

Determination of an Application for an Environmental Permit under the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2016

Decision document recording our decision-making process

The Permit Number is: EPR/UP3708SB/A001

The Applicant / Operator is: Bridgwater Resource Recovery Limited

The Installation is located at: Bridgwater Resource Recovery Facility, Showground Road, Bridgwater, Somerset. TA6 6AJ

What this document is about

This is a decision document, which accompanies a permit.

It explains how we have considered the Applicant's Application, and why we have included the specific conditions in the permit we are proposing to issue to the Applicant. It is our record of our decision-making process, to show how we have taken into account all relevant factors in reaching our position. Unless the document explains otherwise, we have accepted the Applicant's proposals.

We try to explain our decision as accurately, comprehensively and plainly as possible. Achieving all three objectives is not always easy, and we would welcome any feedback as to how we might improve our decision documents in future. A lot of technical terms and acronyms are inevitable in a document of this nature: we provide a glossary of acronyms near the front of the document, for ease of reference.

Preliminary information and use of terms

We gave the application the reference number EPR/UP3708SB/A001. We refer to the application as "the **Application**" in this document in order to be consistent.

The number we propose to give to the permit is EPR/UP3708SB. We refer to the proposed permit as "the **Permit**" in this document.

The Application was duly made on 12/10/2020.

The Applicant is Bridgwater Resource Recovery Limited. We refer to Bridgwater Resource Recovery Limited as “the **Applicant**” in this document. Where we are talking about what would happen after the Permit is granted (if that is our final decision), we call Bridgwater Resource Recovery Limited “the **Operator**”.

Bridgwater Resource Recovery Limited proposed facility is located at Showground Road, Bridgwater, Somerset. TA6 6AJ . We refer to this as “the **Installation**” in this document.

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Glossary of acronyms used in this document

(Please note that this glossary is standard for our decision documents and therefore not all these acronyms are necessarily used in this document.)

AAD	Ambient Air Directive (2008/50/EC)
APC	Air Pollution Control
AQS	Air Quality Strategy
BAT	Best Available Technique(s)
BAT-AEL	BAT Associated Emission Level
BREF	Best Available Techniques (BAT) Reference Documents for Waste Incineration
BAT C	BAT conclusions
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
CEM	Continuous emissions monitor
CFD	Computerised fluid dynamics
CHP	Combined heat and power
COMEAP	Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants
CROW	Countryside and rights of way Act 2000
CV	Calorific value
CW	Clinical waste
CWI	Clinical waste incinerator
DAA	Directly associated activity – Additional activities necessary to be carried out to allow the principal activity to be carried out
DD	Decision document
EAL	Environmental assessment level
EIAD	Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC)
ELV	Emission limit value
EMAS	EU Eco Management and Audit Scheme
EMS	Environmental Management System
EPR	Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (SI 2016 No. 1154) as amended
ES	Environmental standard
EWC	European waste catalogue
FGC	Flue gas cleaning
FSA	Food Standards Agency
GWP	Global Warming Potential

HHRAP	Human Health Risk Assessment Protocol
HPA	Health Protection Agency (now PHE – Public Health England)
HRA	Human Rights Act 1998
HW	Hazardous waste
HWI	Hazardous waste incinerator
IBA	Incinerator Bottom Ash
IED	Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU)
IPPCD	Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive (2008/1/EC) – now superseded by IED
I-TEF	Toxic Equivalent Factors set out in Annex VI Part 2 of IED
I-TEQ	Toxic Equivalent Quotient calculated using I-TEF
LCV	Lower calorific value – also termed net calorific value
LfD	Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC)
LADPH	Local Authority Director(s) of Public Health
LOI	Loss on Ignition
MBT	Mechanical biological treatment
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
MWI	Municipal waste incinerator
NO _x	Oxides of nitrogen (NO plus NO ₂ expressed as NO ₂)
OTNOC	Other than normal operating conditions
PAH	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
PC	Process Contribution
PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyls
PEC	Predicted Environmental Concentration
PHE	Public Health England
POP(s)	Persistent organic pollutant(s)
PPS	Public participation statement
PR	Public register
PXDD	Poly-halogenated di-benzo-p-dioxins
PXB	Poly-halogenated biphenyls
PXDF	Poly-halogenated di-benzo furans
RDF	Refuse derived fuel
RGS	Regulatory Guidance Series

SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCR	Selective catalytic reduction
SGN	Sector guidance note
SHPI(s)	Site(s) of High Public Interest
SNCR	Selective non-catalytic reduction
SPA(s)	Special Protection Area(s)
SS	Sewage sludge
SSSI(s)	Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest
SWMA	Specified waste management activity
TDI	Tolerable daily intake
TEF	Toxic Equivalent Factors
TGN	Technical guidance note
TOC	Total Organic Carbon
UHV	Upper heating value –also termed gross calorific value
UN_ECE	United Nations Environmental Commission for Europe
US EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
WFD	Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)
WHO	World Health Organisation
WID	Waste Incineration Directive (2000/76/EC) – now superseded by IED

1 Our proposed decision

We have decided to grant the Permit to the Applicant. This will allow it to operate the Installation, subject to the conditions in the Permit.

We consider that, in reaching that decision, we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the permit will ensure that a high level of protection is provided for the environment and human health.

This Application is to operate an installation which is subject principally to the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

The Permit contains many conditions taken from our standard Environmental Permit template including the relevant Annexes. We developed these conditions in consultation with industry, having regard to the legal requirements of the Environmental Permitting Regulations and other relevant legislation. This document does not therefore include an explanation for these standard conditions. Where they are included in the permit, we have considered the Application and accepted the details are sufficient and satisfactory to make the standard condition appropriate. This document does, however, provide an explanation of our use of “tailor-made” or installation-specific conditions, or where our Permit template provides two or more options.

2 How we reached our decision

2.1 Receipt of Application

The Application was duly made on 12/10/2020. This means we considered it was in the correct form and contained sufficient information for us to begin our determination but not that it necessarily contained all the information we would need to complete that determination: see below.

The Applicant made no claim for commercial confidentiality. We have not received any information in relation to the Application that appears to be confidential in relation to any party.

2.2 Consultation on the Application

We carried out consultation on the Application in accordance with the EPR, our statutory PPS and our own internal guidance RGS Note 6 for Determinations involving Sites of High Public Interest. We consider that this process satisfies, and frequently goes beyond the requirements of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, which are directly incorporated into the IED, which applies to the Installation and the Application. We have also taken into account our obligations under the Local Democracy,

Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (particularly Section 23). This requires us, where we consider it appropriate, to take such steps as we consider appropriate to secure the involvement of representatives of interested persons in the exercise of our functions, by providing them with information, consulting them or involving them in any other way. In this case, our consultation already satisfies the Act's requirements.

We advertised the Application by a notice placed on our website, which contained all the information required by the IED, including telling people where and when they could see a copy of the Application. We also placed an advertisement in the Bridgwater Mercury on 17th November 2020.

We made a copy of the Application and all other documents relevant to our determination (see below) available to view on our Citizen Space portal on the .gov.uk website.

We sent copies of the Application to the following bodies, which includes those with whom we have "Working Together Agreements":

- Public Health England
- Local Director of Public Health
- Local Planning Authority
- Local Authority Environmental Services
- Health And Safety Executive
- Local Fire and Rescue Department
- Food Standards Agency
- Local Sewage Provider

These are bodies whose expertise, democratic accountability and/or local knowledge make it appropriate for us to seek their views directly. Note under our Working Together Agreement with Natural England, we only inform Natural England of the results of our assessment of the impact of the installation on designated Habitats sites.

In addition to our advertising the Application, we sent a briefing note to other interested parties including the local MP. Further details along with a summary of consultation comments and our response to the representations we received can be found in Annex 4. We have taken all relevant representations into consideration in reaching our determination.

In addition to consulting on the Application we also conducted a consultation on our draft decision. This was conducted between 09/06/2021 and 07/07/2021. The draft permit and decision document were made available to view on the .gov.uk website and our citizen space portal. Further details along with a summary of consultation comments and our response to the representations we received can be found in Annex 4.

2.3 Requests for Further Information

Although we were able to consider the Application duly made, we did in fact need more information in order to determine it, and issued an information notice on 04/01/2021 (response received 15/02/2021 & 16/02/2021). We also asked following up questions relating to the notice on 04/03/2021 (response received 12/03/2021 & 20/04/2021). A copy of the information notice, request for follow up information and the responses were placed on our public register.

In addition to our information notices, we received additional information during the determination, the information was as follows:

- Received 8th and 16th December 2020 – additional information in support of the Noise Impact Assessment.
- Received 25th February 2021 – additional information on changes to site layout and noise impact assessment.

We made a copy of this information available to the public in the same way as the responses to our information notice.

Following the consultation we received an update to the Noise Impact Assessment. Whilst we were already satisfied with the Applicant's proposals the further information was requested to provide further clarification in response to some of the comments raised during the consultation. The information was received on 14/07/2021. The information requested was not considered extensive and/or significant enough as to require any further specific consultation.

3 The legal framework

The Permit is granted, under Regulation 13 of the EPR. The Environmental Permitting regime is a legal vehicle which delivers most of the relevant legal requirements for activities falling within its scope. In particular, the regulated facility is:

- an installation and a waste incineration plant as described by the IED;
- an operation covered by the WFD, and
- subject to aspects of other relevant legislation which also have to be addressed.

We address some of the major legal requirements directly where relevant in the body of this document. Other requirements are covered in a section towards the end of this document.

We consider that it will ensure that the operation of the Installation complies with all relevant legal requirements and that a high level of protection will be delivered for the environment and human health.

We explain how we have addressed specific statutory requirements more fully in the rest of this document.

4 The Installation

4.1 Description of the Installation and related issues

4.1.1 The permitted activities

The Installation is subject to the EPR because it carries out an activity listed in Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the EPR:

- Section 5.1 Part A(1)(b) – incineration of non-hazardous waste in a waste incineration plant or waste co-incineration plant with a capacity of 3 tonnes or more per hour.

The IED definition of “waste incineration plants” and “waste co-incineration plants” says that it includes:

“all incineration lines or co-incineration lines, waste reception, storage, on-site pre-treatment facilities, waste, fuel and air supply systems, boilers, facilities for the treatment of waste gases, on-site facilities for treatment or storage of residues and waste water, stacks, devices for controlling incineration or co-incineration operations, recording and monitoring incineration or co-incineration conditions.”

Many activities which would normally be categorised as “directly associated activities” for EPR purposes (see below), such as air pollution control plant and the ash storage bunker, are therefore included in the listed activity description.

An installation may also comprise “directly associated activities”, which at this Installation includes the generation of electricity using a steam turbine and a back up electricity generator for emergencies. These activities comprise one installation, because the incineration plant and the steam turbine are successive steps in an integrated activity.

Together, these listed and directly associated activities comprise the Installation.

4.1.2 The Site

The application site is located within an industrial area on land off Showground Road to the south-west of Bridgwater in Somerset. The site is to the north of M5 motorway, and west of the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal.

The Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar; Somerset Levels and Moors SPA and Ramsar and Hestercombe SAC are located within 10km of installation, and there are several local wildlife sites within 2km.

The Applicant submitted a plan which we consider is satisfactory, showing the site of the Installation and its extent. A plan is included in Schedule 7 to the Permit, and the Operator is required to carry on the permitted activities within the site boundary.

Further information on the site is addressed below at 4.3.

4.1.3 What the Installation does

The Applicant has described the facility as a Resource Recovery Facility. Our view is that for the purposes of IED (in particular Chapter IV) and EPR, the installation is a waste incineration plant because:

Notwithstanding the fact that energy will be recovered from the process; the process is never the less 'incineration' because it is considered that its main purpose is the thermal treatment of waste.

The key features of the Installation can be summarised in the table below.

Waste throughput, Tonnes/line	122,640 /annum	14te/hour
Waste processed	RDF	
Number of lines	1	
Furnace technology	Grate	
Auxiliary Fuel	Diesel	
Acid gas abatement	Dry	Magnesium lime & lime
NOx abatement	SNCR & SCR	Urea
Reagent consumption	Auxiliary Fuel 85 te/annum Urea : 1000 te/annum Lime/Magnesium Lime :1360/ 960 te/annum Activated carbon: 92 te/annum Process water: 60,000te/annum	
Flue gas recirculation	Yes	
Dioxin abatement	Activated carbon	
Stack	Grid Reference (OS x,y) 331031.3,135041.0	
	Height, 40 m	Diameter, 1.50 m
Flue gas	Flow, Nm ³ /s – 21.26	Velocity, m/s – 19.14
	Temperature °C - 190	
Electricity generated	Approx 9.58 MWe	MWh
Electricity exported	Approx 7.75 MWe	MWh

4.1.4 Key Issues in the Determination

The key issues arising during this determination were emissions to air and noise and we therefore describe how we determined these issues in most detail in this document.

4.2 The site and its protection

4.2.1 Site setting, layout and history

The site is located off Showground Road, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 6AJ. The centre of the site is at National Grid Reference ST30970 35064. The facility site is located off an existing industrial state on vacant land, approximately 2km south of Bridgwater town centre. The site adjacent to the M5 and close to the Bridgwater canal and railway line to the north-east. According to the site condition report submitted with the Application the proposed installation is located on a previously grassed open field without any obvious use apart from possible occasional animal grazing. Historical records of the site and surrounding area, dating back to 1888, show that the site has been in agricultural use up to the present day.

4.2.2 Proposed site design: potentially polluting substances and prevention measures

Under Article 22(2) of the IED the Applicant is required to provide a baseline report containing at least the information set out in paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Article before starting operation.

The Applicant has submitted a site condition report which includes a report on the baseline conditions as required by Article 22. We have reviewed that report and consider that it adequately describes the condition of the soil and groundwater prior to the start of operations.

The baseline report is an important reference document in the assessment of contamination that might arise during the operational lifetime of the installation and at cessation of activities at the installation

4.2.3 Closure and decommissioning

Having considered the information submitted in the Application, we are satisfied that the appropriate measures will be in place for the closure and decommissioning of the Installation, as referred to in Section 8 'Site Closure' of the Operating Techniques document submitted with the Application. Pre-operational condition PO1 requires the Operator to have an Environmental Management System in place before the Installation is operational, and this will include a site closure plan.

At the definitive cessation of activities, the Operator has to satisfy us that the necessary measures have been taken so that the site ceases to pose a risk to soil or groundwater, taking into accounts both the baseline conditions and the

site's current or approved future use. To do this, the Operator will apply to us for surrender of the permit, which we will not grant unless and until we are satisfied that these requirements have been met.

4.3 Operation of the Installation – general issues

4.3.1 Administrative issues

The Applicant is the sole Operator of the Installation.

We are satisfied that the Applicant is the person who will have control over the operation of the Installation after the granting of the Permit; and that the Applicant will be able to operate the Installation so as to comply with the conditions included in the Permit.

4.3.2 Management

The Applicant has stated in the Application that it is their intention to implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) that will be certified under ISO14001. A pre-operational condition (PO1) is included requiring the Operator to provide a summary of the EMS prior to commissioning of the plant and to make available for inspection all EMS documentation. The Environment Agency recognises that certification of the EMS cannot take place until the Installation is operational. An improvement condition (IC1) is included requiring the Operator to report progress towards gaining accreditation of its EMS.

We are satisfied that appropriate management systems and management structures will be in place for this Installation, and that sufficient resources are available to the Operator to ensure compliance with all the Permit conditions.

4.3.3 Site security

Having considered the information submitted in the Application, we are satisfied that appropriate infrastructure and procedures will be in place to ensure that the site remains secure.

4.3.4 Accident management

The Applicant has submitted an Accident Management Plan (called and Accident Prevention Plan in the Application). Having considered the Plan and other information submitted in the Application, we are satisfied that appropriate measures will be in place to ensure that accidents that may cause pollution are prevented but that, if they should occur, their consequences are minimised.

The Applicant submitted a Fire Prevention Plan. We have approved this plan and incorporated this within the operating techniques table S1.2 meaning that

the site has to follow the techniques described in the plan as required under condition 3.8.1 of the permit.

We are satisfied that appropriate measures will be in place to prevent fires and to minimise the impact from a fire it was to occur.

4.3.5 Off-site conditions

We do not consider that any off-site conditions are necessary.

4.3.6 Operating techniques

We have specified that the Applicant must operate the Installation in accordance with the following documents contained in the Application:

Description	Parts Included
The Application	<p>The response to questions 3, 4 and Appendix 6 of the application form Part B3.</p> <p>Non-technical summary (H171P-G9-00-0018-02); Operating techniques report (H171P-G9-00-0019-03); Dust management plan (H171P-G9-00-0021-02); Environmental management system summary (H171P-G9-00-0023-02); Environmental risk assessment (H171P-G9-00-0026-02); Air quality assessment for permitting (H171P-G9-00-0033-03); Air quality abnormal operations assessment (H171P-G9-00-0712-01); Air quality human health risk assessment (H171P-G9-00-0713-01); Waste minimisation statement (H171P-G9-00-0708-01); Accident Management and Prevention Plan (H171P-G9-00-0709-01); Noise impact assessment (H171-G9-00-0710-01); Raw materials inventory (H171P-G9-00-0974-02); Emissions to air discharges point layout (H171P-G9-00-1080-00); Foul water drainage – general layout (H171P-ID-0D-0390-00); Oily water drainage – general layout (H171P-ID-0D-0393-00); Chemical Water drainage – general layout (H171P-ID-0D-0396-00); RDF water drainage – general layout (H171P-ID-0D-399-00); Raw and waste water balance scheme (H171P-TH-00-0000-03); CFD Report-residence time in post combustion chamber (H171P-TR-04-0056-00); Greenhouse gas assessment (H171P-GP-00-1139-00); Site condition report (H171-G9-00-0017-02); Cost benefit analysis (H171P-G9-00-0024-02).</p>
Response to Schedule 5 Notice dated 04/01/2021	<p>Schedule 5 response document (H171P-G9-00-2984-00); IBA Storage and handling methodologies (H171P-G9-04-2929) Secondary containment systems report (H171P-GR-00-2980); Heat & mass balance and energy efficiency calculations (H171P-TD-00-0053-02); Best Available Techniques (H171P-G9-00-0022-04); Heat Opportunities Report (H171P-G9-00-0024-03); Fire Prevention Plan (H171P-G9-00-0025-04); Back-up odour suppression system (H171P-G9-00-2930-02); Surface water risk assessment (H171P-G9-00-2982-00) Supplementary HHRA (H171P-G9-00-2983-00)</p>

Additional information received	Additional information on site layout changes
Additional information in response to information request dated 04/03/2021	Response to question 1 & 2; Odour management plan (H171P-G9-00-0020-03); Rain water drainage layout (H171P-ID-0D-0397-06).
Additional information	Air Quality Sensitivity Analysis: Bridgwater Resource Recovery Facility Fuel throughput. April 2021 Report No. J12016A/1/F3.
Additional information received 14/07/2021	Updated Noise Management Plan (H171P-G9-00-0711-01) V2 dated July 2021.

The details set out above describe the techniques that will be used for the operation of the Installation that have been assessed by the Environment Agency as BAT; they form part of the Permit through Permit condition 2.3.1 and Table S1.2 in the Permit Schedules.

We have also specified the following limits and controls on the use of raw materials and fuels:

Raw Material or Fuel	Specifications	Justification
Gas Oil	< 0.1% sulphur content	As required by Sulphur Content of Liquid Fuels Regulations.

Article 45(1) of the IED requires that the Permit must include a list of all types of waste which may be treated using at least the types of waste set out in the European Waste List established by Decision 2005/532/EC, EC, if possible, and containing information on the quantity of each type of waste, where appropriate. The Application contains a list of those wastes coded by the European Waste Catalogue (EWC) number, which the Applicant will accept in the waste streams entering the plant and which the plant is capable of burning in an environmentally acceptable way. We have specified the permitted waste types, descriptions and where appropriate quantities which can be accepted at the installation in Table S2.2.

We are satisfied that the Applicant can accept the wastes contained in Table S2.2 of the Permit because: -

- (i) the wastes are all categorised as non-hazardous in the European Waste Catalogue and are capable of being safely burnt at the installation.
- (ii) these wastes are likely to be within the design calorific value (CV) range for the plant;
- (iii) these wastes are unlikely to contain harmful components that cannot be safely processed at the Installation.

We have limited the capacity of the Installation to 122,640 tonnes per annum. This is based on the installation operating 8760 hours per year at a maximum capacity of approximately 14 tonnes per hour. With the RDF having a CV of 9MJ/kg. However, the Applicant has stated that it is expected that the RDF

will have a typical CV of 11MJ/kg, therefore throughput is expected to be around 114,000 tonnes per annum based on operating 8760 hours per annum.

The Installation will be designed, constructed and operated using BAT for the incineration of the permitted wastes. We are satisfied that the operating and abatement techniques are BAT for incinerating these types of waste. Our assessment of BAT is set out later in this document.

4.3.7 Energy efficiency

(i) Consideration of energy efficiency

We have considered the issue of energy efficiency in the following ways:

1. The use of energy within, and generated by, the Installation which are normal aspects of all EPR permit determinations. This issue is dealt with in this section.
2. The extent to which the Installation meets the requirements of Article 50(5) of the IED, which requires *“the heat generated during the incineration and co-incineration process is recovered as far as practicable through the generation of heat, steam or power”*. This issue is covered in this section.
3. The combustion efficiency and energy utilisation of different design options for the Installation are relevant considerations in the determination of BAT for the Installation, including the Global Warming Potential of the different options. This aspect is covered in the BAT assessment in section 6 of this Decision Document.
4. The extent to which the Installation meets the requirement of Article 14(5) of the Energy Efficiency Directive which requires new thermal electricity generation installations with a total thermal input exceeding 20 MW to carry out a cost-benefit assessment to *“assess the cost and benefits of providing for the operation of the installation as a high-efficiency cogeneration installation”*.

Cogeneration means the simultaneous generation in one process of thermal energy and electrical or mechanical energy and is also known as combined heat and power (CHP)

High-efficiency co-generation is cogeneration which achieves at least 10% savings in primary energy usage compared to the separate generation of heat and power – see Annex II of the Energy Efficiency Directive for detail on how to calculate this.

(ii) Use of energy within the Installation

Having considered the information submitted in the Application, we are satisfied that appropriate measures will be in place to ensure that energy is used efficiently within the Installation.

The Application details a number of measures that will be implemented at the Installation in order to increase its energy efficiency, these include:

- The boiler will be equipped with economisers and super-heaters to optimise thermal cycle efficiency;
- Unnecessary releases of steam and hot water will be avoided to ensure maximum recycling of heat, and also to avoid loss of any chemical used in the treatment of boiler water;
- Heat recovery systems also include the reuse of low grade extracted from the turbine and used the pre-heated combustion air and strip oxygen from boiler feed water in order to improve the efficiency of the thermal cycle;
- Boiler heat exchange surfaces will be cleaned on a regular basis to ensure efficient heat recovery; and
- A secondary economiser will recover heat downstream of the main boiler to heat up the feedwater and increase the thermodynamic efficiency of the whole cycle.

The Application states that the specific energy consumption, a measure of total energy consumed per unit of waste processed, will be 142 kWh/tonne.

The BREF says that electricity consumption is typically between 60 KWh/t and 190 KWh/t depending on the LCV of the waste.

The specific energy consumption in the Application is in line with that set out above.

(iii) Generation of energy within the Installation - Compliance with Article 50(5) of the IED

Article 50(5) of the IED requires that *“the heat generated during the incineration and co-incineration process is recovered as far as practicable”*.

Our CHP Ready Guidance - February 2013 considers that BAT for energy efficiency for Energy from Waste (EfW) plant is the use of CHP in circumstances where there are technically and economically viable opportunities for the supply of heat from the outset.

The term CHP in this context represents a plant which also provides a supply of heat from the electrical power generation process to either a district heating network or to an industrial / commercial building or process. However, it is recognised that opportunities for the supply of heat do not always exist from the outset (i.e. when a plant is first consented, constructed and commissioned).

In cases where there are no immediate opportunities for the supply of heat from the outset, the Environment Agency considers that BAT is to build the plant to be CHP Ready (CHP-R) to a degree which is dictated by the likely future opportunities which are technically viable and which may, in time, also become economically viable.

The BREF says that 0.4 – 0.8 MWh of electricity can be generated per tonne of waste.

Our technical guidance note, SGN EPR S5.01, states that where electricity only is generated, 5-9 MW of electricity should be recoverable per 100,000 tonnes/annum of waste which equates to 0.4 – 0.72 MWh/tonne of waste.

The Installation will generate electricity only and has been specified to maximise electrical output with little or no use of waste heat. Based on the maximum throughput 7.75MW of electricity produced for an annual burn of 122,640 tonnes (based on operating 8760 hours with average cv of waste of 9MJ/kg), which represents 6.32MW per 100,000 tonnes/yr of waste burned. The Installation is therefore within the indicative BAT range.

The Applicant provided a calculation of the gross electrical efficiency and compared it to the BAT AEEL specified in BAT conclusions BAT 20.

The gross electrical efficiency was calculated as 25.31%

The BAT AEEL for gross electrical efficiency is 25-35%

The value calculated by the Applicant is within the expected range for plant of this size.

In accordance with BAT 2 table S3.4 of the Permit requires the gross electrical efficiency to be measured by carrying out a performance test at full load.

The SGN and Chapter IV of the IED both require that, as well as maximising the primary use of heat to generate electricity; waste heat should be recovered as far as practicable.

The location of the Installation largely determines the extent to which waste heat can be utilised, and this is a matter for the planning authority. The Applicant carried out a feasibility study and provided a CHP-R assessment as part of their application, which showed there was potential to provide district heating to local businesses; suitable opportunities are being explored, though there are no firm commitments at this stage. There is provision within the design of the steam turbine to extract low-grade steam for a district heating scheme. Establishing a district heating network to supply local users would involve significant technical, financial and planning challenges such that this is not seen as a practicable proposition at present.

We consider that, within the constraints of the location of the Installation explained above, the Installation will recover heat as far as practicable, and therefore that the requirements of Article 50(5) are met.

(iv) R1 Calculation and the DEFRA Good Quality CHP Scheme

The R1 calculation does not form part of the matters relevant to our determination. It is however a general indicator that the installation is achieving a high level of energy recovery.

The Applicant has presented a calculation of the R1 factor (as defined under the WFD 2008). The R1 formula is a measure of the extent to which energy is recovered from incineration plant. The formula is:

$$R1 = (E_p - (E_f + E_i)) / (0.97 \times (E_w + E_f))$$

Where:

- E_p means annual energy produced as heat or electricity. It is calculated in the form of electricity being multiplied by 2.6 and heat for commercial use being multiplied by 1.1 (GJ/yr).
- E_f means annual energy input to the system from fuels contributing to the production of steam (GJ/yr).
- E_w means annual energy contained in the treated waste calculated using the net calorific value of the waste (GJ/yr).
- E_i means annual energy imported excluding E_w and E_f (GJ/yr)
- 0.97 is a factor accounting for energy losses due to bottom ash and radiation.

Where municipal waste incinerators can achieve an R1 factor of 0.65 or above, the plant will be considered to be a 'recovery activity' for the purposes of the Waste Framework Directive. Again whether or not an installation achieves an R1 score of >0.65 is not a matter directly relevant to this determination. However by being classified as a 'recovery activity' rather than as a 'disposal activity', the Operator could draw financial and other benefits.

The Applicant's assessment calculated an R1 factor of 0.73, so based on the design data provided and presented in the Application, we have concluded it is capable of having an R1 energy efficiency factor equal to or above 0.65.

The R1 factor can only be determined from operational data over a full year. At application stage it is only possible to make a provisional assessment. E_p measures the energy recovered for use from the incinerator. This energy will have been recovered not just from the combustion of waste (E_w), but also from the combustion of the support fuel at start up and shut down and where required to maintain the 850 °C combustion temperature (E_f). E_i is additional energy imported, which will primarily be electricity from the grid. These parameters will depend on the way in which the plant is operated, e.g. number of start ups and shut downs.

Note that the availability or non-availability of financial incentives for renewable energy such as the ROC and RHI schemes is not a consideration in determining this application.

(v) Choice of Steam Turbine

The Applicant confirmed that the steam conditions will be 395 °C and 50 Bar. We are satisfied that this represents BAT in terms of steam conditions to ensure efficient energy recovery.

(vi) Choice of Cooling System

The Applicant has chosen an air cooled cooling (ACC) system. The Applicant compared three potential cooling systems namely cooling by convection, cooling by evaporation and air cooling. Both the cooling by convection and cooling by evaporation require significant volumes of water and ideally a watercourse very nearby to supply the water which is not the case for this Application. Whereas air cooling does not require water. The Applicant has stated that whilst there are disadvantages to ACC such as increased consumption of electricity, they consider ACC systems to be BAT for this application.

We are satisfied that the Applicant's proposed use of ACC is BAT for this site.

(vii) Compliance with Article 14(5) of the Energy Efficiency Directive

The operator has submitted a cost-benefit assessment of opportunities for high efficiency co-generation within 15 km of the installation in which they calculated net present value. If the NPV is positive (i.e. any number more than zero) it means that the investors will make a rate of return that makes the scheme commercially viable. A negative NPV means that the project will not be commercially viable. The Applicant's assessment showed a net present value of -3.57 which demonstrates that operating as a high-efficiency cogeneration installation will not be financially viable. We agree with the applicant's assessment and will not require the installation to operate as a high-efficiency cogeneration installation.

(viii) Permit conditions concerning energy efficiency

Pre-operational condition PO2 requires the Operator to carry out a comprehensive review of the available heat recovery options prior to commissioning, in order to ensure that waste heat from the plant is recovered as far as possible.

Conditions 1.2.2 and 1.2.3 have also been included in the Permit, which require the Operator to review the options available for heat recovery on an ongoing basis, and to provide and maintain the proposed steam/hot water pass-outs.

The Operator is required to report energy usage and energy generated under condition 4.2 and Schedule 5. The following parameters are required to be reported: total electrical energy generated; electrical energy exported; total

energy usage and energy exported as heat (if any). Together with the total MSW burned per year, this will enable the Environment Agency to monitor energy recovery efficiency at the Installation and take action if at any stage the energy recovery efficiency is less than proposed.

There are no site-specific considerations that require the imposition of standards beyond indicative BAT, and so the Environment Agency accepts that the Applicant's proposals represent BAT for this Installation.

4.3.8 Efficient use of raw materials

Having considered the information submitted in the Application, we are satisfied that the appropriate measures will be in place to ensure the efficient use of raw materials and water.

The Operator is required to report with respect to raw material usage under condition 4.2. and Schedule 5, including consumption of lime & magnesium lime, activated carbon and urea used per tonne of waste burned. This will enable the Environment Agency to assess whether there have been any changes in the efficiency of the air pollution control plant, and the operation of the proposed system to abate NO_x. These are the most significant raw materials that will be used at the Installation, other than the waste feed itself (addressed elsewhere). The efficiency of the use of auxiliary fuel will be tracked separately as part of the energy reporting requirement under condition 4.2.1. Optimising reagent dosage for air abatement systems and minimising the use of auxiliary fuels is further considered in the section on BAT.

4.3.9 Avoidance, recovery or disposal with minimal environmental impact of wastes produced by the activities

This requirement addresses wastes produced at the Installation and does not apply to the waste being treated there. The principal waste streams the Installation will produce are bottom ash and air pollution control residues.

The first objective is to avoid producing waste at all. Waste production will be avoided by achieving a high degree of burnout of the ash in the furnace, which results in a material that is both reduced in volume and in chemical reactivity. Condition 3.1.3 and associated Table S3.5 specify limits for total organic carbon (TOC) of <3% / loss on ignition (LOI) of <5% in bottom ash. Compliance with this limit will demonstrate that good combustion control and waste burnout is being achieved in the furnaces and waste generation is being avoided where practicable.

Incinerator bottom ash (IBA) will normally be classified as non-hazardous waste. However, IBA is classified on the European List of Wastes as a "mirror entry", which means IBA is a hazardous waste if it possesses a hazardous property relating to the content of dangerous substances. Monitoring of incinerator ash will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of

Article 53(3) of IED. Classification of IBA for its subsequent use or disposal is controlled by other legislation and so is not duplicated within the permit.

Air pollution control (APC) residues from flue gas treatment are hazardous waste and therefore must be sent for disposal to a landfill site permitted to accept hazardous waste, or to an appropriately permitted facility for hazardous waste treatment. The amount of APC residues is minimised through optimising the performance of the air emissions abatement plant.

In order to ensure that the IBA residues are adequately characterised, pre-operational condition PO3 requires the Operator to provide a written plan for approval detailing the ash sampling protocols. Table S3.5 requires the Operator to carry out an ongoing programme of monitoring.

Having considered the information submitted in the Application, we are satisfied that the waste hierarchy referred to in Article 4 of the WFD will be applied to the generation of waste and that any waste generated will be treated in accordance with this Article.

We are satisfied that waste from the Installation that cannot be recovered will be disposed of using a method that minimises any impact on the environment. Standard condition 1.4.1 will ensure that this position is maintained.

5. Minimising the Installation's environmental impact

Regulated activities can present different types of risk to the environment, these include odour, noise and vibration; accidents, fugitive emissions to air and water; as well as point source releases to air, discharges to ground or groundwater, global warming potential and generation of waste and other environmental impacts. Consideration may also have to be given to the effect of emissions being subsequently deposited onto land (where there are ecological receptors). All these factors are discussed in this and other sections of this document.

For an installation of this kind, the principal emissions are those to air, although we also consider those to land and water.

The next sections of this document explain how we have approached the critical issue of assessing the likely impact of the emissions to air from the Installation on human health and the environment and what measures we are requiring to ensure a high level of protection.

5.1 Assessment Methodology

5.1.1 Application of Environment Agency guidance 'risk assessments for your environmental permit'

A methodology for risk assessment of point source emissions to air, which we use to assess the risk of applications we receive for permits, is set out in our guidance 'Air emissions risk assessment for your environmental permit' and has the following steps:

- Describe emissions and receptors
- Calculate process contributions
- Screen out insignificant emissions that do not warrant further investigation
- Decide if detailed air modelling is needed
- Assess emissions against relevant standards
- Summarise the effects of emissions

The methodology uses a concept of “process contribution (PC)”, which is the estimated concentration of emitted substances after dispersion into the receiving environmental media at the point where the magnitude of the concentration is greatest. The methodology provides a simple method of calculating PC primarily for screening purposes and for estimating process contributions where environmental consequences are relatively low. It is based on using dispersion factors. These factors assume worst case dispersion conditions with no allowance made for thermal or momentum plume rise and so the process contributions calculated are likely to be an overestimate of the actual maximum concentrations. More accurate calculation of process contributions can be achieved by mathematical dispersion models, which take into account relevant parameters of the release and surrounding conditions, including local meteorology – these techniques are expensive but normally lead to a lower prediction of PC.

5.1.2 Use of Air Dispersion Modelling

For incineration applications, we normally require the Applicant to submit a full air dispersion model as part of their application. Air dispersion modelling enables the process contribution to be predicted at any environmental receptor that might be impacted by the plant.

Once short-term and long-term PCs have been calculated in this way, they are compared with Environmental Standards (ES). ES are described in our web guide 'Air emissions risk assessment for your environmental permit'.

Our web guide sets out the relevant ES as:

- Ambient Air Directive Limit Values
- Ambient Air Directive and 4th Daughter Directive Target Values
- UK Air Quality Strategy Objectives
- Environmental Assessment Levels

Where an Ambient Air Directive (AAD) Limit Value exists, the relevant standard is the AAD Limit Value. Where an AAD Limit Value does not exist, AAD target values, UK Air Quality Strategy (AQS) Objectives or Environmental Assessment Levels (EALs) are used. Our web guide sets out EALs which have been derived to provide a similar level of protection to

Human Health and the Environment as the AAD limit values, AAD target and AQS objectives. In a very small number of cases, e.g. for emissions of lead, the AQS objective is more stringent than the AAD value. In such cases, we use the AQS objective for our assessment.

AAD target values, AQS objectives and EALs do not have the same legal status as AAD limit values, and there is no explicit requirement to impose stricter conditions than BAT in order to comply with them. However, they are a standard for harm and any significant contribution to a breach is likely to be unacceptable.

PCs are screened out as **Insignificant** if:

- the **long-term** process contribution is less than **1%** of the relevant ES; and
- the **short-term** process contribution is less than **10%** of the relevant ES.

The **long term** 1% process contribution insignificance threshold is based on the judgements that:

- It is unlikely that an emission at this level will make a significant contribution to air quality;
- The threshold provides a substantial safety margin to protect health and the environment.

The **short term** 10% process contribution insignificance threshold is based on the judgements that:

- spatial and temporal conditions mean that short term process contributions are transient and limited in comparison with long term process contributions;
- the threshold provides a substantial safety margin to protect health and the environment.

Where an emission is screened out in this way, we would normally consider that the Applicant's proposals for the prevention and control of the emission to be BAT. That is because if the impact of the emission is already insignificant, it follows that any further reduction in this emission will also be insignificant.

However, where an emission cannot be screened out as insignificant, it does not mean it will necessarily be significant.

For those pollutants which do not screen out as insignificant, we determine whether exceedences of the relevant ES are likely. This is done through detailed audit and review of the Applicant's air dispersion modelling taking background concentrations and modelling uncertainties into account. Where an exceedance of an AAD limit value is identified, we may require the Applicant to go beyond what would normally be considered BAT for the Installation or we may refuse the application if the applicant is unable to provide suitable proposals. Whether or not exceedences are considered likely, the application is subject to the requirement to operate in accordance with BAT.

This is not the end of the risk assessment, because we also take into account local factors (for example, particularly sensitive receptors nearby such as a SSSIs, SACs or SPAs). These additional factors may also lead us to include more stringent conditions than BAT.

If, as a result of reviewing of the risk assessment and taking account of any additional techniques that could be applied to limit emissions, we consider that emissions **would cause significant pollution**, we would refuse the Application.

5.2 Assessment of Impact on Air Quality

The Applicant's assessment of the impact of air quality is set out in the Air Quality Assessment for Permitting submitted with the Application.

The assessment comprises:

- Dispersion modelling of emissions to air from the operation of the incinerator.
- A study of the impact of emissions on nearby sensitive habitat / conservation sites.

This section of the decision document deals primarily with the dispersion modelling of emissions to air from the incinerator chimney and its impact on local air quality. The impact on conservation sites is considered in section 5.4.

The Applicant has assessed the Installation's potential emissions to air against the relevant air quality standards, and the potential impact upon local conservation and habitat sites and human health. These assessments predict the potential effects on local air quality from the Installation's stack emissions using the ADMS 5 (v5.2) dispersion model, which is a commonly used computer model for regulatory dispersion modelling. The model used meteorological data collected from the weather station at Yeovilton between 2009 and 2016. The Applicant's has deemed this to be the nearest station representative of meteorological conditions at the site; and while it is further inland than Bridgwater, both locations are on flat river plains with no significant hills within a least a few kilometres.

The air impact assessments, and the dispersion modelling upon which they were based, employed the following assumptions.

- First, they assumed that the ELVs in the Permit would be the maximum permitted by Article 15(3), Article 46(2) and Annex VI of the IED. These substances are:
 - Oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), expressed as NO₂
 - Total dust
 - Carbon monoxide (CO)
 - Sulphur dioxide (SO₂)
 - Hydrogen chloride (HCl)
 - Hydrogen fluoride (HF)

- Metals (Cadmium, Thallium, Mercury, Antimony, Arsenic, Lead, Chromium, Copper, Manganese, Nickel and Vanadium)
- Polychlorinated dibenzo-para-dioxins and polychlorinated dibenzo furans (referred to as dioxins and furans)
- Gaseous and vaporous organic substances, expressed as Total Organic Carbon (TOC)
- Ammonia (NH₃)
- Second, they assumed that the Installation operates continuously at the relevant long-term or short-term ELVs, i.e. the maximum permitted emission rate (except for emissions of arsenic and chromium, which are considered in section 5.2.3 of this decision document).
- Third, the model also considered emissions of pollutants not covered by Annex VI of IED, specifically, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Emission rates used in the modelling have been drawn from data in the Waste Incineration BREF and are considered further in section 5.2.5.

We are in agreement with this approach. The assumptions underpinning the model have been checked and are reasonably precautionary.

The Applicant has used background air quality data derived from local authority monitoring and from Defra background pollution maps. Background data for habitat sites has been derived from the Air pollution Information System (APIS) database (APIS, 2019). This data is summarised in the Application and has been used by the Applicant to establish the background (or existing) air quality against which to measure the potential impact of the incinerator.

As well as calculating the peak ground level concentration, the Applicant has modelled the concentration of key pollutants at a number of specified locations within the surrounding area.

The way in which the Applicant used dispersion models, its selection of input data, use of background data and the assumptions it made have been reviewed by the Environment Agency's modelling specialists to establish the robustness of the Applicant's air impact assessment. The output from the model has then been used to inform further assessment of health impacts and impact on habitats and conservation sites.

During the determination it was established that the Air Quality Assessment submitted with the Application was based on a waste throughput of 113,840 tonnes/annum. The Applicant had stated that the proposed throughput would be 130,000 tonnes/annum. The Applicant subsequently revised their proposed maximum throughput limit to 122,640 tonnes/annum (based on 14te/hr) and provided an updated air dispersion modelling assessment report titled 'Air Quality Sensitivity Analysis: Bridgwater Resource Recovery Facility Fuel Throughput – April 2021'. This report compared the long-term PCs of pollutants detailed in the original Air Quality Assessment based on 113,840 tonnes/annum to the updated proposed throughput of 122,640 tonnes/annum. The results of the assessment showed that there was no significant difference

between the long-term PCs modelled for both operating scenarios. Note that the Applicant stated the short-term impacts calculated in the original AQ assessment were based on the peak operating scenario, therefore short-term PCs are representative of a maximum throughput of 122,640 te/annum.

Our review of the Applicant's assessment leads us to agree with the Applicant's conclusions. We have also audited the air quality and human health impact assessment and similarly agree that the conclusions drawn in the reports were acceptable.

The Applicant's modelling predictions are summarised in the following sections. Note that the predictions reflect those detailed based on a max throughput limit of 122,640 te/annum.

5.2.1 Assessment of Air Dispersion Modelling Outputs

The Applicant's modelling predictions are summarised in the tables below. Note that the longer

The Applicant's modelling predicted peak ground level exposure to pollutants in ambient air. We have conservatively assumed that the maximum concentrations occur at the location of receptors.

The Applicant's modelling predicted peak ground level exposure to pollutants in ambient air and at discreet receptors. The tables below show the maximum ground level concentrations. Note impact at receptors will be no greater than the levels shown.

Whilst we have used the Applicant's modelling predictions in the table below, we have made our own simple verification calculation of the percentage process contribution and predicted environmental concentration. These are the numbers shown in the tables below and so may be very slightly different to those shown in the Application. Any such minor discrepancies do not materially impact on our conclusions.

Pollutant	EQS / EAL		Back-ground	Process Contribution (PC)		Predicted Environmental Concentration (PEC)	
	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$			$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	% of EAL	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
NO ₂	40	1	26	1.01	2.53	27.0	67.5
	200	2	52	20.97	10.5	72.97	36.5
PM ₁₀	40	1		0.058	<1		
	50	3		0.18	<10		
PM _{2.5}	20	1		0.058	<1		

SO2	266	4	7.2	32.22	12.1	39.42	14.8
	350	5		29.75	<10		
	125	6		2.45	<10		
HCl	750	7		22	<10		
HF	16	8		0.012	<1		
	160	7		0.37	<10		
CO	10000	9		0.2	<10		
VOC (as 1,3-butadiene)	2.25	1	0.063	0.12	5.3	0.183	8.13
VOC (as Benzene)	5	1	0.264	0.12	2.4	0.384	7.68
PAH as benzo(a)pyrene	0.00025	1		0.0000018	<1		
NH ₃	180	1		0.12	<1		
	2500	10		3.67	<10		
PCBs	0.2	1		1E-09	<1		
	6	10		2.9E-08	<10		
Dioxins			2.88E-08	7.20E-10		2.95E-08	

- 1 Annual Mean
- 2 99.79th %ile of 1-hour means
- 3 90.41st %ile of 24-hour means
- 4 99.9th ile of 15-min means
- 5 99.73rd %ile of 1-hour means
- 6 99.18th %ile of 24-hour means
- 7 1-hour average
- 8 Monthly average
- 9 Maximum daily running 8-hour mean
- 10 1-hour maximum

Metals

Pollutant	EQS / EAL		Back-ground	Process Contribution		Predicted Environmental Concentration	
	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$			$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	% of EAL	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Cd	0.005	1	0.00011	0.00024	4.8	0.00036	7.2
Tl				0.00024			
Hg	0.25	1		0.00012	<1		
	7.5	2		0.0033	<1		
Sb	5	1		0.0036	<1		
	150	2		0.11	<1		
Pb	0.25	1	0.0055	0.0036	1.44	0.00910	3.64
Cu	10	1		0.0036	<1		
	200	2		0.11	<1		
Mn	0.15	1	0.0024	0.0036	2.40	0.006	4.00
	1500	2		0.11	<1		
V	5	1		0.0036	<1		
	1	3	0.00016	0.11	11.00	0.11016	11.02
As	0.003	1	0.0008	0.0036	120.00	0.00440	146.7
Cr (II)(III)	5	1		0.0036	<1		
	150	2		0.11	<1		
Cr (VI)	0.0002	1	0.00150	0.0036	1800.00	0.00510	2550.0
Ni	0.02	1	0.0007	0.0036	18.00	0.00430	21.5

- 1 Annual Mean
- 2 1-hr Maximum
- 3 24-hr Maximum

(i) Screening out emissions which are insignificant

From the tables above the following emissions can be screened out as insignificant in that the process contribution is < 1% of the long term ES and <10% of the short term ES. These are:

- PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, HCl, HF, CO, PAH, NH₃, PCB, Hg, Sb, Cu and Cr(II)(III).

Therefore we consider the Applicant's proposals for preventing and minimising the emissions of these substances to be BAT for the Installation subject to the detailed audit referred to below.

(ii) Emissions unlikely to give rise to significant pollution

Also from the tables above the following emissions (which were not screened out as insignificant) have been assessed as being unlikely to give rise to significant pollution in that the predicted environmental concentration is less

than 100% (taking expected modelling uncertainties into account) of both the long term and short term ES.

- NO₂, SO₂, VOC, Cd, Pb, Mn, V and Ni.

For these emissions, we have carefully scrutinised the Applicant's proposals to ensure that they are applying the Best Available Techniques to prevent and minimise emissions of these substances. This is reported in section 6 of this document.

(iii) Emissions requiring further assessment

Finally from the tables above the following emissions are considered to have the potential to give rise to pollution in that the Predicted Environmental Concentration exceeds 100% of the long term or short term ES.

- AS and Cr(VI)

We have carefully scrutinised the Applicant's proposals to ensure that they are applying the Best Available Techniques to prevent and minimise emissions of this substance. This is reported in section 6 of this document.

We have also carefully considered whether additional measures are required above what would normally be considered BAT in order to prevent significant pollution. Consideration of additional measures to address the pollution risk from these substances is set out in section 5.2.4. The impacts from As and Cr(VI) are considered in more detail below in section 5.2.3.

5.2.2 Consideration of key pollutants

(i) Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)

The impact on air quality from NO₂ emissions has been assessed against the ES of 40 µg/m³ as a long term annual average and a short term hourly average of 200 µg/m³. The model assumes a 70% NO_x to NO₂ conversion for the long term and 35% for the short term assessment in line with Environment Agency guidance on the use of air dispersion modelling.

The above tables show that the peak long term PC is greater than 1% of the ES and therefore cannot be screened out as insignificant. Even so, from the table above, the emission is not expected to result in the ES being exceeded. The peak short term PC is marginally above the level that would screen out as insignificant (>10% of the ES). However it is not expected to result in the ES being exceeded.

In addition the impacts at the most impacted receptor are lower at 1.6% of the long term ES and 6.7% of the short term ES.

(ii) Particulate matter PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}

The impact on air quality from particulate emissions has been assessed against the ES for PM₁₀ (particles of 10 microns and smaller) and PM_{2.5}

(particles of 2.5 microns and smaller). For PM₁₀, the ES are a long term annual average of 40 µg/m³ and a short term daily average of 50 µg/m³. For PM_{2.5} the ES of 25 µg/m³ as a long-term annual average to be achieved by 2010 as a Target Value and by 2015 as a Limit Value has been used.

The Applicant's predicted impact of the Installation against these ESs is shown in the tables above. The assessment assumes that **all** particulate emissions are present as PM₁₀ for the PM₁₀ assessment and that **all** particulate emissions are present as PM_{2.5} for the PM_{2.5} assessment.

The above assessment is considered to represent a worst case assessment in that: -

- It assumes that the plant emits particulates continuously at the IED Annex VI limit for total dust, whereas actual emissions from similar plant are normally lower.
- It assumes all particulates emitted are below either 10 microns (PM₁₀) or 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}), when some are expected to be larger.

We have reviewed the Applicant's particulate matter impact assessment and are satisfied in the robustness of the Applicant's conclusions.

The above assessment shows that the predicted process contribution for emissions of PM₁₀ is below 1% of the long term ES and below 10% of the short term ES and so can be screened out as insignificant. Therefore we consider the Applicant's proposals for preventing and minimising the emissions of particulates to be BAT for the Installation.

The above assessment also shows that the predicted process contribution for emissions of PM_{2.5} is also below 1% of the ES. Therefore the Environment Agency concludes that particulate emissions from the installation, including emissions of PM₁₀ or PM_{2.5}, will not give rise to significant pollution.

There is currently no emission limit prescribed nor any continuous emissions monitor for particulate matter specifically in the PM₁₀ or PM_{2.5} fraction. Whilst the Environment Agency is confident that current monitoring techniques will capture the fine particle fraction (PM_{2.5}) for inclusion in the measurement of total particulate matter, an improvement condition (IC1) has been included that will require a full analysis of particle size distribution in the flue gas, and hence determine the ratio of fine to coarse particles. In the light of current knowledge and available data however the Environment Agency is satisfied that the health of the public would not be put at risk by such emissions, as explained in section 5.3.3.

(iii) Acid gases, SO₂, HCl and HF

From the tables above, emissions of HCl and HF can be screened out as insignificant in that the process contribution is <10% of the short term ES. There is no long term ES for HCl. HF has 2 assessment criteria – a 1-hr ES and a monthly EAL – the process contribution is <1% of the monthly EAL and

so the emission screens out as insignificant if the monthly ES is interpreted as representing a long term ES.

There is no long term EAL for SO₂ for the protection of human health. Protection of ecological receptors from SO₂ for which there is a long term ES is considered in section 5.4.

Whilst SO₂ emissions cannot be screened out as insignificant, the Applicant's modelling shows that the installation is unlikely to result in a breach of the ES. The Applicant is required to prevent, minimise and control SO₂ emissions using BAT, this is considered further in Section 6. We are satisfied that SO₂ emissions will not result in significant pollution.

(iv) Emissions to Air of CO, VOCs, PAHs, PCBs, Dioxins and NH₃

The above tables show that for CO emissions, the peak short term PC is less than 10% of the ES and so can be screened out as insignificant. Therefore we consider the Applicant's proposals for preventing and minimising the emissions of these substances to be BAT for the Installation.

The above tables show that for VOC emissions, the peak long term PC is greater than 1% of the ES and therefore cannot be screened out as insignificant. Even so, from the table above, the emission is not expected to result in the ES being exceeded.

The Applicant has used the ES for 1,3 butadiene and benzene for their assessment of the impact of VOC. This is based on 1,3 butadiene having the lowest ES of organic species likely to be present in VOC (other than PAH, PCBs, dioxins and furans).

The above tables show that for PAH and PCB emissions, the peak long term PC is less than 1% of the ES and the peak short term PC is less than 10% of the ES for PCBs and so can be screened out as insignificant. Therefore we consider the Applicant's proposals for preventing and minimising the emissions of these substances to be BAT for the Installation.

The Applicant has also used the ES for benzo[a]pyrene (BaP) for their assessment of the impact of PAH. We agree that the use of the BaP ES is sufficiently precautionary.

There is no ES for dioxins and furans as the principal exposure route for these substances is by ingestion and the risk to human health is through the accumulation of these substances in the body over an extended period of time. This issue is considered in more detail in section 5.3

The ammonia emission is based on a release concentration of 10 mg/m³. This is at the benchmark of 10 mg/m³ in the current BREF. We are satisfied that this level of emission is consistent with the operation of a well controlled SNCR NO_x abatement system.

Whilst all emissions cannot be screened out as insignificant, the Applicant's modelling shows that the installation is unlikely to result in a breach of the ES. The Applicant is required to prevent, minimise and control VOC emissions using BAT, this is considered further in Section 6. We are satisfied that VOC emissions will not result in significant pollution

(V) Summary

For the above emissions to air, for those emissions that do not screen out, we have carefully scrutinised the Applicant's proposals to ensure that they are applying the BAT to prevent and minimise emissions of these substances. This is reported in section 6 of this document. Therefore we consider the Applicant's proposals for preventing and minimising emissions to be BAT for the Installation. Dioxins and furans are considered further in section 5.3.2.

5.2.3 Assessment of Emission of Metals

The Applicant has assessed the impact of metal emissions to air, as previously described.

There are three sets of BAT AELs for metal emissions:

- An emission limit value of 0.02 mg/m³ for mercury and its compounds (formerly WID group 1 metals).
- An aggregate emission limit value of 0.02 mg/m³ for cadmium and thallium and their compounds (formerly WID group 2 metals).
- An aggregate emission limit of 0.3 mg/m³ for antimony, arsenic, lead, chromium, cobalt, copper, manganese, nickel and vanadium and their compounds (formerly WID group 3 metals).

In addition the UK is a Party to the Heavy Metals Protocol within the framework of the UN-ECE Convention on long-range trans-boundary air pollution. Compliance with the IED Annex VI emission limits for metals along with the Application of BAT also ensures that these requirements are met.

In section 5.2.1 above, the following emissions of metals were screened out as insignificant:

- Hg, Sb, Cu and Cr(II) (III).

Also in section 5.2.1, the following emissions of metals whilst not screened out as insignificant were assessed as being unlikely to give rise to significant pollution:

- Cd, Pb, Mn, V and Ni.

This left emissions of As and Cr(VI) requiring further assessment. For all other metals, the Applicant has concluded that exceedences of the EAL for all metals are not likely to occur.

Where the BREF sets an aggregate limit, the Applicant's assessment assumes that each metal is emitted individually at the relevant aggregate emission limit value. This is a something which can never actually occur in

practice as it would inevitably result in a breach of the said limit, and so represents a very much worst case scenario.

For metals As and Cr(VI) the Applicant Used representative emissions data from other municipal waste incinerators using our guidance note Please refer to “Guidance to Applicants on Impact Assessment for Group 3 Metals Stack Releases – version 4”. Measurement of Chromium (VI) at the levels anticipated at the stack emission points is expected to be difficult, with the likely levels being below the level of detection by the most advanced methods. Data for Cr (VI) was based on total Cr emissions measurements and the proportion of total Cr to Cr (VI) in APC residues.

Based on the above, the following emissions of metals were screened out as insignificant:

- Cr(VI)

The following emissions of metals whilst not screened out as insignificant were assessed as being unlikely to give rise to significant pollution:

- As

Improvement condition IC6 has been set for the Applicant to confirm this assessment with monitoring data from the Installation.

The installation has been assessed as meeting BAT for control of metal emissions to air. See section 6 of this document.

5.2.4 Consideration of Local Factors

(i) Impact on Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)

No Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been declared within an area likely to be affected by emissions from the incinerator.

5.3 Human health risk assessment

5.3.1 Our role in preventing harm to human health

The Environment Agency has a statutory role to protect the environment and human health from all processes and activities it regulates. We assessed the effects on human health for this application in the following ways:

i) Applying Statutory Controls

The plant will be regulated under EPR. These regulations include the requirements of relevant EU Directives, notably, the industrial emissions directive (IED), the waste framework directive (WFD), and ambient air directive (AAD).

The main conditions in an EfW permit are based on the requirements of the IED. Specific conditions have been introduced to specifically ensure compliance with the requirements of Chapter IV. The aim of the IED is to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to air, water and land and prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole. IED achieves this aim by setting operational conditions, technical requirements and emission limit values to meet the requirements set out in Articles 11 and 18 of the IED. These requirements may in some circumstances dictate tighter emission limits and controls than those set out in the BAT conclusions or Chapter IV of IED on waste incineration and co-incineration plants. The assessment of BAT for this installation is detailed in section 6 of this document.

ii) Environmental Impact Assessment

Industrial activities can give rise to odour, noise and vibration, accidents, fugitive emissions to air and water, releases to air (including the impact on Photochemical Ozone Creation Potential (POCP)), discharges to ground or groundwater, global warming potential and generation of waste. For an installation of this kind, the principal environmental effects are through emissions to air, although we also consider all of the other impacts listed. Section 5.1 and 5.2 above explain how we have approached the critical issue of assessing the likely impact of the emissions to air from the Installation on human health and the environment and any measures we are requiring to ensure a high level of protection.

iii) Expert Scientific Opinion

We take account of the views of national and international expert bodies. The gathering of evidence is a continuing process. Although gathering evidence is not our role we keep the available evidence under review. The following is a summary of some of the publications which we have considered (in no particular order).

An independent review of evidence on the health effects of municipal waste incinerators was published by **DEFRA** in 2004. It concluded that there was no convincing link between the emissions from MSW incinerators and adverse effects on public health in terms of cancer, respiratory disease or birth defects. On air quality effects, the report concluded “Waste incinerators contribute to local air pollution. This contribution, however, is usually a small proportion of existing background levels which is not detectable through environmental monitoring (for example, by comparing upwind and downwind levels of airborne pollutants or substances deposited to land). In some cases, waste incinerator facilities may make a more detectable contribution to air pollution. Because current MSW incinerators are located predominantly in urban areas, effects on air quality are likely to be so small as to be undetectable in practice.”

HPA (now PHE) in 2009 stated that “The Health Protection Agency has reviewed research undertaken to examine the suggested links between emissions from municipal waste incinerators and effects on health. While it is not possible to rule out adverse health effects from modern, well regulated municipal waste incinerators with complete certainty, any potential damage to the health of those living close-by is likely to be very small, if detectable”.

In 2012 the UK Small Area Health Statistics Unit (SAHSU) at Imperial College was commissioned by Public Health England (PHE) to carry out a study to extend the evidence base and to provide further information to the public about any potential reproductive and infant health risks from municipal waste incineration (MWIs).

A number of papers have been published by SAHSU since 2012 which show no effect on birth outcomes. One paper in the study looked at exposure to emissions from MWIs in the UK and concluded that exposure was low. Subsequent papers found no increased risk of a range of birth outcomes (including stillbirth and infant mortality) in relation to exposure to PM10 emissions and proximity to MWIs, and no association with MWIs opening on changes in risks of infant mortality or sex ratio.

The final part of the study, published on 21/06/19, found no evidence of increased risk of congenital anomalies from exposure to MWI chimney emissions, but a small potential increase in risk of congenital anomalies for children born within ten kilometres of MWIs. The paper does not demonstrate a causal effect, and it acknowledges that the observed results may well be down to not fully adjusting the study for factors such as other sources of pollution around MWIs or deprivation.

PHE have stated that 'While the conclusions of the study state that a causal effect cannot be excluded, the study does not demonstrate a causal association and makes clear that the results may well reflect incomplete control for confounding i.e. insufficiently accounting for other factors that can cause congenital anomalies, including other sources of local pollution. This possible explanation is supported by the fact no increased risk of congenital anomalies was observed as a result of exposure to emissions from an incinerator.'

Following this study, PHE have further stated that 'PHE's position remains that modern, well run and regulated municipal waste incinerators are not a significant risk to public health, and as such our advice to you [i.e. the Environment Agency] on incinerators is unchanged.'

The **Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (CoC)** issued a statement in 2000 which said that "any potential risk of cancer due to residency (for periods in excess of 10 years) near to municipal solid waste incinerators was exceedingly low and probably not measurable by the most modern epidemiological techniques." In 2009, CoC considered six further relevant epidemiological papers that had been published since the 2000 statement, and concluded that "there is no need to change the advice given in the previous statement in 2000 but that the situation should be kept under review".

Republic of Ireland Health Research Board report stated that "It is hard to separate the influences of other sources of pollutants, and other causes of cancer and, as a result, the evidence for a link between cancer and proximity to an incinerator is not conclusive".

The **Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) (2003)** investigated possible implications on health associated with food contamination from waste incineration and concluded: "In relation to the possible impact of introduction

of waste incineration in Ireland, as part of a national waste management strategy, on this currently largely satisfactory situation, the FSAI considers that such incineration facilities, if properly managed, will not contribute to dioxin levels in the food supply to any significant extent. The risks to health and sustainable development presented by the continued dependency on landfill as a method of waste disposal far outweigh any possible effects on food safety and quality.”

Health Protection Scotland (2009) considered scientific studies on health effects associated with the incineration of waste particularly those published after the Defra review discussed earlier. The main conclusions of this report were: “(a) For waste incineration as a whole topic, the body of evidence for an association with (non-occupational) adverse health effects is both inconsistent and inconclusive. However, more recent work suggests, more strongly, that there may have been an association between emissions (particularly dioxins) in the past from industrial, clinical and municipal waste incinerators and some forms of cancer, before more stringent regulatory requirements were implemented. (b) For individual waste streams, the evidence for an association with (non-occupational) adverse health effects is inconclusive. (c) The magnitude of any past health effects on residential populations living near incinerators that did occur is likely to have been small. (d) Levels of airborne emissions from individual incinerators should be lower now than in the past, due to stricter legislative controls and improved technology. Hence, any risk to the health of a local population living near an incinerator, associated with its emissions, should also now be lower.”

The **US National Research Council Committee on Health Effects of Waste Incineration (NRC) (NRC 2000)** reviewed evidence as part of a wide ranging report. The Committee view of the published evidence was summarised in a key conclusion: “Few epidemiological studies have attempted to assess whether adverse health effects have actually occurred near individual incinerators, and most of them have been unable to detect any effects. The studies of which the committee is aware that did report finding health effects had shortcomings and failed to provide convincing evidence. That result is not surprising given the small populations typically available for study and the fact that such effects, if any, might occur only infrequently or take many years to appear. Also, factors such as emissions from other pollution sources and variations in human activity patterns often decrease the likelihood of determining a relationship between small contributions of pollutants from incinerators and observed health effects. Lack of evidence of such relationships might mean that adverse health effects did not occur, but it could mean that such relationships might not be detectable using available methods and sources.”

The **British Society for Ecological Medicine (BSEM) published a report in 2005** on the health effects associated with incineration and concluded that “Large studies have shown higher rates of adult and childhood cancer and also birth defects around municipal waste incinerators: the results are consistent with the associations being causal. A number of smaller epidemiological studies support this interpretation and suggest that the range

of illnesses produced by incinerators may be much wider. Incinerator emissions are a major source of fine particulates, of toxic metals and of more than 200 organic chemicals, including known carcinogens, mutagens, and hormone disrupters. Emissions also contain other unidentified compounds whose potential for harm is as yet unknown, as was once the case with dioxins. Abatement equipment in modern incinerators merely transfers the toxic load, notably that of dioxins and heavy metals, from airborne emissions to the fly ash. This fly ash is light, readily windborne and mostly of low particle size. It represents a considerable and poorly understood health hazard.”

The BSEM report was reviewed by the HPA and they concluded that “Having considered the BSEM report the HPA maintains its position that contemporary and effectively managed and regulated waste incineration processes contribute little to the concentrations of monitored pollutants in ambient air and that the emissions from such plants have little effect on health.” The BSEM report was also commented on by the consultants who produced the Defra 2004 report referred to above. They said that “It fails to consider the significance of incineration as a source of the substances of concern. It does not consider the possible significance of the dose of pollutants that could result from incinerators. It does not fairly consider the adverse effects that could be associated with alternatives to incineration. It relies on inaccurate and outdated material. In view of these shortcomings, the report’s conclusions with regard to the health effects of incineration are not reliable.”

A **Greenpeace** review on incineration and human health concluded that a broad range of health effects have been associated with living near to incinerators as well as with working at these installations. Such effects include cancer (among both children and adults), adverse impacts on the respiratory system, heart disease, immune system effects, increased allergies and congenital abnormalities. Some studies, particularly those on cancer, relate to old rather than modern incinerators. However, modern incinerators operating in the last few years have also been associated with adverse health effects.”

The Health Protection Scotland report referred to above says that “the authors of the Greenpeace review do not explain the basis for their conclusion that there is an association between incineration and adverse effects in terms of criteria used to assess the strength of evidence. The weighting factors used to derive the assessment are not detailed. The objectivity of the conclusion cannot therefore be easily tested.”

From this published body of scientific opinion, we take the view stated by the HPA that “While it is not possible to rule out adverse health effects from modern, well regulated municipal waste incinerators with complete certainty, any potential damage to the health of those living close-by is likely to be very small, if detectable”. We therefore ensure that permits contain conditions which require the installation to be well-run and regulate the installation to ensure compliance with such permit conditions.

iv) Health Risk Models

Comparing the results of air dispersion modelling as part of the Environmental Impact assessment against European and national air quality standards effectively makes a health risk assessment for those pollutants for which a standard has been derived. These air quality standards have been developed primarily in order to protect human health via known intake mechanisms, such as inhalation and ingestion. Some pollutants, such as dioxins, furans and dioxin like PCBs, have human health impacts at lower ingestion levels than lend themselves to setting an air quality standard to control against. For these pollutants, a different human health risk model is required which better reflects the level of dioxin intake.

Models are available to predict the dioxin, furan and dioxin like PCBs intake for comparison with the Tolerable Daily Intake (TDI) recommended by the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment, known as COT. These include the HHRAP model.

HHRAP has been developed by the US EPA to calculate the human body intake of a range of carcinogenic pollutants and to determine the mathematic quantitative risk in probabilistic terms. In the UK, in common with other European Countries, we consider a threshold dose below which the likelihood of an adverse effect is regarded as being very low or effectively zero.

The TDI is the amount of a substance that can be ingested daily over a lifetime without appreciable health risk. It is expressed in relation to bodyweight in order to allow for different body size, such as for children of different ages. In the UK, the COT has set a TDI for dioxins, furans and dioxin like PCB's of 2 picograms I-TEQ/Kg-body weight/day (N.B. a picogram is a millionth of a millionth (10⁻¹²) of a gram).

In addition to an assessment of risk from dioxins, furans and dioxin like PCB's, the HHRAP model enables a risk assessment from human intake of a range of heavy metals. In principle, the respective ES for these metals are protective of human health. It is not therefore necessary to model the human body intake.

COMEAP developed a methodology based on the results of time series epidemiological studies which allows calculation of the public health impact of exposure to the classical air pollutants (NO₂, SO₂ and particulates) in terms of the numbers of "deaths brought forward" and the "number of hospital admissions for respiratory disease brought forward or additional". COMEAP has issued a statement expressing some reservations about the applicability of applying its methodology to small affected areas. Those concerns generally relate to the fact that the exposure-response coefficients used in the COMEAP report derive from studies of whole urban populations where the air pollution climate may differ from that around a new industrial installation. COMEAP identified a number of factors and assumptions that would contribute to the uncertainty of the estimates. These were summarised in the Defra review as below:

- Assumption that the spatial distribution of the air pollutants considered is the same in the area under study as in those areas, usually cities or large towns, in which the studies which generated the coefficients were undertaken.
- Assumption that the temporal pattern of pollutant concentrations in the area under study is similar to that in the areas in which the studies which generated the coefficients were undertaken (i.e. urban areas).
- It should be recognised that a difference in the pattern of socio-economic conditions between the areas to be studied and the reference areas could lead to inaccuracy in the predicted level of effects.
- In the same way, a difference in the pattern of personal exposures between the areas to be studied and the reference areas will affect the accuracy of the predictions of effects.

The use of the COMEAP methodology is not generally recommended for modelling the human health impacts of individual installations. However it may have limited applicability where emissions of NO_x, SO₂ and particulates cannot be screened out as insignificant in the Environmental Impact assessment, there are high ambient background levels of these pollutants and we are advised that its use was appropriate by our public health consultees.

Our recommended approach is therefore the use of the methodology set out in our guidance for comparison for most pollutants (including metals) and dioxin intake model using the HHRAP model as described above for dioxins, furans and dioxin like PCBs. Where an alternative approach is adopted for dioxins, we check the predictions ourselves.

v) Consultations

As part of our normal procedures for the determination of a permit application, we consult with Local Authorities, Local Authority Directors of Public Health, FSA and PHE. We also consult the local communities who may raise health related issues. All issues raised by these consultations are considered in determining the application as described in Annex 4 of this document.

5.3.2 Assessment of Intake of Dioxins, Furans and Dioxin like PCBs

For dioxins, furans and dioxin like PCBs, the principal exposure route is through ingestion, usually through the food chain, and the main risk to health is through accumulation in the body over a period of time.

The human health risk assessment calculates the dose of dioxins and furans that would be received by local receptors if their food and water were sourced from the locality where the deposition of dioxins, furans and dioxin like PCBs is predicted to be the highest. This is then assessed against the Tolerable Daily Intake (TDI) levels established by the COT of 2 picograms I-TEQ / Kg bodyweight/ day.

The results of the Applicant’s assessment of dioxin intake are detailed in the table below. (worst – case results for each category are shown). The results showed that the predicted daily intake of dioxins, furans and dioxin like PCBs at all receptors, resulting from emissions from the proposed facility, were significantly below the recommended TDI levels.

Receptor	adult	child
Receptor E (residential)	0.00013	0.00040
Receptor H (Farm)	0.032	0.045

Calculated maximum daily intake of dioxins by local receptors resulting from the operation of the proposed facility (I-TEQ/ kg-BW/day)

The results showed that the predicted daily intake of dioxins, furans and dioxin like PCBs at all receptors, resulting from emissions from the proposed facility, were significantly below the recommended TWI levels.

The FSA has reported that dietary studies have shown that estimated total dietary intakes of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs from all sources by all age groups fell by around 50% between 1997 and 2001, and are expected to continue to fall. A report in 2012 showed that Dioxin and PCB levels in food have fallen slightly since 2001. In 2001, the average daily intake by adults in the UK from diet was 0.9 pg WHO-TEQ/kg bodyweight. The additional daily intake predicted by the modelling as shown in the table above is substantially below this figure.

In 2010, FSA studied the levels of chlorinated, brominated and mixed (chlorinated-brominated) dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in fish, shellfish, meat and eggs consumed in UK. It asked COT to consider the results and to advise on whether the measured levels of these PXDDs, PXDFs and PXBs indicated a health concern (‘X’ means a halogen). COT issued a statement in December 2010 and concluded that “ The major contribution to the total dioxin toxic activity in the foods measured came from chlorinated compounds. Brominated compounds made a much smaller contribution, and mixed halogenated compounds contributed even less (1% or less of TDI). Measured levels of PXDDs, PXDFs and dioxin-like PXBs do not indicate a health concern”. COT recognised the lack of quantified TEFs for these compounds but said that “even if the TEFs for PXDDs, PXDFs and dioxin-like PXBs were up to four fold higher than assumed, their contribution to the total TEQ in the diet would still be small. Thus, further research on PXDDs, PXDFs and dioxin-like PXBs is not considered a priority.”

In the light of this statement, we assess the impact of chlorinated compounds as representing the impact of all chlorinated, brominated and mixed dioxins / furans and dioxin like PCBs.

5.3.3 Particulates smaller than 2.5 microns

The Operator will be required to monitor particulate emissions using the method set out in Table S3.1 of Schedule 3 of the Permit. This method

requires that the filter efficiency must be at least 99.5 % on a test aerosol with a mean particle diameter of 0.3 μm , at the maximum flow rate anticipated. The filter efficiency for larger particles will be at least as high as this. This means that particulate monitoring data effectively captures everything above 0.3 μm and much of what is smaller. It is not expected that particles smaller than 0.3 μm will contribute significantly to the mass release rate / concentration of particulates because of their very small mass, even if present. This means that emissions monitoring data can be relied upon to measure the true mass emission rate of particulates.

Nano-particles are considered to refer to those particulates less than 0.1 μm in diameter ($\text{PM}_{0.1}$). Questions are often raised about the effect of nano-particles on human health, in particular on children's health, because of their high surface to volume ratio, making them more reactive, and their very small size, giving them the potential to penetrate cell walls of living organisms. The small size also means there will be a larger number of small particles for a given mass concentration. However the HPA statement (referenced below) says that due to the small effects of incinerators on local concentration of particles, it is highly unlikely that there will be detectable effects of any particular incinerator on local infant mortality.

The HPA (now PHE) addresses the issue of the health effects of particulates in their September 2009 statement 'The Impact on Health of Emissions to Air from Municipal Incinerators'. It refers to the coefficients linking PM_{10} and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ with effects on health derived by COMEAP and goes on to say that if these coefficients are applied to small increases in concentrations produced, locally, by incinerators; the estimated effects on health are likely to be small. PHE note that the coefficients that allow the use of number concentrations in impact calculations have not yet been defined because the national experts have not judged that the evidence is sufficient to do so. This is an area being kept under review by COMEAP.

In December 2010, COMEAP published a report on The Mortality Effects of Long-Term Exposure to Particulate Air Pollution in the United Kingdom. It says that "a policy which aims to reduce the annual average concentration of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ by 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ would result in an increase in life expectancy of 20 days for people born in 2008." However, "The Committee stresses the need for careful interpretation of these metrics to avoid incorrect inferences being drawn – they are valid representations of population aggregate or average effects, but they can be misleading when interpreted as reflecting the experience of individuals."

PHE also point out that in 2007 incinerators contributed 0.02% to ambient ground level PM_{10} levels compared with 18% for road traffic and 22% for industry in general. PHE noted that in a sample collected in a day at a typical urban area the proportion of $\text{PM}_{0.1}$ is around 5-10% of PM_{10} . It goes on to say that PM_{10} includes and exceeds $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ which in turn includes and exceeds $\text{PM}_{0.1}$. The National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) figures show that in 2016 municipal waste incineration contributed 0.03% to ambient ground level PM_{10} levels and 0.05% to ambient ground level $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ levels.

The 2016 data also shows that road traffic contributed to 5.35% of PM₁₀ and 4.96% of PM_{2.5} and that domestic wood burning contributed 22.4% to PM₁₀ and 34.3% of PM_{2.5} levels.

This is consistent with the assessment of this application which shows emissions of PM₁₀ to air to be insignificant.

A 2016 a paper by Jones and Harrison concluded that ‘ultrafine particles (<100nm) in flue gases from incinerators are broadly similar to those in urban air and that after dispersion with ambient air ultrafine particle concentrations are typically indistinguishable from those that would occur in the absence of the incinerator.

We take the view, based on the foregoing evidence, that techniques which control the release of particulates to levels which will not cause harm to human health will also control the release of fine particulate matter to a level which will not cause harm to human health.

5.3.4 Assessment of Health Effects from the Installation

We have assessed the health effects from the operation of this installation in relation to the above (sections 5.3.1 to 5.3.3). We have applied the relevant requirements of the national and European legislation in imposing the permit conditions. We are satisfied that compliance with these conditions will ensure protection of the environment and human health.

Taking into account all of the expert opinion available, we agree with the conclusion reached by PHE that “While it is not possible to rule out adverse health effects from modern, well regulated municipal waste incinerators with complete certainty, any potential damage to the health of those living close-by is likely to be very small, if detectable.”

In carrying out air dispersion modelling as part of the Environmental Impact assessment and comparing the predicted environmental concentrations with European and national air quality standards, the Applicant has effectively made a health risk assessment for many pollutants. These air quality standards have been developed primarily in order to protect human health.

The Applicant’s assessment of the impact of pollutants have either screened out as insignificant; or where they have not been screened out as insignificant, the assessment still shows that the predicted environmental concentrations are within air quality standards or environmental action levels.

The Environment Agency has reviewed the methodology employed by the Applicant to carry out the health impact assessment. We are satisfied with the Applicant’s conclusions that there will not be a significant impact on health.

Overall, taking into account the conservative nature of the impact assessment (i.e. that it is based upon an individual exposed for a life-time to the effects of the highest predicted relevant airborne concentrations and consuming mostly

locally grown food), it was concluded that the operation of the proposed facility will not pose a significant carcinogenic or non-carcinogenic risk to human health.

Public Health England were consulted on the Application and concluded that they had no significant concerns regarding the risk to the health of humans from the installation. Details of the responses provided by Public Health England to the consultation on this Application can be found in Annex 4.

The Environment Agency is therefore satisfied that the Applicant's conclusions presented above are soundly based and we conclude that the potential emissions of pollutants including dioxins, furans and metals from the proposed facility are unlikely to have an impact upon human health.

5.4 Impact on Habitats sites, SSSIs, non-statutory conservation sites etc.

5.4.1 Sites Considered

The following Habitats (i.e. Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar) sites are located within 10Km of the Installation:

Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar
Somerset Levels and Moors SPA and Ramsar
Hestercombe House SAC

There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest within 2Km of the proposed Installation.

The following non-statutory local wildlife and conservation sites are located within 2Km of the Installation:

Screech Owl Local Nature Reserve
Willstock Farm Local Wildlife Site (LWS)
The Meads LWS
Stockmoor LWS
Brownes Pond LWS
Taunton Road Ponds LWS
Dunwear Brick Pits LWS
Bridgwater College Ponds LWS
Somerset Bridge Ponds LWS
Screech Owl LWS
River Parrett (Middle Moor to Scree) LWS
Upper Dunwear Brick Pits LWS
Beeches Ponds LWS
Bridgwater and Taunton Canal LWS
Junction 24 Embankment

5.4.2 Habitats Assessment

The Applicant's Habitats assessment was reviewed by the Environment Agency's technical specialists for modelling, air quality, conservation and ecology technical services, who agreed with the assessment's conclusions, that there would be no likely significant effect on the interest features of the protected sites.

The Applicant provided an assessment of the impact of relevant pollutants from the proposed installation and using air dispersion modelling predicted the process contribution (PC) of each pollutant on the Habitat Sites.

In accordance with our habitats assessment process, which has been agreed with Natural England, if the process contribution is less than 1% of the relevant long-term critical level or load or less than 10% of the short-term critical level or load we consider the impact to be insignificant and we can conclude that the permission is not likely to damage any of the flora or fauna which are of special interest. And if the process contribution is above the threshold but the PEC is below 70% we can also conclude that the permission is not likely to damage.

Where the process contribution is above the threshold and the PEC exceeds 70% then an assessment must be made of the significance of the process contribution from the permission and whether it is likely to result in damage to the Habitat Site. The result of the Applicant's modelling assessment is as follows:

Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar

Pollutant	ES / EAL ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Back-ground ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Process Contribution (PC) ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	PC as % of ES	Predicted Environmental Concentration (PEC) ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	PEC as % ES
Direct Impacts²						
NO _x Annual	30		0.02	<1		
NO _x Daily Mean	75		0.29	<10		
SO ₂	10 ⁽¹⁾		0.005	<1		
Ammonia	1 ⁽¹⁾		0.002	<1		
HF Weekly Mean	0.5		0.001	<1		
HF Daily Mean	5		0.002	<1		
Deposition Impacts²						
N Deposition (kg N/ha/yr)	15		0.011	<1		
Acidification (Keq/ha/yr)	CLMaxN:1.063		0.002	<1		

(1) The lichen and bryophyte sensitivity standards for ammonia and sulphur dioxide have been assigned for this assessment as the presence of these features has been recorded in the site Management Plan for at least one of the sections of the site.

(2) Direct impact units are $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and deposition impact units are $\text{kg N}/\text{ha}/\text{yr}$ or $\text{Keq}/\text{ha}/\text{yr}$.

Somerset Levels and Moors SPA and Ramsar

Pollutant	ES / EAL ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Back-ground ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Process Contribution (PC) ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	PC as % of ES	Predicted Environmental Concentration (PEC) ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	PEC as % ES
Direct Impacts²						
NO _x Annual	30		0.04	<1		
NO _x Daily Mean	75		0.38	<10		
SO ₂	10 ⁽¹⁾		0.009	<1		
Ammonia	1 ⁽¹⁾		0.003	<1		
HF Weekly Mean	0.5		0.001	<1		
HF Daily Mean	5		0.003	<1		
Deposition Impacts²						
N Deposition ($\text{kg N}/\text{ha}/\text{yr}$)	5		0.020	<1		
Acidification ($\text{Keq}/\text{ha}/\text{yr}$)	<i>CLMaxN:0.531</i>		0.003	<1		

(1) The lichen and bryophyte sensitivity standards for ammonia and sulphur dioxide have been assigned for this assessment as the presence of these features has been recorded in the site Management Plan for at least one of the sections of the site.

(2) Direct impact units are $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and deposition impact units are $\text{kg N}/\text{ha}/\text{yr}$ or $\text{Keq}/\text{ha}/\text{yr}$.

Hestercombe House SAC

Pollutant	ES / EAL ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Back-ground ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Process Contribution (PC) ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	PC as % of ES	Predicted Environmental Concentration (PEC) ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	PEC as % ES
Direct Impacts²						
NO _x Annual	30		0.015	<1		
NO _x Daily Mean	75		0.45	<10		
SO ₂	10 ⁽¹⁾		0.004	<1		
Ammonia	1 ⁽¹⁾		0.001	<1		
HF Weekly Mean	0.5		0.001	<1		
HF	5		0.004	<1		

Pollutant	ES / EAL ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Back-ground ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Process Contribution (PC) ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	PC as % of ES	Predicted Environmental Concentration (PEC) ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	PEC as % ES
Daily Mean						
Deposition Impacts ²						
N Deposition (kg N/ha/yr)	10		0.008	<1		
Acidification (Keq/ha/yr)	CLMaxN:1.929		0.001	<1		

(1) The lichen and bryophyte sensitivity standards for ammonia and sulphur dioxide have been assigned for this assessment as the presence of these features has been recorded in the site Management Plan for at least one of the sections of the site.

(2) Direct impact units are $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and deposition impact units are kg N/ha/yr or Keq/ha/yr.

The assessment shows that at all the habitat sites the PC for all pollutants are less than 1% (long-term) and 10% (short-term) of the relevant thresholds. We have therefore concluded that there will be no likely significant effect on the habitat sites. We have completed a Stage 1 Habitat Risk Assessment detailing our assessment and sent it to Natural England. A copy of the Stage 1 Habitat Risk Assessment is available to view on public register.

5.4.3 Assessment of other conservation sites

Conservation sites are protected in law by legislation. The Habitats Directive provides the highest level of protection for SACs and SPAs, domestic legislation provides a lower but important level of protection for SSSIs. Finally the Environment Act provides more generalised protection for flora and fauna rather than for specifically named conservation designations. It is under the Environment Act that we assess other sites (such as local wildlife sites) which prevents us from permitting something that will result in significant pollution; and which offers levels of protection proportionate with other European and national legislation. However, it should not be assumed that because levels of protection are less stringent for these other sites, that they are not of considerable importance. Local sites link and support EU and national nature conservation sites together and hence help to maintain the UK's biodiversity resilience.

For SACs SPAs, Ramsars and SSSIs we consider the contribution PC and the background levels in making an assessment of impact. In assessing these other sites under the Environment Act we look at the impact from the Installation alone in order to determine whether it would cause significant pollution. This is a proportionate approach, in line with the levels of protection offered by the conservation legislation to protect these other sites (which are generally more numerous than Natura 2000 or SSSIs) whilst ensuring that we do not restrict development.

Critical levels and loads are set to protect the most vulnerable habitat types. Thresholds change in accordance with the levels of protection afforded by the

legislation. Therefore the thresholds for SAC SPA and SSSI features are more stringent than those for other nature conservation sites.

Therefore we would generally conclude that the Installation is not causing significant pollution at these other sites if the PC is less than the relevant critical level or critical load, provided that the Applicant is using BAT to control emissions.

The Applicant's assessment shows that the PCs at all the sites listed above will be below the critical levels or loads. We are therefore satisfied that the Installation will not cause significant pollution at the sites. The Applicant is required to prevent, minimise and control emissions using BAT, this is considered further in Section 6.

5.5 Impact of abnormal operations

Article 50(4)(c) of IED requires that waste incineration and co-incineration plants shall operate an automatic system to prevent waste feed whenever any of the continuous emission monitors show that an emission limit value (ELV) is exceeded due to disturbances or failures of the purification devices. Notwithstanding this, Article 46(6) allows for the continued incineration and co-incineration of waste under such conditions provided that this period does not (in any circumstances) exceed 4 hours uninterrupted continuous operation or the cumulative period of operation does not exceed 60 hours in a calendar year. This is a recognition that the emissions during transient states (e.g. start-up and shut-down) are higher than during steady-state operation, and the overall environmental impact of continued operation with a limited exceedance of an ELV may be less than that of a partial shut-down and re-start.

For incineration plant, IED sets backstop limits for particulates, CO and TOC which must continue to be met at all times. The CO and TOC limits are the same as for normal operation, and are intended to ensure that good combustion conditions are maintained. The backstop limit for particulates is 150 mg/m³ (as a half hourly average) which is five times the limit in normal operation.

Article 45(1)(f) requires that the permit shall specify the maximum permissible period of any technically unavoidable stoppages, disturbances, or failures of the purification devices or the measurement devices, during which the concentrations in the discharges into the air may exceed the prescribed emission limit values. In this case we have decided to set the time limit at 4 hours, which is the maximum period prescribed by Article 46(6) of the IED.

These abnormal operations are limited to no more than a period of 4 hours continuous operation and no more than 60 hour aggregated operation in any calendar year. This is less than 1% of total operating hours and so abnormal operating conditions are not expected to have any significant long term environmental impact unless the background conditions were already close

to, or exceeding, an ES. For the most part therefore consideration of abnormal operations is limited to consideration of its impact on short term ESs.

In making an assessment of abnormal operations the following worst case scenario has been assumed:

- Mercury emissions are 80 times those of normal operation
- NO_x emissions of 500 mg/m³
- Particulate emissions of 150 mg/m³ Metal emissions other than mercury are 16 times those of normal operation
- SO₂ emissions of 387mg/m³
- HCl emissions of 990mg/m³

This is a worst case scenario in that these abnormal conditions include a number of different equipment failures not all of which will necessarily result in an adverse impact on the environment (e.g. a failure of a monitoring instrument does not necessarily mean that the incinerator or abatement plant is malfunctioning). This analysis assumes that any failure of any equipment results in all the negative impacts set out above occurring simultaneously.

The result on the Applicant's short-term environmental impact is summarised in the table below.

Pollutant	EQS / EAL		Back-ground	Process Contribution (PC)		Predicted Environmental Concentration (PEC)	
	µg/m ³			µg/m ³	% of EAL	µg/m ³	% of EAL
NO ₂	200	2	52	64.15	32.1	116.15	58.1
PM ₁₀	50	3	36	18.87	37.7	54.87	109.7
SO ₂	350	5	7.2	141.81	40.5	149.01	42.6
HCl	750	6	0.71	363.65	48.5	364.4	48.58
V	1	3	0.6	1.83	183.0	2.4	243.00
Hg	7.5	1		0.27	<10		
Sb	150	1		1.83	<10		
Cu	200	1		1.83	<10		
Mn	1500	1		1.83	<10		
PCBs	6	1		2.9E-08	<10		
Cr (II)(III)	150	1		1.83	<10		

- 1 1-hr Maximum
- 2 99.79th %ile of 1-hour means
- 3 90.41st %ile of 24-hour means
- 4 99.9th ile of 15-min means

- 5 99.73rd %ile of 1-hour means
- 6 1-hour average

From the table above the emissions of the following substances can still be considered insignificant, in that the PC is still <10% of the short-term ES.

- Hg, Sb, Cu, Mn, PCBs and Cr(II)(III).

Also from the table above emissions of the following emissions (which were not screened out as insignificant) have been assessed as being unlikely to give rise to significant pollution in that the predicted environmental concentration is less than 100% of short term ES.

- NO₂, SO₂ and HCl

For V and PM₁₀ the PEC is greater than the short term ES.

In the case of Vanadium the Applicant has stated that their assessment assumed that all of the group 3 metals emission is composed of that individual metal. They consider this to be unrealistic, and state that Environment Agency guidance suggests that Vanadium is unlikely to constitute more than 1.2% of the total group 3 metals emission. Applying this ratio, the maximum PC for Vanadium would be 0.022ug/m³, which is 2.2% of the EAL therefore the PC for Vanadium can also be screened out as being less than 10% of the EAL.

In the case of PM₁₀ the Applicant has stated that maximum PC is also unrealistic as it assumes the abnormal operations occur for a full calendar day, when in reality the IED only allows abnormal operations for a maximum of four hours for any one instance, and a maximum of 60 hours in any one year. Therefore if it assumed that the abnormal operations will not occur for more than four hours on any given day, the PC would more likely be around 6.3% of the objective which is below the screening threshold. Given that the 90.4th percentile reflects concentrations on the 36th highest day of the year it is likely then assuming four hours of abnormal operation on this 36th highest day is unrealistic and worst case.

It was noted that the Applicant stated in their application that emissions dioxins, PCBs, PAHs and HF would not exceed the modelled emission concentrations even in the event of abnormal operations and therefore have not assessed these parameters. Whilst this is plausible, we decided to carry out our own assessment as part of our audit of the air dispersion modelling assessment. We conservatively assumed a 5 fold increase of the modelled emission concentration for HF and 100 fold increase for PCBs and PAH. The results of checks showed that the relevant environmental standards would not be exceeded.

We are therefore satisfied that it is not necessary to further constrain the conditions and duration of the periods of abnormal operation beyond those permitted under Chapter IV of the IED.

We have not assessed the impact of abnormal operations against long term ESs for the reasons set out above. Except that if dioxin emissions were at 10 ng/m³ for the maximum period of abnormal operation, this would result in an increase of approximately 70% in the TDI reported in section 5.3.3. This would not lead to an exceedance of the relevant TDI for dioxins.

5.6 Impact of emissions during OTNOC

IED article 14 (3) states that BAT conclusions shall be the reference for setting the permit conditions. Article 14 (3) states that the competent authority shall set emission limit values that, under normal operating conditions, do not exceed the emission levels associated with the best available techniques as laid down in the decisions on BAT conclusions. These limits are set in Table S3.1. In addition, the IED also sets maximum limits for certain emissions that should not be exceeded and would still apply outside normal operating conditions. These limits are set in Tale S3.1(b) and are normally higher than the BAT AELs

The IED and BAT conclusions therefore make provision for plants to have short term fluctuations where BAT AELs could be exceeded but the IED limits are not other than under abnormal operation. These periods are called 'Other than normal operation.' (OTNOC). Although the BAT AELs can be exceeded during OTNOC setting BAT AELs as emission limits is controlling emissions because plants will need to ensure that the plant is capable of meeting the BAT AELs during normal operation which will apply for most of the time the plant is operational.

Although BAT AELs do not apply during periods of OTNOC the IED annex VI emission limits do still apply.

Periods of OTNOC will be of short duration and limited in nature. The Applicant used the IED annex VI half hour average limits to assess short term impacts, therefore no further specific assessment of the impacts during OTNOC was required.

Pre-operational condition PO1 requires the Operator to have an EMS and that the EMS will include an OTNOC management plan in line with BAT conclusions 1 and 18. The Operator will be required to identify potential OTNOC scenarios and any required monitoring in their management plan and will require our approval of scenarios before they can be classed as OTNOC. We may impose further monitoring and limits, through tale S3.1(b) of the Permit, once we have approved the OTNOC scenarios.

6. Application of Best Available Techniques

6.1 Scope of Consideration

In this section, we explain how we have determined whether the Applicant's proposals are the Best Available Techniques for this Installation.

- The first issue we address is the fundamental choice of incineration technology. There are a number of alternatives, and the Applicant has explained why it has chosen one particular kind for this Installation.
- We then consider in particular control measures for the emissions which were not screened out as insignificant in the previous section on minimising the installation's environmental impact.
- We also have to consider the combustion efficiency and energy utilisation of different design options for the Installation, which are relevant considerations in the determination of BAT for the Installation, including the Global Warming Potential of the different options.
- Finally, the prevention and minimisation of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) must be considered, as we explain below.

Chapter IV of the IED specifies a set of maximum emission limit values. Although these limits are designed to be stringent, and to provide a high level of environmental protection, they do not necessarily reflect what can be achieved by new plant. Article 14(3) of the IED says that BAT Conclusions shall be the reference for setting the permit conditions, so it may be possible and desirable to achieve emissions below the limits referenced in Chapter IV. The BAT conclusions were published in December 2019.

Even if the Chapter IV limits are appropriate, operational controls complement the emission limits and should generally result in emissions below the maximum allowed; whilst the limits themselves provide headroom to allow for unavoidable process fluctuations. Actual emissions are therefore almost certain to be below emission limits in practice, because any Operator who sought to operate its installation continually at the maximum permitted level would almost inevitably breach those limits regularly, simply by virtue of normal fluctuations in plant performance, resulting in enforcement action (including potentially prosecution) being taken. Assessments based on, say, Chapter IV limits are therefore "worst-case" scenarios.

Should the Installation, once in operation, emit at rates significantly below the limits included in the Permit, we will consider tightening ELVs appropriately. We are, however, satisfied that emissions at the permitted limits would ensure a high level of protection for human health and the environment in any event.

6.1.1 Consideration of Furnace Type

The prime function of the furnace is to achieve maximum combustion of the waste. Chapter IV of the IED requires that the plant (furnace in this context) should be designed to deliver its requirements. The main requirements of Chapter IV in relation to the choice of a furnace are compliance with air emission limits for CO and TOC and achieving a low TOC/LOI level in the bottom ash.

Section 4.3 of the BREF provides a comparison of combustion and thermal treatment technologies, used in Europe and factors affecting their applicability and operational suitability for various waste types. There is also some information on the comparative costs. The table below has been extracted from the BREF tables. This table is also in line with the Guidance Note “The Incineration of Waste (EPR 5.01)). However, it should not be taken as an exhaustive list nor that all technologies listed have found equal application across Europe.

Overall, any of the furnace technologies listed below would be considered as BAT provided the Applicant has justified it in terms of:

- nature/physical state of the waste and its variability
- proposed plant throughput which may affect the number of incineration lines
- preference and experience of chosen technology including plant availability
- nature and quantity/quality of residues produced.
- emissions to air – usually NO_x as the furnace choice could have an effect on the amount of unabated NO_x produced
- energy consumption – whole plant, waste preparation, effect on GWP
- Need, if any, for further processing of residues to comply with TOC
- Costs

Summary comparison of thermal treatment technologies (reproduced from the Waste Incineration BREF)

Technique	Key waste characteristics and suitability	Throughput per line	Advantages	Disadvantages / Limitations of use	Bottom Ash Quality	Cost
Moving grate (air-cooled)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low to medium heat values (LCV 5 – 16.5 GJ/t) • Municipal and other heterogeneous solid wastes • Can accept a proportion of sewage sludge and/or medical waste with municipal waste • Applied at most modern MSW installations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 to 50 t/h with most projects 5 to 30 t/h. • Most industrial applications not below 2.5 or 3 t/h. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widely proven at large scales. • Robust • Low maintenance cost • Long operational history • Can take heterogeneous wastes without special preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally not suited to powders, liquids or materials that melt through the grate 	TOC 0.5% to 3%	High capacity reduces specific cost per tonne of waste
Moving grate (liquid Cooled)	Same as air-cooled grates except: LCV 10 – 20 GJ/t	Same as air-cooled grates	As air-cooled grates but: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • higher heat value waste is treatable • Better combustion control possible. 	As air-cooled grates but: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • risk of grate damage/leaks • higher complexity 	TOC 0.5% to 3%	Slightly higher capital cost than air-cooled
Rotary Kiln	Can accept liquids and pastes as well as gases Solid feeds more limited than grate (due to refractory damage) often applied to hazardous Wastes	<16 t/h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very well proven • Broad range of wastes • Good burn out even of HW 	Throughputs lower than grates	TOC <3 %	Higher specific cost due to reduced capacity

Technique	Key waste characteristics and suitability	Throughput per line	Advantages	Disadvantages / Limitations of use	Bottom Ash Quality	Cost
Fluid bed - bubbling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of CV (5-25 MJ/kg) • Only finely divided consistent wastes. • Limited use for raw MSW • Often applied to sludges co fired with RDF, shredded MSW, sludges, poultry manure 	Up to 25 t/h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good mixing • Fly ashes of good leaching quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careful operation required to avoid clogging bed. • Higher fly ash quantities. 	TOC <1%	FGT cost may be lower. Costs of waste preparation
Fluid bed - circulating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of CV (6-25 MJ/kg) • Only finely divided consistent wastes. • Limited use for raw MSW • Often applied to sludges co-fired with RDF, coal, wood waste 	Up to 70 t/h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good mixing • High steam parameters up to 500°C • Greater fuel flexibility than BFB • Fly ashes of good leaching quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyclone required to conserve bed material • Higher fly ash quantities 	TOC <1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FGT cost may be lower. • Costs of waste preparation
Spreader - stoker combustor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RDF and other particle feeds • Poultry manure • Wood wastes 	No information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple grate construction • Less sensitive to particle size than FB 	Only for well defined mono-streams	No information	No information

Technique	Key waste characteristics and suitability	Throughput per line	Advantages	Disadvantages / Limitations of use	Bottom Ash Quality	Cost
Gasification - fixed bed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed plastic wastes • Other similar consistent streams • Gasification less widely used/proven than incineration 	Up to 20 t/h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low leaching residue • Good burnout if oxygen blown • Syngas available • Reduced oxidation of recyclable metals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited waste feed • Not full combustion • High skill level • Tar in raw gas • Less widely proven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low leaching bottom ash • Good burnout with oxygen 	High operating/maintenance costs
Gasification - entrained flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed plastic wastes • Other similar consistent streams • Not suited to untreated MSW • Gasification less widely used/proven than incineration 	Up to 10 t/h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low leaching slag • Reduced oxidation of recyclable metals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited waste feed • Not full combustion • High skill level • Less widely proven 	low leaching slag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High operation/maintenance costs • High pre-treatment costs
Gasification - fluidised bed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed plastic wastes • Shredded MSW • Shredder residues • Sludges • Metal rich wastes • Other similar consistent streams • Gasification less widely used/proven than incineration 	5 – 20 t/h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can use low reactor temperatures e.g. for Al recovery • Separation of main non combustibles • Can be combined with ash melting • Reduced oxidation of recyclable metals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited waste size (<30cm) • Tar in raw gas • Higher UHV raw gas • Less widely proven 	If combined with ash melting chamber ash is vitrified	Lower than other gasifiers

Technique	Key waste characteristics and suitability	Throughput per line	Advantages	Disadvantages / Limitations of use	Bottom Ash Quality	Cost
Pyrolysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-treated MSW • High metal inert streams • Shredder residues/plastics • Pyrolysis is less widely used/proven than incineration 	<p>~ 5 t/h (short drum) 5 – 10 t/h (medium drum)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No oxidation of metals • No combustion energy for metals/inert • In reactor acid neutralisation possible • Syngas available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited wastes • Process control and engineering critical • High skill level • Not widely proven • Need market for syngas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent on process temperature • Residue produced requires further processing and sometimes combustion 	High pre-treatment, operation and capital costs

The Applicant has carried out a review of the following candidate furnace types:

- Fixed Bed
- Rotary Kiln
- Fluidised Bed
- Pyrolysis / Gasification
- Moving Grate

The review considered the advantages and disadvantages of each furnace type. Fixed bed technology has been discounted because it does not accommodate the variations in the calorific value of the incoming waste. Rotary kiln has been discounted because the overall energy recovery efficiency is reduced as the system requires high levels of excess air. Gasification or pyrolysis has been discounted due to the technology having proved problematic when implementing non-heterogenous materials such as RDF and municipal wastes leading to uncertain operating reliabilities. Fluidised bed has been discounted because it does not have an established track record when compared to moving grate technology and imposes limitations on operations that may not be appropriate to the variability of waste that may be processed by the facility.

The Applicant has stated that moving grate has a robust and proven track record across Europe and the most common technology for the incineration of waste in the UK. The moving grate allows agitation of the waste improving aeration and therefore combustion, and the speed and throw of the grate can be adjusted to accommodate different waste types as they move through the process

The Applicant concluded from their assessment that the moving grate system represents BAT for this application. The grate system is identified in the tables above as being considered BAT in the BREF or TGN for this type of waste feed.

The Applicant proposes to use low sulphur fuel oil as support fuel for start-up, shut down and for the auxiliary burners. The choice of support fuel is based on fuel oil being safer to store on site than liquefied gas and that there is no high pressure gas main within a reasonable distance to the site.

The Applicant has proposed to use a furnace technology comprising moving grate.

The Applicant proposes to use low sulphur diesel oil as support fuel for start-up, shut down and for the auxiliary burners. The choice of support fuel is based on the site area not being served by the gas distribution network and the lower risk of storing low sulphur fuel oil over LPG.

Boiler Design

In accordance with BAT 30 of the BAT C and our Technical Guidance Note, EPR 5.01, the Applicant has confirmed that the boiler design will include the

following features to minimise the potential for reformation of dioxins within the de-novo synthesis range. They have stated that throughout the entire boiler passes – which progressively decrease in volume – there are no parts or layers of low velocity gas, neither pockets of stagnant gas.

Any of the options listed in the BREF and summarised in the table above can be BAT. The Applicant has chosen a furnace technique that is listed in the BREF and we are satisfied that the Applicant has provided sufficient justification to show that their technique is BAT. This is not to say that the other techniques could not also be BAT, but that the Applicant has shown that their chosen technique is at least comparable with the other BAT options. We believe that, based on the information gathered by the BREF process, the chosen technology will achieve the requirements of Chapter IV of the IED for the air emission of TOC/CO and the TOC on bottom ash.

6.2 BAT and emissions control

The prime function of flue gas treatment is to reduce the concentration of pollutants in the exhaust gas as far as practicable. The techniques which are described as BAT individually are targeted to remove specific pollutants, but the BREF notes that there is benefit from considering the Flue Gas Cleaning System (FGC) system as a whole unit. Individual units often interact, providing a primary abatement for some pollutants and an additional effect on others.

The BREF lists the general factors requiring consideration when selecting flue-gas treatment (FGC) systems as:

- type of waste, its composition and variation
- type of combustion process, and its size
- flue-gas flow and temperature
- flue-gas content, including magnitude and rate of composition fluctuations
- target emission limit values
- restrictions on discharge of aqueous effluents
- plume visibility requirements
- land and space availability
- availability and cost of outlets for residues accumulated/recovered
- compatibility with any existing process components (existing plants)
- availability and cost of water and other reagents
- energy supply possibilities (e.g. supply of heat from condensing scrubbers)
- reduction of emissions by primary methods
- noise
- arrangement of different flue-gas cleaning devices if possible with decreasing flue-gas temperatures from boiler to stack

Taking these factors into account the Technical Guidance Note points to a range of technologies being BAT subject to circumstances of the Installation.

6.2.1 Particulate Matter

Particulate matter				
Technique	Advantages	Disadvantages	Optimisation	Defined as BAT in BREF or TGN for:
Bag / Fabric filters (BF)	Reliable abatement of particulate matter to below 5mg/m ³	Max temp 250°C Higher energy use than ESP Sensitive to condensation and corrosion	Multiple compartments Bag burst detectors	Most plants
Wet scrubbing	May reduce acid gases simultaneously.	Not normally BAT. Liquid effluent	Require reheat to prevent visible plume and dew point	Where scrubbing required for other

		produced	problems.	pollutants
Ceramic filters	High temperature applications Smaller plant.	May “blind” more than fabric filters		Small plant. High temperature gas cleaning required.
Electrostatic precipitators (ESP)	Low pressure gradient. Use with BF may reduce the energy consumption of the induced draft fan.	Not normally BAT by itself Risk of dioxin formation if used in 200-400°C range		When used with other particulate abatement plant

The Applicant proposes to use Bag/fabric filters for the abatement of particulate matter. Fabric filters provide reliable abatement of particulate matter to below 5 mg/m³ and are BAT for most installations. The Applicant proposes to use multiple compartment filters with burst bag detection to minimise the risk of increased particulate emissions in the event of bag rupture.

Emissions of particulate matter have been previously screened out as insignificant, and so the Environment Agency agrees that the Applicant’s proposed technique is BAT for the installation.

6.2.2 Oxides of Nitrogen

Oxides of Nitrogen : Primary Measures				
Technique	Advantages	Disadvantages	Optimisation	Defined as BAT in BREF or TGN for:
Low NOx burners	Reduces NOx at source		Start-up, supplementary firing.	Where auxiliary burners required.
Starved air systems	Reduce CO simultaneously.			Pyrolysis, Gasification systems.
Optimise primary and secondary air injection				All plant.
Flue Gas Recirculation (FGR)	Reduces the consumption of reagents used for secondary NOx control. May increase overall energy recovery	Some applications experience corrosion problems. Can result in elevated CO and other products of incomplete combustion		Option as appropriate combination of techniques. Justify if not used

Oxides of Nitrogen : Secondary Measures (BAT is to apply Primary Measures first)				
Technique	Advantages	Disadvantages	Optimisation	Defined as BAT in BREF or TGN for:
Selective catalytic reduction (SCR)	NOx emissions 40-150mg/ m ³ Reduces CO, VOC, dioxins	Expensive. Re-heat required – reduces plant efficiency		All plant
SCR by catalytic filter bags	50-120 mg/m ³			Applicable to new and existing plants with or without existing SNCR. Can be used with NH ₃ as slip catalyst with SNCR
Selective	NOx emissions	Relies on an	Port injection	All plant

non-catalytic reduction (SNCR)	80 -180 mg/m ³ Lower energy consumption than SCR Lower costs than SCR	optimum temperature around 900 °C, and sufficient retention time for reduction May lead to Ammonia slip	locations	unless lower NO _x release required for local environmental protection.
Reagent Type: Ammonia	Likely to be BAT	More difficult to handle Lower nitrous oxide formation Narrower temperature window		All plant
Reagent Type: Urea	Likely to be BAT	Higher N ₂ O emissions than ammonia, optimisation particularly important		All plant

The Applicant proposes to implement the following primary measures:

- Low NO_x burners – this technique reduces NO_x at source and is defined as BAT where auxiliary burners are required.
- Optimise primary and secondary air injection – this technique is BAT for all plant.
- Flue gas recirculation – this technique reduces the consumption of reagents for secondary NO_x control and can increase overall energy recovery, although in some applications there can be corrosion problems.

There are three recognised techniques for secondary measures to reduce NO_x. These are Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR), SCR by catalytic filter bags and Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction (SNCR) with or without catalytic filter bags. For each technique, there is a choice of urea or ammonia reagent.

SCR can reduce NO_x levels to below 50 mg/m³ and can be applied to all plant, it is generally more expensive than SNCR and requires reheating of the waste gas stream which reduces energy efficiency, periodic replacement of the catalysts also produces a hazardous waste. The use of SCR by catalytic filter bags can reduce emissions to 50 -120 mg/m³ with low investment costs. SNCR can typically reduce NO_x levels to between 80 and 180 mg/m³, it relies on an optimum temperature of around 900 °C and sufficient retention time for reduction. SNCR is more likely to have higher levels of ammonia slip. The technique can be applied to all plant unless lower NO_x releases are required for local environmental protection. Urea or ammonia can be used as the reagent with either technique, urea is somewhat easier to handle than

ammonia and has a wider operating temperature window, but tends to result in higher emissions of N₂O. Both reagents are BAT, and the use of one over the other is not normally significant in environmental terms.

The Applicant proposes to use SNCR and SCR using urea as reagent.

Emissions of NO_x cannot be screened out as insignificant. Therefore the Applicant has carried out a cost / benefit study of the alternative techniques. The cost per tonne of NO_x abated over the projected life of the plant has been calculated and compared with the environmental impact as shown in the table below.

	Cost of NO _x removal £/tonne	PC (long term) as proportion of the EAL	PEC (long term) as proportion of the EAL
SNCR	£1,617	5.1%	45.4%
SNCR + FGR	£1,694	4.7%	44.9%
SNCR + FGR + SCR	£5,052	2.8%	43.0%

Based on the figures above the Applicant considers that the additional cost of SNCR + FGR + SCR is justified by the reduction in environmental impact. So they have chosen this method as their NO_x abatement. The Applicant has justified the use of urea as the reagent on the basis of that it is safer to handle and store. The Environment Agency agrees with this assessment.

We however have included a condition in the permit, second part of IC4 in table S1.3 that requires the Operator to carry out an assessment of the performance of the SNCR/SCR abatement system and the feasibility of the system achieving a lower emission limit value (ELV) for NO_x of 100mg/m³ as daily average. The permitted limit is set at 120mg/m³, we however believe that a lower ELV may be achievable particularly as the system uses SCR.

The amount of urea used for NO_x abatement will need to be optimised to maximise NO_x reduction and minimise NH₃ slip. The first part of Improvement condition IC4 requires the Operator to report to the Environment Agency on optimising the performance of the NO_x abatement system. The BAT AEL for ammonia has been set and the Operator is also required to monitor and report on N₂O emissions every 6 months.

6.2.3 Acid Gases, SO_x, HCl and HF

Acid gases and halogens : Primary Measures				
Technique	Advantages	Disadvantages	Optimisation	Defined as BAT in BREF or TGN for:
Low sulphur fuel, (< 0.1%S)	Reduces SO _x at source		Start-up, supplementary firing.	Where auxiliary fuel required.

gasoil or natural gas)				
Management of waste streams	Disperses sources of acid gases (e.g. PVC) through feed.	Requires closer control of waste management		All plant with heterogeneous waste feed

Acid gases and halogens : Secondary Measures (BAT is to apply Primary Measures first)

Technique	Advantages	Disadvantages	Optimisation	Defined as BAT in BREF or TGN for:
Wet	<p>High reaction rates</p> <p>Low solid residues production</p> <p>Reagent delivery may be optimised by concentration and flow rate</p>	<p>Large effluent disposal and water consumption if not fully treated for re-cycle</p> <p>Effluent treatment plant required</p> <p>May result in wet plume</p> <p>Energy required for effluent treatment and plume reheat</p>		<p>Used for wide range of waste types</p> <p>Can be used as polishing step after other techniques where emissions are high or variable</p>
Dry	<p>Low water use</p> <p>Higher reagent consumption to achieve emissions of other FGC techniques but may be reduced by recycling in plant</p> <p>Lower energy use</p>	<p>Higher solid residue production</p> <p>Reagent consumption controlled only by input rate</p>		All plant

	Higher reliability Lowest visible plume potential			
Semi-dry (also described as semi-wet in the Bref)	Medium reaction rates Reagent delivery may be varied by concentration and input rate	Higher solid waste residues than wet but lower than dry system		All plant
Direct injection into boiler	Reduced acid loading to subsequent cleaning stages. Reduced peak emissions and reduced reagent usage			Generally applicable to grate and rotary kiln plants.
Direction desulphurisation	Reduced boiler corrosion	Does not improve overall performance. Can affect bottom ash quality. Corrosion problems in flue gas cleaning system.		Partial abatement upstream of other techniques in fluidised beds
Reagent Type: Sodium Hydroxide	Highest removal rates Low solid waste production	Corrosive material ETP sludge for disposal		HWIs
Reagent Type: Lime	Very good removal	Corrosive material	Wide range of uses	MWIs, CWIs

	<p>rates</p> <p>Low leaching solid residue</p> <p>Temperature of reaction well suited to use with bag filters</p>	<p>May give greater residue volume if no in-plant recycle</p>		
<p>Reagent Type: Sodium Bicarbonate</p>	<p>Good removal rates</p> <p>Easiest to handle</p> <p>Dry recycle systems proven</p>	<p>Efficient temperature range may be at upper end for use with bag filters</p> <p>Leachable solid residues</p> <p>Bicarbonate more expensive</p>	<p>Not proven at large plant</p>	<p>CWIs</p>

The Applicant proposes to implement the following primary measures:

- Use of low sulphur fuels for start up and auxiliary burners – gas should be used if available, where fuel oil is used, this will be low sulphur (i.e. <0.1%), this will reduce SO_x at source. The Applicant has justified its choice of gasoil as the support fuel on the basis that natural gas is unavailable and storage of gasoil is lower risk than LPG and we agree with that assessment.
- Management of heterogeneous wastes – this will disperse problem wastes such as PVC by ensuring a homogeneous waste feed.

There are five recognised techniques for secondary measures to reduce acid gases, all of which can be BAT. These are wet, dry, semi-dry, boiler sorbent injection and direct desulphurisation. Wet scrubbing produces an effluent for treatment and disposal in compliance with Article 46(3) of IED. It will also require reheat of the exhaust to avoid a visible plume. Wet scrubbing is unlikely to be BAT except where there are high acid gas and metal components in the exhaust gas as may be the case for some hazardous waste incinerators. In this case, the Applicant does not propose using wet scrubbing, and the Environment Agency agrees that wet scrubbing is not appropriate in this case. Direct desulphurisation is only applicable for fluidised bed furnaces.

The Applicant has considered wet and dry methods of secondary measures for acid gas abatement. Any of these methods can be BAT for this type of facility.

The Applicant has discounted wet methods using sodium hydroxide based on effluent production and the treatment required. They have chosen a dry system using lime. We consider both dry and semi-dry methods as BAT, both rely on the dosing of powdered materials into the exhaust gas stream. Semi-dry systems (i.e. hydrated reagent) offer reduced material consumption through faster reaction rates, but reagent recycling in dry systems can offset this.

In both dry and semi-dry systems, the injected powdered reagent reacts with the acid gases and is removed from the gas stream by the bag filter system. The powdered materials are either lime or sodium bicarbonate. Both are effective at reducing acid gases, and dosing rates can be controlled from continuously monitoring acid gas emissions. The decision on which reagent to use is normally economic. Lime produces a lower leaching solid residue in the APC residues than sodium bicarbonate and the reaction temperature is well suited to bag filters, it tends to be lower cost, but it is a corrosive material and can generate a greater volume of solid waste residues than sodium bicarbonate. Both reagents are BAT, and the use of one over the other is not significant in environmental terms in this case.

Direct boiler injection is applicable for all plants and can improve overall performance of the acid gas abatement system as well as reducing reagent usage. The Applicant is proposing this.

Reagent use will be optimised with dosing linked to monitoring. Also residues will be recirculated to reduce the amount of reagent used.

In this case, the Applicant proposes to a dry system using magnesium lime and lime. The Environment Agency is satisfied that this is BAT

6.2.4 Carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

The prevention and minimisation of emissions of carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds is through the optimisation of combustion controls, where all measures will increase the oxidation of these species.

Carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds (VOCs)				
Technique	Advantages	Disadvantages	Optimisation	Defined as BAT in BREF or TGN for:
Optimise combustion control	All measures will increase oxidation of these species.		Covered in section on furnace selection	All plants

6.2.5 Dioxins and furans (and Other POPs)

Dioxins and furans				
Technique	Advantages	Disadvantages	Optimisation	Defined as BAT in BREF or TGN for:
Optimise combustion control	All measures will increase oxidation of these species.		Covered in section on furnace selection	All plants
Avoid <i>de novo</i> synthesis			Covered in boiler design	All plant
Effective Particulate matter removal			Covered in section on particulate matter	All plant
Activated Carbon injection	Can be combined with acid gas absorber or fed separately. Metallic mercury is also absorbed.	Combined feed rate usually controlled by acid gas content.		All plant. Separate feed normally BAT unless feed is constant and acid gas control also controls dioxin release.
Catalytic filter bags	High destruction efficiency	Does not remove mercury. Higher cost than non-catalytic filter bags		

The prevention and minimisation of emissions of dioxins and furans is achieved through:

- optimisation of combustion control including the maintenance of permit conditions on combustion temperature and residence time, which has been considered in 6.1.1 above;
- avoidance of de novo synthesis, which has been covered in the consideration of boiler design;
- the effective removal of particulate matter, which has been considered in 6.2.1 above;
- injection of activated carbon. This can be combined with the acid gas reagent or dosed separately. Where the feed is combined, the combined feed rate will be controlled by the acid gas concentration in the exhaust. Therefore, separate feed of activated carbon would normally be considered BAT unless the feed was relatively constant. Effective control of acid gas emissions also assists in the control of dioxin releases.

In this case the Applicant proposes separate feed and we are satisfied their proposals are BAT.

6.2.6 Metals

Metals				
Technique	Advantages	Disadvantages	Optimisation	Defined as BAT in BREF or TGN for:
Effective Particulate matter removal			Covered in section on particulate matter	All plant
Activated Carbon injection for mercury recovery	Can be combined with acid gas absorber or fed separately. Can be impregnated with bromine or sulphur to enhance reactivity, for use during peak emissions.	Combined feed rate usually controlled by acid gas content.		All plant. Separate feed normally BAT unless feed is constant and acid gas control also controls dioxin release.
Fixed or moving bed adsorption	Mainly for mercury and other metals, as well as organic compounds			Limited applicability due to pressure drop
Boiler bromine injection	Injection during mercury peaks. Oxidation of mercury leading to improved removal in downstream removal method.	Consumption of aqueous bromine. Can lead to formation of polybrominated dioxins. Can damage bag filter. Effects can be limited use is restricted to dealing with peak emissions		Not suitable for pyrolysis or gasification. Can deal with mercury peaks.

The prevention and minimisation of metal emissions is achieved through the effective removal of particulate matter, and this has been considered in 6.2.1 above.

Unlike other metals however, mercury if present will be in the vapour phase. BAT for mercury removal is one or a combination of the techniques listed above. The Applicant has proposed dosing of activated carbon into the exhaust gas stream. This can be combined with the acid gas reagent or dosed separately. Where the feed is combined, the combined feed rate will be controlled by the acid gas concentration in the exhaust. Therefore, separate feed of activated carbon would normally be considered BAT unless the feed was relatively constant.

In this case the Applicant proposes separate feed and we are satisfied their proposals are BAT. We are satisfied that

6.3 BAT and global warming potential

This section summarises the assessment of greenhouse gas impacts which has been made in the determination of this Permit. Emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases differ from those of other pollutants in that, except at gross levels, they have no localised environmental impact. Their impact is at a global level and in terms of climate change. Nonetheless, CO₂ is clearly a pollutant for IED purposes.

The principal greenhouse gas emitted is CO₂, but the plant also emits small amounts of N₂O arising from the operation of secondary NO_x abatement. N₂O has a global warming potential 310 times that of CO₂. The Applicant will therefore be required to optimise the performance of the secondary NO_x abatement system to ensure its GWP impact is minimised.

The major source of greenhouse gas emissions from the installation is however CO₂ from the combustion of waste. There will also be CO₂ emissions from the burning of support fuels at start up, shut down and should it be necessary to maintain combustion temperatures. BAT for greenhouse gas emissions is to maximise energy recovery and efficiency.

The electricity that is generated by the Installation will displace emissions of CO₂ elsewhere in the UK, as virgin fossil fuels will not be burnt to create the same electricity.

The Installation is not subject to the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2012 therefore it is a requirement of IED to investigate how emissions of greenhouse gases emitted from the installation might be prevented or minimised.

Factors influencing GWP and CO₂ emissions from the Installation are:

On the debit side

- CO₂ emissions from the burning of the waste;
- CO₂ emissions from burning auxiliary or supplementary fuels;
- CO₂ emissions associated with electrical energy used;
- N₂O from the de-NO_x process.

On the credit side

- CO₂ saved from the export of electricity to the public supply by displacement of burning of virgin fuels;

The GWP of the plant will be dominated by the emissions of carbon dioxide that are released as a result of waste combustion. This will be constant for all options considered in the BAT assessment. Any differences in the GWP of the options in the BAT appraisal will therefore arise from small differences in energy recovery and in the amount of N₂O emitted.

The Applicant considered energy efficiency and BAT for the de-NO_x process in its BAT assessment. The Applicant's assessment compares the GWP of moving grate with fluidised bed and rotary kiln; SCR and SCR + SNCR; and acid gas abatement comparing their chosen 2 step method using magnesium lime and lime against a single step method using sodium bicarbonate. The comparisons show that the Applicant's chosen options are the best in terms of GWP, with the exception of the de-NO_x process for which their chosen option, SNCR & SCR, has a marginally higher GWP as compared to SCR on its own due to an additional fan being required which will increase energy demand of the process. However the Applicant's assessment shows that the difference in global warming potential between the best option in terms of GWP and the Applicant's preferred option is minor and we do not consider the difference to be significant enough to not consider the Applicant's chosen de-NO_x system BAT.

Note: avoidance of methane which would be formed if the waste was landfilled has not been included in this assessment. If it were included due to its avoidance it would be included on the credit side. Ammonia has no direct GWP effect.

6.4 BAT and POPs

International action on Persistent Organic pollutants (POPs) is required under the UN's Stockholm Convention, which entered into force in 2004. The EU implemented the Convention through the POPs Regulation (2019/1021), which is directly applicable in UK law. The Environment Agency is required by national POPs Regulations (SI 2007 No 3106) to give effect to Article 6(3) of the EC POPs Regulation when determining applications for environmental Permits.

However, it needs to be borne in mind that this application is for a particular type of installation, namely a waste incinerator. The Stockholm Convention distinguishes between intentionally-produced and unintentionally-produced POPs. Intentionally-produced POPs are those used deliberately (mainly in the past) in agriculture (primarily as pesticides) and industry. Those unintentionally-produced POPs are not relevant where waste incineration is concerned, as in fact high-temperature incineration is one of the prescribed methods for destroying POPs.

The unintentionally-produced POPs addressed by the Convention are:

- dioxins and furans;
- HCB (hexachlorobenzene)
- PCBs (polychlorobiphenyls) and
- PeCB (pentachlorobenzene)

The UK's national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention, published in 2007, makes explicit that the relevant controls for unintentionally-produced POPs, such as might be produced by waste incineration, are delivered through the requirements of IED. That would include an examination of BAT, including potential alternative techniques, with a view to preventing or minimising harmful emissions. These have been applied as explained in this document, which explicitly addresses alternative techniques and BAT for the minimisation of emissions of dioxins.

Our legal obligation, under regulation 4(b) of the POPs Regulations, is, when considering an application for an environmental permit, to comply with article 6(3) of the POPs Regulation:

“Member States shall, when considering proposals to construct new facilities or to significantly modify existing facilities using processes that release chemicals listed in Annex III, give priority consideration to alternative processes, techniques or practices that have similar usefulness but which avoid the formation and release of substances listed in Annex III, without prejudice to Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council”

The 1998 Protocol to the Convention recommended that unintentionally produced should be controlled by imposing emission limits (e.g 0.1 ng/m³ for MWIs) and using BAT for incineration. UN Economic Commission for Europe (Executive Body for the Convention) (ECE-EB) produced BAT guidance for the parties to the Convention in 2009. This document considers various control techniques and concludes that primary measures involving management of feed material by reducing halogenated substances are not technically effective. This is not surprising because halogenated wastes still need to be disposed of and because POPs can be generated from relatively low concentrations of halogens. In summary, the successful control techniques for waste incinerators listed in the ECE-EB BAT are:

- maintaining furnace temperature of 850°C and a combustion gas residence time of at least 2 seconds
- rapid cooling of flue gases to avoid the *de novo* reformation temperature range of 250-450°C
- use of bag filters and the injection of activated carbon or coke to adsorb residual POPs components.

Using the methods listed above, the UN-ECE BAT document concludes that incinerators can achieve an emission concentration of 0.1 ng TEQ/m³.

We believe that the Permit ensures that the formation and release of POPs will be prevented or minimised. As we explain above, high-temperature incineration is one of the prescribed methods for destroying POPs. Permit conditions are based on the use of BAT and Chapter IV of IED and incorporate all the above requirements of the UN-ECE BAT guidance and deliver the requirements of the Stockholm Convention in relation to unintentionally produced POPs.

The release of **dioxins and furans** to air is required by the IED to be assessed against the I-TEQ (International Toxic Equivalence) limit of 0.1 ng/m³. Further development of the understanding of the harm caused by dioxins has resulted in the World Health Organisation (WHO) producing updated factors to calculate the WHO-TEQ value. Certain **PCBs** have structures which make them behave like dioxins (dioxin-like PCBs), and these also have toxic equivalence factors defined by WHO to make them capable of being considered together with dioxins. The UK's independent health advisory committee, the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT) has adopted WHO-TEQ values for both dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in their review of Tolerable Daily Intake (TDI) criteria. The Permit requires that, in addition to the requirements of the IED, the WHO-TEQ values for both dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs should be monitored for reporting purposes, to enable evaluation of exposure to dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs to be made using the revised TDI recommended by COT. The release of dioxin-like PCBs and PAHs is expected to be low where measures have been taken to control dioxin releases. The Permit also requires monitoring of a range of PAHs and dioxin-like PCBs at the same frequency as dioxins are monitored. We have included a requirement to monitor and report against these WHO-TEQ values for dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs and the range of PAHs as listed in the Permit. We are confident that the measures taken to control the release of dioxins will also control the releases of dioxin-like PCBs and PAHs. Section 5.2.1 of this document details the assessment of emissions to air, which includes dioxins and concludes that there will be no adverse effect on human health from either normal or abnormal operation.

Hexachlorobenzene (HCB) is released into the atmosphere as an accidental product from the combustion of coal, waste incineration and certain metal processes. It has also been used as a fungicide, especially for seed treatment although this use has been banned in the UK since 1975. Natural fires and volcanoes may serve as natural sources. Releases of (HCB) are addressed by the European Environment Agency (EEA), which advises that:

"due to comparatively low levels in emissions from most (combustion) processes special measures for HCB control are usually not proposed. HCB emissions can be controlled generally like other chlorinated organic compounds in emissions, for instance dioxins/furans and PCBs: regulation of time of combustion, combustion temperature, temperature in cleaning devices, sorbents application for waste gases

cleaning etc." [reference
http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/EMEPCORINAIR4/sources_of_HCB.pdf]

Pentachlorobenzene (PeCB) is another of the POPs list to be considered under incineration. PeCB has been used as a fungicide or flame retardant, there is no data available however on production, recent or past, outside the UN-ECE region. PeCBs can be emitted from the same sources as for PCDD/F: waste incineration, thermal metallurgic processes and combustion plants providing energy. As discussed above, the control techniques described in the UN-ECE BAT guidance and included in the permit, are effective in controlling the emissions of all relevant POPs including PeCB.

We have assessed the control techniques proposed for dioxins by the Applicant and have concluded that they are appropriate for dioxin control. We are confident that these controls are in line with the UN-ECE BAT guidance and will minimise the release of HCB, PCB and PeCB.

We are therefore satisfied that the substantive requirements of the Convention and the POPs Regulation have been addressed and complied with.

Stack Height

The Applicant has proposed a 40m stack. To justify this they have provided a stack height sensitivity analysis as part of the Application. The analysis has looked at how process contributions of NO₂ are effected by stack height. Their assessment concluded that there is steep reduction in NO₂ process contributions as stack height increases up to 40m and then beyond 40m the reduction in NO₂ is far shallower. They have therefore concluded that there is limited air quality benefit from a stack of more than 40m.

The air quality modelling assessment shows that the maximum process contributions of NO₂ at a receptor is 1.7% of the air quality standard. Therefore based on the Applicant's assessment any reduction in NO₂ emissions resulting from a stack height above 40m is likely to be negligible and we are therefore satisfied that the proposed stack height is acceptable.

6.5 Other Emissions to the Environment

6.5.1 Emissions to water

The Application states that surface water discharges will include all roof water and other sources of clean water from the site. This will be discharged by the site's drainage system to Wessex Water's surface water drainage system. Additional attenuation is provided by an existing pond on the opposite side of Showground Road to the proposed facility. This will only be used in the event that the amount of surface water generated from the Installation exceeds the nominal connection to the Wessex Water storm water system. A hydrobrake will be installed to control the rate of outflow.

In order to ensure only clean water is discharged the Permit has limited this surface water discharge to 'uncontaminated surface water runoff'. No process effluent will be discharged to surface waters.

Based upon the information in the application we are satisfied that appropriate measures will be in place to prevent and /or minimise emissions to water.

6.5.2 Emissions to sewer

Process effluent will be discharged to the Wessex Water foul sewer under a discharge consent issued by Wessex Water. The effluent will include potentially contaminated water collected from inside the reception hall and bunker; runoff from areas that could be contaminated with oily water and will pass through a full retention oil separator prior to discharge; and water treatment effluent. The Applicant has provided an assessment of the risk to receiving waters from hazardous pollutants following treatment at Wessex Water's Bridgwater Water Recycling Centre (WRC). The assessment concludes that there will not be a significant impact on receiving waters following treatment at the WRC.

As the assessment was not based on pollutant concentrations derived from actual effluent monitoring we have set an improvement condition in the permit (IC10 in table S1.3) for the Applicant to provide an updated assessment when the Installation is operational using actual effluent monitoring data to validate the assessment.

Based upon the information in the application we are satisfied that appropriate measures will be in place to prevent and /or minimise emissions to sewer.

6.5.3 Fugitive emissions

The IED specifies that plants must be able to demonstrate that the plant is designed in such a way as to prevent the unauthorised and accidental release of polluting substances into soil, surface water and groundwater. In addition storage requirements for waste and for contaminated water of Article 46(5) must be arranged.

- RDF will be unloaded within the designated area of the reception hall only. The reception building will be kept under negative pressure.
- All internal and external areas are fitted with an impermeable surface.
- All potentially polluting raw material will be stored within appropriate primary and secondary containment.
- Chemical handling areas will have impervious surfacing and contained drainage.
- Deliveries of liquid chemicals will be from sealed tankers and offloaded via a hose. Storage tanks will have high level alarms/trips to prevent overfilling and will be located within suitably designed secondary containment.

- APC residues and fly ash will be conveyed to an enclosed silo. Then subsequently discharged into tankers through enclosed unloading systems.
- All incoming waste deliveries will be in covered or enclosed vehicles.
- IBA will be quenched to limit mobility of the ash.
- Transport of IBA off-site will be within enclosed or sheeted vehicles.
- IBA/Residue storage area will be enclosed with impervious surfacing and a designated drainage system.
- When the APC silo is emptied the tanker will back vent to the silo.
- Prompt clean-up will be undertaken if spills occur.
- Process effluent water will be collected, kept separate to the clean surface water
- Measures will be in place to ensure that fire water would not be released.

Based upon the information in the application we are satisfied that appropriate measures will be in place to prevent and /or minimise fugitive emissions.

6.5.4 Odour

Based upon the information in the Application we are satisfied that the appropriate measures will be in place to prevent or where that is not practicable to minimise odour and to prevent pollution from odour.

Waste accepted at the Installation will be delivered in covered vehicles or within containers and bulk storage of waste will only occur in the installation's waste bunker. A roller shutter door will be used to close the entrance to the tipping hall outside of the waste delivery periods and combustion air will be drawn from above the waste storage bunker in order to prevent odours and airborne particulates from leaving the facility building. During shut-down the Applicant had proposed to extract air via an alternative odour abatement system comprising of a wet scrubber. The Applicant has submitted an odour management plan with the Application, we have assessed this and we are satisfied it is appropriate. Condition 3.4.1 is included in the permit to control odour.

6.5.5 Noise and vibration

Based upon the information in the Application we are satisfied that the appropriate measures will be in place to prevent or where that is not practicable to minimise noise and vibration and to prevent pollution from noise and vibration outside the site.

The Application contained a noise impact assessment which identified local noise-sensitive receptors, potential sources of noise at the proposed plant and noise attenuation measures. Measurements were taken of the prevailing ambient noise levels to produce a baseline noise survey and an assessment was carried out in accordance with BS 4142:2014 to compare the predicted plant rating noise levels with the established background levels. The

assessment concluded that the impact would be low. Our noise specialists have audited the Applicant's assessment and we agree with the conclusions.

Note that during the determination the Applicant informed us that the location of the proposed alternative odour extraction system had changed and this had the potential to alter the impact of noise. The Applicant therefore produced a revised noise impact assessment which concluded that whilst this change would result in a small increase to predicted noise impact at receptors, this would not change the overall conclusion that the impact would be low. Our noise technical specialists have reviewed the Applicant's assessment and we agree with the conclusions.

We have included an improvement condition in the permit, IC11 in Table S1.3 that requires the operator to carry out a noise survey when the installation is fully operational to validate the conclusions of the noise impact assessment.

6.6 Setting ELVs and other Permit conditions

6.6.1 Translating BAT into Permit conditions

Article 14(3) of IED states that BAT conclusions shall be the reference for permit conditions. Article 15(3) further requires that under normal operating conditions; emissions do not exceed the emission levels associated with the best available techniques as laid down in the decisions on BAT conclusions.

BAT conclusions for waste incineration or co-incineration were published in December 2019.

The use of BAT AELs and IED Chapter IV emission limits for air dispersion modelling sets the worst case scenario. If this shows emissions are insignificant then we have accepted that the Applicant's proposals are BAT, and that there is no justification to reduce ELVs below the BAT AELs and Chapter IV limits.

Below we consider whether, for those emission not screened out as insignificant, different conditions are required as a result of consideration of local or other factors, so that no significant pollution is caused (Article 11(c)) or to comply with environmental quality standards (Article 18).

(i) Local factors

We have considered the location in assessing BAT. However no measures beyond BAT were required. We are satisfied that the measures described above as BAT will ensure a high level of protection for the environment as a whole at this location.

(ii) National and European ESs

We are satisfied that the Installation will not result in an exceedance of any National or European ES.

(iii) Global Warming

CO₂ is an inevitable product of the combustion of waste. The amount of CO₂ emitted will be essentially determined by the quantity and characteristics of waste being incinerated, which are already subject to conditions in the Permit. It is therefore inappropriate to set an emission limit value for CO₂, which could do no more than recognise what is going to be emitted. The gas is not therefore targeted as a key pollutant under Annex II of IED, which lists the main polluting substances that are to be considered when setting emission limit values (ELVs) in Permits.

We have therefore considered setting equivalent parameters or technical measures for CO₂. However, provided energy is recovered efficiently (see section 4.3.7 above), there are no additional equivalent technical measures (beyond those relating to the quantity and characteristics of the waste) that can be imposed that do not run counter to the primary purpose of the plant, which is the destruction of waste. Controls in the form of restrictions on the volume and type of waste that can be accepted at the Installation and permit conditions relating to energy efficiency effectively apply equivalent technical measures to limit CO₂ emissions.

(iv) Commissioning

Pre-operational condition PO4 will ensure that measures to protect the environment during commissioning are agreed with the Environment Agency.

6.7 Monitoring

6.7.1 Monitoring during normal operations

We have decided that monitoring should be carried out for the parameters listed in Schedule 3 using the methods and to the frequencies specified in those tables. These monitoring requirements have been imposed in order to demonstrate compliance with emission limit values and to enable correction of measured concentration of substances to the appropriate reference conditions; to gather information about the performance of the SNCR/SCR system; to establish data on the release of dioxin-like PCBs and PAHs from the incineration process and to deliver the requirements of Chapter IV of IED for monitoring of residues and temperature in the combustion chamber.

For emissions to air, the methods for continuous and periodic monitoring are in accordance with the Environment Agency's Guidance for monitoring of stack emissions to air.

Based on the information in the Application and the requirements set in the conditions of the permit we are satisfied that the Operator's techniques, personnel and equipment will have either MCERTS certification or MCERTS accreditation as appropriate.

6.7.2 Monitoring under abnormal operations arising from the failure of the installed CEMs

The Operator has stated that they will provide back-up CEMS working in parallel to the operating CEMS. These will be switched into full operation immediately in the event that there is any failure in the regular monitoring equipment. The back-up CEMS measure the same parameters as the operating CEMS. In the unlikely event that the back-up CEMS also fail Conditions 2.3.9 and 2.3.10 of the permit requires that the abnormal operating conditions apply.

6.7.3 Continuous emissions monitoring for dioxins and heavy metals

The BAT conclusions specify either manual extractive monitoring or long term monitoring for dioxins. For mercury either continuous or long term monitoring is specified, manual extractive monitoring is specified for other metals.

For mercury long term monitoring can be used instead of continuous if the mercury content of the waste is low and stable. Despite this the Operator has proposed continuous monitoring for mercury, this has therefore been set in the permit.

For dioxins long term monitoring does not apply if emissions are stable. Based on the waste types and control measures proposed in the Application we expect that emissions of dioxins will be stable. We have therefore set manual extractive monitoring in the Permit. However the Permit requires the stable and low criteria to be demonstrated through Improvement condition IC8 and we can require long term monitoring for dioxins.

6.7.4 Monitoring during periods of 'other than normal operation' (OTNOC)

BAT AELs (daily averages) do not apply during period of OTNOC. However IED chapter IV limits will apply during these periods. Permit table S3.1(b) contains appropriate limits and monitoring requirements during OTNOC. Pre-operational condition PO1 will ensure OTNOC scenarios are defined.

6.8 Reporting

We have specified the reporting requirements in Schedule 5 of the Permit either to meet the reporting requirements set out in the IED and the BAT C, or to ensure data is reported to enable timely review by the Environment Agency to ensure compliance with permit conditions and to monitor the efficiency of material use and energy recovery at the installation.

7 Other legal requirements

In this section we explain how we have addressed other relevant legal requirements, to the extent that we have not addressed them elsewhere in this document.

7.1 The EPR 2016 and related Directives

The EPR delivers the requirements of a number of European and national laws.

7.1.1 Schedules 1 and 7 to the EPR 2016 – IED Directive

We address the requirements of the IED in the body of this document above and the specific requirements of Chapter IV in Annex 1 of this document.

There is one requirement not addressed above, which is that contained in Article 5(3) IED. Article 5(3) requires that “In the case of a new installation or a substantial change where Article 4 of Directive 85/337/EC (now Directive 2011/92/EU) (the EIA Directive) applies, any relevant information obtained or conclusion arrived at pursuant to articles 5, 6 and 7 of that Directive shall be examined and used for the purposes of granting the permit.”

- Article 5 of EIA Directive relates to the obligation on developers to supply the information set out in Annex IV of the Directive when making an application for development consent.
- Article 6(1) requires Member States to ensure that the authorities likely to be concerned by a development by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities are consulted on the Environmental Statement and the request for development consent.
- Article 6(2)-6(6) makes provision for public consultation on applications for development consent.
- Article 7 relates to projects with transboundary effects and consequential obligations to consult with affected Member States.

The grant or refusal of development consent is a matter for the relevant local planning authority. The Environment Agency’s obligation is therefore to examine and use any relevant information obtained or conclusion arrived at by the local planning authorities pursuant to those EIA Directive articles.

In determining the Application we have considered the following documents: -

- The decision of the Somerset County Council to grant planning permission in 2015, which was subsequently amended in 2016, 2018 and 2019. The report and decision notice of the local planning authority accompanying the grant of planning permission.
- A new planning application which was submitted in October 2020, the purpose of which is to combine the existing permissions from the scheme into a single consent and incorporate other minor design changes to the scheme.

- The response of the Environment Agency to the local planning authority in its role as consultee to the planning process.

We have complied with our obligation under Article 9(2) so far as we are able in that no conclusion has yet been arrived at. From consideration of the Environmental Statement and our response as consultee to the planning process we are satisfied that no additional or different permit conditions are necessary.

The Environment Agency has also carried out its own consultation on the Environmental Permitting Application which includes the Environmental Statement submitted to the local planning authority. The results of our consultation are described elsewhere in this decision document.

7.1.2 Schedule 9 to the EPR 2016 – Waste Framework Directive

As the Installation involves the treatment of waste, it is carrying out a *waste operation* for the purposes of the EPR 2016, and the requirements of Schedule 9 therefore apply. This means that we must exercise our functions so as to ensure implementation of certain articles of the WFD.

We must exercise our relevant functions for the purposes of ensuring that the waste hierarchy referred to in Article 4 of the Waste Framework Directive is applied to the generation of waste and that any waste generated is treated in accordance with Article 4 of the Waste Framework Directive. (See also section 4.3.9)

The conditions of the permit ensure that waste generation from the facility is minimised. Where the production of waste cannot be prevented it will be recovered wherever possible or otherwise disposed of in a manner that minimises its impact on the environment. This is in accordance with Article 4.

We must also exercise our relevant functions for the purposes of implementing Article 13 of the Waste Framework Directive; ensuring that the requirements in the second paragraph of Article 23(1) of the Waste Framework Directive are met; and ensuring compliance with Articles 18(2)(b), 18(2)(c), 23(3), 23(4) and 35(1) of the Waste Framework Directive.

Article 13 relates to the protection of human health and the environment. These objectives are addressed elsewhere in this document.

Article 23(1) requires the permit to specify:

- the types and quantities of waste that may be treated;
- for each type of operation permitted, the technical and any other requirements relevant to the site concerned;
- the safety and precautionary measures to be taken;
- the method to be used for each type of operation;
- such monitoring and control operations as may be necessary;
- such closure and after-care provisions as may be necessary.

These are all covered by permit conditions.

The permit does not allow the mixing of hazardous waste so Article 18(2) is not relevant.

We consider that the intended method of waste treatment is acceptable from the point of view of environmental protection so Article 23(3) does not apply. Energy efficiency is dealt with elsewhere in this document but we consider the conditions of the permit ensure that the recovery of energy take place with a high level of energy efficiency in accordance with Article 23(4).

Article 35(1) relates to record keeping and its requirements are delivered through permit conditions.

7.1.3 Schedule 22 to the EPR 2016 – Water Framework and Groundwater Directives

To the extent that it might lead to a discharge of pollutants to groundwater (a “groundwater activity” under the EPR 2016), the Permit is subject to the requirements of Schedule 22, which delivers the requirements of EU Directives relating to pollution of groundwater. The Permit will require the taking of all necessary measures to prevent the input of any hazardous substances to groundwater, and to limit the input of non-hazardous pollutants into groundwater so as to ensure such pollutants do not cause pollution, and satisfies the requirements of Schedule 22.

No releases to groundwater from the Installation are permitted. The Permit also requires material storage areas to be designed and maintained to a high standard to prevent accidental releases.

7.1.4 Directive 2003/35/EC – The Public Participation Directive

Regulation 60 of the EPR 2016 requires the Environment Agency to prepare and publish a statement of its policies for complying with its public participation duties. We have published our public participation statement.

This Application is being consulted upon in line with this statement, as well as with our guidance RGS6 on Sites of High Public Interest, which addresses specifically extended consultation arrangements for determinations where public interest is particularly high. This satisfies the requirements of the Public Participation Directive.

Our decision in this case has been reached following a programme of extended public consultation, on the original application. The way in which this has been done is set out in Section 2. A summary of the responses received to our consultations and our consideration of them is set out in Annex 4.

7.2 National primary legislation

7.2.1 **Environment Act 1995**

(i) Section 4 (Pursuit of Sustainable Development)

We are required to contribute towards achieving sustainable development, as considered appropriate by Ministers and set out in guidance issued to us. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has issued *The Environment Agency's Objectives and Contribution to Sustainable Development: Statutory Guidance (December 2002)*. This document:

“provides guidance to the Agency on such matters as the formulation of approaches that the Agency should take to its work, decisions about priorities for the Agency and the allocation of resources. It is not directly applicable to individual regulatory decisions of the Agency”.

In respect of regulation of industrial pollution through the EPR, the Guidance refers in particular to the objective of setting permit conditions *“in a consistent and proportionate fashion based on Best Available Techniques and taking into account all relevant matters...”*. The Environment Agency considers that it has pursued the objectives set out in the Government's guidance, where relevant, and that there are no additional conditions that should be included in this Permit to take account of the Section 4 duty.

For waste the guidance refers to ensuring waste is recovered or disposed of in ways which protect the environment and human health. The Environment Agency considers that it has pursued the objectives set out in the Government's guidance, where relevant, and that there are no additional conditions that should be included in this Permit to take account of the Section 4 duty.

(ii) Section 5 (Preventing or Minimising Effects of Pollution of the Environment)

We are satisfied that our pollution control powers have been exercised for the purpose of preventing or minimising, remedying or mitigating the effects of pollution.

(iii) Section 6(1) (Conservation Duties with Regard to Water)

We have a duty to the extent we consider it desirable generally to promote the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty and amenity of inland and coastal waters and the land associated with such waters, and the conservation of flora and fauna which are dependent on an aquatic environment.

We consider that no additional or different conditions are appropriate for this Permit.

(iv) Section 6(6) (Fisheries)

We have a duty to maintain, improve and develop fisheries of salmon, trout, eels, lampreys, smelt and freshwater fish.

We consider that no additional or different conditions are appropriate for this Permit.

(v) Section 7 (Pursuit of Conservation Objectives)

This places a duty on us, when considering any proposal relating to our functions, to have regard amongst other things to any effect which the proposals would have on sites of archaeological, architectural, or historic interest; the economic and social well-being of local communities in rural areas; and to take into account any effect which the proposals would have on the beauty or amenity of any rural area.

We considered whether we should impose any additional or different requirements in terms of our duty to have regard to the various conservation objectives set out in Section 7, but concluded that we should not.

(vi) Section 39 (Costs and Benefits)

We have a duty to take into account the likely costs and benefits of our decisions on the applications ('costs' being defined as including costs to the environment as well as any person). This duty, however, does not affect our obligation to discharge any duties imposed upon us in other legislative provisions.

In so far as relevant we consider that the costs that the permit may impose on the applicant are reasonable and proportionate in terms of the benefits it provides.

(vii) Section 81 (National Air Quality Strategy)

We have had regard to the National Air Quality Strategy and consider that our decision complies with the Strategy, and that no additional or different conditions are appropriate for this Permit.

We have also had regard to the clean air strategy 2019 and consider that our decision complies with the Strategy, and that no additional or different conditions are appropriate for this Permit.

(viii) National Emissions Ceiling Regulations 2018

We have had regard to the National Air Pollution Control Programme and consider that our decision complies with the Strategy, and that no additional or different conditions are appropriate for this Permit.

7.2.2 Section 108 Deregulation Act 2015 – Growth duty

We have considered our duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting economic growth set out in section 108(1) of the Deregulation Act 2015 and the guidance issued under section 110 of that Act in deciding whether to grant this permit.

Paragraph 1.3 of the guidance says:

“The primary role of regulators, in delivering regulation, is to achieve the regulatory outcomes for which they are responsible. For a number of regulators, these regulatory outcomes include an explicit reference to development or growth. The growth duty establishes economic growth as a factor that all specified regulators should have regard to, alongside the delivery of the protections set out in the relevant legislation.”

We have addressed the legislative requirements and environmental standards to be set for this operation in the body of the decision document above. The guidance is clear at paragraph 1.5 that the growth duty does not legitimise non-compliance and its purpose is not to achieve or pursue economic growth at the expense of necessary protections.

We consider the requirements and standards we have set in this permit are reasonable and necessary to avoid a risk of an unacceptable level of pollution. This also promotes growth amongst legitimate operators because the standards applied to the operator are consistent across businesses in this sector and have been set to achieve the required legislative standards.

7.2.3 Human Rights Act 1998

We have considered potential interference with rights addressed by the European Convention on Human Rights in reaching our decision and consider that our decision is compatible with our duties under the Human Rights Act 1998. In particular, we have considered the right to life (Article 2), the right to a fair trial (Article 6), the right to respect for private and family life (Article 8) and the right to protection of property (Article 1, First Protocol). We do not believe that Convention rights are engaged in relation to this determination.

7.2.4 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW 2000)

Section 85 of this Act imposes a duty on Environment Agency to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB). There is no AONB which could be affected by the Installation.

7.2.5 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Under section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 the Environment Agency has a duty to take reasonable steps to further the conservation and enhancement of the flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features by reason of which a site is of special scientific interest. Under section 28I the Environment Agency has a duty to consult Natural England in relation to any permit that is likely to damage SSSIs.

We assessed the Application and concluded that the Installation will not damage the special features of any SSSI.

7.2.6 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 40 of this Act requires us to have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of our functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. We have done so and consider that no different or additional conditions in the Permit are required.

7.2.7 Countryside Act 1968

Section 11 imposes a duty on the Environment Agency to exercise its functions relating to any land, having regard to the desirability of conserving the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside including wildlife. We have done so and consider that no different or additional conditions in the Permit are required.

7.2.8 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

Section 11A and section 5(1) imposes a duty on the Environment Agency when exercising its functions in relation to land in a National Park, to have regard to the purposes of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the areas, and of promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of National Parks by the public.

We have done so and consider that no different or additional conditions in the Permit are required. There is no National Park which could be affected by the Installation.

7.3 National secondary legislation

7.3.1 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

We have assessed the Application in accordance with guidance agreed jointly with Natural England and concluded that there will be no likely significant effect on any European Site.

Our Stage 1 Habitat Risk Assessment concluded no likely significant effect on the interest features of protected sites and we have therefore sent our assessment to Natural England and Natural Resources Wales for 'Information only'.

The habitat assessment is summarised in greater detail in section 5.4 of this document. A copy of the full Stage 1 Habitat Risk Assessment can be found on the public register.

7.3.2 Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2017 2003

Consideration has been given to whether any additional requirements should be imposed in terms of the Environment Agency's duty under regulation 3 to secure compliance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, Groundwater directive and the EQS Directive through (inter alia) environmental permits, and its obligation in regulation 33 to have regard to the river basin management plan (RBMP) approved under regulation 31 and any supplementary plans prepared under regulation 32. However, it is felt that existing conditions are sufficient in this regard and no other appropriate requirements have been identified

We are satisfied that granting this application with the conditions proposed would not cause the current status of the water body to deteriorate, and that it will not compromise the ability of this water body to achieve good status.

7.3.3 The Persistent Organic Pollutants Regulations 2019

We have explained our approach to these Regulations, which give effect to the Stockholm Convention on POPs and the EU's POPs Regulation, above.

7.3.4 Bathing Water Regulations 2013

We have considered our duty, under regulation 5 of these Regulations, to exercise our relevant functions to ensure compliance with the Bathing Water Directive, and in particular to take realistic and proportionate measures with a view to increasing the number of bathing waters classified as "good" or "excellent".

We consider that no additional or different conditions are appropriate for this Permit.

7.3.5 Marine Strategy Regulations 2010

In relation to Regulation 9 of the Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 we have had regard to the marine strategy (in so far as it has been developed and published to date) and consider that there is nothing in it which would lead us to any different conclusions from those we have already reached through our other marine assessments.

7.4 Other relevant legal requirements

7.4.1 Duty to Involve

S23 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 require us where we consider it appropriate to take such steps as we consider appropriate to secure the involvement of interested persons in the exercise of our functions by providing them with information, consulting them or involving them in any other way. S24 requires us to have regard to any Secretary of State guidance as to how we should do that.

The way in which the Environment Agency has consulted with the public and other interested parties is set out in section 2 of this document. The way in which we have taken account of the representations we have received is set out in Annex 4. Our public consultation duties are also set out in the EP Regulations, and our statutory Public Participation Statement, which implement the requirements of the Public Participation Directive. In addition to meeting our consultation responsibilities, we have also taken account of our guidance in Environment Agency Guidance Note RGS6 and the Environment Agency's Building Trust with Communities toolkit.

ANNEX 1A: APPLICATION OF CHAPTER IV OF THE INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS DIRECTIVE

IED Article	Requirement	Delivered by
45(1)(a)	The permit shall include a list of all types of waste which may be treated using at least the types of waste set out in the European Waste List established by Decision 2000/532/EC, if possible, and containing information on the quantity of each type of waste, where appropriate.	Condition 2.3.4(a) and Table S2.2 in Schedule 2 of the Permit.
45(1)(b)	The permit shall include the total waste incinerating or co-incinerating capacity of the plant.	Condition 2.3.4(a) and Table S2.2 in Schedule 2 of the Permit.
45(1)(c)	The permit shall include the limit values for emissions into air and water.	Conditions 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 and Tables S3.1 and S3.1(a & b) in Schedule 3 of the Permit.
45(1)(d)	The permit shall include the requirements for pH, temperature and flow of waste water discharges.	Not Applicable
45(1)(e)	The permit shall include the sampling and measurement procedures and frequencies to be used to comply with the conditions set for emissions monitoring.	Conditions 3.6.1 to 3.6.3 and Tables S3.1, S3.1(a & b), S3.2 and S3.3 in Schedule 3 of the Permit.
45(1)(f)	The permit shall include the maximum permissible period of unavoidable stoppages, disturbances or failures of the purification devices or the measurement devices, during which the emissions into the air and the discharges of waste water may exceed the prescribed emission limit values.	Conditions 2.3.9 to 2.3.14.
45(2)(a)	The permit shall include a list of the quantities of the different categories of hazardous waste which may be treated.	Not Applicable
45(2)(b)	The permit shall include the minimum and maximum mass flows of those hazardous waste, their lowest and maximum calorific values and the maximum contents	Not Applicable

IED Article	Requirement	Delivered by
	of polychlorinated biphenyls, pentachlorophenol, chlorine, fluorine, sulphur, heavy metals and other polluting substances.	
46(1)	Waste gases shall be discharged in a controlled way by means of a stack the height of which is calculated in such a way as to safeguard human health and the environment.	Condition 2.3.1(a) and Table S1.2 of Schedule 1 of the Permit.
46(2)	Emission into air shall not exceed the emission limit values set out in parts 4 or determined in accordance with part 4 of Annex VI.	Conditions 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 and Tables S3.1, S3.1a and S3.1b
46(3)	Relates to conditions for water discharges from the cleaning of exhaust gases.	There are no such discharges as condition 3.1.1 prohibits this.
46(4)	Relates to conditions for water discharges from the cleaning of exhaust gases.	There are no such discharges as condition 3.1.1 prohibits this.
46(5)	Prevention of unauthorised and accidental release of any polluting substances into soil, surface water or groundwater. Adequate storage capacity for contaminated rainwater run-off from the site or for contaminated water from spillage or fire-fighting.	The Application explains the measures to be in place for achieving the directive requirements. The permit requires that these measures are used. Various permit conditions address this and when taken as a whole they ensure compliance with this requirement.
46(6)	Limits the maximum period of operation when an ELV is exceeded to 4 hours uninterrupted duration in any one instance, and with a maximum cumulative limit of 60 hours per year. Limits on dust (150 mg/m ³), CO and TOC not to be exceeded during this period.	Conditions 2.3.9 to 2.3.14
47	In the event of breakdown, reduce or close down operations as soon as practicable. Limits on dust (150 mg/m ³), CO	Conditions 2.3.9 to 2.3.14

IED Article	Requirement	Delivered by
	and TOC not to be exceeded during this period.	
48(1)	Monitoring of emissions is carried out in accordance with Parts 6 and 7 of Annex VI.	Conditions 3.6.1 to 3.6.4. Reference conditions are defined in Schedule 6 of the Permit.
48(2)	Installation and functioning of the automated measurement systems shall be subject to control and to annual surveillance tests as set out in point 1 of Part 6 of Annex VI.	Condition 3.6.1, 3.6.3, and tables S3.1, S3.1(a), S3.1(b) and S3.4
48(3)	The competent authority shall determine the location of sampling or measurement points to be used for monitoring of emissions.	Conditions 3.6.3 and 3.6.4 and PO7
48(4)	All monitoring results shall be recorded, processed and presented in such a way as to enable the competent authority to verify compliance with the operating conditions and emission limit values which are included in the permit.	Conditions 4.1.1 and 4.1.2, and Tables S4.1 and S4.4
49	The emission limit values for air and water shall be regarded as being complied with if the conditions described in Part 8 of Annex VI are fulfilled.	Conditions 3.1.1 and 3.1.2.
50(1)	Slag and bottom ash to have Total Organic Carbon (TOC) < 3% or loss on ignition (LOI) < 5%.	Conditions 3.6.1 and Table S3.5
50(2)	Flue gas to be raised to a temperature of 850°C for two seconds, as measured at representative point of the combustion chamber.	Condition 2.3.9, Pre-operational condition PO6 and Improvement condition IC3 and Table S3.4
50(3)	At least one auxiliary burner which must not be fed with fuels which can cause higher emissions than those resulting from the burning of gas oil liquefied gas or natural gas.	Condition 2.3.10
50(4)(a)	Automatic shut to prevent waste feed if at start up until the specified temperature has been reached.	Condition 2.3.9
50(4)(b)	Automatic shut to prevent waste feed if the combustion temperature is not maintained.	Condition 2.3.9

IED Article	Requirement	Delivered by
50(4)(c)	Automatic shut to prevent waste feed if the CEMs show that ELVs are exceeded due to disturbances or failure of waste cleaning devices.	Condition 2.3.9
50(5)	Any heat generated from the process shall be recovered as far as practicable.	(a) The plant will generate electricity (b) Operator to review the available heat recovery options prior to commissioning (Condition PO2) and then every 2 years (Conditions 1.2. 1 to 1.2.3)
50(6)	Relates to the feeding of infectious clinical waste into the furnace.	No infectious clinical waste will be burnt
50(7)	Management of the Installation to be in the hands of a natural person who is competent to manage it.	Conditions 1.1.1 to 1.1.3 and 2.3.1 of the Permit.
51(1)	Different conditions than those laid down in Article 50(1), (2) and (3) and, as regards the temperature Article 50(4) may be authorised, provided the other requirements of this chapter are met.	No such conditions Have been allowed
51(2)	Changes in operating conditions do not cause more residues or residues with a higher content of organic polluting substances compared to those residues which could be expected under the conditions laid down in Articles 50(1), (2) and (3).	No such conditions Have been allowed
51(3)	Changes in operating conditions shall include emission limit values for CO and TOC set out in Part 3 of Annex VI.	No such conditions Have been allowed
52(1)	Take all necessary precautions concerning delivery and reception of Wastes, to prevent or minimise pollution.	Conditions 2.3.1, 2.3.4, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.7.
52(2)	Determine the mass of each category of wastes, if possible according to the EWC, prior to accepting the waste.	Condition 2.3.4(a) and Table S2.2 in Schedule 3 of the Permit. And PO5
52(3)	Prior to accepting hazardous waste, the operator shall collect available information about the	Not Applicable

IED Article	Requirement	Delivered by
	waste for the purpose of compliance with the permit requirements specified in Article 45(2).	
52(4)	Prior to accepting hazardous waste, the operator shall carry out the procedures set out in Article 52(4).	Not Applicable
52(5)	Granting of exemptions from Article 52(2), (3) and (4).	Not Applicable
53(1)	Residues to be minimised in their amount and harmfulness, and recycled where appropriate.	Conditions 1.4.1, 1.4.2 and 3.6.1 with Table S3.5
53(2)	Prevent dispersal of dry residues and dust during transport and storage.	Conditions 1.4.1 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 3.3.1.
53(3)	Test residues for their physical and chemical characteristics and polluting potential including heavy metal content (soluble fraction).	Condition 3.6.1 and Table S3.5 and pre-operational condition PO3.
55(1)	Application, decision and permit to be publicly available.	All documents are accessible from the Environment Agency Public Register.
55(2)	An annual report on plant operation and monitoring for all plants burning more than 2 tonne/hour waste.	Condition 4.2.2 and 4.2.3.

ANNEX 1B: COMPLIANCE WITH BAT CONCLUSIONS

BAT conclusion	Criteria	Delivered by
1	Implement environmental management system	Condition 1.1 and Pre-operational condition PO1
2	Determine gross electrical efficiency	Section 4.3.7 of this decision document. Permit table S3.4
3	Monitor key process parameters	Condition 3.6.1 and table S3.4
4	Monitoring emissions to air	Condition 3.6.1 and table S3.1
5	Monitoring emissions to air during OTNOC	Condition 3.6.1 and table S3.1(b)
6	Monitoring emissions to water from flue gas treatment and/or bottom ash treatment	There are no such emissions from the installation
7	Monitor unburnt substances in slags and bottom ashes	Conditions 3.1.3 and 3.6.1, and table S3.5
8	Analysis of hazardous waste	Not applicable
9	Waste stream management techniques	The Application explains the measures that will be used. Permit condition 2.3.1, table S1.2
10	Quality management system for bottom ash treatment plant	Not applicable
11	Monitor waste deliveries as part of waste acceptance procedures	The Application explains the measures that will be used. Permit condition 2.3.1, table S1.2
12	Reception, handling and storage of waste	Measures are described in the Application and FPP. Permit conditions 2.3.1, table S1.2
13	Storage and handling of clinical waste	Not applicable
14	Improve overall performance of plant including BAT-AELs for TOC or LOI	Techniques described in the Application. Permit condition 2.3.1, table S1.2, 3.1.3 and table S3.5

BAT conclusion	Criteria	Delivered by
15	Procedures to adjust plant settings to control performance	Measures described in the Application condition 2.3.1 and table S1.2
16	Procedures to minimise start-up and shut down	Measures described in the Application and Permit condition 2.3.1 and table S1.2.
17	Appropriate design, operation and maintenance of FGC system	FGC measures described in Application. Operation and maintenance procedures will form part of the EMS – Permit condition 1.1.
18	OTNOC management plan	Pre-operational condition PO1
19	Use of heat recovery boiler	Described in the Application. Permit condition 2.3.1, table S1.2
20	Measures to increase energy efficiency and BAT AEEL	Measures described in the Application. Permit condition 2.3.1, table S1.2 Section 4.3.7 of this decision document.
21	Measures to prevent or reduce diffuse emissions including odour	Measures described in the Application. Permit conditions 2.3.1, table S1.2, 3.3.1 to 3.3.3, 3.4.1. Sections 6.5.3 and 6.5.4 of this decision document.
22	Handling of gaseous and liquid wastes	Not applicable
23	Management system to prevent or reduce dust emissions from treatment of slags and ashes	Not applicable
24	Techniques to prevent or reduce diffuse emissions to air from treatment of slags and ashes	Not applicable
25	Minimisation of dust and metal emissions and compliance with BAT AEL	Section 5.2 of this decision document. Permit conditions 2.3.1, table S1.2, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 and table S3.1
26	Techniques and BAT AEL for dust emissions from enclosed slags and ashes treatment	Not applicable

BAT conclusion	Criteria	Delivered by
27	Techniques to reduce emissions of HCl, HF and SO ₂	Measures described in the Application. Permit condition 2.3.1 and table S1.2 Section 5.2 of this decision document.
28	Techniques to reduce peak emissions of HCl, HF and SO ₂ , optimise reagent use and BAT AELs	Measures described in the Application. Permit conditions 2.3.1, table S1.2, 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 and table S3.1
29	Techniques to reduce emissions of NO ₂ , N ₂ O, CO and NH ₃ and BAT AELs	Measures described in the Application. Section 5.2 of this decision document. Permit conditions 2.3.1, table S1.2, 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 and table S3.1
30	Reduce emissions or organic compounds including dioxins/furans and PCBs. BAT AELs	Measures described in the Application. Section 5.2 of this decision document. Permit conditions 2.3.1, table S1.2, 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 and table S3.1
31	Reduce emissions of mercury. BAT AEL	Measures described in the Application. Section 5.2 of this decision document. Permit conditions 2.3.1, table S1.2, 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 and table S3.1
32	Segregate waste water streams to prevent contamination	Measures described in the Application Sections 4.2.2, 6.5.1 to 6.5.3 of this decision document. Permit conditions 2.3.1, table S1.2, 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and table S3.2 and S3.3
33	Techniques to reduce water usage and prevent or reduce waste water	Measures described in the Application. Sections 4.3.8 of this decision document Permit conditions 1.3.1, 2.3.1, table S1.2
34	Reduce emissions to water from FGC and/or from treatment or storage of bottom ashes. BAT AELs	Not applicable

BAT conclusion	Criteria	Delivered by
35	Handle and treat bottom ashes separately from FGC residues	Permit condition 2.3.15
36	Techniques for treatment of slags and bottom ashes	No treatment carried out on site
37	Techniques to prevent or reduce noise emissions.	Measures are described in the Application. Section 6.5.5 of this decision document. Permit conditions 2.3.1, table S1.2, 3.5.1, 3.5.2

ANNEX 2: Pre-Operational Conditions

Based on the information on the Application, we consider that we do need to impose pre-operational conditions. These conditions are set out below and referred to, where applicable, in the text of the decision document. We are using these conditions to require the Operator to confirm that the details and measures proposed in the Application have been adopted or implemented prior to the operation of the Installation.

Table S1.4 Pre-operational measures	
Reference	Pre-operational measures
PO1	<p>Prior to the commencement of commissioning, the Operator shall send:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of the site Environment Management System (EMS); and • A copy of the full OTNOC management plan which shall be prepared in accordance with BAT 18 of the BAT conclusions <p>to the Environment Agency and obtain the Environment Agency's written approval to the EMS summary and the full OTNOC management plan.</p> <p>The Operator shall make available for inspection all documents and procedures which form part of the EMS. The EMS shall be developed in line with the requirements set out in Environment Agency web guide on developing a management system for environmental permits (found on www.gov.uk) and BAT 1 of the incineration BAT conclusions. The EMS shall include the approved OTNOC management plan.</p> <p>The documents and procedures set out in the EMS shall form the written management system referenced in condition 1.1.1 (a) of the permit.</p>
PO2	<p>Prior to the commencement of commissioning, the Operator shall send a report to the Environment Agency, and obtain the Environment Agency's written approval to it, which will contain a comprehensive review of the options available for utilising the heat generated, including operating as CHP or supplying district heating, by the waste incineration process in order to ensure that it is recovered as far as practicable. The review shall detail any identified proposals for improving the recovery and utilisation of heat and shall provide a timetable for their implementation.</p>
PO3	<p>Prior to the commencement of commissioning, the Operator shall submit to the Environment Agency, and obtain the Environment Agency's written approval to it, a protocol for the sampling and testing of incinerator bottom ash for the purposes of assessing its hazard status. Sampling and testing shall be carried out in accordance with the protocol as approved.</p>
PO4	<p>Prior to the commencement of commissioning, the Operator shall submit to the Environment Agency, and obtain the Environment Agency's written approval to it, a written commissioning plan, including timelines for completion, for approval by the Environment Agency. The commissioning plan shall include the expected emissions to the environment during the different stages of commissioning, the expected durations of commissioning activities and the actions to be taken to protect the environment and report to the Environment Agency in the event that actual emissions exceed expected emissions. Commissioning shall be carried out in accordance with the commissioning plan as approved.</p>
PO5	<p>Prior to the commencement of commissioning, the Operator shall submit a written report to the Agency, and obtain the Environment Agency's written approval to it, detailing the waste acceptance procedure to be used at the site. The waste</p>

Table S1.4 Pre-operational measures	
Reference	Pre-operational measures
	<p>acceptance procedure shall include the process and systems by which wastes unsuitable for incineration at the site will be controlled.</p> <p>The procedure shall be implemented in accordance with the written approval from the Agency.</p>
PO6	<p>No later than one month after the final design of the furnace and combustion chamber, the operator shall submit a written report to the Environment Agency, and obtain the Environment Agency's written approval to it, of the details of the computational fluid dynamic (CFD) modelling. The report shall explain how the furnace has been designed to comply with the residence time and temperature requirements as defined by Chapter IV and Annex VI of the IED whilst operating under normal load and the most unfavourable operating conditions (including minimum turn down and overload conditions), and that the design includes sufficient monitoring ports to support subsequent validation of these requirements during commissioning.</p>
PO7	<p>Prior to the commencement of commissioning (or other date agreed in writing with the Environment Agency), the Operator shall submit a written report to the Environment Agency, and obtain the Environment Agency's written approval to it, specifying arrangements for continuous and periodic monitoring of emissions to air to comply with Environment Agency monitoring guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/monitoring-stack-emissions-environmental-permits. The report shall include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant and equipment details, including accreditation to MCERTS • Methods and standards for sampling and analysis • Details of monitoring locations, access and working platforms
PO8	<p>Prior to the commencement of commissioning (or other date agreed in writing with the Environment Agency) the Operator shall submit, for approval by the Environment Agency, a methodology (having regard to Technical Report P4-100/TR Part 2 Validation of Combustion Conditions) to verify the residence time, minimum temperature and oxygen content of the gases in the furnace whilst operating under normal load, minimum turn down and overload conditions.</p>
PO9	<p>Prior to the commencement of commissioning the Operator shall submit to the Environment Agency for approval a written review of the drainage plans listed in table S1.2 of the permit and where appropriate updated versions of the plans.</p>

ANNEX 3: Improvement Conditions

Based in the information in the Application we consider that we need to set improvement conditions. These conditions are set out below - justifications for these is provided at the relevant section of the decision document. We are using these conditions to require the Operator to provide the Environment Agency with details that need to be established or confirmed during and/or after commissioning.

Table S1.3 Improvement programme requirements		
Reference	Requirement	Date
IC1	The Operator shall submit a written proposal to the Environment Agency to carry out tests to determine the size distribution of the particulate matter in the exhaust gas emissions to air from emission point [A1], identifying the fractions within the PM ₁₀ , and PM _{2.5} ranges. On receipt of written approval from the Environment Agency to the proposal and the timetable, the Operator shall carry out the tests and submit to the Environment Agency a report on the results.	Within 6 months of the completion of commissioning.
IC2	The Operator shall submit a written report to the Environment Agency on the commissioning of the installation. The report shall summarise the environmental performance of the plant as installed against the design parameters set out in the Application. The report shall also include a review of the performance of the facility against the conditions of this permit and details of procedures developed during commissioning for achieving and demonstrating compliance with permit conditions and confirm that the Environmental Management System (EMS) has been updated accordingly.	Within 4 months of the completion of commissioning.
IC3	The operator shall notify the Environment Agency of the proposed date(s) that validation testing is planned for.	Notification at least 3 weeks prior to validation testing
	During commissioning the operator shall carry out validation testing to validate the residence time, minimum temperature and oxygen content of the gases in the furnace whilst operating under normal load and most unfavourable operating conditions. The validation shall be to the methodology as approved through pre-operational condition PO8.	Validation tests completed before the end of commissioning
	The operator shall submit a written report to the Environment Agency on the validation of residence time, oxygen and temperature whilst operating under normal load, minimum turn down and overload conditions. The report shall identify the process controls used to ensure residence time and temperature requirements are complied with during operation of the incineration plant	Report submitted within 2 months of the completion of commissioning.

Table S1.3 Improvement programme requirements		
Reference	Requirement	Date
IC4	<p>The Operator shall submit a written report to the Environment Agency describing the performance and optimisation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Selective Non Catalytic Reduction (SNCR) & SCR (Selective Catalytic Reduction) system and combustion settings to minimise oxides of nitrogen (NO_x). The report shall include an assessment of the level of NO_x, N₂O and NH₃ emissions that can be achieved under optimum operating conditions. • The lime/magnesium lime injection system for minimisation of acid gas emissions • The carbon injection system for minimisation of dioxin and heavy metal emissions. 	<p>Within 4 months of the completion of commissioning for the lime/magnesium injection system, carbon injection system and initial SNCR/SCR assessment.</p>
	<p>The operator shall carry out a further assessment of the performance of the SNCR/SCR system and submit a written report to the Environment Agency on the feasibility of complying with an emission limit value (ELV) for NO_x of 100 mg/Nm³ as a daily average, including a description of any relevant cross-media effects identified. If an ELV for NO_x of 100 mg/Nm³ as a daily average is determined not to be feasible, the report shall propose an alternative ELV which would provide an equivalent level of NO_x reduction on a long-term basis such as an annual mass emission limit or percentile-based ELV.</p>	<p>Within 12 months of the completion of commissioning for the further assessment of the performance of the SNCR/SCR system.</p>
IC5	<p>The Operator shall carry out an assessment of the impact of emissions to air of the following component metals subject to emission limit values:</p> <p>Cr(IV) & As</p> <p>A report on the assessment shall be made to the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Emissions monitoring data obtained during the first year of operation shall be used to compare the actual emissions with those assumed in the impact assessment submitted with the Application. An assessment shall be made of the impact of each metal against the relevant ES. In the event that the assessment shows that an environmental standard can be exceeded, the report shall include proposals for further investigative work.</p>	<p>15 months from the completion of commissioning</p>
IC6	<p>The Operator shall submit a written summary report to the Environment Agency to confirm that the performance of Continuous Emission Monitors for parameters as specified in Table S3.1 and Table S3.1(a) complies with the requirements of BS EN 14181, specifically the requirements of QAL1, QAL2 and QAL3. The report shall include the results of calibration and verification testing,</p>	<p>Initial calibration report to be submitted to the Agency within 3 months of completion of commissioning.</p> <p>Full summary evidence compliance report to be submitted</p>

Table S1.3 Improvement programme requirements		
Reference	Requirement	Date
		within 18 months of completion of commissioning.
IC7	During commissioning, the operator shall carry out tests to demonstrate whether the furnace combustion air will ensure that negative pressure is achieved throughout the reception hall. The tests shall demonstrate whether air is pulled through the reception hall and bunker area and into the furnace with dead spots minimised. The operator shall also carry out tests of methods used to maintain negative pressure during shut-down periods to ensure that adequate extraction will be achieved. The operator shall submit a report to the Environment Agency, for approval, summarising the findings along with any proposed improvements if required	Within 3 months of completion of commissioning.
IC8	The operator shall carry out a programme of dioxin and dioxin like PCB monitoring over a period and frequency agreed with the Environment Agency. The operator shall submit a report to the Environment Agency with an analysis of whether dioxin emissions can be considered to be stable.	Within 3 months of completion of commissioning or as agreed in writing with the Environment Agency
IC9	The Operator shall submit a report to the Environment Agency for approval on start-up and shut-down conditions over the first 12 months of operation. The report shall identify any amendments to the start-up and shut-down definitions that were described in the application.	Within 15 months of completion of commissioning or as agreed in writing with the Environment Agency
IC10	The Operator shall submit to the Environment Agency for approval an updated assessment of the risk of hazardous pollutants to water resulting from the discharge of process effluent to sewer. The assessment shall be written in accordance with Environment Agency guidance https://www.gov.uk/guidance/surface-water-pollution-risk-assessment-for-your-environmental-permit-or-a-surface-water-pollution-via-sewer-risk-assessment-methodology-as-advised-by-the-environment-agency . Pollutant concentrations used in the assessment shall be derived from effluent monitoring data gathered when the installation is fully operational.	Within 12 months of completion of commissioning or as agreed in writing with the Environment Agency
IC11	The Operator shall carry out a noise survey at the nearest sensitive receptors in order to validate the conclusions from the noise impact assessment provided within the permit application EPR/UP3708SB/A001. The survey shall be carried out when the installation is fully operational and shall be completed in accordance with BS4142:2014 (Rating industrial noise affecting mixed residential and industrial areas) or other methodology as agreed with the Environment Agency. The results of the survey together with conclusions and recommendations shall be submitted to the Environment Agency for approval in writing. If the survey shows that emissions of noise are above those predicted in the noise impact assessment provided within the permit application and at a level likely to cause annoyance at receptors (as defined in BS4142), the operator shall also submit to the Environment Agency a report detailing proposals and timescales for the implementation of appropriate noise mitigation measures to ensure that site noise levels are returned to acceptable levels.	Within 3 months of completion of commissioning or as agreed in writing with the Environment Agency

Table S1.3 Improvement programme requirements		
Reference	Requirement	Date
	<p>The operator shall also update the site Noise Management Plan to ensure it is consistent with the proposals for noise mitigation and that it is a suitable tool for control of noise.</p> <p>The proposals for noise mitigation shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Agency's Technical Guidance Note IPPC H3 Part 2. The proposals shall be implemented by the operator from the date of approval in writing by the Environment Agency subject to any such amendments or additions as notified by the Environment Agency.</p>	

ANNEX 4: Consultation Responses

A) Advertising and Consultation on the Application

The Application has been advertised and consulted upon in accordance with the Environment Agency's Public Participation Statement. The way in which this has been carried out along with the results of our consultation and how we have taken consultation responses into account in reaching our decision is summarised in this Annex. Copies of all consultation responses have been placed on the Environment Agency public register.

The Application was advertised on the Environment Agency website from 17/11/2020 to 15/12/2020 and in the Bridgwater Mercury on 17/11/2020. We made a copy of the Application and all other documents relevant to our determination available to view on our Citizen Space portal on the .gov.uk website.

The following statutory and non-statutory bodies were consulted: -

- Public Health England
- Local Director of Public Health
- Local Planning Authority
- Local Authority Environmental Services
- Health And Safety Executive
- Local Fire and Rescue Department
- Food Standards Agency
- Local Sewage Provider

1) Consultation Responses from Statutory and Non-Statutory Bodies

Response Received from Public Health England	
Brief summary of issues raised:	Summary of action taken / how this has been covered
PHE identified a discrepancy in annual tonnage between the non-technical summary for the planning application and the annual tonnage stated in the permit application.	The scheme was originally granted planning in 2015, with a tonnage of 40,000 per annum. This tonnage was subsequently increased to 130,000 tonnes via variation applications. The Permit application was based on a throughput of 130,000 tonnes. However the permit will limit the tonnage to 122,640 tonnes per annum.
PHE commented that the regulator should consider the use of lower emission limits for arsenic and chromium VI to reflect the values used in the assessment.	We are satisfied that the permitted limits are appropriate and that emissions of arsenic and chromium VI will not be significant. See section 5.2.3 of this document for our assessment of the risk of metals, including Chromium VI and Arsenic.

	We have also set an improvement condition in the permit (IC5) requiring the Operator to use emissions monitoring data obtained during the first year of operation to compare the actual emissions of Chromium VI and Arsenic with those assumed in the impact assessment submitted with the Application.
PHE's risk assessment is that modern, well run and regulated municipal waste incinerators are not a significant risk to public health. And while it is not possible to rule out adverse health effects from these incinerators completely, any potential effect for people living close by is likely to be very small.	No action required.

2) Consultation Responses from Members of the Public and Community Organisations

The consultation responses received were wide ranging and a number of the issues raised were outside the Environment Agency's remit in reaching its permitting decisions. Specifically questions were raised which fall within the jurisdiction of the planning system, both on the development of planning policy and the grant of planning permission.

Guidance on the interaction between planning and pollution control is given in the National Planning Policy Framework. It says that the planning and pollution control systems are separate but complementary. We are only able to take into account those issues, which fall within the scope of the Environmental Permitting Regulations.

a) Representations from the Parish Council

Representations were received from Bawdrip Parish Council who raised the following issues.

Brief summary of issues raised:	Summary of action taken / how this has been covered
Concern raised about the prevailing winds carrying emissions to air over Bawdrip.	The air dispersion modelling uses local meteorological data to account for local weather conditions. See section 5.2 of this document for further details.
A request made that the Operator and enforcement authorities should carry	Ambient air monitoring around operating incinerators is not a reliable

out emission monitoring on site and in surrounding areas including Bawdrip.	method of establishing the impact as it does not identify the source of the emissions. We consider it is better to use air dispersion modelling to predict the impact based on the highest allowed emissions (emission limit values). We have audited the Applicant's air dispersion modelling and we are satisfied that it is suitable for assessing the impact from the Installation. The Permit requires monitoring to be carried out to ensure that the emission limits values that were used in the modelling are met.
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b) Representations from Community and Other Organisations

Representations were received from United Kingdom Without Incineration Network, Polden Gospel Hall Trust and Somerset Bridge Primary School. The following is a summary of the issues raised:

Brief summary of issues raised:	Summary of action taken / how this has been covered
Comments about air emissions and air risk assessment	
Concern raised about contradictions between the planning permission and Environmental Permit application with regards to the Applicant's technology choice.	The Applicant provided a summary of the existing planning permission for the site explaining the planning history and the existing planning application this was made available on the consultation portal on the .gov.uk website. There is a difference between the combustion technology proposed in the Environmental permit application and in previous planning applications however the operation of the plant must be in accordance with Environmental Permit and the Operating techniques described in the Environmental permit application.
Concern raised about noise and odour emissions.	We are satisfied that the measures proposed in the Application will prevent significant odour or noise. Permit conditions 3.4 and 3.5 will ensure that this remains the case. If any issues were to occur we would investigate and take enforcement action if required
Concern about pests.	We are satisfied that there will not be a significant problem with pests. Pests are not usually a problem at other

	<p>municipal waste incinerators that we regulate. Permit conditions 3.7.1 and 3.7.2 could be used in the unlikely event that a problem did occur.</p>
<p>Concern about emissions of dust.</p>	<p>We are satisfied that the control measures will prevent significant emissions. Section 6.5.3 contains further details.</p>
<p>Concern about increased traffic congestion.</p>	<p>Consideration of traffic congestion outside the installation boundary does not form part of the Environmental Permitting decision process this is a consideration for the planning process.</p>
<p>Concern raised about the risk to human health from the emissions resulting from the proposed installation.</p>	<p>Our role in EPR permitting is to ensure that any Installation does not cause significant pollution or harm to human health. We are satisfied that this Installation will not cause significant pollution or harm and that it will provide a high level of protection for the environment as a whole.</p>
<p>Concern about impact on nearby schools and emission monitoring should be carried out at other locations such as schools as well as at the site.</p>	<p>Ambient air monitoring around operating incinerators is not a reliable method of establishing the impact as it does not identify the source of the emissions. We consider it is better to use air dispersion modelling to predict the impact based on the highest allowed emissions (emission limit values). We have audited the modelling and we are satisfied that it is suitable for assessing the impact from the Installation. The Permit requires monitoring to be carried out to ensure that the emission limits values that were used in the modelling are met.</p> <p>We are satisfied that there will not be a significant impact on any receptor including schools – section 5.2 has further details.</p>

c) Representations from Individual Members of the Public

A total of 28 of responses were received from individual members of the public (including local businesses). Only those issues additional to those already considered above are listed below:

Brief summary of issues raised:	Summary of action taken / how this has been covered
Comments about air emissions and air risk assessment	
Concern over emissions of sulphur dioxide.	Sulphur dioxide emissions will not be significant will not lead to an exceedance of the relevant ES, see section 5.2 for further details.
Concern about the adverse effect on air quality around the site and surrounding areas.	The Applicant considered sensitive receptors in their dispersion modelling report. They also assessed the impact at the point of maximum impact. We are satisfied that there will not be a significant impact, further details are in section 5.2.
Concern over emissions from traffic.	<p>The air quality assessment considered existing background pollution levels which includes emissions from traffic. Movement of traffic to and from the Installation is outside of our remit but will normally be an issue for the planning authority to consider. Our consideration is whether the emissions from traffic could affect the prevailing pollutant background levels which could be a consideration where there are established high background concentrations contributing to poor air quality. In this case the small increase in pollutants from traffic would not affect the background levels to the point where it would affect the conclusions of the air quality assessment.</p> <p>Vehicle movements within the Installation boundary are considered within the remit of the Environmental Permit. However the emissions from this limited area are highly unlikely to be significant and will not affect the conclusions of the air quality impact assessment.</p>

Concern that background air pollution is already high and will be made worse.	Background pollution concentrations were taken in to consideration in the assessment of emissions to air. We are satisfied that the emissions from the installation will not lead to the exceedance of an ES. See section 5.2 for further details.
Concern the application is unclear on what the maximum allowable NOx concentrations are. .	Emission limits for NOx have been set in the permit.
Concern about in-combination effects on air pollution with nearby motorway.	Background pollution was considered in the Applicant's air quality assessment. We checked the background levels that the Applicant used as part of our audit of the air quality modelling. We are satisfied that appropriate values were used to assess impacts at receptors.
Comments about health impacts	
Concern raised about the risk to human health from the emissions resulting from the proposed installation.	Our role in EPR permitting is to ensure that any Installation does not cause significant pollution or harm to human health. We are satisfied that this Installation will not cause significant pollution or harm and that it will provide a high level of protection for the environment as a whole. See section 5.3.
Concern about risk to human health from emissions persistent organic pollutants such as dioxins and furans.	As explained in section 6.4 of this decision document, incineration is a recognised method of destroying POPs such as dioxins. Measures will be in place to minimise the reformation of dioxins and to abate the emission of them from the stack, further details are in section 5 of this decision document. The Applicant's health risk assessment included consideration the impact of dioxin and furans including accumulation in the food chain. The impact from dioxins/furans is described in more detail in section 5.3 of this decision document. We are satisfied that impacts will not be significant.
Concern that the HHRA has not considered ingestion of water, dermal contact or impact on fisheries and drinking water supplies.	The Applicant provided supplementary information to the original HHRA to do address these issues. We have audited the additional information and we agree with the overall conclusion of the

	HHRA and we are satisfied that the proposals will not result in significant harm to the environment or human health.
Concern about impact of pollution on local agricultural industry.	We have audited the Applicant's air quality and human health risk assessment and we are satisfied that emission to air will not result in significant harm to the environment or human health. This included consideration of impacts of dioxins and furans and dioxin like PCBs through the food chain. See section 5.3.
Comments about noise and odour impacts	
Concern over noise from traffic.	Only vehicle movements within the Installation can be considered through environmental permitting. Vehicle movements outside of Installations are within the remit of the planning permission. The Applicant's noise assessment included on-site vehicle movements and we are satisfied that there will not be a significant impact.
Concern about emissions of odour on local businesses.	We are satisfied that there will not be a significant impact from odour, further details are in section 6.5.4 of this decision document.
Comments about other impacts	
Concern about CO ₂ emissions and global warming.	Our assessment of global warming is covered in sections 6.3 and 6.6 of this decision document.
Concern that carbon capture is not proposed.	We require combustion plants that generate 300 MW or more electricity to be carbon capture ready. This Installation is well below this level and carbon capture is not appropriate at this scale.
Comments about fire and accident risk	
Concern about fire risk.	The Applicant submitted a Fire Prevention Plan. We have approved this plan and incorporated this within operating techniques table S1.2 meaning that the site has to follow such requirements. We are satisfied that appropriate measures will be in place to prevent fires and to minimise the impact from a

	fire if it was to occur.
Concern about the fire risk in the quarantine skip, due to arson or unregulated waste.	We are satisfied with the proposed operating techniques for fire prevention, waste acceptance and quarantine of waste. We are also satisfied with proposed site security techniques.
Concern from a local business that in the event of a fire, due to access issues, emergency services may not be able to get to workers at the business.	The health and safety of employees is a matter for the employer. Also the suitability of access roads to the installation is a matter for the planning and highways authorities. For the proposed installation we are satisfied that appropriate measures will be in place to prevent fires and to minimise the impact from a fire if it was to occur.
Concern about how local businesses and communities will be involved in disaster plans.	In the unlikely event of a fire the FPP states that residents and businesses will be informed. This is also the case if a significant accident occurs that could affect neighbouring businesses, as stated in the Accident Prevention and Management Plan. There are several ways that this could be done and we expect the Operator to have procedures in place to achieve this.
Comments about residues	
Concern about potential pollution from spillages of APC residues.	We are satisfied that Fugitive emission of bottom and or APC residues will be minimised. The measures are set out in section 6.5.3 of this decision document.
Comments about regulation and monitoring	
Concern about how the Environment Agency will monitor and regulate the installation. Will there be unannounced inspections.	We will carry out announced and unannounced visits to check that the Permit is being complied with. We will carry out audits of the Operator's monitoring. If the Operator is not complying with the Permit will take action in line with our enforcements and sanctions policy.
Concern about the Operator self-monitoring.	The Operator's monitoring will have either MCERTS certification or MCERTS accreditation as appropriate. MCERTS is the Environment Agency's Monitoring Certification Scheme. If monitoring complies with MCERTS we can have confidence in the monitoring

	<p>of emissions. In addition we will carry out audits of the Operator's monitoring. If we found problems with the monitoring we would take action to put this right and could do our own monitoring if required.</p>
<p>Concern about monitoring of dioxins, what testing will be carried out and who will pay for it?</p>	<p>The prevention and minimisation of dioxins and furans is achieved through injection of activated carbon, optimisation of combustion control, avoidance of de novo synthesis and the effective removal of particulate matter. The plant has to shut down if abatement is not operating outside of abnormal operation. The Permit also requires continuous monitoring of several process variables (e.g. combustion temperature) to ensure that the incinerator is running optimally and minimising emissions. Therefore dioxin control will be maintained in-between monitoring periods</p> <p>Periodic monitoring of dioxins included in the permit is in line with the IED and we consider it to be appropriate. The Operator will pay for the monitoring.</p>
Comments about waste	
<p>Concern about the procedures that cover acceptance of unregulated waste.</p>	<p>Pre-operational condition PO5 requires waste acceptance procedures to be in place. These procedures will include use of the quarantine area and will form part of the EMS.</p>
<p>Concern about the health risk and environmental risk from burning of plastics.</p>	<p>We are satisfied based on the information provided in the application that the waste plastics within the RDF can be burned whilst complying with the Permit emission limits.</p>
<p>Concern that the waste should be recycled instead of incinerated.</p>	<p>This is primarily outside the scope of this determination. Recycling initiatives are a matter for the local authority.</p> <p>Permit conditions 2.3.5 and 2.3.6 restrict burning of separately collected fractions.</p>
<p>Concern raised that information on the material to be burned is too vague.</p>	<p>The waste to be incinerated is described as refuse derived fuel (RDF) and is attributed with European Waste Catalogue Code (EWC) 19 12 10 from the List of Wastes (LoW). The waste is</p>

	non-hazardous and we consider it suitable for incineration at the proposed installation.
Comments about the consultation	
Concern about the lack of public awareness of the proposed facility even though it is under construction.	<p>An Operator does not require an Environmental Permit in order to begin construction of the plant. They do however need planning permission, public consultation on planning applications is a matter for the Planning Authority.</p> <p>We consider we took appropriate steps to inform people of this EPR Application as set out in section 2 of the decision document.</p>
Concern raised about contradictions between the planning permission and Environmental Permit application with regards to the Applicant's technology choice.	As part of the Environmental permit Application the Applicant provided a summary of the existing planning permission for the site. We acknowledge that there is a difference between the combustion technology proposed in the Environmental permit application and in previous planning applications. However the operation of the plant must be in accordance with Environmental Permit and the Operating techniques described in the Environmental permit application.
Comments on other Issues	
The Applicant should consider using the local canal network to transport materials to the site.	This is not a matter for the Environmental Permitting process
Concern that the proposals are not in line with government policy.	This is outside the scope of this determination which it to assess the impact of emissions from the proposed activity.
Concern about impact on house value.	This is not something that we can consider through Environmental Permitting which is concerned with the impact of emissions from the process and we are satisfied these will not cause significant pollution of the environment or harm to human health
Concern that the development won't meet building or highway regulations	Building regulations and highway regulations are not a consideration of the permitting process.
Concern about location of the proposed installation in an already congested area.	Location is primarily a land use planning issue. We have a legal duty to determine any application made to us

	for an environmental permit. Our role is to determine whether appropriate measures are used to prevent and minimise emissions and whether any impacts on the environment and health are acceptable. We have considered the location of receptors in making our decision.
Concern over the financial cost of the development.	The core EPR guidance states at 9.22 we should only consider financial solvency explicitly in cases where we have doubts as to the financial viability of the activity. We have no doubts as to the general financial viability of the activity. Based on this we have no reason to consider that the Applicant will not be financially competent. In any event, given the conditions in the permit if they cannot discharge the pre-operational conditions they will not be able to commence activities and they can only get to that stage if they are financially competent.
Concern that the local community will not benefit financially from the proposals	This is not a consideration for the permitting process. The permitting process is concerned with the impact of emissions from the process and we are satisfied these will not cause significant pollution of the environment or harm to human health
Concern that the planning application was not made public.	This is a matter for the Planning Authority.
Concern about impact on nearby habitat sites and other ecological sites.	Our assessment at habitat and ecological sites is described in section 5.4 of this decision document. We are satisfied that there will not be a significant impact.
Concern about adverse impact on the local economy and tourism.	The permitting process is concerned with the impact of emissions from the process and we are satisfied these will not cause significant pollution of the environment or harm to human health
Concern that there is no information on operating hours	The plant will operate 24 hours day. Waste acceptance times are restricted by the planning permission.

B) Advertising and Consultation on the Draft Decision

This section reports on the outcome of the public consultation on our draft decision carried out between 09/06/2021 and 07/07/2021.

In some cases the issues raised in the consultation were the same as those raised previously and already reported in section A of this Annex and so have not been repeated in this section.

Also some of the consultation responses received were on matters which are outside the scope of the Environment Agency's powers under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. Our position on these matters is as described previously.

a) Consultation Responses from Statutory and Non-Statutory Bodies

Response Received from Public Health England	
Brief summary of issues raised:	Summary of action taken / how this has been covered
No issues raised – They stated that they were satisfied that their previous comments had been noted and considered and outstanding concerns have been addressed and resolved.	No action required.

Response received from Sedgemoor District Council	
Brief summary of issues raised:	Summary of action taken / how this has been covered
Comment that the Noise and Vibration Plan does not address its Objectives. There is no explanation how non-compliance or noise complaints will be dealt with and addressed.	See section 6.5.5 for our assessment of noise and vibration. The noise impact assessment concludes that the impact from noise and vibration is likely to be low. We are therefore satisfied that the measures proposed in the Application will prevent significant noise and vibration. Permit condition 3.5 will ensure that this remains the case. If any issues were to occur we would investigate and take enforcement action if required. We have included an improvement condition (IC11, Table S1.3) which requires the Operator to carry out a noise survey to validate the conclusions in the Noise Impact Assessment. The Noise Management Plan is subject to change based on the results of the survey, any changes will require approval by the Environment

	Agency. We have received an updated management plan that includes procedures on dealing with complaints and non-compliances and we satisfied that it is appropriate.
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b) Representations from Town Councils

Representations were received from North Petherton Town Council who raised the following issues:-

Brief summary of issues raised:	Summary of action taken / how this has been covered
Concern about the lack of public awareness of the consultation process.	We consider we took appropriate steps to inform people of this EPR Application as set out in section 2 of the decision document.
Concern about treatment of fly ash.	APC residues and fly ash will be conveyed to an enclosed silo. Then subsequently discharged into tankers through enclosed unloading systems. We are satisfied that operating techniques for handling and disposing of these residues are appropriate and will not result in a significant risk to human health or the Environment.
Concern about public awareness of monitoring results from the incinerator and operational changes are properly communicated.	Monitoring carried out in compliance with permit conditions can be viewed on the Environment Agency public register. Any future substantial changes to the operation requiring an Environmental Permit variation will be advertised and consulted upon in accordance with the Environment Agency's Public Participation Statement.

c) Representations from Individual Members of the Public

A total of 11 of responses were received from individual members of the public. These raised many of the same issues as previously addressed. Only those issues additional to those already considered are listed below:

Brief summary of issues raised:	Summary of action taken / how this has been covered
Comments about air emissions and air risk assessment	
Concern over the location of the facility as it is not in keeping with the local plan. There are better placed areas for the incinerator.	Location is primarily a land use planning issue. We have a legal duty to determine any application made to us for an environmental permit. Our role is to determine whether appropriate measures are used to prevent and minimise emissions and whether any impacts on the environment and health are acceptable. We have considered the location of receptors in making our decision.
Concern about noise and vibration from the incinerator.	We are satisfied that the measures proposed in the Application will prevent significant noise and vibration. Permit condition 3.5 will ensure that this remains the case. If any issues were to occur we would investigate and take enforcement action if required
Concern about adverse impact on nearby canals and rivers.	We are satisfied that there will be no significant adverse impact on nearby canals and rivers. See section 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 for details of our assessment of discharges to surface water and sewer.