

CHAPTER 4

DESCRIPTION OF FORESEEABLE DEVELOPMENTS

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4.0 DESCRIPTION OF FORESEEABLE DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 Introduction

Within the supportive information submitted as part of Addendum Environmental Statement and for planning permission ESS/34/15/BTE (namely the Regulation 22 information) an updated Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) was prepared that identified any likely significant effects occurring as a result of the proposed IWMF development with other reasonably foreseeable developments.

As previously noted, due to the scale of the Gent Fairhead & Co Limited's (GFC's) landholdings and its connections with adjacent and surrounding landowners, the foreseeable developments that would affect any CIA today are predominantly associated with the ongoing quarrying and restoration operations across Bradwell Quarry and the IWMF services connections.

Since 2008, quarrying operations have progressed across Site A2 (with restoration operations ongoing) and commenced within Site A3 and A4. The integrated waste management facility (IWMF) site lies within the permitted areas of the Bradwell Quarry where current sand and gravel extraction with low level restoration to agriculture/biodiversity/water and woodland is anticipated to be completed by 2018; however, further 'preferred' and 'reserved' sites are allocated in the adopted 2014 Minerals Local Plan that would extend the life of the quarry, subject to detailed submission and approval to Essex County Council.

Based on the CIA previously submitted, an update of potential foreseeable developments is outlined in this Section of the Addendum ES.

4.2 Electricity Underground Cable Connection from the IWMF to the National Grid

In common with other similar power generation projects, when laid underground in Public Highway (whether pavement or verge) or within other open ground, the grid connection is Permitted Development under the original Town & County Planning Act (General Permitted Development) Order (1995) as amended. Today, this means it is Class B(a) Development by an Electricity Undertaking under Part 15 of the 2015 General Permitted Development Order (GPDO).

UKPN has confirmed that, provided the connection is underground, the GPDO would apply. The route of the proposed underground cable connection from the IWMF to the Braintree Substation remains unchanged from that previously assessed and presented as part of ESS/34/15/BTE.

For reference purposes, details associated with the proposed underground cable connection route and installation statement are duplicated and presented within this chapter of the Addendum ES as Appendix 4A.

4.3 River Blackwater Abstraction and Discharge Pipelines

4.3.1 Water Management at the IWMF – Current Permissions

Water is required by the IWMF to operate the AD plant and the Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plant, and as boiler water for the CHP plant, and the Pulp Plant. In addition, small quantities of water are required for operation of the Material Recycling Facility and for the welfare facilities at the IWMF.

Mains water would be used to service the IWMF's offices, workshops, welfare facilities and the boiler water for the CHP plant. A small 180 mm diameter mains water supply serves the Woodhouse Farm complex and originally passed through the footprint of the IWMF (serving the

old World War 2 Hangar); this main has been diverted in March 2017 by Anglian Water and a future IWMF connection point built into the former access road leading from Woodhouse Lane. The remaining water requirement will be secured by abstraction from the River Blackwater, followed by storage in lagoons formed by the IWMF construction and the mineral extraction restoration proposals, and finally by recirculation of water on site.

The requirement for water and the disposal of water at site was considered in detail, as part of the original planning application (Golder, 2008) and as part of the detailed site design.

The EIA, which accompanied the original planning application, considered abstraction of water from the River Blackwater on the basis that the efficient operations at the proposed wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) within the IWMF would not require discharge of return effluent to the River. However, it continues to be the case that the River Blackwater will be used as the primary water source of non-potable water for industrial use at the site. At present, there is no discharge licence or permission to pump treated effluent into the river.

Abstraction and discharge licences are issued and regulated by the Environment Agency. GFC holds an existing licence from the Environment Agency (no. AN/037/0031/001) to abstract 250,000 m³ of water per year from the River Blackwater during the months November to March inclusive. The licence was issued in 2009, and states the following conditions:

- “water abstraction at NGR TL 8343 2223 from a pumping sump with two pumps with a combined capacity of not more than 100l/sec (NOTE: this point is on the River Blackwater where the old access road to the former Blackwater Aggregates Coggeshal Pit quarry crosses the River Blackwater ie in GFC's land ownership/control);
- for the purpose of filling reservoirs for the subsequent purpose of process water for waste treatment, processing and recycling;
- the maximum quantity of water to be abstracted is not to exceed:
 - 360 m³/hr;
 - 8,640 m³/day; and
 - 250,000 m³/yr.
- no abstraction is permitted when the flow in the River Blackwater (as gauged by the Agency) at Appleford Bridge gauging station (NGR TL 845 158) is equal or less than 1,309l/sec (1.309 m³s⁻¹); and
- no abstraction shall take place until the Licence holder has provided a storage facility, capable of storing at least 250,000 m³ of water which is constructed or lined so that it remains impermeable.”

In this mode of operation, water discharged from the IWMF would be treated and recirculated for re-used within the various IWMF processes.

Mass balance calculations undertaken by Gent Fairhead, with support of their technical advisors SLR Consulting Ltd, shows that in this scenario the consumptive use of water would be about 500 m³/day to operate the IWMF (principally to sustain the pulp plant and to quench bottom ash, and partly within the AD and MBT plants). It is calculated that up to 1,500 m³/day of discharge water from the WWTP would be collected, treated and reused in the IWMF.

4.3.2 Water Management at the IWMF – Foreseeable Developments

On the 23 December 2016, Gent Fairhead & Co Limited received planning permission ESS/44/16/BTE for the installation of an abstraction point, pumping equipment and water main from the River Blackwater to the IWMF site (ESS/34/15/BTE) using an existing abstraction licence (Environment Agency ref AN/037/0031/001/R01) at land between River Blackwater and IWMF site.

It is important to note that the implemented IWMF scheme can operate under a closed loop water management system, using the existing abstraction only arrangement approved under planning permission ESS/44/16/BTE.

The option to apply for an alternative abstraction and discharge arrangement always exists, but would be subject to Environment Agency approval.

Whilst abstraction and discharge licences are issued and regulated by the Environment Agency, in the case of the River Blackwater at Bradwell, the largest abstractor is the Essex & Suffolk Water Company (E&SW) owned by Northumbrian Water Limited (NWL). This is because, in order to ensure there is sufficient potable water running into its reservoirs at Abberton and Hanningfield, E&SW operate, in conjunction with the EA, a scheme of transfer known as The Ely Ouse to Essex Transfer Scheme (EOETS) that transfers water from the Ouse by man-made channels and pipelines to the headwaters of the Rivers Stour and Blackwater.

In joint discussions with E&SW and the EA over recent years, it has been made clear to GFC that both parties would need to agree any scheme of abstraction for GFC because of the priority and scale of the E&SW licence. However, it has been confirmed informally by both parties that GFC's abstraction requirements should be feasible in principle, subject to detailed assessment, application and approval.

The option to apply for a discharge licence always exists and is being considered by GFC based on its discussions with the EA and the E&SW. However, the abstraction and discharge licence application would be made to the Environment Agency, and will be subject to their detailed assessment and ultimate approval.

Any discharge application (for any UK site) must comply with the European Water Framework Directive, whereby any discharge must not have a detrimental effect on the receiving bodies existing water quality (i.e. it must be of an equivalent or cleaner standard than the existing water course). When an application for an abstraction or discharge licence is made to the Environment Agency, it is intended that any potential net losses would be balanced against Abstraction Licence Serial Number AN/037/0031/001, i.e. the total net water demand would be no greater than the current permitted abstraction volume of 250,000 m³.

The existing (and any future) abstraction licence is controlled by the "Hands Off Flow" within the River Blackwater. This means that abstraction has to stop when the river flow falls below the particular flow that is set by the EA. The existing abstraction licence is seasonal, allowing abstraction throughout the winter; however, records indicate that the River Blackwater flows regularly above the Hands Off Flow during the summer. Therefore, in preparing the draft abstraction and discharge licence application, the arrangements associated with a constant all year round abstraction and discharge linked to the Hands Off Flow have been assessed. Essentially, this means that in times of drought the IWMF could contribute and support flows within the River Blackwater by discharging its effluent (that by design will be of an equivalent or higher quality than that in the river) at those times when abstraction ceases due to the Hands Off Flow having been reached in the River.

Considering the above, if an application was made to the Environment Agency (and permitted) to allow the all year round abstraction (linked to the Hands Off Flow) and constant discharge it would reduce the need/frequency for larger instantaneous peaks in abstraction and promote better management of water levels within the two lagoons on the IWMF site and within the restored adjacent quarry. The restored New Field Lagoon, part of previous mineral quarrying permissions, holds a variable capacity of fresh (surface) water in excess of 250,000 m³. Allowing for seasonal fluctuation in water level it could offer storage capacity of up to and in excess of 726,000 m³. In addition, the Upper Lagoon will be constructed in front of the IWMF buildings to provide storage for surface run-off and to control inputs to the IWMF; this will have a storage capacity of approximately 25,000 m³.

Essentially, the potential operation of a Closed Loop water management system from the IWMF to the River Blackwater would need to be presented in the new application. In this proposal, abstraction of water from the River Blackwater and the return of cleaner water to maintain a water demand no greater than the current abstraction volume of 250,000 m³) would promote improved control in the management of water that is abstracted, stored and discharged to and from the Site.

GFC has been in discussions with the EA and E&SW for the past few years during its detailed design of the paper de-inking pulp plant and the associated wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). As a result, the sophisticated series of treatment processes now confirmed in the detailed design will produce an effluent that is of an equivalent or cleaner quality than the incoming water abstracted directly from the river. Whilst this was always the intention of the originally permitted system (i.e. no need for return of treated effluent), the certainty of the final design and operating system allows consideration of other alternatives with regard to the methodology and use of river water.

Following completion of the detailed design for the IWMF, it is understood that GFC may consider making the formal application for a second alternative abstraction and discharge system from/to the River Blackwater, compared with the currently permitted scheme. For this reason, it has been considered as a potential foreseeable development.

4.3.3 Planning and Environmental Assessment of the Abstraction/Discharge Pipelines

GFC's abstraction licence states that the Purpose of Abstraction is for "filling reservoirs for the subsequent purpose of process water for waste treatment, processing and recycling". In the original planning application, water pipelines were indicated in service trenches in the cross-sectional detail of the proposed access road. The environmental assessment of the construction of the access road inherently considered the provision of the pipeline. Where the pipeline may not have been laid on the access road alignment, GFC has control over two mineral quarry workings between the IWMF and the River Blackwater (namely Bradwell Quarry and Coggeshall Pit) such that the abstraction pipeline could be laid within disturbed and restored mineral workings, thereby not leading to any increased environmental impact.

There are two possible routes for pipeline connections for the abstraction of water from the River Blackwater and subsequent pumping to water storage lagoons and control systems for the IWMF. There are no existing river water abstraction systems installed on the River Blackwater, or associated pipelines, for the purposes of extracting water for use at the IWMF, although as explained above GFC has held a license to abstract river water, as issued by the Environment Agency, for several years. On the basis of the two alternative schemes, there would be different proposed routes as follows:

- Route A – Based on existing abstraction licence, i.e. abstraction pipeline only; and

- Route B – Based on the proposed abstraction and discharge licence application, i.e. abstraction and discharge pipelines.

4.3.4 Route A – Permitted River Abstraction Pipeline from Existing Abstraction Point

On the 23 December 2016, Gent Fairhead & Co Limited received planning permission ESS/44/16/BTE for the installation of an abstraction point, pumping equipment and water main from the River Blackwater to the IWMF site (ESS/34/15/BTE) using an existing abstraction licence (Environment Agency ref AN/037/0031/001/R01) at land between River Blackwater and IWMF site.

The potential cumulative impact associated with the above abstraction only arrangement was fully considered within the Updated Environmental Statement 2015.

Presented as Appendix 4B is a copy of the Supporting Environmental Statement issued in support of the abstraction only application and a copy of Essex County Council's decision notice.

It is important to note that the implemented IWMF scheme can operate under a closed loop water management system, using the existing abstraction only arrangement approved under planning permission ESS/44/16/BTE.

4.3.5 Route B - Proposed River Abstraction & Discharge Pipelines to new Abstraction Point

The alternative (potential) pipeline route is based on a design and application that it is understood GFC may make at some future date, although the operation of the IWMF is not dependent upon this scheme. As this alternative would result in better husbandry of river water resources in the river and the IWMF, the single pipeline trench (1.6 m wide) would therefore include two abstraction mains (one at 90 mm diameter and one at 250 mm diameter) and one discharge main (at 90 mm diameter). The alternative scheme would comprise both pumping of fresh water from the River to the IWMF via the abstraction mains, and pumping of treated clean effluent back to the River from the IWMF via the one discharge main.

Under the proposed scheme, a new abstraction point and, separately, a discharge point would be constructed on the River Blackwater some 15 m apart and upstream of an existing weir (at Grid Ref TL 8183 2267). These new structures would be approximately 300 m east of the existing site access road Bailey Bridge that crosses the River Blackwater just south of the A120. From this point southwards and south-eastwards the pipelines would be laid in the site access road for the whole of its remaining length to the IWMF. Where the proposed pipelines cross public highway in 2 locations (namely where the existing access road crosses Church Road and Ash Lane) using trenchless construction techniques such as directional drilling, rather than open trenching.

There were consultation queries regarding the proposed "closed-loop" versus the possible abstraction and discharge scheme that were raised during the Section 73 Planning Application ESS/34/15/BTE. Further clarification was provided in the form of an email and letter by Honace to the ECC Planning Authority dated 22 January 2016 with additional documents attached. These reviewed the water balances in relation to supply and demand under the heading in the letter "Clarification of the Proposed Water Losses across the Site", and explained in more technical detail how the closed-loop system would work. These documents are all now contained within the planning permission ESS/34/15/BTE as an integral part of the approved details submitted in relation to Condition No 23.

4.4 Mineral Extraction and Restoration – On-going Operations

4.4.1 Site A2

On 9 February 2012 planning permission (ESS/32/11/BTE) was granted to Blackwater Aggregates for the Minerals Local Plan extraction area known as “A2” namely:

Extraction of an estimated reserve of 900,000 tonnes of sand and gravel and retention of existing access onto the A120, private haul road, sand and gravel processing plant, ready mixed concrete plant, bagging plant, dry silo mortar plant and water management system, internal haul roads and recontouring of existing extraction area (known as Site R in Minerals Local Plan) with restoration to a combination of agriculture, woodland, nature conservation, water lagoons and to levels appropriate to safeguard implementation of planning permission ESS/37/08/BTE (Integrated Waste Management Facility).

Whilst the development of Site A2 has resulted in a localised change in ground levels in and around the vicinity of the Site, in line with the Site Specific Issues to be Addressed within Essex County Council's emerging Replacement Minerals Local Plan, it was stated that: “Careful consideration must be given to the final low-level restoration contours to ensure the final landform blends with the surrounding topography and could blend with the levels and planting of the strategic waste management development (Ref ESS/37/08/BTE) if implemented”.

In developing the detailed planning application and EIA for Site A2, the assessment considered baseline conditions established by the permissions already obtained for the existing operations at Bradwell Quarry and where relevant, other planning permissions (namely the IWMF) to minimise and mitigate impacts from Site A2 equal to or less than the conditions benchmarked and approved by the Planning Authority.

It was fully recognised that a valid unimplemented planning permission for the IWMF overlapped Site A2. Because this planning permission could be implemented during the life of the mineral proposals related to Site A2; the cumulative impacts of its implementation during the life of the mineral proposals were assessed and addressed within the ESs for Site A2.

The grant of planning permission (ESS/32/11/BTE) for Site A2, underpins the fact that the environmental baseline for the IWMF and its cumulative impact (subject to implementation) was considered and assessed within the local environmental setting at that time (2011).

4.4.2 Site A3 and A4

On 26 March 2015 planning permission (ESS/24/14/BTE) was granted to Blackwater Aggregates for the Minerals Local Plan extraction area known as “A3 & A4” namely:

Extraction of an estimated reserve of 3 million of sand and gravel (from Sites A3 and A4 as identified in the Pre-Submission Draft Replacement Minerals Local Plan) and retention of existing access onto the A120, private haul road, sand and gravel processing plant, ready mixed concrete plant, bagging plant, dry silo mortar plant and water management system, internal haul roads and recontouring of existing extraction areas (Sites R and A2) with restoration to a combination of agriculture, woodland, biodiversity, water lagoons and to levels appropriate to safeguard implementation of planning permission ESS/37/08/BTE (Integrated Waste Management Facility).

As before, the EIA submitted with this application took into account the requirements of the emerging Replacement Minerals Local Plan and considered the cumulative impacts associated with its development against Site A2 and the unimplemented IWMF planning permission.

4.4.3 New Field Stockpile & Sheepcotes Lagoon

On the 7 October 2016, Blackwater Aggregates received planning permission (ESS/07/16/BTE) for a variation of conditions to modify the restoration scheme for Bradwell Quarry under planning which permits the integrated use of materials (predominantly stored overburden) excavated from the footprint of the IWMF site within the overall restoration of the adjacent quarry.

The materials excavated from the IWMF site, can be relocated and stockpiled across New Field in a planned and systematic manner over a 6 to 8 month period. As the stockpile is created, to maintain continuity of the existing quarrying operations, particularly the provision of a sustainable water supply to the screening and washing plant, a temporary lagoon will be created known as 'Sheepcotes Lagoon'. The subsequent excavation of the stockpile and use of the materials within the overall restoration scheme will be integrated into the final site restoration scheme over a period of 3 to 5 years.

The potential cumulative impact associated with the above was fully considered within the Updated Environmental Statement 2015.

Presented as Appendix 4C is a copy of the Supporting Environmental Statement issued in support of the New Field Stockpile and Sheepcotes Lagoon application and a copy of Essex County Council's decision notice (ESS/07/16/BTE).

4.4.4 Future Quarrying Operations

The "Site Specific Issues to be Addressed" set out within Essex County Council's adopted 2014 Minerals Local Plan for the 'preferred' and 'reserve' sites across Bradwell Quarry require:

"Careful consideration must be given to the final low-level restoration contours to ensure the final landform blends with the surrounding topography and could blend with the levels and planting of the strategic waste management development (Ref ESS/37/08/BTE) if implemented."

Therefore, the future extension of quarrying operations across Bradwell Quarry into Site A5 (as a 'preferred' site) and Sites A6 and A7 (as 'reserve' sites) must provide a landform that blends with the surrounding topography and landscape mitigation proposals around the IWMF.

4.5 Local Development Framework Projects

4.5.1 Update on the Braintree District Council New Local Plan

GFC has been advised that the best source of information regarding other potential local developments of any significant size is the Braintree District Council's (BDC's) "New Local Plan".

The New Local Plan will include all major planning policy for the District in a single document and will need to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Once complete it will replace both the Core Strategy (2011) and the Local Plan Review (2005).

One of the main requirements in the NPPF is for local authorities to significantly boost their supply of housing and this applies across the Country. A document called a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) helps the Council work out how many houses are needed and of what type. Following an update in November 2016 the Local Plan target for new homes in the District is based on an annual average of 862 homes for the plan period 2016 to 2033.

The entire IWMF site and the immediate surrounds are wholly within the area of the BDC. GFC's Directors are local farmers, landowners and developers, and along with their professional advisers have considerable direct experience of the BDC land development planning system.

Based on BDC's preparation of its New Local Plan it appears that the current timetable anticipates adoption by the Autumn of 2018.

4.5.2 Potential Development Sites assessed in the Cumulative Impact Assessment

Braintree District Council has updated its Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) to support the production of its new Local Plan.

The Braintree District Council website provides details of those sites put forward for potential consideration for future development. The website link for these plans is as follows:

https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200230/planning_policy/701/new_local_plan/4

The sites presented on the various maps were originally reviewed as potential development sites within the Addendum Environmental Statement of 2015.

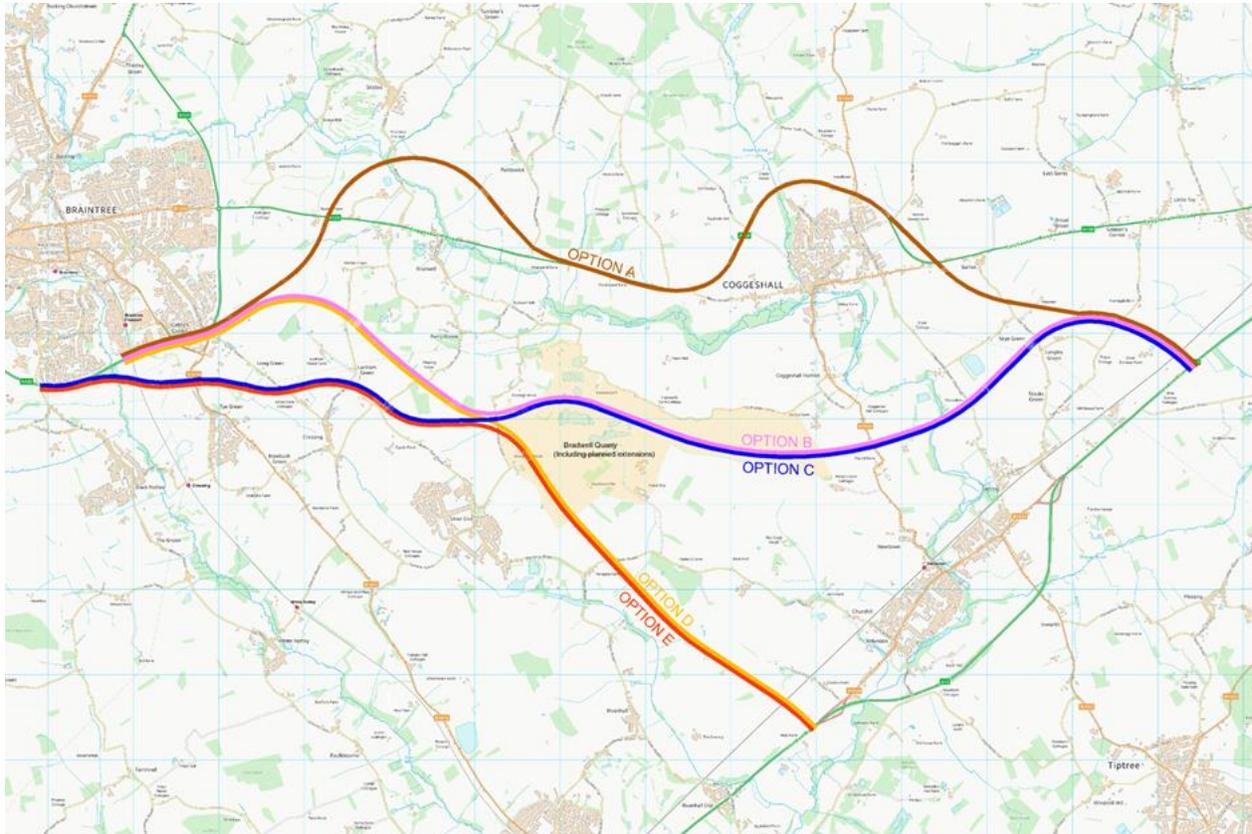
A potential development site is the proposed Gladman Development project for 350 houses on land east of Silver End, which was considered at a Public Inquiry on 31 January 2017. Subsequently, on 21 March 2017, the Secretary of State decided to grant outline planning permission for this development "*with all matters reserved for subsequent approval*". Whilst this approval would result in moving the housing edge of Silver End closer to the IWMF, it would still be sufficiently distant that views would largely remain unchanged and as assessed previously from the eastern edge of Silver End. This is confirmed by paragraph 88 of the Inspector's Report stating that, with regard to the Gladman Development application, "*the Environmental Statement considers the impact of Bradwell Quarry and a proposed waste facility on the proposed houses, concluding that there would be no significant adverse effects*". It is clear that the IWMF has been in the planning domain for many years prior to the concept of this development. Gladman Developments has been able to design its scheme using the naturally lower topography and the proposed perimeter woodland to minimise any potential environmental effects. Nevertheless, the IWMF's most recent Environmental Assessment considered the presence of this proposal and concluded that there would be no cumulative impacts associated with its development if approved.

The proposed change in the IWMF stack height does not result in any significant changes to the conclusions of earlier Environmental Statements with regard to the design or development of housing in the local area; namely that no significant cumulative issues have been identified.

4.6 A120 Consultation

A consultation on options for a new stretch of the A120 between Braintree and the A12 was launched on the 17 January 2017.

Five possible options are being considered for this section of the A120.



Essex County Council plan is to fast-track the feasibility process so it can be put forward for consideration by the Government for inclusion in the Road Investment Strategy 20-25.

Although the A120 is part of the Strategic Road Network operated by Highways England, in 2015 the Government agreed that Essex County Council will lead on the work to determine the way forward.

It is important to remember that at this early stage the options have been technically developed to a point where Essex County Council are confident that they can be built. However exact details about road alignments, junction design and environmental assessments and mitigation measures have not been completed. Like other major road projects this work is undertaken once a single option has been selected.

The primary aim is to create greater capacity to cope with the volume of traffic today, and predicted future growth in traffic.

The following objectives for the A120 Braintree to the A12 feasibility study were agreed by Essex County Council and Highways England:

- Provide and maintain physical infrastructure that facilitates housing and economic growth and enables businesses to flourish.
- Reduce congestion related delay, improve journey time reliability and increase the overall transport capacity of the A120 corridor.
- Increase the resilience of the transport network by improving the ability of the A120 corridor to cope with incidents such as collisions, breakdowns, maintenance and flooding.

- Improve safety for all road users and road workers within the A120 corridor.
- Improve the environmental impact of transport on communities along the existing A120 corridor and reduce the impact of new infrastructure on the natural and built environment by design.
- Improve connectivity within communities and to the wider transport network by reducing severance and increasing accessibility for local residents.
- Improve the quality and connectivity of transport provision within the A120 corridor for people using nonmotorized forms of transport, such as pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Encourage alternatives to car travel through improvements to the attractiveness of public transport along the A120 corridor.

As the design of the A120 matures, consideration would need to be made of the implemented (and operational 2020/2021) IWMF planning permission,

- Any final route will be delivered and constructed to meet UK guidelines for a strategic road. This will be a dual carriageway road with grade separated junctions, advanced technology and a 70mph speed limit.
- It is also likely that access to and from the road will only be from grade separated junctions.
- New local roads would be provided to ensure existing local connections are maintained. This could include the construction of a junction to serve the IWMF and Bradwell Quarry.
- Connections and routes for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders, such as Public Rights of Way will be maintained and, where practicable, enhanced.

The above consultation documents, and the position of the quarry and the IWMF in relation to the various routes, are considered within the updated Travel and Transport Statement of the updated Environmental Statement 2017.

APPENDIX 4A

Underground Cable Connection to the National Grid

APPENDIX 4B

Permitted River Abstraction Pipeline ESS/34/15/BTE
Environmental Statement

APPENDIX 4C

New Field Stockpile & Sheepecotes Lagoon ESS/07/16/BTE
Environmental Statement