

Witcham Meadlands Landfill Site

784-B070447

Non-Technical Summary

Environmental Permit Variation Application

Mick George Limited

February 2026

Document prepared on behalf of Tetra Tech Limited

Registered in England number: 01959704



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Document:	Non-Technical Summary
Document name:	
Project:	Witcham Meadlands Landfill Site
Client:	Mick George Limited
Project number:	784-B070447
File origin:	\\lds-dc-vm-101\Data\Projects\784-B070447_Mepal_SNRHW_2024\60_ Output\61_WIP\Non-Technical Summary v2.docx

Revision:	1	Prepared by:	Gemma Allan
Date:	September 2025	Checked by:	
Status:	Draft	Approved by:	Michael Jones
Description of revision:			

Revision:	2	Prepared by:	Michael Jones
Date:	February 2026	Checked by:	
Status:	Draft	Approved by:	Michael Jones
Description of revision:	Updated to allow for DMP		

Revision:		Prepared by:	
Date:		Checked by:	
Status:		Approved by:	
Description of revision:			

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Application Requirements

- 1.1.1 This Environmental Permit Variation Application has been prepared by Tetra Tech on behalf of the Operator, Mick George Limited (Mick George), in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 as amended. It is a requirement of these Regulations that any application is accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary of the submitted documentation.
- 1.1.2 The application relates to Mick George's site at Mepal Landfill Site (formerly Witcham Meadlands Quarry), located in the Block Fen area of Mepal, at National Grid Reference TL 4400 8396 as shown on Drawing Number MGL/B070447/PER/01A.
- 1.1.3 The Witcham Meadlands / Mepal Landfill site is currently regulated under a bespoke Environmental Permit (EPR/LP3996ND) to allow the importation of non-hazardous waste and stable non-reactive hazardous wastes including gypsum and asbestos within an engineered cell (Phase 9). The Environmental Permit also allowed for the importation of inert waste within separate areas to the engineered cell (Phases 1-8).
- 1.1.4 Mick George now seeks to vary the Environmental Permit for the Witcham Meadlands / Mepal Landfill Site to apply a number of changes to the environmental permit which are summarised in Section 2 of this report.

2.0 Non-Technical Summary

2.1 Permit Application

- 2.1.1 This Environmental Permit Variation Application is submitted to the Environment Agency by the operator, Mick George, under the requirements of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations as amended in 2016. It is a requirement of these Regulations that any application is accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary of the submitted documentation.
- 2.1.2 Mepal Landfill Site (formerly Witcham Meadlands Quarry) is located in the Block Fen area of Mepal, Witcham, Mepal, CB6 2AY. The site is approximately 5km to the southeast of Chatteris in Cambridgeshire, at approximate National Grid Reference TL 4400 8396. The site location and permit boundary are shown on Drawing Number MGL/B070447/PER/01A.
- 2.1.3 The site is accessed via Block Fen Drove from the A142 and has good access to the connecting highways. Since 2000, mineral extraction activities have been undertaken at the original site. Prior to this period the land was used for agricultural purposes.
- 2.1.4 The Witcham Meadlands / Mepal Landfill site is currently regulated under a bespoke Environmental Permit (EPR/LP3996ND) to allow the importation of non-hazardous waste and stable non-reactive hazardous wastes including gypsum and asbestos within an engineered cell (Phase 9). The Environmental Permit also allowed for the importation of inert waste within separate areas to the engineered cell (Phases 1-8).
- 2.1.5 Mick George now seeks to vary the Environmental Permit for the Witcham Meadlands Landfill Site to apply the following changes:-
- Change the annual throughput to the following:-

Table 1: Proposed Changes to Annual Throughput

Category	Current Limit Tonnes/Year	Proposed Limit Tonnes/Year
Non-hazardous / inert waste (Phase 9 only)	50,000	200,000
Stable Non-Reactive Hazardous Waste (Phase 9 only)	200,000 including a maximum of 20,000 tonnes of gypsum waste	200,000 including a maximum of 30,000 tonnes of gypsum waste
Asbestos waste and construction material containing asbestos (Phase 9 only)		
Gypsum waste (Phase 9 only)		
Inert Waste	0	0

- Update the location of the leachate monitoring points in the current Phase 9 area as they are not where the original permit application said they would be. This has

also been raised by the local area officer in a Compliance Assessment Report (CAR Form) and Mick George have been advised to vary the environmental permit to ensure that the correct locations are referenced. As shown on Drawing Number MGL/B070447/LOC/01.

- Extend Phase 9 southwards as shown on Drawing Numbers MGL/B070447/LOC/01 and MGL/B070447/LOC/02 and include a new restoration drawing M34 7 24 03 Restoration Plan.
- Amend the sulphate compliance levels that are currently set in Table S3.3 of the environmental permit as shown in the HRA.
- Allow the importation of Air Pollution Control (APC) wastes into Phase 9. It is proposed that the APC waste would be accepted under the following waste codes which are already listed in the Environmental Permit.

Table 2: Proposed Waste Codes for APC Waste

EWC Code	Description
10 01 16*	Fly ash from co-incineration containing hazardous substances
10 01 18*	Wastes from gas cleaning containing dangerous substances
10 01 04*	Oil fly ash and boiler dust
10 01 13*	Fly ash from emulsified hydrocarbons used as fuel
19 01 07*	Solid wastes from gas treatment
19 01 15*	Boiler dust containing hazardous substances
19 01 17*	Pyrolysis wastes containing hazardous substances

- Add the following waste codes to the environmental permit:-

Table 3: Additional Waste Codes

EWC Code	Description
19 13 04	Sludges from soil remediation other than those mentioned in 19 13 03
19 12 11*	Other wastes (including mixtures of materials) from mechanical treatment of waste containing hazardous substances ¹
19 13 03*	Sludges from soil remediation containing hazardous substances ¹
12 01 16*	Waste blasting material containing hazardous substances
17 02 04*	Glass, plastic and wood containing or contaminated with hazardous substances
17 04 09*	Metal waste contaminated with hazardous substances
15 01 11*	Metallic packaging containing a hazardous solid porous matrix (for example asbestos), including empty pressure containers

Note 1 Wastes codes for the asbestos list

2.1.6 Pre-application discussions have been held with the Environment Agency in order to confirm the scope of the application. A copy of the Environment Agency's pre-application advice is provided as Appendix B of this application.

2.1.7 This application is accompanied by all relevant documentation, as required by the aforementioned Regulations, and in the format set out in the Environment Agency guidance documents. In summary, these documents comprise:-

- Application Forms A, C2, C3 and F1;
- Pre Application discussions;
- Operating Techniques;
- Environmental Setting and Installation Design;
- Environmental Risk Assessment;
- Stability Risk Assessment;
- Hydrogeological Risk Assessment;
- Landfill Gas Risk Assessment;
- Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan;
- Financial Provision;
- Dust Management Plan; and
- Updated Planning Permission.

2.1.8 Specific details of the operations at the site are provided in the Operating Techniques (Appendix C), which describes both the operational techniques and management procedures that will be carried out as a result of the proposed changes. In summary, this document provides details of:-

- Waste types and waste acceptance criteria;
- Site records;
- Emissions control;
- Incidents and non-conformance procedures;
- Accident management; and
- Emergency procedures.

- 2.1.9 An Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) (Appendix D) has been prepared to consider the potential impact of the proposed changes. The ERA is concerned with the nature and extent of any linkages between the source of any environmental hazards and the receptors which may be susceptible to harm; such linkages being termed pathways. Where potential for harm is identified, the assessment identifies the management techniques which will be utilised to mitigate such impacts.
- 2.1.10 The Environmental Setting and Installation Design (Appendix E) has been prepared to provide a conceptual site model (CSM) for the site and identify the potential risks to the environmental from the proposed changes. The CSM will be used as the basis for the risk assessments that are provided with this application.
- 2.1.11 The Stability Risk Assessment (Appendix F) documents the structural and physical ability of the facility as a result of the proposed changes.
- 2.1.12 The Hydrogeological Risk Assessment (Appendix G) provides the geological and hydrogeological setting of the site allowing the development of a conceptual model to determine the risk that the proposed changes will pose to underlying groundwater.
- 2.1.13 The Landfill Gas Risk Assessment (Appendix H) provides an assessment of the potential landfill gas generation arising from the proposed changes.
- 2.1.14 The Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (Appendix J) has been prepared to detail the pre-operational, operational and post-operational monitoring requirements associated with the site.
- 2.1.15 There are no proposed changes to the approved Closure and Aftercare Plan as a result of this variation. As such, a Closure and Aftercare Plan has not been produced in support of this application in accordance with the guidance notes of the Part C4 application form which states the following:-
- “You do not need to resend any information from your original permit application if it is not affected by your proposed changes.”*
- 2.1.16 A revised Financial Provision document (Appendix K) has been prepared and shows all associated costs of environmental monitoring, restoration, monitoring, reports, site reports and security.
- 2.1.17 A Dust Management Plan (Appendix L) has been produced at the request of the EA.
- 2.1.18 Appendix M gives the update Planning Permission for the infilling of the site.