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## 2.0 SCOPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### 2.1 Scope

- 2.1.1 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process culminating in the production of this report, the Environmental Statement (ES). It is the identification and evaluation of all significant, direct and indirect effects of the proposed development, during both construction and operation, on the environment. The ES is contained within three separately bound volumes: the first is the main report (this document) which includes the main text and illustrative figures. The second is a series of technical appendices and the third is a Non-Technical Summary of the findings of the EIA process.
- 2.1.2 It should be noted that under the EIA regulations there is no mandatory requirement for the Sleaford REP application to be accompanied by an ES (i.e. be EIA development). However, the Regulations require that consideration be given to the need for an ES. Notwithstanding this position, and in recognition of the regional significance of the proposed development, Eco2 has elected to produce an ES.
- 2.1.3 The scope, or requirements, of an ES are set out in Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations. Part 1 of the Schedule details the information that the applicant is reasonably required to provide, whilst Part 2 identifies the information that the applicant must provide. These state:

#### *PART I*

##### *1. Description of the development, including in particular:*

- (a) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases;*
- (b) a description of the main characteristics of the production processes, for instance, nature and quantity of the materials used;*
- (c) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc.) resulting from the operation of the proposed development.*

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2. *An outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant or appellant and an indication of the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects.*

3. *A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter-relationship between the above factors.*

4. *A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development, resulting from:*

- (a) the existence of the development;*
- (b) the use of natural resources;*
- (c) the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances and the elimination of waste, and the description by the applicant of the forecasting methods used to assess the effects on the environment.*

5. *A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.*

6. *A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 5 of this Part.*

7. *An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information.*

## *PART II*

1. *A description of the development comprising information on the site, design and size of the development.*

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*2. A description of the measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy significant adverse effects.*

*3. The data required to identify and assess the main effects which the development is likely to have on the environment.*

*4. An outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant or appellant and an indication of the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects.*

*5. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 4 of this Part.*

This ES is fully compliant with these requirements.

2.1.4 Under Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations, potential applicants may request a Scoping Opinion from the Local Planning Authority. This is a written confirmation as to the information that would need to be provided in the proposed ES. In the case of the Sleaford REP development, the applicant has elected not to formally seek such an opinion. Instead, the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment has been set by the meetings, discussions and formal consultation that were associated with the EIA for a similar project on the same site (identical in all respects apart from architectural treatment). The applicant believes that this comprehensive assessment of a previous project, that involved all the statutory consultees which are expected to review this ES, gives sufficient indication of the scope of the EIA required to fully assess the Sleaford REP.

2.1.5 Following the above, it was determined that the EIA would consider the environmental effects of the scheme upon the following issues.

- ecology;
- traffic and transportation;
- landscape;
- air quality;
- noise;
- archaeology and heritage;

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- flood risk and water quality;
  - geology and hydrogeology.

2.1.6 The information and knowledge required to produce this ES was acquired from a number of varied sources to ensure that all impacts, whether explicit from the outset, or coming to light during the project's development, were assessed. These sources included:

- discussions with technical consultees;
- review of public files and records;
- review of historical mapping and aerial photography;
- site surveys;
- specialist studies, such as computer modelling of potential noise impacts;
- expert knowledge from the consultancy team.

No technical difficulties were encountered in preparing the ES.

## **2.2 Structure of the Environmental Assessment**

2.2.1 The format of this Environmental Statement is as follows:

- Section 1: Introduction
- Section 2: Scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment
- Section 3: The Need for the Scheme
- Section 4: Detailed Scheme Description and Alternatives Considered
- Section 5: Planning Policy and Guidance
- Section 6: Transportation
- Section 7: Landscape and Visual Impact
- Section 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation
- Section 9: Flood Risk and Water Quality
- Section 10: Noise
- Section 11: Air Quality
- Section 12: Archaeology and Heritage
- Section 13: Geology and Hydrogeology
- Section 14: Summary of Effects

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2.2.2 The Environmental Statement covers a large number of issues and, in doing so, uses a significant quantity of technical terms. Consequently, all the sections are summarised in a Non-Technical Summary to provide a review of the development proposals, and the possible environmental implications, in concise lay terms.