Non-Technical Summary

The transfer station currently operates as a waste operation where waste is treated to produce recyclable fractions and solid recovered fuel (SRF) for co-incineration in UK cement kilns.

The operator proposes to dry the SRF with the aim of reducing moisture content to produce a product with higher calorific value. This will render the activity a listed activity according to the EP regulations as 'recovery of non-hazardous waste exceeding 75 tonnes per day: pre-treatment of waste for incineration or co-incineration'. This application is to upgrade the operation to a waste installation to allow drying of SRF.

It is not proposed to alter the list of permitted waste types. It is proposed to increase throughput from 120,000 tonnes to 150,000 tonnes per annum. Treatment methods will be as per the existing manual and mechanical treatment plus drying and pelletising SRF.

It is also proposed to extend the permitted area to include the former ELV building for waste treatment activities, shown on Drawing No 11575/10D. This building was formerly used for vehicle breaking by Frank Owen Commercial Vehicles under permit WML54088. This operation has ceased, the building has been cleared of vehicle parts and a permit surrender application has been submitted to the EA and is under determination with the EPR reference EPR/VP3791CU/S005. The ELV building is hereafter referred to as the pelletising building.

Drying of SRF will be undertaken in the transfer station, after processing, using drying belts.. Some screened waste will be transported to the pelletising building to be dried using a drying belt and then formed into pellets. Pelletised SRF will be stored in purpose built silos attached to the rear of the pelletising building. A drying floor has been installed in the biomass boiler building. This will be used to dry pre-processed SRF imported from the sister site at Thornton, Fleetwood. The dried SRF, both loose and pelletised, will be dispatched for recovery in cement kilns in the UK.

Emissions from the three buildings will be controlled through containment followed by dispersion to atmosphere. The transfer station and pelletising building are each being fitted with a 20 m stack to aid dispersion. The stack height and air extraction rate has been determined through atmospheric dispersion modelling. Emissions from the drying floor will be ducted across to the pelletising building stack via underground pipework.
Dust filters are also being fitted to both of the processing buildings in accordance with BAT.

The site benefits from a comprehensive and sophisticated fire detection and extinguishing system which consists of infra-red cameras which constantly scan the building and feeds information to a software package which activates a water cannon on detection of hot spots. On detection of a hot spot above a set temperature an alarm sounds so that it can be investigated. If the temperature rises further, a water cannon is activated. The cannons are skid mounted within the roof space of the building and can

move around to be directly above the hotspot. This system is installed in both the transfer station and pelletising buildings.

A fire detection and water mist suppression system is to be installed in the biomass boiler building to cover the drying floor and wood storage areas. A fire detection and foam suppression system is to be installed in the proposed storage silos.

There are two biomass boilers situated inside a boiler house within the biomass boiler building. These provide heat for the drying process. The boilers are fuelled with virgin woodchip, not waste and therefore not subject to the Environmental Permitting Regulations.

The risks from the proposed changes have been assessed and mitigation and control has been proposed to reduce the risks to an acceptable level. The site operates according to an Environmental Management System which has been updated to include the required measures.