

## **8 SOCIO-ECONOMIC**

### **8.1 Introduction**

8.1.1 This Chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) evaluates the effects associated with the proposed Energy Recovery Park ('the Development') on the socio-economics of the area. In this context socio economics can be defined as the relationship between the economic activity resulting from a new development and the effect on society in the local community. In addition this Chapter will examine the effects on tourist attractions and recreation facilities in and around the Development (excluding noise effects which are considered in Chapter 11: Noise, and landscape and visual effects which are considered in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual).

8.1.2 This assessment includes information such as details of the number and types of new permanent jobs to be created by the proposed development. As such, the potential socio-economic effects has been structured in terms of:

- Local economy and employment;
- Land use;
- Tourism and recreation; and
- Travel patterns and commuting.

### **8.2 Assessment Methodology**

8.2.1 A desk based study approach has been undertaken to identify a socio-economic baseline using a range of reliable and accurate online data sources and mapping. The data sources can be cross referenced to provide assumptions and indications that satisfy the requirements of East Ayrshire Council (EAC). The data sources used within this Chapter are as follows (sourced throughout):

- EAC Website
- Scotland Census 2011 data
- National Records Scotland (NRS)
- Sustrans Interactive Mapping
- Scottish Tourist Board
- Ayrshire and Arran tourism website

8.2.2 This Chapter also assesses the current demographics of the area and how the Development can have a significant benefit to the local area and East Ayrshire.

8.2.3 The construction and operational impacts of the Development will be assessed upon the existing baseline conditions to identify the socio-economic effects. Where necessary, mitigation measures will be proposed to reduce any potential negative impacts on the socio economic factors.

### **Significance**

8.2.4 There is no generally recognised methodology in Government guidance for rating and assessing the significance of potential socio-economic effects, therefore the assessment process is predominantly on a qualitative basis.

8.2.5 The scale of significance described below has been used to assess the potential and residual effects of the Development against baseline conditions.

8.2.6 Effects associated with the construction phases of the Development are considered to be temporary and short-term effects. Effects associated with the operational phase of the Development are classified as long-term effects. Effects that last beyond the operational phase of the Development are classified as permanent effects.

8.2.7 Effects are defined as:

- Negligible/No effect: either no change or no detectable change to a location, environment or sensitive receptor;
- Minor: a detectable but non-material change to a location, environment or sensitive receptor;
- Moderate: a material, but non-fundamental change to a location, environment or sensitive receptor; or
- Major: a fundamental change to a location, environment or sensitive receptor or in breach of recognised legislation, policy or standards.

8.2.8 For assessing significance, consideration is given to the national, regional and local baseline situation. The magnitude of the impact is determined in proportion to the area of impact relevant to each receptor. For the purpose of the assessment, a moderate or major effect is deemed to be 'significant' in terms of the EIA Regulations.

8.2.9 In terms of socio-economic factors, potential effects would be significant if the Development resulted in any fundamental or material changes in population,

structure of the local community or local economic activity during the construction and operational phases.

- 8.2.10 The physical effects of the Development on existing land-use are assessed by considering the possible effect of the Development on the current land-use of the site. Significant effects would be those which resulted in a material or fundamental change in the predominant land-use of the site.

### **8.3 Baseline**

- 8.3.1 The Development is to be located within East Ayrshire and is located adjacent to the A70, approximately 2.5km west of Ochiltree village, at National Grid Reference NS 480 204. The Development is currently an industrially active site, generally located within a rural setting although adjacent to a coal processing and storage facility to the north west. Residential properties within the area are limited to those associated with the surrounding farmland, the closest being opposite the development to the south at Killoch Farm. The south of the site is bound by the A70 linking Cumnock with Ayr, beyond which is open agricultural land. The east of the site is bound by open agricultural land associated with the nearby High Tarbeg Farm, beyond which is the village of Ochiltree. A full description of the site is available in Chapter 3 of this ES (Site Description).
- 8.3.2 The Development accords with national, regional and local policy. A full description of the planning policy is available in Chapter 5 of this ES:.

#### **Population**

- 8.3.3 The primary potential impact of the Development on population relates to the provision of employment and the effect this will have on inward and outward migration.
- 8.3.4 The major town of Kilmarnock is the largest urban centre in the region and has a population of around 46,159<sup>1</sup>. The development is within the county of East Ayrshire which has a population of approximately 122,767. The closest settlement to the development is the small village of Ochiltree which is approximately 2.5km east and has a population of around 1,046<sup>1</sup>. Due to the Development being within a widely rural

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<sup>1</sup> National Records of Scotland (2011) Scotland's Census 2011. Available at: <http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/ods-web/area.html#!> (Accessed 06/02/2015)

area of towns and villages at a low population density, county level statistics have been used in the socio economic assessment. Where available local data of the nearest residential settlement (Ochiltree) has been included.

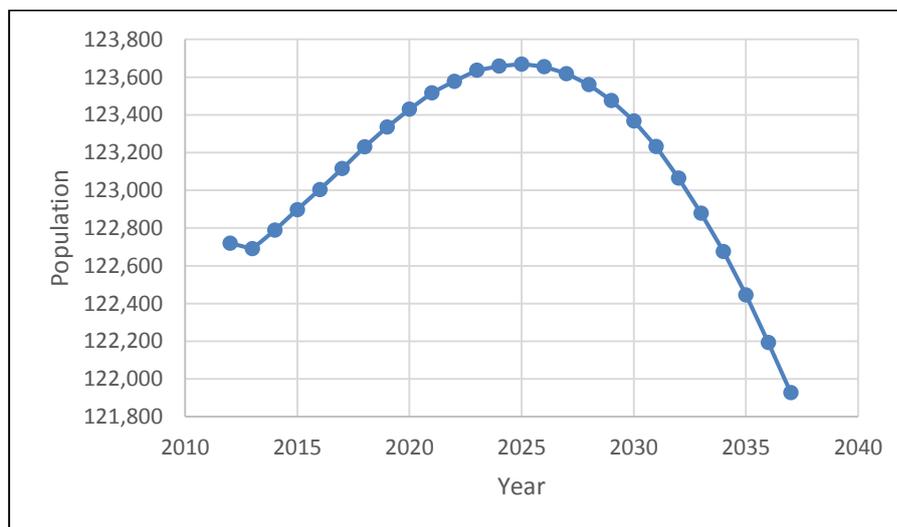
**Table 8.1** - Population Estimates (ONS):

	Ochiltree	East Ayrshire	South East	Scotland
Population	1,046	122,767	678,356	5,295,403

### Population projection

8.3.5 The population of East Ayrshire is considered to remain relatively stable with minor fluctuations. There is a projected growth in population up to the year 2025 with a population of 123,669, a minimal increase of approximately 0.73%. The population is then expected to decline to 121,928 below the current population, giving a net decrease of approximately 0.69%. This is significant given the projected increase in Scotland’s population by approximately 8.8% during this time period<sup>2</sup>.

**Figure 8.1** – East Ayrshires population projection 2012-2037<sup>2</sup>:

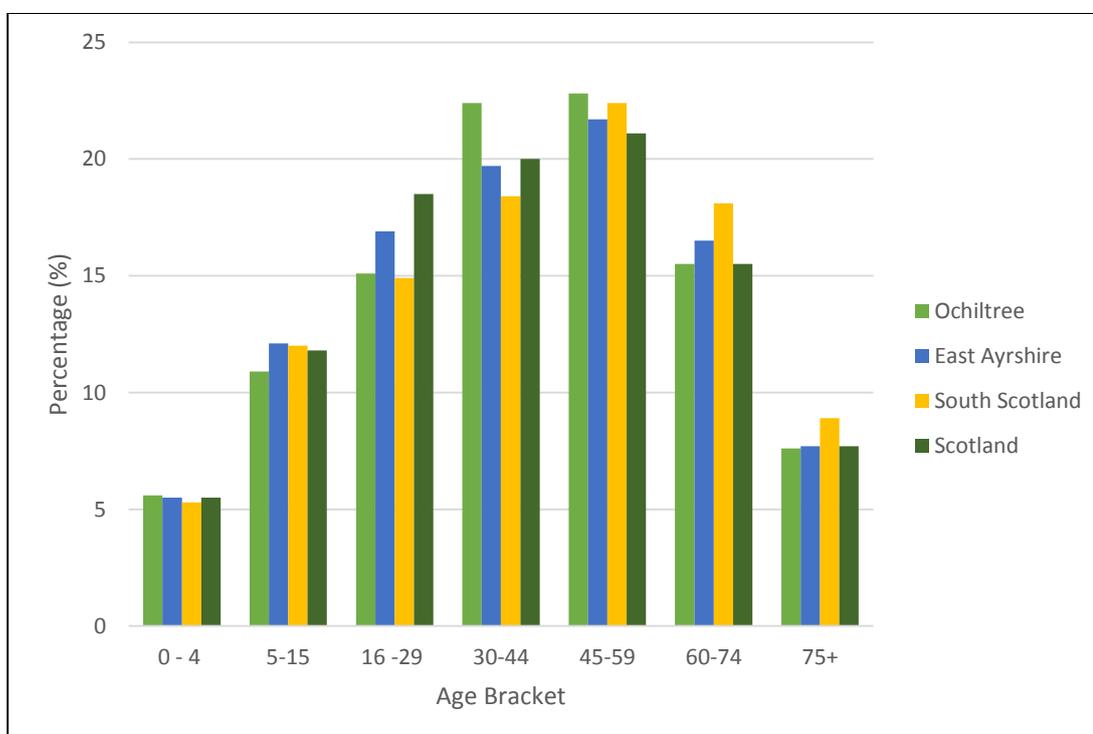


<sup>2</sup> National Records of Scotland (2014) Population Projections for Scotland Areas (2012-based). Available at: <http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/sub-national-population-projections/2012-based/list-of-tables> (Accessed 09/02/2015)

## Age Structure

8.3.6 Between the years of 2001 to 2009, the number of children resident in East Ayrshire fell by 1.7%. During this time the working age population remained constant and the population of pensionable age rose by 1.73%. The population aged 0-65 is projected to fall sharply to the year 2033, with sharp rises in the numbers of residents aged 65 and over (an increase of 26.6%). This ageing population structure is in line with Scotland wide projections<sup>3</sup>. Figure 8.2 shows the comparison age structure of the area and Scotland from the 2011 Census.

**Figure 8.2** - Populations by Age (NRS 2014)



8.3.7 Figure 8.2 does not currently show the area to be an ageing population with the percentage of population over 60 being similar to the national values. There are high numbers of the local population within the age brackets 30-59, particularly for Ochiltree, which is higher than the national percentages. However, there is a lower percentage of the younger population (16-29) for East Ayrshire (16.9%) and Ochiltree (15.1%) in comparison to the national average (18.5%). This could be due to the lack of opportunities for those at the beginning of their careers or/in addition to, the

<sup>3</sup> East Ayrshire Council (2012) East Ayrshire Local Development Plan: Main Issues Report, Monitoring Statement. Available at: <http://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/Resources/PDF/M/MIRMonitoringStatement.pdf> (Accessed 09/02/2015)

characteristics of the area suit an older generation who are looking to retire outside of the city and in a rural setting.

**Local Economy and Employment**

8.3.8 The assessment of the potential effects on the local economy and employment begins by establishing the baseline conditions in terms of key features of the economy and employment situation in East Ayrshire.

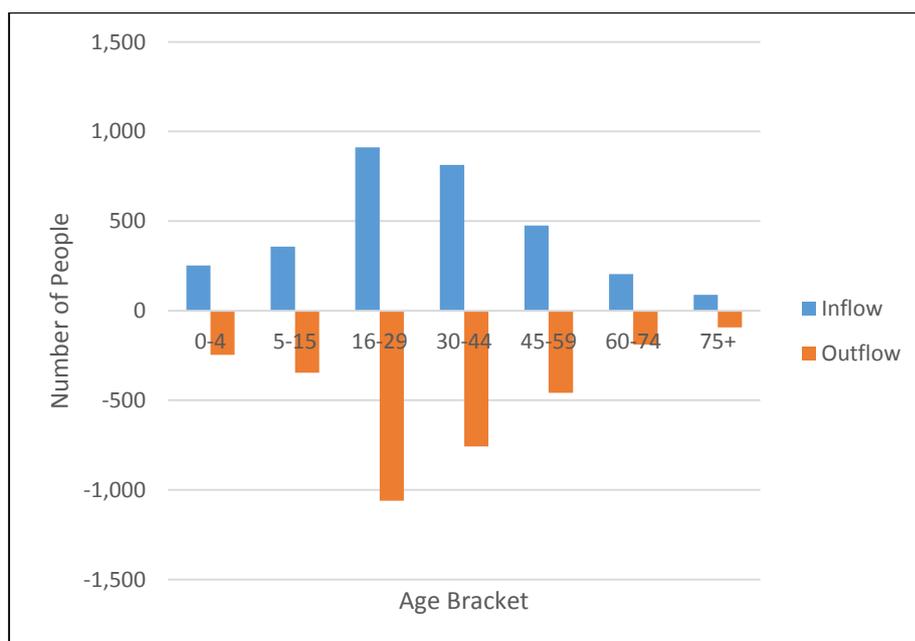
**Working Age**

8.3.9 East Ayrshire population aged 16 to 64 years, working age, accounts for 65.1% compared to 62.9% regionally and 65.9% nationally. The working age of Ochiltree, the nearest residential settlement is higher at 67.5%. The proportion of the population at retirement age (65+) for East Ayrshire is 17.4%, higher than Scotland (16.8%) which reflects the age structure of the area.

**Migration**

8.3.10 Based on migration figures from 2011-2013 (NRS 2014) for East Ayrshire, there was a very minor net outward migration (50 people). Although the outward migration is only minimal, Figure 8.3 shows that the main age bracket of outward migration is for the age bracket 16-29. This could be due to the lack of employment opportunities. All other age brackets apart from +75 showed a net inward migration.

**Figure 8.3** - Migrations for East Ayrshire (NRS 2014):



## **Employment**

- 8.3.11 The Development will cater for a range of prospective jobs. Due to the characteristics of the proposed development the majority of jobs will be within the waste sector.
- 8.3.12 Table 8.2 shows the percentages of those economically active/inactive of the working population (aged 16-74). East Ayrshire has the lowest percentage of its population economically active at 67.2% in comparison to 68.3% regionally and 69% nationally. Ochiltree has the highest percentage with 72.5% of its population being economically active, however it has the highest percentage of those unemployed within the age range 16 to 24 at 35.5% compared to 30% in East Ayrshire, 32.2% regionally and 30.2% nationally. This could explain the net outward migration for this age bracket as previously discussed. Cumnock the nearest large urban settlement (approximately 10km east of the Development) has 64.9% of its population economically active, much lower than the regional and national percentages.

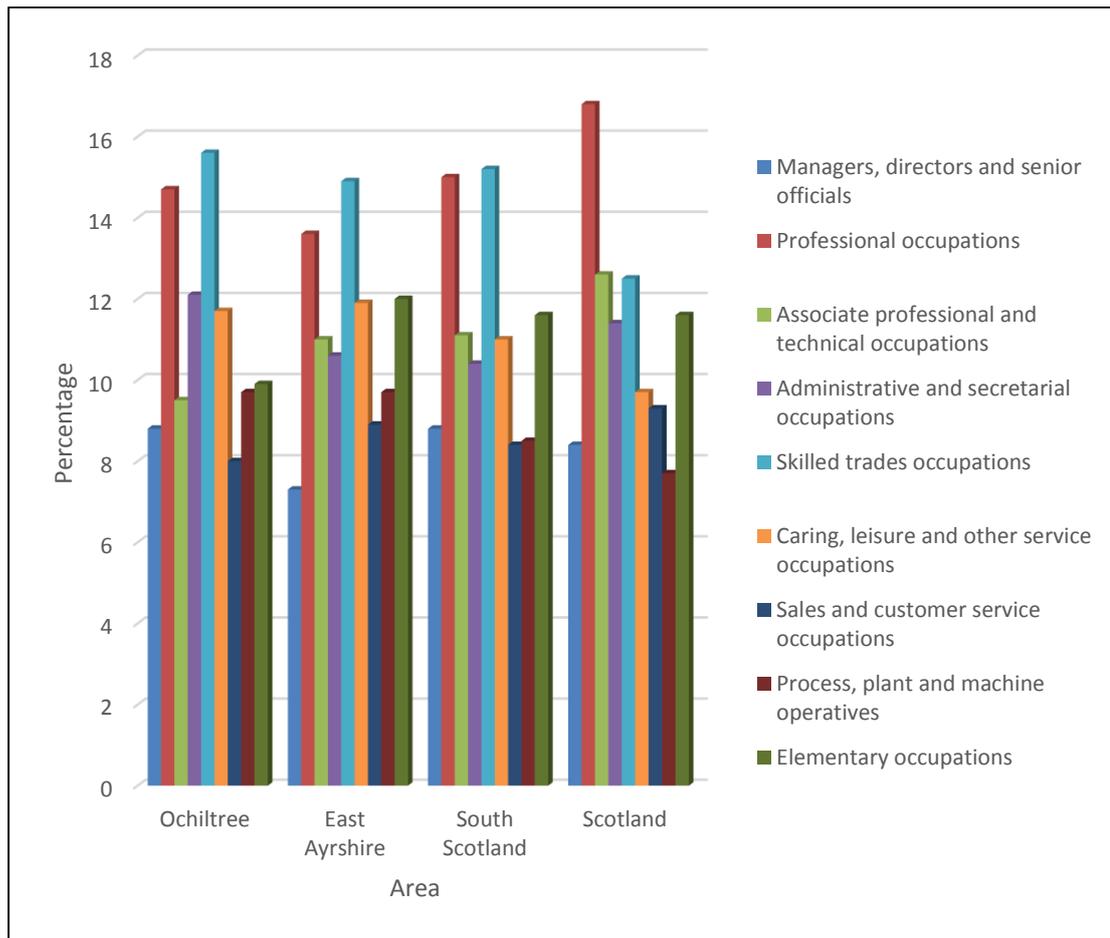
**Table 8.2:** Employment and Unemployment Statistics (Scotland Census 2011)

<b>Economic Activity</b>	<b>Ochiltree (%)</b>	<b>East Ayrshire (%)</b>	<b>South Scotland (%)</b>	<b>Scotland (%)</b>
<b>Economically active</b>	72.5	67.2	68.3	69
Employees – part time	11.3	13.9	14.8	13.3
Employees – full time	47	37.7	37	39.6
Self-employed	7.9	7	9.5	7.5
Unemployed	3.9	6	4.6	4.8
Full time student-employed	1.4	1.9	1.9	2.9
Full time student-unemployed	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.8
<b>Economically inactive</b>	27.5	32.8	31.7	31
Retired	13.9	16.5	18.1	14.9
Student	3.7	4.2	3.6	5.5
Looking after family/home	3.8	3.7	3.4	3.6
Long term sick	4.5	6.1	4.8	5.1
Other	1.6	2.3	1.7	1.9

8.3.13 Figure 8.4 shows that the percentage of those employed within each occupation are similar within Ochiltree, East Ayrshire and South Scotland, as well as being generally

proportionate across Scotland. The main occupations within Ochiltree, East Ayrshire and South Scotland are within skilled trades and professional occupations. Ochiltree and East Ayrshire have a higher percentage of those employed within Process, plant and machine operatives compared to the national percentage.

**Figure 8.4** - Employment by Occupation (Scotland Census 2011):



### Unemployment

8.3.14 Table 8.3 shows the percentage of Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA) claimants within the area compared to Scotland and Great Britain. East Ayrshire has one of the highest claimant count rates within Scotland being joint third with Glasgow City<sup>4</sup>. ‘Sales’ followed by ‘Elementary Trades, Plant and Storage Related,’ were the

<sup>4</sup> Skills Development Scotland (2015) Labour Market Information, Monthly Unemployment Update (January 2015).

Available at:

[http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/1314205/monthly\\_unemployment\\_update\\_january\\_2015.pdf](http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/1314205/monthly_unemployment_update_january_2015.pdf)

(Accessed 11/02/2015)

broad occupations sought by JSA claimants in Scotland during December 2014. The Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley constituency of the Scottish Parliament has an equally high claimant count at 3.0% of its population.

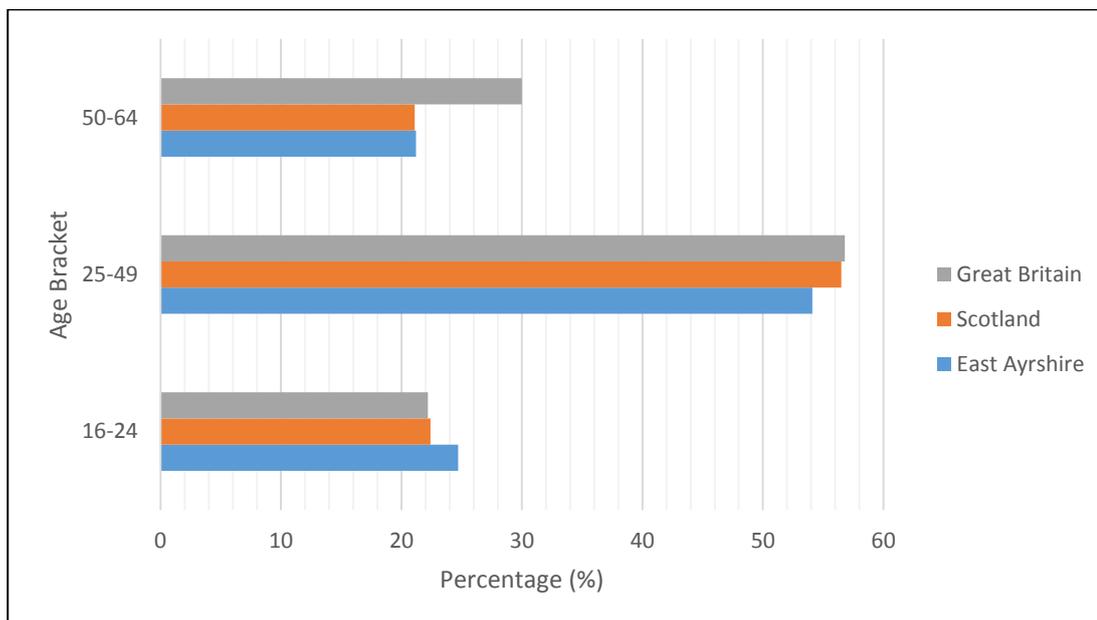
**Table 8.3** JSA Claimants (December 2014) for persons aged 16- 64 (NOMIS)<sup>5</sup>

	East Ayrshire (no.)	East Ayrshire (%)*	Scotland (%)*	Great Britain (%)*
<b>All people</b>	2,791	3.6	2.3	1.9

\* Percentage is a proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64

8.3.15 Figure 8.5 shows that the most significant concentration of JSA claims is within the 25-49 age bracket. East Ayrshire has a higher claimant rate within the age bracket 16-24 in comparison to Scotland and Great Britain. Based on December 2014 data, East Ayrshire had the joint highest youth unemployment rate (18-24) within Scotland at 6.6% (along with North Ayrshire), significantly higher than the national rate at 3.5%<sup>4</sup>.

**Figure 8.5** - JSA claims by working age (NOMIS)<sup>5</sup>:

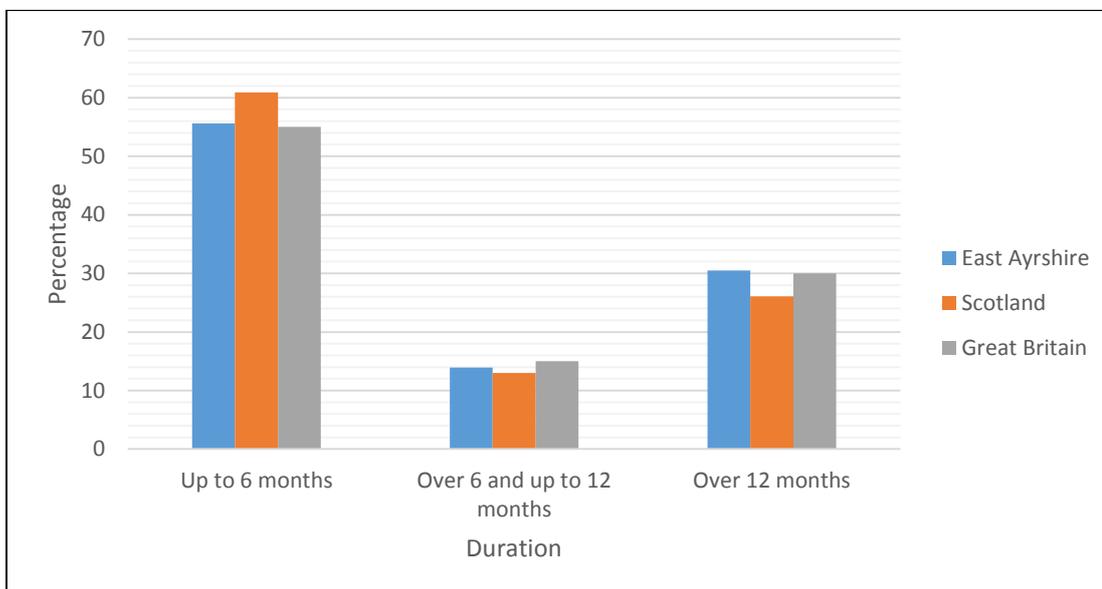


8.3.16 Figure 8.6 shows that the bulk of the unemployed have been claimant's for less than six months, which remains a positive aspect of the local situation. However, the East

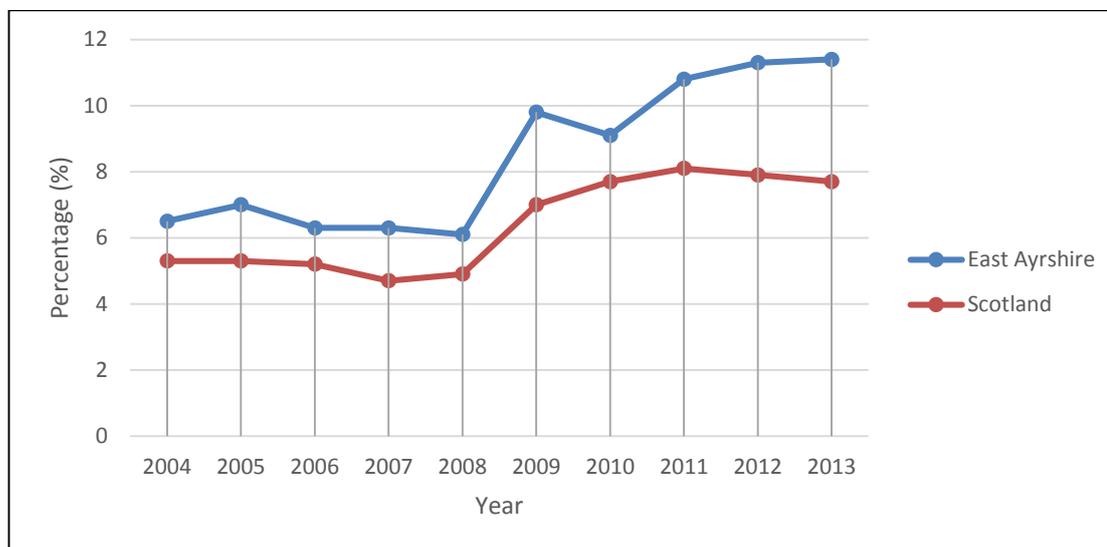
<sup>5</sup> Office for National Statistics (online) NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157412/report.aspx#tabwab> (Accessed 11/02/2015)

Ayrshire claimant figures show a higher percentage are claiming for a longer duration in comparison to Scotland, although similar to those of Great Britain.

**Figure 8.6 - Duration of Claims (NOMIS)<sup>5</sup>:**



**Figure 8.7 - Unemployment rate for East Ayrshire (Scottish Government)<sup>6</sup>**



8.3.17 Figure 8.7 shows the unemployment rate within East Ayrshire in comparison to Scotland. The unemployment in East Ayrshire is consistently higher than the Scottish rate and is currently at a much higher rate of 11.4% in comparison to

<sup>6</sup> Scottish Government (2014) Local Authority web tables from the Local Area Labour Markets in Scotland, Statistics from the Annual Population Survey 2013 Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Labour-Market/Local-Authority-Tables> (Accessed 11/02/2015)

7.7%. In the two years 2009 and 2010, unemployment has risen to a high of 9.7% reflecting recent job losses by major employers Diageo in Kilmarnock<sup>3</sup>. The figures above also suggest that East Ayrshire has been badly affected by the current global economic downturn. The unemployment rate has continued to increase within 2012 and 2013 as the national unemployment rate has begun to decrease. In 2013, 21 of the local authorities had a decrease in unemployment rate, one remained the same and East Ayrshire was within the 10 that showed an increase<sup>7</sup>.

### Income

8.3.18 Workplace analysis of the median weekly gross pay for those in full time employment for East Ayrshire in 2014 was lower at £491.70 when compared to Scotland at £519.40 and Great Britain at £520.20. However, based on resident analysis the median weekly gross pay for those in full time employment for East Ayrshire in 2014 was higher at £526.703.

### Skills

**Table 8.4** – Qualifications (NOMIS Jan 2013 – Dec 2013)

Qualifications	East Ayrshire (no.s)	East Ayrshire (%)	Scotland (%)	Great Britain (%)
<b>No qualifications</b>	11,300	14.9	10.3	9.3
<b>Other qualifications</b>	4,100	5.5	6.2	6.3
<b>NVQ Level 1 and Above</b>	60,200	79.6	83.4	84.4
<b>NVQ Level 2 and Above</b>	50,800	67.2	73.7	72.5
<b>NVQ Level 3 and Above</b>	38,200	50.5	59.3	55.8

<sup>7</sup> Scottish Government (2014) Local Area Labour Markets in Scotland, Statistics from the Annual Population Survey 2013. Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0044/00449714.pdf> (Accessed 11/02/2015)

<b>NVQ Level 4 and Above</b>	24,500	32.5	39.4	35.2
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8.3.19 East Ayrshire has a lesser educated population with lower percentages of those qualified to all levels in comparison to Scotland and Great Britain. Based on Scotland Census 2011 data, East Ayrshire had the highest percentage of its population with no qualifications. The lower qualified population within the area is reflected in the areas occupational structure which is skewed towards the lower skilled occupations.

**Overview of local economy**

8.3.20 East Ayrshire Economic Development Strategy 2012-2017 sets out the economic development vision and priorities with associated key actions for East Ayrshire. Historically, East Ayrshire’s economy was based around coal mining, textile manufacturing and engineering but, like the majority of the West of Scotland, these sectors fell into decline in the 1970s and some of the communities have failed to fully recover from the impact of this and have been unable to reposition themselves for new industry. Despite investment by the Council of £200m, some of East Ayrshires built environment, business and industrial space continue to reflect that decline.<sup>8</sup>

8.3.21 New employers have resided within East Ayrshire but growth has been slow and economic inactivity has persisted. One of Kilmarnock’s major employers, drinks company Diageo closed the Johnnie Walker bottling plant causing the loss of approximately 700 jobs. In addition, the recession has claimed other smaller companies such as construction business Forbes and Whiteford, who have been unable to react to the pressures of reduced bank financing and shrinking order books. The East Ayrshire high streets have been affected by national bankruptcies such as Clinton Cards, while other companies have shed jobs, for example Mahle Engineering.<sup>8</sup> The loss of jobs and the slow growth of new employers is reflected within the high unemployment rate, especially within youth unemployment for the area in comparison to national values as previously discussed.

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<sup>8</sup> East Ayrshire Council (online) East Ayrshire Economic Development Strategy 2012-2017. Available at: <http://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/Resources/PDF/E/EconomicDevelopmentStrategy2012-2017.pdf> (Accessed 16/02/2015)

8.3.22 Large engineering companies once dominated and while in recent years they have been replaced by smaller businesses the significance of the sector and its contribution to the local economy should not be underestimated. Food and Drink, and tourism have become East Ayrshires key growth sectors. The latter is underpinned by a strong culture and leisure offering across East Ayrshire with major investment in the Palace Theatre and the Dean Park<sup>8</sup>.

8.3.23 In the rural areas agriculture and open cast mining continue to offer employment opportunities and the UNESCO Biosphere Designation in the Doon Valley/Cumnock area together with the Dark Sky Observatory in Dalmellington present opportunities for further growth, particularly in tourism.<sup>8</sup>

8.3.24 At present, the Health Service is the single largest employer in the area and the Council employs some 6,000 people. There are 4,500 social care jobs in East Ayrshire. This is in line with many other local authority areas in Scotland, however pressures on the public sector purse are creating a need to move away from an over dependency on this sector.<sup>8</sup>

8.3.25 East Ayrshire's past and present economy is clearly reflected within the labour market statistics analysed above. A higher proportion of the working population are employed within sectors generally less skilled reflecting the areas lower qualification levels in comparison to national figures. The county is suffering with very high unemployment rates, particularly for the youth population (18-24 years). This inadvertently has led to the higher JSA claimant numbers and longer duration claims in comparison to national figures. The lack of employment opportunities could explain the net outward migration and the future population decline. The travel patterns and commuting statistics discussed below show a high number of out commuters to places of work, further suggesting the lack of employment opportunities within the county.

### **Land use**

8.3.26 The proposed development site is currently an active industrial area approximately 8.1 ha in size having once been a coal mine. The site comprises of hardstanding and existing buildings/infrastructure used as office space, storage and an asphalt plant.

There is some ephemeral vegetation throughout the site with scattered trees along the boundaries. There is no public access to the site.

- 8.3.27 The land use within 5km of the site consists of predominantly open countryside utilised for farming activity. There are two main residential settlements within the area being Ochiltree and Drongan as well as a number of farm buildings being closer to the site. In addition, there are a number of businesses including the Hargreaves site adjacent to the north of the site and Laigh Tarbeg Farmhouse Bed and Breakfast, 500m east adjacent to the A70.

### **Tourism and Recreation**

- 8.3.28 The city of Kilmarnock is the largest settlement in the region and is approximately 17km north west of the Development. The historic town offers a wide range of tourist attractions with its unique mix of culture, retail and leisure. Its main attractions include the largest Burn monument in Scotland, Dick Institute and Palace Theatre, and Dean Castle and Country Park. The nearest settlement to the Development is the village of Ochiltree approximately 2.3km east and the larger settlement of Cumnock approximately 8.5km east.
- 8.3.29 The most popular and famous tourist attractions within the area are Dean Castle Country Park, Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere, Irvine Valley and historic sites (Laigh Milton Viaduct, Loudon Hill, Ballochmyle Viaduct, Catrine Voes, Murdoch's Cave and Barony A Frame)

### **Onsite and Nearby Tourism and Recreation Resources**

- 8.3.30 There are no onsite tourism or recreation resources. The regions larger settlements provide a number of tourist attractions; however, the closest formal tourism receptors to the Development include the Dumfries House (5.8km east), The Burns House Museum (6.9km north east) and Baird Institute Museum and Art Gallery (8.4km east). The closest formal recreational resources to the Development include Ayrshire Segway (3.4km north east), Ballochmyle Golf Club (6.6km north east), Blackstone Farm and Clydesdales & DIG-a-day (8.4km east). The area surrounding the Development is likely used for informal recreation, which could include walking, cycling and horse riding.

8.3.31 There are no PROWs within the site boundary. East Ayrshire Core Path Plan Maps<sup>9</sup> indicates that there are no Core Paths within the Development site boundary. The nearest Core Path to site is D19 which is approximately 700m (at closest point) south of the site and runs from Drogan to Ochiltree on road/farm track being approximately 2km in length. There are a number of core paths around the residential settlement of Drogan and Ochiltree. There are no cycle routes of national or regional importance within 10 km of the site<sup>10</sup>.

**Travel Patterns and Commuting**

8.3.32 East Ayrshire has considerable net out-commuting, amounting to approximately 16.6% of the employed labour force. The main destinations for out-commuters are centres of employment in adjoining districts, specifically South Ayrshire and Glasgow City. This is evident in Table 1.5 which displays a negative net commuting flow of 9,304 indicating significant out-commuting.

**Table 8.5** Net commuting summary (Aged 16 and over) (Census 2011)

Total in-commuters	11,089
Total out-commuters	20,393
Total gross commuting flows	31,482
Total net commuting flows	-9,304

**Table 8.6** Principal origins of in-commuting (Census 2011)

Location	Percentage in-commuting (%)
North Ayrshire	40.4
South Ayrshire	36.4
Glasgow City	7.2
South Lanarkshire	4.7

<sup>9</sup> East Ayrshire Council (online) Core Path Plan Map. Available at: <http://gis.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/> (Accessed 17/02/2015)

<sup>10</sup> Sustrans (online) Sustrans Interactive route map. Available at: <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map> (Accessed 17/02/2015)

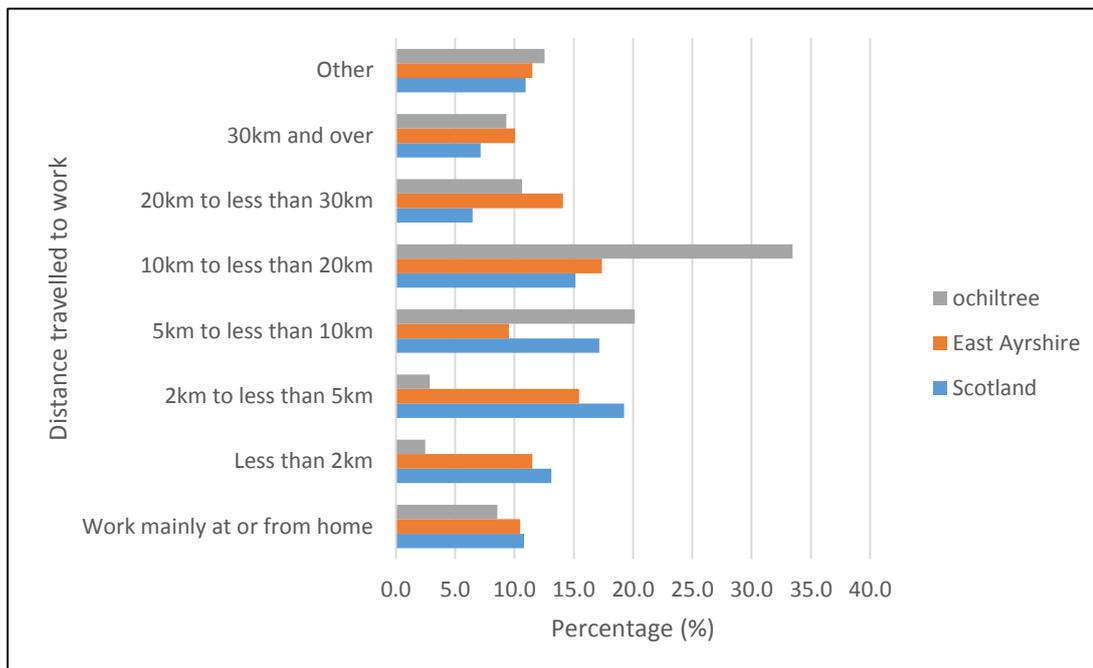
East Renfrewshire	4.5
Renfrewshire	2.3
Dumfries and Galloway	2.0
North Lanarkshire	1.4
East Dunbartonshire	0.6
Doncaster	0.5

**Table 8.7** Principal origins of out-commuting (Census 2011)

<b>Location</b>	<b>Percentage out-commuting (%)</b>
South Ayrshire	39.0
Glasgow City	26.1
North Ayrshire	14.6
South Lanarkshire	6.5
Renfrewshire	6.2
East Renfrewshire	2.5
North Lanarkshire	2.2
Dumfries and Galloway	1.6
Offshore installation	0.8
City of Edinburgh	0.5

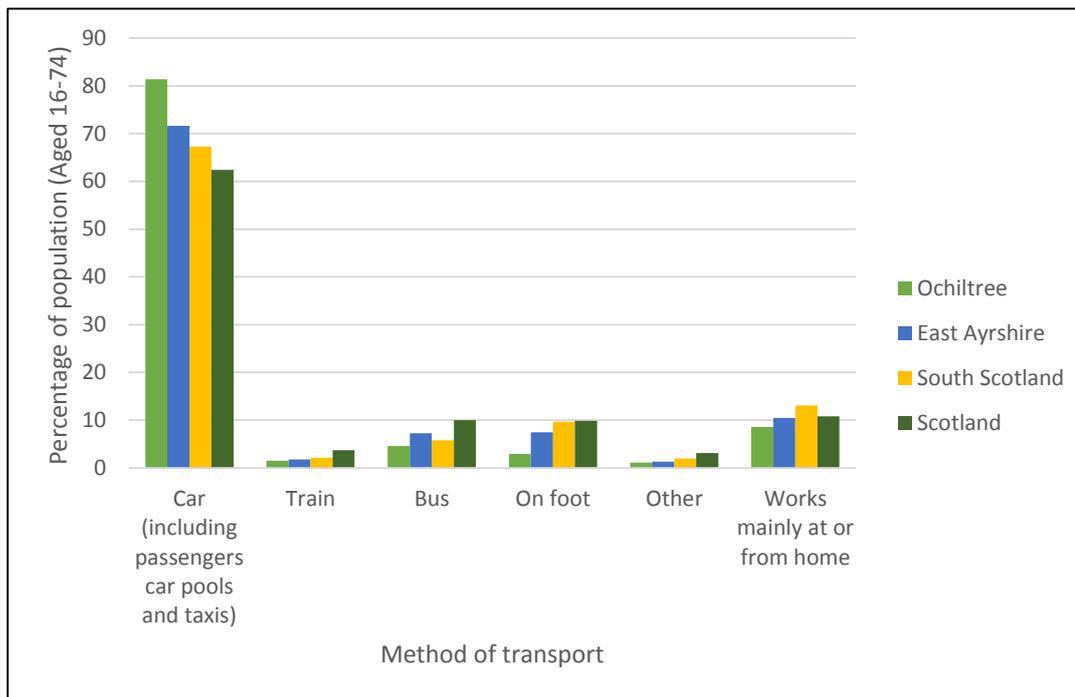
8.3.33 **Table 8.6 and 8.7** show the origins of those in-commuting and out-commuting of East Ayrshire. North Ayrshire accounts for the districts highest percentage of in-commuters, with an overall net in-commuting. The majority of the other locations showed net out-commuting, especially for South Ayrshire and Glasgow City. In addition to North Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, East Dunbartonshire and Doncaster showed a net in-commuting however these figures were minimal.

**Figure 8.8** Distance Travelled to Work (Census 2011)



8.3.34 East Ayrshire has a high proportion of its workforce commuting a distance of 10km or over at 41.3% in comparison to nationally at 28.8%. Ochiltree has very high percentage of its workforce commuting a distance of 10-20km at 33.5% being over double the national percentage. This suggests Ochiltree is a commuter village. Overall these figures are likely advocates leading to the high out-commuting within East Ayrshire.

**Figure 8.9** Method of transport to work (Census 2011)



8.3.35 East Ayrshire has a high percentage of its residents travelling to work by car at 71.6%, considerably higher than the national percentage of 62.4%. Ochiltree has a very high percentage at 81.4% suggesting it's a commuter village. East Ayrshire has a lower percentage of residents using public transport or travelling by foot in comparison to the national figures.

8.3.36 A full Transport Assessment has been undertaken as part of this ES in which a baseline of transport conditions was identified. Data was obtained on existing traffic flows through fully classified junction turning counts and a permanent count station to establish current traffic patterns. Full details can be found in Volume 2 - Appendices, Appendix 9.1: Transport Statement, whilst a summary is provided in Volume 1 – Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary, Chapter 9: Transport; these should be read in conjunction with this section.

## **8.4 Impact Assessment (Predicted Effects)**

8.4.1 Social and economic effects can be considered in terms of:

- Direct effects: for example, employment opportunities during construction, operation and maintenance of the Energy Recovery Park;
- Indirect effects: such as employment opportunities created down the supply chain by those companies providing services to the Development during construction and operation; and
- Induced effects: for example, employment created by the additional spends of wages into the local economy and the purchasing of basic materials, equipment and office space for staff.

### **Population**

8.4.2 The current population demographic reveals that the population structure of East Ayrshire is expected to grow over the next 10 years. In this respect, the increase in population needs to be maintained through the provision of employment opportunities, for which the Development is contributing towards.

### **Age Structure**

8.4.3 East Ayrshire has an ageing population. The employment opportunities of the Development will retain people of a working age, particularly young people as well as attract them to the area outside of the nearby major towns and the city of Glasgow. This will potentially allow for a more balanced demographic in terms of age structure, indirectly reducing the ageing population.

### **Working Age**

8.4.4 The Development will provide increased opportunities to the proportion of people of a working age within East Ayrshire. Encouraging people to stay in the area with the provision of an increased number of job opportunities. This will indirectly reduce the rate of growth in the ageing population, achieving a more balanced population.

### **Migration**

8.4.5 Currently there is a minor net outward migration within East Ayrshire. The main age bracket of those migrating are those within the working age bracket suggesting there are not sufficient employment opportunities in the area. The Development will have a positive impact on migration by providing employment opportunities, encouraging

people to stay within the area. In addition, the Development is anticipated to retain and attract more economically active residents locally and from surrounding areas such as Cumnock and Kilmarnock. It is envisaged the Development will indirectly reduce the outward migration and have a positive impact on the local population.

### **Employment**

- 8.4.6 It has been identified that during the construction phase the Development could generate jobs both directly and indirectly. The Developer recognises that the required workforce is available locally, and is committed to employing staff from the local area as far as is practicable, without the need to bring in staff from other regions. In this respect it is likely that the Developer will work with local agencies to ensure that opportunities are made available through established local business networks and recruitment channels.
- 8.4.7 During the construction phase, the Development will provide direct employment opportunities for a range of disciplines including engineers, skilled tradesman, construction workers and management. The Development will also have the opportunity to generate significant indirect employment through associated uses/businesses in local shops/services (off-site employment).
- 8.4.8 The construction of the proposed Development will bring short term, beneficial direct and indirect effects in terms of employment. It is not anticipated that this will result in any fundamental or long term change to employment in the area. Consequently, employment arising from the construction phase are short-term and minor which is considered not to be significant in terms of the EIA regulations.
- 8.4.9 It is expected that during the operational phase the proposed Development will protect 50 existing jobs and generate 35 new jobs including the full range of professional, skilled and new entrant jobs including hauliers, a site foreman, weighbridge and plant operators. It is considered the Development will generate around 200 jobs through contracts placed within the supply chain.
- 8.4.10 Employment during the operational phase represents a long-term effect that will have a negligible effect on local/regional employment and is therefore considered not significant in terms of the EIA regulations.

## **Unemployment**

- 8.4.11 As previously discussed the Development will have a positive impact on employment through creating job opportunities. This will reduce the amount of JSA claimants, both short and long term. The Development has the potential to reduce local JSA claimants within East Ayrshire by approximately 1.3% based on 35 full time permanent jobs being created. In addition, temporary and short term jobs are expected to be created during the construction phase which will have a positive short term impact on JSA claimants. The Development is also expected to indirectly create employment potentially reducing JSA claimants and the unemployment rate.
- 8.4.12 The Developer will provide apprentice opportunities which will reduce the high youth unemployment rate within the area and inadvertently the high outward migration of this age bracket.
- 8.4.13 During the construction phase the Development is expected to have temporary, minor positive effects on unemployment, which are considered not to be significant in terms of the EIA regulations.
- 8.4.14 The operational phase is expected to have permanent, minor positive effects on unemployment, which are considered not to be significant in terms of the EIA regulations.

## **Income**

- 8.4.15 The proposed Development will facilitate significant investment in the area providing a boost to the local economy through the provision of employment both direct and indirect, payment of business rates and projected turnover. The scheme also has the potential to introduce additional income/revenue to the local economy through the potential to generate significant further 'drip down' employment through the distribution of earnings in local shops/services.

## **Skills**

- 8.4.16 The jobs generated by the Development are predominantly within the waste management sector which currently matches the local skill base within the area. As previously mentioned the Developer is committed to employing locally, potentially reducing the unemployment rates and JSA claimants
- 8.4.17 The education and qualifications are generally below average in the area when compared to national figures, new employment will provide the opportunity for

residents to improve skills and qualifications via direct experience and further training/qualification opportunities.

- 8.4.18 The increased employment opportunities and variety of positions is likely to encourage residents with lower qualification levels to aspire to secure the necessary and/or higher qualifications/skills.

#### **Local Economy**

- 8.4.19 The £60 million investment in this Development has the potential to generate a range of direct and indirect economic and social effects. These include opportunities for local businesses, most notably employment opportunities and local spending. It will also result in contract opportunities for local and regional contractors both for construction activities themselves and throughout the supply chain.
- 8.4.20 Construction of the Development will require significant contracts for materials and services. The Developer aims to ensure benefits for local economic activity are maximised by locally sourcing these where possible. The Development could potentially provide a broad range of opportunities for local businesses within the supply chain to be involved as sub-contractors and suppliers.
- 8.4.21 Construction workers not living locally will make use of local accommodation during the construction period, which will result in a temporary, positive benefit to the local economy (i.e. providing an economic opportunity for local accommodation and other local services such as shops and restaurants).
- 8.4.22 Overall, the construction of the proposed Development will bring short term, beneficial direct and indirect effects to the area, through the increase in employment and business opportunities. This will not result in any fundamental or long term change to local services or economy. Consequently, economic effects arising from the construction phase are short-term and minor which is considered to be not significant in terms of the EIA regulations.
- 8.4.23 The Development will have both direct and indirect effects during the operational phase. As previously discussed the jobs generated will be prioritised to the local community and thereby benefitting the local economy. This represents a long-term

effect that will have a minor effect on the local/regional economy and is therefore considered not significant in terms of the EIA regulations.

### **Land Use**

- 8.4.24 During the construction phase there will be the removal of the ephemeral vegetation and some of the existing buildings and asphalt plant located within the site. Following the completion of the construction phase there will be additional tree planting. Full details are within Chapter 12 of this ES - Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. The current land use of the site is for industrial activities relating to the asphalt plant, equipment storage and office space. The Development will utilise some of the current infrastructure on site including the site access, weighbridge, hardstanding and landscaping features. Although there will be a change in land use during the construction phase, this will be temporary and there will be no material change in the predominant land-use as it will remain an industrial brownfield site. Consequently, the land use impacts during the construction phase are considered to be not significant in terms of the EIA regulations.
- 8.4.25 The operational phase of the Development will result in a loss of land to site infrastructure such as the energy recovery facility. However, as the majority of the site was previously hardstanding, buildings and infrastructure relating to previous industrial activities; the land use of the site will not change as a result of the Development. This signifies a long-term, negligible effect which is considered to be not significant in terms of the EIA Regulations.
- 8.4.26 Although the impacts on land use have been assessed as not significant they are considered positive through regenerating brownfield land for a development that will benefit the local economy and waste services of the area. The Development provides the opportunity to enhance the current land use to a more prosperous and beneficial site for the future.

### **Tourism and recreation**

- 8.4.27 Potential effects on the tourism and recreational resource are categorised as:
- Direct physical effects: for example, construction activities interfering with rights of access; and
  - Indirect effects: such as the changes in view on tourists and recreational land users.

- 8.4.28 The construction of the Development will not have a direct effect on any tourism or recreational facility. Indirect and intermittent effects on visual, noise levels, air quality and increased traffic may be experienced at some of these receptors, however these will be minimised through the application of good practice guidance as described in Chapter 9: Transport, Chapter 10: Air Quality, Chapter 11 Noise and Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, of this ES. There is the potential for the Development to have a beneficial indirect effect on formal tourism and recreation facilities within the area through the construction employees utilising them and thereby potentially increasing their revenues. These effects are considered to be short-term and minor, therefore not significant in terms of the EIA Regulations.
- 8.4.29 Once operational, the Development will not have a direct effect on any tourism or recreational facility. There is the potential for beneficial indirect effects on tourism and recreational facilities, as there is the prospect that those employed utilising them, potentially increasing their revenues. It is anticipated that the Development would have a long-term, negligible impact upon tourism and recreation, which is considered to be not significant in terms of the EIA Regulations.

#### **Travel Patterns and Commuting**

- 8.4.30 The jobs created are envisaged to be occupied by the local population and assist in preventing the need to commute out of East Ayrshire to work. There is also the potential for an increase in in-commuting given the appeal of jobs to workers outside of the region.
- 8.4.31 The Development is unlikely to lead to any significant increase in commuting patterns within East Ayrshire as the majority of the working population (over 50%) are already commuting over 10km to work. Residents can access the site well within this distance.
- 8.4.32 A Transport Assessment has been undertaken as part of this ES which identified the predicted effects of the proposed development on traffic patterns and commuting. Full details can be found in Appendix 9.1.

## **8.5 Mitigation**

- 8.5.1 No mitigation measures in terms of Socio Economic Impacts are considered necessary for the proposed Development; however it is envisaged that, in order to ensure the local population benefit from the jobs created during construction and operational phases, a local employment policy will be included within the building contract and implemented as part of the scheme. This policy will encourage the contractor to employ local people/sub-contractors wherever reasonably possible. Measures will be put in place to ensure that local people are encouraged to apply for the jobs available through advertisements in local newspapers and job centres.
- 8.5.2 Also, a travel plan framework has been created (see Appendix 9.1) which encourages sustainable forms of transport to and from the workplace.

## **8.6 Residual Impacts**

- 8.6.1 There are no residual impacts as no mitigation measures are considered necessary due to there being no significant socio-economic impacts identified.

## **8.7 Cumulative effects**

- 8.7.1 There are no other developments proposed in the area that would result in cumulative socio-economic effects on this proposal.

## **8.8 Summary and Conclusions**

- 8.8.1 The proposed development makes an overall minor positive contribution to the local economy and community. Furthermore, the Development has the potential to maximise socio-economic impacts through the regeneration of brownfield land.
- 8.8.2 As such, the successful implementation of the proposal will bring benefits to the local area including:
- Increase in both direct and indirect employment, reducing the areas high unemployment rate (particularly youth unemployment) and Jobseeker's Allowance claimants;
  - Increasing the income and revenue in the local area;
  - Attract locally skilled workers, reducing out-commuting;
  - Social and economic benefits at the community level; and
  - Support local and regional economic growth.