SCA Hygiene proposed to increase paper production at their Mill at Tawd. The existing combined heat and power plant (CHP) was to be retained with the addition of a third steam raising boiler with the emissions discharged from the existing multi-flue 31m stack.

The air quality impact assessment included the emissions from the paper machines and driers, so that potential cumulative impacts could be considered. Although the assessment was required for the planning application SCA were keen to ensure that the assessment fulfilled the Environment Agency’s requirements for the Pollution Prevention & Control permit application. Emissions modelled included NO₂, SO₂ & PM₁₀.

Although the process was located in an industrial estate, with no housing nearby, air quality impacts were a potential concern in terms of the local ecology due to the presence of a Special Area for Conservation (SAC).

Baseline concentration of NO₂ were close to the European ecology standard, due to local contributions from the M58 and other local industry.

The assessment was able to demonstrate that the process contribution at the SAC would be acceptable at ecological sites, even though the baseline annual mean published by DEFRA exceeded the European ecological standard.

The assessment included a detailed model sensitivity analysis for source emissions, meteorology, building and terrain effects, surface roughness, receptor height.

The assessment was accepted by both West Lancashire District Council and the Environment Agency.

The assessment also included a qualitative odour impact assessment for the de-inking plant water treatment process.