

Bespoke Permit Application for Waste Operations at Harwich and Dovercourt WRC

Non-technical Summary and Overview

This Environmental Permit application has been made by Anglian Water Services (AWS) Limited for Harwich and Dovercourt Sewage Treatment Works (Water Recycling Centre; WRC) located at Harwich and Dovercourt Water Recycling Centre, Ray Lane, Harwich, Essex, CO12 5HQ (NGR: TM 21842 31520), hereby referred to as Harwich WRC. Harwich WRC operates under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations (UWwTR) for the treatment of indigenous sewage sludge. The site's operation is a non-hazardous waste activity which is currently carried out under a registered T21 exemption (WEX244841). The waste activity comprises of imports, physio-chemical treatment, and the storage of waste, all for recovery purposes. The site handles waste derived from sewer, deemed indigenous, and waste imports of sludge and domestic wastes. Harwich WRC also temporarily stores cake produced at other AWS sites before it can be deployed to land under Sludge Use in Agriculture Regulations (SUiAR). No hazardous waste is imported or treated at Harwich WRC. The site has a standalone Water Discharge Activity Environmental Permit which will remain an independent permitted activity.

This bespoke permit application follows on from a standard rules permit application (EPR/WE8137AA/A001) that was returned due to proximity to a designated wildlife sites. The pre-application reference from the Environment Agency is EA/EPR/JB3506HE/A001 & EAWML 40710.

AWS are applying for a bespoke waste operation permit for the WRC waste activity, as the imports have now exceeded the limit of the T21 exemption. This new bespoke application is for the existing WRC and its waste operations. There will be no increases to the storage capacity of the WRC.

The bespoke permit is to operate a water recycling centre for both indigenous and imported wastes. The process reduces the volume of sludge, via dewatering and thickening (physical treatment). The site accepts tankered imports of cess and septic waste (domestic waste only) which is discharged at the head of the works. The site also imports sludge from other AWS sites which is fed into the strain press. AWS is seeking to set the total quantity of imported waste accepted at the WRC as 250,000 tonnes per annum (tpa). The maximum amount of cake stored at Harwich WRC at any one time is 3200 tonnes.

No additional infrastructure or site operations will be changed or installed as part of this permit application.

1.1 Environmental Setting

Harwich WRC serves a population equivalent of 23,000 and receives flow from a catchment area of Ramsey, Parkeston, Dovercourt, and Lt. Oakley. Treated effluent discharges to the River Stour. The discharges are managed on an existing discharge permit (permit number ASETS996/12050) and this will remain a separate independent permitted activity.

The regulated facility site sits within 500m of an SSSI. The sewage works (and proposed permit boundary) borders the Stour & Orwell Estuaries which is classed as a SPA, Ramsar (both European Sites) and a SSSI. It is approximately 30m from the boundary of the WRC. Other nearby SSSIs are Little Oakley Channel Deposit and Hamford Water, but these are approximately 1.5 km and 2.7 km away from the boundary of the site, respectively.

The Nature and Heritage Conservation Screening Report is included in the application pack which details conservation sites and/or protected species within 1000m of the site.

The site is not within an Air Quality Management Area, although it is within close proximity to Sudbury AQMA (1.6km away at closest point). Sudbury AQMA: Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) annual mean. Declared by Babergh District Council 21 Nov 2008.

There are no point source emissions to land from the waste operation.

There are no point or fugitive emissions to surface water or groundwater during normal operation.

Refer to the Environmental Risk Assessment and Environmental Management Plan for the risks and mitigation measures in place at Harwich WRC.

1.2 Document content and structure

The following application forms have been completed to support the application and have been submitted as stand-alone documents, as well as referenced throughout this supporting document:

- Part A: About You

- Part B2: New bespoke permit
- Part B4: New bespoke waste operation permit
- Part F1: Charges and declarations

The main body of the permit application document ('Harwich Non Technical Summary') includes all the supplementary information required in response to relevant questions within the Part A, Part B2, Part B4 and Part F1 application forms for which there was insufficient space on the forms to answer the questions in full.

This environmental permit application document ('Harwich Non Technical Summary') consists of four main parts:

- '1: Part A' provides information relating to Form A and contact details,
- '2: Part B2' provides the general information required to inform Form B2 relating to the application of a new bespoke permit,
- '3: Part B4' provides the more detailed information required to inform Form B4 relating the new bespoke waste operation permit; and
- '4: Form F1' covers the required financial information required for payment of the application fee

Additional information included as part of this submission and not as stand-alone documents, are found in the following appendices:

- Appendix A – Site location plan
- Appendix B – Site plan

Stand-alone documents included as part of this submission, are detailed below:

- Nature and Heritage Conservation Screening Report
- Environmental Risk Assessment
- Environmental Management Plan
- Climate Change Risk Assessment
- Noise Modelling
- Odour Assessment Report
- Evidence of Technical Competence
- Existing Competence Management System (CMS) Certificate and evidence of gaining accreditation for Harwich WRC
- Drainage Plan (HAZOP)
- Form B4
- Form B2
- Form A
- Form F1