



A1 Sandwell Skips Limited
1-3 Roebuck Lane, Smethwick, Sandwell, West
Midlands, B66 1BS

NOISE AND VIBRATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Environmental Permit EPR/DB3408LE

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1.1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 A1 Sandwell Skips Limited (*the Operator*) operates a household, commercial and industrial waste transfer station with treatment at 1 to 3 Roebuck Lane, Smethwick, Sandwell, West Midlands, B66 1BS (*the Site*).
- 1.1.2 The Site has the benefit of an Environmental Permit (EPR/DB3408LE), which authorises the sorting, separation, screening, baling, shredding, crushing and compaction of up to 75,000 tonnes per annum non-hazardous waste for recycling and recovery.
- 1.1.3 The Operator proposes to vary the permit to authorise an increase in non-hazardous waste throughput up to a maximum of 200,000 tonnes per annum and the use of a new 3-sided and roofed building for the storage of wastes.
- 1.1.4 The Site currently incorporates a roofed shed, circa 30m x 17m in size, with an impermeable concrete base. Waste is loaded by mechanical mobile plant into an elevated hopper and trommel, located next to the shed on an external concreted yard. The trommel separates the fines from the larger fraction. Separated fines are gravity transferred to an engineered three-sided bay located immediately below the trommel, whilst the larger fraction is conveyed to an elevated picking station, where site operatives separate materials into cardboard, plastics, plasterboard, general waste, wood and scrap metal. The site operatives place the separated recyclables into one of 6 No chutes, which each gravity feeds the materials into a dedicated, engineered storage bay beneath the trommel. Materials are bulked up in the bays for off site transfer to authorised facilities for recycling.
- 1.1.5 The Operator proposes to install the proposed roofed and three-sided building along the southeast boundary of the Site, adjacent to the A4252 Telford Way, which is a busy urban dual carriageway connecting Junction 1 of the M5 motorway with Smethwick town centre. The new building will incorporate 7 No engineered fireproof concrete bays for waste storage and will also be used to relocate the trommel hopper and trommel, thereby ensuring that wastes are tipped, stored and processed inside roofed structures.
- 1.1.6 The rear wall of the building will run adjacent to the A4252 Telford Way, thereby providing a solid acoustic barrier between the Site and the nearest residential receptors which are located on Great Arthur Street, circa 85m east of the facility, beyond the road.
- 1.1.7 This Noise and Vibration Management Plan outlines the methods by which the Operator will systematically assess and minimise the potential impacts of noise and vibration generated by activities at the Site. It is a working document, which has the specific aims of ensuring:
- Noise and vibration are subject to routine review and assessment;
 - Noise and vibration are controlled at source through the application of good operational practices, e.g. effective maintenance, physical controls and management practices; and
 - All appropriate measures are taken to prevent or where that is not reasonably practicable to reduce noise and vibration emissions so that off-site impacts are reduced to an acceptable level.

1.2 THE SITE

- 1.2.1 The Site is located on a large industrial estate near Galton Bridge, Smethwick in Sandwell. It is located circa 6km northwest of Birmingham City Centre and 470m east of the M5 motorway at the closest point.
- 1.2.2 The Site is accessed off Roebuck Lane to the immediate west, beyond which are the Operator's offices and workshop. Telford Way borders the Site to the immediate east (see above), immediately beyond which is an area of woodland and then residential properties and a further area of industrial land. The Site is bordered to the immediate north and south by further woodland.
- 1.2.3 The Birmingham Canal is circa 27m north of the Site at the closest point. It aligns northwest to southeast in the vicinity of the Site and enters a tunnel (Summit Tunnel) immediately below Roebuck Lane, existing circa 100m to the southeast. The Birmingham Level Canal is located circa 40m south of the Site and also aligns northwest to southeast in the vicinity of the facility (roughly parallel to the Birmingham Canal). It also enters a tunnel (Galton Tunnel), circa 40m from the Site.
- 1.2.4 Galton Bridge Railway Station is circa 93m west of the Site at the closest point, with the nearest railway line circa 44m north of the facility. A separate railway line is located circa 74m south of the Site (both lines serve Galton Bridge Railway Station).
- 1.2.5 As well as the residential properties on Great Arthur Street, other nearby domestic dwellings are located on Holly Lane, circa 143m south of the Site, Forest Close, circa 170m west, Fenton Street, circa 198m south southwest, Draycott Road, circa 200m south southwest and Waterfield Close, circa 223m west.
- 1.2.6 The nearest industrial premises are circa 78m northwest of the Site on the Summit Crescent Industrial Estate. Other industrial and commercial properties in close proximity are located circa 110m north of the Site off Roebuck Lane and circa 135m northeast of the facility off Bevan Way.

1.3 OPERATIONAL HOURS

- 1.3.1 The Site's operational hours are:
- Monday to Friday 0700 - 1700
 - Saturday 0700 - 1300
 - Sunday Closed.

2 NOISE SOURCES

- 2.1.1 The potential sources of noise at the Site are identified as:
- The delivery of waste in skip vehicles and bulk tippers;

- The unloading and tipping of waste into waste storage bays located inside the new building;
- Bulking up and transferring waste using mechanical grabs and loading shovels;
- Depositing waste into the trommel feed hopper, the separation and screening of materials in the trommel;
- Conveying the larger size fraction from the trommel exit to the picking station and the manual sorting and separation of materials by site operatives, with the deposit of recyclables into bays located beneath the picking station, via dedicated chutes;
- The loading of trommel fines into skips and bulk tippers for delivery to landfill;
- The loading of recyclables into bulk tippers for delivery to off-site customers;
- Crushing and screening of construction and demolition waste to produce secondary aggregates and soil.

2.1.2 Mobile plant comprises:

- Skip Vehicles (x3)
- Roll-on-Off hook-lift vehicles (x2)
- 360 Excavator (Wheeled Machine) (x2)
- Loading Shovel (x2).

2.1.3 The external yard and floors of the new building and existing shed comprise engineered concrete.

2.1.4 Sources, such as vehicle engines or the movement of vehicles over road surface irregularities, can produce not only displacement of the air molecules which are perceived as noise, but also displacement within the material components of the source or materials in contact with the source. These energy waves can travel through the ground in a similar manner to air pressure waves through the atmosphere and, dependent on the amount of energy being transmitted, be perceived as vibration. Vibration can produce three effects at levels above the threshold of perception:

- It may cause human annoyance;
- At extreme levels it may cause building damage, e.g. during construction activity; and
- It may be re-radiated as audible noise.

2.1.5 Therefore, the concrete surface should be maintained in good repair to avoid excessive vehicle or machinery noise from clanks or bangs or vibration when traversing the areas in skip vehicles and mobile plant.

2.1.6 All plant and equipment are to be checked before use to ensure operation is within normal

specifications prior to use. Vehicular plants are checked to ensure silencers are working normally, other plants are maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to ensure proper use.

3 NOISE AND VIBRATION CONTROL MEASURES

3.1 MAINTENANCE OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

3.1.1 Under the provisions of the Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence, the Operator is required to make proper arrangements for the servicing and maintenance of vehicles. A1 Sandwell Skips Limited has their own in-house maintenance team who provide a structured programme of maintenance for all lorries, mobile plant and equipment. This includes six weekly safety checks, annual plating and any repairs.

3.1.2 All process plant, machinery and equipment shall be commissioned, operated and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations and shall be fully documented and recorded.

3.1.3 Maintenance on plant, machinery and equipment is carried out to prevent problems arising, to put faults right, and to ensure equipment is working effectively in accordance with the manufacturers or supplier's manual(s) that came with the plant and equipment. The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) require work equipment and plant to be maintained so it remains safe and the maintenance operation carried out safely.

3.2 PERIMETER FENCING

3.2.1 The perimeter fencing comprises solid concrete panel fence between 3.6m and 4.5m high. The fencing is a continuous 4.5m high along the southeast boundary, adjacent to the A4252 Telford Way. This provides an additional acoustic barrier to the rear of the new waste storage and processing building, thereby minimise any noise breakout towards the nearest residential properties beyond the A4252 Telford Way.

3.2.2 The concrete panel fencing reduces the impact of operational noise and reduces offsite noise, including from key plant and equipment such as the trommel and picking station conveyors. If crushing and screening plant are located on site, they will be positioned immediately adjacent to the fencing to maximise the effectiveness of the sound reduction.

3.3 WASTE STORAGE BUILDING

3.3.1 The new waste storage building will be located so that the open side of the structure is positioned facing Summit Crescent Industrial Estate, with fully enclosed building sides positioned towards the nearest residential properties, which are to the east and south. The storage and processing of waste inside the building will improve acoustic attenuation at the Site.

3.4 OPERATIONAL HOURS

3.4.1 The Site's operational hours are:

- Monday to Friday 0700 - 1700
- Saturday 0700 - 1300
- Sunday Closed.

3.4.2 The restriction on the hours of operation prevents any potential noise impact from the Site during the more sensitive hours of the night or beyond a normal working day. Potential Saturday working from 07.00 to 13.00 is mainly maintenance.

3.5 TRAINING

3.5.1 All A1 Sandwell Skips Ltd staff receive training on environmental awareness appropriate to their job role. Operators of key plant and equipment are trained to understand and minimise the extent of the acoustic impact of those activities. In summary this means staff are instructed to:

- Ensure all activities are carried out in designated areas;
- Ensure all plant and equipment are operated in accordance with manufacturer's instructions;
- Ensure any plant demonstrating a malfunction or producing unusual noise is reported to the Site Manager and Technically Competent Person;
- Understand the importance of operating key plant and equipment, and undertaking activities only during the hours permitted;
- Start-up plant and vehicles sequentially rather than together;
- Avoid unnecessary revving of engines and switch off equipment when not required;
- Minimise drop heights of materials. Minimising drop heights and conducting 'toolbox talks' with all plant operators on site helps to ensure that all materials are placed rather than dropped, which can have a significant impact on overall noise levels off site;
- Ensure the plant and vehicles are operated with noise control hoods closed
- Understand the complaints procedure and the need for good community liaison in the event of a complaint.
- Ensure that staff cooperate with any investigation into a complaint;
- Understand the need for keeping appropriate records;

4 COMPLAINTS

4.1 LOGGING OF COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATION

4.1.1 Any complaints about noise will be reported to the Site Manager, who in turn will notify the company Director and Technically Competent Person.

4.1.2 The following actions will be taken on receipt of an external complaint:

- The responsible person receiving the complaint at the Site will immediately record the key details, initiating the investigation process. Details will be entered on the Complaint Report Form (see Table 1). The form sets out the key information that should be recorded at this time in order to facilitate further suitable investigation.
- The Site Manager will be informed of the complaint as soon as possible, including the location, time and date of the complaint being lodged.
- The Site Manager or Technically Competent Person will visit the complaint location as soon as possible, with the aim of undertaking monitoring within 2 hours if this is possible within the working day. The Site Manager or Technically Competent Person will subjectively determine the presence or absence of the cause of the complaint. Opportunities to meet the complainant to discuss the matter directly will be pursued, wherever possible.
- If the cause of complaint is present, the key 'FIDOR' criteria will be assessed at the complaint location, as follows:
 - Frequency – is the cause of the complaint, intermittent or persistent; is there a history of complaints at this location?
 - Intensity – is the cause of complaint faint, moderate, strong, or very strong?
 - Duration – how long is the cause of complaint present at this location?
 - Offensiveness – provide a description of the cause of complaint; is it high, moderate, or low offensiveness?
 - Receptor sensitivity – is the cause of complaint present at a remote or highly sensitive location; is it localised or widespread?

4.1.3 The Site Manager or Technically Competent Person will subsequently undertake the following further assessment process:

- Review of the operations at the Site prior to and at the time of the complaint.
- Review of the environmental control systems prior to and at the time of the complaint.
- Review of the previous complaint history at the location identified.

4.1.4 Where a significant complaint is substantiated by the Site Manager or Technically Competent Person, the Operator will contact the Environment Agency to discuss the incident as soon as possible following receipt of the complaint details, allowing sufficient time for the above investigation to be completed, and within a maximum target response period of 24 hours from complaint receipt. If the necessary contact details are available and direct feedback has been requested the Operator will also contact the complainant directly to discuss the issue, the findings of the subsequent investigation, and any actions arising.

4.1.5 Once actions have been completed the Site Manager or Technically Competent Person will visit the complaint location to ensure that the cause of complaint has subsided.

4.2 ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY

4.2.1 A1 Sandwell Skips Limited operates an open-door policy and neighbours and members of the public are welcome to contact the Site to discuss any issues with the site management team, including any incidents of noise. Prior arrangement will be made with site personnel, where possible, for any site visit that may be required.

4.2.2 Site contact details and phone number are shown on the company website. Direct feedback to site is encouraged at all times in relation to any perceived issues associated with operational activities or noise emissions.

4.3 MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY

4.3.1 The Site Manager is responsible for managing the complaints process at the Site and ensuring that any mitigation measures required are suitably implemented.

4.3.2 In the absence of the Site Manager due to sickness or annual leave, the company Director will assume responsibility.

4.3.3 The Site Manager or company Director will notify the Technically Competent Person and seek any support required.

Table 1: Complaint Form

Who made the complaint?	
Name:	
Address:	
Phone No:	
Date and time they made the complaint	
What caused it?	
Was anyone else aware of this? If so, who?	
What was the source of the problem, what went wrong? If source is unknown contact a suitably qualified person to investigate.	

What have you done to make sure it won't happen again?	
Was there any significant pollution – for example oil entering a surface water drain?	
<p>If there was then you must notify the Environment Agency on 03708 506 506 (open 24hours/day)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Have you done so?</p> <p>You must also notify the Environment Agency via email or letter.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes/No/not applicable</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Time:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Date:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Environment Agency Incident number:</p>
Please print name and sign:	

5 REVIEW AND AUDIT

5.1.1 Noise control measures will be reviewed through internal audits. The audits will review:

- Weekly records of inspection;
- Spot checks on the higher risk sources of noise to check monitoring and maintenance procedures are being carried out in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations;
- Checks to ensure that any corrective or preventive actions have been resolved in an efficient and timely manner;
- Ensure staff understand basic noise awareness.