

## **SECTION 3 – ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

### **3.1 GENERAL**

- 3.1.1 The legal requirements relating to the content of Environmental Statements are contained within the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England & Wales) Regulations 1999, which implement the EU directives 85/337/EEC and 97/11/EC.
- 3.1.2 In addition, Government guidance such as Environmental Assessment – Guide for the Procedures (HMSO 1989), Preparation of Environmental Statements for Planning Projects that require Environmental Assessment- A Good Practice Guide (HMSO, 1995), and DETR Circular 2/99 – Environmental Impact Assessment (HMSO, 1999) provide further advice on those impacts which should be considered for inclusion within an environmental statement.
- 3.1.3 For the environmental statement to achieve its objective of incorporating environmental considerations into the decision making process, “potentially significant” environmental impacts must be addressed. Appropriate adjustments to the development or mitigation measures will need to be provided to ameliorate any adverse impacts which are considered likely to arise.
- 3.1.4 The development proposed has, therefore, the potential to impact on a range of topic areas. In each case these are defined as; temporary impacts associated with construction as well as more permanent impacts associated with the operation of the facility. In this case, the final decommissioning is also assessed where relevant.
- 3.1.5 These are considered to raise a number of issues that require assessment as part of the EIA process. In some cases, the studies were carried out as part of an earlier EIA for description of the same description and have been incorporated into this assessment where they are still relevant. These have informed the development as it is currently proposed.
- 3.1.6 The following sections of the ES that comprise Part II, set out the detailed consideration carried out as part of the EIA process of the potentially significant impacts on the environment that may arise as a result of the proposed development.
- 3.1.7 Each of the following sections sets out the methods adopted and the assessments undertaken, which in each case is based on recognised techniques appropriate to the issues concerned. Each has where available considered the existing baseline,

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potential and predicted impacts, the recognised mitigation and any residual impacts. The ES then sets out the principal conclusions arising from the assessments.

3.1.8 Part III published separately sets out in easily understandable terms a non technical summary of the main findings arising from Part II.

3.1.9 Scope of the assessments is set out in Section 4.

### 3.2 METHODOLOGY

3.2.2 The assessments carried out identified the policy context where appropriate and then identified:

- Methodology
- Baseline
- Potential and predicted impacts
- Proposed mitigation, compensation or enhancement
- Residual impacts and conclusions

3.2.3 Assessments were made based on the sensitivity of the local environment or receptors and the magnitude and significance of the predicted impacts.

3.2.4 In order to undertake this assessment, general guideline classifications were used where these were appropriate, as shown in Table 3.1.

3.1: Description of Terms Used

<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Significance</b>
High	Very Substantial
Medium	Substantial
Low	Moderate
Negligible	Slight
	None
<b>Magnitude</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Large	Positive
Medium	Adverse
Small	None
Negligible	

3.2.5 The terms used are important to assessment of the potential impacts. Consequently, the definition of these terms are taken from the Oxford English Dictionary<sup>1</sup> and presented in Table 3.2 though it should be noted that in each case terminology is used that is appropriate to the topic area being considered.

3.2.6 It is important to note that impacts may be positive, negative or neutral. For instance, the proposed Development will, when operational, eliminate the need to transport waste wood material to wood board manufacturing plants for further processing and will therefore have a positive effect, although during the construction phase it is likely that there will be a slight increase in vehicle movements associated with the delivery of construction materials and equipment to the site.

Table 3.2 Definition of Adopted Terms

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Impact	A marked influence
Magnitude	Of great size, extent, or importance
Adverse	A pessimistic, undesirable, or unwelcome outcome or event
Positive	A constructive or optimistic outcome or event
Sensitive	Affected by slight changes, signals, or influences
Significance	The quality of being extensive or important enough to merit attention
Significant	Extensive or important enough to merit attention

### **3.3 THE ASSESSMENT TEAM**

3.3.1 A number of in house and external specialist consultants and staff have been engaged to advise on the formulation of the proposals, and the potential environmental effects. Unless otherwise noted, the assessment was undertaken by Alliance Environment and Planning Ltd.

3.3.2 The external consultants contributing to this ES were:

#### **Landscape and Visual Impact**

- A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment by Furse Landscape Architects Ltd

#### **Ecology**

- Desk Study and Site Walkover Survey by Thomson Ecology

#### **Transport**

- A Transport Assessment by Motion Transport Planning

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<sup>1</sup> [www.askoxford.com](http://www.askoxford.com)

**Flood Risk and Drainage**

- An Assessment by Ambiental

**Noise**

- A Noise Survey by Hann Tucker Associates