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## INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document comprises an Environmental Statement (ES) and has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited (SLR) on behalf of R.Collard Ltd (the applicant). The ES is part of a package of documents being submitted to Hampshire County Council (HCC) in support of a full planning application in respect of land at Warren Heath Recycling Facility (WHRF), Eversley, Hampshire (the Site).
- 1.2 The Site is a previously extracted gravel pit (permitted under APNO.0000349CMA and 00.00679CMA), lower than the surrounding land.
- 1.3 The Site benefits from a temporary planning permission (APNO: 06/02863/CMA) for accepting inert construction, demolition and excavation waste (which is due to lapse in December 2013) for the development and operation of a secondary aggregate recycling facility.
- 1.4 The applicant is committed to providing sustainable recyclable high quality secondary aggregate to the local and regional markets on a long-term (permanent) basis which accords with the emerging Hampshire Waste and Minerals Plan *“will ensure that we have enough minerals for Hampshire’s needs and can deal with our waste effectively to 2030”*<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.5 The Site is located at National Grid Reference SU784 595. The Site location is shown in Drawing 001 Site Location Plan (please refer to Volume 1 Appendix B Drawings).
- 1.6 The ES aims to provide an objective account of the possible significant environmental effects of the proposed development by setting out the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that has been undertaken.
- 1.7 The ES has been prepared in line with the framework provided by The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 (the EIA Regulations) and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment’s ‘Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment’.
- 1.8 The EIA Regulations specify the types of development for which an EIA is mandatory (Schedule 1 Projects) and categories of development where an EIA may be required (Schedule 2 Projects).
- 1.9 As part of the Pre-Application process and Scoping exercise undertaken by SLR (please see Volume 2B Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4) the proposed development was considered to fall within Schedule II, part 11 (b) of the EIA Regulations (2011) as it is over the threshold of 0.5 hectares, adjoining a sensitive area and is considered to have potential significant environmental effects.

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<sup>1</sup> Page 5 Hampshire Portsmouth, Southampton, New Forest & South Downs MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN Submission (February 2012)

## THE APPLICATION SUBMISSION PACKAGE

- 1.10 This ES comprises Volume 2a of a larger multi volume submission to accompany the planning application. In addition to the formal planning application forms and certificates, the full submission comprises:
- Volume 1: Planning and Sustainability Statement (including appendices i.e. application forms and drawings);
  - Volume 2A: Environmental Statement;
  - Volume 2B: Technical Appendices to the ES;
  - Volume 3: Design and Access Statement and
  - Volume 4: Non Technical Summary of the ES
- 1.11 The Planning and Sustainability Statement (PSS) supports the planning application and considers the proposal in the context of relevant planning policies and strategies, and other material considerations, including need and climate change.
- 1.12 The Design and Access Statement (DAS) is a statutorily required document to accompany a planning application and has been prepared to describe the long-term vision for the Site.
- 1.13 The Non Technical Summary (NTS) has been produced as a separate document to accompany the planning submission, being a mandatory part of the ES. This provides, in non-technical language, a brief summary of the likely significant effects that the proposed WHRF would have on the environment.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 1.14 EIA is an important procedure for ensuring that the likely effects of a new development on the environment are fully understood and taken into account before the development is allowed to proceed. The term EIA describes a procedure that must be followed for certain types of development before they are given “*development consent*”, which in the UK includes the grant of a planning permission. The procedure is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of a project’s likely significant environmental effects.

## Statutory Background

### *European Context*

- 1.15 The Environmental Impact Assessment Directive<sup>2</sup> (the “*EIA Directive*”) requires that, before granting ‘*development consent*’ for projects, including development proposals, authorities should carry out a procedure known as

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<sup>2</sup>Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, as amended by Council Directive 97/11/EC and Article 3 of Council Directive 2003/35/EC. Consolidated version at:

<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1985L0337:20030625:EN:PDF>

environmental impact assessment (or “EIA”) of any project which is likely to have significant effects on the environment. The aim of the EIA Directive is to ensure that the authority giving consent for a project makes its decision in the knowledge of any likely significant effects on the environment. The first EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) came into force in 1988. An amending Directive (97/11/EC) came into force on 14 March 1999. This extended the range of development to which the Directive applies and made some small changes to EIA procedures. The Directive was further amended by Article 3 of Directive 2003/35/EC which strengthened the requirements within the EIA procedures for public consultation and participation.

## National Context

- 1.16 The EIA Directive has been implemented by regulations for development proposals under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (the 1990 Act).
- 1.17 Since 14 March 1999, EIA has been applied to relevant proposals for new development, including relevant proposals for new waste management facilities, by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999. During the intervening period, the 1999 EIA Regulations were amended by a number of Statutory Instruments. In August 2011, the 1999 regulations were replaced by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011<sup>3</sup> (the EIA Regulations previously referred to above).

## The Environmental Statement

- 1.18 An ES is a report of an EIA that is required to be submitted with a planning application for major and other developments that are likely to have significant impacts on the environment. It evaluates the likely environmental impacts of the development, together with an assessment of how the severity of the impacts could be reduced.
- 1.19 The EIA Regulations define an ES as a statement:

*“that includes such of the information referred to in Part I of Schedule 4 as is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development and which the applicant can, having regard in particular to current knowledge and methods of assessment, reasonably be required to compile, but that includes at least the information referred to in Part II of Schedule 4”.*

## Content

- 1.20 There is no prescribed form for an ES, provided the requirements of the EIA Regulations are met.
- 1.21 Regulation 2(1) and the associated Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations sets out the requirements regarding the content of an ES. For ease of reference,

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<sup>3</sup> SI 2011 No. 1824

the box below sets out the requirements. Referring to paragraph 1.18 above, an ES must contain the information in Part II.

## *PART I*

### *1. Description of the development, including in particular –*

- (a) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases;*
- (b) a description of the main characteristics of the production processes, for instance, nature and quantity of materials used;*
- (c) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat radiation, etc.) resulting from the operation of the proposed development.*

*2. An outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant or appellant and an indication of the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects.*

*3. A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter-relationship between the above factors.*

*4. A description of the likely significant affects of the development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-tem, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development, resulting from:*

- (a) the existence of the development;*
- (b) the use of natural resources;*
- (c) the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances and the elimination of waste, and the description of the measures by the applicant of the forecasting methods used to assess the effects on the environment.*

*5. A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.*

*6. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 5 of this Part.*

*7. An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information.*

## *PART II*

*1. A description of the development comprising information on the site, design and size of the development.*

*2. A description of the measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy significant adverse effects.*

*3. The data required to identify and assess the main effects which the development is likely to have on the environment.*

*4. An outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant or appellant and an indication of the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects.*

*5. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 4 of this Part.*

1.22 Appendices 1 to 10 of the former Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions “Good Practice Guide for the Preparation of Environmental Statements for Planning Projects”<sup>4</sup> structure the legal requirements of the Regulations as follows:

- human beings (population changes, changes in the consumption of housing or services);
- noise and vibration;
- traffic and transport;
- land use;
- flora and fauna (ecology);
- soil, geology and hydrogeology;
- water (hydrology);
- air and climate;
- landscape; and
- cultural heritage/material assets

1.23 Although this guidance relates to the superseded 1988 EIA Regulations, it is still considered to be a valid source of basic good practice advice within the context of the UK Town and Country Planning system. More recent guidance is provided in the Government Circular 02/99 “Environmental Impact Assessment”, which accompanies the EIA Regulations.

## Scoping Exercise

1.24 Having established that an Environmental Statement was required, the EIA Regulations stipulate that the Applicant may make a request for a formal Scoping Opinion (Part IV Regulation 13). The Scoping exercise allows the applicant to clearly identify the main environmental issues, as this allows for more detailed and targeted assessments to be carried out.

<sup>4</sup> Preparation of Environmental Statements for Planning Projects that Require Environmental Assessment: A Good Practice Guide. DETR 1998

- 1.25 A formal request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations was submitted to HCC (November 2012) and is included at Technical Appendix 3 in Volume 2B. This report enabled HCC to gain an initial understanding of the project and to undertake a scoping exercise with internal consultees and third-parties.
- 1.26 A copy of the adopted Scoping Opinion (January 2013) is included at Volume 2B Section 4.
- 1.27 The purpose of the scoping exercise was:
- to focus the EIA on the environmental issues and potential impacts which need the most thorough attention;
  - to identify those which are unlikely to need detailed study; and
  - to provide a means to discuss methods of impact assessment and reach agreement on the most appropriate.
- 1.28 The adopted Scoping Opinion has fed into this exercise to ensure that the ES accurately and comprehensively reflects the proposal.

## Pre-Application Advice

- 1.29 SLR on behalf of the applicant submitted a pre-application report/request note to HCC (October 2012), which showed an indicative site plan, (please refer to Technical Appendix 1 Volume 2B).
- 1.30 A meeting was also held at Hampshire County Council on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in connection with the above development to discuss the proposals further.

## Approach to Assessment

- 1.31 The EIA has identified a range of potential environmental issues, many of which vary both in terms of when they occur within the life cycle of the development, and the length of time they are significant. The proposed facility has a design life in excess of 25 years, and thus the life cycle of the development can be divided into two phases; namely the “*Construction Phase*” and “*Operational Phase*”.

**Construction** Typically being within the first eighteen months of the development and would comprise initial site preparation works, construction activities and landscaping works (i.e construction of screening bund).

**Operational** This would cover the operation of the facility over a permanent period of time

- 1.32 Identified impacts can have differing durations, and the EIA has classified impacts into three timeframes; Short Term, Medium Term and Long Term
- Short Term – from a few months to five years;

- Medium Term – five to fifteen years;
  - Long Term – in excess of fifteen years.
- 1.33 In addition, effects can be temporary or permanent, direct or indirect, or positive or negative. As required by the EIA Regulations, the assessment of impacts has been carried out according to its type (positive or negative) and duration (temporary or permanent). Residual and cumulative impacts have also been considered. These are described in the relevant ES chapters and summarised in the Cumulative Impact chapter (please refer to Vol 2A Chapter 11).
- 1.34 For each environmental aspect, the detailed assessment methodology is discussed in the relevant ES Chapter.
- 1.35 The criteria used for assessing the degree of significance are based on the relevant technical guidance from the appropriate professional institute and/or industry good practice. Where well-documented significance criteria are not available, generic significance criteria (**Table 1/1**) have been used based on the requirements of the EIA Regulations. They have been developed following research and based on SLR's expertise and experience in carrying out EIA's.

**Table 1/1 Generic Significance Criteria**

Significance	Criteria
<b>Severe</b> –for adverse effects only	<b>Severe</b> or <b>major*</b> effects represent key factors in the decision-making process.
<b>Major*</b> - for beneficial effects only	<p>They will principally occur where very important resources are subject to extreme effects. Such effects are generally, but not exclusively, associated with any recognised or designated sites/features of international or national importance.</p> <p>Mitigation measures are unlikely to remove or modify the adverse effects.</p> <p><b>Major*</b> beneficial effects may occur if there is a substantial increase in the value of the environmental resource qualitatively or quantitatively on an international or national level.</p>
<b>Major</b>	<p>Major effects are important considerations on a regional or county level, principally affecting very important resources or creating extreme effects on important resources.</p> <p>Mitigation measures and detailed design work are unlikely to remove all the</p>

Significance	Criteria
	<p>adverse effects by virtue of the magnitude of the predicted effects.</p> <p>Major beneficial effects may occur if there is a substantial increase in the value of the environmental resource qualitatively or quantitatively on a regional or county level.</p>
<b>Moderate</b>	<p>Moderate effects are important considerations at a district level, but are unlikely to be key decision making issues. They will principally occur where important resources are moderately or slightly affected, or where lesser resources are affected in the extreme.</p> <p>Mitigation measures and detailed design work may ameliorate some of the consequences on the affected communities or interests; however, some residual effects will still arise.</p> <p>Moderate beneficial effects may occur if there is a considerable increase in the value of the resource on a district level.</p>
<b>Minor</b>	<p>Minor effects are experienced at the local level and do not represent important issues in the decision making process. Assignment of this level of significance will principally occur if less important environmental resources experience more limited effects.</p> <p>Appropriate mitigation measures may reduce, remove or even reverse such effects.</p> <p>Minor beneficial effects may occur if there is only a limited increase in the value of the resource at a local level.</p>
<b>Negligible</b>	<p>Effects are assigned to this level if they are nil, imperceptible, negligible, within normal bounds of variation, or within margins of forecasting error when compared to the existing situation.</p>

1.36 In order to determine the degree of any effect, a series of baseline surveys have also been undertaken for the purpose of the EIA. These are referred to in greater detail within the relevant technical ES chapters.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING

- 1.37 The proposed development would be regulated by the Environment Agency under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2011.
- 1.38 The Permit would only be issued by the Environment Agency once it is satisfied that the installation can be operated within appropriate limits and by ensuring that appropriate safeguards, controls and operator competency are in place.

## STRUCTURE OF THE SUBMISSION

- 1.39 This chapter of this ES provides an overview of the submission and the regulatory framework regarding EIA. Subsequent chapters of the ES provide a description of the Site; set out its planning history; describe the development proposals and set out the alternatives considered; and then provide an analysis and evaluation of the effects of the development on the human and natural environments on a topic by topic basis.
- 1.40 Where potential environmental impacts are identified, mitigation strategies are put forward and residual impacts are assessed.
- 1.41 As such the ES is intended to provide HCC with sufficient information to determine the planning application having due regard to the protection of the local amenity and the environment as a whole.
- 1.42 This document (Volume 2a) is presented as follows:
- **Non Technical Summary (NTS).** This provides, in non-technical language, a brief summary of the proposed development together with the likely effects that it would have on the environment. The text of the NTS has been included at the front of the ES and is also provided as a stand-alone document in accordance with best practice, for ease of circulation.
  - **Background Information (Chapters 1 to 4).** This Part is descriptive in nature setting out an overview of the application site and the surrounding area. It describes the development for which planning permission is being sought, both in terms of the physical appearance and the processes to be undertaken.
    - Chapter 1 Introduction;
    - Chapter 2 Site Description and Surrounding Area;
    - Chapter 3 Description of Development; and
    - Chapter 4 Planning Policy
  - **Environmental Assessments (Chapters 5 to 13).** For each subject area the relevant data and background information is provided and the potential impacts are considered. Where appropriate mitigation measures are proposed any residual impacts are considered. The specific subjects considered are:

- Chapter 5 Alternatives;
  - Chapter 6: Traffic and Transport;
  - Chapter 7: Air Quality;
  - Chapter 8: Noise;
  - Chapter 9: Landscape & Visual;
  - Chapter 10: Ecology;
  - Chapter 11 Cumulative Impact; and
  - Chapter 12 Conclusions
- 1.43 Volume 2a is also supported by Volume 2b which is where the supporting technical information appears within the ES as set out below:
- Technical Appendix 1: Pre Application Report by SLR (October 2012)
  - Technical Appendix 2: Pre-Application Advice from HCC in response to Pre-Application Report (November 2012)
  - Technical Appendix 3: Scoping Request from SLR on behalf of R.Collard Ltd (December 2012)
  - Technical Appendix 4: Scoping Opinion from HCC (January 2013)
  - Technical Appendix 5: Tree Constraints Plan (December 2012)
  - Technical Appendix 6: Traffic and Transport Technical Appendices
  - Technical Appendix 7: Air Quality Technical Appendices
  - Technical Appendix 8: Noise Technical Appendices
  - Technical Appendix 9: Landscape & Visual Technical Appendices
  - Technical Appendix 10: Ecology Appendices – Phase 1
  - Technical Appendix 11: Flood Risk Assessment (February 2013)
  - Technical Appendix 12: Waste Arisings and Secondary Aggregate distribution – indicative diagrams and Mapping (February 2013)

## PROJECT TEAM

- 1.44 This ES has been prepared by SLR. SLR is a multi-disciplinary environmental consultant to the minerals and waste management industries, and also provides advice to local authorities and the Environment Agency on strategic issues<sup>5</sup>. SLR is a registered Environmental Impact Assessor Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and has achieved the EIA Quality Mark awarded by IEMA.
- 1.45 In preparing this planning application and ES, SLR has drawn upon the expertise of an in-house team of specialists comprising planners, landscape architects, ecologist, hydrologists and environmental scientists for the majority of the technical assessments.
- 1.46 SLR has also worked closely with the applicant in a detailed and iterative process, to ensure that the working scheme is feasible as well as optimising environmental protection.

## PUBLICATION

- 1.47 Paper copies of the ES can be obtained from SLR Consulting Ltd at the following address;

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<sup>5</sup> Further details regarding SLR Consulting Limited can be found on its web site [www.slrconsulting.com](http://www.slrconsulting.com)

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- 1.48 The ES, along with the other Volumes are available in both paper copy and CD at a cost of £220 and £5 respectively.
- 1.49 An electronic copy of the NTS is available free of charge upon request.