Appendix 11.2

FUTURE BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Future Baseline (2023)

The future baseline is the year 2023.

It should be noted that the future baseline accounts for how existing baseline conditions could change, by the year of completion, in the absence of the proposed development (referred to as the 'Do Nothing' scenario).

Mersey Estuary water quality

Mersey Estuary will need to continue to work towards achieving the requirements of the WFD. Once the requirements are met they will need to be maintained.

The Mersey Estuary will therefore retain its classification as highly sensitive.

According to the EA Catchment Management tool, the Mersey Estuary is expected to reach its objective of 'Good' by the year 2027.

Table 1 Objectives for the Mersey Estuary which must be achieved (EA Catchment Management tool. Accessed, 07/10/2019)

Classification Item	Status	Year	Reasons
Overall Water Body	Good	2027	Unfavourable balance of costs and benefits Cause of adverse impact unknown
Ecological	Good	2027	Cause of adverse impact unknown
Biological quality elements	Good	2027	Cause of adverse impact unknown
Phytoplankton	Good	2027	Cause of adverse impact unknown
Physico-chemical quality elements	Good	2027	Cause of adverse impact unknown
Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen	Good	2027	Cause of adverse impact unknown
Specific pollutants	High	2027	Cause of adverse impact unknown
Zinc	High	2027	Cause of adverse impact unknown
Chemical	Good	2027	Unfavourable balance of costs and benefits
Priority hazardous substances	Good	2027	Unfavourable balance of costs and benefits
Tributyltin Compounds	Good	2027	Unfavourable balance of costs and benefits

Water Supply

The UU 2019 WRMP states that the Merseyside region has an adequate supply to meet demand over the next 25 years, and that investment is proposed to reduce the risk of the aqueduct supplying water. As construction works were expected to begin in September 2020 (subject to planning approval), with completion by October 2023, it is likely that by the future baseline year the risk to the water supply of this area would be of similar position to the existing baseline year.

Flood Risk

Flood risk will still need to be managed through the implementation of the principles of NPPF. The guidance 4 published by the EA in February 2016 to support the NPPF contains sensitivity ranges that are recommended to be applied to peak rainfall intensities, peak river flows, sea level rise, offshore wind speeds and extreme wave heights. The general trend is for each parameter to increase in the future, which in turn increases the risk of flooding to any site. The recommended allowances for peak rainfall intensity are given in Table 2.

Table 2 Recommended climate change allowances for peak rainfall intensity (Extract from EA Website)

Applies across all of England	Total potential change anticipated for the '2020s' (2015 to 2039)	Total potential change anticipated for the '2050s' (2040 to 2069)	Total potential change anticipated for the '2080s' (2070 to 2115)
Upper end	10%	20%	40%
Central	5%	10%	20%

Flood risk could get worse in the future with climate change, and the drainage strategy (Appendix 12.4) has made an allowance for a 40% increase in peak rainfall intensity, in line with the conservative scenario.