

Planning Application for change of use to Materials Recycling Facility for production of Solid Recovered Fuel

Supporting Statement

**Warren Farm Waste Transfer Station
Downend Road
Nr Fareham**

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1. Introduction and Background

1.1. Introduction

This supporting statement accompanies a planning application for change of use of the existing waste transfer station (WTS) at Warren Farm Quarry, near Fareham. The document provides information about the development for which planning permission is sought and should be read in conjunction with the planning application and accompanying plans and drawings. It first describes the context for the application and the site and its surroundings. The built and operational aspects of the development are then outlined followed by consideration of the planning issues pertaining to the development.

The development is a 'county matter' as prescribed by the Town and Country Planning (Prescription of County Matters) (England) Regulations 2003.

The planning application is made by Veolia Environmental Services Hampshire Ltd to Hampshire County Council. Veolia ES Hampshire Ltd is responsible for implementing and servicing the long-term integrated domestic waste disposal contract in Hampshire known as 'Project Integra'. The Company has been providing these services since 1993; the current termination date of the contract is 2023.

1.2. Background to the Development

The application site is a former chalk extraction site with previous uses for landfill and associated use for aggregate recycling. In December 2006 planning permission was granted for the 'Development and operation of a multi-purpose Waste Transfer Station within an existing quarry to accommodate a range of waste including commercial, dry recyclables, domestic and civic amenity waste and an element of sorting and pre-treatment', at the Warren Farm site.

The Waste Transfer Station became operational in December 2007 and there have been a subsequent changes to the original planning permission to allow extended hours, parking of lorries and an unused area of the site was permitted for bin and container storage.

1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment

The development of the original Waste Transfer Station is a project type listed in Schedule 2 Category 11(b) (Installations for the disposal of waste) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 and was deemed to be

a 'Schedule 2 development' within the meaning of the Regulations and was therefore subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

In view of this a screening request was undertaken with Hampshire County Council as to whether the changes to the development would also be subject to EIA. Hampshire County Council has confirmed that the development need not be subject to an EIA. A copy of the screening request and the screening opinion are contained in Annex A.

2. The Site and its Surroundings

The site is situated just to the north of the M27 between Fareham and Portchester and is accessed via a private haul road east from junction 11 of the motorway and then via a short section of Downend Road. A site plan Dwg. No. WF/MRF/P/2010/001 and a location plan WF/MRF/P/2010/002 are provided with the application.

The site was a former chalk quarry which is approximately 20m deep and extends to a total area of approximately 3.9ha. The WTS was constructed at the base of the former quarry and no part of the building is visible above the chalk faces of the former quarry.

Beyond the north and eastern boundaries of the quarry the land is predominantly agricultural or pasture. To the south is the road cutting for the M27. To the west and beyond Downend Road the land is predominantly in arable cultivation.

The military installations at Nelson's Monument and Fort Nelson are located to the north of the site.

The nearest residential properties are located at Monument Farm, 600m to the north of the site, and Calx Lodge to the south of the motorway at 700m from the site.

3. The Development Proposed

The proposed development would involve the use of the WTS as a Materials Recycling Facility to produce a Solid Recovered Fuel (MRF/SRF). The proposed development is different to the approved WTS (planning permission N0. P/06/1124/MW) in that it would involve the processing of the majority

of the waste rather than it being simply transferred. Currently the majority of the transferred waste is disposed to landfill. The SRF plant will result in the majority of the waste being shredded and screened to condition the waste so that it is suitable for combustion. A small scale shredding operation is already carried out for some of the waste, but the current proposal will be significantly different and involve the major part of the building being put over to this activity.

3.1 The SRF plant

The SRF plant would be fully enclosed within the existing waste transfer building. The layout of the plant is detailed Drawing No: Warren Farm: Mechanical Treatment Plant Concept Layout V 4.0. There will be external changes to the building. The main changes would involve the construction of the recycling plant within the building. Whilst the construction of the plant within the building is not strictly subject to planning control, as it will have no material impact on the external appearance of the building, the use is materially different in planning terms such that planning permission is required.

The use to be undertaken will involve the following processes. Commercial and Industrial; and Civic Amenity waste will be loaded in the pre-crusher, then an over band magnet will remove the ferrous metals, it will then pass through a trommel to remove the fines then an optical sorter will remove the PVC and finally a fine shredder will reduce the size of the SRF.

3.2 WTS Operations

The estimated annual waste throughput of the WTS was envisaged to be in the region of 150,000 tonnes per annum with an additional 80,000 tonnes per annum of recycled aggregate.

The aggregate recycling use has not been restarted and currently that area is used for bin storage.

The WTS activities have been permitted to operate:

06.00 – 18.00 Monday to Sunday (excluding Xmas Day and Boxing Day)

The WTS activities, including all vehicle movements would continue to operate within these.

3.3 SRF Operations

The operations will involve the running of the plant to produce the SRF and these activities will need to be undertaken over an extended time period and this application seeks the plant to be operational between:

0600 to 2300 Monday to Friday

0600 to 1800 Saturdays and Sundays (excluding Xmas Day and Boxing Day)

Whilst the site is in close proximity to the M27, remote from noise sensitive receptors and activities are screened by the quarry walls, the operations in the evening after 1800 will be undertaken with the doors closed to limit any potential for noise impact.

4. Planning Considerations

4.1 Planning Policy Framework

Local land-use planning policy relevant to the development proposed is contained within Minerals and Waste 'core' Planning Strategy which sets out the Spatial Strategy for minerals and waste in Hampshire.

Policies S1,S4,S18,DC1,DC3,DC6,DC8, of the Core Strategy are considered relevant to the current proposal.

4.2 Sustainable Design, Construction and Demolition

Policy S1 of the Core Strategy seeks to ensure that all mineral and waste development accords with the principles of sustainable development in the design, construction, and demolition.

The proposal makes use of an existing building reducing the need for additional infrastructure.

4.3 Recycling and Composting

Policy S4 of the Core Strategy seeks to encourage a progressive increase in the recycling and composting of municipal waste.

The proposed development will involve greater recycling of the waste prior to conditioning the waste for energy recovery. It is expected that approximately 93% will be conditioned for combustion, 5% recycled (ferrous metals) with 2% sent to landfill.

4.4 Site Selection

Policy S18 indicates the process by which sites will be identified to meet requirements of the Core Strategy.

The site as an existing operational site for waste management uses will continue to be protected for waste management uses.

4.5 Sustainable Minerals and Waste Development

Policy DC1 requires that development should meet the objectives of Policy S1 in that they should be designed and constructed in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

As indicated above the SRF operation involves alterations to an existing building. The only new materials are limited to those associated with the new plant.

4.6 Impact on Landscape

Policy DC3 requires that development should have due regard to the impact it might have on the landscape .

The existing waste transfer building is sited some distance from public view points within the lower area of the former chalk quarry and is consequently screened by the surrounding topography. The existing building is of an industrial style and the alterations to the existing building involve internal alterations only. There would be no impact on the visual amenity of the surrounding area.

4.7 Highways

Policy DC6 relates to a requirement that all major waste facilities should have suitable access to the strategic lorry routes.

The current proposal will not involve any increase in vehicle movements over that envisaged at the time of the original application for the WTS.

4.8 Pollution, health, quality of life and amenity

Policy DC8 requires that pollution and amenity impacts on nearby residents and other sensitive receptors is taken into account in the design and management of the facility.

Noise, litter, dust and odour are potential issues commonly associated with waste management operations; the 'sensitive' receptors being the occupiers of nearby properties, site operatives, users and visitors. The nearest sensitive properties to the application site lie some 600m to the north of the site. The distance and topography of the site and the screening effect of intervening vegetation ensure that operations at the site do not currently give rise to any unacceptable impacts. However,

the changes proposed could have potential for greater noise from the additional plant and from the extended hours that the plant would operate. A noise assessment has therefore been prepared to consider the potential impacts and is submitted as a supporting document to the application Scott Wilson Report D133697/R1/01. This has shown that the operation of the proposed SRF would be below background noise levels at the nearest noise sensitive properties.

The types of waste to be handled by the site will remain as existing and the use of the site will be similar to the permitted use. To the applicant's knowledge, the existing waste transfer station has not given rise to any cause for concern or complaint. Good working practices, as set out in the Waste Management Licence Working Plan, will continue to be employed on the site to ensure the proper control and management of litter, dust and odour.

Given the nature of existing authorised operations at the application site, the development and operation of the SRF plant would not unduly impact upon the amenity of the area.

5. Summary

The SRF plant is designed to increase the recycling and recovery of the civic amenity and commercial waste passing through the Warren Farm WTS.

In land-use terms, the development and operation of a SRF plant within the waste transfer station building at Warren Farm site conforms to the policies contained within the Core Strategy. To the applicant's knowledge, the existing waste transfer station has not given rise to any significant cause for concern or complaint. The changes proposed have the potential to increase the noise from the site and for this reason a noise assessment of the proposed activities has been undertaken which has shown that the operation of the proposed SRF would be below background noise levels at the nearest noise sensitive properties. In all other respects the development will be the same as the current permitted use nonetheless, good working practices (as set out in the Working Plan) will continue to be employed on site to ensure the proper control and management of issues such as litter, dust and odour.