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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AECOM Infrastructure and Environment UK Ltd (AECOM) has been commissioned by EP UK Investments Ltd (hereafter referred to as the Applicant) to prepare this Environmental Statement (ES) for a proposal to extract secondary aggregate materials from the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site, Cobcroft Lane, Cridling Stubbs, Knottingley, North Yorkshire, WF11 0BB. The development is hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development'.
- 1.1.2 This ES has been prepared to support an application for planning permission for the Proposed Development, to be submitted to the Minerals Planning Authority (MPA) (North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC)) for determination, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2017 (as amended) (herein referred to as 'the EIA Regulations').
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Development Site (the Site) primarily comprises approximately 307 hectares (ha) of land at the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SE 53825 21326. In addition, a section of Cobcroft Lane/ Whitefield Lane between the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site and the A19, and an area of land (approximately 5 ha) around the A19/ Whitefield Lane junction in Whitley is included as part of the Site to enable the Applicant to undertake road improvements so as to reduce the potential effects of the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.4 This ES assesses the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on the environment and identifies any likely significant environmental effects, together with appropriate mitigation measures to minimise those effects where possible.
- 1.1.5 This chapter is supported by Figure 1.1 provided within ES Volume III, which illustrates the location of the Site.

### 1.2 The Applicant

- 1.2.1 The Applicant owns and operates a number of power stations in the UK, including Eggborough power station in North Yorkshire, where the Applicant has recently secured consent for a new 2,500 MW gas-fired power station, as well as the Langage and South Humber Bank gas-fired power stations and Lynemouth power station, which the Applicant has converted to biomass-firing.

### 1.3 Site Planning History

- 1.3.1 The Gale Common Ash Disposal Site was originally consented in October 1963 by the County Council of West Riding of Yorkshire. The consent established the principle for the progressive implementation of an ash disposal operation within a defined area divided into three stages (Stages I to III – shown on Figure 3.3 in ES Volume III).
- 1.3.2 Stage I of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site was completed in 1994 and has since been restored and landscaped. Planning agreements/ obligations entered into by the Applicant's predecessor, the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB), in 1986, and the Applicant itself in 2008, provide the planning framework for the development of Stages II and III of the ash disposal operation. Stages II and III are incomplete, meaning they are unrestored and the areas generally comprise exposed ash.
- 1.3.3 A 2003 planning permission allowed for the construction of a weighbridge to facilitate the removal of up to 30,000 tonnes of ash per annum from the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site for sale and use in the manufacture of construction materials.
- 1.3.4 In addition to the above, there are a large number of other planning history records for the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site, although these mainly relate to permissions granted in the late 1980s and 1990s for the removal of cenospheres from the ash settlement lagoons.
- 1.3.5 For further detail of the planning history of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site, refer to the Planning Statement that forms part of the planning application.

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## 1.4 Proposed Development Overview

- 1.4.1 The Proposed Development comprises the extraction of secondary aggregate materials from land at the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site. Extraction would only occur from certain areas within the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site, namely Lagoons C and D (also known as the emergency ash disposal lagoons), Stage II and Stage III areas. Stage I (which is the fully restored part of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site) would be retained in its current form. The areas where extraction would occur are illustrated on Figure 3.3 (ES Volume III).
- 1.4.2 The predominant extraction material would be pulverised fuel ash (PFA); however, some areas of the Gale Common Ash Disposal Site also contain colliery shale, which would also be extracted and retained on Site for restoration purposes.
- 1.4.3 The Proposed Development is described in more detail in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development.

## 1.5 EIA Legislation

- 1.5.1 European Directive 2014/52/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (the EIA Directive) establishes the legislative framework for EIA.
- 1.5.2 In the UK, the Statutory Instrument implementing the EIA Directive for the purposes of planning applications, such as the Proposed Development, is the EIA Regulations. The EIA Regulations include two schedules of development, which are derived from the EIA Directive:
- Schedule 1 Development (Annex I of the EIA Directive): Development of this type requires EIA to be undertaken; and
  - Schedule 2 Development (Annex II of the EIA Directive): Development of this type may require an EIA to be undertaken depending on the scale of the development, its characteristics and the sensitivity of the environment in which development would take place.
- 1.5.3 The Proposed Development falls within Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations, under Part 19 'Quarries and open-cast mining where the surface of the site exceeds 25 hectares, or peat extraction where the surface of the site exceeds 150 hectares'. Consequently, an ES has been prepared to support the application for the Proposed Development.

## 1.6 Environmental Statement

- 1.6.1 This ES is designed to inform readers of the nature of the Proposed Development, its likely environmental effects and the measures proposed to protect the environment. It specifically provides the information required by Regulation 18 (3) of the EIA Regulations to be provided in an ES and will be used by NYCC to inform the determination of the Application.
- 1.6.2 The assessments presented in this ES have been prepared on the basis of the proposed extraction methods and programme as set out in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development. Where it has been necessary to make assumptions for the purposes of assessment, a realistic worst-case has been assumed in order to ensure that findings of the assessments are robust. The scope of the EIA has been agreed with NYCC and statutory consultees through a formal EIA Scoping process (see Section 1.7 below and Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology).
- 1.6.3 Table 1.1 summarises where the requirements of Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations have been addressed in the ES. It should be noted that relevant information may be found both in Volume I (the ES main text), Volume II (the supporting technical appendices accompanying the ES) and Volume III (the figures accompanying the ES).

**Table 1.1 – Requirements of Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations**

REQUIREMENT	WHERE INFORMATION IS PROVIDED
1. A Description of the development, including in particular:	
(a) a description of the location of the development;	Chapter 3: Description of the Site
(b) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development, including, where relevant, requisite demolition works, and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases;	Chapter 4: The Proposed Development
(c) a description of the main characteristics of the operational phase of the development (in particular any production process), for instance, energy demand and energy used, nature and quantity of the materials and natural resources (including water, land, soil and biodiversity) used;	Chapter 4: The Proposed Development
(d) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases).	Chapter 4: The Proposed Development Chapter 9: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration Chapter 11: Geology, Hydrogeology and Contaminated Land
2. A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.	Chapter 4: The Proposed Development
3. A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge.	Chapters 6 – 11 (topic specific chapters) 'Baseline Conditions' sections
4. A description of the factors specified in regulation 4(2) likely to be significantly affected by the development: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna	Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology. Chapters 6 – 11 (topic specific chapters) 'Likely Impacts and Effects' sections

REQUIREMENT	WHERE INFORMATION IS PROVIDED
<p>and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape.</p>	
<p>5. A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works;</li> <li>(b) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources;</li> <li>(c) the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste;</li> <li>(d) the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters);</li> <li>(e) the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources;</li> <li>(f) the impact of the project on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the project to climate change;</li> <li>(g) The technologies and the substances used.</li> </ul>	<p>Chapters 6 – 11 (topic specific chapters)                  'Likely Impacts and Effects' sections                  Chapter 12: Cumulative Effects and Interactions</p>
<p>The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in regulation 4(2) should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development. This description should take into account the environmental protection objectives established at Union or Member State level which are relevant to the project, including in particular those established under Council Directive 92/43/EEC (a) and Directive 2009/147/EC(b).</p>	<p>Chapters 6 – 11 (topic specific chapters)                  'Likely Impacts and Effects' sections                  Chapter 12: Cumulative Effects and Interactions                  Chapter 13: Summary of Significant Residual Effects and Mitigation</p>

REQUIREMENT	WHERE INFORMATION IS PROVIDED
6. A description of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment, including details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.	Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology Chapters 6 – 11 (topic specific chapters) 'Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria' and 'Limitations or Difficulties' sections
7. A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements (for example the preparation of a post-project analysis). That description should explain the extent, to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, prevented, reduced or offset, and should cover both the construction and operational phases.	Chapters 6 – 11 (topic specific chapters) 'Development Design and Impact Avoidance' and 'Mitigation, Enhancement and 'Monitoring' sections
8. A description of the expected significant adverse effects of the development on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned. Relevant information available and obtained through risk assessments pursuant to EU legislation such as Directive 2012/18/EU(c) of the European Parliament and of the Council or Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom(d) or UK environmental assessments may be used for this purpose provided that the requirements of this Directive are met. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies.	Appendix 1A: EIA Scoping Report and Appendix 1B: EIA Scoping Opinion (ES Volume II) and the Flood Risk Assessment which accompanies the planning application.
9. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 8.	The Non-Technical Summary (which accompanies the planning application).
10. A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the environmental statement.	Chapters 1 – 13 'References' sections found at the end of each chapter

1.6.4 Regulation 18 (5) of the EIA Regulations requires that in order to ensure the completeness and quality of the ES, the developer must ensure that the ES is prepared by competent experts and the ES must be accompanied by a statement from the developer outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts. In this regard, the AECOM Environment Lead, who has coordinated the preparation of this ES, is a full member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv). In addition,

AECOM are IEMA EIA Quality Mark accredited. Inputs across the various technical environmental disciplines (as detailed in Chapters 6 – 13) have been provided by appropriately qualified discipline technical specialists as set out in

- 1.6.5 **Table 1.2.** The AECOM environmental team have all carried out a number of previous EIAs and produced ES for other projects, including those similar to the Proposed Development. It is thus considered that the AECOM environmental team who have prepared the Proposed Development ES comply with the requirements of Regulation 18 (5).

**Table 1.2 – Chapter and Appendix Author Qualifications**

CHAPTER NUMBER	CHAPTER TITLE	AUTHOR QUALIFICATIONS	REVIEWER QUALIFICATIONS
Chapter 1	Introduction	BA (Hons), MSc, PIEMA	BSc, MSc, MIEMA, CEnv
Chapter 2	Assessment Methodology	BA (Hons), MSc, PIEMA	BSc, MSc, MIEMA, CEnv
Chapter 3	Description of the Site	BA (Hons), MSc, PIEMA	BSc, MSc, MIEMA, CEnv
Chapter 4	The Proposed Development	BA (Hons), MSc, PIEMA	BSc, MSc, MIEMA, CEnv
Chapter 5	Planning Policy Context	BA (Hons), MA, MRTPI	BA (Hons), MA, MRTPI
Chapter 6	Landscape and Visual Amenity	DipLA, CMLI, PIEMA	BA(Hons), DipLA, CMLI
Chapter 7	Ecology and Nature Conservation	BSc (Hons), MCIEEM	BSc (Hons), MSc, MPhil, CEnv, MCIEEM
Chapter 8	Traffic and Transport	MSc, MTPS	BEng (Hons), Chartered Engineer and is a Member of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation
Chapter 9	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases	BSc (Hons)	BSc (Hons), MSc, MIEnvSc, MIAQM
Chapter 10	Noise and Vibration	BEng (Hons), PGDip, AMIOA, AMIMechE	BSc, PGDip, IOA
Chapter 11	Geology, Hydrology and Contaminated Land	BSc, MSc	BSc, MSc
Chapter 12	Cumulative Effects and Interactions	BA (Hons), MSc, PIEMA	BSc, MSc, MIEMA, CEnv
Chapter 13	Summary of Significant Residual Effects and Mitigation	BA (Hons), MSc, PIEMA	BSc, MSc, MIEMA, CEnv
Non-Technical Summary		BA (Hons), MSc, PIEMA	BSc, MSc, MIEMA, CEnv

## 1.7 Consultation

- 1.7.1 Consultation is integral to developing the proposals and related assessments that underpin an application for planning consent, particularly through the EIA scoping and assessment process. The views of stakeholders serve to focus the environmental studies and to identify specific matters that require further investigation, as well as to inform aspects of the design of the Proposed Development. An EIA Scoping Report setting out the proposed scope of the EIA was submitted to NYCC in November 2018 and an EIA Scoping Opinion was received in January 2019. The EIA Scoping Report and EIA Scoping Opinion are included at Appendices 1A and 1B in ES Volume II. The scope of the EIA is discussed in Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology and

consultation responses relevant to each technical discipline are discussed in the relevant technical chapters (Chapters 6-11) of this ES. As required by EIA Regulation 18(4)(a), this ES is based on the Scoping Opinion.

- 1.7.2 Public consultation has also been undertaken between November 2018 and April 2019, with public events held in Cridling Stubbs, Whitley and Eggborough villages. Feedback from public consultation has influenced the design of the Proposed Development in order to mitigate environmental effects on local residents. A summary of the key changes made is provided in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development and a summary of the public consultation findings is provided in the Consultation Report submitted with the planning application.