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## **KRONOSPAN, CHIRK**

**NORTH ACCESS ROAD INTO THE KRONOSPAN  
FACILITY, LORRY PARK, WEIGHBRIDGES AND  
WEIGHBRIDGE BUILDING, WEIGHBRIDGE CAR PARK  
AND FACILITIES BLOCK, ROUNDWOOD STORAGE  
AREAS, 132KV SUBSTATION, AND ANCILLARY  
WORKS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT CHAPTER 2.0 –  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY**

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**Chester Office** | Well House Barns | Chester Road | Bretton | Chester | CH4 0DH

**South Manchester Office** | Camellia House | 76 Water Lane | Wilmslow | SK9 5BB

t 0844 8700 007 | e [enquiries@axisped.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@axisped.co.uk)

## **CONTENTS – CHAPTER 2.0**

<b>2.0</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Introduction	3
2.2	Need for EIA	4
2.3	The Scope of the EIA	5
2.4	EIA Methodology	10
2.5	Development Design, Impact Avoidance and Mitigation	13
2.6	Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria	15
2.7	Cumulative Effects	19
2.8	Transboundary Effects	22
2.9	The Structure of the Environmental Statement	23

## **Figures**

## **(Volume 2 – Bound Separately)**

Figure 2.1 Cumulative Effects – Other Kronospan Projects

Figure 2.2 Cumulative Effects – Indicative 132kV Underground Cable  
Route Connection

## **2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) describes the overarching environmental impact assessment (EIA) methodology used in the production of the ES. This chapter sets out the following:

- the legislative requirement for the Proposed Development planning application to be accompanied by an ES;
- how the ES complies with the requirements of the EIA Regulations;
- the broad assessment approach that has been undertaken in relation to the topics that have been identified as being likely to result in significant environmental effects; and
- the structure of the ES.

2.1.2 EIA is the process of identifying, evaluating, and mitigating the likely significant environmental effects of a development. Early identification of significant effects enables appropriate mitigation to be incorporated into the design of development to avoid, reduce or offset those effects.

2.1.3 The EIA of the Proposed Development has been undertaken in parallel with the design process, thereby maximising opportunities to mitigate likely significant effects as they were identified. This approach ensures mitigation is embedded in the design of the Proposed Development, wherever possible, and forms an integral component of it.

2.1.4 The results of the EIA, published in this ES allows Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC), statutory consultees such as Cadw and Natural Resources Wales, other interested parties, and the public, to be made aware of the environmental effects of the Proposed Development prior to determination of the application.

2.1.5 This ES has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations).

## **2.2 Need for EIA**

### ***Legislative Background***

- 2.2.1 The requirement for EIA was prescribed by European law under Council Directive 85/337/EEC. This Directive has been amended four times, with the latest amendment, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive (2014/52/EU) entering into force on 15 May 2014.
- 2.2.2 In Wales, the Directive has been enacted most recently into law via the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017, hereafter referred to as ‘the EIA Regulations’. The EIA Regulation came into force on 16 May 2017.
- 2.2.3 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes and the Environmental Impact Assessment (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 made on 13 February 2019 ensure that the EIA Regulations continue to apply in Wales following Brexit.

### ***Requirement for EIA***

- 2.2.4 Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations lists categories of developments for which EIA is mandatory, whilst Schedule 2 lists categories of development for which EIA may be required depending upon, inter alia, whether the development is likely to have significant environmental effects.
- 2.2.5 The Proposed Development is included within Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations (under Parts 10 and 13 of Schedule 2) as follows:
- *10a. Industrial estate development projects. The area of the development exceeds 5 hectares;*
  - *10f. Construction of roads (unless included in Schedules 1). The area of the works exceeds 1 hectare;*
  - *13a. Any change to or extension of development of a description listed in Schedule 1 (other than a change or extension falling within paragraph 23 of that Schedule) where that development is already authorised, executed or in the process of being executed. The development as changed or extended may have significant adverse effects on the environment.*

2.2.6 In respect of Part 13a of Schedule 2, the wider Kronospan site is an *‘industrial plant for the production of paper and board with a production capacity exceeding 200 tonnes per day’*. As such the wider Kronospan site falls within Part 18b of Schedule 1.

2.2.7 The requirement for EIA was confirmed following a formal request for a screening opinion (in accordance with Paragraph 6 (2) of the EIA Regulations), which was submitted to WCBC on 09 March 2022.

2.2.8 A formal screening opinion was issued by WCBC on 05 April 2022 which confirmed that the Proposed Development would fall within Parts 10 and 13 of Schedule 2. The screening opinion provided the following summary statement:

*‘The proposal will involve a major employment development within a Special Landscape Area, close to a World Heritage Site but not directly affecting the setting of a scheduled ancient monument. It will have an impact on traffic on the local highway network. It has the potential to impact upon protected species. Although the impacts are primarily localised cumulative mitigation could result in significant effects in EIA terms. As such an EIA is considered to be necessary in this instance’.*

## **2.3 The Scope of the EIA**

2.3.1 The information required to be included within an ES is set out in Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations. **Table 2.1** below indicates where information relevant to the requirements of Schedule 4 can be found within the ES.

**Table 2.1: Review of Schedule 4 Requirements**

Sch 4. Para.	Requirement	Where Addressed within the ES
1	<p>Description of the development, including in particular</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a description of the location of the development;</li> <li>(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;</li> <li>(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;</li> <li>(d) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as water, air, oil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation) and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operational phases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Chapter 1.0</li> <li>(b) Chapter 4.0</li> <li>(c) Chapter 4.0</li> <li>(d) Chapter 4.0 in relation to the description of the Proposed Development, and Chapters 5.0 to 8.0 in relation to individual topic areas</li> </ul>
2	A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the applicant or appellant which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects	Chapter 3.0
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	Chapters 5.0 to 8.0 as this 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	Chapters 5.0 to 8.0 as this relates to individual topic areas
5	<p>A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works;</li> <li>(b) the use of natural resources in particular land, soil,</li> </ul>	Chapter 4.0 in relation to the description of the Proposed Development, and Chapters 5.0 to 8.0 in relation to individual topic areas

Sch 4. Para.	Requirement	Where Addressed within the ES
	<p>water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources;</p> <p>(c) the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances and the disposal and recovery of waste,</p> <p>(d) the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters);</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>the technologies and the substances used.</p> <p>The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in regulation 4(2) should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development. This description should take into account the environmental protection objectives established at European Union level as they were immediately before IP completion day (including in particular those established under Council Directive 92/43/EECF3 and Directive 2009/147/ECF4) or at national level</p>	
6	<p>A description of the forecasting methods or evidence used to identify and assess the 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</p>	<p>The overall EIA methodology and approach to assessment is described in Chapter 2.0.</p> <p>The specific technical methodologies used to identify and assess effects are fully described (or referenced) within Chapters 5.0 to 8.0 as they relate to individual topic areas.</p>
7	<p>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</p>	<p>'Incorporated Mitigation' which forms part of the scheme design is described in the detailed scheme description provided in Chapter 4.0.</p> <p>Mitigation measures, as</p>



Sch 4. Para.	Requirement	Where Addressed within the ES
	phases	they apply to individual environmental topic areas, are described in Chapters 5.0 to 8.0 as they relate to each topic.
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 [F5retained EU law such as any law which implemented] Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council or Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom or relevant assessments carried out pursuant to national legislation may be used for this purpose provided that the requirements of any law which implemented] the 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	Chapter 2.0
9	A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 8	A separate Non-Technical Summary is provided as <b>Volume 4</b> of the ES
10	A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the environmental statement	References are provided as footnotes and/ or reference document lists within, or at the end of each ES Chapter, as appropriate

2.3.2 Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations states that prospective Applicants may request a Scoping Opinion from the relevant planning authority, in this instance WCBC. This is a written confirmation as to the information that, in the opinion of the planning authority, ought to be provided within the ES. However, requesting such an Opinion is not a mandatory requirement.

2.3.3 AXIS has prepared and submitted multiple applications on behalf of Kronospan Ltd for a variety of developments which were supported by ES's and other environmental assessments. As such Kronospan Ltd and AXIS have developed a good knowledge of the relevant issues and environmental constraints at the Site and in the local area. On this basis it was decided to not submit a request for a formal Scoping Opinion under Regulation 14 of

the EIA Regulations. Nonetheless, the Applicant has undertaken a pre-application planning enquiry with WCBC and as part of this process the scope of the ES was discussed. The topics where it was considered there was potential for significant environmental effects, and thus were scoped into the ES, were as follows:

- Chapter 5.0: Landscape and Visual.
- Chapter 6.0: Historic Environment.
- Chapter 7.0: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation.
- Chapter 8.0: Noise and Vibration.

2.3.4 With respect to the potential for significant environmental effects, the environmental topics detailed above address the conclusions of the formal screening opinion from WCBC (including its accompanying EIA checklist/screening assessment).

2.3.5 In addition to the above environmental topic chapters, the following (non-EIA) assessments have also been undertaken and are appended to the Planning Statement that also forms part of the planning submission:

- Planning Statement Appendix A
  - **Agricultural Land Classification Survey**
- Planning Statement Appendix B
  - **Flood Consequence Assessment and Surface Water Drainage Strategy**
- Planning Statement Appendix C
  - **Arboricultural Impact Assessment**
- Planning Statement Appendix D
  - **Lighting Assessment**
- Planning Statement Appendix E
  - **Air Quality Assessment**
- Planning Statement Appendix F
  - **Transport Assessment**

2.3.6 Climate change is addressed, where relevant, in the environmental topic chapters. It is also addressed, where relevant, in the **Flood Consequence**

## **Assessment and Surface Water Drainage Strategy (Planning Statement Appendix B).**

- 2.3.7 The risk of major accidents and/or disasters resulting from the Proposed Development was considered at the EIA screening stage. In the formal screening opinion issued by WCBC it was stated

*'...there is a risk of accidents during site construction. The risks are considered to be localised and would be minimised by adoption of best practice techniques by site contractors. The occupation of the site is not considered likely to pose a risk of major accidents or disasters'.*

- 2.3.8 WCBC concluded that significant effects resulting from accidents/disasters are unlikely. Therefore, this subject is not considered any further in the ES.

## **2.4 EIA Methodology**

### ***Introduction***

- 2.4.1 The ES presents a description of the Proposed Development and its likely significant environmental effects on the environment during construction and operation (including maintenance where relevant) based on the design and environmental information currently available. It also details measures to avoid or reduce such effects.
- 2.4.2 Decommissioning effects are not considered in the ES as the Proposed Development is not intended to be decommissioned. The Proposed Development would form a permanent part of the long-term operation of the Kronospan Facility (to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the current operations).
- 2.4.3 The approach to EIA is not standardised, but there are established and recognised approaches set out by professional institutions about methods to be used for the assessment of environmental effects. Where appropriate, the environmental effects of the Proposed Development have been assessed using definitive standards, relevant legislation, and guidance applicable to each of the technical areas covered within this ES.
- 2.4.4 The information and knowledge required to produce this ES was acquired from several varied sources to ensure that all effects, whether explicit from

the outset, or likely to arise during the project's development, were assessed. These sources included:

- discussions with technical consultees;
- review of public files and records;
- review of historical mapping and aerial photography;
- site surveys undertaken by the applicant;
- surveys and assessments undertaken previously on the Site;
- specialist studies, such as computer modelling of potential noise impacts; and
- expert knowledge from the consultancy team.

### ***Approach***

2.4.5 This ES summarises the outcomes to date of the following EIA activities:

- Establishing baseline conditions.
- Consultation with statutory and non-statutory consultees as appropriate.
- Consideration of relevant local, regional and national planning policies, guidelines and legislation relevant to the EIA.
- Consideration of technical standards for the development of significance criteria and specialist assessment methodologies.
- Design review.
- Review of secondary information, previous environmental studies, publicly available information and databases.
- Expert opinion/professional judgement.
- Physical surveys and monitoring.
- Desk-top studies.
- Modelling and calculations.
- Reference to current guidance.

2.4.6 These activities have enabled the prediction of impacts in relation to the current and future baseline, and a prediction based on the information available of the significance of effects on environmental receptors. The term 'impact' refers to changes arising from the Proposed Development, whereas the term 'effect' is used to describe the result of the impact on a receptor.

2.4.7 Each topic chapter within the ES follows the same broad structure for ease of reference, which is:

- Introduction
- Planning Policy, Legislation, and Guidance
- Assessment Methodology
- Baseline Environment
- Development Design and Impact Avoidance Measures.
- Assessment of Potential Effects
- Inter-relationship of Potential Effects
- Mitigation, Monitoring and Enhancement
- Summary of Potential Residual Effects
- Cumulative Effects
- Conclusions

***Study Areas: Spatial Scope of Assessment***

2.4.8 Chapters 5.0 to 8.0 of the ES describe the spatial scope of the respective assessment, (i.e. the Study Area for each assessment) including the rationale for determining the specific study area within which the assessment is focussed. The Study Areas are a function of the nature of the impacts and the locations of potentially affected environmental resources or receptors. Justification for the spatial scope considered appropriate is documented in each topic chapter.

***Assessment Baseline***

2.4.9 Each of Chapters 5.0 to 8.0 provide a description of the environmental baseline as this relates the respective topic being assessed. Baseline conditions have been established through consultation, collation and analysis of existing datasets and reports, and gathering of site-specific field data. The baseline assessment identifies any sensitive receptors that will need to be considered in the assessment of effects.

2.4.10 In accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations an outline of the likely evolution of the environment is set out by predicting future natural change in the baseline conditions in the absence of the

Proposed Development. The future baseline is then taken into account when assessing the likely effects of the project over its operational lifetime.

- 2.4.11 For the avoidance of doubt, the current, or existing baseline is considered to be the state of the environment during 2022 when the various surveys that informed the preparation of the ES were undertaken.
- 2.4.12 The future baseline considers the likely natural evolution of the receiving environment over the next decade, i.e. up to 2032.
- 2.4.13 In relation to individual topics, any divergence from the dates set out above is stated clearly within Chapters 5.0 to 8.0.

### ***Construction and Operational Stages of Development***

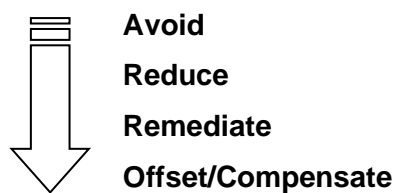
- 2.4.14 The ES differentiates between those effects that may potentially result from construction activities, and effects that would result from the presence of the Proposed Development once operational.
- 2.4.15 It is anticipated that construction would occur between Quarter 3 2023 and Quarter 4 2026. An indicative programme is set out in **ES Chapter 4.0 (Description of the Proposed Development)**. There would be overlap between some of these activities, and the majority of construction works, (i.e. from the start of site clearance to the completion of the roundwood storage areas and weighbridge car park) would last for approximately fifteen months in total. Construction of the proposed 132kV substation would take place after all the other elements are built and in operation.
- 2.4.16 Effects may vary at different points in time following opening, as proposed mitigation measures (for example any proposed planting intended to screen views) become more established over time. As such, some topics differentiate between the effects that would occur at different times once the Proposed Development is open. All assumptions made are stated in the topic chapters.

## **2.5 Development Design, Impact Avoidance and Mitigation**

- 2.5.1 The design of the Proposed Development has evolved through an iterative process described in **ES Chapter 3.0 (Alternatives)**. This reflects the need

to 'design-out' any potentially adverse environmental effects where practicable to do so.

- 2.5.2 It is a requirement of the EIA Regulations to describe the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant effects on the environment. Mitigation measures can be used to reduce or avoid any adverse effect, whether that effect is deemed to be 'significant'. Mitigation can be achieved in several ways as listed below. This approach is often referred to as the mitigation hierarchy with mitigation being selected as high up the hierarchy as possible.



- 2.5.3 Many of the mitigation measures have been embedded into the Proposed Development because of decisions made during the design of the scheme, and hence form part of the scheme for which planning permission is being sought (As described in **ES Chapter 4.0 Description of Proposed Development**). Key 'incorporated' mitigation measures relevant to the technical assessments are described in each topic chapter (**ES Chapters 5.0 to 8.0 (Topic Chapters)**). These include any measures needed for legal compliance, as well as any measures that implement the requirements of best practice guidance documents. On the basis that these mitigation measures are embedded into the project they have been taken into account when coming to a judgement of the likely significance of the effects of the Proposed Development.
- 2.5.4 Where additional mitigation, compensation or enhancement measures are proposed to prevent, reduce, or offset adverse effects unavoidable through design, or to provide benefits to the scheme/local environment these are described separately within the mitigation section of each Chapter. Where such measures have been defined an explanation is provided of how these measures will mitigate/reduce the identified effects of the Proposed Development.

- 2.5.5 The residual effects (after the implementation of mitigation) are described in in each topic chapter. The likely significant residual effects are also summarised in **ES Chapter 9.0 (Summary of Residual Effects and Conclusions)**.

## **2.6 Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria**

### ***Overview***

- 2.6.1 Impacts are defined as changes arising from the Proposed Development, and consideration of the result of these impacts on environmental receptors enables the assessment of the resulting effects, and their classification (e.g. whether for example major, moderate, minor and negligible, and whether adverse, neutral or beneficial). Each effect is assessed both before and after mitigation measures have been applied. Effects remaining after implementation of mitigation are referred to as 'residual effects', and conclusion is made in each topic chapter as to whether these residual effects are considered to be significant or not.
- 2.6.2 The EIA Regulations do not provide definitive methods for the assessment of significance, and a variety of methods are employed within ES's. The method used to assess the effects is specific to each discipline. Where available and appropriate, the assessments follow impact assessment criteria and methodology set out by relevant professional institutions e.g., Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM), Landscape Institute (LI), etc. Where such guidance is not available, or prescriptive methods are not set out by the relevant professional body, then assessment criteria have been developed by the technical specialists to enable a clear and structured assessment to be undertaken.
- 2.6.3 The level of the effect of the Proposed Development is, in general, derived by considering the magnitude of the impact and the sensitivity of the receptor to a change resulting from the Proposed Development.
- 2.6.4 Depending on the discipline there are several factors that need to be taken into account when establishing the type and magnitude of an impact, including:
- the scale/degree of change from baseline;



- whether it is temporary or permanent, and if temporary the likely duration (i.e. short-term, medium-term or long-term);
- whether it is direct or indirect;
- extent or spatial scale of the effect;
- duration of the effect;
- whether the effect is reversible; and
- probability/likelihood of the effect.

2.6.5 Similarly, the sensitivity of a receptor is reflective of several elements dependent on the discipline and effect being assessed, these may include:

- designation and legal status;
- quality;
- rarity; and
- ability to adapt to change;

2.6.6 Having established the magnitude of the impact and the sensitivity of the receptor, the level of the effect will then be defined relevant to each environmental discipline and using the guidance pertinent to that topic. For some disciplines a matrix will be used to classify the level of effect by correlating magnitude and sensitivity.

2.6.7 Where a matrix is not used the magnitude of change and the sensitivity of the receptor will be used to make a reasoned judgement to establish the level of the effect and whether it is significant or not significant. For some topics an environmental risk assessment approach may be used to establish the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Development.

2.6.8 There is no statutory definition of what level of effect is to be regarded as significant and there is often not a single, definitive, correct answer as to whether an effect is significant or not. A significant effect does not necessarily mean that such an effect is unacceptable to decision-makers nor that it results in a breach of any planning policy. This is a matter to be weighed in the planning judgement/balance alongside other material considerations. What is important is that the likely significant environmental effects of any proposal are transparently assessed and described in

sufficient detail to enable the determining authority to make a balanced and well-informed judgement as part of the decision-making process.

- 2.6.9 Where the findings of an assessment are set out as different levels of effect (e.g., major, moderate, minor, etc) the assessment clearly sets out where an effect is considered to be significant. This may vary between disciplines and the threshold is defined within each Chapter. This approach is used to assist the decision maker, consultees and other interested parties in establishing the most important environmental effects of the Proposed Development.
- 2.6.10 In all instances the assessment sets out the basis of the judgements made so that the readers of the ES can see the weight attached to the different factors and can understand the rationale of the assessment. In this sense the ES clearly explains how the significance of effects has been derived.
- 2.6.11 Further details of the above are provided in each topic chapter.
- 2.6.12 Where it has not been possible to quantify effects, qualitative assessments have been undertaken, based on available knowledge and professional judgment. Where any uncertainty exists, this has been noted in the relevant topic chapter.
- 2.6.13 To enable comparison between technical topics and aid understanding of the EIA findings, standard terms are used wherever possible to classify effects throughout the ES (major, moderate, minor and negligible), and effects are also described as being adverse, neutral or beneficial. Where the guidance for each discipline requires any deviation from these terms, this is described in the relevant Chapters.
- 2.6.14 Definitions of the standard terms are provided indicatively below, recognising that how these relate to different topics or to the specific effects experienced by individual receptors may vary to a greater or lesser degree. The specific circumstances of the change experienced by an individual receptor is the ultimate determining factor in the level of effect that would occur:
- Negligible – imperceptible effect to an environmental resource or receptor.

- Minor – slight, very short or highly localised effect.
- Moderate – limited effect (by extent, duration or magnitude).
- Major – considerable effect (by extent, duration or magnitude) of more than a local scale or in breach of recognised acceptability, legislation, policy or standards.
- Adverse – detrimental or negative effects upon an environmental resource or receptor.
- Neutral – effects to an environmental resource or receptor that are neither advantageous nor detrimental.
- Beneficial – advantageous or positive effect upon an environmental resource or receptor.

2.6.15 Each of the topic chapters provides further description and definition of the assessment criteria relevant to each topic. Where possible, this has been based upon quantitative and accepted criteria (for example British Standards), together with the use of value judgement and professional judgement to classify effects.

### ***Significance Criteria***

2.6.16 In general, the classification of an effect is based on the magnitude of the impact and sensitivity or importance of the receptor, using the matrix shown in **Table 2.2**. Where there are deviations away from this matrix (due to the technical guidance for a specific assessment topic), this is highlighted within the relevant technical Chapter and the reason for the variation explained.

**Table 2.2: Classification of Effects**

Magnitude of Impact	Sensitivity/Importance of Receptor			
	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
High	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor
Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
Low	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible
Very Low	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

## 2.7 Cumulative Effects

### ***Introduction***

- 2.7.1 Paragraph 5(e) of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations requires that the ES include:

*‘A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from...*

*... (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’.*

- 2.7.2 On this basis each topic chapter provides an assessment of likely significant cumulative environmental effects with other projects in the area.

- 2.7.3 The EIA Regulations do not define cumulative effects. However, a commonly accepted description is:

*‘Impacts that result from incremental changes caused by other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions together with the project’* (European Commission, 1999)

- 2.7.4 There is no defined methodology in the UK as to how cumulative effects should be assessed. In determining the approach to be adopted to this element of the assessment reference is made to the following guidance:

- *Guidelines for the Assessment of Indirect and Cumulative Impacts as well as Impact Interactions* (European Commission 1999);
- *Cumulative Effects Assessment Practitioners Guide* (Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency 1999);
- *Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment* (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment 2006);
- *The State of Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in the UK* (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment 2011); and
- *Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments* (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2012).

- 2.7.5 The regulations are specific about the projects that should be considered to result in cumulative effects i.e., existing and/or approved projects. However, it is also considered relevant to include projects that are currently awaiting determination within the cumulative assessment, as there is a possibility that these projects could be approved whilst the application for the Proposed Development is being determined. Accordingly, the assessment of cumulative impacts encompasses the effects of the Proposed Development in combination with:
- approved development under construction;
  - approved development, awaiting implementation; and
  - proposals awaiting determination within the planning process with design information in the public domain.
- 2.7.6 The presence of existing operational schemes (and for some disciplines, schemes that are under construction, but not yet operational) is an established influence upon the environment. Such impacts will be accounted for when determining the baseline for the non-cumulative assessment for each topic chapter. The assessment of effects section of each Chapter has had full regard to the presence of such schemes when arriving at any conclusions.
- 2.7.7 Whilst not always the case, the likelihood of cumulative significant effects arising from minor/small scale development is low. As such when considering the potential for significant cumulative effects to occur the following approach has been taken in identifying cumulative schemes.
- 2.7.8 Outside of the wider Kronospan Facility, only 'major projects' have been identified. In this context, major projects are developments of 10,000m<sup>2</sup> in size or greater and/or projects that have been subject to EIA. Projects that fall outside these criteria are only included in the assessment if specifically identified by the Planning Authority or other statutory consultees.
- 2.7.9 It is considered unlikely that there would be any significant cumulative effects beyond 2.5km for any discipline. As such this is the extent of the search area for major projects.

2.7.10 The list of schemes to be considered in the cumulative assessment is set out in **Table 2.3** below and shown at **Figure 2.1** and **Figure 2.2**.

**Table 2.3: Cumulative Projects**

Application Reference	Project Detail	Status	Included in the Cumulative Assessment
P/2021/0725	Kronospan - North East Warehouse	Under construction	Yes (whilst noting that for some topics this would be part of the non-cumulative baseline)
P/2017/0699	Kronospan – Log Delivery System and Chipping and Flaking System	Yes – chipping system is constructed but the log delivery and flaking system is awaiting construction	Yes (whilst noting that for some topics this would be part of the non-cumulative baseline)
APP/H6955/A/18/3193142	Kronospan – Raw Board Storage	Under construction	Yes
APP/H6955/A/19/3227571	Kronospan – Oriented Strand Board (OSB) Facility	Under construction	Yes
P/2022/0336	Kronospan – Covered Loading Yard	Awaiting construction	Yes
P/2022/0615	Kronospan – Engineering Stores	Awaiting construction	Yes
P/2022/0765	Kronospan – Silos and Extension to Chip Preparation Building	Awaiting determination	Yes

Application Reference	Project Detail	Status	Included in the Cumulative Assessment
N/A	Indicative 132kV underground cable route between proposed 132kV substation and existing Legacy/Oswestry overhead line	Indicative (assumed) – not yet submitted	Yes

### ***Intra-Project Cumulative Effects***

2.7.11 Intra-Project cumulative effects (or the in-combination effects) between environmental disciplines are inherently considered in each discipline Chapter. For example, topic areas such as biodiversity and noise and vibration cannot be considered in isolation since changes affecting one topic area also have the potential for implications for other topic areas. Additionally, effects upon the setting of heritage assets may derive from change in view (i.e. a visual effect) or change in noise levels (i.e. a noise effect). The ES identifies potential interactions between environmental topic areas where relevant.

## **2.8 Transboundary Effects**

2.8.1 An initial transboundary screening exercise for the Proposed Development under Regulation 56 of the EIA Regulations has been undertaken. The Proposed Development is not likely to have a significant effect either alone or cumulatively on the environment in any European Economic Area (EEA) state.

2.8.2 The nearest EEA states are the Republic of Ireland at over 200km west and France at over 400km south-east of the Proposed Development Site. Taking into account the potential pollution impact pathways through air, land and water, and the effects predicted to arise from the Proposed Development, the likelihood of significant effects on the environment of another EEA state is considered negligible. Therefore, significant

transboundary effects associated with the Proposed Development are not anticipated.

## **2.9 The Structure of the Environmental Statement**

2.9.1 **Volume 1 (Main Report)** introduces the project and details the technical assessments that have been undertaken to determine the likely impacts of the project. The Chapters of the Main Report are as follows:

- ES Chapter 1.0: Introduction
- ES Chapter 2.0: EIA Methodology
- ES Chapter 3.0: Alternatives
- ES Chapter 4.0: Description of the Proposed Development
- ES Chapter 5.0: Landscape and Visual Effects
- ES Chapter 6.0: Historic Environment
- ES Chapter 7.0: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation
- ES Chapter 8.0: Noise and Vibration
- ES Chapter 9.0: Summary of Residual Effects and Conclusions

2.9.2 A series of **Illustrative Figures (Volume 2)** are provided, which illustrate the Proposed Development and provide graphical information to support each of the technical assessments.

2.9.3 A series of **Technical Appendices (Volume 3)** are provided that include details of the methodology and information used in the assessment, detailed technical schedules and, where appropriate, raw data.

2.9.4 All the Chapters of the Main Report are summarised in a **Non-Technical Summary (Volume 4)** to provide a review of the development proposals, and the possible environmental implications, in concise lay terms.