

**FORD ENERGY RECOVERY FACILITY AND  
WASTE SORTING AND TRANSFER FACILITY,  
FORD CIRCULAR TECHNOLOGY PARK**



ENVIRONMENTAL  
STATEMENT  
**CHAPTER 1**  
INTRODUCTION

## 1 Introduction

### Application summary

- 1.1 Viridor Energy Limited, Grundon Waste Management Limited and Ford Energy from Waste Limited (the latter a joint venture between Grundon Waste Management Limited and Viridor Energy Limited) are applying to West Sussex County Council (WSCC) for full planning permission to build and operate a conventional energy recovery facility (ERF) and a waste sorting and transfer facility (WSTF) to treat municipal, commercial and industrial wastes at the Ford Circular Technology Park at Ford Road, Ford. Grundon Waste Management is the sole owner / operator of the existing waste transfer station (WTS) that is operational at the site. Figure 1.1 shows the site location and figure 1.2 shows the application site boundary.
- 1.2 This environmental statement (ES) is required to accompany the planning application under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended; hereafter the EIA Regulations). It contains detailed information needed by the local planning authority to assist it in its determination of the application.

### Background

- 1.3 The application site is identified in the adopted West Sussex Waste Local Plan (2014) as a Strategic Waste Site. In 2015, Grundon Waste Management Limited secured planning permission for an energy from waste facility and a materials recovery facility, known as the Circular Technology Park (application reference: WSCC/096/13/F). The application was subject to environmental impact assessment (EIA) and accompanied by an ES. The approved facilities have not been built, although the permission has been implemented and the site currently operates as a WTS that usually handles about 20 - 25,000 tonnes per annum (tpa).
- 1.4 Planning permission was granted in August 2019 for a new access road that has replaced the previous one-way circulation system (application reference: WSCC/027/18/F). The associated Section 106 agreement also increases the permitted heavy goods vehicle (HGV) movements to / from the site and amends the approved waste delivery hours. Construction of the road was completed in early 2020 and vehicles are no longer using Rollaston Park Road to access the site or the private access road to the north of Rodney Crescent to egress onto Ford Road. The access road application was also subject to EIA and accompanied by an ES.
- 1.5 In June 2020 an application (WSCC/036/20) was submitted to WSCC for the demolition of existing buildings and structures, and the construction and operation of an ERF and a WSTF for treatment of municipal, commercial and industrial wastes, including ancillary buildings, structures, parking, hardstanding and landscape works. Following consultation on the submitted application and discussion with WSCC officers, it was considered that the landscape and visual impact, together with the associated impact on the setting of designated heritage assets was unlikely to be acceptable. A detailed re-design and analysis of the related technical issues was subsequently undertaken and the proposals revised in line with this, together with an EIA Regulation 25 request by WSCC for

further information. Application WSCC/036/20 was therefore subsequently withdrawn on the submission of this revised application. Further details on the redesign are set out in chapter 4 (Alternatives) and on the Regulation 25 request in chapter 5 (Environmental issues and methodology, and in technical appendix A: EIA Scoping).

### **Need**

- 1.6 The ERF and WSTF will help to meet the need for sustainable waste management infrastructure and to divert waste away from disposal to re-use, recycling or recovery. This is in line with national and local policy. The proposed ERF and WSTF provide for recycling and recovery as set out in the Waste Hierarchy and will therefore take waste away from disposal in landfill, for treatment at a higher level in the hierarchy.

### **Environmental impact assessment**

- 1.7 EIA is a process for ensuring that the likely significant effects of a new development on the environment are fully understood and taken into account before development is allowed to proceed. The aim of EIA is defined in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) online National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) (paragraph 002, reference ID: 4-002-20140306) as:

*“To protect the environment by ensuring that a local planning authority when deciding whether to grant planning permission for a project, which is likely to have significant effects on the environment, does so in the full knowledge of the likely significant effects, and takes this into account in the decision making process.”*

- 1.8 EIA is integral to the planning process, but it is also a separate and objective assessment of the potential effects of the proposals, allowing the local planning authority to make an informed decision. The EIA Regulations implement the requirements of EU Directive 2011/92/EU ‘on the assessment of effects of certain public and private projects on the environment’, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU.
- 1.9 To satisfy the requirements of Regulation 18(3) of the EIA Regulations, an environmental statement (ES) must address the matters listed in table 1.1. It must also include such of the information set out in schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations as is relevant to the specific characteristics of the particular development (or type of development) and to the environmental features likely to be significantly affected (see table 1.2). This will ensure that the ES includes the information reasonably required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the development on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment.

Required topic	Location in ES
A description of the proposed development, comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development	Chapters 2 to 3
A description of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment	Chapters 6 to 15 (predicted effects sections)
A description of any features of the proposed development, or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment	Chapters 6 to 15 (mitigation sections), chapter 16 (summaries of mitigation measures)
A description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer that are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the development on the environment	Chapter 4
A non-technical summary of the information provided in the rows above	Non-technical summary at the front of this document

**Table 1.1: Summary of matters that an ES must address**

Topic	Location in ES
<p>A description of the development, including in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A description of the location of the development</li> <li>• A description of the physical characteristics of the whole development, including, where relevant, requisite demolition works, and the land use requirements during the construction and operational phases</li> <li>• A description of the main characteristics of the operational phase of the development (in particular, any production processes), for instance energy demand and energy used, nature and quantity of the materials and natural resources (including water, land, soil and biodiversity) used</li> <li>• An estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation and quantities and types of waste) produced during the construction and operation phases</li> </ul>	Chapters 2 and 3, where applicable and where relevant information is available at this stage
A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects	Chapter 4
A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge	Chapters 6 to 15 (baseline and future baseline sections)
A description of the factors likely to be significantly affected by the development: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydro-morphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape	Chapters 6 to 15 (baseline sections). See chapter 5 for details of the scope of the EIA
<p>A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works</li> <li>• The use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources</li> </ul>	Chapters 6 to 15 (predicted effects sections). See chapter 5 for details of the scope of the EIA

Topic	Location in ES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances and the disposal and recovery of waste</li> <li>The risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters)</li> <li>The cumulation of effects with other existing and / or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources</li> <li>The impact of the project on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the project to climate change</li> <li>The technologies and the substances used</li> </ul> <p>The description of the likely significant effects should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short term, medium term and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development. This description should take into account the environmental protection objectives established at Union or Member State level that are relevant to the project, including in particular those established under Council Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC</p>	
<p>A description of the forecasting methods or evidence used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment, including details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered in compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved</p>	<p>Chapters 6 to 15 (methodology sections)</p>
<p>A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements (for example, the preparation of a post-project analysis). That description should explain the extent to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, prevented, reduced or offset, and should cover both the construction and operational phases</p>	<p>Chapters 6 to 15 (mitigation and monitoring sections), chapter 16 (summaries of mitigation and monitoring measures)</p>
<p>A description of the expected significant adverse effects of the development on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and / or disasters that are relevant to the project concerned. Relevant information available and obtained through risk assessments pursuant to EU legislation such as Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council or Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom or UK environmental assessments may be used for this purpose provided that the requirements of this Directive are met. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies</p>	<p>This issue was scoped out of the EIA (see chapter 5 and technical appendix A for details)</p>
<p>A non-technical summary of the information provided in the rows above</p>	<p>Non-technical summary at the front of this document</p>
<p>A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the ES</p>	<p>Chapters 6 to 15 (tables of references and data sources)</p>

**Table 1.2: Further information that an ES must also address where relevant**

1.10 This ES has been produced in accordance with the EIA Regulations and best practice guidance issued by the government and other organisations, such as the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). It has been prepared by Terence O'Rourke Ltd based on information gathered during a formal EIA of the proposals. Regard was had to the findings of other relevant assessments as appropriate, to avoid duplication of assessment.

- 1.11 The scope of the EIA was based on the scope agreed for application WSCC/036/20, which itself was the subject of consultation with WSCC and with a range of other organisations, including Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England (see chapter 5 for full list of consultees). The EIA Regulations require the ES to be based on the most recent scoping opinion, where one is issued. The scoping process is discussed in more detail in chapter 5 and a copy of the scoping report that accompanied the request for a scoping opinion, the consultee responses and subsequent WSCC Regulation 25 request (associated with application WSCC/036/20) have been reproduced in technical appendix A.

### **The applicants**

- 1.12 This planning application is submitted on behalf of Viridor Energy Limited, Grundon Waste Management Limited and Ford Energy from Waste Limited. Ford Energy from Waste Limited is a joint venture between Grundon Waste Management Limited and Viridor Energy Limited, and the joint venture will own and operate the proposed ERF. Grundon Waste Management is the sole owner and operator of the existing WTS facilities and will continue to be the sole owner and operator of the proposed WSTF. From here on all three applicants will be referred to collectively as ‘the applicants’.

### **The consultant team**

- 1.13 The coordination of the EIA, the preparation of the ES and the assessment of potential community and social, cultural heritage, and landscape and visual effects of the proposals have been undertaken by Terence O’Rourke Ltd, which is a member of the IEMA EIA Quality Mark scheme. Assessments of other environmental issues have been undertaken as follows:

- Air quality, dust, odour, climate change, and health risk – Fichtner Consulting Engineers Ltd
- Ground conditions and the water environment, noise and vibration, and traffic and transport – Ramboll UK Limited
- Natural heritage – Lindsay Carrington Ecological Services

- 1.14 Details of the relevant expertise and qualifications of the competent experts involved in the preparation of the ES are provided in technical appendix B.

### **The structure of the ES**

- 1.15 This ES is divided into three main sections. Part one (chapters 1 to 5) provides an introduction, information on the application site, describes the development proposals and alternatives and identifies the environmental issues that have been considered as part of the EIA. Part two (chapters 6 to 15) sets out the potential environmental effects of the proposals and highlights the mitigation measures that will be employed to reduce the overall adverse environmental impacts of the scheme. Part three (chapter 16) summarises the design measures that aim to avoid significant adverse environmental effects and form an integral part of the proposals, the proposed mitigation measures and how these will be implemented, the residual effects remaining after mitigation and the measures proposed to monitor adverse residual effects.

- 1.16 A glossary is included at the back of the ES (chapter 17) to explain essential terminology used in the text. Technical appendices have been produced providing detailed information on the EIA scoping process, the competent experts involved in the EIA and several of the environmental issues. The non-technical summary (NTS) is at the front of the ES and is also available separately.

### **Pollution prevention and control**

- 1.17 Before the facilities can be operated, the applicants will require authorisations from the Environment Agency under the terms of the Environmental Permitting Regulations. These authorisations will set out environmental standards for the operation of the facilities, mainly relating to operational matters and control of emissions to the atmosphere. The environmental permits will, of necessity, be considerably more narrowly defined and technical than the planning permission. They will include requirements for environmental performance and may be revoked if the facilities fail to meet these requirements.
- 1.18 There is a degree of overlap between the information required for the environmental permit applications and that required for inclusion in the planning application. Therefore, some of the information in the ES and its technical appendices, notably on air quality, has been taken from the recently made applications to the Environment Agency for environmental permits for the proposed facilities.
- 1.19 The Environment Agency will be asked for its comments on the planning merits of the project, although it should be noted that those comments will not prejudice its determination of the environmental permit applications.
- 1.20 Since the planning and environmental permit applications are submitted under separate regulations, the granting of one permission is not dependent on the granting of the other.

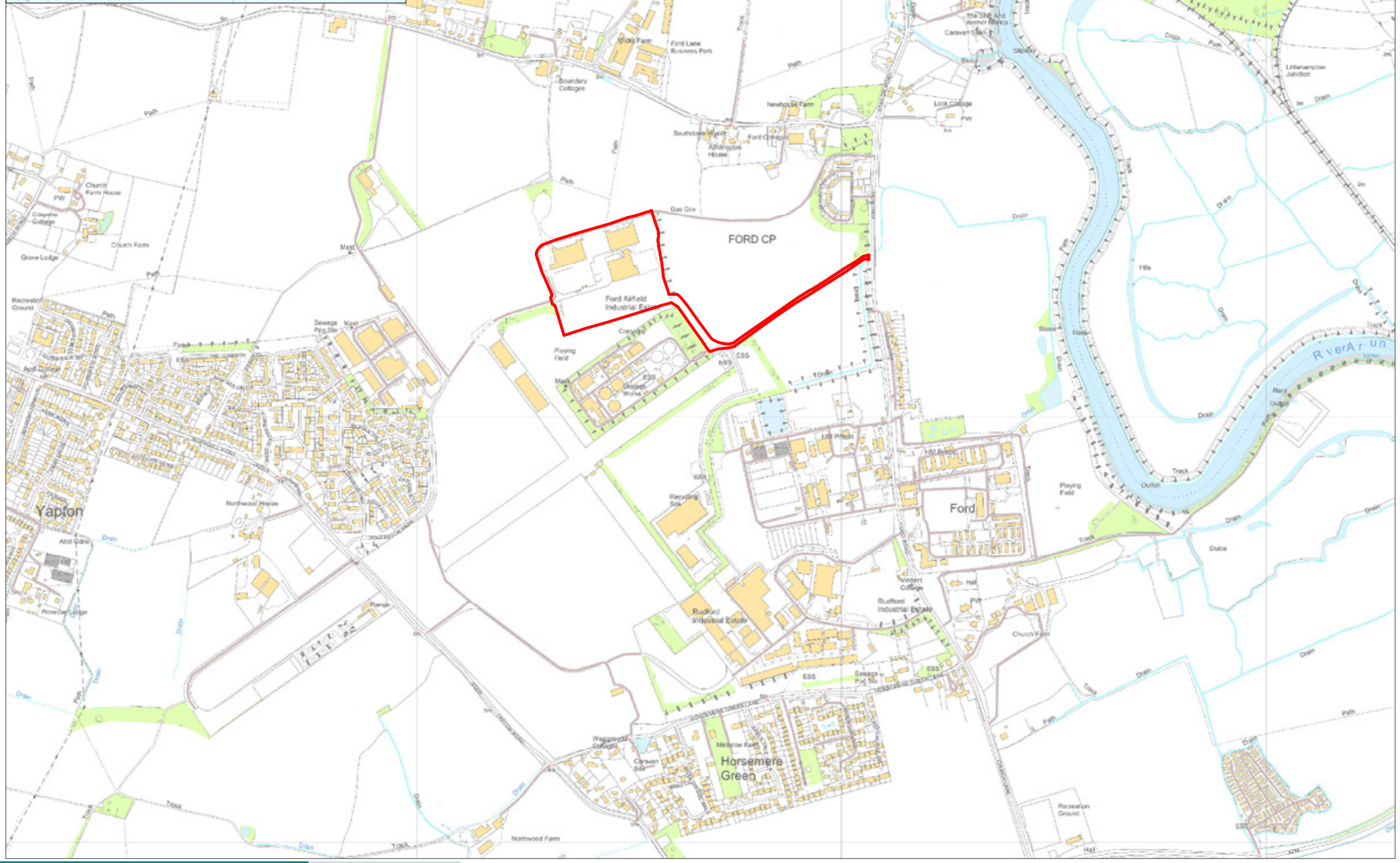
### **Further information**

- 1.21 Copies of the ES and the technical appendices have been sent to WSCC. The full ES with its technical appendices may (subject to COVID-19 restrictions) be inspected at:
- West Sussex County Council  
Planning Services  
Ground Floor Northleigh  
County Hall  
Chichester  
PO19 1RH
- 1.22 The application documents will also be available to view on the council's website: [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk).
- 1.23 Comments should be addressed to the Head of Planning Services at the above address and can be copied to Terence O'Rourke Ltd at the address below. Additional copies of the ES (paper copy or on a memory stick) and any further information about the project may be obtained at a reasonable charge to reflect printing and distribution costs by contacting:

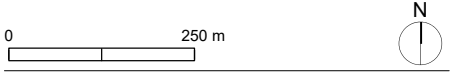
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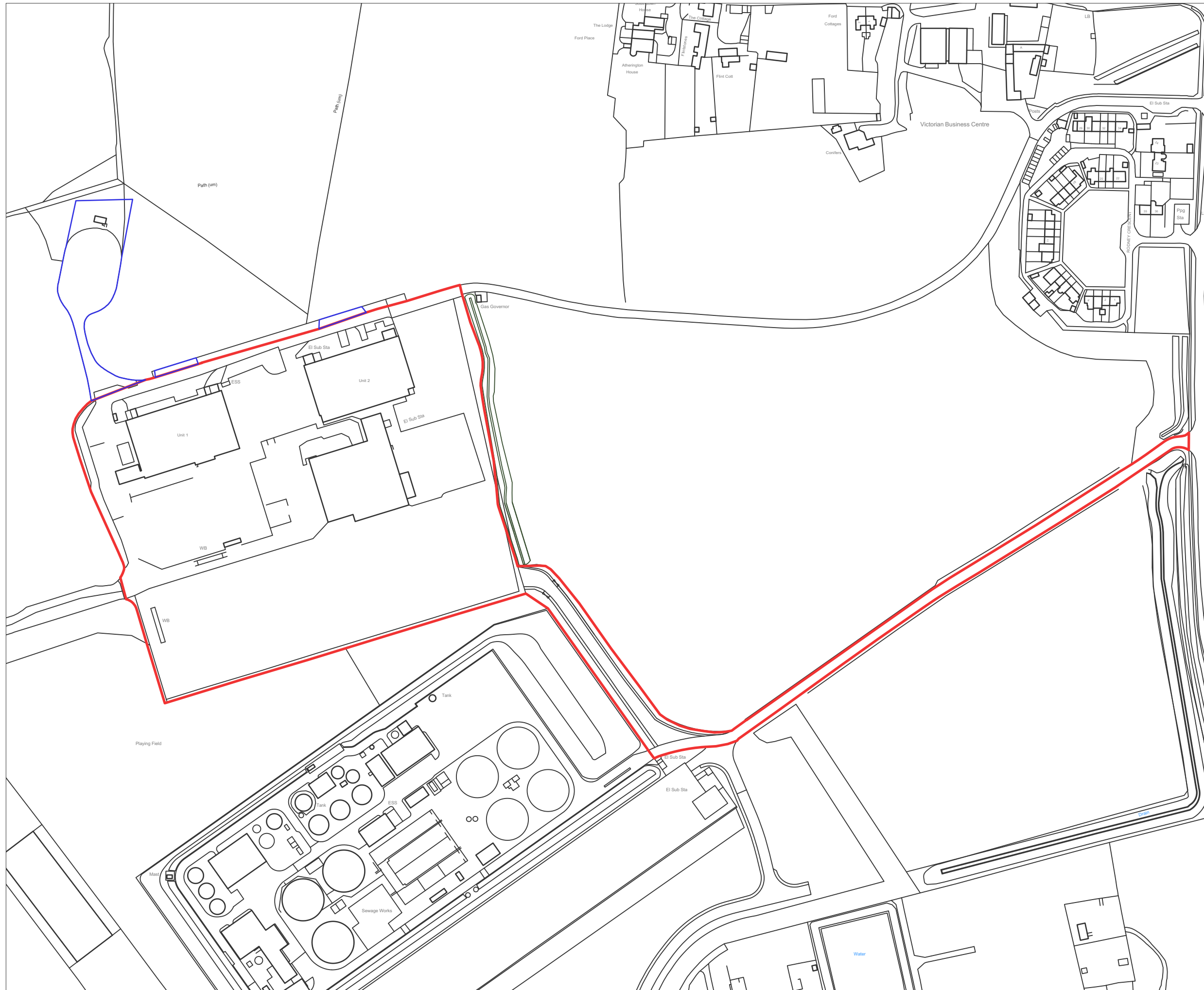


Site boundary



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Key

Planning Application Boundary 6.72 ha

Other land owned by the applicants 0.42 ha



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