

An application to vary environmental permit number EPR/WE9072AB for the inert and excavation waste transfer station operated by Tarmac Trading Limited at Halecombe Quarry, Frome

Non-Technical Summary

- 1.1** MJCA is commissioned by Tarmac Trading Limited (Tarmac) to prepare an application to vary Environmental Permit number EPR/WE9072AB (the permit) for the inert and excavation waste treatment facility operated by Tarmac at Halecombe Recycling, Halecombe Quarry, Limekiln Lane, Frome, BA11 3RD (the site). The site is centred approximately at National Grid Reference (NGR) ST 70134 47309.
- 1.2** The proposed activities will be consistent generally 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 Following the completion of the Environment Agency (EA) Consultation Number 25 on SRPs, SR2009No6 was withdrawn by the EA on 18 December 2024 and consolidated into SRP SR2022No1 treatment of waste to produce soil, soil substitutes and aggregate.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 Standard Rules specified in SR2022No1 due to the presence of 'Watercourse – Tertiary River' within 10m of the site, it is necessary to apply to vary the permit to a bespoke permit.
- 1.3** As it is necessary to vary the permit to a bespoke permit, Tarmac are also using this variation application as an opportunity to add a waste type which has been added by the EA to SR2022No1 to align the list of wastes with the list specified in SR2022No1 and to extend the permit boundary. The proposed changes to the permit the subject of this variation application are:
 - To add List of Waste (LoW) code 17 09 04 mixed construction and demolition wastes (mixtures of soil, bricks, stones and concrete only).
 - To extend the permit boundary to cover an area of approximately 4.1 ha.
- 1.4** Consistent with the currently permitted activities, 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.
- 1.5** 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, Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar Sites, Marine Conservation Zones, National Nature Reserves (NNRs) or Local Nature Reserves (LNR) within 2km of the site. Mendip Woodlands which is classified as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is located approximately 680m south of the site. Edford Woods and Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Asham Wood (SSSI) are located approximately 1.2km north west and 680m south of the site respectively. The site is not located in a groundwater Source Protection Zone (SPZ) and is not located in an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Halecombe Brook (watercourse – Tertiary River) located within 10m of the site flows from the west southwest to the east northeast and it is understood it is culverted to run beneath the site emerging from a culvert to the east northeast of the site outside the permit boundary.

1.7 There are no residential properties within 250m of the permit boundary, the closest being Knapp Hill Farm and a Traveller's camp both of which are approximately 375m away from the site. There are four Category II Listed Buildings within 500m of the site with the closest located approximately 50m south west of the site and used by Tarmac as offices in relation to Halecombe Quarry.

1.8 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 negligible, very low or 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.

1.9 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.

1.10 As there are no receptors that are sensitive to noise within 250m of the site and based on the absence of noise complaints in respect of the current activities at the site since operations commenced in 2023, and as there are no proposals to change the current activities, it is considered unlikely that the activities will have a significant adverse environmental impact in respect of noise and therefore a quantitative noise impact assessment and noise management plan is not required.

1.11 Consistent with Condition 1.1.1 of the permit, the site will continue to be managed in accordance with an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) using sufficient competent persons and resources.