1. ASH AGGREGATES ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT APPLICATION– NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

1.1. ASH AGGREGATES LTD

ASH Aggregates Ltd is applying for a bespoke waste operations Environmental Permit (the EP) to operate a regulated facility located at:

- ASH Aggregates Ltd
  Shellway Road
  Ellesmere Port
  Cheshire
  CH65 4LQ

ASH Aggregates is part of the ASH Group, who have expertise in operating permitted sites across North Wales and North-West England, including sites for aggregate material processing.

1.2. RECENT SITE HISTORY

The site was previously under the control of a waste recovery Environmental Permit for Cheshire West and Chester Council, who are in the process of surrendering the existing permit (EPR/QP3091EC/S003).

A full ground investigation has been carried out and has concluded that the material brought to site under the above EP was in accordance with the sites waste recovery plan. Full chemical testing on a total of 27 trial pits concluded that the site poses no significant hazard to human health or the environment.

1.3. PERMIT REQUIREMENTS OVERVIEW

An application is being made for an aggregate recovery processing site of inert and non-hazardous wastes by sorting, crushing, screening and soil washing. The site will use mainly construction, demolition and excavation (CDE) wastes to produce secondary aggregates and soils. The residual waste will be sent to appropriately permitted disposal and recovery sites.

The EWC codes for the wastes to be accepted on site consist of inert and inert-like materials.

The facility will receive up to 650,000 tonnes of waste per year.

The site will not be open to the general public and all visitors must report to the site management before being allowed on site.

1.4. PROCESS OVERVIEW

Incoming loads will be inspected for any wastes not allowed on the Environmental Permit. Non-conforming wastes will be rejected from site. Wastes that are accepted shall be recorded and then deposited in the north-west corner of the site. Non-conforming wastes found after deposit shall be quarantined until they are moved off-site.

The wastes will be loaded into a soil washing plant hopper and pass over a series of conveyors, with screening and washing processes occurring at various stages. Non-target material, including oversized material, metal and timber, are separated from the aggregate material.

The soil washing plant will produce aggregates, fine sands and clay. All recovered wastes will be tested in accordance with the appropriate standards, quality protocols or codes of practice, depending on their end use. Any wastes that cannot be recycled or reused will be disposed of at a landfill or recovery facility in accordance with the appropriate acceptance criteria for the type of waste and class of facility.

All water used in the process is recycled with no point source emissions. There are also no point source emissions to land or air.

A screener / crusher may be used to screen and break up material before being passed through the soil washing plant.

The sites operational areas will benefit from a concreted surface, presenting an impermeable surface. All concreted areas fall towards the centre of the surfaced area. Non-hazardous wastes may be stored on unmade ground prior to and after being processed.

The final produce will benefit the regional area, as it has been identified by Cheshire West and Chester Council that there is a shortfall in the amount of aggregate material needed within the council area. The facility will help to create suitable materials for sustainable buildings within the region and beyond, whilst lessening to need to quarry virgin stone and creating jobs in the local region.

1.5. OPERATING CAPACITY

The site will be capable of processing up to 200 tonnes per hour, with the maximum storage capacity of the site at any one time of 250,000 tonnes. The site will accept a maximum of 650,000 tonnes per year.

1.6. FIRE RISKS

As the wastes to be accepted are not combustible, the operator is not required to submit a formal Fire Prevention Plan. However, the site will operate according to the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System and OHSAS 18001 Health & Safety Management System to prevent and mitigate against the possibility of significant environmental pollution, including fires.

1.7. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A bespoke Environmental Management System has been provided as part of the Environmental Permit application. This provides details on how potential impacts on the environment will be managed to minimise impacts.

This details how the reception of waste is managed, how the waste is processed and how the site will be managed in accordance with the requirements of the EP.

Fugitive emissions will be minimal as the soil washing plant itself will be a wet process, with water being used to clean and separate the different grades of stone and soil. Therefore, there will be very little dust emissions associated with the operation. Fugitive emissions will be limited to exhausts from certain plant, e.g. loading shovel.

The ASH Group is certified for a group-wide Environmental Management System to ISO 14001:2015, as well as a Quality Management System to ISO 9001:2015 and a Health and Safety Management System to OHSAS 18001:2017. The certificates have been issued by a UKAS-accredited auditing body.

1.8. HABITATS ASSESSMENT

A nature and heritage conservation screening report was request at the pre-application stage. Whilst there are no point source emissions to land, air or water, a habitats assessment has been provided within this application. This identifies the protected habitats around the site and shows how potential impacts on them are to be prevented and controlled so that the facility will not have an adverse impact on them.

This includes identifying the mitigation measures that are being put in place for the locally identified great crested newt populations by the creation of an off-site compensatory habitat. This will serve as suitable habitat in perpetuity, whereas the existing habitat at the site would be lost to natural vegetation growth with no intervention.