



Minerals and Waste County Planning  
Hampshire County Council  
Economy, Transport and Environment  
Elizabeth II Court West  
The Castle  
Winchester  
SO23 8UD

**Re: Rookery Farm Aggregate Recycling Facility, Botley Road, Swanwick, SO31 1BW**

**Planning application for the import and operation of mobile aggregate picking station and cone crusher in conjunction with existing operations on the site.**

## **PLANNING & DESIGN STATEMENT**

### **Background**

Raymond Brown Minerals and Recycling Ltd employ over 167 staff at a range of sand and gravel quarries, inert landfill and waste transfer sites in Hampshire, Wiltshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Dorset.

Rookery Farm Aggregate Recycling Facility (ARF) is located on Botley Road, Swanwick alongside the M27 adjacent to Junction 9 at Fareham. The site employs 7 full time staff which includes a site manager, weighbridge operative, wash plant operative and 4 site staff.

The Rookery site has been in operation as a landfill since 1988. Recycling started at Rookery Farm in 1995. The current washed recycling operations are covered by Planning Permission P/06/0443/CC, issued in April 2006.

Annually, the site imports approximately 80,000t inert construction demolition waste from local building and construction sites and imports the brick rubble/hardcore waste from the local Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in Hampshire.

Condition 19 of the current permission states that 'no plant or machinery shall be brought onto site other than a mobile crushing unit, a hydraulic excavator, a wheeled loading shovel, washing plant and bulldozer'.

### **Proposal**

On arrival at site all the inert waste is directed to the primary recycling area at the southern end of the site. The waste is then screened and crushed to produce a material suitable to feed into the aggregate washing plant. It is now proposed to introduce a mobile picking station directly after the primary crusher (See drawing: 4039). Staff can then work in a clean dry environment and the waste can be more effectively removed and sorted into bins for more effective recovery.

To further improve and increase the recovery of recycled aggregates, it is proposed to introduce a cone crusher (see Drawing: MM0539071) after the picking station.



There will be no change in the waste types imported to site for processing as a result of this proposal.

### **Application Documents**

This planning application comprises:

- Form
- Fee
- Planning Statement
- Plans
  - Site Location Plan – REF: RBMR/A072852/LOC/01
  - Site Plan REF RBMR/E009040/PLA/01 Scale:1:1250@A1
  - Proposed Site Layout Plan – REF RBMR/E009040/LAY/02 Scale:1:1000@A3
  - Details of the Picking Station – Drg: 4039
  - Details of the Cone Crusher – Drg: MM0539071
  - WRAP Protocol – Appendix 01

### **Location**

The mobile picking station and cone crusher along with the primary crusher will be located within the designated primary area for crushing and screening. The picking station will be sited such that the height is below the screening bund shown on the Site Plan to minimise visual impact. The plant will not be in a fixed position as such, depending on waste stockpiles but will be retained in that general area.

### **Description**

#### **Current Operation**

Imported waste is processed through the existing screener to remove oversize and soil fines. The oversize material also includes contaminants such as plastics, wood and metal. A large proportion of the waste comes from Hampshire County Council HWRC facilities and there this incidental wood, metal, plastics and paper contamination which needs to be removed to maintain recycled product quality. Prior to being fed into the washing plant the processed waste is picked over by hand to remove unwanted contaminants. This work is carried by staff on the ground and in all weather conditions. It is arduous work and safety is a key concern for staff with large mobile equipment working in the area.

#### **Proposed Operation**

The output from the primary crusher will be directed onto the conveyor belt of the picking station. Up to 3 staff will be employed in the picking station, where they can work in a dry and safe environment. This will enable more effective picking out of contaminants which can then be segregated into the 4 small skips located under the picking station for wood, metal, paper and plastic. This will improve the opportunity for further recovery at a later stage through the company's MRF operation at A303 Recycling.

The cone crusher will receive the cleaned up aggregate material from the picking station and crush further to better suit the wash plant requirements. This will reduce the percentage of oversize material that has to be brought back and re-crushed.

There will be no change to the materials imported to site and the proposed equipment will be incorporated within the existing site processing areas. The unit is self contained run by a small generator which is silenced so there will be no increase in noise levels.

The proposal will have a number of benefits:

- Improve the Health and Safety of the working environment for staff; as in the past men have been working on the ground to 'pick' the crushed material, which is a neither safe nor pleasant working condition.
- Optimise recycled aggregate production
- Improve recycled aggregate quality compliance e.g. WRAP Protocol. (Appendix: 01)
- Optimise recovery of wood, metals, paper and plastic for further recovery
- Reduce disposal to landfill

### **Environmental Impact**

Due to the location of the proposal being within the exiting primary processing area there will be no increased environmental impact as a result of the proposed development.

### **Planning Policy**

Hampshire County Council Adopted the Minerals and Waste Plan at Full Council on 19 September 2013. It covers the period until 2030 and replaces the previous Core Strategy adopted in 2007 and the former Minerals and Waste Local Plan 1998. The new Plan is consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and PPS10 (Sustainable Waste Management) and these documents have therefore not been considered in detail in the interests of brevity. Nor has the test valley Local Plan been considered in detail since the relevant issues are covered by the new Minerals and Waste Plan

The overall tone of the new Plan is set by **Policy 1: Sustainable Minerals and Waste Development** and reflect the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012). This states that:

'The Hampshire Authorities will take a positive approach to minerals and waste development that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development. ....Minerals and waste development that accords with policies in the Plan will be approved without delay unless material circumstances indicate otherwise.'

Waste recycling is a sustainable form of development. The site is also in a sustainable location close to the source of materials and markets for recycled products. It also utilises existing infrastructure.

The sustainability theme is continued for waste under **Policy 25 Sustainable waste management**. The overall aim of the policy is to divert 100% of waste from landfill. All waste development should:



- Encourage waste to be managed at the highest achievable level within the waste hierarchy
- Reduce residual waste sent to landfill
- Be located near to sources of waste and markets for its use
- Maximise opportunities for shared infrastructure at mineral or waste sites.

This proposal fits with all the above criteria.

Under **Policy 26: Safeguarding Waste Infrastructure**: The existing Rookery ARF site has planning permission for recycling until 2021. These proposals will be of major benefit to increasing the quality and availability of recycled aggregates.

### **Summary**

The proposal is considered acceptable in principle since it concerns the development of an existing waste management site and complies with strategic planning policy. The company also has the benefit of operating the site in its current form for nearly 10 years and there are no significant planning or community issues directly relating to the operation of the site itself. The proposed application results in no significant impact to the local area and would ask that permission is granted.

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2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013