



CHAPTER 7 – SOCIO-ECONOMIC

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List of Acronyms

BPEO	Best Practicable Environmental Option
CADW	Historic Environment Service of the Welsh Government and part of the Tourism and Culture group
Development	All activities within the red line planning boundary (see Drawing ECL-BQ-000 in Technical Appendix TA1-1)
Development Site	The physical site on which the Development is to be located as defined by the red line planning boundary (see Drawing ECL-BQ-000 in Technical Appendix TA1-1)
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ERF	Energy Recovery Facility
ES	Environmental Statement
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GVA	Gross value added (GVA) is a measure in economics of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy.
HIA	Health Impact Assessment
LDP	Local Development Plan
LDF	Local Development Framework
LSA	Local Study Area
PAYE	Pay As You Earn
PPW	Planning Policy Wales
PRoW	Public Right of Way
SOA	Super-output areas are a geographic area used for the collection and publication of small area statistics.
TAN	Technical Advice Note
VAT	Value Added Tax
WIMD	Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation
WSA	Wider Study Area





7. Socio-Economic

7.1. Introduction

- 7.1.1. This chapter of the Environmental Statement ("ES") will assess the likely significant effects on socio-economic features as a result of the proposed Buttington Energy Recovery Facility ("ERF") during the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning phases of the project. In this context "social impacts" refer to consequences to human populations of any public or private actions that relate to the ways in which people live, work, play, relate to one another, organise to meet their needs and generally cope as members of society. The term "economic impacts" cover issues such as employment and supply chain effects associated with the proposed Buttington ERF. The postcode used to complete the assessment has been SY21 8SZ.
- 7.1.2. In keeping with the scoping report issued for the Development that was endorsed by the Scoping Direction issued by PINS, the socio-economic issues that will be considered as part of the assessment include:
 - employment generation: direct and indirect;
 - supply chain impact: on a local and national basis;
 - recreation access: residential properties and traffic issues, Public Rights of Way ("PRoW") and recreation activities;
 - landscape and visual effect: the effect of landscape and visual impact from a socioeconomic perspective; and
 - tourism: visitors to the area that may stay or visit areas within proximity to the proposed ERF.
- 7.1.3. Effects may occur as a result of direct interaction between the Development and socioeconomic, tourism or recreational characteristics and features of the area (e.g. creation of employment during the construction phase or severance along a PRoW or indirectly via employment opportunities generated as a result of increased local spending of wages earned by the construction and operational workforce.

7.2. Relevant Legislation

7.2.1. Planning policy relevant to the proposed Buttington ERF is included in the Waste Planning Statement that accompanies this ES. This section focuses on planning policy relating specifically to socio-economic concerns for waste treatment facilities.

Planning Policy Wales (Edition 10, December 2018)¹

7.2.2. Planning Policy Wales ("PPW") is intended to ensure the planning decisions in Wales improve the lives of the current and future generations in Wales (as required by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015). On page 14 of the PPW 10 it states:

"Placemaking in development decisions happens at all levels and involves considerations at a global scale, including climate change, down to the very local level, such as considering the amenity impact on neighbouring properties and people".





- 7.2.3. Placemaking is a key term in PPW and refers to a holistic approach to planning and design of places. The provision of waste facilities is an important aspect of our everyday life and maintaining the wellbeing of communities. Page 39 notes there must be adequate and efficient infrastructure including waste management services. Page 83 notes that waste sectors are essential to the economy but sensitive to planning policy in terms of economic land uses. Page 102 explains that the benefits that can be derived from proposals for waste management facilities must protect the amenity of residents and local people.
- 7.2.4. Figure 3 on page 18 of PPW refers to the key planning principles, socio-economic related principles interpreted against the proposed Buttington ERF are shown in Table 7-1.

Key Planning Principles	Proposed Buttington ERF		
Growing our economy in a sustainable manner	The socio-economic assessment includes consideration of supply chain and employment impacts associated with the development		
Facilitating accessible and healthy environments	The ES includes a health impact assessment and accessibility has been included within the socio-economic assessment		
Creating and sustaining communities	Identification of communities and potential impact have been considered within the socio-economic assessment		

Table 7-1: PPW Key Planning Principles & Socio-Economic Assessment

- 7.2.5. The social factors (PPW page 24) for the assessment process include a requirement to consider:
 - who the interested and affected people and communities are;
 - who will benefit and suffer any impacts from the proposal; and
 - what are the short and long-term consequences of the proposal on a community?
- 7.2.6. The economic considerations include:
 - the numbers and types of long term jobs expected to be created or retained; and
 - how the proposal would support the achievement of a more prosperous, low carbon, innovative and resource efficient Wales.
- 7.2.7. Page 76 of PPW refers to the need for proximity principle considerations for waste issues with provision to minimise the need for transportation.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act "

7.2.8. This is an Act of the National Assembly of Wales to make provision requiring public bodies to do things in pursuit of the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It has been derived following the Social Value Act 2012 that required public authorities to have regard to economic, social and environmental well-being in connection with public services contracts and for connected purposes. The well-being goals are listed as shown in Figure 7-1.

Figure 7-1: Well-Being Goals







7.2.9. The ES for the proposed Buttington ERF includes a health impact assessment ("HIA") that has investigated well-being concerns in more depth, for further explanation please refer to Technical Appendix 15-1 and Chapter 15 of the ES (Overall Health Impact).

Technical Advice Notes

7.2.10. Each of the Technical Advice Notes ("TANs") provides detailed planning advice on a different subject. The ones of relevance for the socio-economic assessment for a waste related development are summarised in Table 7-2. They may be material to decisions on individual planning applications.





Table 7-2: Technical Advice Notes (TANs) and Socio-Economic Considerations of theButtington ERF

Reference	Requirement	Buttington ERF Consideration
Technical A	dvice Note (TAN) 8: Renewable Energy (30 July 2005)"	l
Page 10	Energy from Waste is deemed that some are "renewable" but with priority on seeing the amount of waste reduced with the energy recovery after recycling and composting.	The waste levels proposed take into account need requirement set out in Chapter 3 (Need and Alternatives) and the ERF maximises energy recovery
Page 53	A plant to recover energy from waste is acceptable if it forms part of an integrated approach with recycling and composting, there is a clear need, it represents Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) and includes combined heat and power wherever practicable.	The waste levels proposed take into account need requirement set out in Chapter 3 (Need and Alternatives), the ERF maximises energy recovery, is CHP ready and Chapter 3 demonstrates that it is the BPEO
Technical A	dvice Note (TAN) 13: Tourism (1997) ^{IV}	
Whole document	Relates to tourism development	The development will not directly affect tourism developments but consideration of their proximity is included in the assessment.
Technical A	dvice Note (TAN) 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Spac	
Page 9	The note includes a need for provision of sport, recreation and open space within set distances per 1,000 population (e.g. see page 9)	The development will not directly affect any sport, recreation or open space areas.
Page 24	Public rights of way should be protected, and information about them, shown on Definitive Maps and statements should be considered when assessing applications for planning permission.	Rights of way have been included in the baseline and impact assessment. Rights of Way officers have also been contacted for their feedback on nearby receptors.
Technical A	dvice Note (TAN) 21: Waste (2014) ^{vi}	
Page 10	The extent to which a proposal demonstrates the contribution in environmental, economic and social terms will be a material planning consideration.	The socio-economic assessment is completed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Development.





Table7-2: Technical Advice Notes (TANs) and Socio-Economic Considerations of the Buttington ERF (cont)

Reference	Requirement	Buttington ERF Consideration		
Page 10	The aim is to ensure that the right facilities are located in the right place to meet environmental, economic and social needseconomic considerations relating to demand and viability may affect what management options can be acceptably brought forward in an area.	The need for the facility has been covered in the Waste Planning Statement		
Page 10	There are clear environmental, economic and social benefits associated with managing waste as a resource and optimising efficiency of waste material. The expanding waste management sector can offer job and training opportunities and safeguard existing jobsthe creation of new infrastructure and jobs can support and regenerate local communities through skills enhancement and increased local expenditure.	The socio-economic assessment includes consideration of employment, supply chain requirements and expenditure.		
Page 24	The most appropriate locations of new waste management facilities will be those with the least adverse impacts on the local population and environment.	These issues have been explored in this socio- economic assessment		
Technical A	dvice Note (TAN) 21: Waste (2014) (cont)			
Annex C	There are a number of planning considerations that are relevant for all waste management facilities and include: No8: Providing employment opportunities and support jobs and skills; No9: Minimising adverse effects on residential property.	These issues have been explored in this socio- economic assessment		
Technical Advice Note (TAN) 23: Economic Development (2014) ^{VII}				
Para.2.1.9	States that jobs accommodated will be a key consideration for planning applications	These issues have been explored in this socio- economic assessment		
Para 3.1.6	Allocated sites should be given priority, but development on unallocated sites could be permitted if the resulting benefits outweigh any adverse impacts of the development.	The site is allocated for employment purposes		

Powys Planning Policy

- 7.2.11. The socio-economic assessment has been considered from the context of the local planning policies for Shropshire as demonstrated from a socio-economic perspective in Table 7-3. In addition, Figure 7-9 in Technical Appendix 7-1 includes the proposals map from the Local Development Plan with allocations for the site and surrounding area that include:
 - Minerals Permitted Working Area (M1);
 - Employment Allocation (SP2, SP6, DM16 and E1) these policies are included in Table 14-3;





- Sand and Gravel Category 1 resource safeguarding area (SP7, DM8);
- Minerals: Permitted Working Area Buffer Zone (M1, DM9); and
- Sand and Gravel Category 2 resource safeguarding area (SP7, DM8).

Ref	Requirement	Buttington ERF Considera tion
Powys Loca	l Development Plan (2011 to 2026) ^{viii}	
Page 26	LDP Objective 6 – Vibrant Economy, to support a diverse, robust and vibrant economy for Powyswhich is sustainable and responsive to change.	The addition of a waste treatment facility is in keeping with the proximity principle and will support Powys and its economy in the future.
Page 36	Strategic Policy SP2 – Employment Growth To meet employment needs over the Plan period 2011-2026, and to maximise the opportunities presented by Local Growth Zones and other regeneration initiatives, the LDP identifies 45 hectares of land for employment purposes. Land for the provision of 39 hectares of new B1, B2 and B8 employment development and 6 hectares of employment land within mixed use sites is allocated in accordance with policies E1 and E3.	Employment considered as part of the socio-economic assessment, the land allocation has also been included in the analysis
Site Allocation	 Employment Allocation (SP2, SP6, DM16,E1) Strategic Policy SP2 – Employment Growth To meet employment needs over the Plan period 2011-2026, and to maximise the opportunities presented by Local Growth Zones and other regeneration initiatives, the LDP identifies 45 hectares of land for employment purposes. Land for the provision of 39 hectares of new B1, B2 and B8 employment development and 6 hectares of employment land Strategic Policy SP6 – Distribution of Growth across the Settlement Hierarchy Buttington Quarry and Brickworks – For B1, B2, B8 and other appropriate economic uses Policy DM16 - Protection of Existing Employment Sites Proposals for the use of existing employment sites for alternative uses will be permitted where: 1. It can be demonstrated that the land and premises are no longer required for employment purposes; 2. The proposal would not lead to an under provision of employment land or premises in the sub / local area; or 	Site allocation included in assessment

Table 7-3: Local Planning Policies and the Socio-Economic Assessment

Table 7-4: Local Planning Policies and the Socio-Economic Assessment





Ref	Requirement	Buttington ERF Consideration
Powys Loca	I Development Plan (2011 to 2026) ^{IX}	-
Site Allocation	 3. Prejudice the existing or future operational use of surrounding employment sites and premises. Sites safeguarded for employment use are identified by Policy E4. Policy E1 - Employment Proposals on Allocated Employment Sites Proposals for B1, B2 and B8 employment development will be permitted on the following allocated employment sites where they comply with the category of the site and permitted uses of the site: Buttington Quarry 8ha of employment development area (site allocation ref. no.P59 EA1) 	Site allocation included in assessment
Planning Ob	oligations (Adopted October 2018) [SPG] ^x	
Page 8	Planning obligations are most likely to be sought for "major" development [including waste development] provided the impacts of the development are significant and can be readily identified and assessed.	Socio- economic assessmen t has included significanc e to allow any potential planning obligations to be considered
Rights of W	ay Improvement Plan (2007)	
Paragraph 7.1(i)	Highlights how planning can have a negative impact on the rights of way network if countryside access is not taken properly into account. To try and tackle this issue Development and Public Rights of Way: A Practitioners Guide (2007)" was published. However the document highlights a need for a close working relationship between planning and countryside services.	Rights of Way have been considered within the socio- economic assessmen t

7.2.12. In relation to the Development site, the Local Development Plan states: *"Brownfield site, partly in employment use, allocated for further expansion for General Industrial Uses. Expansion dependant on new access (extant p.p.). Heritage/Ecology Value. The site is adjacent to a geological SSSI, the design of development must be sympathetic to the SSSI so that the protected area is not significantly affected. Development proposals should be identified through the preparation of a development brief that takes account of all issues including constraints. *Project level HRA screening required - Montgomery Canal SAC (hydrological connections). Buttington Brickworks SSSI. The site contains significant industrial remains as regards the sites of railway*





related features and development here may require prior archaeological intervention and possibly post consent works (consult and involve CPAT)."

7.2.13. The ES includes chapters covering ecological effect and other technical assessments to support the use of the brownfield site for employment use, taking into account the site constraints listed in the LDP.

Shropshire Planning Policy

7.2.14. The socio-economic assessment has been considered from the context of the local planning policies for Shropshire as demonstrated from a socio-economic perspective in Table 7-4. The inclusion of Shropshire planning policy is due to parts of the County being included in the 5km zone around the site (the distance from the study zone means these issues have not directly been assessed for relevance to the Development in socio-economic terms).

Reference	Requirement			
Shropshire Core Strategy DPD (2011) ^{XI}				
1.3	A sustainable place has sufficient social, economic and environmental infrastructure to meet the needs of its current population			
Policy CS3	The Market Towns and other Key Centres will maintain and enhance their roles in providing facilities and services to their rural hinterlandssupported by improvements in infrastructure			
Policy CS8	The development of sustainable places in Shropshire will be assisted byworking closely with network providers to ensure provision of necessary energy distribution networks			
Shropshire Su	istainable Community Strategy 2010-2020 ^{xII}			
Priority 1	Three priorities have been identified within the strategy the first of which is "Enterprise and growth, with strong market towns and rebalanced rural settlements"			
Economic Growth Strategy for Shropshire 2017-2021 ^{xIII}				
Page 9	Having readily available serviced employment sites in the right locations is key to our growth strategy and fundamental to increasing our economic productivity.			

7.3. The Existing Environment

Environmental Assessment Boundary

7.3.1. In the socio-economic context receptors are individuals, organisation or groups who are users or beneficiaries of socio-economic resources (community facilities, businesses, PRoWs etc). Therefore, defining the spatial scope can be complex. This is because of the need to consider individuals at a variety of distances from the Development that may be affected due to potential effects (such as economic effect) that are not confined to certain boundaries. Socio-economic effects can occur both as a result of direct interaction with features, such as severance of a PRoW during construction and indirectly, such as changing





demands for certain products or waste disposal services.

- 7.3.2. The study area is separated into two categories for the purposes of this assessment comprising a:
 - Local Study Area (LSA); and
 - Wider Study Area (WSA).

Local Study Area

- 7.3.3. This is defined as the planning application boundary plus a buffer zone of approximately 5km around the boundary. Please note: this includes areas of Powys and Shropshire Council administrative boundaries; however, the Shropshire areas do not include any viewpoints or sensitive receptors in socio-economic terms because of their distance from the site and so Shropshire super-output areas ("SOAs") have not been included in baseline data collection.
- 7.3.4. The need to have data available at a fairly detailed level means that SOAs have been used as the basis of the geographic boundary for the local zone associated with the socioeconomic assessment work. SOAs are a set of geographic areas developed to produce a set of areas of consistent size, whose boundaries would not change (unlike electoral wards). The SOAs used for this study were typically established to have a population of 1,500 persons (over time this has typically increased). SOAs for the proposed Buttington ERF are shown in Map 7-4c (see Technical Appendix 7-1) and include^{XIV}:
 - Powys 002B (Llandrinio W01000457);
 - Powys 003C (Welshpool Gungrog 2 W01000500);
 - Powys 005D (Trewern W01000497);
 - Powys 003D (Welshpool Llanerchyddol W01000501); and
 - Powys 003B (Welshpool Gungrog 1 W01000499).
- 7.3.5. The coverage has been confirmed with the landscape and noise assessment teams to ensure it includes any potential viewpoints where sensitive socio-economic receptors may occur. Shropshire 014E and Shropshire 030E on the eastern side of the 5km boundary were not included because they were small proportions of the overall SOAs included in the LSA and no viewpoints or receptors were identified in those areas (see Map 7-4b in Technical Appendix 7-1).

Wider Study Area (WSA)

7.3.6. The WSA is the study area within which most socio-economic effects are most likely to occur. This area of study is required for certain receptor groups because the majority of the business and labour market effects that may occur would be at the administrative boundary of the county of Powys and extended nationally where relevant.





Baseline Conditions

7.3.7. The aim of the baseline is to provide an initial understanding of the existing socio-economic features and conditions to assist in the identification of effects (both positive and negative).

Population

- 7.3.8. Powys is the largest county in Wales with sparse population and a highly rural context. The main centres of population within the vicinity of the Development are highlighted in Map 7-4a and larger settlements include^{XV}:
 - Middletown;
 - Trewern;
 - Buttington;
 - Welshpool*; and
 - Leighton*.
 *The entirety of the settlement is not included in the 5km zone.
- 7.3.9. Table 7-5 presents the breakdown of the population within the LSA (using the SOAs) listed with regional statistics for Powys and nationally for Wales. This is based on mid-year estimates for 2018. The SOAs of the LSA have a total of 8,616 persons.

	•		-		
Area	Name (SOA)	Aged 0 to 15	Aged 16 to 64	Aged 65 and over	Population total
Wales		562,709	1,923,929	651,993	3,138,631
Powys		21,198	75,474	35,775	132,447
Powys 002B	Llandrinio	359	1,213	526	2,098
Powys 003C	Welshpool Gungrog 2	243	938	329	1,510
Powys 005D	Trewern	216	747	354	1,317
Powys 003D	Welshpool Llanerchyddol	386	1352	690	2,428
Powys 003B	Welshpool Gungrog 1	213	778	272	1,263
Total SOA population		1,417	5,028	2,171	8,616

Table 7-6: Population Breakdown of LSA, Powys and Wales^{XVI}

7.3.10. The total population in the SOAs is presented in Figure 7-2.







Figure 7-2: Total Population in SOAs of LSA (no. of persons)

7.3.11. In terms of population within the LSA the average is 1,723.2 persons, which is approximately equivalent to Welsh average numbers for all SOAs. Population density provides a measure of the number of people living in an area. It is higher in urban areas, and lower in rural areas. Table 7-6 shows the population per square kilometre^{XVII} based on the mid-year estimates of 2018.

Area	Name (SOA)	Mid-2018 population	Area Sq Km	People per Sq Km
Powys		132,447	66*	367*
Powys 002B	Llandrinio	2,098	44.08	48
Powys 003C	Welshpool Gungrog 2	1,510	12.24	123
Powys 005D	Trewern	1,317	32.14	41
Powys 003D	Welshpool Llanerchyddol	2,428	6.97	349
Powys 003B	Welshpool Gungrog 1	1,263	1.84	685
Total and avera	ge SOA population	8,616	19.45*	249.04*

Table 7-7: Population Per Square Kilometre of LSA and Powys^{XVIII}

<u>Note to Table</u>

*Average data for Powys Local Authority area and SOA

- 7.3.12. The greatest population density is in Welshpool with the average for all the SOAs being less than the Powys Local Authority average. The average people per square kilometre for all local authorities in England and Wales are 4,393 persons. The average for the SOAs at 294 persons is well below average; the area is therefore considered rural. It is important to note that in areas such as Powys there can be tourist accommodation such as caravan parks that my affect population density (more likely to have an effect in summer months); this is partly why tourism and locations can be important to identify and consider.
- 7.3.13. The age distribution is shown in Figure 7-3. The age structure of a population indicates both the current and strategic (future) requirements of an area. A younger population, for example, may require additional access to schools, safe recreation play facilities and the development of future employment opportunities; while aging populations are likely to require a greater focus on health care, living support, accessibility and social networks.







Figure 7-3: Age Distribution of SOAs (no. of persons)

7.3.14. The age data for the SOAs have a distribution that is in keeping with Powys and Wales as a whole. When compared to the average data for Powys and Wales the individual SOAs are less that reinforces the rural nature of the area.

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

- 7.3.15. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation ("WIMD") is the Welsh Government's official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. The data presented is from 2014 and ranks the SOAs from 1 (most deprived) to 1,909 (least deprived).
- 7.3.16. Table 7-7 includes the WIMD data for the SOAs.





	MIMD	Income	Employment	Health	Education	Access to Services	Community Safety	Physical Environment	Housing
Llandrinio	1376	1616	1741	1840	1585	72	1744	519	1159
Welshpool Gungrog 2	1140	1059	1154	1310	1061	382	1531	669	1128
Trewern	1250	1533	1603	1780	1157	51	1788	1530	621
Welshpool Llanerchyddol	1172	1071	1097	1271	779	1473	808	958	479
Welshpool Gungrog 1	561	748	758	295	727	1281	547	187	110

Table 7-8: Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation for the SOAs^{XIX}

7.3.17. Any area that scores less than 100 (so the SOA is in the 100 most deprived of Wales) the data has been highlighted in **bold**. These are small places that are distant from larger population centres where it might be expected to have issues with access to services simply due to geography; this is the metric that is highlighted by the WIMD for the SOAs.

Education Levels

7.3.18. Education is an important socio-economic factor and influences a range of issues such as lifestyle, employment prospects, income, quality of housing and healthcare. Figure 7-4 shows the key stage average scores for all the SOAs and the averages for Powys and Wales. The data shows there is a similarity in education levels to national and regional averages. Figure 7-5 displays the education levels (as a percentage) for the SOAs compared to Powys and Wales averages. The data shows a similarity to national and regional averages with Llandrinio performing well in terms of low levels of repeat absenteeism, a high proportion of leavers entering higher education and low levels of adults with no qualifications. All areas are higher than the country average for those entering higher education.







Figure 7-4: Education – Average Point Score (2019 data)^{xx}

Figure 7-5: Education Levels for SOAs Compared to Powys and Wales Averages







Employment and Income

7.3.19. Data on employment is included in Table 7-8 and shows that 76.1% of persons are in employment in Powys Local Authority area, which is greater than the Welsh average (73.2%) and average for Great Britain (75.8%).

	Powys (numbers)	Powys (%)	Wales (%)	Great Britain (%)
Economically active	63,900	78.5	76.4	78.9
In employment	62,000	76.1	73.2	75.8
Employees	44,800	58.1	63.1	64.6
Self employed	16,200	17.1	9.6	10.9

7.3.20. The greatest proportion of employees are in the human health and social work (14.9%), which is less than the national average (16.9%) and wholesale and retail trade (14.9%) that is more than the national average (14%). Manufacturing employment is 12.8% that is above the national average at 11.4%. Construction is below the national average at 4.8% compared to 5.1%, which is an important consideration for the employment requirements during the construction phase of the Development. Table 7-9 provides the full breakdown of employee jobs for 2018 (excluding farm-based agriculture), demonstrated in Figure 7-6.

	Powys (numbers)	Powys (%)	Wales (%)	Great Britain (%)
Total employee jobs	47,000	-	-	-
Full-time	29,000	61.7	64.5	67.6
Part-time	18,000	38.3	35.4	32.4
Employee Jobs By Industry				
B : Mining and quarrying	150	0.3	0.1	0.2
C : Manufacturing	6,000	12.8	11.4	8.1
D : Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	100	0.2	0.6	0.5
E : Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	350	0.7	1	0.7
F : Construction	2,250	4.8	5.1	4.7
G : Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	7,000	14.9	14	15.2

Table 7-10: Employee Jobs (2018)^{XXII}





	Powys (numbers)	Powys (%)	Wales (%)	Great Britain (%)
H : Transportation and storage	2,000	4.3	3.3	4.8
I : Accommodation and food service activities	4,500	9.6	8	7.6
J : Information and communication	600	1.3	2.1	4.2
K : Financial and insurance activities	400	0.9	2.6	3.5
L : Real estate activities	500	1.1	1.6	1.7
M : Professional, scientific and technical activities	3,500	7.4	5.6	8.7
N : Administrative and support service activities	2,500	5.3	6.9	9.1
O : Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	3,500	7.4	7.1	4.3
P : Education	4,000	8.5	9.1	8.9
Q : Human health and social work activities	7,000	14.9	16.9	13.2
R : Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,500	3.2	2.4	2.5
S : Other service activities	900	1.9	1.8	2

Table 7-9: Employee Jobs (2018)^{XXI} (cont)

Figure 7-6: Powys Local Authority Employee Jobs (2018) shown in Percentage (%)^{XXI}







7.3.21. The gross weekly pay for full-time workers in Powys is £507.70, which is less than the national average in Wales that is £535.00^{XXI}.

Business

7.3.22. The business count 2019 data is included in Table 7-10. The table presents analysis of businesses at both Enterprise and Local Unit level. An Enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units (generally based on VAT and/or PAYE records) that has a certain degree of autonomy within an Enterprise Group. An individual site (for example a factory or shop) in an enterprise is called a local unit.

	Powys (numbers)	Powys (%)	Wales (numbers)	Wales (%)
Enterprises				
Micro (0 to 9)	8,095	93	94,620	89.3
Small (10 to 49)	530	6.1	9,600	9.1
Medium (50 to 249)	65	0.7	1,475	1.4
Large (250+)	10	0.1	320	0.3
Total	8,700	-	106,015	-
Local units				
Micro (0 to 9)	8,700	89.6	107,115	83.2
Small (10 to 49)	865	8.9	17,820	13.8
Medium (50 to 249)	130	1.3	3,310	2.6
Large (250+)	10	0.1	505	0.4
Total	9,705	-	128,745	-

Table 7-11: UK Business Counts (2	2019) ^{xxIII}
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7.3.23. The micro size for enterprises and local units are the most substantial section and greater than the national average.

Tourism

- 7.3.24. As part of the Local Development Plan, Powys Local Authority has produced a topic paper on tourism issues^{XXIV} (2015). Tourism is noted as a substantial sector of the Region's economy with a Wales Visitor Survey conducted in 2013 concluding that visitors (predominantly day visitors) to Powys tend to have very high overall trip satisfaction with quality of the natural environment and landscapes being a key tourism draw. The Montgomery Canal is noted as offering a major tourism opportunity.
- 7.3.25. There were 6.14 million tourism day trips made to Powys in 2012. This figure represents 6% of all tourism day trips in Wales. Generally, the distribution of day trips reflects that of the population but the population of Powys is only around 4% of the Welsh population emphasising the scale of the market in the County. Powys is ranked 5th out of 22 local





authorities in Wales for the number of tourism day trips. Many of the day visitors to Powys will be residents from, and people on holidays in surrounding counties and metropolitan areas including Cardiff and Swansea. Based on the regional data available, around one third of tourism day trips are from the local area. The average spend per day trip in Powys is £36, above the average for Mid Wales (£28) but slightly less than the Welsh average of £38.

7.3.26. Tourism attractions and distance to the Development (based on driving) are given in Table 7-11. Those closest to the Development are highlighted in **bold**.

Table 7-12.1 Owy3 1001	Sin Attractions	
Tourist Attraction	Visitor numbers (2012)	Distance to Proposed Buttington ERF
The towns of Brecon, Hay, Llanwrtyd, Builth	N/a	More than 80 km
The National Park including Pen y Fan, Waterfall Country, Black Mts	4,000,000	More than 80 km
Brecon Beacons National Park Visitor Centre	130,000	More than 80 km
Brecon Cathedral and Heritage Centre	120,000	More than 80 km
Brecon Mountain Railway	71,000	More than 80 km
Dan yr Ogof Showcaves	69,000	More than 80 km
Brecknock Museum and Art Gallery	16,823	More than 80 km
Tretower Court and Castle	16,234	More than 80 km
The towns of Montgomery, Welshpool and Machynlleth N/a	N/a	Montgomery 16 km Welshpool 6 km Machynlleth 64 km
Lake Vyrnwy	250,000 est	42 km
Powis Castle and Garden	115,464	11 km
Welshpool & Llanfair Railway	30,000 est	20 km
Museum of Modern Art, Machynlleth	22,317	67 km
The towns of Llandrindod Wells, Knighton and Presteigne	N/a	Llandrindod Wells 69 km Knighton 51 km Preseigne 61 km
Elan Valley Visitor Centre	134,614	77 km
Judge's Lodging, Presteigne	9,687	61 km

Table 7-12: Powys Tourism Attractions^{xxv}

Leisure and Recreation Resources

- 7.3.27. Powys Local Authority produced a topic paper on Leisure and Recreation in 2015^{XXVI}. The paper covers lifestyle statistics, walking and cycling, common land and village greens, allotments, plat areas and open spaces, leisure centres, arts and cultural facilities. In Powys there are over 12,000 individual rights of way, including those in the Brecon Beacons National Park that equates to 9,244.1 km. Within the rights of way network 64% are footpaths; whilst 28% are bridleways^{XXV}.
- 7.3.28. Powys has two national trails, the Offa's Dyke Path and Glyndwr's Way. The Offa's Dyke path is 285 km (177 miles) long, of which 72 km (45 miles) falls within the county of Powys.





It passes through eight different counties crossing the English / Welsh border a total of 20 times. The route links the Sedbury Cliffs near Chepstow to the Coastal town of Prestatyn.

- 7.3.29. The Glyndwr's Way national trail is wholly within Powys and is 217km (135 miles) long. The route starts in Knighton and runs in a giant horseshoe across to Machynlleth and back again to Welshpool.
- 7.3.30. In addition to the two national trails Powys has several regionally important promoted trails these include the Wye Valley Walk, Severn Way, Ann Griffiths Walk, Kerry Ridgeway, Pererindod Melangell and the Epynt Way.
- 7.3.31. The footpaths within the 5km LSA are shown on Map 7-6a in Technical Appendix 7-1. It shows Footpath B39 as being in close proximity; this footpath was subject to a diversion in 1999, the amended route is shown in Figure 7-7. The original route is shown by the solid line, the amended by the dotted line, this Figure included to demonstrate a re-route away from crossing the development site.



Figure 7-7: Confirmation of Route Change of Footpath B39





7.3.32. The Public Rights of Way officers for Powys and Shropshire were contacted for their comments. They were emailed on the 22nd April 2020 and no response had been received by 11th September 2020.

Socio-Economic Receptors Within LSA

7.3.33. The potential socio-economic receptors within the LSA are listed in Table 7-12. These have been identified through internet and google map searches. The distance to Development is based on driving so up to 10km has been considered to ensure a fit that incorporates the 5km zone from the development.

Potential	Distance	200		Receptor Class			
Receptor	to ERF	Description	Noise	Land- scape	Air		
Tourism Location	ons						
Plas Cefn Court Self Catering Cottages	<2km	Self-catering holiday cottage provision, located at SY21 8SX, limited online reviews/ information available	~	-	✓		
Leighton Arches Caravan Site	6km	Traveller site owned and managed by Powys County Council	-	-	-		
Severn Lodge	6km	A Grade II Listed Building (CADW)	-	-	-		
Bank Farm Caravans	3km	Caravan site set in 7 acres with woodland walks, the site has 36 privately owned static caravans and 48 touring pitches (see: https://www.bankfarmcaravans.co.uk/)	-	-	-		
Moors Farm Bed & Breakfast	4km	Bed & breakfast accommodation plus cottage (see: http://www.moors- farm.com/) the main B&B has 6 bedrooms	-	-	-		
Derwen Mill Holiday Park Limited	10km	Within 17 acres a holiday home park, more information available at: https://derwenmill.co.uk/	-	-	-		
Powis Castle	9.2km	Welsh Castle & Gardens owned by the National Trust, more information at: https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/powis- castle-and-garden	-	✓	-		
Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway	5km	The Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway (W&LLR) (Welsh: Rheilffordd y Trallwng a Llanfair Caereinion) is a 2 ft 6 in (762 mm) narrow gauge heritage railway in Powys, Wales. The line is around 8.5 miles (13.7 km) long and runs westwards from the town of Welshpool	-	-	-		

Table 7-13: Socio-Economic Receptors Within LSA





Potential	Distance		Rec	eptor Cla	ss
Receptor	to ERF	Description		Land- scape	Air
Community Fac	ilities				
Welshpool Railway Station	5km	Welshpool railway station on the Cambrian Line in Powys, mid-Wales, serves the town of Welshpool. Trains run from here westwards to Machynlleth and then either Aberystwyth or Pwllheli via Barmouth (most trains convey a portion for both routes) and eastwards to Shrewsbury & Birmingham International.	-	-	-
Welshpool Household Waste Recycling Centre	6km	Welshpool tip is owned and operated by Powys County Council. The site is closed on Mondays & Tuesdays	-	-	-
Welshpool Airport, Mid Wales Airport	9km	Welshpool Mid Wales Airport is located 8.9km (driving) from the proposed ERF; it has a 1020 metre runway and a helipad.	-	-	-
Schools					
Welshpool High School	5.5km	High school and sixth form (http://www.welshpool-hs.powys.sch.uk/)	-	-	-
Gungrog C in W Nursery and Infant School	5.4km	State funded school in Powys	-	-	-
Leighton CP School	5.5km	State funded primary school (http://www.leighton.powys.sch.uk/?page _id=60⟨=en_GB)	-	-	-
Buttington Trewern County Primary School	<1km	State funded primary school (http://www.trewern.powys.sch.uk/)	-	-	~
Food and Drink					
The Green Dragon, Buttington	2.7km	Pub, restaurant and camping provision, more details at: http://greendragonbuttington.com/	-	-	-
The Breidden	4km	Chinese Restaurant and Pub, more details at: http://www.thebreidden.co.uk/ provision of take away and eat in menus, Chinese and English dishes	-	-	-
Tuffins, Buttington (SY21 8SL)	4.1km	Groceries and petrol station (see: http://www.tuffinsonline.co.uk/about- tuffins/5c1f757154331/Welshpool-Store)	-	-	-

Table 7-12: Socio-Economic Receptors Within LSA (cont)





Deterstal	Distance		Reco	eptor Cla	ss
Potential Receptor	Distance to ERF	Description	Noise	Land- scape	Air
Welshpool High Street & surrounding	6.5km	Outside the 5km zone but includes a number of food and drink establishments including Gregg's, Sainsbury's Morrisons and Tesco superstores	-	-	-
Recreation Are	as				
The Flash Leisure Centre	5.1km	Gym, coffee shop, swimming pool and fitness classes	-	-	-
Offa's Dyke Path	6km	Offa's Dyke Path is a 177 mile (285 Km) long walking trail. It is named after, and often follows, the spectacular Dyke King Offa ordered to be constructed in the 8th century, probably to divide his Kingdom of Mercia from rival kingdoms in what is now Wales. The Trail, which was opened in the summer of 1971, links Sedbury Cliffs near Chepstow on the banks of the Severn estuary with the coastal town of Prestatyn on the shores of the Irish sea. It passes through no less than eight different counties and crosses the border between England and Wales over 20 times. See: https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/tr ails/offas-dyke-path/	-	•	_
Montgomery Canal		The canal is one of the most important canals in the country for nature, much of it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and the Welsh section is of international importance, designated a Special Area of Conservation for its aquatic plants. See: https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy- the-waterways/canal-and-river- network/montgomery-canal The River Severn is the longest river in the	-	-	✓
River Severn		United Kingdom, at about 354 kilometres (220 miles) and the second longest in the British Isles, behind the River Shannon. It rises at an altitude of 610 metres (2,001 ft) on Plynlimon, Ceredigion near Llanidloes, Powys, in the Cambrian Mountains of mid Wales. It then flows through Shropshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, with the county towns of Shrewsbury, Worcester, and Gloucester.	-	1	-

Table 7-12: Socio-Economic Receptors Within LSA (cont)





Potential	Distance		Rec	eptor Clas	SS
Receptor	to ERF	Description	Noise	Land- scape	Air
Glyndwrs Way		Meandering through 135 miles (217 Km) of stunning Welsh countryside Glyndŵr's Way offers peace and quiet as you explore open moorland, rolling farmland, woodland and forests. Starting in Knighton and ending in Welshpool, the Trail is named after Owain Glyndŵr, Prince of Wales and Medieval Welsh nationalist leader who organised a rebellion against the English king, Henry IV in 1400. See: https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/tr ails/glyndwrs-way/trail-information/	-	-	-
Long Mountain: Beacon King	7km	About Long Mountain – Beacon Ring Long Mountain – Beacon Ring is a summit in the Mid Wales region or range in Wales, United Kingdom of Great Britain. Long Mountain – Beacon Ring is 408 metres high.	-	-	-
Moel y Golfa	3.5km	Moel y Golfa is a summit in the Mid Wales region or range in Wales, United Kingdom of Great Britain. Moel y Golfa is 403 metres high. All the walking routes up Moel y Golfa on Mud and Routes can be found below. The top can be identified by the rock on knoll 20m NNE of memorial	-	-	V
Businesses					
Technocover Limited	7km	See: https://www.technocover.co.uk/	-	-	-
CastAlum	4.2km	Castalum is a privately owned Company operating out of Welshpool and with good links to UK major cities and ports. We produce cast and machined High Pressure and Squeeze Cast parts largely for the Automotive industry. See: http://castalum.com/	-	-	-
Morland Profiles Limited	6.5km	Morland, part of Newmor Group Ltd, has been operating since 1972 and has established itself as a major UK manufacturer of pre-finished fit out products. See: www.morlanduk.com	-	-	-

Table 7-12: Socio-Economic Receptors Within LSA (cont)





Potential	Distance		Rece	ptor Clas	S
Receptor	to ERF	Description	Noise	Land- scape	Air
Buttington Cross Enterprise Park	4km	Various commercial properties	-	-	-
K and C Yarwood	1.5km	Ice cream event specialists See: http://www.kandcyarwood.co.uk/	-	-	-
Didim Penthouse Apartment	6km	Business address for rental of an apartment in Turkey	-	-	-

Stakeholders and Primary Issue Identification

7.3.34. A number of stakeholders have been identified, as shown in Figure 7-8. The arrows highlight links that are present between the different groups. This stakeholder exercise will feed into the ISO14000 registration that is planned for the site when the Development is operational. This activity fits with the need to identify "Interested Parties" and fits with the policy requirements of Powys.









- 7.3.35. A number of stakeholders were contacted as part of the socio-economic assessment including Welshpool Airport, the telescope at Knockin and the Rights of Way Officers for Powys and Shropshire. No responses were received from those contacted, in addition, no consultation responses were highlighted to the socio-economic assessor as being a potential issue for consideration.
- 7.3.36. The areas of most likely concern were considered for the Development based on the stakeholder map that resulted in the socio-economic assessment study areas:
 - employment generation: direct and indirect;
 - supply chain impact: on a local and national basis;
 - recreation access: residential properties and traffic issues, Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and recreation activities;
 - landscape and visual effect: the effect of landscape and visual impact from a socioeconomic perspective; and
 - tourism: visitors to the area that may stay or visit areas within proximity to the proposed ERF.

Impact on Property Prices

- 7.3.37. Impact on property price is not a material consideration related to planning permission decisions. However, it is acknowledged that this could be a consideration for a substantial number of socio-economic receptors despite it not being included in the assessment [and it was referred to in TAN 21 (Waste) in terms of minimising adverse effects on residential property].
- 7.3.38. An important point is that any effect on house prices that could be caused by proximity to an ERF would more than likely already be felt by the presence of the quarry. There is a great deal of uncertainty in the interpretation of house price effects in available literature; particularly in a rural context with minimal properties in proximity. Therefore, the proposals are unlikely to depress house prices. As such the impacts upon property prices have not been included in the assessment.

Likely Future Conditions

- 7.3.39. Likely future conditions if the ERF does not proceed would suggest the quarrying operations may continue for a period of time until the site reaches a flat development platform. This will enable the site to be used for alternative employment purposes as per the local planning policy designation. It is not possible to predict what other business could use the area; perhaps a manufacturing business as there are higher levels of employment in that sector. However, the baseline data for the socio-economic assessment has highlighted that micro size businesses and local units are more likely within the LSA so there is a potential risk of non-use for the site due to its nature being less suitable to local units and small enterprises.
- 7.3.40. It is not expected that any alternative future use of the site would be substantially different to the ERF in terms of workforce numbers or traffic movements so there is unlikely to be a residual socio-economic effect from alternative likely future conditions.

7.4. Environmental Effects Assessment





Assessment Guidance and Methods

7.4.1. The methodology adopted for the socio-economic assessment takes into account feedback following a Scoping Direction Request (dated August 2018) and previous response from Powys CC (dated April 2017) and other representations received as part of ongoing stakeholder engagement. There is no dedicated UK legislation that specifies the detailed scope of socio-economic assessment or that provides appropriate standards and thresholds for determining the significance of impacts. There is however planning policy and best practice guidance of relevance to socio-economic impact assessment in the context of this project, including Social Impact Assessment: Guidance for Assessing and Managing the Social Impacts of Projects^{XXVII}.

Approach to Mitigation

- 7.4.2. The main strategy for minimising adverse environmental effects of the Development has been avoidance through careful planning and design. This has led to the Development that is the subject of this ES and the application for a Development of National Significance.
- 7.4.3. Standard measures to control and manage the construction effects that are associated with the construction of developments of this nature are as set out in the draft Construction Environmental Management Plan ("CEMP").
- 7.4.4. Mitigation measures proposed for significant adverse socio-economic effects are listed where appropriate.

Assumptions and Limitations

- 7.4.5. A number of assumptions and limitations are made in relation to the information presented;
 - the baseline data has been based on the most up-to-date at the time of publication of the ES but the nature of socio-economic data means it is not static;
 - where required, judgement has included consideration of the worst case scenario (precautionary principle) on which to base the assessment; and
 - attempts have been made to contact a number of stakeholders related to socioeconomic issues, they have not responded and therefore as indicated within the text some assessment work has been based on professional judgement.

Socio-Economic Assessment Method

7.4.6. The socio-economic assessment is based on a semi-quantitative comparison of the existing socio-economic conditions in the study area and the conditions likely to prevail during construction, once the Development is operational and during decommissioning. Where relevant, reference is made to other chapters of the ES that cover socio-economic related issues (e.g. landscape and visual assessment). The findings and results of consultation to date have been used to inform the assessment. Analysis is based on information gathered





through a combination of comparison to the existing (with consideration of the future) baseline conditions, consultation feedback and professional experience.

- 7.4.7. An overview of the methodology for this assessment is as follows:
 - **Stage 1**: Study area is identified which is deemed to be appropriate to the scale and location of the Development.
 - Stage 2: Baseline data collection involves a number of sub-tasks. Firstly, a deskbased review of information held within the public domain, such as aerial photography, identification of key socio-economic receptors and stakeholders, collation of data from Census material, local reports, internet sites and local knowledge. The socio-economic baseline includes consideration of population, employment & skills, social infrastructure, business, recreation and tourism resources.
 - **Stage 3**: Identification of potential effects based on the project description and comparison to baseline taking into account receptors.
 - **Stage 4**: Assessment through identification of magnitude of effect against sensitivity rating of receptors, to reveal significance. This combines judgements about the likely size and scale of the potential change, the geographical extent of the area over which it is likely to occur, whether it is direct or indirect, positive, negative or neutral. Scrutiny of other key technical chapters from ES (including noise, landscape and visual and transport) to assess whether there is a socio-economic effect from any potential significant effects they have identified. Only those significant residual effects are considered from other technical chapters. This enables the identification of any combined residual effect that may have an impact on socio-economic receptors and thus require further mitigation specific to this topic to minimise the significance.
 - **Stage 5**: Proposal of appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures if significant adverse effects are identified.
 - **Stage 6**: Identification of residual effects taking into consideration the mitigation measures proposed.
 - **Stage 7**: Cumulative impact assessment in relation to socio-economic effects (as required).
- 7.4.8. The potential impacts identified have been assessed taking into account the current baseline against the likely future conditions. The construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the development have been considered in relation to:
 - Employment generation: direct and indirect;
 - Supply chain impact: on a local and national basis;
 - Recreation access: residential properties and traffic issues, Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and recreation activities;
 - Landscape and visual effect: the effect of landscape and visual impact from a socio-economic perspective; and
 - Tourism: visitors to the area that may stay or visit areas within proximity to the proposed ERF.

Employment Effects

7.4.9. A number of jobs will be provided by the construction, operation and decommissioning of





the Development. Employment created can be measured as direct (those employed by the project itself), indirect (those employed in supplying the inputs to the project), and induced (those employed to provide goods and services to meet consumption demands of additional directly and indirectly employed workers). Where possible an indication of direct employment has been included for construction, operation and decommissioning based on resource requirements for a development of this nature. Multipliers for indirect and induced are not available in this circumstance and so this issue has been considered from a qualitative perspective.

- 7.4.10. The baseline data has highlighted there are less than average numbers of personnel involved with the construction sector in the LSA. There may be a population change during the construction of the proposed facility, either via in-migration from outside the immediate local area on a daily basis to work at the site, or on a weekly basis if contractors need to be sourced from outside of the LSA. However, this will be temporary for the duration of the construction phase only. The existing quarry has low levels of employment at the present time and has limited viability in the long-term. Based on knowledge of similar developments the direct positive impact of the construction of the proposed ERF is that up to approximately 309 construction workers will be required during the construction phase.
- 7.4.11. Employment in the LSA show there are more than average with higher qualifications. Once operational the site is expected to employ 30 FTE with work on a shift basis. Based on average earnings for Powys of £507.70 per week based on 46 weeks of working (to account for holidays and closures) per year would equate to approximately £700,600. The need for technical specialists would mean the employment is unlikely to be restricted to the LSA. The type of jobs required will include:
 - Facility Manager;
 - Maintenance Manager;
 - Environmental & Health and Safety Manager;
 - Weighbridge Clerk;
 - Shift Leaders / Supervisors;
 - Facility Operatives (shift workers); and
 - Administration.
- 7.4.12. The decommissioning phase of the development will not occur for a considerable period of time; it is assumed that decommissioning would require similar numbers of employment to the construction period of up to approximately 309 construction workers.

Supply Chain Effects

- 7.4.13. The Development will create demand for goods and services from firms within the LSA and WSA that could also lead to additional employment. This is more likely during the construction and decommissioning phases. The construction and decommissioning workforces are likely to increase demand on services locally. This is most likely to be observed through increased local expenditure. The proximity to Welshpool would suggest there would be adequate capacity to absorb any additional requirements on resources.
- 7.4.14. There will be some requirements for supply chain materials during operation and these are unlikely to be restricted to the LSA and more likely to be sourced from the WSA. Whilst the





level of spend is likely to be substantial in local terms it will be dissipated over the WSA.

Recreation Access Effects

7.4.15. There are plans to upgrade the road system and an assessment has been completed that is detailed in the Chapter 8 Transport. In terms of PRoW the Powys and Shropshire officers were contacted as part of the assessment process (emailed 22/04/2020) and no response was received. It is understood that during construction, operation and decommissioning there will be no effect or interruption to footpath B39. It is worth noting that if interruption is required there are sufficient alternatives to route available to ensure no residual effect.

Landscape and Visual Effect

7.4.16. Chapter 9 details the landscape and visual assessment chapter. The landscape and visual team have worked closely with the project design team and so there is embedded mitigation included in the Proposed Development design. The landscape background of the area is working to minimise any effects on visual receptors. Of note, is the siting of the ERF building and stack which will be located in the quarry void in the central environs of the Development Site (i.e. at a low level). The screen bunds will be planted with native broadleaved trees and provide screening properties as well as long term neutral or beneficial effects. The selection of cladding colours which is intended to be sympathetic to the landscape setting is an important consideration for landscape and visual receptors as demonstrated by the assessment in Chapter 9. There may be some effect during construction / decommissioning on receptors in proximity but no significant adverse effects have been identified.

Tourism Effect

7.4.17. The introduction of a major build programme could impact on tourism numbers as a result of some preferring not to visit an area where construction work is underway. It could cause an interruption to views / landscape associated with tourist destination points that may have a view of the Development site. During operation it is less likely that there would be an effect on tourism numbers but this effect may occur once decommissioning is underway.

Mitigation

7.4.18. Following the Environmental Effects Assessment of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Development, no negative effects which require mitigation were identified.





The Development Overall

7.4.19. In terms of the socio-economic assessment there are no residual negative socio-economic effects during construction, operation or decommissioning from the Development.

The Development in Combination with Other Developments

7.4.20. The Powys planning portal was explored using the partial postcode of SY21 8S and revealed 104 records for planning, of those 28 were approved and related to applications as listed in Table 7-13. The search area was chosen to ensure residential as well as commercial properties were included in the cumulative assessment process in keeping with a socio-economic perspective. The use of the postcode SY21 8S ensures that the postcode area, district, sub-district and sector have been used as a screening tool. The table includes those listed from the last 5 years (where planning permission could have been granted but activity not yet undertaken).

Application Number	Description	Potential for socio- economic cumulative effect (year of approval)
Ref. No: 20/0976/NMA	Application for a non-material amendment to planning approval 19/1611/FUL in respect of minor alterations to the approved plans	× (2020)
Ref. No: 20/0045/FUL	Erection of a building for use as storage and distribution centre	 ✓ local business but activities are not expected to be affected by proposed ERF (2020)
Ref. No: 19/1938/HH	Erection of an outbuilding (retrospective)	× (2019)
Ref. No: 19/1930/SO	Screening opinion request in relation to the erection of a storage and distribution centre	 ✓ local business but activities are not expected to be affected by proposed ERF (2019)
Ref. No: 19/1533/ADV	Display of various site signage (illuminated and non-illuminated) including 4 no. freestanding signs, 1 no. banner sign, 1 no. digital booth screen & 17 no. dot signs	× (2019)
Ref. No: DIS/2018/0016	Discharge of conditions no. 4 of planning approval P/2017/1073	 ✓ local business but activities are not expected to be affected by proposed ERF (2018)
Ref. No: DIS/2017/0096	Discharge of Conditions no. 4 of P/2016/0637	× (2017)
Ref. No: DIS/2017/0051	Application to discharge planning condition no. 3 attached to planning permission P/2016/0637 (scheme to install the underground tanks)	× (2017)

Table 7-14: Approved Planning Applications in Proximity





Application Number	Description	Potential for socio- economic cumulative effect (year of approval)
Ref. No: DIS/2017/0050	Application to discharge planning condition no. 5 attached to planning permission P/2016/0637 (biosecurity risk assessment)	× (2017)
Ref. No: P/2014/0442	Certificate of lawfulness for an existing use namely use of land and buildings for dog training services and boarding kennels	 ✓ local business but activities are not expected to be affected by proposed ERF (2014) – more than 5 years but included due to proximity of socio- economic receptor
Ref. No: 19/0612/HH	Demolition of existing garage and workshop and erection of new workshop and garage with home office above	× (2019)
Ref. No: 19/0494/OUT	Outline application (with all matters reserved) for erection of a restaurant (class A3 use), formation of vehicular access roadway, parking area and all associated works together with demolition of 1 dwelling and associated buildings	 ✓ local business but activities are not expected to be affected by proposed ERF (2018)
Ref. No: 18/1046/NMA	Application for a Non Material Amendment to planning approval P/2018/0412 in respect of altering the approved plans	× (2018)
Ref. No: 18/0471/OUT	Residential development and all associated works	 ✓ proximity of socio- economic receptor
Ref. No: 18/0436/REM	Section 73 application for variation of condition 2 of planning permission P/2017/1379 relating to changes to approved plans	× (2018)
Ref. No: 18/0225/HH	Erection of single and 2 storey extension to existing dwelling (resubmission)	× (2018)
Ref. No: 18/0216/ADV	ADV: Display of 3 no. illuminated fascia signs	× (2018)
Ref. No: NMA/2018/0032	NMA: Application for non-material amendments to planning permission P/2016/0637 for reinstatement of car washing facility and amendment of roofline to accommodate headroom required by lift	× (2018)
Ref. No: P/2018/0412	Householder: Erection of lean to extension & formation of dormers	× (2018)
Ref. No: NMA/2018/0005	Application for non-material amendments to planning permission P/2017/1379 in relation to fencing, link structure, and adjustments to building	× (2018)
Ref. No: 19/1535/ADV	Display of a freestanding internally illuminated 7m high totem sign	× (2019)
Ref. No: 19/1534/ADV	Display of 8 no. internally illuminated fascia signs	× (2019)

Table 7-13: Approved Planning Applications in Proximity (cont)





Application Number	Description	Potential for socio- economic cumulative effect (year of approval)
Ref. No: 19/1281/HH	Installation of replacement septic tank & soakaway	× (2019)
Ref. No: 19/1027/DIS	Application to discharge conditions 4, 5 and 6 of planning approval 18/0225/HH	× (2019)
Ref. No: 19/0968/HH	Erection of detached garage & roadside wall	× (2019)

Table 7-13: Approved Planning Applications in Proximity (cont)

7.4.21. The approved applications included a number of permissions that are related to socioeconomic activities. There are no plans for large-scale development identified that could require large numbers of workers or place a strain on the public services; therefore, from a socio-economic perspective there are no cumulative effects at this time.

Interactive Effects

7.4.22. Consideration must be given to the interactive effects associated with the Development in terms of the relationship between the various KEAs considered. Likely interactive effects are discussed in Table 7-14.

KEA Interaction	Interactive Effects
Socio-Economic and Ecology	A change in ecology has the potential to impact on use and enjoyment of any designated areas of land nearby to site by the local communities and tourists / visitors to the area. The ecology chapter has considered potential effects on designated land, see Chapter 10.
Socio-Economic and Health Impact Assessment	A Health Impact Assessment has been undertaken, the results of which are discussed in Chapter 15 – Health Impact. This uses the results from the Air Quality chapter to interpret potential effect on human health from the Development together with the effect of the Development overall.
Socio-Economic and Transport	Increased traffic movements have the potential to impact on accessibility and movements of the local community and tourists / visitors. The transport chapter has considered the potential impact on the local road network and assessed whether disruption is likely. See Chapter 8 for more details and assessment.
Socio-Economic and Landscape	A visual effect can result in an effect on the local community and tourists / visitors if it causes a disruption to appearance or enjoyment of an area. Landscape and visual assessment is considered in Chapter 9.

Table 7-15 :	Interactive	Effects on	KFA
	IIIICIALIVE	LITELLS UI	INLA





7.5. Environmental Effects Analysis

- 7.5.1. Following identification of potential effects (stage 3 of socio-economic assessment) a level of significance needs to be assigned to that effect. A three stage approach to the assessment has been adopted:
 - assigning a socio-economic value (or sensitivity of) a resource or receptor;
 - assigning a level of effect (the magnitude); and
 - assigning a level of significance.
- 7.5.2. The first step in assessing the socio-economic effects is to determine the sensitivity of the socio-economic context to the Development. Socio-economic sensitivity requires a judgement to be made about the susceptibility of a community or individuals (receptor(s)) to accept or adapt to changing socio-economic conditions caused by a development. Table 7-15 provides an indication to how the sensitivity is determined. A receptor or resource can experience a socio-economic effect in different ways:
 - as an economic gain and / or financial loss; and
 - as a gain or loss of a resource or access to a resource.

Receptor sensitivity / importance	Description / Reason
Very high	Very high importance and rarity, international scale and very limited potential for substitution. In terms of this chapter this would refer to a potential effect on an international economy.
High	High importance and rarity, national scale and limited potential for substitution. In terms of this chapter this would refer to the national economy, tourist attractions of national importance, national cycle routes and national trails.
Medium	Medium importance and rarity, regional scale, limited potential for substitution. In terms of this chapter this would refer to the regional economy, tourist attractions of regional importance, etc. Residential housing and settlements, and inhabitants affected. Recreational users and tourists.
Low	Low or medium importance and rarity, local scale. In terms of this chapter this would refer to the local economy, tourist attractions of local importance, rural areas valued for their tranquillity, businesses that could be affected economically. Workers active within study area.
Very low	Very low importance and rarity, local scale. In terms of this chapter this would refer to areas used for rural purposes and non-designated areas used for recreational purposes.

Table 7-16: Judging Sensitivity of the Effect on Socio-Economic Receptors

7.5.3. Table 7-16 describes the definition of magnitude considered for this assessment. The number of people affected has been identified on the basis of the density of population. The average density of persons per km for the super output areas is 294, so less than this was identified as moderate, taking into account the rural nature of the area. The SOA with the highest density has 685 persons per km so this was identified as a maximum for major. **Table 7-17: Judging Magnitude of the Effect on Socio-Economic Receptors**





Magnitude	Description / Reason
Very High	Adverse or beneficial irreversible, permanent impacts on the national,
	regional or local economy, tourism and recreation. Irreversible, permanent
	social or cultural impacts at national, regional or local level.
High	Adverse or beneficial substantial permanent impacts on the national or
	regional economy, tourism and recreation. Substantial, permanent impacts
	on the local economy. Substantial, permanent national, regional or local
	social or cultural impacts.
Medium	Adverse or beneficial temporary or permanent impacts on the national and
	regional economy, tourism and recreation. Permanent impacts on the local
	economy. Temporary national, regional or local social or cultural impacts.
Low	Adverse or beneficial temporary impacts on local economy. Undetectable
	impacts on the economy at regional or national scale. Negligible or
	undetectable social or cultural impacts at all scales.
Very Low	Barely discernible or no loss or alteration of characteristics, features or
	elements; no observable impact in either direction (i.e. adverse or beneficial).

7.5.4. Where sufficient information exists to value a receptor and to understand the magnitude of the effect, the assessment uses a matrix to determine the level of significance of the effect, as included in Table 7-17.

			Ma	gnitude of imp	act	
		Very high	High	Medium	Low	Very low
ty	Very High	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor	Minor
sensitivity	High	Major	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Negligible
	Medium	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible
Receptor	Low	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
£	Very Low	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Table 7-18: Socio-Economic Effect Matrix
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- 7.5.5. For the purposes of the assessment moderate and major effects are generally deemed to be 'significant'. However, it is important to note that placing a limit on 'moderate' and above when considering cumulative issues could lead to error. Therefore, professional judgement has been used throughout assessment of socio-economic effects from a cumulative perspective.
- 7.5.6. The significance criteria provided in Table 7-18 are considered relevant in respect of the impact of the Development within the study area and have been used to describe the effects. A detailed Environmental Effects Analysis for each phase of the Development is provided in Tables 7-19 to 7-21.
- 7.5.7. In addition to the standard criteria used in the assessment chapter, this chapter seeks to consider the number of people affected by each activity. Consequently, in place of the




Ecological, Cultural and Socio-ecomonic Context descriptor, Population Change has been used.

Criteria	Description
Magnitude of Impact (Mg)	Unknown (U)
	Negligible (Ne)– see Table 7-17
	• Minor (Mi) – see Table 7-17
	• Moderate (Mo) – see Table 7-17
	• Major (Ma) – see Table 7-17
Geographic Extent of Impact	• Effect within the Development boundary ;
(GE)	Effect up to 5km from Development boundary
	Effect more than 10km from Development boundary
Frequency of Impact (F)	• Single event (S)
	• Annual occurrence (A);
	Monthly occurrence (M);
	• Continuous activity (C).
Duration (D)	 The proposed Buttington ERF is considered to be a permanent development and any effects will be described in terms of their duration as short, medium and long term as follows: Short term effects are defined as 0-3 years (ST); Medium term effects are defined as 3-15 years (MT); and Long term effects are defined as >15 years (LT).
Reversibility of Impact (R)	 Unknown Reversible Irreversible
Population Change (P)	 Up to 1 person (<1); Up to 294 people (<294); 295 - 684 (<684); More than 685 (>685)





Activity	Dotontial Effort	Evalua	Evaluation Criteria						
	Potential Effect	Mg	Ge	F	D	R	Р		
Site Development	Employment Generation	Mi	<5km	С	ST	R	<684		
	Conclusion: In terms of construction employment, whilst ter there will be a beneficia will occur.	nporary w	/ill result ir	ı a mir	nor magni	tude it is	expected tha		
	Mitigation: None required								
Site Development	Supply Chain	Mi	<5km	С	ST	R	<294		
	Conclusion:								
	Whilst the level of sper dissipated over the WS minor magnitude. The o effect.	A and the	refore the	sensit	ivity is rai	nked as m	edium and		
	Mitigation: None requi	red							
Site Development									
Site Development	Recreation Access	Ne	0km	С	ST	R	<1		
	Recreation Access	Ne	0km	С	ST	R	<1		
			_						
	Conclusion: Footpath B39 is identifi	ed as low	_						
	Conclusion: Footpath B39 is identifii identified.	ed as low	_						
Development	Conclusion: Footpath B39 is identifi identified. Mitigation: None requi	ed as low red.	sensitivity	and lo	ow magni	tude with	no effect		
Development	Conclusion: Footpath B39 is identified. Mitigation: None requi	ed as low red. Ne esult in no cext in lan en identifi dominant landscap ctive the l	sensitivity <5km otable char dscape and ed in the a or intrusiv e character andscape a	and lo C C d visua ssessr e visu r ident	ow magni ST oth regar Il terms. C nent, non al effect r tified thro	tude with IR IR Df the adv ie are so c nor will it pugh LANE	<pre>no effect </pre> <294 Oevelopment erse impacts overriding that remove OMAP. From		

Table 7-20 : Environmental Effects Analysis – Socio Economic: Construction





Activity	Detential Effect	Evalua	tion Criteri	ia					
	Potential Effect	Mg	Ge	F	D	R	Р		
Site Development	Tourism	Ne	0km	С	ST	R	<1		
	Conclusion: From a simpact on tourism.	socio-econo	mic perspe	ctive tl	ne may b	e a neglig	ible		
	Mitigation: None req	uired							
Site Operations	Employment Generation	Mi	0km	A	LT	R	<294		
	Conclusion: The sens mix of general and sp in term of the positiv positive effect .	ecific waste	e related sp	ecialis	ms) and r	nedium n	nagnitude		
	Mitigation: None req	juired.							
Supply of Raw Materials and	Supply Chain	Mi	<10km	С	LT	R	<684		
Maintenance	Conclusion: The sensitivity is ranked as medium and minor magnitude. The effect significance is therefore ranked as minor positive effect .								
	Mitigation: None req	uired.							
Site Development	Recreation Access	Ne	0km	С	LT	R	<1		
	Conclusion: Footpath B39 is identified as low sensitivity and low magnitude with no effect identified.								
	Mitigation: None req	uired.							
Site Development	Landscape and visual	Ne	<5km	С	ST	IR	<294		
	Conclusion: The Development will result in notable changes both regarding the Development Site and in a wider context in landscape and visual terms. Of the adverse impacts or effects that have been identified in the assessment, none are so overriding that it would have a wholly dominant or intrusive visual effect nor will it remove distinctive attributes of landscape character identified through LANDMAP.From a socio-economic perspective the landscape and visual assessment has therefore not identified any residual effects.								
	visual assessment ha	s therefore	not identifi	ed any	residual	effects.			

Table 7-21 : Environmental Effects Analysis – SocioEconomic: Operation





Activity	Detential Effect	Evaluation Criteria							
	Potential Effect	Mg	Ge	F	D	R	Р		
Site Development	Tourism	Ne	<5km	С	LT	R	>685		
	Conclusion: The sensitivity is ranked as low and low magnitude. The effect significance is therefore ranked as negligible effect .								
	Mitigation:None required								

Table 7-21: Environmental Effects Analysis – SocioEconomic: Operation (cont)

Table 7-22 : Environmental Effects Analysis – SocioEconomic: Decommissioning

Activity	Potential Effect	Evaluati	Evaluation Criteria					
	Potential Effect	Mg	GE	F	D	R	Р	
Site Development	Employment Generation	Mi	>10k m	С	ST	R	<294	
	Conclusion: In terms of decommissioning employment there is a low sensitivity and there is expected to be a beneficial effect of medium magnitude so a minor positive effect will occur.							
	Mitigation: None require	ed						
Site Development	Supply Chain	Mi	<5km	С	ST	R	<294	
	Conclusion: Whilst the level of spend is likely to be substantial in local terms it will be dissipated over the WSA and therefore the sensitivity is ranked as medium and low magnitude. The effect significance is therefore ranked as minor positive effect .							
	Mitigation: None required							
Site Development	Recreation Access	Ne	0km	С	LT	R	<1	
	Conclusion: Footpath B3 with no effect identified		fied as lo	w sens	itivity an	d low mag	gnitude	
	Mitigation: None require	ed.						





Activity	Evaluation Criteria							
	Potential Effect	Mg	GE	F	D	R	Р	
Site Development	Landscape and visual	Ne	<5km	С	ST	IR	<294	
	Conclusion: The Development will result in notable changes both regarding the Development Site and in a wider context in landscape and visual terms. Of the adverse impacts or effects that have been identified in the assessment, none are so overriding that it would have a wholly dominant or intrusive visual effect nor will it remove distinctive attributes of landscape character identified through LANDMAP.From a socio-economic perspective the landscape and visual assessment has therefore not identified any residual effects.							
	Mitigation: None requi	red						
Site Development	Tourism	Ne	<5km	С	LT	R	>685	
	Conclusion: The sensitive significance is therefore	•			-	tude. The	effect	
	Mitigation: None requi	red						

Table 22: Environmental Effects Analysis – SocioEconomic: Decommissioning (cont)

7.6. Residual Environmental Effects

- 7.6.1. The socio-economic assessment has identified no negative residual effects from introduction of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Development.
- 7.6.2. Residual positive socio-economic effects for the Project are provided in Table 7-23.

Development Phase	Residual Positive Socio-Economic Effect	Significance	Likely Effect on the Socio-Economic Environment		
Construction	IncreasedMinor positiveemployment for constructionNot SignificantConstructionworkersSupply chain spendMinor positiveNot Significant	Increased requirement for construction workers but not considered to be substantial to cause significant effect. Supply chain			
		spend is likely to be dissipated over a large area and so positive but minor effect.			
Operation	Increased employment during operation	Minor positive Not Significant	Positive effect from job creation over a significant period of time. Workers required fit well with local demographic skills. The number of jobs required will result in a positive negligible effect.		





Development Phase	Residual Positive Socio-Economic Effect	Significance	Likely Effect on the Socio-Economic Environment
Operation	Supply chain spend	Minor positive Not Significant	The supply chain requirements will occur over a significant time but are not expected to be restricted to the locality; periods of maintenance may also require an increase in requirements; however, not significant to sufficient quantity to result in a noticeable effect.
Decommissioning	Increased employment for decommissioning workers	Minor positive Not Significant	Increased requirement for decommissioning workers but not considered to be substantial to cause discernible effect. Supply
	Supply chain spend	Minor positive Not Significant	 chain spend is likely to be dissipated over a large area and so positive but negligible effect.

Table 7-23: Summary of Residual Adverse Environmental Effects – Socio-Economic (cont)

7.7. Summary

- 7.7.1. The location of the Buttington Energy Recovery Facility is rural in nature, with Welshpool as the closest, most substantial conurbation. The planning policy review has demonstrated in socio-economic terms that the Development is in keeping with local requirements. The density of population for the Local Study Area is below the County average and the age distribution is the same as the County and country average. Access to Services are highlighted by the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation as a potential issue for some areas in the Local Study Area. All areas in proximity to the Proposed Development have higher than the County average for those entering higher education. The Local Study Area has comparatively high levels of employment with a lower percentage of those in the construction sector; therefore it is likely that construction workers are likely to come from the Wider Study Area.
- 7.7.2. Tourist attractions of note within the Local Study Area and Wider Study Area include the town of Welshpool, Powis Castle and Gardens and Welshpool & Llanfair Railway. There is one Public Right of Way in proximity to the development (footpath B39 that was re-routed in 1999 and so will not be affected or interrupted by the Development). Powys has a number of national trails but none are expected to be affected by the proposed Buttington ERF.
- 7.7.3. The likely numbers of construction (309 full time equivalent) and operation (30 full time equivalent) workers will require a mix of technical and support staff that will offer the opportunity of direct and indirect employment. Employment and supply chain effects will result in a positive effect but this is not considered to be significant for the Local or Wider Study Areas. The length of time employment and supply chain requirements are required for operation makes this positive effect greater than for construction and





decommissioning.

7.7.4. In terms of the socio-economic assessment a number of issues have been explored, the assessment concludes no significant negative effect from the introduction of the Development to the area. Therefore, no mitigation is proposed. A minor positive effect will result in terms of employment and supply chain particularly during operation but this is not significant.

7.8. References

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Technical Appendix 7-1 Socio Economic Chapter Maps

Socio-Economic Chapter Maps Technical Appendix 7-1

Proposed Buttington ERF Facility, Welshpool SY21 8SZ

Map 14-1: All Data



Map 14-2: Sensitive Receptors (Noise and Visual)



Map 14-3: Site and Surrounds (Sensitive Receptors)

Cefn •

DEFRA Background Map Location

Cefn Chapel Methodist Church, Buttington

Cefn Farm - House Off Sale Lane (1) Cefn Farm

Lower Cefn 7 Cefn Cottage Cefn Cottage - House Off A458 Buttington Brickworks

Acient Woodland - 33254 ent Woodland - 33255

Sale Farm - House Off Sale Lane (2) Sale Farm

Acient Woodland - 35166

Whitehouse Farm Sale Farm

Brookside

Speed Welshpool

Map 14-4a: Lower Super Output Areas (Local Zone)



Map 14-4b: Lower Super Output Areas (Local Zone) Sensitive Receptors



52°41'24.84" N 3°03'05.61" W elev 92 m, eye alt 15.44 km 🤇

Map 14-4c: Lower Super Output Areas (Local Zone)



Map 14-5: Rights of Way (and Roads in Local Zone)



Map 14-6a: Rights of Way in Proximity



Map 14-6b: Rights of Way in Proximity



Map 14-7: Communities in Local Zone (North)



Map 14-8: Communities in Local Zone (South)



Map 14-9: Local Development Plan (Map Ins59)

