

# PSS Appendix 8

## Statement of Community Involvement



A REPORT BY ENVIROS CONSULTING LIMITED: MAY 2008

# **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)**





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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been prepared for Staffordshire County Council by Enviro Consulting Ltd (Enviros) with input from communications consultancy, Counter Context. It accompanies a planning application and Environmental Statement (ES), submitted to Staffordshire County Council to provide a waste treatment facility within Four Ashes Industrial Estate, South Staffordshire.

South Staffordshire is a mainly rural area on the north western edge of the West Midlands conurbation. It is made up of small settlements and parishes. There is no dominant settlement and its uniqueness in Staffordshire is its claim to be a "*Community of Communities*" (South Staffordshire Communication strategy 2007-2020).

This SCI sets out the consultation process carried out in advance of the application for planning permission. The Statement has been prepared in accordance with local policy objectives.

## 2. CONSULTATION METHODOLOGY

Consultation for the project was undertaken in two forms. Firstly, scoping requests were sent to a number of statutory consultees. In addition, due to the nature and scale of the development a communications consultancy was used to ensure all stakeholders received a suitable level of engagement.

### 2.1 Scoping Requests Associated With the ES

From the outset, the process of EIA and the design of the proposed facility have been carried out in an open and constructive manner with all interested parties. With this in mind, both statutory and non-statutory consultees (a list is included below) have been consulted at several stages within the EIA process, both in relation to the content and methodologies to be used for the ES, and the design of the facility.

The principal consultees invited to comment on the scope of the ES were:

- ◆ Staffordshire County Council
- ◆ South Staffordshire District Council
- ◆ Cannock Chase District Council
- ◆ Stafford Borough Council
- ◆ Walsall Council
- ◆ Warwickshire County Council
- ◆ Wolverhampton City Council
- ◆ Bridgnorth District Council
- ◆ Parish Councils (Penkridge; Shareshill; Saredon; Hatherton; Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston; Brewood and Coven; Hilton; Featherstone; Bilbrook; Codsall; Essington; Cheslyn Hay; Huntington; Bridgtown)
- ◆ Shropshire County Council
- ◆ Natural England
- ◆ Environment Agency
- ◆ English Heritage
- ◆ Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
- ◆ Severn Trent Water
- ◆ British Waterways
- ◆ The County Highways Authority
- ◆ The Highways Agency

In addition to scoping requests there were also a number of pre-application discussions that took place as detailed below:

- ◆ Original Planning Officer was contacted in August 2007 and initial discussions were held on the scoping opinion and survey work. A draft scoping opinion was distributed on 13th August 2007.
- ◆ On the 16th August discussions between the County Ecologist, Ecology Consultancy and Planning Consultants took place followed by a site visit with the County Ecologist on 31st January 2008.
- ◆ Then scoping opinion was submitted 4th December 2007 and a response was received on 23rd January 2008 (reference SCO.12/636 W) from the Planning Officer.

- ◆ Since then a pre-application was submitted on 07/04/2008 and comments were returned from the Local Authority on 30th April (reference PAD 489 636W).

All scoping responses are included in Section 3.4 with an indication of how the comments have been addressed in the planning support statement and associated ES.

## 2.2 Community Involvement

The work on community involvement related to the proposed development was coupled to Staffordshire County Council's existing work on communication of their municipal waste strategy "*Zero Waste to Landfill 2020*" this was referred to as a whole as the 'W2R Project'. The communications work was carried out by the dedicated communications consultancy, Counter Context.

The communications approach that supported the delivery of the proposed development was based on the single principle of "openness and honesty". Staffordshire County Council recognised that energy from waste developments are often controversial and are subject to particular scrutiny by civil society groups and the general public. In some instances the successful delivery of equivalent projects has been hampered or entirely curtailed by inappropriate or poor-quality communications that have not engaged interested parties in an open and honest manner. Faced with this reality the County Council took every step to facilitate a worthwhile and open dialogue between formal stakeholders, the public and other interested parties.

During the development of this approach, it was determined that ongoing communication would involve two parallel programmes of activity.

**Managing Consultation** – interested parties were invited at suitable junctures to contribute their views about the characteristics and delivery of the proposed development. The County Council's consultation activities were specifically designed to ensure that consultation was robust, credible and capable of sustaining exchange between the public, stakeholders and the County Council.

**Stakeholder Engagement** – key stakeholders and formal partners were engaged about the proposed development on an ongoing basis and involved in the relevant aspects of the project's delivery.

At a practical level all communications activities were defined by the following key understandings.

**Responsiveness** - requests from key stakeholders and the public were responded to promptly and effectively.

**Accuracy** - the details of project W2R were clearly presented and an accurate reflection of the Council's intentions.

**Error Free** – endeavours were made to ensure consultation and communication materials were error free at all levels of interpretation and usage.

**Clarity** - consultation materials excluded technical language and acronyms.

**Communication** - materials were 'receiver-centric'. Information was for the audience not for the sender.

**Accessibility** - consultation materials were made available in any format required to suit the needs of the stakeholders.

**Sustainability** - consultation materials were printed on recycled materials including biodegradable packaging.

**Timeliness** - audiences were engaged with at appropriate junctures thus providing them with up-to-date information and suitable timed opportunities to contribute their perspectives and viewpoints.

### 2.2.1 General Public Engagement

An extensive consultation was carried out in the summer of 2007 to engage the public about key aspects of the county's zero waste to landfill strategy. A range of techniques were used to ensure that information was readily available across the county. This comprehensive approach meant that interested parties had every opportunity to express their viewpoints. This universally accessible consultation was augmented by an equally important market research exercise that involved interviewing a statistically valid cross-section of the county's population to obtain a detailed understanding about the public's perspectives on the concepts associated with W2R. This consultation resulted in over 2000 members of the public contributing their views. In every instance 80-95% of respondents expressed some level of support for the key aspects of the zero waste to landfill strategy including over 90% of respondents who "strongly agreed" or "agreed" with the proposition that Staffordshire should convert more residual rubbish into energy.

In November 2007, a second stage of public engagement began. This programme involved announcing the selection of a preferred reference site for project W2R. This intensive public engagement programme first involved engaging directly with residents and local businesses within the immediate proximity of the proposed location. Properties were identified within a 4km radius of the site. These properties received information about project W2R and the selection of the reference site. Bespoke letters were also sent to properties within 1km of the site, alongside an invitation to contact the council for a bilateral meeting where residents and business owners could pose questions and get additional information as required.

The engagement within close proximity of the site was supported by wider initiatives through South Staffordshire. Press releases were issued to the print and broadcast media. Representatives of the media were briefed on a regular basis. Elected members representing constituencies at the European, national, county, district and parish levels all received comprehensive briefing packs about project W2R and information about how their constituents would be engaged over the medium to long-term.

As the project progressed through planning application, completion of the ES and beyond, the following activities will be undertaken to continue public engagement:

- ◆ Regular update letters will be sent to all residents and business within 1 km of the site;
- ◆ Local residents and business owners have been invited to a series of surgeries where they are presented with the opportunity to meet with appropriate senior officers to discuss issues associated with the project and the longer-term considerations associated with project W2R as a whole;
- ◆ Updated leaflets will be issued that provided accounts of the progress being made on project W2R, including the proposed development. These leaflets will

be sent directly to properties within 4km of the site and also made available to other interested members of the public;

- ◆ Bi-monthly quarterly briefing packs will be issued to elected members. These briefing packs provided up-to-date information about the project and detailed how their constituents were being engaged with.

In addition to these specific communications activities the public engagement strategy also involved:

- ◆ Press releases and publishing advertorials were issued on a regular basis;
- ◆ Media briefings were produced for broadcast media outlets;
- ◆ A dedicated telephone line continued to provide information for project W2R;
- ◆ The online portal provided:
  - ◇ A detailed and accurate account of the many aspects of project W2R and how it was being delivered.
  - ◇ A regularly updated 'blog' from the senior officer responsible for the delivery of project W2R.
- ◆ Links are provided to external resources providing further background to the concepts associated with W2R and its successful functioning elsewhere in the UK and in continental Europe.
- ◆ Forums were established to allow interested parties to contribute their views and hear perspectives from individuals who "live with" equivalent facilities elsewhere in Europe.

It is the County Council's view that the delivery of this public engagement strategy will help build support for project W2R by ensuring that members of the public have reliable and robust information upon which they can base valid ideological and practical decisions.

### **2.3 Community Sector/Non-Governmental Organisations**

Staffordshire County Council recognises that civil society and community sector organisations regularly express interest in the key issues associated with waste management and the key components of W2R. To date the council has actively engaged with a range of organisations at the county and local level.

At the county level, comprehensive briefing packs have been issued to non-government organisations involved in or interested in waste management. The distribution of these briefings packs have been followed-up by a series of bilateral meetings between the county council and appropriate organisations. In every instance, these meetings have been convened and facilitated in a manner that reflects the fact that non-governmental groups have particular expertise and perspectives that they are interested in contributing to the policy-making process.

At a local level, particularly around the proposed development site, initial communication activities were shaped by an active programme of community mapping. This process involved identifying all of the formal and informal community organisations and networks that may be affected by project W2R. This



process ensured that the County Council could engage with these organisations directly and to encourage them to act as conduits between the council, local communities and the wider public.

Looking to the future the County Council will continue to engage with community sector and non-government organisations. In many instances, council officers will engage with these organisations on an individual basis. This strategy will help foster strong working relationships and help build trust. In those instances where a universal approach is required it is intended that community sector and non-government organisations will be sent briefing packs about project W2R and also invited to attend bilateral meetings when required.

### **3. CONSULTATION RESULTS**

The following are results of the communication process up until March 2008. Further consultation will continue once the planning application has been submitted.

#### **3.1 Comments received via the telephone information line**

The telephone information line was provided to help ensure that Staffordshire County Council were as open and honest as possible. To date, the calls received have covered the following topics:

##### **3.1.1 Air Quality**

One caller was concerned about the Four Ashes site due to the fact that a chemical burning facility is in proximity. They stated that residents were told 29 years ago that the incineration site had a limited life. They also had concerns that the council were apparently no longer monitoring for pollutants in the air and they would like this to resume with information on monthly estimates of air pollution.

Other callers wanted information about the waste gases produced – more specifically – what would be done with them and what level of air pollution there would be. One caller also expressed an interest on dioxin emissions.

(3 calls in total on air quality)

##### **3.1.2 Traffic**

In regards to traffic concerns most callers were concerned about the routes that would be taken to and from the site. Concerns were expressed about the capacity of the junction where Vicarage Road meets the A5. There were also concerns expressed about the tight bend immediately westbound of the canal bridge. Local residents noted concerns about the surface of Vicarage Road and its junction with the Straight Mile.

Concerns were also expressed about the A5 and Vicarage Road junction in terms of accident levels and the need for an improved junction.

(5 calls in total on traffic)

##### **3.1.3 Positioning of the site**

Exact site location was requested (with grid references) by 3 callers.

##### **3.1.4 Compensation**

2 callers asked whether compensation was available due to the effect the facility would have on house prices.

##### **3.1.5 Requests for further information**

8 calls in total requesting further information.



### **3.1.6 The waste**

Callers enquired about the tonnage of waste that would come from outside the county and why waste was being taken from elsewhere (and whether charges were made). They then asked whether a smaller plant could be built if only Staffordshire waste was treated at the facility.

(5 calls)

## **3.2 Comments received via emails and written correspondence**

The email address: [vicky@staffsprojectw2r.info](mailto:vicky@staffsprojectw2r.info) was set up to provide a central point of enquiry for members of the public. A number of emails were received, the details of which are below:

### **3.2.1 Recycling**

One email was received on recycling

### **3.2.2 Progress update**

One email received asked to be updated on progress being made.

### **3.2.3 Further Information**

Four emails requesting further information were received.

### **3.2.4 Jobs and employment**

One email enquired whether their company could tender for the facility management.

Two offers of CVs for workers at the facility were received.

### **3.2.5 Questions from Hatherton Parish Council meetings**

The Council clerk forwarded questions from the meeting, these questions were varied and included references to traffic and access, the rationale for the public communication 4km radius, impact on wildlife habitats and energy generation.

### **3.2.6 Traffic**

Two emails were specifically regarding traffic problems.

## **3.3 Comments Received at the Surgeries**

During the initial phase of consultation a number of surgeries were convened around Four Ashes. These events gave local residents the opportunity to meet with senior officers responsible for project W2R.

The main issues raised at these surgeries involved issues related to the potential impact of traffic flows to and from the proposed reference site. In particular, residents who live near to where Vicarage Road meets the Straight Mile were concerned about:



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- ◆ the speed of traffic travelling through or past this junction;
- ◆ the quality of the road surface in front of their properties;
- ◆ the impact heavy good vehicles might have on the structural integrity of their properties.

One resident, who lives closest to the proposed reference site, also raised particular concerns about the visual impact of the proposed facility.

### 3.4 How Stakeholder Concerns Have Been Addressed

The following table lists the consultation responses received following distribution of the scoping report and general comments received following the consultation process. In addition to listing them there is also an indication of how these concerns have been addressed in the design of the facility, planning application and associated ES.

Stakeholder Concern	Raised By	Resulting Action
Appropriate Assessment of Cannock Chase SAC	Natural England, Walsall Council	Appropriate Assessment completed (see Chapter 6 of ES). Impacts on designated land surrounding the site are included in the chapter and shown to be less than 1% of relevant air quality standard/guidance and so it is concluded that the process will have no significant impact on the designated habitat sites.
Include impacts on BAP species (e.g. snipe, lapwing and reed bunting)	Natural England, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Completed in Chapter 10 of ES. Local BAP species and habitats have been identified there are 31 records of protected species from within the area of search.
Adequate survey information of protected species	Natural England	Completed in Chapter 10 of ES and continuing survey following submission of planning application for great crested newts and over-wintering birds.
Require impacts on the adjacent SBI to be avoided	Natural England, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	The facility was designed to have no contact with the SBI.
Highlight the landscape implications for Cannock Chase AONB	Natural England	Covered within Chapter 7 (landscape) of the ES.
Assess the impact of any associated infrastructure	Natural England	Impact of road junction completed and detailed in accompanying report on A5/Vicarage road junction.
Consider the risks to groundwater, surface run-off and other contamination	British Waterways	Included in Chapter 12 (Water). Following mitigation it is shown that the potential impacts on hydrology and hydrogeology can be reduced to a minor level.
Effect on all designated historic assets and undesignated features of local historic or archaeological interest	English Heritage	Included in Chapter 15 (Built Heritage). Slight to moderate impact on listed buildings within the surrounding search area.
Refer to local authority archaeologists	English Heritage	Consulted on production of Chapter 15 (Built Heritage)



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The ES includes other options for burning less waste	South Staffordshire District (Environmental Health)	The NTS includes a description of the impact of burning less waste and demonstrates that in terms of cost and environmental concerns; burning less waste does not mean less cost or impact.
Scheme should include allowance for delivery on bank holiday	South Staffordshire District (Environmental Health)	Waste bunker designed to be a sufficient size to take up to 5 days storage of waste (to accommodate bank holiday working).
Ensure noise assessment is done considering the local residents	South Staffordshire District (Environmental Health)	Noise assessment agreed with Environmental Health department and completed on the basis of receptors (as opposed to production points) to ensure impact has been appropriately considered.
Completion of contaminated land investigation	South Staffordshire District (Environmental Health)	Phase 1 and 2 investigations completed, see Chapter 13 and associated Phase 2 assessment report.
Data re. dioxins/furans available from a location close to the site	South Staffordshire District (Environmental Health)	Baseline monitoring completed, see Chapter 6.
Accept approach to amenity assessment	South Staffordshire District (Environmental Health)	Amenity assessment completed, see Chapter 9.
Acknowledge use of correct landscape assessment guidelines	Staffordshire County Council (Environment and Countryside Unit)	Landscape assessment, Chapter 7 completed.
Suggest greater reference to landscape impacts as well as visual	Staffordshire County Council (Environment and Countryside Unit)	Landscape assessment chapter includes reference to impacts on landscape (not just visual), see Chapter 7.
Methodology for visuals require greater discussion	Staffordshire County Council (Environment and Countryside Unit)	Unit contacted and further discussions occurred about the exact methodology used, full methodology included in Chapter 7.
Availability of screening requires better clarification	Staffordshire County Council (Environment and Countryside Unit)	Chapter 7 on landscape includes full description of screening available, plus landscape scheme has been input on the site. However, the size of the facility negates the possibility of full screening and so elements such as the green roof have been included in the design plans.
Further consideration should be made of a wider range of visual receptors.	Staffordshire County Council (Environment and Countryside Unit)	Comment fed into the visual assessment completed as part of Chapter 7.



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Refer fully to NE Joint Character Assessments.	Staffordshire County Council (Environment and Countryside Unit)	Natural England's joint character assessments referred to in Chapter 7 of the ES.
The site is in the Settled Heathlands character type whose policy objective is landscape restoration. Proposals for mitigation should be sympathetic to existing character and policy.	Staffordshire County Council (Environment and Countryside Unit)	Introduction of the green roof structure serves to be sympathetic to existing ground conditions. In addition habitat improvements are underway in nearby habitats (e.g. removal of invasive species etc) to help compensate for the placing of the facility (see Chapter 10 on ecology for further details).
There should be further description of potential views and impact on visual amenity.	Staffordshire County Council (Environment and Countryside Unit), the public	Photomontages completed in association with Chapter 7 and local residents also visited to take visual impacts images from their properties to allow an accurate impression of the impact of the proposed facility.
The report should indicate any possible off-site mitigation re. breeding / wintering birds (including survey and assessment of other sites for such compensatory measures and the potential for enhancement/management of adjacent sites should be assessed.	Staffordshire County Council (Environment and Countryside Unit), Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Included within Chapter 10 on ecology. Wintering birds, invertebrates and great crested newts are all subject to further surveys once the application has been submitted to ensure they have been assessed comprehensively.
There are no public rights of way; however this does not preclude the existence of unrecorded rights of way	Staffordshire County Council (Environment and Countryside Unit)	The fact there are no immediate rights of way (with map) is included in Chapter 16 (socio-economic). However, this just displays the recorded rights of way but unrecorded ones have been acknowledged.
Given that the site has been almost completely impacted by previous quarrying means no further archaeological assessment is required	Staffordshire County Council (Environment and Countryside Unit)	The historic environment is described in Chapter 15. No archaeological investigation took place on site.
Sequential and exception tests required re. flood risk and alternative sites in accordance with PPS25.	Environment Agency	Covered in Chapter 12 on water and also included within flood risk assessment submitted as a separate appendix report.
A flood risk assessment is required	Environment Agency, Warwickshire County Council	Flood risk assessment completed and submitted as a separate appendix report.



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The FRA must also address surface water drainage issues as there must be no increase in run-off from the site	Environment Agency	Drainage issues included in Chapter 12 – and notes that run-off is significantly reduced by inclusion of green roof in the facility design.
As part of the FRA the flood plain of Saredon Brook must be accurately defined and a topographical survey carried out	Environment Agency	Flood risk survey completed within Chapter 12 in addition a full topographical survey of the site was completed, the results of which are included within the figures for the ES.
The Saredon Brook must be modelled for a 1 in 100 year flood event + 20% to account for climate change	Environment Agency	Chapter 12 of the ES models the Saredon Brook for a 1 in 100 year flood including the allowance for climate change.
The proposals will have to meet the relevant PPC and WID requirements. A permit application should be made asap.	Environment Agency	A permit application will be made once preferred bidder has been identified – this allows sufficient time for it to be determined prior to the facility becoming operational and ensures the application is made for the operator not the site (as required by environmental permitting regulations being introduced in April 2008).
Assessment to include consideration of the potential for previous contamination of the underlying soils and groundwater to be assessed regarding remobilization and potential effects on controlled waters during construction. This assessment should include at least a detailed desk study although intrusive investigations may also be appropriate.	Environment Agency	Phase 1 and 2 ground investigation undertaken (see Chapter 13 on soils for more details). Intrusive investigations were therefore undertaken.
Assessment should include consideration of pollution control measures to prevent contamination during operation and decommissioning	Environment Agency	Pollution control measures included within the mitigation measures identified within the ES chapters.
Require a non-technical summary	Warwickshire County Council	Non-technical summary completed for ES.
Suggest that the Four Ashes site is heavily contaminated and this needs to be identified in the ES and the impact evaluated.	South Staffordshire Water	Phase 1 and 2 ground investigation completed and detailed in Chapter 13. The impacts for the project have also been evaluated.



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An EA groundwater model for the Sherwood Sandstone should be used in the assessment	South Staffordshire Water	Groundwater model used as requested, see Chapter 12.
Require a transport assessment	Staffordshire County Council Planning (Highways), Staffordshire County Council (Development Services Directorate), The Highways Agency	A transport assessment was completed for submission with the planning application (by Staffordshire County Council Transport Department) this was then also amended to deal with the traffic aspects of the ES, see Chapter 8.
Include a robust travel plan	Staffordshire County Council (Development Services Directorate)	Travel plan included within the planning support statement, plus the successful bidder will be encouraged to propose a suitable travel plan within their submissions for the contract.
The noise assessment proposed is adequate	Staffordshire County Council (Development Services Directorate)	Noise assessment completed, see Chapter 11.
Consider the inclusion of biodiversity under environmental objectives	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Ecology chapter includes biodiversity considerations, see Chapter 10.
Clarify greenhouse gas reduction objectives	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Greenhouse gas reduction objectives incorporated in Chapter 6 on air and climate in the ES.
Recognise the presence of fossil fuels (plastic), wood and other organics contribution to the greenhouse effect in the alternatives assessment re EfW/MHT	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Many residual materials contain contaminated fuels that cannot be recycled culminated and mixed
Ensure the Staffordshire Ecological Record Centre is consulted	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Consulted with Ecological Record Centre
Note that Saredon Brook may not be a barrier to GCN migration	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Ecology Chapter, 10, notes that the Saredon Brook may not be a barrier to GCN migration.
Agree need for badger and reptile surveys	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Badger and reptile surveys completed (see Chapter 10).



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Suggest otter and water vole surveys on the canal	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Otter and water vole surveys were stated by Staffordshire County Council Ecologist as not being required for the investigation and so these were not completed.
Need to acknowledge presence of Schedule 1 birds (e.g. Little Ringed Plover)	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Ecology surveys include reference to Schedule 1 birds (and the Little Ringed Plover), see Chapter 10 of the ES.
Consider planting black poplar	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Landscape proposal includes planting of native species
Water features on site, need assessment	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Current water feature on site consists of an occasional small body of water. Surveys have been completed on these bodies of water and will continue once the application has been made to ensure comprehensive surveys are available for determination.
Welcome use of SUDS	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	SUDS scheme incorporated and included as a separate appendix report.
Suggest use of green roof	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Green roof included within facility design.
Need to consider habitat creation re. any proposed drainage features	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Two drainage ponds are to be placed on site and surrounding planting (see landscape section of the planning support statement) will ensure a suitable habitat is created to suit the local area's requirements.
Include flora lists for each habitat and use DAFOR scale	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Completed and described in Chapter 10 of the ES.
Make sure birds status is stated when reporting	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Traffic light system used in Chapter 10 to describe the bird status.
GCN survey	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Completed and described in Chapter 10
Badger survey needs to look 30m+ outside the site boundary	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Badger survey conducted by sub-consultants, Apex Ecology and covered more than 30 metres outside the site boundary, written up within Chapter 10.
Check for other notable species (e.g. brown hare)	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Notable species included in surveys undertaken by Apex Ecology and described in Chapter 10.
Suggest an invertebrate survey	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	An invertebrate survey has been completed by Apex (and surveys will continue once the application has been submitted to ensure a comprehensive investigation is available for determination).



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Phase 1 surveys of adjacent habitats would be welcome	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, the public (interested in habitat impact)	Phase 1 survey of adjacent habitats completed and described in Chapter 10 of the ES.
Would assist if data could be provided in a form compatible to the county database	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	The data has been provided in Excel – this should be sufficient for the purposes of the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.
Suggest contact with West Midlands Bird Club	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	West Midlands Bird Club was consulted by Apex Ecology.
Add light pollution re. sensitive species (e.g. otters)	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Completed for bats, details in Chapter 10.
Consider fragmentation of habitats	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Covered in Chapter 10 of the ES.
Consider the wider landscape and opportunities to link habitats and enhancement	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Covered in Chapter 10 of the ES.
Forward any enhancement measures to the BAP coordinator	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	This will be completed once the chapter has been finalised.
Expect to see a proposal that achieves no net loss of biodiversity as a minimum and aims for net gain	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	See Chapter 10 of the ES.
The transport assessment should include investigation re. invasive weeds at the junction, clarify the design standards and speeds and traffic counts, provide a cross section through the embankment, provide a road restraint risk assessment, provide a full sign schedule, provide a non-motorised users context report, clarify that 3 <sup>rd</sup> party land has been acquired, clarify drainage elements of the scheme and clarify future headwalls and ditches	The Highways Agency	The road junction has been covered within a separate appendix report and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Ecology survey;</li> <li>◆ Design standards, speeds and traffic counts;</li> <li>◆ Cross section through the embankment;</li> <li>◆ Risk assessment;</li> <li>◆ Full sign schedule;</li> <li>◆ Non-motorised users report;</li> <li>◆ Clarification on purchase of 3<sup>rd</sup> party land;</li> <li>◆ Clarification on drainage elements;</li> <li>◆ Clarification on future headwalls and ditches.</li> </ul>
A5 / Vicarage Road junction capacity	The public	Included in the transport assessment (within the PSS) and Chapter, 8 (traffic).



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Bend near canal bridge	The public	
Quality of road surfaces at junction of Vicarage Road and Straight Mile	The public	Staffordshire County Council have plans to re-surface this stretch of road using 'quiet' tarmac.
Impact of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) on the structure of properties	The public	The HGVs will travel on roads that have minimum residential properties and road improvements will be undertaken. This will ensure minimum impact on properties.
Air quality (what gases will be produced and how will they be treated along with effects on air quality)	The public	Air quality, Chapter 6 of the ES covers these issues in detail.
House prices (including the issue of compensation)	The public	House prices were addressed associated with the socio-economic assessment, see Chapter 16. However, inconclusive evidence over previous impacts coupled with limited local data (due to small number of properties in the local area).
Waste arisings (what percentage of waste will be derived from outside the county, and if not included, could the plant be smaller)	The public	The waste arisings have been included within the EoI, OBC and PSS submitted associated with this project. The physical size of the plant is not dictated by the amount of waste that will be treated and so reducing its size by reducing the amount of waste it receives is not an option.
Recycling rates	The public	Recycling rates are included within Staffordshire County Council's waste strategy (and also covered within the associated EoI and OBC).
Employment opportunities	The public	Employment will be the responsibility of the successful bidder and they will be encouraged to use local employment where possible. This is also covered within the ES in Chapter 16.
Energy generation	The public	Energy generation is covered within Chapter 14, on material assets.



#### **4. CONCLUSION**

This SCI has informed the scope of the EIA and the proposed development to ensure that a best fit with the environment and surrounding population has been achieved. The consultation responses have informed the design and project evolution and ensured that the resulting facility offers a solution that has been appropriately informed by consultee opinion and that has operated in an open and transparent manner.

This SCI will continue to be used as the project progresses to ensure all opinions and perceptions have been effectively reflected in the facility.