

**An application to vary environmental permit number EPR/JB3107HT for the inert and excavation waste transfer station operated by GRS Rail Services Limited at Small Heath, Birmingham**

**Non-technical Summary**

- 1.1** MJCA is commissioned by GRS Rail Services Limited (GRS) to prepare an application to vary Environmental Permit number EPR/JB3107HT (the permit) for the inert and excavation waste treatment facility operated by GRS at Small Heath Rail Sidings, Birmingham (the site). The site is centred approximately at National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 09304 85224.
- 1.2** The proposed activities will be consistent with the activities that are authorised under Environment Agency Standard Rules SR2009No6 - inert and excavation waste transfer station with treatment, with the total quantity of waste accepted at the site less than 250,000 tonnes per annum (tpa). Following the completion of the Environment Agency (EA) Consultation Number 25 on SRPs, SR2009No6 was withdrawn by the EA on 18 December 2024 and consolidated into SRP SR2022No1 treatment of waste to produce soil, soil substitutes and aggregate. The EA provided letters to operators to explain the changes and published on 12 February 2025 a Regulatory Position Statement (RPS) 'Extension to comply with new standard rules permits: RPS 331' which states that if permit holders do not comply with the new Standard Rules, they must apply for a bespoke permit by 27 June 2025. As the site does not meet the requirements of the new Standard Rules specified in SR2022No1 due to the site being located within 50m of a Local Wildlife Site and within 50m of a Watercourse it is necessary to apply to vary the permit to a bespoke permit.
- 1.3** There are no proposals to vary the activities which will remain consistent with those specified in SR2009No6. The site will comprise a site for the receipt, storage and processing by manual sorting, separation, screening or crushing of waste into different components for disposal, (no more than 50 tonnes per day) or recovery.
- 1.4** The list of waste (LoW) codes permitted to be accepted at the site will comprise the waste types specified in the current SR2009No6 permit with the addition of eight further LoW codes which were added by the Environment Agency to Table 2.3a of SR2022No1 as waste codes suitable for the production of aggregates. The eight additional waste codes are all also specified in Appendix C of the WRAP Aggregates from Inert Waste Quality Protocol as *Wastes considered to be inert waste for the purpose of the Quality Protocol and to be acceptable for the production of recycled aggregates*.
- 1.5** This application has been prepared with reference to relevant guidance provided by the Environment Agency (EA) on the GOV.UK website and includes a Site Condition Report (SCR) prepared based on information presented in an Envirocheck Report.

- 1.6** Based on information on the DEFRA MAGIC website and the EA Nature and Heritage Conservation Screening Report there are no National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar Sites, Marine Conservation Zones, areas of Ancient Woodland, National Nature Reserves (NNRs) or Local Nature Reserves (LNR) within 2km of the site. There is one Local Wildlife Site (LWS) within 50m of the site boundary. The Grand Union Canal LWS is located adjacent to the southern boundary of the site. There are no World Heritage Sites or Scheduled Monuments within 500m of the site. The site is not located in a groundwater Source Protection Zone (SPZ) and is not located in an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).
- 1.7** The application is supported by a qualitative Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) for accidents, odour, noise and fugitive emissions. The ERA assesses the potential impacts to the surrounding environment from the proposed activities at the site. In the ERA it is concluded that the operation of the facility has a low or very low risk of adverse impact on the surrounding environment including sites of heritage or nature conservation interest. Based on the assessment presented in the ERA it is unnecessary to provide an odour management plan with this application.
- 1.8** A dust and emissions management plan (DEMP) is presented and identifies the operations at the site which may have the potential to have an impact on air quality as a result of emissions of particulate matter, presents the details of the operational controls which are implemented to minimise emissions and describes the monitoring which will be carried out to confirm the effectiveness of the management controls.
- 1.9** Although it is considered unlikely that the limited activities will have a significant environmental impact in respect of noise, a noise impact assessment (NIA) has been undertaken. The NIA concluded that the activities associated with the permit variation application are likely to have a low impact and that there will be no significant or unacceptable adverse impacts at existing noise-sensitive premises in the vicinity of the site. Based on the assessment presented in the NIA it is unnecessary to provide a noise management plan with the variation application.
- 1.10** Consistent with Condition 1.1.1 of the permit, the site will continue be managed in accordance with an Environmental Management System (EMS) using sufficient competent persons and resources.