

Great Billing II Waste Transfer Station

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Proposed Waste Transfer Station

December 2014

MICK GEORGE ®

Introduction

1. In accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, this is a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the Environmental Statement that accompanies a planning application relating to the proposed waste transfer station and ready mix concrete batching plant, on redundant land within Anglian Water's Sewage Treatment Works, Great Billing.
2. Planning consent already exists for waste handling operations on land 100m west of the proposed site and these operations undertaken by Mick George Ltd will cease if and when the "new" area becomes fully operational. The proposed application area extends to 2.79ha and is located along the northern periphery of the existing sewage works complex, and would use the existing access point off Crow Lane.
3. It is proposed that the site would handle a wide range of waste for recycling and segregation before being despatched off site. It is also proposed that a medium sized concrete batching plant would be established along with a series of aggregate storage bays and in addition, it is also proposed to permit Heavy Goods Vehicles to park onsite overnight. Plans explaining the site layout are appended to the Environmental Statement.
4. It is proposed to undertake the following operations within the site.
 - Plasterboard storage and screening
 - Green waste storage and screening
 - Wood waste storage and screening
 - Topsoil storage and screening
 - Hardcore storage, crushing and screening
 - General waste storage, segregation, shredding, baling and bulking for recycling
 - Storage of Aggregates and Soils in bays
 - Concrete batching plant and silos
 - Bagging plant (Minerals, soil, shredded wood)
 - Black Bag Waste
 - Bio-remediation
 - Hazardous Waste Storage (e.g.WEEE, asbestos, drummed waste)
 - Scrap metal recycling
5. A water bowser and road sweeper will be made available during the site operations, to spray water to the paved site access road and to clean any deposits from the road as and when necessary. The site access road will be inspected by the site manager on a daily basis to determine the need for maintenance, cleaning and dust suppression. All HGV's will be sheeted in order to minimise spillages or wind whipping of loose material and all departing road transport will be inspected for cleanliness, prior to leaving the site. Such foregoing standard good working practices will provide effective control against the impact of airborne dust.

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6. The site will be operated under an Environmental Permit to be issued by the Environment Agency, within which the site will be required to provide and implement an Odour Management Plan (OMP) the essence of which will be the minimisation of the generation of odours by the materials handled and temporarily stored on site. The OMP will consider all site activities with the potential to generate odour, required odour control measures for normal and abnormal events and management procedures. Appropriate measures will be necessary to prevent odour pollution, where practicable to do so.
 7. It is proposed to operate the recycling and waste handling operations between 7am and 7pm, Monday to Friday and 7am hours to 1pm hours on Saturday with no handling operations on Sundays or Public/Bank Holidays. It is however proposed to allow HGV's to leave the site from 6am (Monday to Friday) and for up to 15 HGV's to deliver material on Saturday afternoons (up to 5pm) and Sundays or public/Bank Holidays between 10am and 4pm. For the Ready Mix Concrete operations, the proposed operational hours will be similar apart from no working on Saturday afternoons and Sunday (and Bank Holiday) working.
 8. The operations are generally remote from housing and in any event, activities are well screened. The Environmental Statement appends independent consultant's reports assessing landscape and visual impact, noise impact, flood risk, traffic, ecology and archaeology. These various appraisals have been undertaken in order to identify potential effects and to consider the significance of any such effects.

Ecology

9. In order to consider the ecological value of the site, detailed field surveys were undertaken in 2014 by suitably qualified consultants. In addition, historic surveys and existing baseline ecological information was reviewed and relevant data was obtained from both statutory and non-statutory nature conservation organisations which for the purposes of this report.

Hydrology/Hydrogeology

10. The hydrological and hydrogeological assessment has been undertaken by consulting engineers. The Flood Risk Assessment has been undertaken fully in accordance with the methodology detailed within the Central Government Guidance. Water treatment facilities will be regularly inspected and this will ensure that immediate action is taken to maintain their stability, security and efficient operation.

Traffic (Highways)

11. A Transport Assessment has been prepared by independent highways consultants, David Tucker Associates and the appraisal conforms with good practise guidance in accordance with the Guidelines for the Transport Assessment. The Assessment reviews existing highways conditions including personal injury accidents and appraises potential highway capacity and highway safety impacts.

Landscape and Visual Appraisal

12. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of the proposed scheme has been conducted by independent consultants (FPCR Environment and Design Ltd). The key steps employed were: to describe the landscape character areas and types present in the area; to identify significant landscape features that may be affected by the development proposals; to identify key viewpoints and viewers likely to be affected by the proposals; to predict the effect on landscape resources and character and on visual amenity; to evaluate the significance of these impacts; and to identify measures that will be taken to mitigate significant adverse impacts.
13. A clear distinction is drawn between impacts on landscape character and visual impacts. Landscape impacts relate to the effects of the proposals on the physical and aesthetic qualities of the landscape and its resulting character and quality, whereas visual impacts relate to the effects on views from visual receptors (e.g. locations where residents, employees, tourists etc. can view the scheme) and on the visual amenity experienced by those people.

Noise and Dust

14. A noise appraisal has been undertaken which is intended to be used to assess whether noise from sources of an industrial nature in commercial premises is likely to give rise to complaints from people residing in nearby dwellings. Strict environmental controls and sensitive working practices will be sufficient to ensure no harm will be caused to the amenity of local residents. An independent noise appraisal has been undertaken and the conclusions of that assessment state the predicted noise levels of both normal daytime operations and limited activities prior to 7am and on Saturday afternoon and Sunday are within the accepted criteria levels.
15. The potential for the generation of dust from site activities and its consequential dispersal through the atmosphere is dependent not only on the type and level of site activity, but also on prevailing meteorological conditions. Notwithstanding the limited periods when adverse weather conditions are likely to occur, it is proposed to implement a Dust Action Plan, which will ensure that extra vigilance is undertaken as required.

Archaeology

16. A recent geophysical survey suggested the presence of an enclosure and a ring ditch close to the northern edge of the area and in agreement with the curatorial authority, trial trenches were excavated in order to appropriately evaluate the site although no archaeological deposits or finds were encountered during the trenching exercise. The geophysical anomalies were shown to be variations in the natural geology.

Conclusion

17. It is considered on balance that with appropriate mitigation, the proposal to handle waste at the Cotton Valley site can be carried out in an acceptable manner, without causing nuisance to local residents or harm to conservation interests.
18. Matters such as noise and dust emissions can be controlled within recognised acceptable levels to ensure local amenity is not harmed, whilst the surface water management proposals will ensure there is no flood risk and receiving watercourses will be protected throughout.