Key Issues
The key issues which were encountered whilst undertaking the EIA included:

- **Community Engagement** – A robust and proactive community consultation exercise was fundamental to explain the proposals thoroughly and gain an understanding of the community’s concerns which ranged from air quality, traffic & transportation, visual impact, noise and other issues.

- **Protected Species & Designated Sites** – The presence of great crested newts was identified on the site which led to a programme of surveys and the requirement to implement mitigation measures. The potential impact of the Proposal on the River Eden Special Area of Conservation required to be assessed thoroughly.

- **Site Selection & Alternatives** – The site is allocated within the Development Plan for the development of an energy recovery facility. Nevertheless, in response to community concern, a thorough site selection assessment was undertaken.

- **Timescales** – The project timescales were challenging due to the clients need to secure planning permission & funding.

Purpose of the project
The project was designed to address an identified need for additional waste management capacity within the Cumbria area in order to divert waste from landfill and reduce the quantity of waste exported from Cumbria.

The project was also required in order to produce a sustainable source of electricity and heat which can be used within other areas of the Kingmoor Park Industrial Estate.

Description of the project
The Proposal involves the construction of a facility which would receive up to 195,000 tonnes per year of refuse derived fuel (RDF) generated within Cumbria, and generate up to 22MW.

The site is located within the Kingmoor Park Industrial Estate approximately 3.8 km to the north east of Carlisle city centre.

The closest residential properties are located approximately 700m to the south east of the site. The River Eden Special Area of Conservation lies 800m to the south west of the site.
Lessons learnt
Key to this project was the continuous communication between the EIA team, project manager, client & landowner. This ensured that the EIA team were furnished with all project information as it became available, leading to the smooth running of the project and the ability to meet the clients challenging programme.

Thorough and proactive consultation with the community, planning authority, stakeholders and political representatives ensured the design evolution & EIA process was transparent and invited constructive dialogue. This was achieved through formal consultation such as the EIA Scoping process and publicised public events, but also through direct one-to-one contact with community representatives such as the local residents association.

A pre-emptive media strategy was also employed in order to publicise the development and consultation events to ensure local media outlets were given consistent and accurate information.

Simplified process diagrams were prepared to explain the advanced conversion technology (ACT) proposed within the facility to members of the public and a publicity graphic was prepared to enable members of the public to visualise what the facility would look like.

Lessons learnt cont. –
The EIA project team were selected based on their previous experience, local knowledge and their expertise dealing with the specific issues identified at the project inception stage. This ensured that the project team was tailored to fit the particular characteristics and needs of the project.

Potential impact, through the release of air emissions, on the nearby Special Area of Conservation led to the project air quality consultant and project ecologist collaborating in order to assess the potential impact of the development on the SAC habitat.

The planning application was accompanied by a comprehensive Environmental Statement, community consultation report and planning statement. This thorough submission led to a positive recommendation to Cumbria County Council’s Planning Committee, who determined the planning application within the statutory timescales.

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