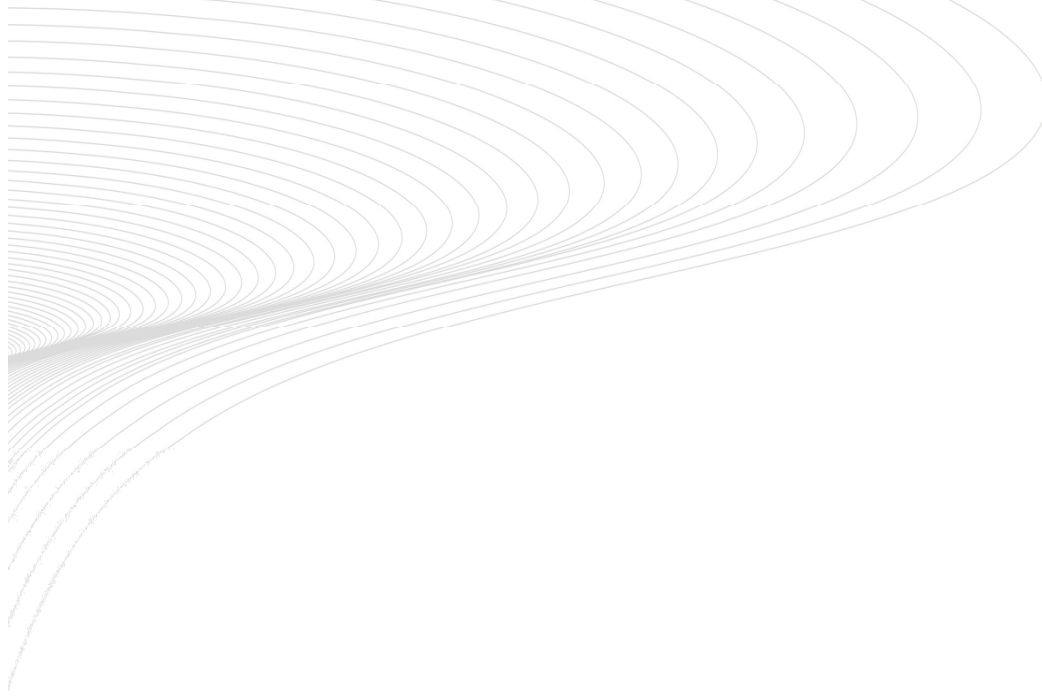


SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS 18

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS 18



INTRODUCTION

- 18.1 This Supporting Statement has been prepared in support of a planning application by Viridor for the New England Resource Recovery Centre near Lee Mill, Devon. The facility will accept approximately 275,000 tonnes of residual waste each year from residents and businesses across South West Devon and includes an Energy from Waste facility, waste reception building, incinerator bottom ash recycling, and a non-hazardous landfill.
- 18.2 This Environmental Statement submitted with the application includes the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment which has considered the full range of environmental issues identified by the scoping exercise. This extensive exercise included formal scoping with the planning authority, and subsequent engagement with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders. The assessments have focused on potential impacts on the site itself and the surrounding area.
- 18.3 The assessment process has identified the potential impacts on certain amenity and environmental issues, and has proposed mitigation measures to ensure that there will be no prevailing adverse effects.
- 18.4 The findings of the EIA for the facility concluded that having taken into account the proposed mitigation the effects of the development are not considered to be significant. The impacts which could be considered to be most contentious (air quality/human health, landscape and visual, traffic, flood risk and nature conservation) have been fully mitigated as a result of the iterative design process and through careful consideration of emissions control and abatement techniques and high quality architectural and landscape design.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- 18.5 In respect of **air quality**, a comprehensive assessment has concluded that the impact of emissions from the proposed development and associated traffic will not give rise to adverse air quality effects for either human or ecological receptors in either the short-term or the long-term.
- 18.6 This conclusion is reached in the context of the limits imposed by the Waste Incineration Directive (WID) and the mitigation measures that will be implemented at the site will mean that the operation of the plant is likely to generate emissions significantly below WID emission limits.
- 18.7 A comprehensive **landscape and visual impact** assessment has been prepared. The proposed development is located largely on a site that has been subject to significant disturbance through quarrying and landfill activities. The scale and design of the building have taken into account its location in this context as well as the surrounding environment. Additional mitigation is offered in the form of on-site and off-site landscaping measures

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that enhance the interest in the appearance and have the potential to increase nature conservation.

- 18.8 In **transport** terms, the assessment has considered the night time noise, vibration, driver severance & delay, pedestrian severance and delay, accidents & safety, hazardous & dangerous loads, and dust and dirt. The conclusion reached in respect of each criterion is that either there is no adverse impact, or that with the application of appropriate mitigation measures, there will be no adverse impacts.
- 18.9 The potential impact of the proposed development on the **flood plain** associated with the River Yealm has been assessed. The conclusion has been reached that there are no flood related issues that are unable to be mitigated into the design of the site and that there is therefore no risk to the development during its operational life.
- 18.10 In respect of **nature conservation**, notwithstanding an extant permission for the continued and extended quarrying of the site (and adjoining land to the east), it is acknowledged that there are a number of protected species and habitats in and around the site, and a raft of mitigation measures has been proposed. The result is that the development will provide opportunities for ecological enhancement through habitat creation and long-term mitigation and monitoring of retained and created habitats.
- 18.11 The potential impact of the development in respect of issues such as noise, ground conditions, and cultural heritage has also subject to detailed assessments. The conclusion in respect of each of these is that the nature of the development and the design process will ensure that there are no adverse impacts in respect of these issues.
- 18.12 In terms of carbon footprint, the assessment has demonstrated that the Facility will have a negative carbon footprint. This overall reduction in carbon emissions will make a significant contribution to reducing the emission footprint of waste management, especially in comparison to the current waste disposal route.
- 18.13 In taking account of the proposed mitigation, it is therefore concluded that the effects of the development are not considered to be significant.

BENEFITS

- 18.14 On the basis that there are no adverse environmental impacts, the appropriateness of the proposed development must be considered in terms of the potential benefits. These include:
- The facility will provide much needed recycling and resource recovery capacity for local businesses and authorities to allow them to improve environmental performance and reduce costs through the avoidance of landfill and landfill tax;

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- The facility will maximise the recovery of resources through the production of energy in the form of electricity and potentially heat;
- The effective implementation of site specific objectives of the Waste Local Plan;
- The facility will generate approximately 25MW of electricity for export to the National Grid, maximising the recovery of resources and contributing to energy security for the area;
- The facility is in compliance with national, regional and local planning policies for siting waste management facilities and will enable national, regional and local waste and recovery targets to be met;
- Will satisfy the principle of sub-regional self sufficiency helping the South West Devon sub-region to be at the forefront of sustainable waste management;
- The facility will provide approximately 40 permanent jobs and in the region of 200 or more temporary jobs during the 3 year construction period; and
- Enable the local economy to benefit from additional employment and be sustained by wages and salaries received and spent in the local economy by people directly employed on the operational side.

OVERALL SUMMARY

- 18.15 The facility will make a significant beneficial contribution to waste management in South West Devon, ensuring that residents and businesses meet their obligations to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill. The proposed development is entirely in accordance with the prevailing development plan and will ensure that the policies included therein can be effectively implemented. The application of this technology is proven throughout the UK and Europe and will not compromise recycling rates.
- 18.16 The proposal is in compliance with the intentions of national and local authorities to promote sustainable methods of waste management and the Resource Recovery Centre proposed at New England will deliver the infrastructure required to drive forward sustainable waste management in South West Devon.