

Non-Technical Summary



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1 Introduction

Cheshire West Recycling Limited (CWR) is a company wholly owned by Cheshire West and Chester Council. CWR provides household, commercial and industrial waste management, recycling and fleet maintenance services across the borough.

The company employs over 260 staff and delivers more than 440,000 household refuse, recycling, food and garden waste collections each week using a fleet of approximately 70 frontline collection vehicles fuelled with blended Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO).

CWR operates the Chester Waste Transfer Station under Bespoke Environmental Permit EPR/JB3005CJ for an A11 Household, Commercial and Industrial Waste Transfer Station (HCIWTS) under Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.

In addition, the site currently benefits from the following registered waste exemptions (registration WEX362467):

- S1: Storing waste in secure containers
- S2 Storing waste in a secure place

CWR is applying for a substantial variation to Bespoke Environmental Permit EPR/JB3005CJ. The variation seeks to incorporate the activities currently undertaken under the site's registered S1 and S2 waste exemptions into the Environmental Permit, authorise the associated European Waste Catalogue (EWC) waste codes, increase the permitted annual throughput from 55,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) to 120,000 tpa, and add additional waste codes to support the proposed operations.

CWR is also seeking to extend the permitted site boundary to incorporate the areas currently operating under the registered waste exemptions. CWR has been working with the Environment Agency (EA) to implement a Regulatory Easement pending determination of the substantial variation application (refer to Appendix 19 – Regulatory Easement Request).

Storage Capacity

As part of the substantial variation application, CWR is seeking to increase the maximum waste storage capacity from the current permitted limit of **1,789 m³** to **6,014 m³**.

The proposed increase in storage capacity does not represent a change in the nature of the permitted activities. Instead, it reflects the incorporation of areas and activities currently operated under the site's registered S1 and S2 exemptions into the permitted facility.

Around **2,000 m³** of the proposed storage capacity relates to the five existing storage bays currently utilised under the S1 and S2 exemptions. These areas are already operational and will become part of the permitted facility following determination of this variation.

The remaining increase in storage capacity allows for the inclusion of:

- dedicated hazardous waste reception, transfer and storage area for wastes currently managed under the exemptions.
- the temporary storage of skips, roll-on/roll-off containers and enclosed containers awaiting transfer to appropriately permitted recovery or disposal facilities.
- additional storage associated with the revised site layout, enabling improved segregation of waste streams, safer stockpile management, improved fire breaks and enhanced operational efficiency.

Although the overall storage capacity will increase, waste acceptance procedures, storage duration, inspection regimes, fire prevention measures, drainage controls and pollution prevention measures will continue to operate in accordance with the Environmental Management System (EMS), Fire Prevention Plan (FPP) and Environmental Permit.

The increase in storage capacity should not be interpreted as a corresponding increase in the quantity of waste routinely held on site for extended periods. It primarily reflects the incorporation of existing exempt storage areas into the permitted facility together with improved segregation of waste streams, enhanced operational resilience and compliance with current fire prevention requirements. Waste residence time will continue to be tightly controlled through the site's EMS and Fire Prevention Plan.

The proposed variation does not alter the principal purpose of the facility as a waste transfer station; waste will continue to be received, inspected, segregated, bulked where appropriate and transferred to suitably authorised recovery or disposal facilities.

2 Site Location

The Canalside Operations Hub is located at Dock Yard Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, CH65 4EF (National Grid Reference SJ4100476867), as shown in Appendix 10 – Proposed Permitted Site Boundary. The facility operates between 06:00 and 22:00, seven days per week, on a two-shift system (06:00–14:00 and 14:00–22:00).

2.1 Sensitive Receptors

A pre-application enquiry was submitted to the Environment Agency to identify environmentally sensitive receptors surrounding the Site. The Environment Agency's Nature Conservation Screening Response and supporting screening report are included in Appendix 7.

Desktop assessments were undertaken using DEFRA MAGIC Map together with other publicly available datasets to identify statutory and non-statutory environmental receptors.

The nearest statutory designated sites are the Mersey Estuary Ramsar Site, Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), located approximately 148 metres north of the Site boundary. The Environment Agency's pre-application screening also identified a protected fish migratory route within 2.5 km of the Site.

The nearest Local Nature Reserves comprise Whitby Park (approximately 1.65 km south), Rivacre Valley (approximately 2.45 km west) and Stanney Wood (just over 2.5 km south).

A Scheduled Monument is located approximately 1.68 km north-east of the Site together with a number of Grade II listed buildings within a 2.5 km radius.

The surrounding area supports a range of protected habitats and species, including designated bird interest associated with the Mersey Estuary and protected marine species identified within the Environment Agency screening response. These receptors have been considered within the environmental risk assessments supporting this application.

The Site is located within an area of medium groundwater vulnerability. Nearby water features include the Shropshire Union Canal, River Gow and Mill Brook. These receptors have been considered in the Site Condition Report, Environmental Risk Assessment and Drainage Assessment.

The Site is located within an established industrial area and is well served by existing transport infrastructure, including the M53 motorway and the Warrington–Birkenhead railway line.

The proposed variation has been supported by a Habitats Assessment, Dust and Emissions Management Plan, Odour Management Plan and Environmental Risk Assessment, which collectively demonstrate that the proposed activities can be undertaken without giving rise to unacceptable impacts on identified sensitive receptors when the proposed engineering and operational controls are implemented.

2.1 Air Quality Management Area

Using DEFRA's [United Kingdom \(UK\) Air Information Resource](#), the site is located in an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for local authorities for oxide of nitrogen known as Nitrogen Dioxide (NO(NO₂)) and for Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂). The nearest location for NO(NO₂) is located north of the site, under Liverpool City Council, refer to 'Appendix 4b – AQMA', Figure 2. The nearest location for SO₂ is south, southeast from the site boundary, this falls under Cheshire West and Chester Council, refer to 'Appendix 4b – AQMA', Figure 1.

2.2 Flood Risk

The Site is located within Flood Zone 1 and is therefore considered to have a low probability of flooding from rivers or the sea. A review of the Government's flood risk mapping confirms that the Site is not located within a reservoir inundation area and is not currently identified as being at significant risk of flooding (refer to Appendix 4c – Flood Risk Maps).

2.3 Boreholes and Nitrate Vulnerable Zone

The site is not in a drinking water protected area, water safeguard zone for surface or groundwater according to DEFRA Magic Map.

The nearest confidential borehole to the site according to the [British Geological Survey](#) (BGS) website is located 284m east of the site boundary, refer to 'Appendix 4d – Boreholes and NVZ', Figure 1.

A check of the EA [Drinking Water Safeguard Zones and NVZs](#) identified a Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) surface water S630 – Stanney Mill Brook NVZ located to the south east of the site boundary approximately 797m.

2.4 Source Protection Zone

The nearest Special Protection Zone (SPZ) is located to the west of the site approximately 5.36km, which is an SPZ 3, refer to 'Appendix 4e – Source Protection Zone'.

2.5 Nearest Receptors

The nearest human receptors, including residential, doctors, medical centres, schools, and parks are shown in 'Appendix 4f – Receptors' the details for the locations are listed in Table 1 of Appendix 4f.

The environmental setting of the Site has been considered throughout the permit variation process. The supporting environmental risk assessments, including the Habitats Assessment, Dust and Emissions Management Plan, Odour Management Plan and Site Condition Report, demonstrate that the proposed variation can be operated without giving rise to unacceptable impacts on identified environmental receptors, subject to the engineering and operational controls described within the application.

3 Proposed Activities and Processes

The Site is applying for a substantial variation to its existing bespoke Environmental Permit to continue operating as a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) whilst incorporating a dedicated Hazardous Waste Transfer Station within the permitted site boundary. The variation also seeks to increase the permitted annual waste throughput from 55,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) to 120,000 tpa.

To facilitate these activities, the permitted site boundary will be extended to incorporate areas currently operating under registered waste exemptions together with additional storage and operational areas. These changes will improve waste segregation, operational efficiency, environmental protection and fire prevention, while supporting the increased throughput.

The variation also seeks to increase the maximum permitted waste storage capacity from 1,789 m³ to 6,014 m³. This reflects the incorporation of five existing storage bays currently operating under the S1 and S2 waste exemptions (approximately 2,000 m³), together with the introduction of a dedicated Hazardous Waste Transfer Station and additional storage for skips, roll-on/roll-off containers and enclosed containers awaiting transfer to appropriately permitted recovery or disposal facilities. The increase in storage capacity supports improved segregation of waste streams and operational resilience and does not represent a fundamental change to the nature of the Site's operations.

The Site Condition Report (SCR) has been reviewed and updated to reflect the proposed variation and the extension of the permitted site boundary (refer to Section 4 and Appendix 3).

Following the variation, the Site will continue to operate as a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) for the receipt, sorting, separation, baling and transfer of non-hazardous recyclable materials. In addition, the Site will operate a dedicated Hazardous Waste Transfer Station for the receipt, inspection, temporary storage, segregation, bulking (where appropriate) and transfer of hazardous wastes received primarily from Cheshire West and Chester Council Household Waste Recycling Centres. Hazardous wastes will not be subject to physical treatment beyond those transfer activities permitted under the Environmental Permit.

The substantial variation also seeks to incorporate the relevant European Waste Catalogue (EWC) waste codes associated with activities currently undertaken under the site's registered exemptions into the bespoke Environmental Permit. These exemptions include:

- S1: storing waste in secure container
- S2: storing waste at a secure site
- T11: repairing or refurbishing Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)
- T15: treating waste aerosol cans.

Since the grant of the existing permit, CWR has assumed responsibility for operating seven Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) on behalf of Cheshire West and Chester Council. As part of these operations, selected waste streams collected at the HWRCs are transported to the Dock Yard Road facility for temporary storage, inspection, bulking and consolidation prior to transfer to appropriately permitted recovery or disposal facilities.

The proposed increase in annual throughput reflects the incorporation of existing exempt activities into the Environmental Permit together with the continued management of municipal waste streams received from the Council's HWRC network. The existing Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) activities will remain fundamentally unchanged. The proposed hazardous waste activity comprises the receipt, inspection, temporary storage, segregation, bulking and transfer of hazardous wastes only. No additional physical treatment of hazardous wastes is proposed under this variation.

The new site layout is shown in 'Appendix 11 – Site Layout'.

3.1 Site Activities

site activities are listed below in Table 1.

Activity	Waste Operation	Recovery / Disposal Codes	Operational Limits
Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)	Receipt, inspection, manual and mechanical sorting, separation, baling, crushing, compaction and temporary storage of non-hazardous municipal and commercial recyclable wastes prior to transfer to appropriately permitted recovery or disposal facilities.	R3, R4, R5, R13, D9	• Maximum annual throughput: 120,000 tonnes per annum. • Proposed maximum treatment rate: 150 tonnes per day of non-hazardous waste. • Waste stored for no longer than 3 years prior to recovery or 1 year prior to disposal.
Hazardous Waste Transfer Station	Receipt, inspection, acceptance, segregation, temporary storage, repackaging (where appropriate), bulking and transfer of hazardous wastes prior to transfer to appropriately permitted recovery or disposal facilities.	R13, D14, D15	• No physical treatment of hazardous waste. • Activities limited to receipt, inspection, segregation, temporary storage, repackaging (where appropriate) and transfer. • Waste stored for no longer than 3 years prior to recovery or 1 year prior to disposal.

The proposed variation will enable the Site to continue operating as a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) while introducing a dedicated Hazardous Waste Transfer Station within the extended permitted site boundary. The proposed increase in the maximum treatment rate for non-hazardous waste from 50 tonnes per day to 150 tonnes per day reflects the operational capability of the existing MRF and will reduce waste residence time, improve stockpile management and support the proposed increase in annual throughput. No additional treatment processes are proposed, and hazardous waste activities will remain limited to transfer operations only.

3.2 Waste Types Accepted

As part of the substantial variation, Cheshire West Recycling Ltd proposes to incorporate additional European Waste Catalogue (EWC) codes into the bespoke Environmental Permit. These waste codes reflect waste streams currently managed under the site's registered waste exemptions together with additional waste streams associated with the proposed Hazardous Waste Transfer Station.

The proposed EWC codes are identified in Appendix 16 – EWC Waste Codes and define the waste types that may be accepted, stored, transferred and, where applicable, treated within the limits of the Environmental Permit.

3.2.1 Food waste, green waste and street sweepings

The Site currently receives food waste and road sweepings from Cheshire West and Chester Council collections. As part of the proposed variation, garden waste will also be accepted under the Environmental Permit.

To improve environmental protection and operational efficiency, a purpose-built three-bay covered storage area will be provided for these waste streams. Each waste stream will be stored within its own dedicated bay, comprising:

- one bay for food waste.
- one bay for garden waste; and
- one bay for road sweepings.

The covered bays will be constructed on impermeable hardstanding with sealed drainage directed to the site's separator system. The covered design significantly reduces rainfall ingress, minimises leachate generation and assists in the control of odour, pests and contaminated surface water run-off.

Food waste will be stored on site for a maximum of 72 hours before being transferred to an appropriately permitted recovery facility. Garden waste and road sweepings will also be stored temporarily within their dedicated bays before onward transfer to suitably authorised recovery or disposal facilities.

The covered storage arrangement forms part of the site's pollution prevention strategy and supports compliance with the Environmental Management System (EMS), Odour Management Plan (OMP), Dust and Emissions Management Plan (DEMP) and Fire Prevention Plan (FPP).

[The Separation of Waste \(England\) Regulations 2025'](#)

The proposed covered storage area is shown on **Appendix 11 – Site Layout**.

An Odour Management Plan has been prepared specifically for these waste streams and details the inspection regime, housekeeping requirements, monitoring arrangements, complaint investigation procedures and corrective actions implemented by Cheshire West Recycling Ltd.



Figure 1 Proposed zip shelter for the temporary storage of food, garden waste and street sweepings

The three-bay Zip Shelter will provide covered, temporary storage for these waste streams. Each waste stream will be stored within a dedicated bay, comprising one bay for food waste, one bay for garden waste and one bay for road sweepings.

The Zip Shelter will be fitted with four-metre-high curtain doors to minimise rainfall ingress, reduce pest access, contain odour and minimise the potential for windblown litter. The shelter will be constructed on impermeable hardstanding with sealed drainage directed to the site's separator system.

Food waste and garden waste will be stored on site for a maximum of 72 hours before being transferred to an appropriately permitted recovery or treatment facility. Road sweepings will be stored temporarily within its dedicated bay prior to onward transfer to an appropriately permitted recovery or disposal facility.

The Zip Shelter will be located within the existing operational area currently used for these waste streams, as shown on Appendix 11 – Site Layout.

3.2.2 Paper and cardboard (Fibre)

The Site will store baled cardboard and loose fibre within the dedicated Fibre Storage Area identified on Appendix 11 – Site Layout, located on the western side of the Site.

Storage capacities have been determined in accordance with the revised Fire Prevention Plan and are supported by the increased permitted site area, improved stockpile segregation and enhanced operational controls.

The dedicated Fibre Storage Area has been incorporated into the revised site layout to improve waste segregation and operational efficiency. Separating fibre materials from the dry mixed recycling stream increases the physical separation between combustible materials and higher-risk waste streams, reducing the potential for fire spread.

The increased separation distances also improve:

- stockpile management.
- heat dissipation.
- access for plant and emergency services.
- routine inspections; and
- removal of high-risk contaminants, including lithium batteries, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and other electrical items.

The Fibre Storage Area will continue to be managed in accordance with the Site Environmental Management System (EMS), Fire Prevention Plan (FPP), Dust and Emissions Management Plan (DEMP), routine inspection programme and housekeeping procedures.

3.2.3 Hazardous Waste Streams

As part of the substantial variation, hazardous waste streams currently managed under the site's registered waste exemptions will be incorporated into the bespoke Environmental Permit and managed within the dedicated Hazardous Waste Transfer Station.

Hazardous wastes will be received, inspected, temporarily stored, segregated and transferred to appropriately permitted recovery or disposal facilities. Hazardous wastes will be stored in suitable containers on impermeable hardstanding within the designated hazardous waste storage area.

Table 2 summarises the principal hazardous waste streams to be incorporated into the Environmental Permit.

Waste	Waste classification	Maximum annual throughput unit/period	EWC code
Car Batteries - (batteries and accumulators included in 16 06 01*, 16 06 02*, or 16 06 03* and unsorted batteries and accumulators containing these batteries)	Hazardous	10 tonnes over six months	16 06 01* 16 06 02* 16 06 03*
Small (Domestic appliances) WEEE	Hazardous/non-hazardous	400m ³ over six months	16 02 11* 16 02 13* 16 02 14

Printer toner/cartridges	Non-hazardous	5,000 units over six months	08 03 18
oils	Hazardous	3,000 litres	13 01 13*
oils	Hazardous	3,000 litres	13 02 04*

The storage capacity for the site is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Storage capacity of the site

Description	Storage Calculation				
	Length (m)	Width (m)	Height (m)	Number	Total Volume m ³
Baler Reception Bay 1	12.5	3.5	3.5	1	153 m ³
Baler Reception Bay 2	14	11.5	3	1	483 m ³
Baler Reception Bay 3	16	10.5	3	1	504 m ³
Baler Reception Bay 4	9	7	3	1	189 m ³
Plastic Bale Storage Area 1	1.5	1.1	0.75	64 ² bales	67 m ³
Steel Bale Storage	1.5	1.1	0.75	68 ³ bales	60 m ³
Aluminium Bale Storage	1.5	1.1	0.75	94 ⁴ bales	89 m ³
Carboard Bales	1.5	1.1	0.75	94 bales	89m3
Food/Green Waste Storage				1	300

Description	Storage Calculation				
	Length (m)	Width (m)	Height (m)	Number	Total Volume m ³
Green Waste Storage	Zap shelter			1	300
Street Sweeping				1	300
WEEE Storage 5	Shipping containers/ Enclosed Skip	-	-	3	105 m ³ (35 m ³ each)
Scrap Metal Storage	Skip	-	-	3	105 m ³ (35 m ³ each)
Batteries	Enclosed Containers	1	1	10	10m ³
Aerosol cans	Drum or cage				0.003m ³ (3,000 cans)
Clean Waste wood	bay				400m ³
Demolition waste – rubble and discarded debri	Skip				1,180m ³ 500 tonnes
Persistent Organic Pollutant (POPs) Waste Quarantined				1	1000m ³
Fiber Bays				5	2000m ³

4.Site Condition Report

The Site Condition Report (SCR) has been updated to reflect the incorporation of the waste activities currently undertaken under the registered waste exemptions into the bespoke Environmental Permit.

The condition of the whole site was previously assessed as part of a variation application submitted by Kier Integrated Services Ltd to the Environment Agency in 2016 under Environmental Permit reference EPR/CB3408UQ. The updated SCR builds upon this previous assessment and has been revised to reflect the proposed substantial variation, including the extension of the permitted site boundary and the additional waste activities proposed under this application. Refer to Appendix 3 – Site Condition Report (Section 4).

5.Environmental Risks

An Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) has been undertaken in support of the substantial variation application and is included within Appendix 2 – Environmental Risk Assessment. The assessment considers the potential environmental risks associated with the operation of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and the proposed Hazardous Waste Transfer Station, together with the engineering and operational controls implemented to prevent pollution and protect human health and the environment.

The Site does not operate any process emission stacks or other point source emissions to air. The MRF comprises a conveyor system and CK baler used for the sorting and baling of recyclable materials. Potential fugitive emissions associated with waste handling, baling and vehicle movements, including dust, odour and litter, are managed through the implementation of the Environmental Management System (EMS), Dust and Emissions Management Plan (DEMP), Odour Management Plan (OMP), routine housekeeping and operational monitoring.

Foul drainage from the Site discharges to the public sewer under a Trade Effluent Discharge Consent issued by United Utilities (Reference NT55180030000601), granted on 2 June 2015 (refer to Appendix 9 – Trade Effluent Discharge Consent).

The Fire Prevention Plan has been reviewed and updated to reflect the proposed variation and revised site layout (refer to Section 9.1.1 and Appendix 7a – Fire Prevention Plan).

Food waste, garden waste and road sweepings will be stored within separate dedicated covered bays inside the proposed three-bay Zap Shelter. Food waste and garden waste will remain on site for a maximum of 72 hours before being transferred to an appropriately permitted recovery facility. The covered storage arrangement, impermeable hardstanding, sealed drainage and four-metre curtain doors minimise rainfall ingress, odour release, pest attraction and contaminated run-off. These engineering controls are supported by the operational procedures detailed within the Odour Management Plan.

4 Use of Materials

Table X – Fuel, Oil and Other Materials Stored on Site

The Site contains a designated vehicle refuelling and fuel storage area. All fuel and oil storage tanks are located on impermeable hardstanding and are provided with secondary containment (double bunding) to minimise the risk of pollution in the event of a leak or spill. The location of all fuel storage areas is shown on **Appendix 5 – Fire Prevention Plan (Drawing 003b-PL-CS-FPP V11)**.

Material	Storage Type	Maximum Quantity	Location / Pollution Control
Diesel	2 × double-bunded fuel tanks	40,000 litres	Designated fuel storage area on impermeable hardstanding
Diesel	1 × double-bunded fuel tank	14,000 litres	Designated fuel storage area on impermeable hardstanding
AdBlue	IBC	1,000 litres	Designated fuel storage area
Hydraulic oil	Double-bunded storage tank	1,355 litres	Workshop / maintenance area
Argosshield gas	Gas cylinders	2 cylinders	Stored within the workshop in accordance with the Fire Prevention Plan
Oxygen	Gas cylinders	2 cylinders	Stored within the workshop in accordance with the Fire Prevention Plan
Acetylene	Gas cylinders	2 cylinders	Stored within the workshop in accordance with the Fire Prevention Plan

Cleaning Chemicals

Virkon disinfectant is used for routine cleaning and disinfection of the food waste and garden waste storage areas. Usage is expected to increase following the installation of the dedicated covered storage bays.

Cleaning wash waters generated during these activities are contained on impermeable hardstanding and drain via the Site's sealed drainage system before discharge in accordance with the Site's approved drainage arrangements and Trade Effluent Discharge Consent. The use, storage and handling of Virkon will continue to be managed in accordance with the Site Environmental Management System (EMS) and relevant COSHH procedures.

5 Operating Techniques

All permitted wastes identified within Appendix 16 – EWC Waste Codes will be received, inspected, stored, transferred and, where applicable, treated on impermeable hardstanding served by a sealed drainage system designed in accordance with the relevant requirements of CIRIA C736 – Containment Systems for the Prevention of Pollution, or an equivalent approved standard.

Upon arrival, all waste vehicles are directed to the designated reception area where waste loads are subject to the site's waste acceptance and inspection procedures before being accepted into the facility. Following acceptance, wastes are transferred to the appropriate storage or processing area using suitable mobile plant.

The principal items of plant and equipment used on site comprise:

- Loading shovel
- Forklift truck
- Clamp truck
- Conveyor system
- CK baler

The conveyor system and CK baler are located within the enclosed Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) building where recyclable materials are manually and mechanically sorted before baling for onward transport to appropriately permitted recovery facilities.

Outside operational hours, the loading shovel, forklift truck and clamp truck are parked within the designated plant parking area located in front of the MRF building and maintain a minimum separation distance of 6 metres from combustible waste stockpiles in accordance with the Fire Prevention Plan. The conveyor system and CK baler remain permanently housed within the MRF building.

Processed baled fibre (paper and cardboard) is stored within the dedicated Fibre Storage Area identified on Appendix 11 – Site Layout. The revised site layout improves segregation between combustible materials and other waste streams, enhances access for inspections and emergency response, and supports compliance with the Fire Prevention Plan.

Food waste, garden waste and road sweepings are stored within separate dedicated bays inside the proposed three-bay Zap Shelter. The shelter is constructed over existing impermeable hardstanding served by a sealed drainage system.

The covered storage arrangement provides the following engineering controls:

- separate storage for each waste stream.
- protection from rainfall ingress.
- reduction of leachate generation.
- containment of odour.
- minimisation of pest attraction.
- reduction of windblown litter; and
- controlled collection of drainage through the site's sealed drainage system serving INT2.

Food waste and garden waste are stored on site for no longer than 72 hours before being transferred to an appropriately permitted recovery facility. Road sweepings are stored temporarily within their dedicated bay before onward transfer to appropriately authorised facilities.

All operational activities are undertaken in accordance with the Site Environmental Management System (EMS), Fire Prevention Plan (FPP), Dust and Emissions Management Plan (DEMP) and Odour Management Plan (OMP), ensuring that pollution risks are minimised and the relevant Environment Agency Appropriate Measures are implemented.

6 Key Technical Standards

The facility will comply with the technical standards issued by the EA in their guidance documents:

- [‘Guidance : Control and Monitor of emissions for your environmental permit’](#).

- [‘Non-hazardous and inert waste : appropriate measures for permitted facilities’](#).
- [‘Waste duty of care code of practice’](#).

7 Pollution Control Measures

A range of engineering and operational controls have been incorporated into the Site design and operational procedures to prevent or minimise the risk of pollution arising from permitted activities. These measures are supported by the Site Environmental Management System (EMS), Fire Prevention Plan (FPP), Dust and Emissions Management Plan (DEMP), Odour Management Plan (OMP) and routine inspection and maintenance programmes.

All permitted waste activities are undertaken on impermeable hardstanding served by a sealed drainage system designed in accordance with the relevant requirements of CIRIA C736 – Containment Systems for the Prevention of Pollution, or an equivalent approved standard. The drainage infrastructure, including interceptors and separators, is subject to routine inspection, maintenance and cleaning in accordance with the EMS.

7.1.1 Fire

The Fire Prevention Plan (FPP) has been reviewed and updated to support this substantial variation application (refer to Appendix 5 – Fire Prevention Plan). The FPP forms part of the Site Environmental Management System and details the fire prevention, detection and emergency response arrangements implemented across the Site.

The proposed variation does not increase the maximum design fire size. Consequently, the calculated firewater requirement remains 604,800 litres, based on the largest individual stockpile volume of 504 m³.

To further enhance fire resilience, an additional 4,000-litre fire water storage tank will be installed adjacent to the dedicated fibre storage area to supplement the existing firefighting infrastructure.

The principal fire prevention measures implemented on site include:

- strict control of waste acceptance procedures.
- compliance with maximum waste storage capacities.
- control of waste residence time.
- segregation of waste streams.
- maintenance of fire breaks and separation distances.
- routine inspections of waste stockpiles.
- removal of ignition sources.
- housekeeping and litter management.
- staff training and emergency response procedures.

Limiting both waste volumes and storage durations not only reduces the potential for self-heating and fire but also assists in reducing the generation of dust, odour and other fugitive emissions.

The Site is protected by a comprehensive security system comprising monitored CCTV, thermal imaging cameras and out-of-hours security surveillance operating 24 hours per day. Thermal monitoring enables early identification of abnormal temperature increases, allowing prompt intervention to reduce the likelihood of fire escalation.

Firefighting water supplies are provided by three on-site fire hydrants, comprising two external hydrants and one internal hydrant. The hydrants are subject to annual inspection and maintenance. The internal hydrant is capable of delivering approximately 1,100 litres per minute, providing additional flexibility for Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service during any emergency response.

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are not routinely accepted at the Site. All operational staff receive training to identify POP-containing wastes during waste acceptance and inspection activities. Where such wastes are identified, they are immediately segregated, quarantined within the designated quarantine area and transferred to an appropriately permitted facility for recovery or disposal in accordance with the Site Environmental Management System and Fire Prevention Plan.

7.1.2 Odour Management Plan

The Site will undertake daily inspections of the food waste, garden waste and road sweepings storage areas to ensure that waste is being managed in accordance with the Environmental Management System (EMS) and that no unacceptable odour emissions are generated.

Food waste, garden waste and road sweepings will be stored within separate dedicated bays inside the three-bay Zap Shelter, which is fitted with curtain doors and constructed on impermeable hardstanding served by a sealed drainage system. These engineering controls minimise rainfall ingress, reduce odour release, discourage pest attraction and prevent contaminated run-off from entering the environment.

Food waste and garden waste will be removed from the Site within a maximum storage period of 72 hours and transferred to an appropriately permitted recovery facility. Road sweepings will also be stored temporarily before onward transfer to an appropriately permitted facility.

Any spillages of food waste or garden waste will be cleaned immediately using the procedures detailed within the Site Environmental Management System. The storage bays will be routinely cleaned and disinfected using Virkon, with all cleaning wash waters directed to the site's sealed drainage system serving the food waste storage area.

An Odour Management Plan (OMP) has been developed as part of the Site Environmental Management System and details the inspection regime, monitoring arrangements, housekeeping standards, complaint investigation procedures and corrective actions implemented to minimise odour emissions (refer to Appendix 17 – Odour Management Plan).

7.1.3 Noise and Vibration Management

The Environment Agency Noise Advisory Tool (refer to Appendix 8 – Noise Advisory Tool V1.0) was completed as part of this substantial variation application. The outcome of the assessment indicated that a Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) **and** Noise Management Plan (NMP) were not required to support the application.

Notwithstanding this outcome, Cheshire West Recycling Ltd commissioned Nova Acoustics to undertake a detailed Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) to provide additional assurance that the proposed variation would not give rise to unacceptable noise impacts.

The assessment, dated 13 February 2026, concluded that the proposed activities are predicted to have a low noise impact during normal operating periods. A low likelihood of adverse impact, dependent upon context, was identified only between 06:00 and 07:00 on weekends. During all other operational periods, the assessment concluded that noise impacts would remain low, with no predicted exceedances of the relevant assessment criteria (refer to Appendix 20 – Noise Impact Assessment).

Following completion of the Noise Impact Assessment, Cheshire West Recycling Ltd commissioned Nova Acoustics to prepare a Noise Management Plan (NMP). The NMP, dated 13 February 2026, details the operational controls, monitoring arrangements, maintenance procedures, complaint investigation process and corrective actions that will be implemented to minimise noise emissions from the Site. The Noise Management Plan forms part of the Site Environmental Management System (EMS) (refer to Appendix 21 – Noise Management Plan).

The proposed variation does not introduce any significant new sources of operational noise. The principal noise-generating activities remain associated with the existing Materials Recovery Facility and normal vehicle movements, which will continue to be managed through the operational controls detailed within the Noise Management Plan.

7.1.4 Dust and Litter

A Dust and Emissions Management Plan (DEMP) has been prepared to support this substantial variation and forms part of the Site Environmental Management System (EMS) (refer to Appendix 26 – Dust and Emissions Management Plan V1).

Routine inspections are undertaken throughout each working day to identify any dust, litter or housekeeping issues arising from Site activities. Inspection findings are recorded and any corrective actions implemented promptly.

Dust is controlled through a combination of engineering and operational measures, including:

- operation on impermeable hardstanding.
- regular housekeeping and sweeping of operational areas.
- use of a mechanical road sweeper.
- damping down of surfaces using a hand-held hose or water suppression where required.
- prompt removal of spillages and accumulated waste.
- covered storage of food waste, garden waste and road sweepings within the dedicated Zap Shelter.
- storage of baled materials within designated storage areas; and
- routine maintenance of plant and equipment.

Litter is controlled through a range of operational measures, including:

- the use of enclosed skips, containers and sheeted vehicles where appropriate.
- perimeter fencing to minimise the escape of windblown litter.
- routine housekeeping throughout the Site.
- daily operational inspections; and
- weekly perimeter inspections to identify and recover any escaped litter.

Any litter identified during inspections will be collected and removed as soon as reasonably practicable.

The Dust and Emissions Management Plan detail the inspection regime, monitoring arrangements, housekeeping standards, staff responsibilities, complaint investigation procedures and corrective actions implemented to minimise dust and litter emissions from the Site.

The revised site layout, together with the dedicated fibre storage area and improved waste segregation, further assists in reducing the potential for dust generation and windblown litter by improving housekeeping, vehicle access and stockpile management.

7.1.5 Drainage and Surface Water Management

The Site is served by a sealed drainage system designed to minimise the risk of pollution to ground and surface waters. The drainage layout is shown in Appendix 14 – CS Drainage Plan 2024.

The drainage system incorporates three interceptors/separators, each serving specific operational areas of the Site:

- INT1 serves the vehicle wash area and the dedicated Hazardous Waste Transfer Station.
- INT2 serves the covered food waste, garden waste and road sweepings storage area, collecting wash waters and any leachate generated during temporary storage.
- The third separator serves the remaining operational drainage network in accordance with the approved drainage layout.

Foul drainage from the Site is gravity-fed before being pumped to the United Utilities public sewer network in accordance with the Site's Trade Effluent Discharge Consent.

All interceptors and separators are inspected, serviced and maintained as part of the Site Environmental Management System (EMS). Planned inspections and cleaning are undertaken **at least every six months** by a competent contractor, with maintenance records retained on Site. In addition, routine visual inspections of the drainage infrastructure are undertaken by Site personnel to confirm the drainage system remains fully operational and free from defects.

Further details of the drainage infrastructure, inspection regime and maintenance procedures are provided within Appendix 12c – Environmental Management System and Appendix 14 – CS Drainage Plan 2024.

7.1.6 Emissions and Environmental Controls

The proposed variation does not introduce any new point source emissions to land or air.

The Site does not operate any process stacks, chimneys or other point source emissions to atmosphere. Potential fugitive emissions associated with waste handling activities, including dust, odour, litter and noise, are managed through the Site Environmental Management System (EMS), Dust and Emissions Management Plan (DEMP), Odour Management Plan (OMP), Noise Management Plan (NMP) and routine operational inspections.

All operational activities are undertaken on impermeable hardstanding served by a sealed drainage system. Foul drainage is discharged to the United Utilities public sewer network under the existing Trade Effluent

Discharge Consent, with drainage infrastructure maintained in accordance with the Site Environmental Management System.

The Environmental Risk Assessment concludes that, with the proposed engineering and operational controls in place, the Site is not expected to give rise to unacceptable emissions or pollution of the environment.

8 Appropriate Measures

Cheshire West Recycling Ltd has assessed the proposed activities against the relevant Environment Agency Appropriate Measures guidance applicable to the Site. [non-hazardous and inert waste appropriate measures](#)

The Site will comply with the relevant Appropriate Measures for:

- Non-hazardous and inert waste.
- Hazardous Waste Transfer Stations.
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), where applicable.
- Waste Treatment Transfer Equipment (WTEE), where applicable; and
- Chemicals storage and handling associated with Site operations.

The engineering and operational controls described throughout this application, together with the Environmental Management System (EMS), Fire Prevention Plan (FPP), Dust and Emissions Management Plan (DEMP), Odour Management Plan (OMP), Noise Management Plan (NMP) and Site Operating Procedures, demonstrate how the Site will implement these Appropriate Measures.

All permitted wastes will be received, stored, processed or transferred on impermeable hardstanding served by a sealed drainage system designed in accordance with the relevant requirements of CIRIA C736 – Containment Systems for the Prevention of Pollution, or an equivalent approved standard. Waste acceptance, storage, inspection, housekeeping and pollution prevention measures are implemented through documented operational procedures and routine monitoring.

Where applicable to the activities undertaken at the Site, Cheshire West Recycling Ltd commits to complying with the relevant sections of the Environment Agency Appropriate Measures guidance for WEEE, WTEE and Chemicals.

9 Environmental Management System

Cheshire West Recycling Ltd (CWR) operates an Environmental Management System (EMS) certified to **ISO 14001:2015**, with certification issued on 11 September 2024 (refer to Appendix 12a – ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001 Certificates).

The EMS is a live management system that is routinely reviewed and updated to reflect operational changes, legislative requirements and continual improvement. Following determination of this substantial variation, the EMS will be updated to incorporate the revised permitted activities, including the Hazardous Waste Transfer Station, increased waste throughput and revised site layout.

Site operations are undertaken in accordance with the EMS, which provides the framework for managing environmental risks and ensuring compliance with the Environmental Permit. The EMS includes, but is not limited to:

- Environmental Risk Assessment.
- maintenance and inspection programmes.
- training and competence procedures.
- operational procedures.
- emergency response and contingency plans.
- accident prevention procedures.
- complaint investigation procedures.
- monitoring and inspection programmes; and
- continual improvement processes.

Routine housekeeping forms an integral part of the EMS. Daily site inspections are undertaken to identify any issues relating to dust, mud, litter, spillages, housekeeping or waste management. Where required, corrective actions are implemented immediately, including litter picking, road sweeping, yard cleaning and plant cleaning.

Routine monitoring and inspections ensure that infrastructure, drainage systems, pollution prevention measures and waste management activities continue to operate in accordance with the Environmental Permit, the EMS and the Site's management plans, preventing pollution and protecting the environment.

CWR participates in the Energy & Utility Skills Competence Management System (CMS) (refer to Appendix 13a – LRQA CMS Certificate). The Health, Safety, Environment and Quality (HSEQ) Manager holds the appropriate WAMITAB Certificate of Technical Competence together with continued competence certification (refer to Appendices 13b and 13c, and Application Form C2 – Section 3b.2).

Staff competence is fundamental to pollution prevention. All employees receive induction training together with ongoing refresher training appropriate to their roles, including waste acceptance, pollution prevention, fire prevention, emergency response, environmental awareness and incident reporting.

To further minimise environmental impacts, CWR implements site speed limits, planned vehicle routing and measures to minimise unnecessary vehicle movements and engine idling, thereby reducing dust, noise and vehicle emissions.

9.1 Contingency Plans and Complaints

CWR maintains documented contingency plans and complaint management procedures as part of the Environmental Management System (refer to Appendix 12b – EMS Overview).

The contingency arrangements detail the actions to be taken in the event of equipment failure, fire, pollution incidents, adverse weather, spillages, power failure or any other event that may affect the operation of the Site or give rise to environmental pollution.

Environmental complaints are recorded, investigated and responded to in accordance with the EMS. Each complaint is investigated to identify the root cause, appropriate corrective actions are implemented, and records are retained to support continual improvement of environmental performance.

The Environmental Management System provides the overarching management framework for the Site and integrates the Fire Prevention Plan (FPP), Dust and Emissions Management Plan (DEMP), Odour Management Plan (OMP), Noise Management Plan (NMP), Site Condition Report (SCR) and Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA). Collectively, these documents demonstrate how Cheshire West Recycling Ltd manages environmental risks and complies with the relevant Environment Agency Appropriate Measures