

13 SOCIO-ECONOMICS

13.1 Introduction

13.1.1 This chapter establishes the baseline socio-economic conditions and then considers the likely socio-economic effects of the Proposed Development.

13.1.2 The considerations of this chapter are most commonly related to the effects of the Proposed Development upon the human population who will live within the vicinity of the Application Site.

13.1.3 This assessment is made by examining the potential effects on the population anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development and, in turn, assessing the effect that this could have on relevant services and facilities and the economy. The assessment enables consideration to be given to the ability of existing social infrastructure and that proposed by the development to accommodate the Proposed Development and identifies the extent to which additional demands will be placed on existing facilities. Where additional demands will be generated the methods of mitigation are identified and the residual effects assessed.

13.2 Assessment Approach

Methodology

13.2.1 There is no specific guidance available which establishes a methodology for undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the socio-economic effects of a proposed development. Accordingly, the approach adopted for this assessment is based on professional experience and best practice, and in consideration of the policy requirements/tests set out within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹, and the extant and formerly emerging development plan.

13.2.2 The assessment considers the potential effects of the Proposed Development relative to the future baseline position rather than the current baseline position. This ensures that the potential effects are considered relative to the position that is likely to arise should the Proposed Development not occur.

13.2.3 The baseline information has been collated with reference to the following:

- NPPF²;
- North Warwickshire Core Strategy³;
- The emerging North Warwickshire Site Allocations Plan⁴, Gypsy and Traveller DPD⁵ and Development Management DPD⁶;
- Saved policies of the North Warwickshire Local Plan⁷;
- Office of National Statistics (ONS) data (various outputs as individually referenced within this chapter); and
- Information obtained from the client with regards the current land use and site characteristics.

¹ March 2012, The National Planning Policy Framework, Department for Communities and Local Government

² ibid

³ October 2014, North Warwickshire Core Strategy adoption version

⁴ February 2013, Preferred Options (including Issues and Options) Site Allocations Plan

⁵ June 2012, Issues and Options Draft Gypsy and Traveller DPD

⁶ September 2015, Draft Development Management DPD consultation draft

⁷ July 2006, North Warwickshire Local Plan

Assessment of Significance

13.2.4 Given the nature of the socio-economic factors under consideration, it is not considered appropriate to assign a 'sensitivity of receptor' scale in accordance with the generic approach set out within **Chapter 1**. Accordingly, a qualitative assessment of the likely significance of socio-economic effects has been carried out and significance rating assigned in accordance with the matrix and associated commentary set out in **Table 13.1**.

Table 13.1: Significance Matrix

Significance	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Major	An undesirable effect of strategic significance or one that runs counter to the objectives of the NWCS and/or the NPPF	The effects of the development are either neutral or not quantifiable	A desirable effect of strategic significance and one that is required to support the objectives of the NWCS and/or NPPF
Moderate	An undesirable effect that has more than localised significance or compromises the objectives of the NWCS and/or the NPPF		A desirable effect that has more than localised significance and will support the objectives of the NWCS and/or NPPF
Minor	An effect that is localised and undesirable		An effect that is localised and desirable

Legislative and Policy Framework

13.2.5 Guidance on producing EIAs published by the European Commission and UK Government suggests that the possible socio-economic effects that should be considered are those relating to changes in population, such as changes in the demand for housing and services such as schools and recreation facilities.

13.2.6 The NPPF⁸ provides the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It identifies how local planning authorities should plan for sustainable development within their area and across local boundaries and emphasises the three interdependent roles of sustainable development:

"An economic role – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;

A social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and

⁸ March 2012, The National Planning Policy Framework, Department for Communities and Local Government

An environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy”

13.2.7 The NPPF⁹ as a whole defines sustainable development and summarises this in paragraph 9 as:

- **“making it easier for jobs to be created in cities, towns and villages;**
- **moving from a net loss of bio-diversity to achieving net gains for nature;**
- **replacing poor design with better design;**
- **improving the conditions in which people live, work, travel and take leisure; and**
- **widening the choice of high quality homes.”**

13.2.8 The NPPF¹⁰ requires that Local Planning Authorities have an up-to-date Local Plan in place. These Local Plans should set out the visions and aspirations of local communities and provide for the sustainable development required to support these ambitions.

13.2.9 In North Warwickshire, the Council adopted a Local Plan in 2006, prior to the publication of the NPPF. This set out the strategic direction until 2011 and so is now time-expired. Some of the policies were however saved by the Secretary of State in 2009.

13.2.10 The North Warwickshire Core Strategy (NWCS) was adopted in October 2014 which sets out the vision, objectives and strategic policies for the Borough over the period 2011 to 2029. This replaces many of the policies of the Local Plan although some remain as part of the development plan.

13.2.11 The North Warwickshire Site Allocations Plan, the North Warwickshire Gypsy and Traveller DPD and the North Warwickshire Development Management DPD are now being prepared. These will identify specific sites and will include development management policies which provide further detail to the strategic policies of the NWCS. These policies will guide the preparation and determination of planning applications. T

13.2.12 These documents will jointly provide the Local Plan for North Warwickshire.

13.2.13 As such, assessment of the various socio-economic aspects within this chapter have been considered in the light of the sustainable development objectives of the NPPF¹¹, the strategic objectives of the NWCS, and the saved policies of the North Warwickshire Local Plan 2006 as well as against the emerging Plans.

Scoping Criteria

13.2.14 The scope and contents of this socio-economic assessment are based on professional experience and best practice.

13.2.15 Consideration has been given only to those socio-economic factors for which there is a potential for likely significant effects or which are relevant to assessing these effects. Different factors are considered in the baseline assessment and during the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development as identified in **Table 13.2**, owing

⁹ March 2012, The National Planning Policy Framework, Department for Communities and Local Government

¹⁰ *ibid*

¹¹ March 2012, The National Planning Policy Framework, Department for Communities and Local Government

to the likelihood of effects over these phases. Decommissioning is not included in the scope of this assessment given the longevity of the proposed uses.

Table 13.2: Socio-economic Factors

Factor	Baseline Assessment	Likely Significant Effects during the Construction Phase	Likely Significant Effects during the Operational Phase
Population	✓	The Proposed Development is not likely to affect the size of the population	The Proposed Development is not likely to affect the size of the population
Deprivation	✓	Not considered as the effects can only be estimated once the development is complete	✓
Economy	✓	✓	✓
Travel	✓	Not considered as the effects can only be estimated once the development is complete	✓

13.2.16 Consideration has been given to the potential effects at a local, district and where relevant national scale.

Limitations to the Assessment

13.2.17 Baseline information is derived from the latest available statistics, however, there is often a time-lag associated with the publication of this data.

13.3 Baseline Conditions

Site Description and Context

13.3.1 A detailed description of the Application Site and its surrounding context is provided within **Chapter 2** and **Chapter 3** of this ES and therefore this is not repeated. However, the details of the Proposed Development as pertinent to the socio-economic assessment are described below.

13.3.2 This assessment considers the provision of the following aspects of the Proposed Development:

- The provision of circa 20 jobs in the operational phase; and
- The offer of competitively priced sustainable energy to local businesses.

13.3.3 The Application Site is within North Warwickshire and lies within the Ward of Curdworth. Some information is only available for the Lower Super Output Area (LSOA), North Warwickshire 004B or Middle Level Super Output Area (MSOA) North Warwickshire 004 and these are used in these instances. The assessment considers the appropriate area/s in regard to different issues.

13.3.4 Given the range of socio-economic issues, each is considered separately in the following sections, with the baseline established first and then the likely significant effects considered.

Baseline Survey Information

Population

13.3.5 The 2011 Census¹² identified 62,014 residents in North Warwickshire, of whom 3,195 lived within Curdworth Ward. The Census indicates that the population of the Ward is on average much older with a mean age of 45.4 years as compared to 41.7 years across the Borough or 39.3 years across the nation.

13.3.6 The latest Mid-Year Population Estimates¹³ identified that the population of North Warwickshire had increased to 62,468 in 2014. The 2012 subnational population projections¹⁴ then project a further increase of circa 1,032 persons from 2014 to 2019 (when the plant is expected to become operational).

13.3.7 The 2012 subnational population projections¹⁵ identify the factors that make up the projected population change. Within North Warwickshire, 100% of the growth arises from net migration.

Deprivation

13.3.8 The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015¹⁶ provides an indication of the average levels of deprivation for LSOAs across England. The Index provides an overall assessment of the average levels of deprivation as well as an assessment against particular domains of deprivation.

13.3.9 The LSOA within which the Application Site lies is within the 8% most deprived areas nationally with regards to barriers to housing and services, although it experiences relatively little in the way of deprivation in other domains (with the possible exception of the living environment domain for which it is within the 38% most deprived areas nationally).

Economy

13.3.10 The strategic objectives of the NWCS¹⁷ seek, amongst other things, to develop and growth the local economy; to improve infrastructure to support economic development; and to facilitate regeneration initiatives that capture local economic benefits for local residents' especially higher skills aspirations.

13.3.11 The 2011 Census¹⁸ identified that there were 39,558 persons whose usual place of work was within North Warwickshire, of which 8,127 work within the MSOA. The employees were employed in the approximately 470¹⁹ business units which existed in the MSOA in 2015 of which circa 93% are small (employing less than 50 persons).

13.3.12 The 2015 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings²⁰ identified that the median salary of an employed person living in North Warwickshire was £26,380 whereas the median

¹² Table KS101EW, 2011 Census

¹³ June 2014, Mid-Year Population Estimates 2013, Office for National Statistics

¹⁴ May 2014, 2012-based Subnational Population Projections for England, Office for National Statistics

¹⁵ *ibid*

¹⁶ September 2015, English Indices of Deprivation 2015, Department for Communities and Local Government

¹⁷ October 2014, North Warwickshire Core Strategy adoption version

¹⁸ May 2014, Table WP101EW, Office for National Statistics

¹⁹ UK Business Counts 2015, ONS (accessed 29th March 2016)

²⁰ Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics (accessed 29th March 2016)

salary of someone that worked in the Borough was £22,454. This significant difference is likely to reflect the economic base of North Warwickshire as compared to neighbouring areas including Birmingham.

13.3.13 North Warwickshire has higher economic activity and employment rates than England. The 2011 Census identifies that the unemployment rate is 3.60% as compared with 4.38% across England.

13.3.14 The 2011 Census identified 67 unemployed people living in Curdworth Ward who were seeking work in the week before the Census. In February 2016 there were 10 people seeking work in Curdworth Ward claiming Job Seekers Allowance²¹. Of these 50% were looking for a job in 'elementary occupations'. The difference between the number of unemployed persons and those claiming Job Seekers Allowance is explained by many unemployed persons not being eligible for this benefit, including full time students, those with sufficient savings, those with partners earning a sufficiently high salary, those who have recently left their previous job voluntarily, and the limited eligibility of many migrants.

13.3.15 The sectoral breakdown of industry²² that the residents of North Warwickshire work in is broadly reflective of that of England. However, a greater proportion of workers are employed in the Transport and Storage sector (9.0%) as compared to England (5.0%); the Manufacturing sector (12.7%) as compared to England (8.9%); the Wholesale and Retail Trade (17.4%) as compared to England (15.9%); and the Construction Sector (9.0%) as compared to England (7.7%).

13.3.16 The residents of North Warwickshire are more likely to be employed in the lowest value occupations as well as some of the highest value occupations than in England²³. Indeed, the proportion of residents employed as Process Plant and Machine operatives; or in Elementary Occupations is 23.8% in the Borough, as compared to 18.3% in England, but there are also a greater proportion of people employed as Managers, Directors and Senior Officials (11.4%) compared to 10.9% nationally. In Curdworth Ward, people are far more likely to be employed in higher value occupations than in either the Borough or across the nation.

13.3.17 The 2011 Census identifies that Curdworth Ward has a higher proportion of residents with no or lower level qualifications (52.8%) than England (51.0%).

Travel

13.3.18 The 2011 Census²⁴ identified that North Warwickshire experienced net commuting flows, with 25,304 workers commuting in to the area and 16,954 commuting out. Of these commuters the most numerous flows are those to and from Birmingham and Tamworth.

13.4 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

Construction

13.4.1 The Proposed Development is envisaged to become operational in 2019. The socio-economic effects will apply largely once the facility is operational. However, during the construction phase there will be some effects as discussed below.

²¹ Jobseeker's Allowance, Office for National Statistics (accessed 29th March 2016)

²² February 2013, Table KS605EW, Office for National Statistics

²³ ibid

²⁴ Neighbourhood Statistics interactive map tool, Office for National Statistics (accessed 6th February 2015)

Economy

13.4.2 The construction of the Proposed Development will generate and support jobs in the construction sector. This construction would go out to tender and so the number of jobs that would be supported is not precisely known.

13.4.3 However, a review of gasification schemes across the UK identifies that for every 1 operational job there are approximately 5 to 6.5 construction jobs generated²⁵. Given that the Proposed Development envisages 20 operational jobs it is estimated that somewhere in the region of 100 to 130 construction jobs would be generated. Many of these construction opportunities are likely to be available to local contractors although the extent will be dependent upon the operational arrangements of the successful tender. Indeed, given that local residents are seeking work (including in elementary occupations) the temporary construction phase is likely to provide employment opportunities for the local community, especially given the strength of the construction sector in North Warwickshire.

13.4.4 The construction workforce are likely to spend some of their disposable income in the area in which they work, although recognising that if local people are employed this income is already likely to be spent in the local economy. Nevertheless, it is likely that there will be some increase in spending in the local economy.

13.4.5 The Proposed Development is considered to have a **minor positive effect** by providing additional jobs, some of which are likely to provide for the local community's needs, and by increasing the expenditure in local facilities.

Operation

Deprivation

13.4.6 The LSOA suffers from high levels of deprivation with regard to barriers to housing and services. The additional disposable income is likely to support existing local services and prevent any deterioration in access to services although the scale of this benefit will be negligible.

13.4.7 The Proposed Development is therefore considered to have a **neutral to minor positive effect** on deprivation in the local area.

Economy

13.4.8 The Proposed Development is envisaged to provide approximately 20 operational jobs. Based on the average GVA per employed person in the Utilities sector²⁶ these jobs are estimated to provide an annual GVA impact of circa £2.3M. This will include increases in income and associated economic effects.

13.4.9 The operational jobs will be additional to investment in operations and maintenance of the facility which will also have indirect economic effects by providing employment for local tradesman as well as induced effects including the increased disposable income spent in the local economy. In both regards, there will be finance distributed in the local economy as well as the support for additional jobs (including in retail and as tradesmen).

²⁵ Welland Bio Power Plant estimated 100 construction jobs to 19 operational jobs; the Hoddesdon Plant estimated 110 construction jobs to 17 operational jobs; the Tyseley Plant estimated 100 construction jobs to 19 operational jobs; the Hull Plant estimated 200 construction jobs to 40 operational jobs; and the East Belfast Plant estimated 130 construction jobs to 20 operational jobs.

²⁶ September 2012, Industrial Strategy: UK Sector Analysis, BIS

13.4.10 Applying the average income of people working in North Warwickshire to the 20 operational jobs results in £449,000 per annum that can be spent in the local economy in addition to the investment in operations and maintenance.

13.4.11 During the operational phase, the Proposed Development is likely to support a range of occupations, including skilled trades (including tradesmen), process plant and machine operatives, and elementary occupations. This largely reflects the breakdown of the occupations of the current residents of North Warwickshire and reflects the demands of those currently unemployed in the area.

13.4.12 The provision of jobs and financial investments to the facility will provide for additional expenditure within the local economy as well as providing the opportunity for local employment. This is considered a **minor positive effect** of the Proposed Development.

Travel

13.4.13 North Warwickshire currently experiences net in-commuting flows. The provision of new jobs without a corresponding number of homes for workers is likely to minimally increase this level of commuting (by up to 20 flows). However, if an element of the 20 jobs are occupied by local people who are currently unemployed then this will have an even more limited effect on commuting flows. If an element of the 20 jobs are occupied by local people currently in employment this is likely to reduce commuting flows as these individuals will no longer commute to their existing jobs.

13.4.14 In summary, depending on the make-up of the people that occupy the new jobs, the Proposed Development is considered to have a negligible effect, although this may be positive or negative. The Proposed Development is therefore considered to provide a **minor negative to minor positive effect** on travel to work patterns.

13.5 Mitigation and Enhancement

Mitigation by Design

13.5.1 The Proposed Development provides jobs and the opportunity for sustainable low priced energy for local businesses.

13.5.2 The only identified potential negative effect relates to a negligible increase in commuting flows. Given the scale of this potential effect and the fact that it could provide a positive effect, no mitigation is proposed to address this.

Additional Mitigation

13.5.3 No measures of mitigation have been identified.

Enhancements

13.5.4 Given that no mitigation is proposed (in socio-economic terms) there will be no additional enhancements arising from such mitigation.

13.6 Cumulative and In-Combination Effects

13.6.1 The cumulative effects of related developments in close proximity to the Application Site are considered in order to establish whether the Proposed Development would in combination contribute to effects which may need to be mitigated. However, in this instance no related developments have been identified for consideration. Therefore no further assessment is undertaken.

13.7 SummaryIntroduction

13.7.1 This chapter considers the potential socio-economic effects of the Proposed Development during both the construction and operational phases. The analysis focuses on the provision of employment and the effect in terms of the economy within North Warwickshire and Curdworth Ward.

13.7.2 There are a wide range of socio-economic issues that exist and which will be affected by the Proposed Development.

Baseline Conditions

13.7.3 North Warwickshire is expected to experience population growth. It is expected to see the population age in accordance with national trends.

13.7.4 The area currently experiences deprivation in regards to access to housing and services, but little deprivation in other domains.

13.7.5 The area has a low level of unemployment and significant numbers of workers are employed in both the highest and lowest value occupations. The unemployed within Curdworth ward that are seeking a job are however generally looking for lower value employment.

13.7.6 The pay of workers within North Warwickshire is lower than the income of residents within the Borough. Despite this, North Warwickshire experiences net in-commuting flows.

Likely Significant Effects

13.7.7 The key socio-economic effects of the Proposed Development can be summarised as follows:

- Provision of circa 100 to 130 additional jobs during the construction phase in the construction sector;
- Provision of 20 jobs during the operational phase;
- The jobs will include elementary jobs during both the operational and construction phases which responds to the type of jobs being sought by the unemployed in Curdworth Ward currently;
- Investment in construction, operation and maintenance all of which will provide for indirect effects including generating work for local tradesmen;
- Additional £2.3M GVA per annum for the local economy including an increase of the local disposable income (for employees of the facility and tradesmen) which will have induced effects on local economy;
- The provision of lower priced sustainable energy for local businesses, reducing business costs which may be used to expand or enhance businesses (including new jobs and/or increased wages); and
- Potential minimal increases in commuting flows.

Mitigation and Enhancement

13.7.8 No mitigation has been identified in socio-economic terms given the lack and/or scale of any negative effects associated with the Proposed Development.

Conclusion

13.7.9 Overall the Proposed Development is considered to provide for minor effects and will contribute to addressing the economic needs of the area.

13.7.10 **Table 13.3** provides a summary of effects, mitigation and residual effects.

Table 13.3: Summary of Effects, Mitigation and Residual Effects.

Receptor / Receiving Environment	Description of Effect	Nature of Effect	Sensitivity Value	Magnitude of Effect	Geographical Importance	Significance of Effects	Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual Effects
Construction								
Economy	Provision of construction jobs to support economy	Direct/ Temporary	N/A	N/A	Local	Minor Positive	N/A	Minor Positive
Operation								
Deprivation	Support services to address current deprivation	Direct/ Permanent	N/A	N/A	Local	Neutral to Minor Positive	N/A	Neutral to Minor Positive
Economy	Provision of jobs and investment that will support the local economy	Direct/ Permanent	N/A	N/A	Local	Minor Positive	N/A	Minor Positive
Travel	Provision of jobs which may generate additional flows	Indirect/ Permanent	N/A	N/A	Local	Minor Negative to Minor Positive	N/A	Minor Negative to Minor Positive