# EIA Quality Mark Case Study

## Lostock Sustainable Energy Plant

![An artist’s impression of the proposed plant. For detailed drawings see application documents 2011](image)

**Key Issues**
- Successful management of and engagement with public and planning authority.
- Design and layout of major infrastructure on a relatively small site within an existing complex chemical engineering works. Access to site included third parties with rights of way access over land.
- Incorporating mitigation into the scheme with above site constraints.
- Resolving grid connection issues to allow satisfactory and timely environmental assessment.
- Tension between compliance with energy and waste policy at local, regional and national level.
- Tight programme requiring delivery of project before the then IPC regime came into force.

## Purpose of the Project
- To deliver energy in the form of steam to the existing soda ash production project, reducing the reliance on fossil fuels.
- At the same time to deliver a viable scheme based on combusting residual waste as a fuel, while waste contracts also in place (the scheme being a ‘merchant’ facility).
- To reduce production costs for client.

## Description of the Project
60 MW Energy from Waste facility in Lostock, Northwich, Cheshire:
- Application site of approximately 10.3 hectares, including the main Sustainable Energy Plant, ash handling facility, rail reception facility and construction sites.
- Application made under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 with the competent authority being the Secretary of State.
## EIA Learning Outcomes

### Lessons Learnt
- Successful engagement with statutory consultees can be very positive process, resulting in useful feedback and assisting in offsetting negative public opinion on energy from waste schemes.
- Public concerns relating to health dealt with robustly within EIA process, including consultation with local health bodies. Detailed consideration at Public Inquiry ensured successful outcome.
- Project management of ES central to delivery of programme and compliance with law and regulations.
- Regular and ongoing contact with the client and designer necessary to identify and incorporate initial mitigation measures throughout design evolution process.
- Approach to alternatives and the need for the development strongly influenced by planning policy.

### Proposed Sustainable Energy Plant, Lostock Works, Cheshire

### Lessons Learnt cont.
- Project management with strong planning influence helped shape the project and case for the development in advance of Public Inquiry.
- Inquiry was triggered as a result of a politically led objection to the scheme by the planning authority. Case examined during a four week Public Inquiry. National planning policy on energy outweighed any conflict with the local waste policy. Robust EIA process confirmed at Public Inquiry, ensuring that objections not found to carry significant weight.

The project was approved by the Department of Energy and Climate Change in October 2012.

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