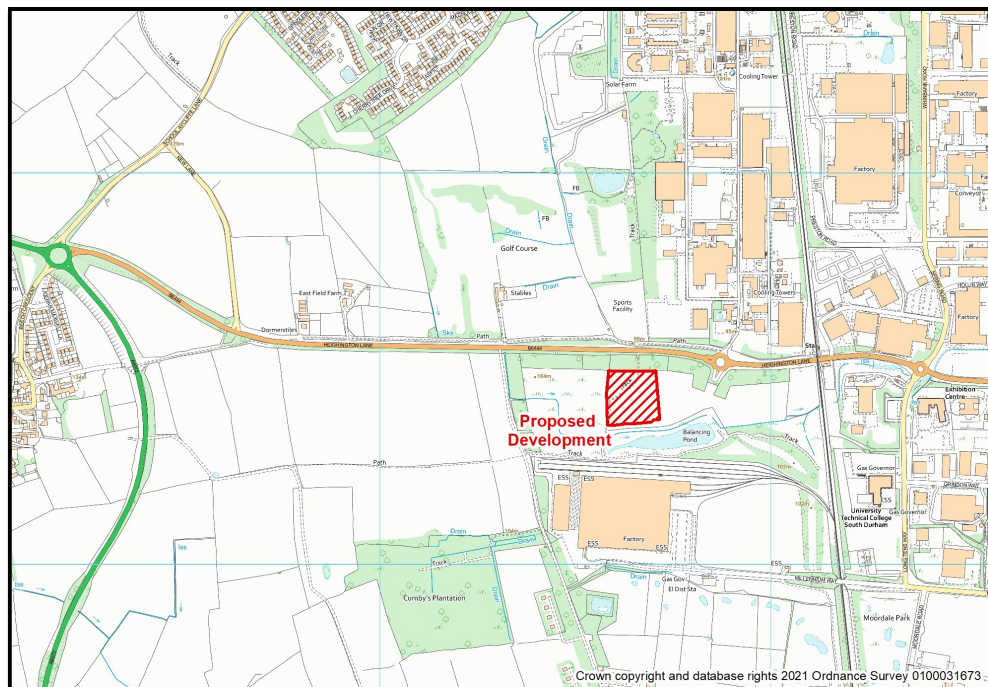


# FORNAX ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS LTD

## HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT FOR A PROPOSED HIGH TEMPERATURE INCINERATION PLANT:

*LAND OFF HEIGHINGTON LANE, NEWTON  
AYCLIFFE*



May 2022

Report Reference: C82-P39-R04



Independent Air  
Quality & Odour  
Specialists

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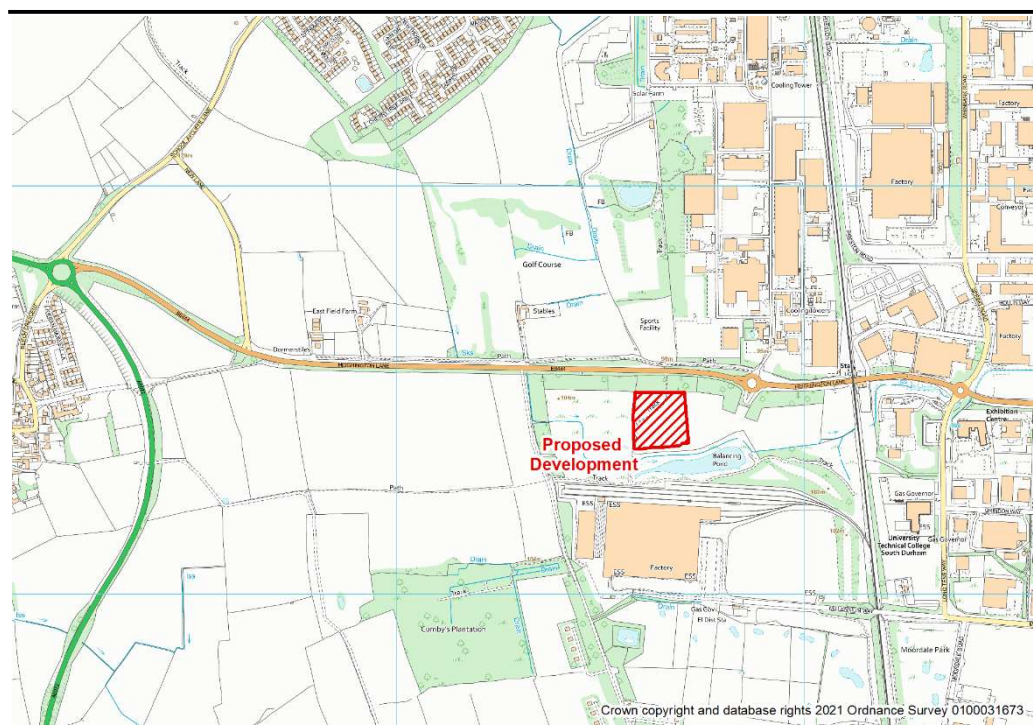
# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

Gair Consulting Ltd has been commissioned on behalf of Fornax Environmental Solutions Ltd to undertake an assessment to consider the effects on human exposure from emissions to air from a proposed High Temperature Incinerator (HTI) plant off Heighington Lane, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham. The assessment supplements the air quality assessment provided for the proposed facility. The assessment only considers emissions to air as human exposure to any harmful pollutants discharged directly to the aquatic environment and from solid waste disposal is considered to be negligible.

The proposed installation site is located approximately 2.7 km to the south of the centre of the Newton Aycliffe to the southwest of the Aycliffe Industrial Estate. The site location is presented in *Figure 1.1*. The area surrounding the site is predominantly light industrial and commercial (north and east) and rural (south and west). The nearest residential receptor is an isolated farm located at a distance of approximately 700 m to the west of the site.

**FIGURE 1.1 LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED FACILITY**



The proposed development would comprise a high temperature incineration plant for the treatment of hazardous and clinical waste (1,250 kg per hour). Emissions to air from the combustion unit will be via a single 30 m stack.

An air quality assessment of emissions to air from the facility has been provided separately<sup>1</sup>. The air quality assessment provides a comparison of predicted concentrations for pollutant emissions at off-site locations with background air quality and air quality standards and guidelines for the protection of human health. The air quality assessment assumes the theoretical position that the maximum permissible emission limit values (ELVs) stipulated for compliant incineration plant are emitted during all times of operation. This position is considered unlikely to be a realistic operating scenario.

Given the above operating scenario, the emissions from the proposed combustion unit associated with the facility would contain a number of substances that cannot be evaluated in terms of their effects on human health simply by reference to ambient air quality standards. Health effects could occur through exposure routes other than purely inhalation. As such, an assessment needs to be made of the overall human *exposure* to the substances by the local population and then the *risk* that this exposure causes.

## 1.2 PURPOSE OF THE ASSESSMENT

This assessment has been undertaken to support the planning application and the environmental permit application for the proposed facility and has been prepared in accordance with our understanding of the requirements of the Environment Agency for these types of development. In particular, this is a human health risk assessment of dioxin/furan emissions from the facility based on the US EPA HHRAP methodology. Human exposure to dioxins and furans has been compared against the Committee of Toxicity (COT) Tolerable Daily Intake (TDI) of 2 pg/kg per day. An assessment of exposure to dioxin-like PCBs has also been included.

It should be noted that the former HMIP method does not have the capability to consider dioxin-like PCBs and the US EPA HHRAP method is limited in this respect. The HHRAP method does not contain physical properties or exposure parameters for individual dioxin-like PCBs but does provide information for two dioxin-like PCB mixtures (Aroclor 1016 and Aroclor 1254). Therefore, for these two substances typical emissions for dioxin-like PCBs have been included in the IRAP model and these have been assumed to comprise entirely of Aroclor 1016 or Aroclor 1254 depending on which substance gives rise to the highest exposure.

## 1.3 SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT

The emissions from the proposed facility during the modelled operational scenario would contain a number of substances that cannot be evaluated in terms of their effects on human health simply by reference to ambient air quality standards. Health effects could occur through exposure routes other than

1 Air Quality Assessment: Hazardous Waste Incinerator, Land off Heighington Lane, Sol Environment Report (April 2021)

purely inhalation. As such, an assessment needs to be made of the overall human *exposure* to the substances by the local population and then the *risk* that this exposure causes.

The assessment presented here considers the potential impact of substances released by the facility on the health of the local population at the point of maximum exposure. These substances are those that are 'persistent' in the environment and have several pathways from the point of release to the human receptor. Essentially, they can be described as dioxins/furans and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and are present in extremely small quantities and are typically measured in mass units of nanograms (ng =  $10^{-9}$  g), picograms (pg =  $10^{-12}$  g) and femtograms (fg =  $10^{-15}$  g).

Unlike substances such as nitrogen dioxide, which have short term, acute effects on the respiratory system, dioxins/furans and dioxin-like PCBs have the potential to cause effects through long term, cumulative exposure. A lifetime is the conventional period over which such effects are evaluated. A lifetime is taken to be 70 years.

The exposure scenarios used here represent highly unrealistic situations in which all exposure assumptions are chosen to represent a worst case and should be treated as an extreme view of the risks to health. While individual high-end exposure estimates may represent actual exposure possibilities (albeit at very low frequency), the possibility of all high end exposure assumptions accumulating in one individual is, for practical purposes, never realised. Therefore, intakes presented here should be regarded as an extreme upper estimate of the actual exposure that would be experienced by the real population in the locality.

## 1.4 APPROACH TO THE ASSESSMENT

The risk assessment process is based on the application of the US EPA Human Health Risk Assessment Protocol (HHRAP)<sup>2</sup>. This protocol has been assembled into a commercially available model, Industrial Risk Assessment Program (IRAP, Version 5.1.0) and marketed by Lakes Environmental of Ontario.

The approach seeks to quantify the *hazard* faced by the receptor, the *exposure* of the receptor to the substances identified as being a potential hazard and then to assess the *risk* of the exposure, as follows:

- *Quantification of the exposure*: an exposure evaluation determines the dose and intake of key indicator chemicals for an exposed person. The dose is defined as the amount of a substance contacting body boundaries (in the case of inhalation, the lungs) and intake is the amount of the substance

2 US EPA Office of Solid Waste (September 2005) Human Health Risk Assessment Protocol for Hazardous Waste Combustion Facilities

absorbed into the body. The evaluation is based upon worst-case, conservative scenarios, with respect to the following:

- location of the exposed individual and duration of exposure;
  - exposure rate;
  - emission rate from the source.
- 
- *Risk characterisation:* following the above steps, the risk is characterised by examining the toxicity of the chemicals to which the individual has been exposed, and by a comparison of intakes with the tolerable daily intake (TDI) for dioxins/furans and dioxin-like PCBs.

## 1.5 QUALIFICATIONS OF THE AUTHOR

Dr Amanda Gair of Gair Consulting Limited has over 30 years' experience in environmental consultancy specialising in air quality, odour and human health risk assessments. Qualifications and professional memberships include the following:

- Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Environmental Chemistry (Joint Honours);
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Atmospheric Chemistry;
- Member of the Institute of Air Quality Management (MIAQM);
- Member of the Institution of Environmental Sciences (MIEnvSc); and
- Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv).

Dr Gair provides technical support to the permitting of major projects via the completion of detailed air quality assessments and health risk assessments for planning applications, environmental permitting and general regulatory support. Dr Gair has extensive experience in power (including energy from waste, biomass and bioethanol facilities), waste management, ceramics and cement works, construction, chemical, wastewater and manufacturing industries.

## 1.6 POTENTIAL CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Following submission of the Environmental Statement, comments raised by DCC queried the need for the assessment of cumulative impacts. At this time, Castellum Consulting (planning consultants for the project) carried out a review of the DCC and DBC planning websites and local plans but did not identify any similar schemes (combustion facilities, waste handling activities) with emissions of dioxins and furans that would combine with the proposed development.

A discussion of cumulative impacts is also provided in the Committee Report for the proposed development <sup>3</sup>. Paragraph 339 of the Committee Report states:

*Cumulative impacts from proposed or committed developments in the vicinity of the proposed development have been considered within the technical chapters of the ES. The ES states that there are no identified already constructed and established waste management or other technically similar facilities within close proximity to the site for which cumulative effects have been considered. In addition, the applicant has investigated the details of any other projects which could in combination with the proposed development, give rise to cumulative significant effects and no such other schemes have been identified. The assessment of cumulative impact concludes that no unacceptable successive or simultaneous effects are likely to occur as a result of the proposed development. In terms of the assessment of the combined and the cumulative effects from the proposed development on the site on the surrounding areas, the ES considers it has been determined that there are no likely significant such effects on these areas. Given that none of the individual environmental areas reach the threshold of unacceptable, the totality of these effects would not result in them being cumulatively unacceptable nor in combination.*

Therefore, it is concluded that the potential for cumulative exposure to dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs would not occur.

<sup>3</sup> Durham County Council Planning Services, Committee Report for Planning Application DM/21/01500/WAS

## 2.1 INTRODUCTION

An exposure assessment for the purposes of characterising the health impact of the proposed facility emissions requires the following steps:

- (1) Measurement or estimation of emissions from the source.
- (2) Modelling the fate and transport of the emitted substances through the atmosphere and through soil, water and biota following deposition onto land. Concentrations of the emitted chemicals in the environmental media are estimated at the point of exposure, which may be through inhalation or ingestion.
- (3) Calculation of the uptake of the emitted chemicals into humans coming into contact with the affected media and the subsequent distribution in the body.

With regard to Step (3), the exposure assessment considers the uptake of polychlorinated dibenzo-para-dioxins and polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDD/Fs, often abbreviated to 'dioxins/furans') and dioxin-like PCBs by various categories of human receptors.

## 2.2 POTENTIAL EXPOSURE PATHWAYS

There are two primary exposure 'routes' where humans may come into contact with chemicals that may be of concern:

- direct, via inhalation; or
- indirect, via ingestion of water, soil, vegetation and animals and animal products that become contaminated through the food chain.

There are four other potential exposure pathways of concern following the introduction of substances into the atmosphere:

- ingestion of drinking water;
- dermal (skin) contact with soil;
- incidental ingestion of soil; and
- dermal (skin) contact with water.



The possible exposure pathways included in the IRAP model are shown in *Figure 2.1*. Dermal contact with soil is an insignificant exposure pathway on the basis of the infrequent and sporadic nature of the events and the very low dermal absorption factors for this exposure route, coupled with the low plausible total dose that may be experienced (when considered over the lifetime of an individual). Health risk assessments of similar emissions (Pasternach (1989) *The Risk Assessment of Environmental and Human Health Hazards*, John Wiley, New York) have concluded that dermal absorption of soil is at least one order of magnitude less efficient than lung absorption.

Similar arguments are relevant with respect to the elimination of aquatic pathways from consideration; swimming, fishing and other recreational activities are also sporadic and unlikely to lead to significant exposures or uptake of any contamination into the human body via dermal contact with water.

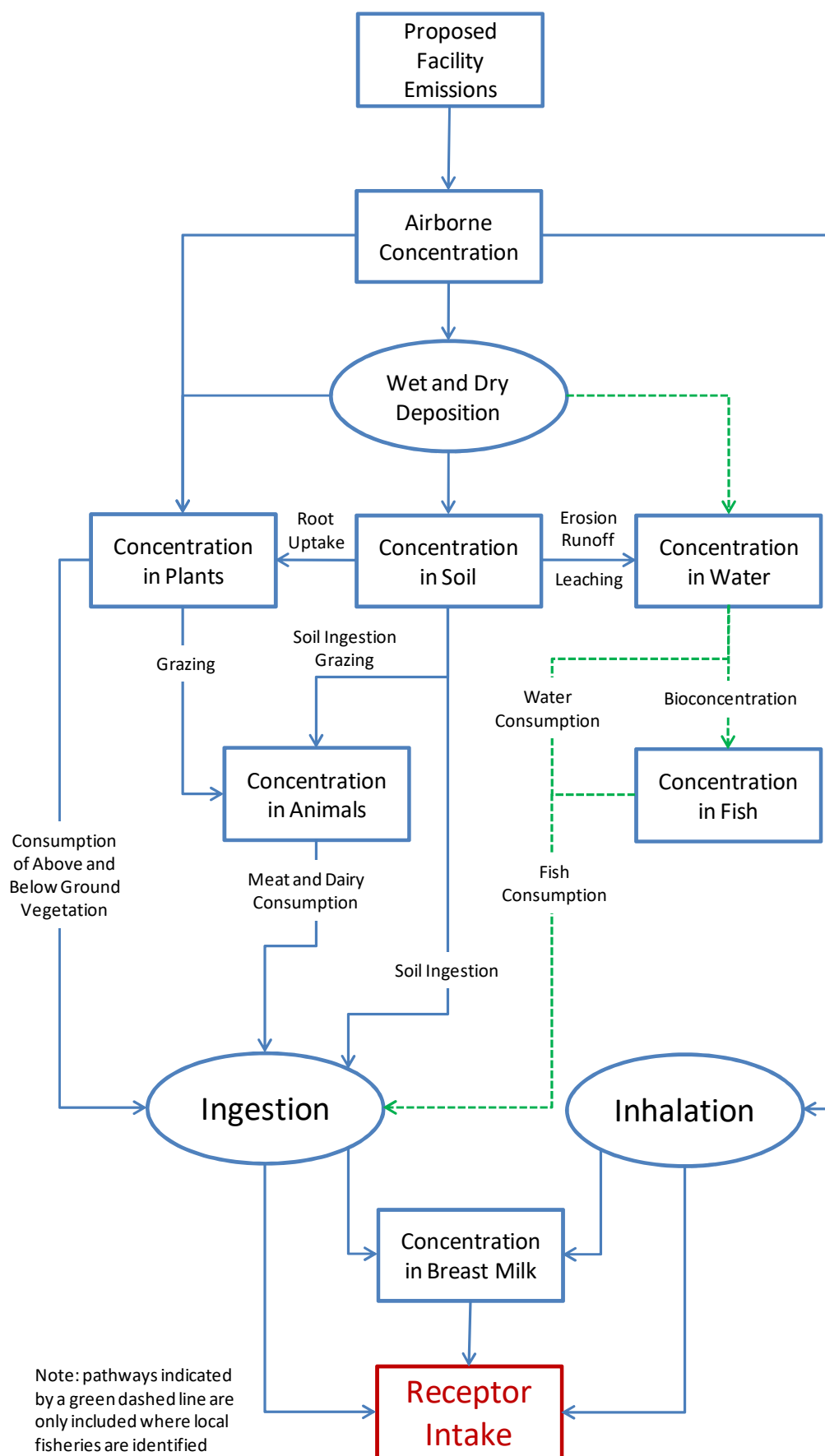
Exposure via drinking water requires contamination of surface drinking water sources local to the point of consumption. The likelihood of contamination reaching a level of concern in the local water sources and ground water supplies is extremely low, particularly where there is no large scale storage (e.g. reservoirs) or catchment areas for local water supplies. However, the US EPA's HHRAP does include the ingestion of drinking water from surface water sources as a potential exposure pathway where water bodies and water sheds have been defined within the exposure scenario. The ingestion of groundwater as a source of local drinking water is not considered by the HHRAP as it is considered to be an insignificant exposure pathway for combustion emissions.

The ingestion of drinking water from surface water sources is only considered a potential exposure pathway where there is a local surface water body which provides local drinking water. However, it is our experience that drinking water from a reservoir located close to this type of facility makes a very small contribution to the total exposure. Therefore, exposure via drinking water is generally only considered where there is the potential for exposure via the ingestion of fish and the presence of edible fish farms (e.g. trout or salmon farms).

On the basis of the assessment of the significance of the potential exposure pathways, the key exposure routes which are relevant to the assessment and, hence, subject to examination in detail are as follows:

- inhalation;
- ingestion of food; and
- ingestion of soil.

**FIGURE 2.1 EXPOSURE PATHWAYS FOR RECEPTORS**



Therefore, the exposures arising from ingestion are assessed with reference to the following:

- milk from home-reared cows;
- eggs from home-reared chickens;
- home-reared beef;
- home-reared pork;
- home-reared chicken;
- home-grown vegetable and fruit produce;
- breastmilk; and
- soil (incidental).

The inclusion of all food groups in the assessment conservatively assumes that both arable and pastureland are present in the vicinity of the predicted maximum annual average ground level concentration. This is, in reality, a highly unlikely scenario, but it has been included as a means of building a high degree of conservatism into the assessment and, hence, reducing the risk of exposures being underestimated. However, it should be noted that not all exposure scenarios will result in the ingestion of home-reared meat and animal products and these food products are only considered by the HHRAP for farmers and the families of farmers.

Similarly, the ingestion of fish is only considered where there is a local inland water body that is used for fishing and where the diet of the fisher (and family) may be regularly supplemented by fish caught from these local water sources. There are no edible fish farms (e.g. trout, salmon) identified within 2 km of the proposed facility. Aycliffe Angling Club Pond is located approximately 2.3 km to the northwest of the proposed facility, but this is only used for recreational coarse fishing. Therefore, the ingestion of locally caught fish has not been considered, as consumption rates are likely to be very small.

## 2.4 BASELINE CONDITIONS

Dioxins and furans are ubiquitous in the environment and are present in air, soil and dietary products.

The latest assessment of dietary exposure to PCCD/Fs was documented in 2003 based on the 2001 Total Diet Study (TDS)<sup>4</sup>. This estimated that the average intake for adults decreased from 1.8 pg TEQ kg<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> (1997) to 0.9 pg TEQ kg<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> in 2001. For younger children, the average exposure decreased from 4.0 pg TEQ kg<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> to 1.8 pg TEQ kg<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>. These reductions were likely due to the

4 Dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in the UK Diet: 2001 Total Diet Study Samples, Food Survey Information Sheet 38/03 (July 2003)

significant reduction in emissions during the 1990s from waste incineration facilities.

The 2001 TDS is twenty years old and there have been further reductions in emission since this study was published. This is evidenced by PCDD/F emissions data obtained from the UK National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory which indicates that total PCDD/F emissions in the UK decreased from 523 g TEQ a<sup>-1</sup> in 1997 to 335 g TEQ a<sup>-1</sup> in 2001 and further to 181 g TEQ a<sup>-1</sup> in 2019. An updated TDS was undertaken in 2012<sup>5</sup> but this study did not consider dietary exposure to PCDD/Fs.

The contribution of the facility to total intake is provided as follows:

- predicted incremental intake due to emissions from the facility;
- average daily background intake (i.e. that arising from other sources), referred to as the mean daily intake (MDI);
- the total intake (i.e. the sum of the predicted incremental intake and the MDI);
- a comparison of the total intake with the TDI for dioxin/furans.

The MDI representative of the background exposure and has been derived from data provided by the Environment Agency<sup>6</sup> and a value of 49 pg WHO-TEQ d<sup>-1</sup>. The MDI for an adult receptor and child receptor is calculated as follows:

- for an adult receptor a MDI of 0.7 pg I-TEQ kg<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup><sup>7</sup> is derived by dividing the Environment Agency MDI by a bodyweight of 70 kg;
- for a child receptor a MDI of 1.8 pg I-TEQ kg<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> is derived by dividing the Environment Agency MDI by a bodyweight of 20 kg and applying an adult to child correction factor of 0.74.

These are comparable to the 2001 Total Diet Study exposure and are representative of worst-case conditions.

## **2.5 EMISSIONS AND DISPERSION MODELLING INPUT DATA**

### **2.5.1 Compounds of Potential Concern (COPCs)**

The substances which have been considered in the assessment are referred to as the Compounds of Potential Concern (COPCs) and include the seventeen

5 Organic Environmental Contaminants in the 2012 Total Diet Study Samples, Report to the Food Standards Agency, The Food and Environment Research Agency (December 2012)

6 Soil Guideline Values for dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs in soil, Environment Agency, Science Report SC050021/Dioxins SGV, September 2009

7 No correction is provided between the WHO-TEF and the I-TEF but a sensitivity analysis indicates that correcting between the two systems would have negligible impact on the results

PCDD/F congeners that are known to be toxic (refer *Section 2.5.3*). In addition, the IRAP model includes two dioxin-like PCBs (Aroclor 1016 and Aroclor 1254). These comprise a mixture of congeners with one to four chlorine atoms for Aroclor 1016 with a chlorine content of 41% by mass (average of three chlorine atoms). Similarly, Aroclor 1254 has between four and seven chlorine atoms and a chlorine content of 54% by mass (average of five chlorine atoms).

## 2.5.2 Emission Parameters

Emissions from the facility will be via a single stack. Emission parameters assumed for the assessment are consistent with those used for the air quality assessment as follows:

- stack height of 30 m above ground level;
- flue diameter of 0.7 m;
- emission velocity of 18.0 m s<sup>-1</sup>;
- normalised flow rate of 3.67 Nm<sup>3</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>; and
- emission temperature of 200 °C.

## 2.5.3 Emission Concentrations for the COPCs

The general term dioxins denotes a family of compounds, with each compound composed of two benzene rings interconnected with two oxygen atoms. There are 75 individual dioxins, with each distinguished by the position of chlorine or other halogen atoms positioned on the benzene rings. Furans are similar in structure to dioxins, but have a carbon bond instead of one of the two oxygen atoms connecting the two benzene rings. There are 135 individual furan compounds. Each individual furan or dioxin compound is referred to as a congener and each has a different toxicity and physical properties with regard to its atmospheric behaviour. It is important, therefore, that the exposure methodology determines the fate and transport of PCDD/Fs on a congener specific basis. It does this by accounting for the varying volatility of the congeners and their different toxicities. Consequently, information regarding the PCDD/F annual mean ground level concentrations on a congener specific basis is required. For the purposes of the exposure assessment, the congener profile for the proposed facility is presented in *Table 2.1*, which is a standard profile for municipal waste incinerators derived by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution (HMIP), one of the predecessors of the Environment Agency. The international toxic equivalency factors are given and used to derive the toxic equivalent emission (I-TEQ).

The European Union Best Available Techniques (BAT) Reference Document (BREF) for Waste Incineration has recently been issued (2019). The BREF provides BAT Associated Emission Limits (AEL) for new plants and existing plants. For new plant, the emission concentration is 0.06 ng I-TEQ Nm<sup>-3</sup> and has been assumed to be the ELV for this assessment.

**TABLE 2.1 PCDD/F CONGENER PROFILE FOR THE PROPOSED FACILITY**

Congener	Annual Mean Emission Concentration (ng Nm <sup>-3</sup> ) (a)	I-TEF toxic equivalent factors)	Annual Mean Emission Concentration (ng I-TEQ Nm <sup>-3</sup> )
2,3,7,8-TCDD	0.0019	1.0	0.0019
1,2,3,7,8-PeCDD	0.015	0.5	0.0074
1,2,3,4,7,8-HxCDD	0.017	0.1	0.0017
1,2,3,7,8,9-HxCDD	0.013	0.1	0.0013
1,2,3,6,7,8-HxCDD	0.016	0.1	0.0016
1,2,3,4,6,7,8-HpCDD	0.10	0.01	0.0010
OCDD	0.25	0.001	0.00024
2,3,7,8-TCDF	0.017	0.1	0.0017
2,3,4,7,8-PeCDF	0.032	0.5	0.016
1,2,3,7,8-PeCDF	0.017	0.05	0.00084
1,2,3,4,7,8-HxCDF	0.13	0.1	0.013
1,2,3,7,8,9-HxCDF	0.0024	0.1	0.00024
1,2,3,6,7,8-HxCDF	0.049	0.1	0.0049
2,3,4,6,7,8-HxCDF	0.052	0.1	0.0052
1,2,3,4,6,7,8-HpCDF	0.26	0.01	0.0026
1,2,3,4,7,8,9-HpCDF	0.024	0.01	0.00024
OCDF	0.24	0.001	0.00024
<b>Total (ng I-TEQ m<sup>-3</sup>)</b>			<b>0.06</b>
(a) Congener profile from Table 7.2a DOE (1996) Risk Assessment of Dioxin Releases from Municipal Waste Incineration Processes Contract No. HMIP/CPR2/41/1/181, adjusted for an emission concentration of 0.06 ng I-TEQ Nm <sup>-3</sup>			

Information on PCB emissions has been obtained from the Defra report WR 0608<sup>8</sup>. Based on the information provided, a maximum emission concentration of  $3.6 \times 10^{-9}$  mg m<sup>-3</sup> is assumed. It is not stated whether this is total PCBs or dioxin-like PCBs. Therefore, as a worst-case it is assumed to comprise entirely of dioxin-like PCBs. Furthermore, it is assumed that this is the total PCB emission and that these data are presented as the toxic equivalent concentration (i.e.  $3.6 \times 10^{-9}$  mg TEQ Nm<sup>-3</sup>). For the dioxin-like PCBs, a toxic equivalent factor (TEF) of 0.1 has been used to provide an actual emission concentration (i.e.  $3.6 \times 10^{-8}$  mg Nm<sup>-3</sup>). The same equivalence factor has been used to convert the total actual dose back to the total toxic equivalent dose.

The emission rates for each substance as input to the IRAP model are provided in Table 2.2.

<sup>8</sup> WR 0608 Emissions from Waste Management Facilities, ERM Report on Behalf of Defra (July 2011)

**TABLE 2.2 PCDD/F EMISSION RATES USED IN THE IRAP MODEL**

<b>Congener</b>	<b>Emission Concentration (mg Nm<sup>-3</sup>)</b>	<b>Emission Rate (g s<sup>-1</sup>)</b>
2,3,7,8-TCDD	0.0019 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	6.8 x 10 <sup>-12</sup>
1,2,3,7,8-PeCDD	0.015 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	5.4 x 10 <sup>-11</sup>
1,2,3,4,7,8-HxCDD	0.017 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	6.4 x 10 <sup>-11</sup>
1,2,3,7,8,9-HxCDD	0.013 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	4.6 x 10 <sup>-11</sup>
1,2,3,6,7,8-HxCDD	0.016 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	5.7 x 10 <sup>-11</sup>
1,2,3,4,6,7,8-HpCDD	0.10 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	3.7 x 10 <sup>-10</sup>
OCDD	0.24 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	8.8 x 10 <sup>-10</sup>
2,3,7,8-TCDF	0.017 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	6.2 x 10 <sup>-11</sup>
2,3,4,7,8-PeCDF	0.032 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	1.2 x 10 <sup>-10</sup>
1,2,3,7,8-PeCDF	0.017 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	6.2 x 10 <sup>-11</sup>
1,2,3,4,7,8-HxCDF	0.13 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	4.8 x 10 <sup>-10</sup>
1,2,3,7,8,9-HxCDF	0.0024 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	8.8 x 10 <sup>-12</sup>
1,2,3,6,7,8-HxCDF	0.049 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	1.8 x 10 <sup>-10</sup>
2,3,4,6,7,8-HxCDF	0.052 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	1.9 x 10 <sup>-10</sup>
1,2,3,4,6,7,8-HpCDF	0.26 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	9.7 x 10 <sup>-10</sup>
1,2,3,4,7,8,9-HpCDF	0.024 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	8.8 x 10 <sup>-11</sup>
OCDF	0.24 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	8.8 x 10 <sup>-10</sup>
Aroclor 1016/1254	0.036 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	1.3 x 10 <sup>-10</sup>

## 2.6 DISPERSION MODELLING ASSUMPTIONS

The air quality assessment has relied upon the use of AERMOD to estimate ground level concentrations of pollutants. The HHRA model has been designed to accept output files from the US EPA ISC or AERMOD dispersion models, reflecting its North American origins and its need to follow the US EPA risk assessment protocol. The use of AERMOD is consistent with the air quality assessment undertaken for the facility and the emissions data and model set up are identical to that carried out for the air quality assessment <sup>1</sup>.

For the modelling, all emission properties, building heights, and other relevant factors were retained from the air quality assessment provided for the facility. As the health risk assessment requires information on the deposition of substances to surfaces as well as airborne concentrations of substances, the AERMOD dispersion model has also been used to predict the following:

- the airborne concentration of vapour, particle and particle bound substances emitted;

- the wet deposition rate of particle and particle bound substances; and
- the dry deposition rate of vapour, particle and particle bound substances.

For AERMOD, deposition velocities are determined from the assumed particle diameters and particle density of the emissions for three particle sizes based on information provided by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) <sup>9</sup>. Details of particle sizes, density and assumed fractions are provided in *Table 2.3*.

**TABLE 2.3**      **PARTICLE SIZES, PARTICLE DENSITY AND PARTICLE FRACTIONS USED IN THE IRAP MODEL**

Particle Diameter	Particle Density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	Mass Fraction (a)	Area Fraction (b)(c)
1 µm	1	0.25	0.625
2.5 µm	1	0.25	0.25
10 µm	1	0.5	0.125
(a) Fraction assumed for the particle phase (b) Fraction assumed for the particle bound phase (c) Calculated from the mass fraction utilising the method described in the US EPA HHRAP			

## 2.7      DISPERSION MODELLING RESULTS

A summary of the key results from the AERMOD dispersion model is presented in *Table 2.4*. These have been predicted using the 2015 Tees Valley Airport meteorological data set. This year was selected, as out of the five years considered, it was the year that provided highest predicted annual mean concentrations and deposition rates.

<sup>9</sup> Refined HHRAP-Based Analysis Form, AERA-26, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (August 2011)



TABLE 2.4

**MAXIMUM ANNUAL AVERAGE PARTICLE PHASE CONCENTRATIONS AND  
PARTICLE PHASE DEPOSITION RATES ESTIMATED BY AERMOD**

Pollutant	Max Annual Average Concentration (a)	Max Annual Average Deposition Rate (b)
<b>PCDD/Fs</b>	<b>(fg m<sup>-3</sup>)</b>	<b>(ng m<sup>-2</sup> year<sup>-1</sup>)</b>
2,3,7,8-TCDD	0.018	0.13
1,2,3,7,8-PeCDD	0.14	1.1
1,2,3,4,7,8-HxCDD	0.17	1.2
1,2,3,7,8,9-HxCDD	0.12	0.90
1,2,3,6,7,8-HxCDD	0.15	1.1
1,2,3,4,6,7,8-HpCDD	1.0	7.3
OCDD	2.4	17.1
2,3,7,8-TCDF	0.16	1.20
2,3,4,7,8-PeCDF	0.32	2.3
1,2,3,7,8-PeCDF	0.16	1.2
1,2,3,4,7,8-HxCDF	1.3	9.3
1,2,3,7,8,9-HxCDF	0.024	0.17
1,2,3,6,7,8-HxCDF	0.48	3.5
2,3,4,6,7,8-HxCDF	0.51	3.7
1,2,3,4,6,7,8-HpCDF	2.6	18.9
1,2,3,4,7,8,9-HpCDF	0.24	1.7
OCDF	2.4	17.1
Aroclor 1016/1254	0.35	2.6
(a) Where 1 fg m <sup>-3</sup> is equal to 1 x 10 <sup>-15</sup> g m <sup>-3</sup>		
(b) Where 1 ng m <sup>-2</sup> year <sup>-1</sup> is equal to 1 x 10 <sup>-9</sup> g m <sup>-2</sup> year <sup>-1</sup>		

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

Exposure of an individual to a chemical may occur either by inhalation or ingestion (including food, water and soil). Of interest is the total dose of the chemical received by the individual through the combination of possible routes, and the IRAP model has been developed to estimate the dose received by the human body, often referred to as the external dose.

Exposure to COPCs is a function of the estimated concentration of the substance in the environmental media with which individuals may come into contact (i.e. exposure point concentrations) and the duration of contact. The concentration at the point of contact is itself a function of the transfer through air, soil, water, plants and animals that form part of the overall pathway. Exposure equations have been developed which combine exposure factors (e.g. exposure duration, frequency and medium intake rate) and exposure point concentrations. The dose equations therefore facilitate estimation of the received dose and account for the properties of the route of exposure, i.e. ingestion and inhalation.

For those substances that bio-accumulate, i.e. become more concentrated higher up the food chain, especially in body fats, the exposure to meats and milk is of particular significance.

The IRAP model user has the facility to adjust some of the key exposure factors. An example is the diet of the receptor and the proportion of which is local produce, which may be contaminated. Obviously, if a nearby resident eats no food grown locally, then that person's diet cannot be contaminated by the emissions from the source, in this case the proposed facility. It is conventional to investigate two types of receptor, a farmer and a resident. It is assumed that a farmer eats proportionately more locally grown food than a resident. Where the potential exists for the consumption of locally caught fish a fisher receptor may also be considered.

The receptor types can also be divided into adults and children. Children are important receptors because they tend to ingest soil and dusts directly and have lower body weights, so that the effect of the same dose is greater in the child than in the adult.

The IRAP model is designed to accept output files of airborne concentrations and deposition rates. From these, it proceeds to calculate the concentrations of the pollutants of concern in the environmental media, foodstuffs and the human receptor. The dose experienced by the human receptor can be compared to the tolerable daily intake (TDI) provided by the Committee on Toxicity for dioxins and dioxin like PCBs of  $2 \text{ pg kg}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$ .

The model requires a wide range of input parameters to be defined, these include:

- physical and chemical properties of the COPCs;
- site information, including site specific data; and
- receptor information – for each receptor type (e.g. adult or child, resident or farmer or fisher).

The HHRAP default values, which are incorporated into the IRAP model, have been used for the majority of these input values. These data are provided in the following sections.

### 3.2 INPUT PARAMETERS FOR THE COPCs

The IRAP model contains a database of physical and chemical parameters for each of 206 COPCs. This database is based on default values provided by the HHRAP and all default values have been used for this assessment.

These parameters are used to determine how each of the COPCs behaves in the environment and their presence and accumulation in various food products (meat, fish, animal products, vegetation, soil and water). For 2,3,7,8-TCDD (the most toxic of the PCDD/Fs), the default parameters are provided in *Table 3.1*.

**TABLE 3.1 IRAP INPUT PARAMETERS FOR 2, 3, 7, 8-TCDD**

Parameter Description	Symbol	Units	2,3,7,8-TCDD
Chemical abstract service number	CAS No.	-	1746-01-6
Molecular weight	MW	g mole <sup>-1</sup>	322.0
Melting point of chemical	T <sub>m</sub>	K	578.7
Vapour pressure	V <sub>p</sub>	atm	1.97 x 10 <sup>-12</sup>
Aqueous solubility	S	mg L <sup>-1</sup>	1.93 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>
Henry's Law constant	H	atm-m <sup>3</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup>	3.29 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>
Diffusivity of COPC in air	D <sub>a</sub>	cm <sup>2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	0.104
Diffusivity of COPC in water	D <sub>w</sub>	cm <sup>2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	5.6 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>
Octanol-water partition coefficient	K <sub>ow</sub>	-	6,309,573
Organic carbon-water partition coefficient	K <sub>oc</sub>	mL g <sup>-1</sup>	3,890,451
Soil-water partition coefficient	K <sub>d_s</sub>	mL g <sup>-1</sup>	38,904
Suspended sediments/surface water partition coefficient	K <sub>d_sw</sub>	L kg <sup>-1</sup>	291,784
Bed sediment/sediment pore water partition coefficient	K <sub>d_bs</sub>	mL g <sup>-1</sup>	155,618
COPC loss constant due to biotic and abiotic degradation	K <sub>sg</sub>	a <sup>-1</sup>	0.03
Fraction of COPC air concentration in vapour phase	f <sub>v</sub>		0.664
Root concentration factor	RCF	mL g <sup>-1</sup>	39,999

**TABLE 3.1 IRAP INPUT PARAMETERS FOR 2, 3, 7, 8-TCDD**

Parameter Description	Symbol	Units	2,3,7,8-TCDD
Plant-soil bioconcentration factor for below ground produce	br_root_veg	-	1.03
Plant-soil bioconcentration factor for leafy vegetables	br_leafy_veg	-	0.00455
Plant-soil bioconcentration factor for forage	br_forage	-	0.00455
COPC air-to-plant biotransfer factor for leafy vegetables	bv_leafy_veg	-	65,500
COPC air-to-plant biotransfer factor for forage	bv_forage	-	65,500
COPC biotransfer factor for milk	ba_milk	day kg <sup>-1</sup>	0.0055
COPC biotransfer factor for beef	ba_beef	day kg <sup>-1</sup>	0.026
COPC biotransfer factor for pork	ba_pork	day kg <sup>-1</sup>	0.032
Bioconcentration factor for COPC in eggs	Bcf_egg	-	0.060
Bioconcentration factor for COPC in chicken	Bcf_chicken	-	3.32
Fish bioconcentration factor	BCF_fish	L kg <sup>-1</sup>	34,400
Fish bioaccumulation factor	BAF_fish	L kg <sup>-1</sup>	0
Biota-sediment accumulation factor	BSAF_fish	-	0.09
Plant-soil bioconcentration factor for grain	br_grain	-	0.00455
Plant-soil bioconcentration factor for eggs	br_egg	-	0.011
COPC biotransfer factor for chicken	ba_chicken	day kg <sup>-1</sup>	0.019

### 3.3 SITE AND SITE SPECIFIC PARAMETERS

The IRAP health risk assessment model requires information relating to the location and its surroundings. The parameters required include the following.

- The fraction of animal feed (grain, silage and forage) grown on contaminated soils and quantity of animal feed and soil consumed by the various animal species considered.
- The interception fraction for above ground vegetation, forage and silage and length of vegetation exposure to deposition. The yield/standing crop biomass is also required.
- Input data for assessing the risks associated with exposure to breast milk, including:
  - body weight of infant;
  - exposure duration;
  - proportion of ingested COPC stored in fat;
  - proportion of mother's weight that is fat;

- fraction of fat in breast milk;
- fraction of ingested contaminant that is absorbed; and
- half-life of dioxins in adults and ingestion rate of breast milk.
- Other physical parameters (e.g. soil dry bulk density, density of air, soil mixing zone depth).

For all of these parameters the IRAP/EPA HHRAP default values have been used and these are presented in *Annex A*. Other site specific parameters are also required which are not provided by the IRAP model. These parameters were specified for the proposed facility as follows:

- Annual average evapotranspiration rate of 40.6 cm a<sup>-1</sup> (assumed to be 70% of total precipitation);
- Annual average precipitation of 58.0 cm a<sup>-1</sup> (based on the average for the five year data set for the 2015 to 2019 meteorological data);
- Annual average irrigation of 0 cm a<sup>-1</sup>;
- Annual average runoff of 5.8 cm a<sup>-1</sup> (assumed to be 10% of the total precipitation);
- An annual average wind velocity of 4.7 m s<sup>-1</sup> (average for the five years); and
- A time period over which deposition occurs of 30 years.

### 3.4 RECEPTOR INFORMATION

Within the IRAP model there are three receptor types; Resident, Farmer and Fisher. Information relating to each receptor type (adult and/or child) is required by the model where these receptor types are used. The information required includes the following:

- Food (meat, dairy products, fish and vegetables), water and soil consumption rates for each receptor type. However, only Fishers are assumed to consume fish and only Farmers are assumed to consume locally reared animals and animal products.
- Fraction of contaminated food, water and soil which is consumed by each receptor type.
- Input data for the inhalation exposure including: inhalation exposure duration, inhalation exposure frequency, inhalation exposure time; and inhalation rate.
- Input data for the ingestion exposure including: exposure duration, exposure frequency, exposure time; and body weight of receptor.

For the purposes of this assessment the default IRAP/HHRAP parameters have been used mainly to define the characteristics of the receptors. The input data

used are presented in *Annex B*. The only variation to this is the assumed body weight of a child receptor. The IRAP/HHRAP default value is 15 kg whereas in the UK a value of 20 kg is typically used. Therefore, a value of 20 kg has been used.

## 4 EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT

### 4.1 EXPOSURE CRITERIA

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends a tolerable daily intake (TDI) for dioxins/furans of 1 to 4 pg I-TEQ kg-BW<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> (picogrammes as the International Toxic Equivalent per kilogram bodyweight per day)<sup>(10)</sup>. The TDI represents the tolerable daily intake for lifetime exposure and short-term excursions above the TDI would have no consequence provided that the average intake over long periods is not exceeded. The UK Committee on Toxicity (COT) also provides a TDI for dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs of 2 pg I-TEQ kg-BW<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>.

A tolerable weekly intake (TWI) has been adopted by the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA's) expert panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM) but has not been adopted as an assessment criterion for the protection of human health by either the EU or the UK government. This weekly criterion is numerically the same as the TDI but is effectively seven times more stringent as it is the tolerable intake for a week rather than a day. The exposure to dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs is also assessed against this EFSA TWI.

### 4.2 SELECTION OF RECEPTORS

In addition to defining specific locations for assessment, IRAP can be used to determine the location of the maximum impact over an area based on the results of the dispersion model. For each defined land-use area, IRAP selects the locations which represent the maximum predicted concentrations or deposition rates for the area selected. The locations of these various maxima are often co-located resulting in the selection of one to nine receptor locations per defined area. This approach is adopted by IRAP since the maximum receptor impact may occur at any one of the maximum concentration or deposition locations identified.

Residential exposure within the immediate vicinity of the facility is limited due to the industrial nature of the site. The nearest residential areas are to the west at Heighington and to the northwest at School Aycliffe. Therefore, four areas where residential exposure may occur have been defined and include School Aycliffe, Newton Aycliffe, Aycliffe Village and Heighington.

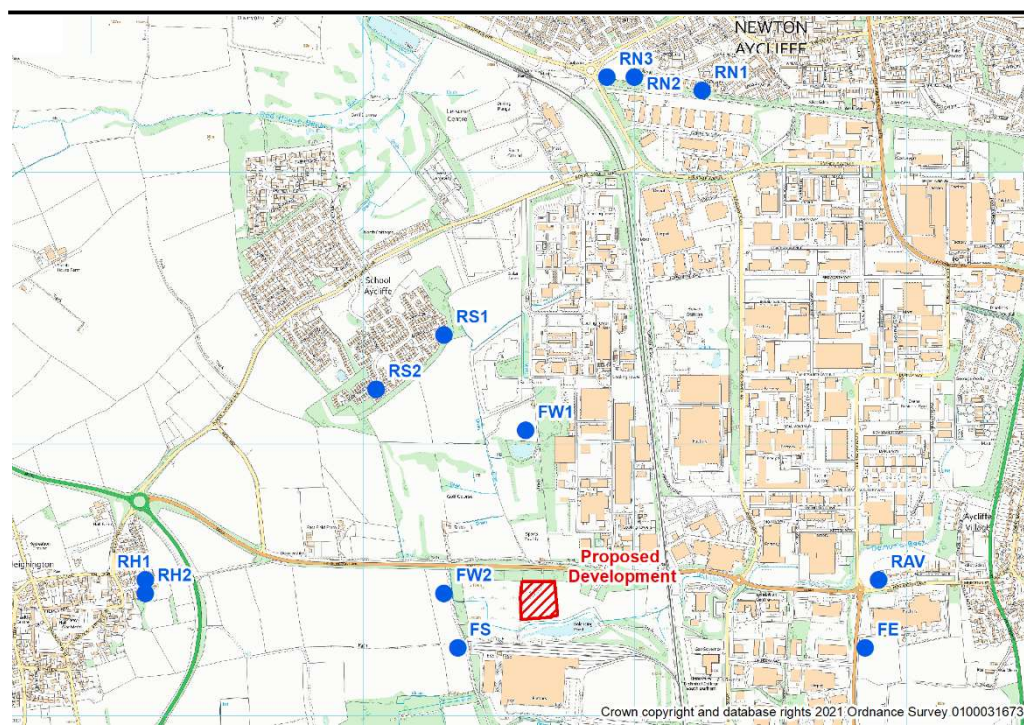
There are three areas that have been defined as being dominated by farming activities. These are to the west, south and east of the facility. As a worst-case

10 Assessment of the Health Risk of Dioxins: Re-evaluation of the Tolerable Daily Intake (TDI), WHO Consultation, May 25-29 1998, Geneva, Switzerland

it is assumed that fields within this area are used for both arable crops and pastureland.

For each type of receptor up to nine locations are selected based on the maximum predicted airborne concentration, maximum predicted wet deposition rate and maximum dry deposition rate. For the assessment, eight Residential receptors and four Farmer receptors have been assessed. It is considered that the likelihood of locally caught fish being consumed is low and fisher receptors have not been included in the assessment. For all of the receptor types, adult and child receptors have been considered. The locations of the Resident and Farmer receptors are described in *Table 4.1* and presented in *Figure 4.1*. At other locations not specifically considered in the assessment, the predicted hazards and risks will be lower than predicted for the discrete receptors considered.

**FIGURE 4.1 LOCATION OF THE RESIDENT AND FARMER RECEPTORS**





**TABLE 4.1 DESCRIPTION OF RESIDENT AND FARMER RECEPTORS**

Reference	Name	Type	Easting	Northing
FE	Farmer East	Farmer	427850	522250
FS	Farmer South	Farmer	426350	522250
FW1	Farmer West 1	Farmer	426600	523050
FW2	Farmer West 2	Farmer	426300	522450
RAV	Resident Aycliffe Village	Resident	427900	522500
RH1	Resident Heighington 1	Resident	425200	522500
RH2	Resident Heighington 2	Resident	425200	522450
RN1	Resident Newton Aycliffe 1	Resident	427250	524300
RN2	Resident Newton Aycliffe 2	Resident	427000	524350
RN3	Resident Newton Aycliffe 3	Resident	426900	524350
RS1	Resident School Aycliffe 1	Resident	426300	523400
RS2	Resident School Aycliffe 2	Resident	426050	523200

### 4.3 ASSESSMENT OF INTAKE

#### 4.3.1 Ingestion Dose

The ingestion intake is calculated as the Average Daily Dose (ADD) from all ingestion exposure routes (e.g. soil, above ground vegetables, meat and dairy products) where for example:

$$ADD_{Ing, TCDD} = \frac{I_{Ing, TCDD} \bullet ED \bullet EF}{AT \bullet 365}$$

Where:  $ADD_{Ing, TCDD}$  = total ingestion dose for TCDD; ED is the exposure duration (dependent on the receptor type); EF is the exposure frequency (350 days per year); and AT is the averaging time, and for determining the TDI, is assumed to be equal to the ED. The total dose is the sum of the dose for each of the individual congeners.

#### 4.3.2 Inhalation Dose

For inhalation, the ADD from inhalation exposure is calculated as follows:

$$ADD_{Inh, TCDD} = \frac{C_a \bullet IR \bullet ED \bullet EF}{AT \bullet 365}$$

Where:  $ADD_{Inh, TCDD}$  is the total inhalation dose for TCDD,  $C_a$  is the concentration of TCDD in air and IR is the daily inhalation rate. The total dose is the sum of the dose for each of the individual congeners.

## 4.4 EXPOSURE TO DIOXINS AND FURANS

### 4.4.1 Comparison of Dioxin/Furan Exposure with WHO and UK COT Guidance

#### *Facility Contribution to Intake*

The average (lifetime) daily intake of dioxins/furans for the receptors considered is presented in *Table 4.2*. These are also compared to the Committee on Toxicity (COT) TDI for dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs of 2 pg I-TEQ kg-BW<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>.

**TABLE 4.2 COMPARISON OF AVERAGE DAILY INTAKES WITH THE UK COT AND WHO'S TDI FOR DIOXINS/FURANS (pg I-TEQ kg-BW<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>)**

Receptor Name	Adult	Child
Farmer East	0.0040	0.0059
Farmer South	0.023	0.034
Farmer West 1	0.025	0.037
Farmer West 2	0.019	0.028
Resident Aycliffe Village	0.00017	0.00049
Resident Heighington 2	0.000035	0.00010
Resident Heighington 1	0.000035	0.00010
Resident Newton Aycliffe 1	0.000095	0.00027
Resident Newton Aycliffe 2	0.000097	0.00027
Resident Newton Aycliffe 3	0.000092	0.00026
Resident School Aycliffe 1	0.00021	0.00060
Resident School Aycliffe 2	0.00011	0.00032
WHO TDI	1 to 4 pg I-TEQ kg-BW <sup>-1</sup> d <sup>-1</sup>	
Committee on Toxicity (COT) TDI	2 pg I-TEQ kg-BW <sup>-1</sup> d <sup>-1</sup>	

The maximum contribution of the facility to the COT TDI is 1.8% for the Farmer West 1 child receptor and 1.3% for the Farmer West 1 adult receptor. Generally, highest exposures are predicted for farmer receptors as it is assumed that these receptors produce their own home reared and home-grown food at the location of maximum impact for the area and represents an extreme worst-case. For residents, the maximum contribution of the facility to the COT TDI is 0.03% for the Resident School Aycliffe 1 child receptor and 0.01% for the Resident School Aycliffe 1 adult receptor.

Therefore, taking into consideration the extreme worst-case assumptions adopted for the assessment, the contribution of the facility to the intake of dioxins/furans and dioxin-like PCBs is negligible.

## Total Intake

The contribution of the facility to total intake is provided as follows:

- predicted incremental intake due to emissions from the facility;
- average daily background intake (i.e. that arising from other sources), referred to as the mean daily intake (MDI);
- the total intake (i.e. the sum of the predicted incremental intake and the MDI);
- a comparison of the total intake with the TDI for dioxin/furans.

A comparison of predicted intakes with the MDI and TDI is presented in *Table 4.3*. Results are presented for Farmer West 1 and Resident School Aycliffe 1 receptors where highest farmer and resident exposures are predicted, respectively.

**TABLE 4.3 COMPARISON OF TOTAL INTAKE WITH THE COT TDI**

Receptor	Total Intake from the Facility (pg I-TEQ kg <sup>-1</sup> d <sup>-1</sup> )	Total Intake Facility + MDI (pg I-TEQ kg <sup>-1</sup> d <sup>-1</sup> )	Facility as %age of TDI	Total Intake as %age of TDI
Farmer West 1 Adult	0.025	0.73	1.3%	36.3%
Farmer West 1 Child	0.037	1.84	1.8%	91.8%
Resident School Aycliffe 1 Adult	0.00021	0.70	0.01%	35.0%
Resident School Aycliffe 1 Child	0.00060	1.80	0.03%	90.0%
COT TDI	2	2	-	-

For inhalation and oral intake of PCDD/Fs for adults, total intake is well below the TDI (36.3%). Background exposure represents approximately 35% of total exposure. At worst, the facility contributes 1.3% to the TDI for adults.

For inhalation and oral intake of PCDD/Fs for children, the background intake is relatively high at 90% of the TDI. At worst, the additional contribution from the facility for a child is 0.037 pg TEQ kg<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> (1.8% of the COT TDI). Combined with the background exposure for a 20 kg child (1.8 pg TEQ kg<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>) the total intake would be 91.8% of the TDI. However, it should be noted that the TDI for PCDD/Fs is set for the purposes of assessing lifetime exposure and these elevated background exposures for children are therefore not representative of long-term exposure.

#### 4.4.2

### Comparison of Dioxin/Furan Exposure with EFSA TWI

The average weekly intake (AWI) of dioxins/furans for the receptors considered is presented in *Table 4.4*. These are also compared to the EFSA TWI for dioxins and furans of  $2 \text{ pg I-TEQ kg-BW}^{-1} \text{ w}^{-1}$ .

The maximum contribution of the facility to the EFSA TWI is 12.9% for the Farmer West 1 child receptor and 8.8% for the Farmer West 1 adult receptor. As discussed above, this assumes as a worst-case that these receptors produce their own home reared and home-grown food at the location of maximum impact for the area and represents an extreme worst-case.

For the residential receptors, the maximum contribution of the facility to the EFSA TWI is 0.2% for the Resident Newton Aycliffe receptor.

**TABLE 4.4** COMPARISON OF AVERAGE WEEKLY INTAKES WITH THE EFSA TWI FOR DIOXINS/FURANS ( $\text{pg I-TEQ kg-BW}^{-1} \text{ w}^{-1}$ )

Receptor Name	Adult	Child
Farmer East	0.028	0.041
Farmer South	0.16	0.24
Farmer West 1	0.18	0.26
Farmer West 2	0.14	0.20
Resident Aycliffe Village	0.0012	0.0034
Resident Heighington 2	0.00024	0.00069
Resident Heighington 1	0.00025	0.00070
Resident Newton Aycliffe 1	0.00067	0.0019
Resident Newton Aycliffe 2	0.00068	0.0019
Resident Newton Aycliffe 3	0.00065	0.0018
Resident School Aycliffe 1	0.0015	0.0042
Resident School Aycliffe 2	0.00079	0.0023
EFSA TWI	$2 \text{ pg I-TEQ kg-BW}^{-1} \text{ w}^{-1}$	

#### 4.4.3

### Infant Breast Milk Exposure to Dioxins and Furans

Another exposure pathway of interest is infant exposure to dioxins and furans via the ingestion of their mother's breast milk. This is because the potential for contamination of breast milk is particularly high for dioxin-like compounds such as these, as they are extremely lipophilic (fat soluble) and hence likely to accumulate in breast milk. Furthermore, the infant body weight is smaller and it could be argued that the effect is therefore proportionately greater than in an adult.

This exposure is measured by the Average Daily Dose (ADD) on the basis of an averaging time of 1 year. In the US, a threshold value of 50 pg kg<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> of 2,3,7,8-TCDD TEQ is cited as being potentially harmful. The IRAP model calculates the ADD that would result from an adult receptor breast feeding an infant. It should be noted that the ADD calculated by IRAP does not consider dioxin-like PCBs. A summary of the ADD for each of the infants of adult receptors considered for the assessment is presented in *Table 4.4*.

**TABLE 4.4 ASSESSMENT OF THE AVERAGE DAILY DOSE FOR A BREAST-FED INFANT OF AN ADULT RECEPTOR**

Receptor Name	Average Daily Dose from Breast Feeding (pg kg <sup>-1</sup> d <sup>-1</sup> of 2,3,7,8-TCDD)
Farmer East	0.044
Farmer South	0.25
Farmer West 1	0.27
Farmer West 2	0.21
Resident Aycliffe Village	0.0017
Resident Heighington 2	0.00033
Resident Heighington 1	0.00034
Resident Newton Aycliffe 1	0.00092
Resident Newton Aycliffe 2	0.00093
Resident Newton Aycliffe 3	0.00089
Resident School Aycliffe 1	0.0020
Resident School Aycliffe 2	0.0011
<i>US EPA Criterion</i>	50
<i>WHO criterion</i>	1 to 4
<i>UK criterion (COT)</i>	2

The highest ADDs are generally calculated for the infants of farmer receptors since the most significant exposure to dioxins/furans is via the food chain, particularly animals and animal products. The farmer receptors are assumed to consume contaminated meat and dairy products. However, residential receptors are only assumed to consume vegetable products which are less significant with regard to exposure to dioxins/furans. Highest exposures are predicted for the Farmer West 1 infant and represents 0.54% of the US threshold value of 50 pg kg<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> of 2,3,7,8-TCDD TEQ. Predicted exposure to infants of residents are less than 0.01% of the threshold.

As a worst case, the ADD for the highest exposure for the infants is 13.5% of the COT TDI. However, the duration of exposure is short and the average daily intake over the lifetime of the individual would be substantially less.

The WHO recognises that breast-fed infants will be exposed to higher intakes for a short duration, but also that breast feeding itself provides associated benefits.

## 5 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

### 5.1 SUMMARY

The possible impacts on human health arising from dioxins and furans (PCDD/F) and dioxin-like PCBs emitted from the Hazardous Waste Incineration facility have been assessed under the worst-case scenario, namely that of an individual exposed for a lifetime to the effects of the highest airborne concentrations and consuming mostly locally grown food. This equates to a hypothetical farmer consuming food grown on the farm, situated at the closest proximity to the proposed facility. Where there are no active farming areas in close proximity, a residential receptor is considered where it is assumed that the resident consumes locally grown vegetables.

The assessment has identified and considered the most plausible pathways of exposure for the individuals considered (farmer and resident). Deposition and subsequent uptake of the compounds of potential concern (COPCs) into the food chain is likely to be the more numerically significant pathway over direct inhalation.

The maximum contribution of the facility to the COT TDI is 1.8% for the farmer receptors and less than 0.1% for the residential receptors. Therefore, the impact of emissions on local sensitive receptors is considered to be not significant.

### 5.2 CONCLUSIONS

The risk assessment methodology used in this assessment has been structured so as to create worst case estimates of risk. A number of features in the methodology give rise to this degree of conservatism. It has been demonstrated that for the maximally exposed individual, exposure to dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs is not significant.

## **ANNEX A**

### **SITE PARAMETERS**

# Annex A: Site Parameters Defined for the Health Risk Assessment

Parameter	Parameter Value	IRAP Symbol	Units
Soil dry bulk density	1.5	bd	g cm <sup>-3</sup>
Forage fraction grown on contam. soil eaten by CATTLE	1.0	beef_fi_forage	--
Grain fraction grown on contam. soil eaten by CATTLE	1.0	beef_fi_grain	--
Silage fraction grown on contam. eaten by CATTLE	1.0	beef_fi_silage	--
Qty of forage eaten by CATTLE each day	8.8	beef_qp_forage	kg DW d <sup>-1</sup>
Qty of grain eaten by CATTLE each day	0.47	beef_qp_grain	kg DW d <sup>-1</sup>
Qty of silage eaten by CATTLE each day	2.5	beef_qp_silage	kg DW d <sup>-1</sup>
Grain fraction grown on contam. soil eaten by CHICKEN	1.0	chick_fi_grain	--
Qty of grain eaten by CHICKEN each day	0.2	chick_qp_grain	kg DW d <sup>-1</sup>
Fish lipid content	0.07	f_lipid	--
Fraction of CHICKEN's diet that is soil	0.1	fd_chicken	--
Universal gas constant	8.205e-5	gas_r	atm-m <sup>3</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup>
Plant surface loss coefficient	18	kp	a <sup>-1</sup>
Fraction of mercury emissions NOT lost to the global cycle	0.48	merc_q_corr	--
Fraction of mercury speciated into methyl mercury in produce	0.22	mercmethyl_ag	--
Fraction of mercury speciated into methyl mercury in soil	0.02	mercmethyl_sc	--
Forage fraction grown contam. soil, eaten by MILK CATTLE	1.0	milk_fi_forage	--
Grain fraction grown contam. soil, eaten by MILK CATTLE	1.0	milk_fi_grain	--
Silage fraction grown contam. soil, eaten by MILK CATTLE	1.0	milk_fi_silage	--
Qty of forage eaten by MILK CATTLE each day	13.2	milk_qp_forage	kg DW d <sup>-1</sup>
Qty of grain eaten by MILK CATTLE each day	3.0	milk_qp_grain	kg DW d <sup>-1</sup>
Qty of silage eaten by MILK CATTLE each day	4.1	milk_qp_silage	kg DW d <sup>-1</sup>
Averaging time	1	milkfat_at	a
Body weight of infant	9.4	milfat_bw_infant	kg
Exposure duration of infant to breast milk	1	milkfat_ed	a
Proportion of ingested dioxin that is stored in fat	0.9	milkfat_f1	--
Proportion of mothers weight that is fat	0.3	milkfat_f2	--
Fraction of fat in breast milk	0.04	milkfat_f3	--
Fraction of ingested contaminant that is absorbed	0.9	milkfat_f4	--
Half-life of dioxin in adults	2555	milkfat_h	d
Ingestion rate of breast milk	0.688	milkfat_ir_milk	kg d <sup>-1</sup>
Viscosity of air corresponding to air temp.	1.81e-04	mu_a	g cm <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
Fraction of grain grown on contam. soil eaten by PIGS	1.0	pork_fi_grain	--
Fraction of silage grown on contam. soil and eaten by PIGS	1.0	pork_fi_silage	--
Qty of grain eaten by PIGS each day	3.3	pork_qp_grain	kg DW d <sup>-1</sup>
Qty of silage eaten by PIGS each day	1.4	pork_qp_silage	kg DW d <sup>-1</sup>
Qty of soil eaten by CATTLE	0.5	qs_beef	kg d <sup>-1</sup>
Qty of soil eaten by CHICKEN	0.022	qs_chick	kg d <sup>-1</sup>
Qty of soil eaten by DAIRY CATTLE	0.4	qs_milk	kg d <sup>-1</sup>
Qty of soil eaten by PIGS	0.37	qs_pork	kg d <sup>-1</sup>
Density of air	1.2e-3	rho_a	g cm <sup>-3</sup>
Solids particle density	2.7	rho_s	g cm <sup>-3</sup>
Interception fraction - edible portion ABOVEGROUND	0.39	rp	--
Interception fraction - edible portion FORAGE	0.5	rp_forage	--
Interception fraction - edible portion SILAGE	0.46	rp_silage	--
Ambient air temperature	298	t	K
Temperature correction factor	1.026	theta	--
Soil volumetric water content	0.2	theta_s	mL cm <sup>-3</sup>
Length of plant expos. to depos. - ABOVEGROUND	0.16	tp	a
Length of plant expos. to depos. - FORAGE	0.12	tp_forage	a
Length of plant expos. to depos. - SILAGE	0.16	tp_silage	a
Average annual wind speed	3.9	u	m s <sup>-1</sup>
Dry deposition velocity	0.5	vdv	cm s <sup>-1</sup>
Dry deposition velocity for mercury	2.9	vdv_hg	cm s <sup>-1</sup>
Wind velocity	3.9	w	m s <sup>-1</sup>
Yield/standing crop biomass - edible portion ABOVEGROUND	2.24	yp	kg DW m <sup>-2</sup>
Yield/standing crop biomass - edible portion FORAGE	0.24	yp_forage	kg DW m <sup>-2</sup>
Yield/standing crop biomass - edible portion SILAGE	0.8	yp_silage	kg DW m <sup>-2</sup>
Soil mixing zone depth	2.0	z	cm



## **ANNEX B**

### **SCENARIO PARAMETERS**

## Annex B: Exposure Scenario Parameters

Parameter Description	Adult Resident	Child Resident	Adult Farmer	Child Farmer	Adult Fisher	Child Fisher	Units
Averaging time for carcinogens	70	70	70	70	70	70	a
Averaging time for noncarcinogens	30	6	40	6	30	6	a
Consumption rate of BEEF	0.0	0.0	0.00122	0.00075	0.0	0.0	kg kg <sup>-1</sup> FW d <sup>-1</sup>
Body weight	70	15	70	15	70	15	kg
Consumption rate of POULTRY	0.0	0.0	0.00066	0.00045	0.0	0.0	kg kg <sup>-1</sup> FW d <sup>-1</sup>
Consumption rate of ABOVEGROUND PRODUCE	0.00032	0.00077	0.00047	0.00113	0.00032	0.00077	kg kg <sup>-1</sup> DW d <sup>-1</sup>
Consumption rate of BELOWGROUND PRODUCE	0.00014	0.00023	0.00017	0.00028	0.00014	0.00023	kg kg <sup>-1</sup> DW d <sup>-1</sup>
Consumption rate of DRINKING WATER	1.4	0.67	1.4	0.67	1.4	0.67	L d <sup>-1</sup>
Consumption rate of PROTECTED ABOVEGROUND PRODUCE	0.00061	0.0015	0.00064	0.00157	0.00061	0.0015	kg kg <sup>-1</sup> DW d <sup>-1</sup>
Consumption rate of SOIL	0.0001	0.0002	0.0001	0.0002	0.0001	0.0002	kg d <sup>-1</sup>
Exposure duration	30	6	40	6	30	6	yr
Exposure frequency	350	350	350	350	350	350	d a <sup>-1</sup>
Consumption rate of EGGS	0.0	0.0	0.00075	0.00054	0.0	0.0	kg kg <sup>-1</sup> FW d <sup>-1</sup>
Fraction of contaminated ABOVEGROUND PRODUCE	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	--
Fraction of contaminated DRINKING WATER	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	--
Fraction contaminated SOIL	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	--
Consumption rate of FISH	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00125	0.00088	kg kg <sup>-1</sup> FW d <sup>-1</sup>
Fraction of contaminated FISH	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	--
Inhalation exposure duration	30	6	40	6	30	6	a
Inhalation exposure frequency	350	350	350	350	350	350	d a <sup>-1</sup>
Inhalation exposure time	24	24	24	24	24	24	h d <sup>-1</sup>
Fraction of contaminated BEEF	1	1	1	1	1	1	--
Fraction of contaminated POULTRY	1	1	1	1	1	1	--
Fraction of contaminated EGGS	1	1	1	1	1	1	--
Fraction of contaminated MILK	1	1	1	1	1	1	--
Fraction of contaminated PORK	1	1	1	1	1	1	--
Inhalation rate	0.83	0.30	0.83	0.30	0.83	0.30	m <sup>3</sup> h <sup>-1</sup>
Consumption rate of MILK	0.0	0.0	0.01367	0.02268	0.0	0.0	kg kg <sup>-1</sup> FW d <sup>-1</sup>
Consumption rate of PORK	0.0	0.0	0.00055	0.00042	0.0	0.0	kg kg <sup>-1</sup> FW d <sup>-1</sup>
Time period at the beginning of combustion	0	0	0	0	0	0	a
Length of exposure duration	30	6	40	6	30	6	a



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