

2. Assessment Scope and Methodology

2.1. Introduction

- 2.1.1. This chapter explains the methodology used to prepare the technical chapters of this Environmental Statement (ES) and describes its structure and content. In particular, it sets out the process of identifying and assessing the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development, with each individual chapter of this ES stipulating its own specific assessment criteria.

2.2. General Approach to EIA

- 2.2.1. In accordance with the EIA Regulations (Regulation 18)¹, an ES is a statement which includes at least:-

"(a) a description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development;

(b) a description of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment;

(c) a description of any features of the proposed development, or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;

(d) a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the development on the environment;

(e) a non-technical summary of the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d); and

(f) any additional information specified in Schedule 4 relevant to the specific characteristics of the particular development or type of development and to the environmental features likely to be significantly affected.

(4) An environmental statement must –

(a) where a scoping opinion or direction has been issued in accordance with regulation 15 or 16, be based on the most recent scoping opinion or direction issued (so far as the proposed development remains materially the same as the proposed development which was subject to that opinion or direction);

(b) include the information reasonably required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the development on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment; and

¹ The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017; Schedule 1 (18)

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(c) be prepared, taking into account the results of any relevant UK environmental assessment, which are reasonably available to the person preparing the environmental statement, with a view to avoiding duplication of assessment.

(5) In order to ensure the completeness and quality of the environmental statement –

(a) the developer must ensure that the environmental statement is prepared by competent experts; and

(b) the environmental statement must be accompanied by a statement from the developer outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts”

2.2.2. Accordingly, in summary, this ES comprises the following information:

- A description of the Proposed Development comprising information about the Sites including the nature, design, size and scale of the development;
- The data necessary to identify and assess the main effects which the Proposed Development is likely to have on the environment, including a description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline) and forecasting methods used;
- A description of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development (construction, operation and vulnerability to risks from major accidents and/or disasters) covering direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects, explained by reference to the Proposed Development's possible effect on: population, human health, biodiversity, land, soil, water, air, climate, material assets, cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interaction between any of the foregoing material assets (as appropriate and scoped through formal process);
- Where significant adverse effects are identified with respect to any of the foregoing, mitigation measures are proposed in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and if possible offset those effects;
- A description of the reasonable alternatives studied, which are relevant to the Proposed Development;
- A summary in non-technical language of the information specified above; and
- A statement outlining the relevant experience of the experts who have undertaken the assessment and drafted the technical chapters within this ES (provided at the front of this document); and
- A reference list detailing the sources used.

2.3. The Development Assessed within this ES

2.3.1. This ES supports a hybrid application for the erection of up to 190 residential dwellings comprising:

Phase A – Full planning application for the erection of 93 dwellings with associated works (including access, public open space, landscaping, sustainable urban drainage systems and other associated works); and

Phase B – Outline planning application for up to 97 dwellings (with all matters reserved for future approval). ('the Proposed Development').

2.3.2. Further information on the development is provided within **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development and Alternatives**.

2.3.3. Whilst there are a number of detailed plans submitted with the planning application in relation to the full element of the application (Phase A), which are seeking formal planning permission, this ES has set appropriate development parameters for the Site as a whole, of which the detail seeking permission lies within. These parameters are illustrated on **Figure 4.1** and contain the parameters and controls defining those aspects of the Proposed Development capable of having significant environmental effects, as defined in the EIA Regulations. The parameters include the disposition of land uses (i.e. open space, built form), the development footprint and maximum heights. It is this Figure 4.1 which forms the basis of the ES assessments and illustrates the Proposed Development which is being assessed for any likely significant effects.

Consideration of Alternatives

2.3.4. Schedule 4, Paragraph 2, of the EIA Regulations requires that the ES contain:

"A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer... and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects".

2.3.5. In addition, the National Planning Practice Guidance ("NPPG") on EIA (Paragraph O35) states that:

"where alternative approaches to development have been considered, the Environmental Statement should include a description of the reasonable alternatives studied which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics and provide an indication of the main reasons for the choice made, including a comparison of the environmental effects"

2.3.6. Accordingly, this ES contains a section within **Chapter 4** setting out the alternatives considered.

2.4. Scope of Environmental Impact Assessment

2.4.1. In order to determine the scope of the EIA, a request for a Scoping Opinion was submitted on behalf of the Applicant to KMBC on the 30th January 2025 (**Appendix 2.1**). It should be noted the scoping request included an additional parcel of land proposed for further residential dwellings. This was referred to as Phase 2b within the Scoping Report and was located to the north east of the Proposed Development subject to this ES. Since the submission of the Scoping Opinion Request however, the planning strategy has been amended and only the development on Phase 3 is being progressed under this planning application. The Scoping Opinion is however still relevant in defining the scope of this ES and is discussed further below. The scope has been reviewed in light of the changes to the Proposed Development, and it is not considered this

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would alter the requested information. Furthermore, the Proposed Development is now smaller than that subject to scoping, and is therefore considered to be a robust approach.

- 2.4.2. The request described the Sites context, the nature and purpose of the Proposed Development, and identified the proposed scope and structure of the EIA for KMBC consideration. KMBC issued its Scoping Opinion on 27th March 2025; this is enclosed within **Appendix 2.2**. KMBC contacted a number of consultees as part of the Scoping exercise, as listed below.
- 2.4.3. In summary, KMBC was in general agreement with the proposed scope, however requested that Water and Biodiversity/ Ecology be scoped into the ES. **Table 2.1** below summarises the Scoping Opinion and identifies where these comments, where relevant, are addressed within this ES. Any subsequent discussions regarding the scope of the assessment that has been undertaken separately to the EIA scoping process, is discussed within the relevant technical chapters.

Table 2.1: Summary of Formal Scoping Opinion and Consultee Responses

Local Authority	Summary of Comments/Discussion	Where Concerns Addressed (where relevant)
Knowsley Council – Scoping Opinion (27/03/2025)	The LPA note the ES should provide the information required as set out in Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations. The assessment of parameters is considered to be acceptable. The LPA agrees on the proposed topics to be scoped into the ES, however request that Water and Biodiversity and Ecology be scoped into the ES. The LPA request the cumulative impact of the whole SUE site must be taken into account and agrees with the sites proposed, however request the following are also considered: 22/00233/FUL 20/00767/REM 20/00576/HYB <u>Landscape and Visual Effects</u> The LPA consider that landscape and visual effects should be scoped into the ES and the cumulative impacts of the development across Halsnead Park and the surrounding land designation will need to be considered. The Halsnead Park landscape character area as defined within Knowsley’s Landscape Character Assessment should be considered and should be regarded as a non-designated heritage asset. Request operational impacts including seasonal; changes and established mitigation are considered. A number of views were requested from Halsnead Park into the Site, however many of these were in reference to the Phase 2B site which is not being pursued as part of this application. See Heritage section below for further related visual comments. <u>Ecology and Biodiversity</u> Request Ecology and Biodiversity is scoped into the ES. The Opinion makes reference to MEAS consultation response in relation to the ancient woodland, noting this habitat should be retained and a buffer of at least 15m provided. If this is not possible, then a statement should be provided demonstrating wholly exceptional circumstances exist and a compensation strategy. Old Wood North (Ancient Woodland) is on site and Old Wood South is 150m south. Whilst the motorway separates Old Wood South from the application site, it is	Noted and is provided in this ES. Noted – Parameters are set out in Chapter 4. Water Resources and Ecology considered within separate chapters within the ES. Cumulative sites reviewed in this chapter and assessed within each individual topic chapter of the ES. These matters are considered within the Landscape and Visual Amenity chapter where relevant to Phase 3 and also within the Cultural Heritage chapter. These matters are considered within the Ecology and Biodiversity chapter.

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	hydrologically connected to Old Wood North. The proposal has the potential to have direct impacts in the form of increased recreational pressure, lighting, cat predation and the potential for the introduction of garden escape species into the woodlands which will also need to be assessed and mitigated. MEAS provided further detailed comment on Ecology and Biodiversity Scope with reference to designated Local Sites and request consideration of how effects on these sites will be avoided, minimised and mitigated and if adverse effects cannot be avoided, then options for compensation should be identified. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) should be undertaken. Request for BNG calculations and consideration of Habitat Regulation Assessment in relation to designated sites is also noted. <u>Cultural Heritage and Archaeology</u> LPA consider that cultural heritage as it relates to non-designated and designated heritage assets should be scoped into the ES, but note archaeology can be scoped out as it is unlikely that any archaeological remains would be of more than local to regional sensitivity. In relation to heritage assets, discussion is provided in relation to both Phase 2b and Phase 3. Of relevance to Phase 3, the wider setting of the Grade II listed barn at Snape Gate is noted, in addition to the Grade II listed Old Halsnead Hall, Carr House Farmhouse and associated Paddock and Stables. Non-designated heritage assets noted include Halsnead Park wall and the Halsnead Park landscape. The effect of the surrounding planning permissions are acknowledged and the Halsnead Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document's key principle of 'rediscovering Halsnead Park estate landscape structures' and including the 'opportunity to reference specific remnant features' which can be viewed as a form of mitigation. Key elements include the Ride, the park wall to the Halsnead Estate and Big Water. In relation to landscape and visual matters, the LPA would expect 5 year/10 and 15 year views both Winter and Summer for any views that are assessing the impact on the Grade II listed North East Lodge and the separately listed Grade II gate piers to Halsnead Hall (demolished). Views of Grade II listed barn at Snape Gate looking towards phase 3 are also required. The EIA should explore potential impacts on designated assets with specific reference made to the duty within the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act) 1990, to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special	These matters are considered within the Cultural Heritage chapter and within the Landscape and Visual Amenity chapter
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	architectural or historic interest. The advice within Historic England's GPA2 Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment, GPA3 Setting of Heritage Assets and HEAN2: Making Changes to Heritage Assets should be taken account of in making an assessment as to the potential effects on the significance of the listed buildings. Many impacts will relate to setting whereby analysis should be in line with GPA3. <u>Air Quality</u> Confirmed that the proposals set out in the scoping report are acceptable. Environmental Health have advised that their latest annual status report shows exceedances in nitrogen dioxide levels at the Cronton Road/Whitefield Lane junction which requires further investigation. Committed developments and newly consented sites within the vicinity should be considered within the Air Quality Chapter. <u>Noise and Vibration</u> Proposals identified within the Scoping Report are acceptable and agrees inclusion of noise. <u>Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases</u> LPA agrees with approach for climate change. <u>Traffic and Access</u> The LPA agrees that Traffic and Access should be scoped in the ES. National Highways has confirmed that the Traffic Assessment submitted with the application will need to consider how the site sits within Halsnead Garden Village and the contribution of the site towards the junction improvement at Tarbock Island. The ES and the TA proposes to include detailed analysis of accessibility to both sites and will assess the likely change in traffic flows for the following junctions: • Windy Arbor Road/Lickers Lane/Willis Lane staggered T-junction; • Dragon Lane/Stoney Lane/Medway signalised junction; • Stoney Lane/Cumber Lane signalised junction; • Lickers Lane/Fox's Bank Lane signalised junction; • A5080 Cronton Road/Fox's Bank Lane roundabout. National Highways agree that these should be assessed but have stated that Tarbock island junction should also be included. The assessment should include the junction improvements that are currently under construction	Matters considered within the Air Quality chapter. Matters considered within the Transport and Access chapter.
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	The Local Highways Authority has confirmed that they are satisfied with the scope of assessment for the EIA and have asked that the scope for the Transport Assessment which will form an appendix to the EIA should be agreed with Highways in advance of production. <u>Land Contamination</u> Note this subject can be scoped out of the ES and consider that this matter can be satisfactorily dealt with via a full land contamination assessment which should be completed in line with the Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM) guidance. The EA has stated that they would look to implement planning conditions on any future planning application Recommend that if there are to be any drainage systems for infiltration of surface water, any proposals should be supported by an assessment of the risks to controlled waters. A Coal Mining Risk Assessment is requested to as part of the planning application. <u>Water</u> Request water is scoped into the ES, noting regard should be had to the comments from EA and LLFA, specifically in relation to water quality given the site is within a Source Protection Zone (SPZ3) and there has been historic coal mining in the area. There are two watercourses within 500m to the site (tributaries of Fox's Bank Brook to both the East and West) and the impacts on these should be considered along with details of the foul drainage provision for the site. Water quantity and water quality in respect of Big Water, considered to be a sensitive water feature located to the west, should be scoped in. <u>Other Matters</u> The LPA agrees with the approach to scoped out wind microclimate, daylight, sunlight and overshadowing, electrical interference, soils and agricultural land, waste, material assets and accidents and disasters.	Matters considered in the Water Resources chapter
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Consultee	Summary of Comments
Natural England (06/02/2025)	Natural England provide their general advice for EIA applications with reference to the General principles to follow Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations. General discussion is provided in relation to: • Biodiversity and Geodiversity: • Landscape: • Heritage Landscapes • Connecting with People and Nature: • Soils and Agricultural Land Quality: • Air Quality • Water Quality: • Climate Change: • Contribution to local environmental initiatives and priorities
Active Travel England (7/02/2025)	Note they do not currently provide detailed advice at the pre-application stage.
Environmental Sustainability Service Knowsley Council (12/02/2025)	Confirm the scope of the EIA is acceptable and request views from Halsnead Park to Phase 2b are considered as part of the assessment.
The Coal Authority (18/02/2025)	The Coal Authority records indicate that parts of the site lie partially within the Development High Risk Area. Phase 3 – probable shallow coal mining and thick coal seams infer to outcrop at or close to the northern part of the site, that may have been historically worked from the surface. Therefore, request the applicant demonstrate how they considered the risk from former coal mining activity as part of any future planning application. Request consideration is given of the potential interaction between hydrology, the proposed drainage system and ground stability, including the implications this may have for any mine workings which may be present beneath the site.
Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) (20/02/2025)	Advice is provided in relation to Ecology and Biodiversity and request this is scoped in to the ES, noting whilst the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and the Habitats Regulations Assessment process are capable of addressing survey, assessment and mitigation at this site, EIA is required of this application by the Halsnead Park Garden Village SPD. Based on the scale of development impact in-combination with other existing development and pipeline development, regenerative capacity of farmland natural resources and breadth of receptors, ecology should be in scope.
National Highways (NH) (24/02/2025)	As this proposal forms part of Halsnead Garden Village, NH recommend that the forthcoming Transport Assessment (TA) sets out how the site sits within the garden village and its contribution towards the junction improvement at Tarbock Island.

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	NH request the Transport Chapter pay due cognisance to Department for Transport (DfT) Circular 01/22 and Planning for future documents, which given the location of the proposed development parcels, should be included with a vision developed in context with the wider garden village masterplan. NH request Tarbock Island junction is included in the assessment in addition to the suggested junctions. The assessment should include the junction improvements that are currently under construction. NH note that 2033, as the year of opening, should be assessed. In addition, the list of committed developments to be included in the assessment should be discussed with the LPA and confirmation included in the TA. NH recommend the Transport Consultant engage with NH and agree the scope of the TA prior to its production.
Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) (04/03/2025)	With the exception of ecology and biodiversity which they recommend scoping it to the ES, MEAS are in agreement with the proposed scope of the ES. MEAS agrees with the parameter assessment approach and structure of the ES. They stat that the conclusions of the EIA should be transparent, and all information used to draw conclusions is clearly presented and objective. Recommends best practice guidance be consulted. It is important that an integrated approach is taken to the EIA methodology to ensure consideration of interactions and in-combination effects Ecology Request this topic is scoped into the ES Request clarification as to why Old Wood North is included within the red line. Advise the red line is amended to remove the woodland and buffered by at least 15m. If this is not possible, request a statement is provided which demonstrates wholly exceptional circumstance which exist to include this woodland, along with a compensation strategy. MEAS have undertaken a desktop review and provide advice on the scope of the ecology and biodiversity assessment, including designated sites within the surrounding area which include: Woodland, Sandfield Park LWS; Lickers Lane Wood LWS; Big Water and Big Water Wood, Halsnead LWS; The Old Wood, North LWS; K13 Halsnead Park Quarry, Windy Arbour, Whiston LGS; Parrens Covert LWS; Blundell Hills Golf Course LWS; SH6 Blundells Lane (Prospect House Nursing Home) LGS; SH7 Cronton Lane public footpath, Rainhill LGS; and SH8 Blundell's Hill Farm, Blundell's Lane, Rainhill LGS. 30. The applicant should consider how effects on these sites will be avoided, minimised and mitigated. The proposals should be designed to incorporate the Priority Habitat and avoidance measures to prevent harm. If the proposed protection measures are insufficient to prevent harm, then compensation may be required. In terms of ancient woodland, in addition to direct impacts, the effects of increased recreational pressure, lighting, cat predation and the potential for the introduction of garden escape species into the woodlands will also need to be assessed and mitigated. Advise a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) is undertaken.

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	Request for BNG calculations: The proposed development will be required to deliver mandatory 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). Any future application must be accompanied by minimum information set out in Article 7 of The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. Consideration of Habitat Regulation Assessment in relation to designated sites is also noted, with examples of mitigation which could form bespoke mitigation should this be required. Archaeology Note that archaeology should not be included in the ES Technical Chapter as it is unlikely that any archaeological remains would be of more than local to regional sensitivity. However note, prior to development taking place, a programme of archaeological investigation will need to be undertaken to determine the presence, nature, extent and significance of any surviving archaeological remains. Other non-designated heritage assets recorded on the Merseyside Historic Environment Record include: Halsnead Park, Whiston, a late 18th or early 19th century park (MME15147); Halsnead Park wall, Whiston, a late 18th or early 19th century boundary to the landscaped park of Halsnead (MME15681) and (MME21890) Probable former site of a ha-ha at Halsnead Park, Whiston within Phase 3.
Knowsley Council – Environmental Health (03/03/2025)	Note both the noise and air quality proposals are considered acceptable. Contaminated Land Note agree with Ground Conditions and Land Contamination being scoped out of the ES and can be dealt with through standalone reporting. Unless initial assessments clearly demonstrate that the risk from contamination can be satisfactorily reduced to an acceptable level, further site investigations and risk assessment will be needed before the application can be determined. The following recommendations are made: • A programme of gas monitoring and a ground gas risk assessment, in accordance with relevant guidance and best practice is required. • Reference should be made to Good Practice for Risk Assessment for Coal Mine Gas Emissions, CL:AIRE, October 2021 to inform the site investigation design and risk assessment process. • Should material be proposed for re-use on site, the applicant should ensure that sufficient representative sampling and analysis is undertaken (relative to the volume to be re-used) to demonstrate that it is suitable for its proposed use. • Advise that the Mining Remediation Authority should be consulted on the potential risks from historical coal mining. • It is noted that Phase 1 Desk Study, and Phase 2 Site investigation is proposed to be submitted with the planning application. The submissions which support the planning application must provide a sufficient level of assessment, in accordance with relevant guidance and best practice, that clearly demonstrates that risks associated with land contamination (including ground/mine gas) can be satisfactorily reduced to an acceptable level.

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Conservation and Design Knowsley Council (14/03/2025)	In terms of phase 3, it will fall within the wider setting of the Grade II listed barn at Snapes Gate, Fox bank Lane (List Entry Number: 1253250) which is a coursed stone rubble with irregular quoins and stone roof roadside barn. The elevation addressing the road has centre cart entrance with catslide roof on side walls which are canted out, and a segmental headed entrance with keystone. There are also non designated heritage assets that will be affected by the proposals which comprises of the Halsnead Park wall and the Halsnead Park landscape. These assets are individually significant and also contribute to the parkland setting of the area and aids in understanding the original function and grandeur of the Halsnead Estate. That said, planning permission has been granted for much of the envisaged masterplan covered by the Halsnead Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document which will erode much of this parkland landscape. As part of that masterplan, a key principle is 'rediscovering Halsnead Park estate landscape structures' including 'opportunity to reference specific remnant features (e.g. driveways, lodge building, ha-ha etc). Application of these principles can be viewed as a form of mitigation. Key to these aspirations are the locally important former east drive known as the Ride, the park wall to the Halsnead Estate and the ornamental lake, Big Water The Landscape and Visual section of the Environmental Statement (LV) needs to include the Halsnead Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Request 5 year/10 and 15 year view both winter and summer for any views that are assessing the impact on the Grade II listed North East Lodge and the separately listed Grade II gate piers to Halsnead Hall (demolished). Views of Grade II listed barn at Snape Gate looking towards phase 3 are also required.
Environment Agency (20/03/2025)	Contaminated Land and Groundwater Have no objection to scoping out soil contamination from the EIA, however expect a full land contamination assessment be completed in line with the Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM) guidance. This is because the site is within a Source Protection Zone (SPZ) for public water supply, and we know that there has been historical coal mining in this area, with concerns around mine water discharges. Therefore, with this in consideration, although we are not providing conditions within this response, we would look to implement planning conditions Advise the provision and submission of a remediation strategy, and provide a list of the key elements that should be included: A preliminary risk assessment identifying past uses, potential contaminants, a conceptual model, and risks; a site investigation scheme for detailed risk assessment of all receptors; results of the site investigation along with an options appraisal and remediation strategy and a verification plan detailing data collection for remediation completion. Water Quality Advise the impacts on water quality is scoped in to the EIA. There are two watercourses within 500 metres to the site (tributaries of Fox's Bank Brook to both the East and West) and so the impacts on these should be considered along with details of the foul drainage provision for the site. Waste Provide general advice for developers for dealing with waste both on site and off site.

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Knowsley Council LLFA (21/03/2025)	The LLFA would therefore advise the applicant to scope in the water environment topic in the EIA process from a water quantity aspect as the Big Water feature as a sensitive water feature is located to the immediate west of the Phase 3. It is understood that the Big Water is fed through surface water systems as well as groundwater influx. Therefore, it would be vital that the water environment to be scoped in to assess the significance of likely impacts the proposed development and associated drainage strategy might have on the Big Water. As part of this assessment, it would be necessary to establish the baseline condition of the Big Water in terms of feeding mechanism of the water feature (e.g. surface water and groundwater), seasonal variability and minimum feed to keep the feature live. Following setting the baseline condition, an impact assessment of the development (in general) and likely drainage strategy (in particular) on the water feature shall be required. In fulfilling setting the baseline condition and the impact assessment, it would be expected that the applicant to consider: The sensitivity of the receiving water environment (i.e. Big Water); The nature of impact (e.g. direct or indirect, temporary or permanent, duration, extent, frequency etc); The magnitude of impacts; The significant of impacts; and Likely mitigation measures to reduce or minimize negative impacts .
Local Highways Authority (24/03/2025)	Note they are satisfied with the proposed scope of the assessment as set out in the Scoping Report. Request the scope for the Transport Assessment is agreed with Highways in advance of production.

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2.4.4. Accordingly, the environmental themes scoped into or out of the EIA are given in **Table 2.2** below.

Table 2.2: Environmental Themes Scoped In/ Out

EIA Topic	Scoped In / Out	Where Addressed within ES (if applicable)
Population	Scoped in	To be assessed within the Socio-Economic Chapter
Human Health	Scoped in	To be assessed within various chapters as follows: Socio-Economic, Air Quality, Noise, Landscape and Visual and Transport
Biodiversity (e.g. flora and fauna)	Scoped in	To be assessed within the Biodiversity and Ecology Chapter
Land (e.g. land take)	Scoped in	To be assessed within the Landscape and Ecology Chapters
Soil	Scoped out	Given the Site is unlikely to include significant areas of contamination, and the loss of any BMV soils would be under 20ha, soil, land contamination and Agricultural Resources is scoped out. It is also noted that the principle of development has been accepted through its allocation.
Water	Scoped in	To be assessed within the Water Resources Chapter
Air	Scoped in	To be assessed within the Air Quality Chapter
Climate	Scoped in	Climate to be assessed within various chapters, including Air Quality and Ecology/Biodiversity. Given the nature of the proposals, it is not considered that there will be a significant impact in relation to 'climate change' in EIA terms relating to greenhouse gas emissions or any future significant impacts arising from climate change that would require adaptation within the Proposed Development. It is therefore not proposed to include a specific chapter regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation.
Material Assets ²	Scoped out	It is not considered there are any further 'material assets' to those already addressed within other EIA topics that may result in further significant effects

² Material Assets can be defined as follows: "The EIA Regulations refer to 'material assets', including architectural and archaeological heritage aspects. The phrase 'material assets' has a broad scope, which may include assets of human or natural origin, valued for socioeconomic or heritage reasons. Material assets are in practice considered across a range of topic areas within an ES, in particular historic environment and socio-economics". Source: <https://digital-eia.rpsgroup.com/EnvironmentalAssessment.html>

Cultural Heritage (Architectural & Archaeological aspects)	Scoped in	To be assessed within the Cultural Heritage Chapter
Landscape	Scoped in	To be assessed in the Landscape and Visual Chapter
Interrelationship between above factors	Scoped in	Within each topic chapter and Summary

2.4.5. Matters scoped out have been agreed with KMBC through a formal Scoping Opinion and include:

- Ground Conditions and Land Contamination;
- Agricultural Resources;
- Climate Change;
- Material Assets;
- Wind Microclimate;
- Daylight, Sunlight and Overshadowing;
- Electrical Interference;
- Waste; and
- Major Accidents and Disasters.

2.4.6. Given the nature and intended longevity of the Proposed Development's operational life, decommissioning has not been considered as part of this study, as agreed in the scoping process. This EIA focuses on the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development during the construction and operational phases only.

2.4.7. It is also acknowledged that, given the nature of the development and its location, there is unlikely to be any significant adverse effects "deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters³", although consideration has been given to potential significant effects as a result of minor accidents, specifically within the construction stages; these are addressed within relevant disciplines throughout the ES.

2.4.8. A summary of where the Schedule 4 requirements are addressed within the ES given in **Table 2.3**.

³ The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations 2017; Schedule 4 (8)

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2.5. Finch v Surry County Council Supreme Court Ruling, June 2024.

- 2.5.1. The Scoping Request made to KMBC considered the June 2024 Supreme Court ruling in respect of R (Finch on behalf of the Weald Actions Group and Others) v Surrey County Council and Others ("Finch versus Surry County Council"). This ruling considered a planning approval for the retention and expansion of an existing onshore oil well site and to drill four new wells, enabling the extraction of oil over a 20-year period. The issue under consideration was in relation to whether it was unlawful for the EIA not to include an assessment of the indirect impacts of downstream greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the eventual use of the refined products of the extracted oil. The Supreme Court ruled that, in this instance, the EIA should have assessed this 'effect' given there was an "inevitable causal link"; in essence it was not merely likely, but inevitable that the oil produced at the site would be refined, combusted, and result in GHG emissions and there were no realistic circumstances in which extraction of the oil will not lead to its use as fuel. As this effect had not been considered within that ES, the planning consent was overturned.
- 2.5.2. The decision also provides relevant consideration of the terminology of Schedule 4 (5) of the EIA Regulations which requires the assessment of 'likely' 'significant' 'effects'. In relation to 'likely', the ruling goes on to state in Paragraphs 74 and 77 that *"to determine that a potential effect is 'likely' requires evidence on which to base such a determination. If evidence is lacking so that a possible future occurrence is a matter of speculation or conjecture, then a rational person would not feel able to judge that it is 'likely'.... and... 'conjecture and speculation have no place in the EIA process'". The judgement also makes reference to the requirement for a meaningful assessment, at Paragraph 167, which states *"only effects which evidence shows are likely to occur and which are capable of meaningful assessment must be assessed"*.*

With reference to the Proposed Development, consideration in relation to relevant indirect effects are discussed within each technical chapter of this report in the context of the above key matters, particularly whether there is: an effect which demonstrates an inevitable causal link; whether this effect is 'likely' and 'significant'; and whether a meaningful assessment of the effect can be undertaken using an established methodology. Given the residential nature of the Proposed Development, it is not considered relevant for indirect effects to consider the potential for such matters pertaining to, for example, greenhouse gas emissions associated with deliveries (e.g., Amazon) made to future residents, due to the increased local population resultant of the Proposed Development. Such matters would be based on *"conjecture and speculation"* and not justified through *"an inevitable causal link"* and would therefore not follow the views of the Supreme Court ruling. Such indirect effects have therefore been 'scoped out' of the ES.

Table 2.3: Schedule 4 Requirements Summary

Schedule 4 Requirement	Where addressed within the ES
1. A description of the development, including in particular: (a) a description of the location of the development; (b) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development, including, where relevant, requisite demolition works, and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases; (c) a description of the main characteristics of the operational phase of the development (in particular any production process), for instance, energy demand and energy used, nature and quantity of the materials and natural resources (including water, land, soil and biodiversity) used; (d) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases.	(a) Chapter 3 Application Sites (b) Chapter 4 Proposed Development and Alternatives (c) Chapter 4 Proposed Development and Alternatives (d) within in Chapter 4 as it relates to the scheme descriptions and within Chapters 5 – 12 as it relates to the individual topic areas.
2. A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.	Chapter 4 Section 4 Alternatives.
3. A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge.	The baseline is fully described / established within Chapters 5 – 12 in Section 3 Baseline Conditions as it relates to individual topic areas.
4. A description of the factors specified in regulation 4(2) likely to be significantly affected by the development: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape.	The baseline factors that have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Developments are fully described / established within Chapters 5 – 12 in Section 3 Baseline Conditions as it relates to individual topic areas.

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5. A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia: (a) the construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works; (b) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources; (c) the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste; (d) the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters); (e) the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources; (f) the impact of the project on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the project to climate change; (g) the technologies and the substances used.	(a, b, c, d f & g) A description of the likely significant effects for each individual topic area is discussed within Chapters 5–12 Section 4 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects as it relates to individual topic areas. of the ES. Climate Change is not considered as an isolated chapter within the ES, however is considered through Chapter 9 Air Quality and Chapter 12 Water Resources. (e) Chapter 5 – 12 Section 6 Cumulative and In-Combination Effects of the ES as it relates to individual topic areas. Chapter 2 details the approach to cumulative effects and lists developments considered within the assessment.
6. A description of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment, including details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.	Chapter 5 – 12 detail the Assessment Approach (Section 2) used for the approach to each individual topic assessment, including limitations and difficulties to the assessments as it relates to individual topic areas.
7. A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements (for example the preparation of a post-project analysis). That description should explain the extent, to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, prevented, reduced or offset, and should cover both the construction and operational phases.	Chapter 5 – 12 in Section 5 Mitigation, Enhancement and Residual Effects detail mitigation and enhancement measures as it relates to individual topic areas.
8. A description of the expected significant adverse effects of the development on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned. Relevant information available and obtained through risk assessments pursuant to EU legislation such as Directive 2012/18/EU(3) of the European Parliament and of the Council	Chapter 5 – 12 in Section 5 Mitigation, Enhancement and Residual Effects details

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or Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom(4) or UK environmental assessments may be used for this purpose provided that the requirements of this Directive are met. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies.	any residual effects as it relates to individual topic areas.
9. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 8.	Non-Technical Summary is provided as a separate report to this ES.
10. A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the environmental statement.	Chapter 14 Glossary, Acronyms and Chapter 15 References

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2.6. EIA Methodology

2.6.1. The content of the ES is, in the main, based on the following:

- Review of the baseline situation through existing information, data, reports, site & desktop surveys;
- Consideration of the relevant National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and accompanying NPPG, and the statutory extant and emerging development plan policies;
- Consideration of potential sensitive receptors;
- Identification of likely significant environmental effects and an evaluation of their duration and magnitude where applicable;
- Expert opinion;
- Modelling;
- Use of relevant technical and good practice guidance; and
- Specific consultation with appropriate bodies.

2.6.2. Environmental effects have been evaluated with reference to definitive standards and legislation where available. Where it has not been possible to quantify effects, assessments have been based on available knowledge and professional judgment.

2.7. Approach to Determine Significance

2.7.1. The EIA identifies the likely 'significance' of environmental effects (beneficial or adverse) arising from the Proposed Development. Each technical chapter defines discipline specific 'likely significant effects' by the use of pre-determined assessment criteria. Individual disciplines stipulate the specific assessment criteria used within their own technical chapters under Assessment Approach; however in broad terms, environmental effects can be described as adverse, beneficial or neutral on a sliding scale, for example, major-moderate-minor-negligible.

2.7.2. In many technical disciplines (but not all), significance reflects the relationship between two factors:

- The magnitude or severity of an effect (i.e. the actual change taking place to the environment); and
- The sensitivity, importance or value of the resource or receptor.

2.7.3. Specific separate criteria for determining the degree of 'magnitude' and the degree of 'sensitivity' (or importance or value) is clearly defined within each technical chapter, and again is often on a sliding scale (e.g. high-medium-low).

2.7.4. The significance of a particular effect can then be derived from the interaction of the receptor's sensitivity and the magnitude of change likely to be experienced.

- 2.7.5. An example of this 'matrix' process is indicated below in **Table 2.4**, however it should be noted that this is provided as a general guide only. Discipline-specific methodology is often used rather than generic criteria, as it is recognised that broad criteria does not always cater for particular disciplines, particularly where best practice and guidance require subtle differences. All significance criteria are clearly explained within each technical chapter under the heading of Assessment Approach.

Table 2.4: Example degrees of Significance based on Magnitude/Sensitivity

Magnitude of Change	Sensitivity of Receptor				
		High	Medium	Low	Negligible
	High	Major	Major	Moderate	Negligible
	Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor to Moderate	Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Minor to Moderate	Minor	Negligible
	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

- 2.7.6. Significance of effects would be assigned both before and after mitigation where relevant.

2.8. Mitigation

- 2.8.1. Standard measures and the adoption of construction best practice methods to avoid, minimise or manage adverse environmental effects, or to ensure realisation of beneficial effects, are assumed to have been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development and the methods of its construction from the outset. Further information on the standard measures and construction best practice is detailed in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development and Alternatives**. Where outlined, the assessment is of the Proposed Development incorporating these measures.
- 2.8.2. Where mitigation measures are proposed that are specific to an environmental theme (e.g. ecological measures incorporated into the landscaping scheme etc) and are purposely incorporated into the design, these are highlighted within the relevant technical chapter as 'mitigation by design' (or 'integral/embedded mitigation') and may be subject to appropriate planning conditions or obligations.
- 2.8.3. Where the assessment of the Proposed Development has identified potential for adverse environmental effects, the scope for mitigation of those effects, for example by way of compensatory measures, has been considered and is outlined in the appropriate technical chapter. It is assumed that such measures would be subject to appropriate planning conditions or obligations.
- 2.8.4. Where the effectiveness of the mitigation proposed has been considered uncertain, or where it depends upon assumptions of operating procedures, then data and/or professional judgment has been introduced to support these assumptions.

2.9. Cumulative and In-Combination Effects

- 2.9.1. The ES responds to the requirement in the Regulations to assess the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development. Within EIA, cumulative effects are generally considered to arise from:

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- Inter-project Cumulative Effects: The combined effects of development schemes which may, on an individual basis be insignificant but, cumulatively, have significant effect; and
- Intra-project Cumulative Effects: The combined effect of individual effects (for example noise, airborne dust or traffic) on a single receptor where deemed potentially significant.

Inter-project Cumulative Effects

- 2.9.2. With respect to inter-project cumulative effects, the EIA Regulations state that consideration should be given to “other existing and/or approved projects” (Schedule 4, paragraph 5(e)). This is further supported by the NPPG which states “*There are occasions.....when other existing or approved development may be relevant in determining whether significant effects are likely as a consequence of a proposed development*” (Paragraph: 024 Reference ID: 4-024-20170728).
- 2.9.3. Regard will therefore be had to relevant “existing and/or approved projects”, which alongside the Proposed Development, could potentially result in significant cumulative effects (discussed further below). It is relevant to note however that not all these projects will necessarily have significant cumulative impacts.
- 2.9.4. It is also acknowledged that there may be other proposals which are considered as “reasonably foreseeable” as referred to within the European Guidance in relation to the definition of cumulative impacts. It is important to recognise that it is not the role of the ES to assess all these types of potential developments and a staged approach in identifying which of these ‘other sites’ are relevant to consider is appropriate.
- 2.9.5. In this context, a review of the surrounding potential ‘other sites’ within 3km of the Proposed Development has been undertaken, which can be categorised into the below: (for the purposes of the Proposed Developments and their setting, a proximity of 3km from the Site boundary and major applications has been considered appropriate)
- Committed schemes (i.e. proposals with planning permission/consented which are either under construction or yet to commence);
 - Applications pending determination (i.e schemes with live planning applications which may or may not be within adopted allocations), and
 - Other potential schemes (e.g. adopted allocation or schemes which have screening / scoping submitted – some of these maybe considered relevant to include in cumulative assessment).
- 2.9.6. As per EIA guidance, consideration has been given to the level of certainty of each development identified within as part of the cumulative assessment, in the context of the European’s Guidance definition of cumulative effects and how “reasonably foreseeable” these are. For example, generally speaking it is relevant for development under construction to be considered ‘certain’, permitted applications not under construction to be considered ‘likely’, submitted undetermined applications which are local plan allocations to be considered ‘potential’ and undetermined applications with no other status are considered ‘uncertain’.
- 2.9.7. Finally, each ‘certain’, ‘likely’ or ‘potential’ development has then been considered whether it would, in combination with the Proposed Developments, have potential to give rise to significant cumulative effects. ‘Uncertain’ developments are not considered as reasonably foreseeable in

the context of the European's Guidance definition of cumulative effects and therefore are proposed not to be considered further.

- 2.9.8. Where it is considered this could potentially result in significant effects, the 'other development' will then be considered within the cumulative assessment. The manner in which these are considered may vary dependent on the nature and progress of the development and the discipline which maybe impacted upon. For example, where the 'other development' is built or will be built at the commencement of the subject proposals construction, this may well be considered within the baseline and therefore already inherent in assessments. Other developments may have potential implications on some disciplines but not others e.g. no visual link, but potential transport implications or vice versa. Discussion is given on this where relevant.
- 2.9.9. The below table sets out the schemes considered; the locations of the schemes taken through to the cumulative assessment is shown on **Figure 2.1 Cumulative Sites Plan**.

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Table 2.5: Potential Other Developments in relation to Cumulative Assessment

	Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
1	Fox's Bank, Halsnead Garden Village, Land West of Fox's Bank Lane and North of M62, Whiston, Knowsley, L35 3SS Applicant Taylor Wimpey 20/00417/FUL	Yes – Phase 2a	Residential development comprising the erection of 350 dwellings together with the construction of vehicular access off fox's bank lane, and supporting infrastructure.	Adjacent to the east	Consented 9th February 2022 Construction underway	Certain: Planning permission granted and construction is underway. Given the nature of this scheme and its proximity to the Proposed Development, it is considered relevant to consider as part of the cumulative assessment	YES
2	Land South of Lickers Lane and Site of Former Saunder's Nursery, Windy Arbor Road, Halsnead Garden Village, Whiston Applicant Nuvu/Your Housing 20/00399/OUT Varied under 23/02755/FUL RM 23/02378/REM	Yes – Phase 1b/1c/2c	Outline application for Proposed Residential Development of up to 277 Dwellings and an Apartment Development of up to 100 units for over 50s and supporting infrastructure and associated works.	C 150m to the north of the Site	Consented August 2023 RM for 239 dwellings granted 26th January 2024	Likely: Planning permission granted but construction has not yet started. Given the nature and location of the scheme, it is considered relevant to consider as part of the cumulative assessment	YES

	Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
3	Land North of M62 Motorway off Windy Arbor Road (Halsnead) Whiston Knowsley L35 1RB Applicant Bloor 18/OO283/HYB RM 22/OO213/REM	Yes – Phase 1a	Hybrid Application comprising full details for 123 dwellings and supporting infrastructure and works; outline application for 237 dwellings, car park and associated works	C. 100m to the west of the Site	Consented 17th March 2021 Full 123 dwellings under construction RM for 208 dwellings granted 10 th May 2023	Certain: Planning permission granted and construction is underway. Given the nature of this scheme and its proximity to the Proposed Development, it is considered relevant to consider as part of the cumulative assessment	YES
4	Land to the South of Lickers Lane, Halsnead Garden Village, Whiston, Knowsley Applicant Vistry 22/OO600/FUL	Yes – Phase 2c	Erection of 120 dwellings with 1 vehicular access off Lickers lane and other associated works.	C 300m to the north of the Site	Approved (30 th May 2024)	Likely: Planning permission granted but construction has not yet started. Given the nature and location of the scheme, it is considered relevant to consider as part of the cumulative assessment	YES

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	Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
5	Former Site of Cronton Colliery Cronton Road Halsnead Garden Village Knowsley Applicants Tritax Symmetry Huyton Ltd (Symmetry Park) 20/00494/HYB RM applications: 22/00162/REM 23/01949/REM 24/00145/REM	Yes within Garden Village	Hybrid Application comprising: full application for 161,900 sqft of storage and distribution floorspace and associated infrastructure and works; outline application for the development of up to 838,100 sqft of storage and distribution floorspace and supporting infrastructure	Adjacent to the south of the M62, c. 100m south of the Site	Consented 4th March 2022 Full consented section complete RM 22/00162/REM 23/01949/REM consented June 2023 and March 2024 24/00145/REM awaiting decision.	Certain: Planning permission granted and part complete. Given the nature of this scheme and its proximity to the Proposed Development, it is considered relevant to consider as part of the cumulative assessment	YES
6	Land to the North of Cronton Road and South of the M62,	Yes within Garden Village	Erection of 1 no. commercial unit (312,000 sq ft use class b8) with ancillary offices and outbuildings together with	420m to the south-west of the Site	Consented 18 th March 2025	Likely: Planning permission granted but construction has not yet started. Given the	YES

	Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
	Cronton, Knowsley (known as Mercury 62) Applicant: Maro Developments 22/OO587/FUL		access works, landscaping, service yard, car parking, servicing and other associated works			nature and location of the scheme, it is considered relevant to consider as part of the cumulative assessment	
7	Land at Windy Arbor Brow / Windy Arbor Road Whiston Knowsley Applicant Forth Homes 20/OO329/FUL S73 Application (23/O1417/FUL)	Within South of Whiston allocation (SUE2) but outside the masterplan and phased development area	Erection of a residential development of 43 dwellings	600m to the west of the Site	Consented 8th December 2021 S73 application awaiting determination	Likely: Planning permission granted but construction has not yet started. Given the nature and location of the scheme, it is considered relevant to consider as part of the cumulative assessment	YES
	Olympic Fallows Way Whiston Knowsley L35 1RZ 23/O2738/FUL	No	Erection of Extension to Main Building for Use as A Storage Unit (B8) and associated works.	700m to the west of the Site	Awaiting decision	Uncertain: Planning application yet to be determined. Given the nature of this scheme, it is considered unlikely this	NO

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	Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
						would result in significant cumulative impacts.	
	John Mason International Ltd 35 Wilson Road Huyton Knowsley L36 6AE 22/00284/OUT	No	Demolition of existing buildings and outline application for the erection of a logistics warehouse (Use Class B8) – Approval Sought for Access (Appearance, Layout, Landscaping and Scale Reserved for Future Approval).	1.3km to the west of the Site	Consented March 2023	Likely: Given the nature of this scheme and that it replaces existing employment development, this scheme is considered unlikely to incur significant cumulative effects. This scheme replaces former employment development with a logistics warehouse and as such, significant alterations to the existing baseline with respect to traffic are not expected. No significant cumulative effects are anticipated.	NO
8	Sovereign Industrial Park Wilson Road Huyton Knowsley 23/02782/FUL	No	Erection of 1.no retail unit (Use Class E(A) with External Display Area and Car Parking and Servicing Arrangements. Partial demolition, reconfiguration and refurbishment of existing employment building to create 2.no industrial / warehouse buildings with ancillary offices	1.6km to the west of the Site	Consented 31 st July 2025	Likely: Planning permission granted but construction has not yet started. Given the nature of this scheme, it is considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative impacts. This	YES: FOR THE TRANSPORT AND ACCESS CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT ONLY.

	Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
			(Use Classes E(G)(III), B2 and B8) with servicing and car parking; retention and amendment of existing site accesses along with internal estate roads, 2no. substations, landscaping and associated works.			scheme will however be taken into account in relation to transport traffic data for completeness.	
9	Parcel C at Prescott Cables Site Prescot Park Way Knowsley Prescot L34 1AH 15/00022/OUT 20/00767/REM	No	Application for Approval of Reserved Matters Pursuant to Outline Planning Permission 15/00022/OUT (Outline Application for mixed use development comprising up to 750 dwellings, and up to 929 sqm of commercial / industrial buildings (use classes B1/B2/B8). Approval sought for appearance, access, layout and landscaping for the erection of 53 dwellings	1.7km to the north-west of the Site	Consented 12th August 2021 Under construction with majority of the site built out.	Certain: Planning permission granted and the majority complete. Given the nature of this scheme and its proximity to the Proposed Development, it is considered relevant to consider as part of the cumulative assessment	YES
10	Land East of Prescott Park Way Prescot Cables Prescot L34 1AH 20/00789/FUL	No	Erection of 28 no. dwellings (use class c3) together with access and associated works	1.5km to the north-west of the Site	Consented 1st March 2022.	Certain: This falls under 15/00022/OUT. The site is mostly built out. Given the small nature of this scheme, it is considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative effects, however	YES

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	Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
					Under Construction.	is considered as part of the above.	
	Dogs Trust Whiston Lane Huyton Knowsley L36 6HP 23/O2351/FUL	No	Redevelopment (and part retention) of existing dog's trust rehoming centre to deliver new facilities including new rehoming building, vets and puppy suite, an intake and booking building and training barn, works to vehicular and pedestrian accesses, landscaping and layout including outdoor furniture and associated works.	2km to the north-east of the Site	Consented September 2024	Likely: Although the planning application has been consented, given the nature of this scheme, it is considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative impacts.	NO
	Land at Carr Lane Prescott Knowsley 23/O2677/FUL	No	Erection of 88 No. affordable residential dwellings and associated infrastructure	2.2km to the north-east of the Site	Consented 23 rd January 2025	Likely: Although the planning application has been consented, given the nature and the distance from the Proposed Development, it is considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative impacts.	NO
	Whitakers Garden Centre Liverpool Road Prescott Knowsley L34 3LX	No	Erection of 227 no. dwellings together with vehicular/pedestrian accesses, landscaping & associated infrastructure	2.7km to the north-west of the Site	Consented December 2020.	Certain: Substantial proportion of the site is already built out. Given the nature of this scheme and	NO

	Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
	19/00684/FUL				Under Construction.	distance from the site, it is considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative impacts. The TA confirms that the study areas do not overlap.	
	Earlsfield Park Land at Knowsley Lane Knowsley L34 4AH 20/00376/OUT	No	Outline planning permission for 30,530 sq m of employment floor space (use class b1 / b8) – access to be considered at this stage (all other matters reserved)	3km to the north-west of the Site	Consented Feb 2021	Likely: Given the nature of this scheme, it is considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative impacts. The TA confirms that the study areas do not overlap. As such, there is no need to take account of this within the transport analysis	No
	Land to North and East of Rose Farm, Chapel Lane, Widnes, Knowsley / Cheshire 23/01037/OUT	No	Outline planning application (with all matters other than access reserved) (to be determined by Halton borough council only) for the development of up to 350 dwellings, public open space, landscaping and associated infrastructure works. full details for site access arrangements via a new junction on chapel lane (to be determined by	3km to the south-east of the Site	Refused 28 th November 2025	Uncertain: Planning application refused.	NO

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	Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
			Knowsley borough council only) and emergency access via sandy lane (to be determined by Halton borough council)				
	Linkway Distribution Park and Adjacent Land Elton Head Road St Helens WA9 5BW P/2018/0060/FUL (within the administrative authority of St Helens Borough Council)	No	Hybrid Planning Application comprising of a full planning permission for demolition of existing buildings and structures and outline application all matters reserved except for access for residential development (up to 352 dwellings) and associated open space/green infrastructure.	3km to the north-east of the Site	Consented Jun 2018	Given the nature of this scheme, it is considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative impacts. The proposals would replace existing development and there would be no material change in traffic. As such, there is no need to take account of this within the transport analysis.	NO
11	South of Whiston/Land north of the M62 SUE, 'Halsnead Park' (allocated within the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy)	Yes	Notional capacity: 1,503 dwellings plus 22.5ha employment and country park	Covers the Site and its surroundings,	Adopted in current local plan	The remaining areas of Halsnead Park which are not reflected in the above proposals will be considered to an appropriate level of detail, proportionate to the level of information that is available.	YES

	Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
	Land at Civic Way Huyton Knowsley 23/02803/FUL	No	Enabling and engineering works comprise of demolition of the municipal building and computer building; existing car parks and hardstanding, removal of trees, ground reprofiling and remediation, installation and diversion of below ground infrastructure, formation of a temporary car park, installation of security hoarding and associated works.	3km to the north-west of the Site	Consented March 2024	Certain: Although the planning application has been consented, given the nature of this scheme, it is considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative impacts.	NO
	The following open space proposals have also been identified						
12	Disused Railway Line Extending from M62 Motorway Extending North Through Halsnead Park And to Rear of Cronton Avenue, Whiston, Knowsley 19/00651/FUL	Yes	Construction of Multi Use Path and Associated Groundworks	430m to the west of the Site	Consented March 2021 Construction has not yet commenced.	Likely: Planning permission granted but construction has not yet started.	YES
13	Former Site of Cronton Colliery Cronton Road Cronton Knowsley L35 1QR	Yes	Construction of a new country park comprising the creation of sculpted landscape, habitat/wetland creation, associated works and infrastructure. This	500m to the south-west of the Site	Awaiting decision	Uncertain: Whilst the proposals are yet to be approved, given its location within the Garden Village and	YES

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	Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
	20/00578/FUL (This planning application is related to 20/00494/HYB above).		planning application also comprises the erection of a single storey visitor centre including reception, education space and outdoor classroom and access into the Site.			proximity to the Proposed Development, this is proposed to be considered as part of the cumulative assessment	
14	From Fox's Bank Lane Following the Northern Boundary of Agricultural Land South of Penny Lane to Opposite Oak Lodge 22/00195/KMBC1	No	Construction of a multi user route for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians including a new equestrian, cyclist and pedestrian crossing on fox's bank lane, installation of 2 no. k-barriers and access gates, regrading of land, landscaping, boundary treatments, signage and other associated works to connect fox's bank lane at Halsnead park to the existing penny lane highway	750m to the south-east of the Site	Consented 27th January 2023 Construction has not yet commenced.	Likely: Planning permission granted but construction is not yet underway.	YES
	Additional Sites requested to be considered through formal Scoping Opinion						

	Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
	Dye House, Liverpool Road, Prescott 22/00233/FUL	No	Demolition of existing building and redevelopment of land at Dye House, Prescott, to erect up to 45 residential units with associated infrastructure and landscaping	Over 3km to the north west of the Site	Consented	Likely: Whilst planning permission has been granted, given the nature and the distance from the Proposed Development, it is considered unlikely this would result in significant cumulative impacts.	NO
15	20/00767/REM	No	Application for approval of reserved matters pursuant to outline planning permission 15/00022/OUT; 53 dwellings	2km to the north of the Site	Consented	Likely: Planning permission granted, surrounding site under construction and operational.	YES
16	20/00576/FUL	No	Full planning permission for a new foodstore, employment development, access, landscaping and provision of associated infrastructure. Outline planning permission for a mixed-use development comprising a drive thru restaurant, drive thru coffee shop and public house together with associated parking and landscaping	2.5km to the north of the Site	Consented 28 th November 2023	Likely: Planning permission granted but construction is not yet underway.	YES

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	Site and Planning Reference	Within Halsnead Park allocation?	Description of Development	Approximate Distance from the nearest Site boundary	Status	Certainty and relevance to include	Proposed to be considered?
	Additional site aware of since Scoping						
	Land South of Stoney Lane (no live application)	No	Erection of a residential development comprising 204 dwellings (Use Class C3) with associated access taken from Stoney Lane, parking, public open space, and landscaping."	1.6km to the north-east of the Site	Planning Application soon to be submitted	Uncertain: application yet to be submitted	NO

Intra-project Cumulative Effects and In-Combination Effects

- 2.9.10. Intra-project effects are the combined effect of individual effects (for example noise, airborne dust and traffic) on a single receptor where deemed potentially significant and are also reviewed in each of the technical chapters of this ES and where relevant discussed in the Summary chapter.

2.10. General Assumptions & Limitations

- 2.10.1. The principal assumptions that have been made and any limitations that have been identified in preparing this ES are set out below:

- The principal land uses adjoining the Sites remain as at the present day, except where relevant to consider the proposals discussed above;
- Information received from third parties is complete and up to date;
- The design, construction and completed stages of the Proposed Development will satisfy legislative requirements; and
- Conditions, or other legal obligations, will be attached to the planning permission to secure 'mitigation', where considered necessary to make the Proposed Development acceptable.

2.11. Structure of Technical Chapter

- 2.11.1. Throughout the EIA process, the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development will be assessed. Within each of the technical chapters the information which will inform the EIA process has generally been set out in the following way:

- **Introduction** – to introduce the topic under consideration, state the purpose of undertaking the assessment and set out those aspects of the Proposed Development material to the topic assessment;
- **Assessment Approach** – to describe the method and scope of the assessment undertaken and responses to consultation in relation to method and scope in each case pertinent to the topic under consideration;
- **Baseline Conditions** – a description of the baseline conditions pertinent to the topic under consideration including baseline survey information for each Site;
- **Assessment of Likely Significant Effects** – identifying the likely effects, evaluation of those effects and assessment of their significance, considering both construction and operational and direct and indirect effects for each Phase;
- **Mitigation, Enhancement and Residual Effects** – describing the mitigation strategies for the significant effects identified, noting any residual effects for each Phase;
- **Cumulative Effects** – consideration of potential cumulative and in-combination effects (as discussed above) for each phase; and
- **Summary** – a non-technical summary of the chapter, including baseline conditions, likely significant effects, mitigation and conclusion.