

16. The proposed development is not located within or adjacent to any of the following prescribed designations within the EIA Regulations as can be seen in the image below.

- Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Land Subject of Conservation Orders
- International Conservation Sites
- National Scenic Areas
- World Heritage Sites
- Schedule Ancient Monuments
- National Parks

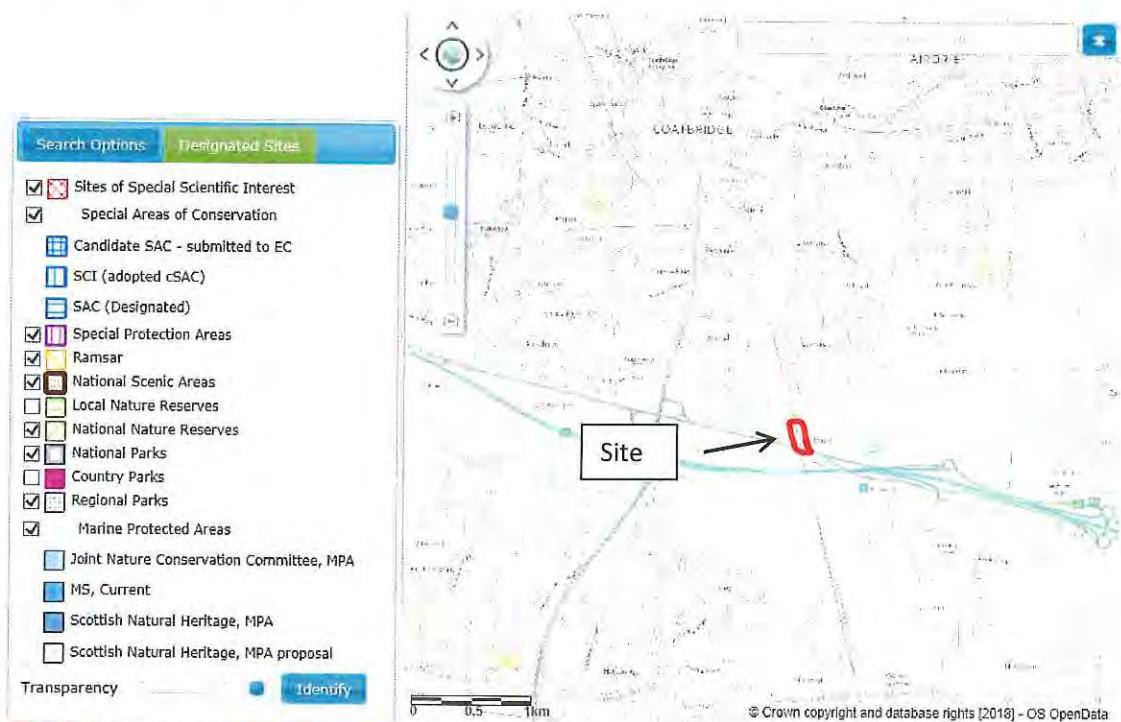


Figure 3 - Designated Areas Map (SNH)

17. SEPA had originally objected that the applicants Ecological/Habitats assessment used a screening distance of 10km rather than 15km. This resulted in SEPA highlighting that the Hamilton High Parks SSSI and Longriggend Moss SSSI had not been considered in the assessment. However, in a later response dated 4 December 2017, SEPA withdrew this objection after the screening distance had been increased to 15km to take into account the two SSSI's, as it identified they were unlikely to result in any significant effect on the SSSI's arising from the proposed facility.

18. There is a locally designated Site of Interest to Nature Conservation (SINC) to the east of the proposed development. SINC's are a non-statutory local nature conservation designation. The Council's screening opinion identifies that this SINC has been designated to protect the riparian vegetation along the river to help support and protect local flora and fauna and they conclude that the proposed works are unlikely to have a detrimental impact on the SINC, other than minor works to the

existing embankments to the North Calder Water to the south of the SINC so they can provide an outfall pipe from the SUDs basin.

19. As highlighted earlier, SNH have not objected to this application and although there is the potential for nuisance impacts on the SINC, mitigation can be secured through the standard planning application process. The Council also identify in their screening opinion that the site is not located near an area where environmental quality standards have been exceeded.
20. The site is not within close proximity to any listed buildings or scheduled monuments.
21. As a result, it can be concluded that the proposed development is not located in a sensitive location as defined within the EIA Regulations.

CO-LOCATION IMPACT

22. Although the co-location impact of the proposed development was not specifically mentioned by the third party in their screening direction request, it is relevant. There is significant opposition towards the proposed development due to its close proximity to existing and proposed settlements.
23. It is important to acknowledge that the principle of the development has already been established previously and its effects considered through the EIA process. The reporters acknowledged in their May 2011 assessment (PPA-320-2011) that there is no doubt that the proposed development would give rise to atmospheric emissions both from road traffic and from the process activities from the facility. However, they highlighted that the Environmental Statement showed no unacceptable impacts on residential areas in the vicinity, of what would be a small scale EfW plant.
24. The reporters concluded that in short, all of the substantive evidence before them - led them to conclude that the development of the proposed waste management facility, situated some 200m from the nearest residence would not be detrimental to human health. Including that of children and adults living near to the site.
25. A further issue considered in this assessment was that a large number of representations to the Council were concerned that the emissions from the EfW plant have not been taken into account during the decision to approve the mixed use application which includes 400 dwellings. However, the Council's screening opinion highlights the developer took account of the extant planning permission for the EfW plant at the site in terms of the layout of the houses. Additionally, SEPA's consultation response in the committee report for the mixed use application (15/01792/PPP) identified that the EfW development would have a negligible impact on the proposed mix use development.
26. Overall, the principle of an EfW plant has already been established at this site and was the subject of an EIA, the proposed modifications to the development are not of an extent that the Council consider it would require a further EIA to be carried out.

OTHER ISSUES RAISED

27. The third party in their screening direction request also highlighted that although the number of vehicle movements required has reduced, they will utilise larger vehicles. Additionally, the third party also raises concern that no junction analysis information

has been provided in respect to the impacts at new Shawhead junction and the Carnbroe slip.

28. Transport Scotland have not objected to this application. The impact of any differences that may arise as a result of amendments to the proposal could be determined through the standard planning application process.
29. The third party also raises various issues regarding the way North Lanarkshire Council has handled the development management process for this proposed development. This is a matter for the third party to raise with the Council.
30. The third party also highlights that the proposed development will have a considerably higher ventilation stack. Increasing from 27m to 80m. SNH did not comment on the height of the ventilation stack as it falls below the threshold of their Service Statement for Planning and Development advice. The Council in their screening opinion highlight that the only substantive change which may impact on the proposed residential development is the increase in the ventilation stack but concluded it is not of landscape or visual significance that would require an EIA.
31. SEPA also commented on the ventilation stack height in an earlier consultation response dated 6 November 2017 on the previous application (17/01578/AMD) before it was withdrawn, highlighting that the increase in stack height will assist with the dispersion of emissions. As a result, reducing the impact on receptors. Therefore, in this respect, SEPA stated that the proposed stack height increase is considered to potentially provide benefit.

RECOMMENDATION

32. The Council consider that the proposed development is **not** likely to have significant environmental effects that warrant an EIA. The proposed development is not within or close to any designated sites as defined with the EIA regulations. The principle of the proposed development has already been established previously and its effects considered through the EIA process. The outcome of the previous assessment identified that the development of an EfW plant showed no unacceptable impacts on residential areas in the vicinity and that it not be detrimental to human health. SEPA also have withdrawn any objections to the proposed development and will closely monitor the site as part of the licence agreement for the site.
33. As highlighted in Planning Circular 1/2017, a change or extension requires EIA only if the change or extension is likely to have significant environmental effects. The Council have concluded that the alterations to the approved plant when considered in the context of the EfW plant as a whole are not of a significant extent that an EIA is required. Rather, any environmental issues could be considered through supporting information, submitted through the standard planning application process.
34. In conclusion, the correspondence from the third party does not bring into question the validity of the North Lanarkshire Council's screening opinion. It is therefore recommended that Scottish Ministers decline to issue a screening direction in this case.