

Permit with introductory note

The Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2016

The Sky Mining Company Limited

The Sky Mining Company
Q Park
Bath Road
South Woodchester
Gloucestershire
GL5 5HT

Permit number

EPR/QP3001BP

The Sky Mining Company

Permit number EPR/QP3001BP

Introductory note

This introductory note does not form a part of the permit

The main features of the permit are as follows.

The Sky Mining Company Limited operate an installation where synthetic diamonds are manufactured. The National Grid Reference of the site is SO 84195 02089. It is located in South Woodchester along the A46 Bath Road.

The Schedule 1 activities undertaken at the installation are as follows:

- Section 4.1 A(1)(a)(i) – Producing organic chemicals such as – hydrocarbons (methane)
- Section 4.2 Part A(1)(a)(i) – producing inorganic chemicals such as – gases (hydrogen)

The Section 4.1 A(1)(a)(i) – Producing organic chemicals such as – hydrocarbons (methane) is a bespoke installation activity. The Section 4.2 Part A(1)(a)(i) – producing inorganic chemicals such as – gases (hydrogen) activity is classified as a low impact installation (LII).

At the installation, synthetic diamonds are produced on a seed crystal using microwave plasma Chemical Vapour Deposition (CVD) diamond synthesis technology. The CVD process uses high purity speciality gases; most of which are manufactured on site (including methane and hydrogen) with some exceptions such as argon which will be purchased from a manufacturer and delivered to site. The process gases are introduced into a reaction chamber in a pre-determined mix and converted into a gas plasma. Carbon is deposited atomic layer by atomic layer onto a seed crystal. Helium gas will be used on site as an inert substance that can be used for flushing and leak testing.

There are eight emission points to air, including A1 – A6 from the CVD exhausts. Each CVD machine has an individual exhaust system which predominantly releases hydrogen to air via a stainless-steel pipe. The main components in the exhaust are hydrogen and methane. There is the potential for reactions to take place in the gas to create a range of carbon-based species which can include the formation of benzene. Emission point A7 from the hydrogen electrolyser can vent hydrogen and oxygen and emission point A8 venting from the methanogenesis plant which mainly vents methane with small quantities of hydrogen, carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulphide, ammonia and water.

Wastewater is created by the water purification system. The input water is potable but the wastewater from the process can be either removed from site and transferred to a licenced waste carrier or discharged to drain under a discharge consent. No other process emissions go to sewer.

Water and residual bulk chemicals and trace elements produced by the methanogenesis process are discharged to an intermediate bulk container (IBC) and will be removed by a registered waste carrier.

The site is largely laid to concrete, tarmac or paving. All activities occur within the building on-site. Secondary refrigerant antifreeze is stored on site in 25 litre containers on a bund.

The site will operate to an environmental management system that meets the requirements of ISO 14001.

The status log of the permit sets out the permitting history, including any changes to the permit reference number.

Status log of the permit		
Description	Date	Comments
Application EPR/QP3001BP/A001	Duly made 11/04/2022	Application for chemicals production plant.

Status log of the permit		
Description	Date	Comments
Application EPR/QP3001BP/A001 further information received	14/07/2022	Clarification on emissions to sewer.
Permit determined EPR/QP3001BP (Billing ref. QP3001BP)	20/07/2022	Permit issued to The Sky Mining Company Limited.

End of introductory note

Permit

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016

Permit number

EPR/QP3001BP

The Environment Agency hereby authorises, under regulation 13 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016

The Sky Mining Company Limited (“the operator”),

whose registered office is

Lion House

Rowcroft

Stroud

Gloucestershire

GL5 3BY

company registration number **10153702**

to operate an installation at

The Sky Mining Company

Q Park

Bath Road

South Woodchester

Gloucestershire

GL5 5HT

to the extent authorised by and subject to the conditions of this permit.

Name	Date
Sandra Cavill	20/07/2022

Authorised on behalf of the Environment Agency

Conditions

1 Management

1.1 General management

1.1.1 The operator shall manage and operate the activities:

- (a) in accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks of pollution, including those arising from operations, maintenance, accidents, incidents, non-conformances, closure and those drawn to the attention of the operator as a result of complaints; and
- (b) using sufficient competent persons and resources.

1.1.2 Records demonstrating compliance with condition 1.1.1 shall be maintained.

1.1.3 Any person having duties that are or may be affected by the matters set out in this permit shall have convenient access to a copy of it kept at or near the place where those duties are carried out.

1.2 Energy efficiency

1.2.1 The operator shall:

- (a) take appropriate measures to ensure that energy is used efficiently in the activities;
- (b) review and record at least every four years whether there are suitable opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of the activities; and
- (c) take any further appropriate measures identified by a review.

1.3 Efficient use of raw materials

1.3.1 The operator shall:

- (a) take appropriate measures to ensure that raw materials and water are used efficiently in the activities;
- (b) maintain records of raw materials and water used in the activities;
- (c) review and record at least every four years whether there are suitable alternative materials that could reduce environmental impact or opportunities to improve the efficiency of raw material and water use; and
- (d) take any further appropriate measures identified by a review.

1.4 Avoidance, recovery and disposal of wastes produced by the activities

1.4.1 The operator shall take appropriate measures to ensure that:

- (a) the waste hierarchy referred to in Article 4 of the Waste Framework Directive is applied to the generation of waste by the activities; and
- (b) any waste generated by the activities is treated in accordance with the waste hierarchy referred to in Article 4 of the Waste Framework Directive; and
- (c) where disposal is necessary, this is undertaken in a manner which minimises its impact on the environment.

1.4.2 The operator shall review and record at least every four years whether changes to those measures should be made and take any further appropriate measures identified by a review.

1.5 Climate change

- 1.5.1 The operator shall review and if appropriate update, at least every 4 years, the climate change adaptation risk assessment submitted with the permit application and shall update the written management system as appropriate.

2 Operations

2.1 Permitted activities

- 2.1.1 The operator is only authorised to carry out the activities specified in schedule 1 table S1.1 (the “activities”).

2.2 The site

- 2.2.1 The activities shall not extend beyond the site, being the land shown edged in red on the site plan at schedule 7 to this permit.

2.3 Operating techniques

- 2.3.1 The activities shall, subject to the conditions of this permit, be operated using the techniques and in the manner described in the documentation specified in schedule 1, table S1.2, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.
- 2.3.2 If notified by the Environment Agency that the activities are giving rise to pollution, the operator shall submit to the Environment Agency for approval within the period specified, a revision of any plan or other documentation (“plan”) specified in schedule 1, table S1.2 or otherwise required under this permit which identifies and minimises the risks of pollution relevant to that plan, and shall implement the approved revised plan in place of the original from the date of approval, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.
- 2.3.3 Any raw materials or fuels listed in schedule 2 table S2.1 shall conform to the specifications set out in that table.
- 2.3.4 The operator shall ensure that where waste produced by the activities is sent to a relevant waste operation, that operation is provided with the following information, prior to the receipt of the waste:
- (a) the nature of the process producing the waste;
 - (b) the composition of the waste;
 - (c) the handling requirements of the waste;
 - (d) the hazardous property associated with the waste, if applicable; and
 - (e) the waste code of the waste.
- 2.3.5 The operator shall ensure that where waste produced by the activities is sent to a landfill site, it meets the waste acceptance criteria for that landfill.

2.4 Improvement programme

- 2.4.1 The operator shall complete the improvements specified in schedule 1 table S1.3 by the date specified in that table unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.
- 2.4.2 Except in the case of an improvement which consists only of a submission to the Environment Agency, the operator shall notify the Environment Agency within 14 days of completion of each improvement.

3 Emissions and monitoring

3.1 Emissions to water, air or land

- 3.1.1 There shall be no point source emissions to water, air or land except from the sources and emission points listed in schedule 3 table S3.1 and S3.2.
- 3.1.2 The limits given in schedule 3 shall not be exceeded.
- 3.1.3 Periodic monitoring shall be carried out at least once every 5 years for groundwater and 10 years for soil, unless such monitoring is based on a systematic appraisal of the risk of contamination.

3.2 Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits

- 3.2.1 Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits (excluding odour) shall not cause pollution. The operator shall not be taken to have breached this condition if appropriate measures, including, but not limited to, those specified in any approved emissions management plan, have been taken to prevent or where that is not practicable, to minimise, those emissions.
- 3.2.2 The operator shall:
 - (a) if notified by the Environment Agency that the activities are giving rise to pollution, submit to the Environment Agency for approval within the period specified, an emissions management plan which identifies and minimises the risks of pollution from emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits;
 - (b) implement the approved emissions management plan, from the date of approval, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.
- 3.2.3 All liquids in containers, whose emission to water or land could cause pollution, shall be provided with secondary containment, unless the operator has used other appropriate measures to prevent or where that is not practicable, to minimise, leakage and spillage from the primary container.

3.3 Odour

- 3.3.1 Emissions from the activities shall be free from odour at levels likely to cause pollution outside the site, as perceived by an authorised officer of the Environment Agency, unless the operator has used appropriate measures, including, but not limited to, those specified in any approved odour management plan, to prevent or where that is not practicable to minimise the odour.
- 3.3.2 The operator shall:
 - (a) if notified by the Environment Agency that the activities are giving rise to pollution outside the site due to odour, submit to the Environment Agency for approval within the period specified, an odour management plan which identifies and minimises the risks of pollution from odour;
 - (b) implement the approved odour management plan, from the date of approval, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.

3.4 Noise and vibration

- 3.4.1 Emissions from the activities shall be free from noise and vibration at levels likely to cause pollution outside the site, as perceived by an authorised officer of the Environment Agency, unless the operator has used appropriate measures, including, but not limited to, those specified in any approved noise and vibration management plan to prevent or where that is not practicable to minimise the noise and vibration.
- 3.4.2 The operator shall:

- (a) if notified by the Environment Agency that the activities are giving rise to pollution outside the site due to noise and vibration, submit to the Environment Agency for approval within the period specified, a noise and vibration management plan which identifies and minimises the risks of pollution from noise and vibration;
- (b) implement the approved noise and vibration management plan, from the date of approval, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.

3.5 Monitoring

- 3.5.1 The operator shall, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency, undertake the monitoring specified in the following tables in schedule 3 to this permit:
 - (a) point source emissions specified in table S3.1 and S3.2.
- 3.5.2 The operator shall maintain records of all monitoring required by this permit including records of the taking and analysis of samples, instrument measurements (periodic and continual), calibrations, examinations, tests and surveys and any assessment or evaluation made on the basis of such data.
- 3.5.3 Monitoring equipment, techniques, personnel and organisations employed for the emissions monitoring programme in condition 3.5.1 shall have either MCERTS certification or MCERTS accreditation (as appropriate), where available, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.
- 3.5.4 Permanent means of access shall be provided to enable sampling/monitoring to be carried out in relation to the emission points specified in schedule 3 table S3.1 unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.

4 Information

4.1 Records

- 4.1.1 All records required to be made by this permit shall:
 - (a) be legible;
 - (b) be made as soon as reasonably practicable;
 - (c) if amended, be amended in such a way that the original and any subsequent amendments remain legible, or are capable of retrieval; and
 - (d) be retained, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency, for at least 6 years from the date when the records were made, or in the case of the following records until permit surrender:
 - (i) off-site environmental effects; and
 - (ii) matters which affect the condition of the land and groundwater.
- 4.1.2 The operator shall keep on site all records, plans and the management system required to be maintained by this permit, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.

4.2 Reporting

- 4.2.1 The operator shall send all reports and notifications required by the permit to the Environment Agency using the contact details supplied in writing by the Environment Agency.
- 4.2.2 A report or reports on the performance of the activities over the previous year shall be submitted to the Environment Agency by 31 January (or other date agreed in writing by the Environment Agency) each year. The report(s) shall include as a minimum:

- (a) a review of the results of the monitoring and assessment carried out in accordance with the permit including an interpretive review of that data;
- (b) the annual production /treatment data set out in schedule 4 table S4.2; and
- (c) the performance parameters set out in schedule 4 table S4.3 using the forms specified in table S4.4 of that schedule.

4.2.3 Within 28 days of the end of the reporting period the operator shall, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency, submit reports of the monitoring and assessment carried out in accordance with the conditions of this permit, as follows:

- (a) in respect of the parameters and emission points specified in schedule 4 table S4.1;
- (b) for the reporting periods specified in schedule 4 table S4.1 and using the forms specified in schedule 4 table S4.4; and
- (c) giving the information from such results and assessments as may be required by the forms specified in those tables.

4.2.4 The operator shall, unless notice under this condition has been served within the preceding four years, submit to the Environment Agency, within six months of receipt of a written notice, a report assessing whether there are other appropriate measures that could be taken to prevent, or where that is not practicable, to minimise pollution.

4.3 Notifications

4.3.1 In the event:

- (a) that the operation of the activities gives rise to an incident or accident which significantly affects or may significantly affect the environment, the operator must immediately—
 - (i) inform the Environment Agency,
 - (ii) take the measures necessary to limit the environmental consequences of such an incident or accident, and
 - (iii) take the measures necessary to prevent further possible incidents or accidents;
- (b) of a breach of any permit condition the operator must immediately—
 - (i) inform the Environment Agency, and
 - (ii) take the measures necessary to ensure that compliance is restored within the shortest possible time;
- (c) of a breach of permit condition which poses an immediate danger to human health or threatens to cause an immediate significant adverse effect on the environment, the operator must immediately suspend the operation of the activities or the relevant part of it until compliance with the permit conditions has been restored.

4.3.2 Any information provided under condition 4.3.1 shall be confirmed by sending the information listed in schedule 5 to this permit within the time period specified in that schedule.

4.3.3 Where the Environment Agency has requested in writing that it shall be notified when the operator is to undertake monitoring and/or spot sampling, the operator shall inform the Environment Agency when the relevant monitoring and/or spot sampling is to take place. The operator shall provide this information to the Environment Agency at least 14 days before the date the monitoring is to be undertaken.

4.3.4 The Environment Agency shall be notified within 14 days of the occurrence of the following matters, except where such disclosure is prohibited by Stock Exchange rules:

Where the operator is a registered company:

- (a) any change in the operator's trading name, registered name or registered office address; and

- (b) any steps taken with a view to the operator going into administration, entering into a company voluntary arrangement or being wound up.

Where the operator is a corporate body other than a registered company:

- (a) any change in the operator's name or address; and
- (b) any steps taken with a view to the dissolution of the operator.

In any other case:

- (a) the death of any of the named operators (where the operator consists of more than one named individual);
- (b) any change in the operator's name(s) or address(es); and
- (c) any steps taken with a view to the operator, or any one of them, going into bankruptcy, entering into a composition or arrangement with creditors, or, in the case of them being in a partnership, dissolving the partnership.

4.3.5 Where the operator proposes to make a change in the nature or functioning, or an extension of the activities, which may have consequences for the environment and the change is not otherwise the subject of an application for approval under the Regulations or this permit:

- (a) the Environment Agency shall be notified at least 14 days before making the change; and
- (b) the notification shall contain a description of the proposed change in operation.

4.3.6 The Environment Agency shall be given at least 14 days notice before implementation of any part of the site closure plan.

4.4 Interpretation

4.4.1 In this permit the expressions listed in schedule 6 shall have the meaning given in that schedule.

4.4.2 In this permit references to reports and notifications mean written reports and notifications, except where reference is made to notification being made "immediately", in which case it may be provided by telephone.

Schedule 1 – Operations

Table S1.1 activities		
Activity listed in Schedule 1 of the EP Regulations	Description of specified activity	Limits of specified activity
Section 4.1 A(1)(a)(i) Producing organic chemicals such as - hydrocarbons (methane)	Production of methane via methanogenesis	From generation of methane to use in CVD diamond synthesis process.
Section 4.2 A(1)(a)(i) Producing inorganic chemicals such as - gases (hydrogen)	Production of hydrogen via electrolysis of deionized water within three Proton H Series Hydrogen Generators, for use in the Chemical Vapour Deposition (CVD) diamond synthesis process.	From generation of hydrogen to use in CVD diamond synthesis process.
Directly Associated Activity		
Material storage and handling	Receipt, storage and handling of materials, chemicals and compressed gases for use in the production of synthetic diamonds.	Receipt, storage and handling of raw materials, chemicals and compressed gases used in the production process.
Seeding, CVD process	Coating of substrate with diamond particles; CVD deposition process to create diamond layers	Receipt of substrate and diamond particles to finished shape of diamond product.
Packing	Packaging of synthetic diamonds.	Production of final product to shipping off-site.
Storage and handling of waste	Storage and handling of waste generated from the production of synthetic diamonds	From waste generation, storage and monitoring through to dispatch off-site.

Table S1.2 Operating techniques		
Description	Parts	Date Received
Application EPR/QP3001BP	Application forms B2 and B3 and all referenced supporting information.	18/03/2021
Further information application EPR/QP3001BP	Updated site plan and clarification on number and location of emission points and details of raw material storage.	18/03/2022
Further information application EPR/QP3001BP	Email setting out additional information on production capacity, methane production process and emissions to air including H1 air quality impact assessment in excel format.	11/04/2022

Table S1.3 Improvement programme requirements		
Reference	Requirement	Date
-	-	-

Schedule 2 – Waste types, raw materials and fuels

Table S2.1 Raw materials and fuels	
Raw materials and fuel description	Specification
-	-

Schedule 3 – Emissions and monitoring

Table S3.1 Point source emissions to air – emission limits and monitoring requirements						
Emission point ref. & location	Source	Parameter	Limit (including unit)	Reference period	Monitoring frequency	Monitoring standard or method
A1 – A6 [Shown on site plan in schedule 7]	CVD exhausts	No parameters set	No limit set	-	-	-
A7 [Shown on site plan in schedule 7]	Hydrogen electrolyser	No parameters set	No limit set	-	-	-
A8 [Shown on site plan in schedule 7]	Methanogenesis plant	No parameters set	No limit set	-	-	-

Table S3.2 Point source emissions to sewer, effluent treatment plant or other transfers off-site– emission limits and monitoring requirements						
Emission point ref. & location	Source	Parameter	Limit (incl. Unit)	Reference period	Monitoring frequency	Monitoring standard or method
Emission point to sewer S1	Discharge from the water treatment plant	No parameter set	No limit set	-	-	-

Schedule 4 – Reporting

Parameters, for which reports shall be made, in accordance with conditions of this permit, are listed below.

Table S4.1 Reporting of monitoring data			
Parameter	Emission or monitoring point/reference	Reporting period	Period begins
None set	-	-	-

Table S4.2 Annual production/treatment	
Parameter	Units
Synthetic diamonds	Tonnes produced

Table S4.3 Performance parameters		
Parameter	Frequency of assessment	Units
Energy usage	Annually	MWh

Table S4.4 Reporting forms		
Media/parameter	Reporting format	Date of form
Energy usage	Form energy 1 or other form as agreed in writing by the Environment Agency	20/07/2022
Annual production	Form other performance parameters 1 or other form as agreed in writing by the Environment Agency	20/07/2022

Schedule 5 – Notification

These pages outline the information that the operator must provide.

Units of measurement used in information supplied under Part A and B requirements shall be appropriate to the circumstances of the emission. Where appropriate, a comparison should be made of actual emissions and authorised emission limits.

If any information is considered commercially confidential, it should be separated from non-confidential information, supplied on a separate sheet and accompanied by an application for commercial confidentiality under the provisions of the EP Regulations.

Part A

Permit Number	
Name of operator	
Location of Facility	
Time and date of the detection	

(a) Notification requirements for any malfunction, breakdown or failure of equipment or techniques, accident, or emission of a substance not controlled by an emission limit which has caused, is causing or may cause significant pollution	
To be notified within 24 hours of detection	
Date and time of the event	
Reference or description of the location of the event	
Description of where any release into the environment took place	
Substances(s) potentially released	
Best estimate of the quantity or rate of release of substances	
Measures taken, or intended to be taken, to stop any emission	
Description of the failure or accident.	

(b) Notification requirements for the breach of a limit	
To be notified within 24 hours of detection unless otherwise specified below	
Emission point reference/ source	
Parameter(s)	
Limit	
Measured value and uncertainty	
Date and time of monitoring	

(b) Notification requirements for the breach of a limit	
To be notified within 24 hours of detection unless otherwise specified below	
Measures taken, or intended to be taken, to stop the emission	

Time periods for notification following detection of a breach of a limit	
Parameter	Notification period

(c) Notification requirements for the breach of permit conditions not related to limits	
To be notified within 24 hours of detection	
Condition breached	
Date, time and duration of breach	
Details of the permit breach i.e. what happened including impacts observed.	
Measures taken, or intended to be taken, to restore permit compliance.	

(d) Notification requirements for the detection of any significant adverse environmental effect	
To be notified within 24 hours of detection	
Description of where the effect on the environment was detected	
Substances(s) detected	
Concentrations of substances detected	
Date of monitoring/sampling	

Part B – to be submitted as soon as practicable

Any more accurate information on the matters for notification under Part A.	
Measures taken, or intended to be taken, to prevent a recurrence of the incident	

Measures taken, or intended to be taken, to rectify, limit or prevent any pollution of the environment which has been or may be caused by the emission	
The dates of any unauthorised emissions from the facility in the preceding 24 months.	

Name*	
Post	
Signature	
Date	

* authorised to sign on behalf of the operator

Schedule 6 – Interpretation

“accident” means an accident that may result in pollution.

“application” means the application for this permit, together with any additional information supplied by the operator as part of the application and any response to a notice served under Schedule 5 to the EP Regulations.

“authorised officer” means any person authorised by the Environment Agency under section 108(1) of The Environment Act 1995 to exercise, in accordance with the terms of any such authorisation, any power specified in section 108(4) of that Act.

“emissions to land” includes emissions to groundwater.

“EP Regulations” means The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations SI 2016 No.1154 and words and expressions used in this permit which are also used in the Regulations have the same meanings as in those Regulations.

“emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits” means emissions of substances to air, water or land from the activities, either from the emission points specified in schedule 3 or from other localised or diffuse sources, which are not controlled by an emission or background concentration limit.

“groundwater” means all water, which is below the surface of the ground in the saturation zone and in direct contact with the ground or subsoil.

“Hazardous property” has the meaning in Annex III of the Waste Framework Directive as read in accordance with Schedule 1A to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 as read in accordance with Schedule 1A to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.

“Hazardous waste” has the meaning given in the Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005.

“Industrial Emissions Directive” means DIRECTIVE 2010/75/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions as read in accordance with Schedule 1A to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.

“MCERTS” means the Environment Agency’s Monitoring Certification Scheme.

Where a minimum limit is set for any emission parameter, for example pH, reference to exceeding the limit shall mean that the parameter shall not be less than that limit.

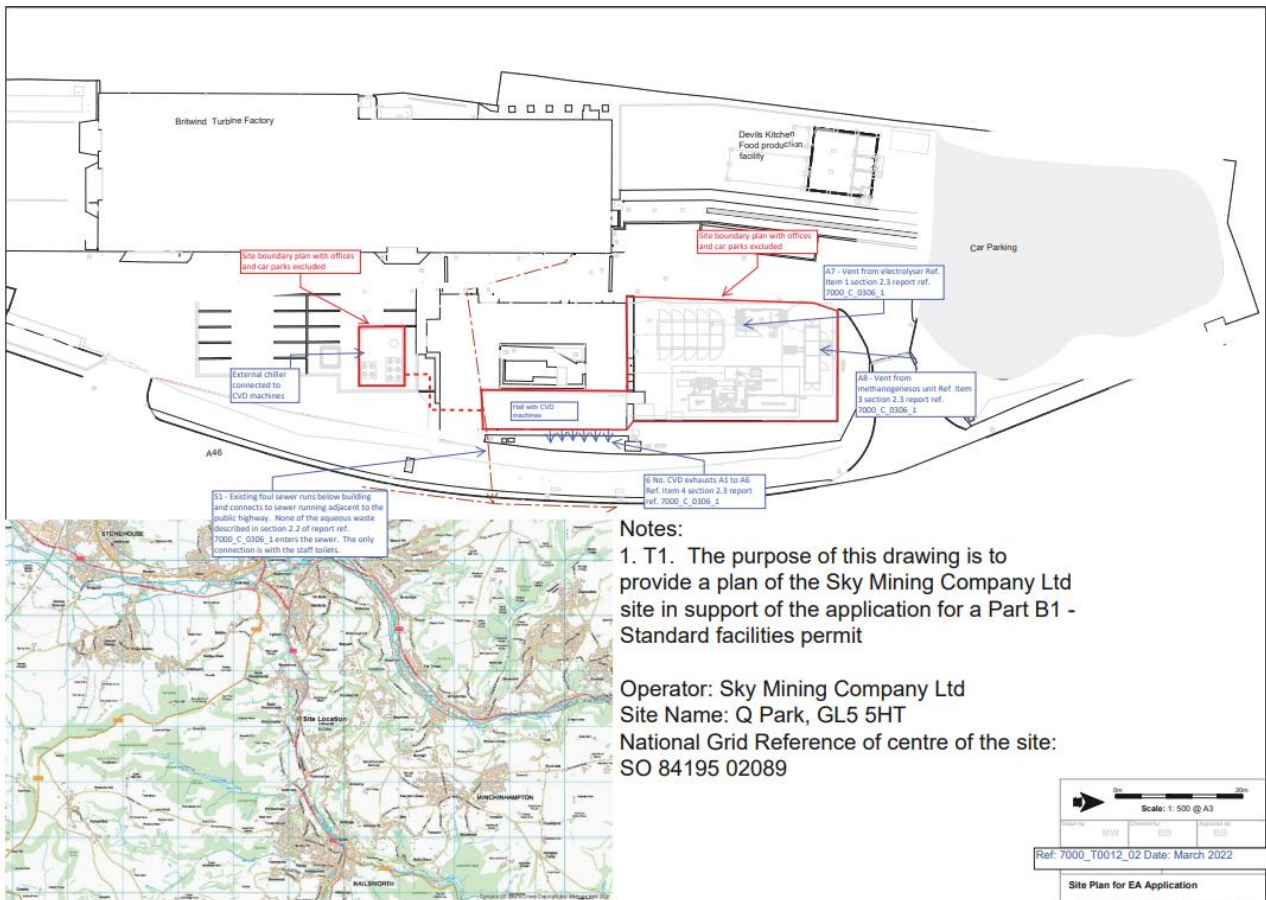
Unless otherwise stated, any references in this permit to concentrations of substances in emissions into air means:

- in relation to emissions from non-combustion sources, the concentration at a temperature of 273K and at a pressure of 101.3 kPa, with no correction for water vapour content.

“year” means calendar year ending 31 December.

Schedule 7 – Site plan

Site boundary



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END OF PERMIT