



**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**

Report reference: GRS/SMH/AW/5790/01/AR
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This report has been prepared by MJCA with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the Services and the Terms agreed between MJCA and the Client. This report is confidential to the client and MJCA accepts no responsibility whatsoever to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known, unless formally agreed by MJCA beforehand. Any such party relies upon the report at their own risk.

1. Proposed changes

- 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 permit was first issued to Lafarge Aggregates Limited on 23 May 2014 as a Standard Rules Permit (SRP) SR2009No6 – inert and excavation waste transfer station with treatment permitted to accept up to 250,000 tonnes of waste per year. The permit was transferred to GRS on 21 April 2020. The site location is shown on Figure 1. The site is centred approximately at National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 09304 85224 and the boundary of the site the subject of the permit is shown outlined in green on the drawing at Schedule 1 of the permit. An updated version of the site plan is presented as Figure 2. There are no changes to the site boundary.
- 1.2** SR2009No6 authorises the receipt, storage and processing of up to 250,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of inert and excavation waste. The limits of the activities specified in SR2009No6 are treatment consisting only of manual sorting, separation, screening or crushing of waste into different components for disposal, (no more than 50 tonnes per day) or recovery. Following the completion of the Environment Agency (EA) Consultation Number 25 on SRPs, SR2009No6 was withdrawn by the EA on 18 December 2024 and consolidated into SRP SR2022No1 treatment of waste to produce soil, soil substitutes and aggregate.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.
- 1.3** In order to determine whether the site complies with the new SR2022No1, a nature and heritage screening report was requested from the EA. The Screening Report presented at Appendix A shows that the site does not meet the Standard Rules due to the presence of a Local Wildlife site (LWS) (Grand Union Canal) within 50m of the site. For this reason, GRS are applying to vary the current SRP to a bespoke Environmental Permit. There are no proposals to vary the activities which will remain consistent with those specified in SR2009No6. The list of wastes permitted to be accepted at the site are presented in Table 1. The list of wastes comprises the waste

types specified in the permit with the addition of eight further List of Waste (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 (which are listed in Table 1) 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*.

- 1.4** Additionally, GRS would like to add 19 12 12 incinerator bottom ash aggregate (IBAA), which is also specified in Table 2.3a of SR2022No1, to the list of wastes authorised to be accepted at the site. Further details of the storage and containment of waste comprising 19 12 12 will be provided prior to receiving this waste type at the site. GRS would be willing for the Environment Agency to include a suitably worded improvement condition or pre-operational condition in the bespoke permit in respect of the receipt and storage of this waste type at the site.

Content of the application

- 1.5** The application has been prepared with reference to relevant guidance provided by the EA on the gov.uk website. Parts A, C2, C3 and F1 of the Environment Agency Environmental Permit Application Forms have been completed and are presented at Appendix B. A Non-Technical Summary of the application is presented at Appendix C.
- 1.6** The application is supported by a qualitative Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) for accidents, odour, noise and fugitive emissions which is presented at Appendix D. The ERA assesses the potential impacts to the surrounding environment from the activities. In the ERA it is concluded that the operation of the facility with the implemented controls has a low or very low risk of adverse impact on amenity or 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.
- 1.7** A Dust and Emissions Management Plan (DEMP) is presented at Appendix E. The DEMP 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.

- 1.8** Environment Agency guidance *Risk assessments for your environmental permit*¹ states that:

“The Environment Agency may ask you to submit a noise and vibration impact assessment and a noise management plan if:

- your activity uses noisy plant or machinery, for example cooling equipment or fans*
- you will be doing any noisy operations, such as loading or unloading, shredding, shearing, crushing, grinding, combustion, using trommels and conveyors or moving bulk materials*
- your activities are not contained within buildings*
- some of your activities take place at night*
- the area where you are planning to carry out your activity is sensitive to noise, for example rural areas may have quieter background noise levels than urban areas*
- there are sensitive receptors close to the site, for example houses or habitats”*

- 1.9** As there are no proposals to change the current activities, the administrative process of changing the permit from a SRP to a bespoke permit will not change the noise emissions from the site. Notwithstanding this, a noise impact assessment (NIA) has been undertaken with reference to the guidance provided within BS4142². A copy of the NIA prepared by Vibrock is presented at Appendix F.

- 1.10** In the NIA it is stated:

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/risk-assessments-for-your-environmental-permit> Environment Agency and Defra. Published 1 February 2016. Last updated 3 January 2025.

² British Standard 4142:2014+A1:2019 Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound, British Standards Institution 2019

“An assessment of potential noise impact associated with the permit application has been made following the guidance presented within BS 4142 and the specific supplementary guidance provided by the Environment Agency. Following an initial estimate of noise impact, along with consideration of the context and any potential effects of uncertainty, the continuation of waste treatment and recycling operations at the site are likely to have a low impact. It is therefore considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable adverse impacts at existing noise-sensitive premises in the vicinity of the site.”

- 1.11** Based on the conclusions of the NIA, it is considered unnecessary to provide a Noise Management Plan with the application to vary the permit.

2. Additional information to support the Application Forms

Application form Part A – Appendix 1 – Date of birth information

- 2.1 As the Appendix states “*Only complete if you are applying for a new permit or to transfer an existing one*”, Appendix 1 has not been completed.

Application form Part C2 – Section 3

- 2.2 The site will continue to be managed in accordance with an Environmental Management System (EMS) pursuant to Condition 1.1.1(a) of the permit using sufficient competent persons and resources pursuant to Condition 1.1.1(b) of the permit. A summary of the EMS is presented at Appendix G and the Certificate of Technical Competence (COTC) and Certificate of Continuing Competence (CCC) for the technically competent site manager are presented at Appendix H.

Application form Part C2 – Q5a – Site Condition Report

- 2.3 Although there are no proposals to extend the site boundary, a Site Condition Report (SCR) is presented at Appendix I. The SCR is based on information presented in an Envirocheck Report obtained from Landmark Information Group on 15 May 2025.

Application form Part C4 – Table 3a – Technical standards

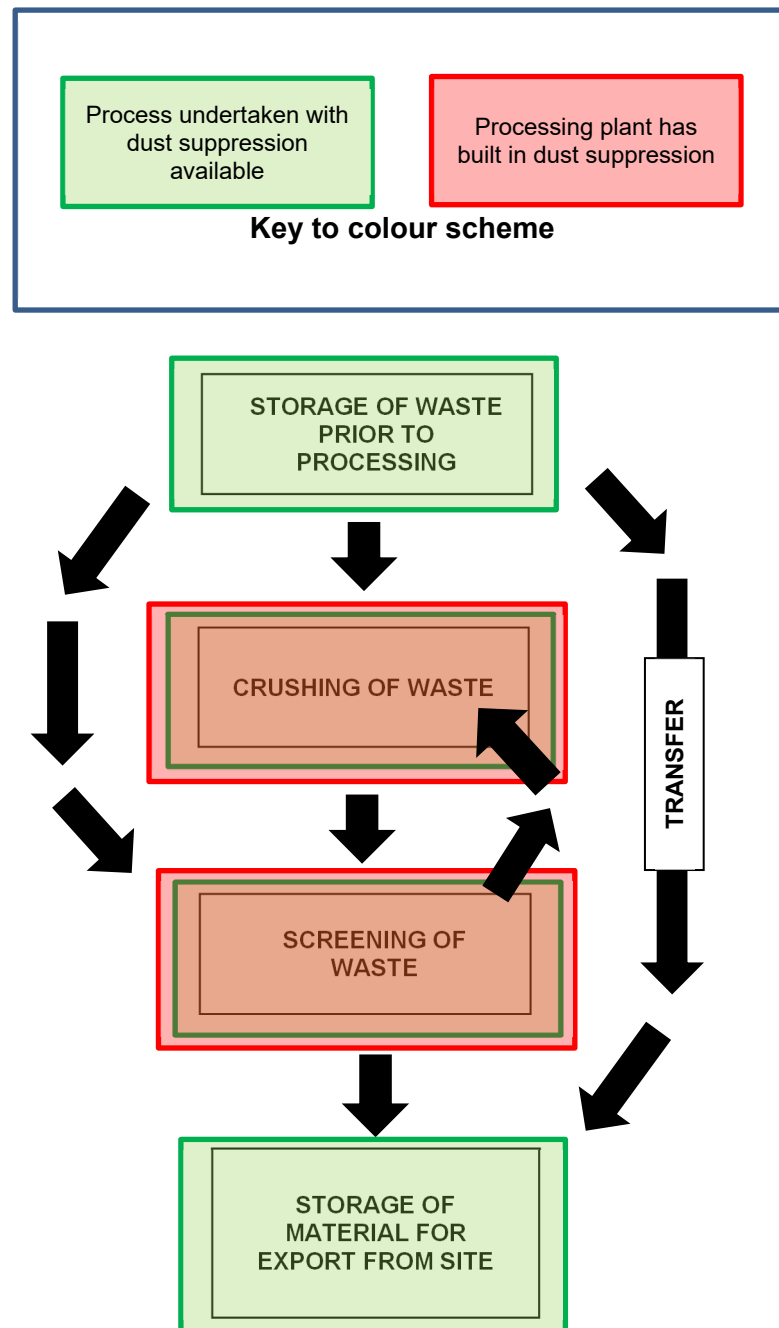
- 2.4 As the site will comprise an inert and excavation waste transfer station with treatment, the appropriate measures which are most relevant are “*Non-hazardous and inert waste: appropriate measures for permitted facilities*”³ (the appropriate measures). Section 1 of the appropriate measures (*when appropriate measures apply*) states in paragraph 1.2 (*assessing appropriate measures for your site*)

“Some measures in this guidance may not be suitable or relevant for your operation. Appropriate measures will depend on the:

- activities being carried out*
- size and nature of the activities*
- location of the facility”*

³ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/non-hazardous-and-inert-waste-appropriate-measures-for-permitted-facilities>

- 2.5 The schematic diagram below illustrates the limited and low risk nature of the activities undertaken at the site which comprise the crushing and screening of a small range of inert and excavation wastes on a campaign basis.



2.6 As shown on Figure 2, the site is located in an operational rail sidings adjacent to and south west of the mainline railway and south west of the A45 Small Heath Highway which comprises a dual carriageway. Access to the site by road is from Anderton Road which connects to the A45 at Poets Corner roundabout via the B4145 as shown on Figure 2. Based on the wind rose for Birmingham Airport shown on Figure 2, the prevailing wind direction is from the south-south west hence areas to the north-north east are of considered to be down prevailing wind direction from the site. As shown on Figure 2 the closest residential receptors downwind of the site are on the other side of the railway line and A45 over 150m away from the site.

2.7 The appropriate measures are subdivided into the following categories:

1. When appropriate measures apply
2. General management appropriate measures
3. Waste pre-acceptance, acceptance and tracking
4. Waste storage
5. Waste treatment
6. Emissions control
7. Emissions monitoring and limits
8. Process efficiency appropriate measures
9. Waste minimisation, recovery and disposal

2.8 Further details relevant to Section 6 - emissions control are presented in the ERA and in the DEMP provided with this application. Section 6.1 of the appropriate measures refers to enclosure within buildings and states the following:

1. *Enclosing activities within buildings can be an appropriate measure for preventing and minimising emissions of pollution*
2. *If your waste treatment activities are likely to cause (or are causing) significant pollution at sensitive receptors which*

cannot be addressed by alternative measures, then you must carry out that waste treatment activity within an enclosed building.

3. *You must also carry out non-treatment activities, such as storing and transferring waste (including loading and unloading) in enclosed buildings if these activities are likely to cause (or are causing) significant pollution at sensitive receptors which cannot be addressed by alternative measures. [Our emphasis]*

2.9 Taking into consideration the guidance in relation to when appropriate measures apply which specifies that the appropriate measures will depend on the activities being carried out, the size and simple nature of the activities and the location of the facility, the fact that there are no proposals to change the currently permitted activities and the conclusions of the ERA it is considered that it is unnecessary to enclose the waste treatment activities within a building as there is a very low risk that the activities are likely to cause significant pollution at sensitive receptors. The control measures in respect of dust are specified in the DEMP. The control measures in respect of noise are specified in the ERA.

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