoped out from assessment and are therefore not considered any further here. As there are no tourist attractions located within, or in close proximity to, the EfW CHP Facility Site the operation of the facility would not have any effects on tourism or tourist attractions.

15.9.98 As agreed in the Scoping Opinion, demand for local services during operation is also scoped out from any further assessment. With up to 40 FTE jobs required for the operational phase it is considered that any effects on demand for local services would be very low and any effects would be Negligible and **not significant**.

15.9.99 Effects on nearby community facilities and businesses during operation is also scoped out from any further assessment. Once the EfW CHP Facility is operational there would be no significant adverse effects from noise, air quality, operational traffic or on health, as demonstrated in the **Chapter 6: Traffic and Transport**, **Chapter 8: Air Quality** and **Chapter 16: Health** preliminary assessments which conclude **no significant** effects from the operation of the EfW CHP Facility.

Economy and Employment

Economy

Employment - Direct Employment

15.9.100 Up to 40 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs would be created as a result of the Proposed Development. These would include direct employment opportunities for the operation of the EfW CHP Facility in a mixture of skilled and unskilled roles. Direct employment opportunities include a shift team of approximately 18 skilled operators,

working in shifts of three at a time, to cover 24-hour operation of the facility. These teams are overseen by an Operations Manager, who reports directly to the Facility Manager. Also reporting to the Facility Manager will be a QHSE Manager, electrical engineer and two mechanical engineers.

15.9.101 On the waste acceptance side, there will be approximately six Waste Acceptance Operatives and a Waste Acceptance Supervisor, reporting to the Waste/Contract Manager. In terms of business support, it is expected there will be an Administration Manager, Finance Assistant, Account Manager, IT Support Technician, HR Manager, and a Commercial Support Manager. In addition, indirect employment opportunities include (as a minimum) cleaning and catering services, electrical engineering services, mechanical engineering services and other maintenance-related roles such as scaffolding and rescue teams. There is also the potential to supply manufacturing parts and mobile equipment for the plant, and the possibility of working with local aggregate companies.

15.9.102 The Applicant intends that the majority of these jobs would be sourced locally subject to any skills and training requirements. It may also be the case that some people who access any local jobs may commute from elsewhere and not be located within Medworth Ward or Fenland District so there is some uncertainty over how much the Ward and District would benefit from the 40 FTE operational jobs.

15.9.103 Taking account of the uncertainty noted above, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that the provision of up to 40 FTE jobs for operation would represent a very low magnitude of change for the Local (Medworth Ward), District (Fenland and King's Lynn and West Norfolk) and County (Cambridgeshire) levels and thus a **Not Significant** employment effect.

Skills and Employment Strategy, Suppliers and Skills Development

15.9.104 The skills and employment strategy would remain in place for the operational phase, with the intention that the majority of the operational workforce would be recruited from the local (Medworth Ward) and District (Fenland and King's Lynn and West Norfolk) area subject to any skills and training requirements. The skills and employment strategy will be developed in due course and included with the DCO application, so it is uncertain at this stage how many local workers may benefit from this strategy.

15.9.105 To date, MVV has offered 10 work experience placements (more than two per year) at the EfW CHP Facility at Devonport, Plymouth. During the Coronavirus pandemic, an alternative (online) work experience placement was successfully run with seven secondary school students.

15.9.106 MVV supports a minimum of one internship per year in partnership with Plymouth University; these are often in the field of environmental sciences but, more recently MVV is progressing an application from a student of architectural engineering and sustainable design.

15.9.107 MVV continues to work with local colleges, at a more strategic level, to develop apprenticeships that will deliver the skills young people need to enable them to access good quality jobs in the waste management sector. The Applicant intends to follow a similar approach here for the operation of the Proposed Development.

However, any such internships could only be fully determined in due course so there is some uncertainty at this stage.

15.9.108 As there is uncertainty at this stage about how many people may benefit from the skills and employment strategy, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that the skills and employment strategy would have a very low magnitude of change for the Local (Medworth Ward), District (Fenland and King's Lynn and West Norfolk) and County (Cambridgeshire) levels and thus a **Not Significant** beneficial effect.

Employment - Indirect and Induced Employment

15.9.109 In addition to the direct jobs considered above, some indirect employment would also be created by the additional spending on goods and services by the Applicant and its employees. The wage expenditure of workers employed directly at the EfW CHP Facility, as well as those employed in local businesses in the supply chain, would also support induced employment in shops, services, and other businesses in the local economy.

15.9.110 The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) Additionality Guide[64] (HCA, 2015) estimates that industrial uses typically give rise to multiplier effects of 1.29 at the local level, rising to 1.44 at the County level. On this basis, it is estimated that 40 additional FTE jobs could support the creation of a further 11.6 indirect and induced jobs at the local (Fenland and King's Lynn and West Norfolk) level, and 27.6 at the County (Cambridgeshire and Norfolk) level.

15.9.111 Taking account of the sensitivity criteria described in **paragraph 15.8.9** above, the Ward of Medworth is considered to be of High sensitivity to change; there would be a very low magnitude of change from operational direct and indirect employment of 11.6 FTE local and 27.6 FTE County level jobs. Minor beneficial employment effects would therefore be associated with direct and indirect employment during the operational phase, which is considered to be a **not significant** employment effect.

15.9.112 At the District level, Fenland and King's Lynn and West Norfolk are considered to be of Medium sensitivity to change; there would be a low magnitude of change from operational direct and indirect employment of 57.6 FTE. Minor beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with direct and indirect employment during the operational phase, which is considered to be a **not significant** employment effect.

15.9.113 At the County level, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk are considered to be of Low sensitivity to change; there would be a low magnitude of change from direct and indirect employment of 57.6FTE. Negligible beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with direct and indirect employment during the operational phase, which is considered to be a **not significant** employment effect.

[64] Homes and Communities Agency Additionality Guide (2015). Available via: http://www.nwueu.ac.uk/NWUEU/LatestUpdates/PDF/CPJ%20BPN%20%202015%203rd%20Edition%20-%20Final.pdf [Accessed May 2021]

Housing Market and Education Facilities

15.9.114 Up to 40 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs will be required for operation of the EfW CHP Facility. The Applicant intends that the skills and employment strategy would help to fill many of these positions from the local population, and therefore any additional pressure on the housing market or education facilities will be even lower. As discussed in the Housing Market and Educational Facilities assessment for the construction stage (**paragraphs 15.9.34 to 15.9.46**) any effects on the local housing market and education facilities from a workforce of this size would result in a very low magnitude of change on a mixture of high (Medworth Ward), medium (Fenland and King's Lynn and West Norfolk and low (Cambridgeshire) sensitivity receptors, resulting in a Negligible effect, which would be **not significant** at the Local (Medworth Ward), District (Fenland and King's Lynn and West Norfolk) and County (Cambridgeshire) levels.

15.9.115 No further consideration is therefore given to the operational effects of the Proposed Development on the local housing market and education facilities.

Community Benefits Package

15.9.116 At the Devonport EfW CHP Facility in Plymouth, MVV established a local community benefit package as part of the operation of the facility. This was then administered by a Community Trust, set up as a charity in its own right and acting entirely independently of MVV.

15.9.117 A broadly similar approach for community benefits would be established for the EfW CHP Facility at Medworth, and this could have beneficial social and economic effects. The type and scale of such benefits is unknown at this preliminary stage and would be fully determined by the Applicant in due course subject to approval of the Proposed Development. The Community Benefits package would sit outside of the DCO Application (other than that it would be secured by a Section 106 Agreement) and it would be offered irrespective of any measures required for mitigation. In this respect, consideration of the Community Benefits Package is not taken forward for assessment.

Tourism and Recreation

15.9.118 Direct and indirect effects from the operation of the Grid Connection have been scoped out from any further assessment. For the EfW CHP Facility and CHP Connection **Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual** has concluded that no tourism or recreational visual receptors will sustain significant visual effects from the operation of the EfW CHP Facility. This is set out in further detail in the Visual Assessment (**Appendix 9J**) in which there are several subsections for tourist attractions and other recreational visual receptors including National Cycle Routes, the Nene Way, PRoW, and tourist attractions.

15.9.119 **Chapter 10: Historic Environment** has considered operational effects on a number of heritage assets. Only those assets which are accessible to members of the public are included in this assessment of operational indirect tourism and recreation effects arising from the operation of the EfW CHP Facility. Those heritage assets considered further here are:

- Wisbech Conservation Area; and
- Peckover House Grade II Registered Park and Garden.

15.9.120 The preliminary Historic Environment assessment of operational effects on Wisbech Conservation area is that this will result in an effect of Very Low magnitude on this asset. As the asset is of high heritage significance, this will result in a Minor effect which would be **not significant**.

15.9.121 The preliminary historic environment assessment of effects on Peckover House Grade II Registered Park and Garden is that this will result in an effect of Very Low magnitude on this asset. As the asset is of high heritage significance, this will result in a Minor effect which would be **not significant.** Taking account of the findings of the **Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual** and **Chapter 10: Historic Environment**, it is not considered that there would be any significant tourism or recreation effects.

15.9.122 Taking account of the sensitivity criteria described in **paragraph 15.8.9** above, the Ward of Medworth is considered to be of High sensitivity to change. There would be (taking account of the findings from the Landscape and Visual and Historic Environment assessments) a very low level of tourism and recreation change and therefore a Minor and a **not significant** effect.

15.9.123 At the District level, Fenland and King's Lynn and West Norfolk are considered to be of Medium sensitivity to change; there would be a very low level of tourism and recreation change and therefore a Negligible and **a not significant** effect.

15.9.124 At the County level, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk are considered to be of Low sensitivity to change; there would be a very low level of tourism and recreation change and therefore a Negligible and **a not significant** effect.

Decommissioning

15.9.125 The socio-economic effects associated with the decommissioning phase are expected to be of a similar level to those reported for the construction phase works, albeit with a lesser duration of one year. The likely significance of effects relating to the construction phase assessment reported in this chapter are therefore applicable to the decommissioning phase.

Summary

15.9.126 A summary of the results of the assessment of the socio-economic effects is provided in **Table 15.17** below. No significant adverse effects have been identified.

Table 15.17 Summary of preliminary assessment of significance

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity/ importance/ value of receptor[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Rationale for preliminary assessment conclusion
Construction Effects				
Economic Effects – Capital Investment				Whilst the exact amount of money which would be spent on the Medworth EfW CHP Facility can only be fully determined in due course, it is anticipated that a capital investment of circa £300 million would be made by the Applicant. However, it is uncertain how much of this investment would be spent locally (for example some equipment may need to be sourced from abroad).
	High at Ward level	Very low	Not Significant	Given the uncertainties noted about where this investment would be spent, this level of investment is considered to represent a very low magnitude of economic change on a high sensitivity receptor (Medworth Ward) and thus a Minor and **not significant** beneficial effect.
	Medium at District level	Low	Not Significant	Given the uncertainties noted about where this investment would be spent, this level of investment is considered to represent a low magnitude of economic change on a medium sensitivity receptor (Fenland District and King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough) and thus a Minor and **not significant** beneficial effect.
	Low at County level	Low	Not Significant	Given the uncertainties noted about where this investment would be spent, this level of investment is considered to represent a low magnitude of economic change on a low sensitivity receptor (Cambridgeshire and Norfolk Counties) and thus a Minor and **not significant** effect.
Economic Effects – Use of Local Suppliers		Very Low		The Applicant intends to identify ways to support local suppliers as part of the construction of the Proposed Development and hopes to engage as many local suppliers as possible which would have a beneficial economic effect. At this preliminary stage the extent of use of local suppliers is unknown as is the exact location of any local suppliers.

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity/ importance/ value of receptor[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Rationale for preliminary assessment conclusion
	Very High at Ward Level, Medium at District Level and Low at County level.		Not Significant	Taking account of this uncertainty the preliminary assessments takes a conservative approach that any use of local suppliers would represent a very low magnitude of change for each of these receptors. Any beneficial economic effects are therefore considered to be **not significant.**
Employment Effects – Direct Employment				Up to 700 temporary construction workers would be required for the construction of the EfW CHP Facility. As with MVV's existing UK EfW CHP facilities, the Applicant aims to maximise the local workforce and deliver a broadly similar level of local employment. At around 70%, 490 local (provisionally Fenland District and parts of King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough) construction jobs would be created. The exact number of construction workers sourced directly from the local area would be determined in due course.
	High at Ward level	Very low	Not Significant	Taking account of the uncertainty over how many local construction jobs there would be, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that there would be a very low magnitude of change from any construction jobs taken from the ward. Minor beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with construction, which is considered to be a **not significant** economic effect
	Medium at District level	Low	Not Significant	Taking account of the uncertainty over how many local construction jobs there would be, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that there would be a low magnitude of employment change on a medium sensitivity receptor (Fenland District and King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough) and thus a Minor and **not significant** effect.
	Low at County level	Low	Not Significant	Taking account of the uncertainty over how many local construction jobs there would be, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that there would be a low magnitude of

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity/ importance/ value of receptor[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Rationale for preliminary assessment conclusion
				employment change on a low sensitivity receptor (Cambridgeshire and Norfolk Counties) and thus a Negligible and **not significant** effect.
Employment Effects – Indirect Employment				The construction industry has an indirect multiplier of 2.17 (ONS, 2019) for jobs. Applying this to the 700 construction workers to be employed during the construction phase indicates that the EfW CHP Facility, could be expected to create 1,519 additional indirect jobs. It is uncertain how many of these additional indirect jobs would be sourced locally (i.e., from the Medworth Ward and Fenland District) as some would be from the supply chain which may be located elsewhere.
	High at Ward Level	Very Low	Not Significant	Taking account of the uncertainty over how many indirect local jobs there would be, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that there would be very low magnitude of change from any indirect jobs sourced from the Medworth Ward. Minor beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with construction, and thus a **not significant** beneficial economic effect.
	Medium at District Level	Very Low	Not Significant	Taking account of the uncertainty over how many indirect local jobs there would be, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that there would be very low magnitude of change from any indirect jobs sourced from the Fenland District. Minor beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with construction, and thus a **not significant** beneficial economic effect.
	Low at County Level	Very Low	Not Significant	Taking account of the uncertainty over how many indirect local jobs there would be, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that there would be very low magnitude of change from any indirect jobs sourced from the Cambridgeshire County. Minor beneficial economic effects would therefore be associated with construction, and thus a **not significant** beneficial economic effect.

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity/ importance/ value of receptor[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Rationale for preliminary assessment conclusion
Employment Effects - Apprenticeships, Work Experience and Skills Development				The Applicant intends to provide apprenticeships, work experience and skills development as part of the construction of the Proposed Development to help provide opportunities for local people to benefit. However, it is uncertain at this preliminary stage exactly what opportunities there may be and how this would benefit local people.
	Very High at Ward Level, Medium at District Level and Low at County level.	Very Low	Not Significant	Taking account of the uncertainty noted above, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that there would be a very low magnitude of change from any apprenticeships, work experience at the Local, District and County levels and thus a **not significant** beneficial employment effect.
Employment Effects – Skills and Employment Strategy				The Applicant intends to develop a skills and employment strategy to maximise opportunities for use of local workforce. A full strategy will be developed by the Applicant and included in the ES which will be submitted as part of the DCO Application. However, it is uncertain at this preliminary stage how many local people may benefit from this.
	Very High at Ward Level, Medium at District Level and Low at County level.	Very Low	Not Significant	Taking account of the uncertainty noted above, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that there would be a very low magnitude of change from the skills and employment strategy at the Local, District and County levels and thus a **not significant** beneficial employment effect.
Housing Market / Tourist Accommodation				Up to 700 temporary construction workers will be required for the construction of the EfW CHP Facility. The Applicant is aiming to maximise the use of the local workforce but there is uncertainty over exactly how many workers would be sourced locally (Medworth Ward and Fenland District and King's Lynn and West

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity/ importance/ value of receptor[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Rationale for preliminary assessment conclusion
				Norfolk Borough). There is also a predicted low level of demand for housing from any construction workers sourced from elsewhere as they would be likely to use hotels and B&B's.
	High at Ward level	Very Low	Not Significant	Taking account of the predicted low level of demand for housing from construction workers, the preliminary assessment is that there would be a very low magnitude of housing change on a high sensitivity receptor (Medworth Ward) and thus a Minor and **not significant** effect.
	Medium at District level	Very Low	Not Significant	Taking account of the predicted low level of demand for housing, the preliminary assessment is that there would be a very low magnitude of housing change on a medium sensitivity receptor (Fenland District and King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough) and thus a Minor and **not a significant** effect.
	Low at County level	Very Low	Not Significant	Taking account of the predicted low level of demand for housing, the preliminary assessment is that there would be a very low magnitude of housing change on a low sensitivity receptor (Cambridgeshire and Norfolk Counties) and thus a Negligible and **not significant** effect.
Operational Effects **Economic Effects**				The Applicant would provide an annual community benefit package during the operational phase. The extent and type of such benefits is uncertain at this stage and can only be fully determined in due course.
	High at Ward level	Very Low	Not Significant	Taking account of the uncertainty over the extent and type of any community benefits that may be realised, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that this would represent a very low magnitude of economic change on a high sensitivity receptor (Medworth Ward) and thus a Minor and **not significant** beneficial effect.

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity/ importance/ value of receptor[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Rationale for preliminary assessment conclusion
	Medium at District level	Low	Not Significant	Taking account of the uncertainty over the extent and type of any community benefits that may be realised, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that this would represent a low magnitude of economic change on a medium sensitivity receptor (Fenland District and King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough) and thus a Minor and **not significant** beneficial effect.
	Low at County level	Low	Not Significant	Taking account of the uncertainty over the extent and type of any community benefits that may be realised, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that this would represent a low magnitude of economic change on a low sensitivity receptor (Cambridgeshire and Norfolk Counties) and thus a Negligible and **not significant** beneficial effect.
Employment Effects – Direct and Indirect Employment				Up to 57.6 full time equivalent and indirect (FTE) jobs would be created as a result of the Proposed Development. It is uncertain exactly how many of these would be local jobs (Medworth Ward and Fenland District and King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough) subject to skills and training opportunities for the local workforce.
	High at Ward level	Very low	Not Significant	Taking account of the uncertainty over how many of these would be local jobs, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that this would represent a very low magnitude of employment change on a high sensitivity receptor (Medworth Ward) and thus a Minor and **not significant** beneficial effect.
	Medium at District level	Low	Not Significant	Taking account of the uncertainty over how many of these would be local jobs, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that this would represent a low magnitude of employment change on a medium sensitivity receptor (Fenland District and King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough) and thus a Minor and **not significant** beneficial effect.

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity/ importance/ value of receptor[1]	Magnitude of change[2]	Significance[3]	Rationale for preliminary assessment conclusion
Employment Effects – Apprenticeships, Work Experience and Skills Development	Low at County level	Very Low	Not Significant	Taking account of the uncertainty over how many of these would be local jobs, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that this would represent a low magnitude of employment change on a low sensitivity receptor (Cambridgeshire and Norfolk Counties) and thus a Negligible and **not significant** beneficial effect. The Applicant intends to provide apprenticeships, work experience and skills development as part of the operation of the Proposed Development to help provide opportunities for local people to benefit. However, it is uncertain at this preliminary stage exactly what opportunities there may be and how this would benefit local people.
	Very High at Ward Level, Medium at District Level and Low at County level.	Very Low	Not Significant	Taking account of the uncertainty noted above, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that there would be a very low magnitude of change from any apprenticeships, work experience at the Local, District and County levels and thus a **not significant** beneficial employment effect.
Employment Effects – Skills and Employment Strategy				As noted above, the Applicant intends to develop a skills and employment strategy to maximise opportunities for use of local workforce. This would be carried forward for the operational phase of the Proposed Development. However, it is uncertain at this preliminary stage how many local people may benefit from this.
	Very High at Ward Level, Medium at District Level and Low at County level.	Very Low	Not Significant	Taking account of the uncertainty noted above, the preliminary assessment takes a conservative approach that there would be a very low magnitude of change from the skills and employment strategy at the Local, District and County levels and thus a **not significant** beneficial employment effect.

1. The sensitivity/importance/value of a receptor is defined using the criteria set out in **Section 15.8** above and is defined as very low, medium, high, and very high.
2. The magnitude of change on a receptor resulting from activities relating to the development is defined using the criteria set out in **Section 15.8** above and is defined as low, medium, high, and very high.
3. The significance of the environmental effects is based on the combination of the sensitivity/importance/value of a receptor and the magnitude of change and is expressed as major (significant), moderate (probably significant) or minor/Negligible (not significant), subject to the evaluation methodology outlined in **Section 15.8**.

15.9.127 No likely significant beneficial or adverse socio-economic effects have been identified from the construction or operation of the Proposed Development.

15.10 Consideration of optional additional mitigation or compensation

15.10.1 No additional mitigation measures are proposed at this stage to further reduce the socio-economic effects that are identified in this PEIR. This is because all relevant and implementable measures have been embedded into the development proposals and are assessed above in this chapter. These measures are considered likely to be effective and deliverable, and to address the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development.

15.11 Implementation of environmental measures

15.11.1 The measures that have been incorporated into the Proposed Development to date to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects on socio-economics, and to deliver socio-economic enhancements, are listed in **Table 15.18** below and the proposed means by which they will be implemented, i.e. they will have been secured through a Requirements in the DCO.

Table 15.6 Summary of indicative environmental measures to be implemented – relating to socio-economics

Environmental measure	Responsibility for implementation	Proposed Compliance mechanism	PEIR section reference
Employment and Skills Strategy An employment and skills strategy will be provided for the ES which would detail how the Applicant will maximise use of local workforce and provide skills and training opportunities. An overview of this is provided in the assessment of effects in **Section 15.9**.	Applicant	DCO Requirement	15.9
Construction Environmental Management Plan An outline CEMP has been prepared in support of the Proposed Development. Prior to construction a detailed CEMP will be prepared to ensure that there are no adverse effects from the construction works.	Applicant	DCO Requirement - Construction Environmental Management Plan.	15.9

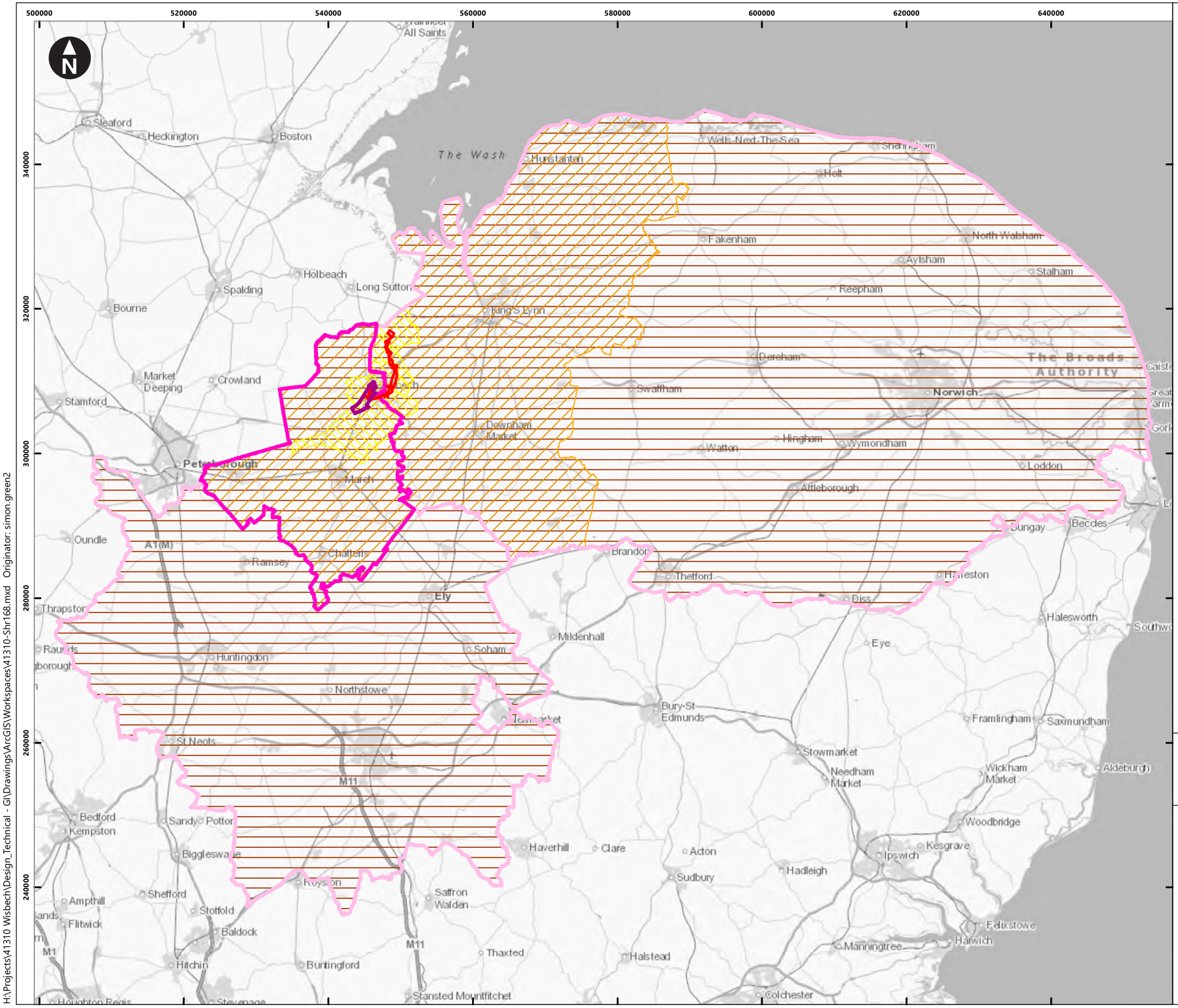
Environmental measure	Responsibility for implementation	Proposed Compliance mechanism	PEIR section reference
Standard Best Practice for Construction Development would be subject to standard construction best practice mitigation measures to avoid and minimise potential effects on local businesses and recreational facilities and the general amenity of the local area.	Applicant	DCO Requirement – Code of Construction Practice (CoCP)	15.9

15.11.2 In addition to the mitigation measures identified above, the Applicant proposes to provide a Community Benefits Package containing measures to support local community activities and initiatives. The scope of the package will evolve through both statutory and subsequent consultation. The Community Benefits Package is a commitment from the Applicant which is not tied to any requirement to mitigate likely significant effects.

15.12 Next Steps

15.12.1 The preliminary assessment presented in this chapter is based on information obtained to date. It will be further influenced by responses received during the statutory consultation and any additional information provided by the Applicant.

15.12.2 The final assessment will be presented in the ES, submitted with the DCO Application.



Key

Proposed Development Red Line Boundary

EfW CHP Facility Study Areas

Local level - Medworth Ward

District level - Fenland District

County level - Cambridgshire and Norfolk

Grid Connection Study Areas

Local level - Medworth, Wisbech, Elm, Elmneth, Walsoken, West Walton and Walpole Wards

District level - Fenland District and King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough

County level - Cambridgeshire and Norfolk

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Scale at A3: 1:500,000

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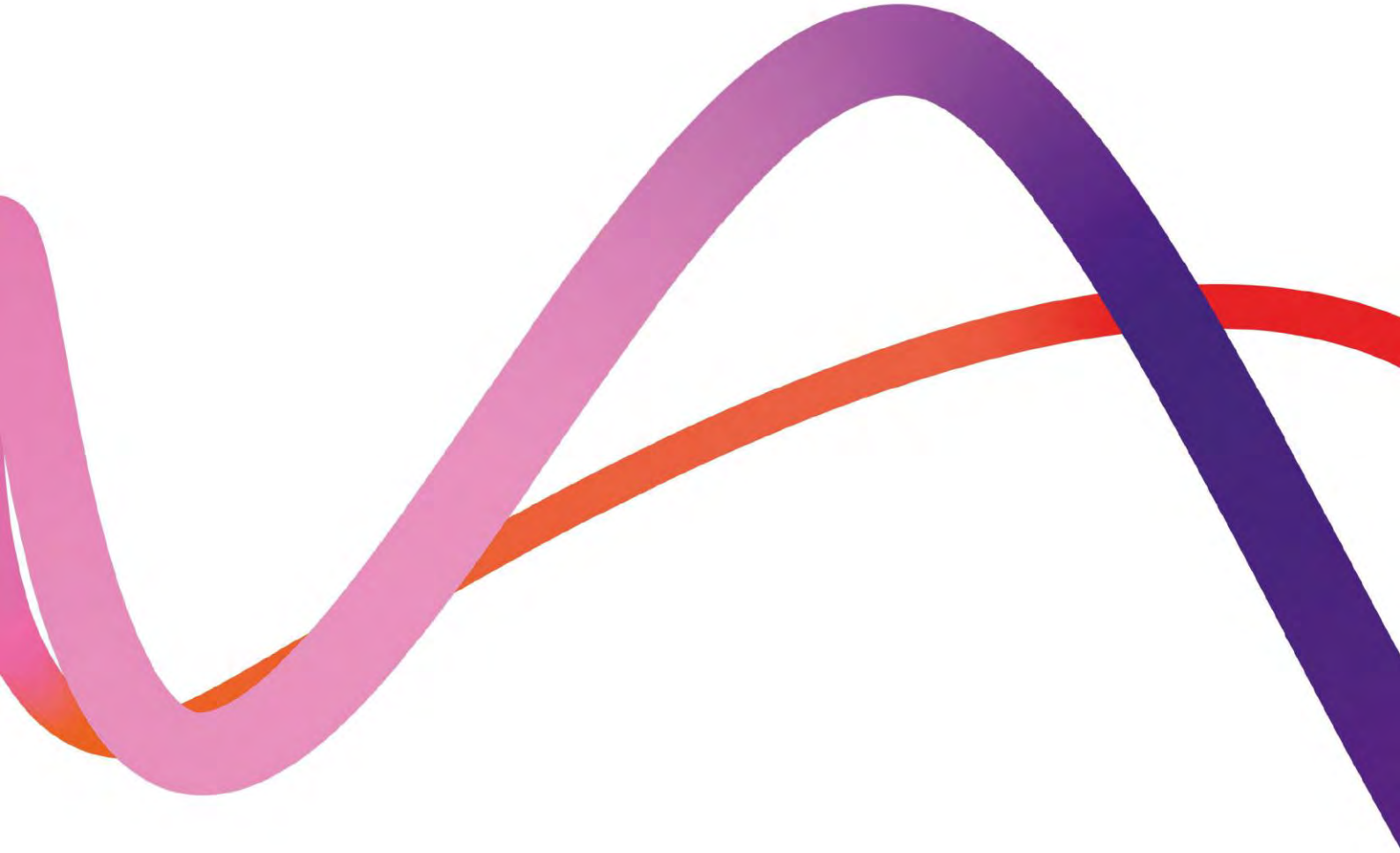
Client

Medworth CHP Limited
Medworth Energy from Waste CHP Facility DCO
Preliminary Environmental Information Report
Chapter 15 - Socio-economic

Figure 15.1
Socio-economic Study Areas

June 2021

wood.

41310-Shr168

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