



Shorts Group Limited

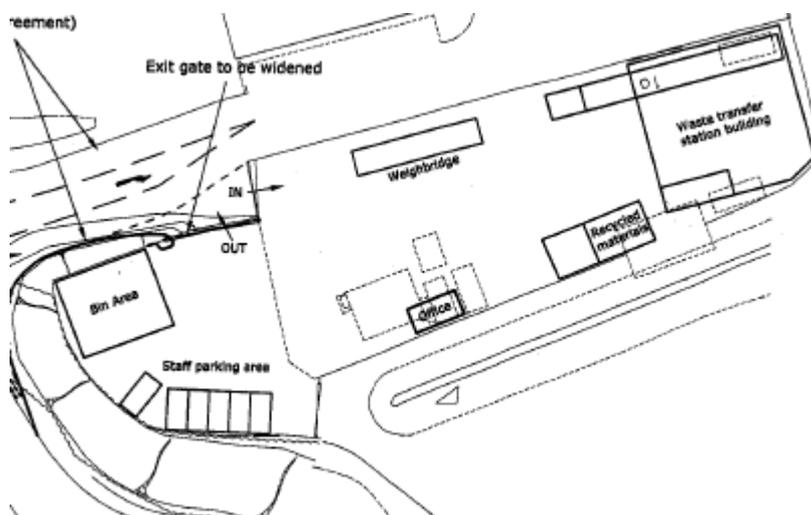
Noise Appraisal

**Unit 1A Hollybush Industrial Park,
Aldershot**

May 2011

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A planning application was submitted to Hampshire County Council (HCC) on 1 November 2007 for a waste recycling and waste transfer facility at Unit 1A Hollybush Lane. Planning permission was granted on 25 March 2009, reference 07/00807/HCC.
- 1.2 The permission granted the construction of a new building 18m x 18m. The maximum height of the building is 9.80m. In addition, the infrastructure approved includes a site office and weighbridge. There is also parking and storage of empty containers.
- 1.3 The approved operation of the site includes the acceptance and treatment of waste. The material will be delivered to the site in skip vehicles, unloaded into the building and separated through a processing line. The scheme includes an exit conveyor belt from the western elevation of the building, on the north side, as shown below.

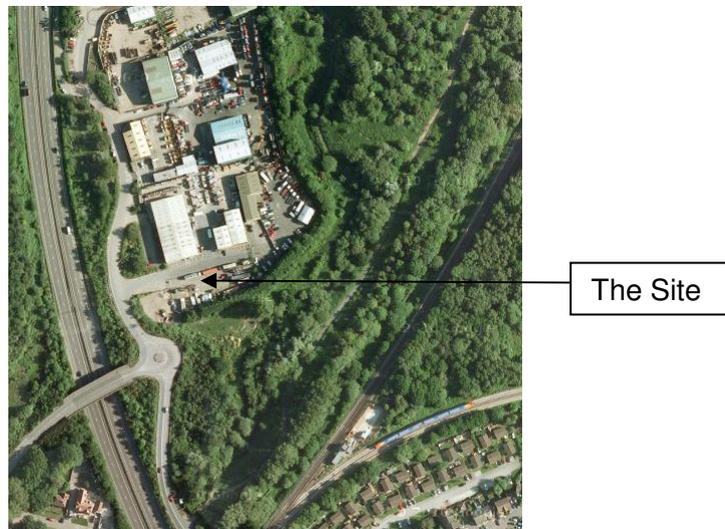


- 1.4 In March 2011, an application was made to HCC to discharge all planning conditions. This included details of an acoustic fence along the northern boundary. The fence detail, together with all planning conditions, has been discharged.
- 1.5 A new application has been submitted to HCC to vary a number of planning conditions. This is to improve the operational efficiency of the site by:
- Relocating the site office to be adjacent to the weighbridge
 - Relocating the exit conveyor to southern side of building
 - Providing an external picking station instead of storage bays
 - Providing a square building
 - Providing 1 entrance/exit gate, instead of two separate gates
 - Providing of mess facilities
- 1.6 This appraisal specifically assesses the potential impact of positioning the picking station outside. Under the approved plan, the picking station is located within the building.

Site Setting

- 1.7 The application site extends to approximately 0.25 hectares in area. It lies to the east of Hollybush Lane. The site is located within the boundary of Rushmore Borough Council.
- 1.8 The site lies at the southern end of the Hollybush Lane industrial site, which occupies a large area to the west of the A331 and contains a number of industrial units including purpose built enclosures.
- 1.9 The A331 trunk road lies to the west of the site.
- 1.10 The southern boundary of the application site is defined by a stand of mature conifers that lie roughly in a line running west-east. There is further land within the applicant's ownership lying to the east and south of the site. This land extends up to the banks of the River Blackwater. Beyond the River Blackwater lies a mainline railway line. The eastern side of the river has a Public Right of Way along its route.
- 1.11 The site access is shared with a number of occupants including Hampshire Tile Warehouse and McAllisters Recovery yard (vehicle recovery and road side assistance).
- 1.12 The nearest residential properties are approximately 170m south east of the site, within the boundary of Guildford Borough. Lakeside Park, a Local Nature Reserve lies approximately 230m south of the site at its closest point and is also within Guildford Borough. The intervening land includes a conifer tree belt, an area of open land that will be landscaped as part of this development, and a railway line.
- 1.13 The aerial photograph below shows the general site setting.

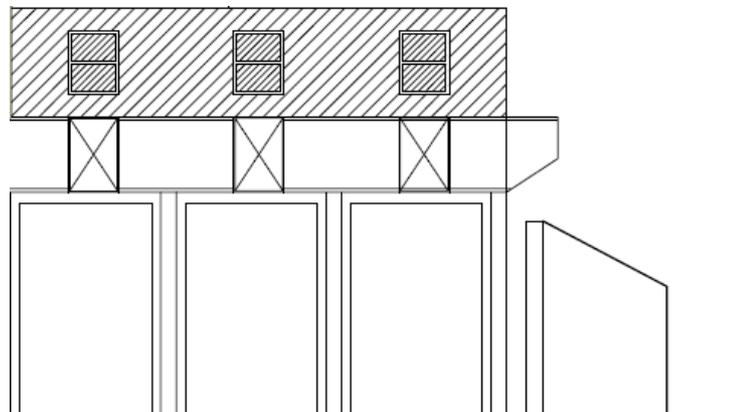
Figure 1 – Aerial View of the Site and Surrounding Area



2. NOISE ASSESSMENT

- 2.1 As part of the original application, an Environmental Noise Survey was undertaken.
- 2.2 With reference to the Planning Committee report prepared by HCC, it is noted that as the nearest residents were located within Surrey, the comments received by Guildford Borough Council were the most applicable. On the original application, Guildford Borough did not object to the proposal.
- 2.3 With reference to the current planning permission, there are two noise conditions to consider:
- 14 Noise from the operation of the development shall not exceed 55dBAL_{Aeq} measured at the nearest residential property.
 - 24 Prior to the commencement of the development, details of acoustic screening/fencing shall be submitted to the Waste Planning Authority for approval in writing, and thereafter implemented in accordance with this approval prior to commissioning of the site operations and any waste being imported to the site.
- 2.4 Condition 14 will continue to be relevant.
- 2.5 Details of the acoustic fence have been submitted and approved by the Council.
- 2.6 In terms of this appraisal, the nature of the development has not changed. This application seeks merely to re-position the picking station from within the building to an external location.
- 2.7 At this stage it is useful to describe the picking station in more detail to describe the proposed change and compare this with the current approved scheme.
- 2.8 The picking station will be a prefabricated unit, approximately 12.5m x 5m. It will be elevated to a height of approximately 3m.
- 2.9 The purpose of the picking station is to allow the removal of recyclable items from the waste stream. Typically this will include, wood, cardboard and residual waste. The picking station will be fed by a conveyor that will exit the main building. The conveyor will be covered from the edge of the building to the picking station. The conveyor will continue through the picking station, where personnel will hand pick the waste to remove the identified materials. The materials will be placed into a chute system for collection within open containers that sit beneath the picking station. A schematic view of the picking station is shown below. The remaining hardcore will continue through the picking station and will exit out of the western elevation into a dedicated bay.

Schematic Side View of the Picking Station



Existing Approved Scheme

- 2.10 The approved design allows an exit conveyor on the northern side of the front elevation. This extends approximately 7m into the yard. Material from the exit conveyor would need to be transferred to the storage bays on the southern side.
- 2.11 Under the current approved scheme, the recovered materials would be transferred from within the building to the external material bays. This would involve a number of movements per day in and out of the building and would then require the material to be loaded into containers for off-site transfer.
- 2.12 The proposed operational layout will enable the materials to be loaded directly into the correct container. This is considered more efficient as it removes unnecessary vehicle movements, and associated noise. It is considered more sustainable as it will reduce the carbon emissions associated with the vehicle movements.
- 2.13 The picking station will be an enclosed system, from which wood, cardboard, hardcore and waste will be segregated.

3. POTENTIAL NOISE IMPACT

- 3.1 In terms of assessing the potential noise impact, it is useful to establish what additional noise may be associated with the proposed operation, when compared to the approved operation. The key points are as follows:
- There will be less vehicle manoeuvring within the yard as material is directly loaded into the containers. This is a positive impact.
 - The picking station is a fully enclosed system, which will be a positive impact.
 - Vehicles associated with the collection of containers will be the same and therefore the impact is neutral.
- 3.2 The picking station will involve material falling into the storage containers, but the material being segregated (wood, cardboard and residual waste) will not lead to excessive noise. The hardcore will fall into a storage bay that will not lead to a noise impact.

Mitigation

- 3.3 Under the current permission, condition 24 requires an acoustic fence along the northern boundary. In consultation with Sharps Redmore Partnership acoustic consultants, the proposed fence will be 5m in height and approximately 48m in length. The fence will continue from the edge of the building to the site entrance.
- 3.4 The specification of the fence will be a timber plank barrier, with planks probably not less than 25mm thick, having either interlocking (tongue & groove) edges or joint-cover boards of 25mm thick, over-lapping each side by at least 50mm. The sound reduction index of the panel should not be less than 20dB and the mass per unit area will be at least 20kg/sq.m.
- 3.5 This detail has already been approved by the Council.
- 3.6 It is considered that the proposed relocation of the picking station will not have any additional noise impact than the current approved scheme.

4. SUMMARY

- 4.1 There will be no additional noise impact from the picking station being positioned outside of the building.

4.2 In addition, the site will be operated in accordance with an Environmental Permit, issued by the Environment Agency.