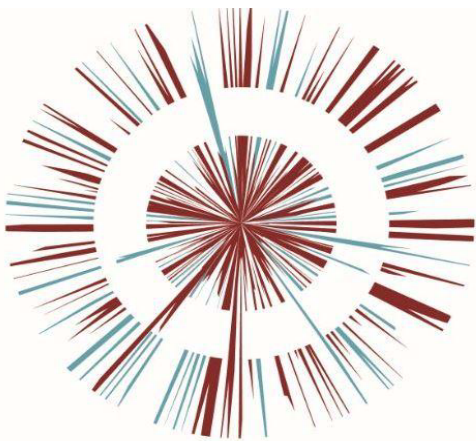




# OMEGA ZONE 8, ST HELENS

Omega St Helens Ltd / T. J. Morris Limited



Document Title  
ES Vol. 1 Chapter 1 Introduction  
Document No. OPP DOC.11.1



Omega St Helens / T. J. Morris Limited

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# OMEGA ZONE 8, ST. HELENS

Environmental Statement Volume 1 - Main Text  
OPP DOC.11.1 Chapter 1: Introduction





Omega St Helens / T. J. Morris Limited

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## **OMEGA ZONE 8, ST. HELENS**

Environmental Statement Volume 1 - Main Text  
OPP DOC.11.1 Chapter 1: Introduction

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Omega St Helens / T. J. Morris Limited

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## **OMEGA ZONE 8, ST. HELENS**

Environmental Statement Volume 1 - Main Text  
OPP DOC.11.1 Chapter 1: Introduction

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1. Omega St Helens / T. J. Morris Limited (referred to as ‘the Applicant’) is seeking to obtain hybrid planning permission for the construction of the proposed westward expansion of the Omega Business Park into Zone 8 (referred to as the ‘Proposed Development’) in St. Helens. The location is identified in **Figure 1.1** and described further in **Chapter 2: The Existing Site**.
- 1.1.2. The Proposed Development is subject to a hybrid planning application for both detailed and outline planning permission and is described as follows:
- ‘Hybrid Planning Application for the following development (major development);*
- (i) Full Planning Permission for the erection of a B8 logistics warehouse, with ancillary offices, associated car parking, infrastructure and landscaping; and*
  - (ii) Outline Planning Permission for Manufacturing (B2) and Logistics (B8) development with ancillary offices and associated access infrastructure works (detailed matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale are reserved for subsequent approval).’*
- 1.1.3. The hybrid planning application boundary for the Proposed Development is presented in **Figure 1.2**; the area which it encompasses is referred to as ‘the application site’. The areas of the detailed planning application site and outline planning application site are shown in **Figure 1.3**. Further details on the Proposed Development are presented in **Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development**.
- 1.1.4. The Environmental Statement (ES) is the written output of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process which has been undertaken in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Ref. 1.1) (referred to as the ‘EIA Regulations 2017’). The ES is one of the supporting documents submitted to the determining planning authority, in this case St. Helens Council, in support of the hybrid planning application.
- 1.1.5. This chapter outlines the legal framework and structure of the ES and supporting documents. A breakdown of the information required by the EIA Regulations 2017 is provided in **Table 1-1**, alongside guidance on the location of this information within this ES.
- 1.1.6. WSP has been commissioned by the Applicant to carry out the EIA in support of the hybrid planning application. This has incorporated technical input from a number of consultants, as outlined in **Table 1-2**.

## 1.2 DEFINITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 1.2.1. The term ‘environmental impact assessment’ describes a procedure that must be followed for certain types of projects before they can be given ‘development consent’. The procedure is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of a project’s likely significant environmental effects. This helps to ensure that the importance of the predicted effects and the scope for reducing them are properly understood by the public and the relevant competent authority before it makes its decision. The aim of EIA is to:

*“protect the environment by ensuring that a local planning authority when deciding whether to grant planning permission for a project, which is likely to have significant effects on the environment, does*



*so in the full knowledge of the likely significant effects, and takes this into account in the decision making process” and “ensure that the public are given early and effective opportunities to participate in the decision making procedures.” (Ref. 1.2)*

## 1.3 LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

- 1.3.1. The EIA Regulations 2017 implement the requirements of EU Directive 2014/52/EU and require that prior to consent being granted, for certain types of development, an EIA must be undertaken. The EIA Regulations 2017 set out the types of development which must always be subject to an EIA (Schedule 1 development) and other developments which may require an assessment if they give rise to likely significant environmental effects (Schedule 2 development).

### SCREENING (REGULATIONS 5, 6 AND 7)

- 1.3.2. The Proposed Development meets the description and applicable threshold for the purposes of the definition of a Schedule 2 infrastructure project – Regulation 10(a): Infrastructure estate development projects where the area of the development exceeds 0.5 hectares (ha).
- 1.3.3. It is a matter for the Local Planning Authority to determine if a Schedule 2 requires an EIA or not. This is determined through the evaluation of the sensitivity of the site, the surrounding area and whether the Proposed Development has the potential to result in likely significant environmental effects by virtue of its characteristics, location and nature of the effects (in accordance with Regulation 5 of the EIA Regulations 2017).
- 1.3.4. Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations 2017 outlines the criteria that should be applied when determining whether a Schedule 2 development requires EIA. The criteria are as follows:
- The characteristics of the Proposed Development (e.g. its size, cumulation with other developments, use of natural resources, production of waste, pollution and nuisances and the risk of accidents, having regard in particular to substances or technologies used);
  - The environmental sensitivities of the geographical area; and
  - The characteristics of the likely significant effects (the extent, the transboundary nature of the effect; the magnitude and complexity of the effect; the probability and duration and the frequency and reversibility of the effect).
- 1.3.5. The application site (approximately 75 ha) is not considered to be located within a sensitive area, however it does exceed the threshold of being greater than 0.5 ha in area specified in Regulation 10(a) the Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations 2017. Following a request for a screening opinion on 7 May 2019, St. Helens Council, confirmed that the Proposed Development qualifies as EIA development and the Applicant will be required to prepare an ES to accompany the hybrid planning application.

### SCOPING (REGULATION 15)

- 1.3.6. An EIA Scoping Report was submitted to St. Helens Council on 29 October 2019 (as presented in **Appendix 1.1**), together with a formal request for an EIA Scoping Opinion, in accordance with Regulation 15 of the EIA Regulations 2017. A formal Scoping Opinion was subsequently received from St. Helens Council on 11 December 2019, as included in **Appendix 1.2**. Further details on the Scoping Opinion and how it has informed this ES are provided in **Chapter 5: Approach to EIA**.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

1.3.7. The findings of the EIA are presented in this ES which has been prepared in accordance with the EIA Regulations 2017 as well as planning practice guidance (Ref. 1.3). The ES is provided in three parts:

- Volume 1: Main Text;
- Volume 2: Technical Appendices;
- Volume 3: Figures
- Volume 4: Non-Technical Summary.

1.3.8. Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017 provides details of the information required for inclusion in an ES. **Table 1-1** summarises the requirements and where the information is located in this ES.

**Table 1-1 - Location of required information within the ES**

	Required Information	Location within this ES
1	Description of the development, including in particular:	
	(a) a description of the location of the development	Chapter 2: The Existing Site
	(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	Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development
	(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	Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development
	(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.	Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development Chapter 5: Approach to EIA Technical chapters 6 – 16
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: Consideration of 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	Chapter 2: The Existing Site Chapter 5: Approach to EIA



	Required Information	Location within this ES
	effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge	Technical chapters 6 – 16
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.	Technical chapters 6 – 16
5	A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia	
	the construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works;	Technical chapters 6 – 16
	the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources;	Technical chapters 9, 11, 14 and 16
	the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste;	Technical chapters 6, 7 and 16
	the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters);	Technical chapters 6 – 16
	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;	Technical chapters 6 – 16 Chapter 17: Cumulative Effects
	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;	Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development
	the technologies and the substances used.	Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development
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.	Technical chapters 6 – 16

	Required Information	Location within this ES
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.	Technical chapters 6 – 16
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 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.	Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development Chapter 13: Major Accidents and Disasters
9	A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 8	Volume 4: Non-Technical Summary
10	A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the environmental statement.	All chapters

## 1.4 THE PROJECT TEAM

1.4.1. In line with Regulation 18(5)(a) – (b) of the EIA Regulations 2017, the ES and technical assessments which inform it have been undertaken by a suitably qualified project team. **Table 1-2** presents the Project Team for the ES, their associated roles and expertise. The Project Team stated are responsible for the scope, content and assessment of likely significant environmental effects of their respective technical chapters (where relevant).

1.4.2. WSP is responsible for the coordination, compilation and procedural review of the ES. WSP is registered under the EIA Quality Mark operated by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) which recognises our commitment to excellence in EIA activities. WSP was one of the original eight pilot organisations in the UK that trialled the process in 2011 and developed the EIA Quality Mark scheme from the former Corporate Registered Assessor process. We have continued to maintain our EIA Quality Mark registration, following annual examination by IEMA in relation to our ongoing products, staff, innovation and promotion of EIA within the industry. WSP has and continues to support and lead nationally recognised guidance for EIA in the UK.



1.4.3. WSP has developed and applies an in-house set of processes, procedures and guidance for EIA based on sound project management principles.

**Table 1-2 - The Project Team**

Topic	Competent Expert Evidence
EIA Coordination, overarching technical authority for the ES Chapter 1: Introduction Chapter 2: The Existing Site Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA Chapter 17: Cumulative Effects Non-Technical Summary	<p>David Hoare (EIA Project Director)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BSc (Hons) Geography</li> <li>■ MSc Ecology and Environmental Management</li> <li>■ CEnv, MCIEEM, PIEMA</li> <li>■ 18 years of experience</li> </ul> <p>Martin McLaughlin (EIA Project Manager)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BA (Hons) Social Science</li> <li>■ MSc Environmental Studies</li> <li>■ CEnv, Full member Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment</li> <li>■ 10 years of experience</li> </ul> <p>Rebecca Dipoti (EIA Project Coordinator/Author)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BSc (Hons) Ecology and Environmental Management</li> <li>■ MA Environmental Management and Consultancy</li> <li>■ PIEMA, Practitioner Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment</li> <li>■ 2.5 years of experience</li> </ul>
Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development Chapter 4: Consideration of Alternatives	<p>Chris Gardener</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ MA (Hons) Town and Country Planning</li> <li>■ MRTPI, Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute</li> <li>■ 18 years of experience</li> </ul>
Chapter 6: Air Quality	<p>Declan Alder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BSc (Hons) Geography</li> <li>■ MIAQM, Full Member Institute of Air Quality Management</li> <li>■ MIEEnvSC, Full Member Institute of Environmental Science</li> <li>■ PIEMA, Practitioner Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment</li> <li>■ 11 years of experience</li> </ul>
Chapter 7: Noise and Vibration	<p>James Powlson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BSc (Hons) Audio Technology</li> <li>■ Certificate of competence in environmental noise measurement 2003</li> <li>■ MIOA, Member of the Institute of Acoustic</li> <li>■ 20 years of experience</li> </ul>
Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage	<p>Jeremy Bradley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ MA Early Medieval Archaeology</li> <li>■ 20 years of experience</li> </ul>
Chapter 9: Biodiversity	<p>Mark Morgan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BSc Plant Biology</li> <li>■ ACIEEM, Associate Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management</li> <li>■ 5 years of experience</li> </ul>
Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual	<p>John Micklethwaite-Howe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BA DipLA</li> <li>■ CMLI, Chartered member of the Landscape Institute</li> <li>■ 30 years of experience</li> </ul>
Chapter 11: Water	<p>Hilary Hampton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BSc (Hons) Environmental Science</li> <li>■ C.WEM, Chartered member of the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management</li> <li>■ 19 years of experience</li> </ul>

Topic	Competent Expert Evidence
	<p>Angelo Papaioannou</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BA (Hons) Environmental Science</li> <li>C.WEM, Chartered member of the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management</li> <li>CGeol, Chartered Geologist of The Geological Society</li> <li>41 years of experience</li> </ul>
Chapter 12: Transport	<p>Chris Harris</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BA (Hons) Neuroscience</li> <li>MSc (Distinction) Urban &amp; Regional Planning</li> <li>MRTPI, Chartered Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute</li> <li>Member of the Transport Planning Society</li> <li>11 years of experience</li> </ul>
Chapter 13: Major Accidents and Disasters	<p>Colin Chambers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BSc (Hons) Chemical Engineering</li> <li>MSc Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety Management</li> <li>EUR ING, European Engineer</li> <li>CEng, Chartered Engineer</li> <li>CEnv, Chartered Environmentalist</li> <li>CSci, Chartered Scientist</li> <li>Hazard and Operability Study Team Leader</li> <li>FICHEM, Fellow of the Institute of Chemical Engineers</li> <li>Member of the Institute of Leadership &amp; Development</li> <li>Member of the Society for the Environment</li> <li>PIEMA, Practitioner of Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment</li> <li>Grad IOSH, Graduate Member of the Institute of Occupational Safety &amp; Health</li> <li>35 years of experience</li> </ul>
Chapter 14: Land and Soils	<p>Alastair Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BA (Hons) Geography</li> <li>MSc Agricultural Economics</li> <li>PIEMA, Practitioner Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment</li> <li>MBIAC, Member of the British Institute of Agricultural Consultants</li> <li>MI Soil Sci, Full member of the British Society of Soil Science</li> <li>33 years of experience</li> </ul>
Chapter 15: Population and Health	<p>Sheri Shai</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BSc (Hons) Environmental Science</li> <li>MSc Environmental Consultancy</li> <li>GradIEMA, Graduate of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment</li> <li>2.5 years of experience</li> </ul>
Chapter 16: Climate	<p>Snigdha Jain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BArch Sushant School of Art and Architecture</li> <li>MSc Sustainable Environmental Design</li> <li>Affiliate Member of the Chartered Institute of building Services Engineers</li> <li>10 years of experience</li> </ul>

## 1.5 PLANNING APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

1.5.1. The ES is one of a suite of documents which will support the hybrid planning application for the Proposed Development. The hybrid planning application submission comprises the following documents:

- Application Fee and Covering Letter;
- Application Forms, Certificates and Notices;
- Application Documents:
  - Planning Statement (including Consultation Statement);
  - Alternative Site Assessment;
  - Transport Statement (including Framework Travel Plan);
  - Design and Access Statement;
  - Generic Quantitative Risk Assessment (GQRA) and Ground Investigation Report (GIR);
  - Remediation Strategy;
  - Environmental Statement (comprising Volume 1: Main Text, Volume 2: Technical Appendices, Volume 3: Figures and Volume 4: Non-Technical Summary);
  - Sustainability and Lighting Statement (Outline);
  - Sustainability and Lighting Statement (Unit 1); and
- Application Drawings.

## 1.6 REFERENCES

- Ref. 1.1: Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Statutory Instrument 2017 No. 571
- Ref. 1.2: Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) Online Tool, Paragraphs 032 and 033. Reference ID: 4-002-20140306 [online]. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/environmental-impact-assessment>, Accessed 22 November 2018
- Ref. 1.3: Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) Online Tool [online]. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/environmental-impact-assessment>, Accessed 22 November 2018



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