

CONTENTS

Background.....	1-1
The Applicant.....	1-3
Benefits of the Development.....	1-3
Requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment.....	1-4
Scoping Exercise	1-5
The Planning Application & Environmental Statement	1-8

Appendices

Appendix 1-1	Request for a Scoping Opinion
Appendix 1-2	Adopted Scoping Opinion
Appendix 1-3	Response to the Scoping Opinion



INTRODUCTION 1



BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This Environmental Statement (ES) reports the results of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken in respect of a planning application by Viridor for a Resource Recovery Centre at New England, Devon.
- 1.2 The full description of the application is as follows:
- “Development of the New England Resource Recovery Centre, near Lee Mill, Devon, to include an Energy from Waste facility with a capacity of 275,000 tonnes per annum of residual Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Commercial and Industrial Waste (C&I) with bottom ash recycling, a non hazardous landfill; and associated visitor centre, ancillary offices, welfare, parking facilities, dual weighbridge/wheel wash; also new access road linking into the A38 at Lee Mill with new river crossing over River Yealm and associated aftercare and landscaping improvements across the whole site with associated woodland management plan.”***
- 1.3 New England Quarry is located at National Grid reference SX595 548 (as shown on **Drawing 0350/01**). The northern extent of the site is located immediately to the south of Lee Mill and the A38 road, the principal route between Plymouth and Exeter. It lies also approximately 2km to the south west of Ivybridge.
- 1.4 The site is situated within the District of South Hams and within two Parish Councils: the access road lies within Sparkwell Parish, and the buildings and landfill element are within Yealmpton Parish.
- 1.5 The proposed scheme seeks to secure a sustainable solution to waste management within the South West Devon area, including Plymouth and Torbay, which will ensure compliance with prevailing international, regional and local waste policies. The Centre will assist the local authorities of the area to meet their requirements to achieve sustainable waste management targets by accepting residual waste generated within the sub-region.
- 1.6 Using this as the starting point, the preparation of the EIA has been undertaken with reference on the basis of the site’s allocation in the Adopted Devon Waste Local Plan as being appropriate for the potential development of *“non-hazardous and inert landfill, energy from waste, MBT/BMT, MRF and waste transfer facilities, greenwaste and mixed waste composting and inert waste recycling”*, and the Scoping exercise that has shaped the content, range and analysis included within the ES.
- 1.7 The total application site (shown edged red on **Drawing 0350/02**) area occupies some 30.7 hectares within which there are five key elements, which are summarised below:
- An access road;
 - Material Recycling facility;
 - Energy from Waste Facility;
 - Incinerator Bottom Ash Recycling Facility; and

- A non hazardous landfill.

Access Road

- 1.8 A new access road will connect the A38 at Lee Mill with the development area. The road will be 1.3km in length, ranges between 4 and 8 metres in width, and will be tarmacadamed for its entire length. The access road will also bridge the River Yealm, which lies to the west of the access road.

Waste Reception Building

- 1.9 The proposed Waste Reception Building will occupy the north-eastern part of the site and providing a large, flexible internal space which will enable a wide range of recycling options to be implemented as required by the market.
- 1.10 The size of the building will, for example, will allow for the separate reception of residual municipal and commercial & industrial (C&I) wastes to facilitate more efficient processing, shredding and recovery (where necessary).

Energy from Waste Facility

- 1.11 It is proposed to construct a facility that will generate energy and heat from the treatment by combustion of up to 275,000 tonnes of residual waste per annum within a purpose built, fully enclosed building. The waste will be made up from residual Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and residual Commercial and Industrial Waste (C&I) sourced from within the South-West Devon area.
- 1.12 The EfW facility will generate in the region of 25 Mega Watts (MW) of electricity for supply to the National Grid. In addition, Viridor has entered into negotiations with a number of potential local users of the heat in respect of industrial, commercial and residential developments.

Incinerator Bottom Ash Facility

- 1.13 It is proposed that Incinerator Bottom Ash, a by-product of the combustion process, will be treated and recycled to produce aggregate material at an on site plant adjoining the EfW. The material will be moved from the EfW via a covered conveyor to the bottom ash facility.
- 1.14 The bottom ash material is wet on leaving the EfW and needs to be matured and turned for between 4-6 weeks before it can be processed for aggregate. At full capacity it is estimated that the plant will produce approximately 62,000 tpa of recycled aggregate for the local market.

Non –Hazardous Landfill

- 1.15 The proposed landfill will be fully engineered and contained, and has been designed to accommodate a total of some 825,000 tonnes of non-hazardous waste. The input rate will be approximately 35,000 tonnes per annum, based

on a multi-cell design. The landfill will accommodate principally material that is unable to be combusted.

- 1.16 Further details of each of these elements of the proposal are set out in full at Section 2 below

THE APPLICANT

- 1.17 The proposed facility will be owned and operated by Viridor. Viridor, owned by the Pennon Group, is part of a major PLC that is focused on the water and waste management industries. Viridor is one of the UK's leading waste management companies and operates 25 regional landfill sites, numerous regional recycling facilities and over 200 waste processing sites throughout the UK. The Company is at the forefront of high quality environmental performance and over 100 of its operational centres are accredited to the ISO14001 Environmental Management System, the highest recognised international industry standard.

- 1.18 Waste management services offered by Viridor include:

- Materials Recycling Facilities (MRF);
- Bulking and transfer stations
- Materials collection
- Glass reprocessing
- Composting (Windrow and In-vessel)
- Waste treatment
- Transportation
- Household Waste Recycling Centres
- Product destruction/recovery
- Residual waste disposal
- Landfill gas utilisation
- Energy from Waste (EfW)

BENEFITS OF THE DEVELOPMENT

- 1.19 The proposal for a Resource Recovery Centre at New England has the potential to make a fundamental contribution to waste management throughout South West Devon. The introduction of the EfW process into the region will result in a move away from reliance on landfill as the means of disposing of waste, towards a system by which residual waste (i.e. pre-sorted waste) is effectively and efficiently dealt with by means of an industrial combustion process. It will also generate significant amounts of energy.

- 1.20 The need for a facility of this nature reflects the significant changes to the way in which the United Kingdom is planning to treat its waste. The adoption of the EC Framework Directive for Waste 75/442/EEC (as amended by EC Directives 91/156/EEC and 91/692/EEC) has been implemented in England by means of a variety of national policy documents and at a more local level by Regional and County Waste Policies.

The Resource Recovery Facility proposed at New England will provide:

- an integrated solution to sustainable waste management provision;
- a safe and sustainable alternative to landfill for locally created wastes after the materials that can be recycled have been removed;
- up to 25 Megawatts of electricity a year to be exported to the National Grid;
- for national targets on landfill diversion to be met;
- the redevelopment of previously disturbed land; and
- up to 40 - 50 permanent jobs plus further contract/temporary employment.

REQUIREMENT FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1.21 The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999, as amended by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2000 (hereafter jointly referred to as the EIA Regulations) implement Council Directive No 85/337/EEC (as amended) on the assessment of the potential effects of specified development proposals on the environment. The EIA Regulations require that prior to the grant of a planning permission in respect of any proposal to which the EIA Regulations apply, an EIA is required. The responsibility for compiling information regarding environmental effects lies with the developer, and the information is presented as an 'Environmental Statement'.

1.22 The EIA Regulations specify the types of development for which an EIA is mandatory (Schedule 1 Projects) and categories of development where an EIA may be required (Schedule 2 Projects). In connection with the proposal at New England, it is considered to be a Schedule 1 development as specified in Category 10 of the Regulations:

"...waste disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment (as defined in Annex IIA to Directive 75/442/EEC (a) under heading D9) of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 100 tonnes per day."

1.23 Accordingly Viridor has commissioned SLR Consulting Limited (SLR) to prepare an ES to accompany the planning application. SLR is a multi-disciplinary environmental consultant to, amongst others, the minerals and waste management industries, and also provides advice to local authorities and the Environment Agency on strategic issues. SLR is a registered Environmental Impact Assessor Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA).

- 1.24 The ES is intended to provide the waste planning authority (i.e. Devon County Council) with sufficient information to determine the planning application having due regard to the protection of the local amenity and the environment as a whole.

SCOPING EXERCISE

- 1.25 Having established that an ES is required to be prepared to accompany the proposed scheme, the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England & Wales) Regulations 1999 (EIA Regulations) stipulate that Viridor may make a request for a formal Scoping Opinion (Part IV Regulation 10).

- 1.26 A formal request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations was submitted to Devon Council (DC) on 26th March 2009. This enabled the Authority to gain an initial understanding of the project and to undertake a scoping exercise with internal consultees and third-party bodies.

- 1.27 A copy of the "Request for a Scoping Opinion Report" (March 2009) is included in full at Appendix 1-1 accompanied by the covering letter to the Authority. In accordance with Regulation 10(2), the request for the Scoping Opinion was accompanied by:

*"(a) a plan sufficient to identify the land;
(b) a brief description of the nature and purpose of the development and of its possible effects on the environment; and
(c) such other information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make."*

- 1.28 The key environmental issues associated with the scheme that were considered to be relevant to the scope of the EIA were as follows:

- Air Quality (including health);
- Landscape & Visual Impact;
- Transportation;
- Noise;
- Ground Conditions;
- Water Environment;
- Nature Conservation;
- Cultural Heritage;
- Needs & Alternatives;
- Socio-Economic Assessment; and
- Cumulative Impact.

- 1.29 In addition, the following issues are those that although technically outside of the remit of the EIA are a necessary element of the planning application. As such the Scoping Request considered these as well:

- Design and Access Statement;
- Sustainability Assessment including Carbon Footprint; and
- Policy Review.

INTRODUCTION 1

- 1.30 Following a consultation exercise that involved a number of statutory and non-statutory organisations, DCC issued the Scoping Opinion on 25 June 2009. The full response, including supporting information provided by the various consultees is included at Appendix 1-2.
- 1.31 The key responses are illustrated in Table 1-1 below:

INTRODUCTION 1

Table 1-1 Summary of Scoping Responses

	Air Quality	Landscape /Visual Impact	Traffic	Nature conservation	Access Road	Noise	Human Health	Flood Risk/ Hydrology	Hydrogeology	Need	Alternative Sites	Technology	Socio - Economic	RIGS	Energy Issues	Bottom Ash	Fly Ash	Dust/Odour	Sherford De	BREEAM	No Comment	Public Access	Services
Brixton Parish Council			•	•				•															
Ivybridge Town Council	•																						
Sparkwell Parish Council			•										•										
Yealmpton Parish Council		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						•								
South Hams D.C. Planning															•								
South Hams D.C. EHO	•		•			•	•									•	•	•					
Plymouth CC: Planning		•	•	•							•		•						•	•			
Dartmoor National Park Authority				•																			
Environment Agency	•			•			•	•	•			•			•	•	•	•					
Highways Agency			•																				
Natural England	•	•		•				•	•														
Health Protection Agency	•						•																
H.M.I.Q																					•		
SW RDA													•										
South Devon AONB Unit	•	•						•	•													•	
South West Water																							•
CABE																					•		•

INTRODUCTION 1

- 1.32 In addition to the formal scoping exercise, extensive liaison has been undertaken with a range of organisations whose interests may be affected by the proposal, or whom are well placed to advise on the scope of works and/or the degree of baseline information required. It should be noted that this scoping process does not seek to garner opinion of the appropriateness of the development, but is an important part of determining the extent and nature of any studies and assessment. Those contacted include:
- South Hams District Council
 - Plymouth City Council
 - Dartmoor National Park Authority
 - Yealmpton Parish Council
 - Sparkwell Parish Council
 - Brixton Parish Council
 - Ivybridge Town Council
 - Highways Agency
 - Natural England
 - The Environment Agency
 - Health and Safety Executive
 - Government Office for the South West (Defra)
- 1.33 Additional non statutory consultations were undertake with:
- Devon Primary Care Trust
 - Devon Wildlife Trust
 - South Devon AONB Partnership
 - Western Power Distribution
 - South West England Regional Development Agency
- 1.34 The iterative nature of the design process has required the EIA to respond accordingly. In a similar fashion, the results of the EIA have shaped and influenced the design of the facility and the process. The resulting ES accurately and comprehensively reflects the proposed development.
- 1.35 The Planning Application, Environmental Statement and accompanying documents have taken full account of DCC's Scoping Opinion. In order to provide a convenient reference point, Appendix 1-3 includes a Response to the Scoping Opinion and identifies how and where each of the issues raised has been addressed within the Application.

THE PLANNING APPLICATION & ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

- 1.36 In accordance with the Regulations, and as a result of the Scoping exercise, this ES accompanies the formal Planning Application and is one of three volumes. In total the submission consists of the following:
- **Volume 1 Planning Application**
 - Application forms;

- Ownership certificates;
- Supporting Statement; and
- Application Appendices
- A Design and Access Statement is also submitted as a separate document.

- **Volume 2 Application Drawings**, illustrating:
 - site and location;
 - full architectural details;
 - landscape management plans; and
 - phased landfill details.

- **Volumes 3a, 3b and 3c Environmental Statement (ES)** report the findings of the EIA and is presented as follows:
 - **Section 1:** Introduction;

 - **Sections 2 to 5:** This part is essentially descriptive in nature setting out an overview of the Site and the surrounding area. It also describes the proposed development; assesses the planning context of the Site and concludes by reviewing the alternatives considered as part of the design and planning process.

 - **Sections 6 to 13** describe the findings of the EIA. For each subject area the relevant data and background information is provided and the potential impacts are predicted and assessed. Environmental design measures are reviewed, mitigations measures area recommended, where appropriate, and any residual impacts are considered. The specific issues considered are:
 - Section 6 Traffic and Transportation
 - Section 7 Air Quality
 - Section 8 Noise and Vibration
 - Section 9 Hydrology and Hydrogeology
 - Section 10 Land Quality
 - Section 11 Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment
 - Section 12 Ecology
 - Section 13 Cultural Heritage

 - **Sections 14 to 19** consider those elements that are not directly environmental issues (such as socio-economic impacts) as well as drawing together the outcome of the EIA process:
 - Section 14 Climate Change
 - Section 15 Socio-Economic Impacts
 - Section 16 Human Health and Amenity
 - Section 17 Mitigation
 - Section 18 Residual & Cumulative Impacts
 - Section 19 Conclusions

INTRODUCTION 1

- 1.37 A **Non-Technical Summary** (NTS) of the ES has been produced as a separate document. This provides, in non-technical language, a brief summary of the proposed development together with the likely effects it will have on the environment. The NTS is available, free of charge from, SLR Consulting Limited at the address detailed in the NTS. A “pdf” version of all documents is available at www.viridor-consultation.co.uk/newengland.
- 1.38 In order to maximise the entire content has also been posted on the dedicated web-site and can be downloaded free of charge. A disk of the content will also be available from the offices of SLR Consulting Limited at Fulmar House, Beignon Close, Ocean Way, Cardiff CF24 5HF for £5.00.
- 1.39 The full set of paper application documents will also be available for purchase from the same address as above upon payment of £250.00 (incl. postage). It should be noted that this fee covers the cost of printing a document of this nature.