ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT VARIATION APPLICATION
NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

SECURE WASTE & RECYCLING FACILITY
CHIMNEY ROAD
TIPTON
WEST MIDLANDS
DY4 7BY

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SECURE WASTE & RECYCLING FACILITY, CHIMNEY ROAD, TIPTON, WEST MIDLANDS

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TIPTON SECURE WASTE & RECYCLING FACILITY
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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Biffa Waste Services Ltd are applying to vary Environmental Permit EPR/FB3809KS which currently regulates the operation of a non-hazardous waste transfer and recycling facility in Tipton, West Midlands. The address of the site is:

Chimney Rd
Tipton
West Midlands
DY4 7BY

1.2 The site is approximately centred at National Grid Reference SO 97944 92922.

1.3 Waste transfer operations (under the name of A Smith & Sons (Waste Disposal) Ltd) commenced on site in 1972 and continued under the waste disposal licence number SL2024 (dated November 1996), since renumbered to Waste Management Licence reference EAWML4264, then Environmental Permit EPR/MP3197FQ. The Environmental Permit was varied in 2000 in order to allow the site to be open for receipt, removal, physico-chemical treatment and storage of waste 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A subsequent application was submitted in 2013 to add a physical treatment activity for the production of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF). This activity was originally applied for and included as a Scheduled Installation Activity, but following further regulatory clarification of the scope of treatment for the production of RDF the permit was subsequently varied in 2021 to list the RDF production activity as a non-scheduled waste operation, alongside allowing the external storage of recyclates.

1.4 A Smith & Sons (Waste Disposal) Ltd were acquired by Biffa in 2008, although formal transfer of the Biffa Waste Services Ltd registered company was only completed in 2017.

2.0 SITE SETTING

2.1 Bagnall Street Industrial Estate forms part of a larger industrial complex which encompasses the residential area of Harvills Hawthorn, located approximately 300m east of the site. Around this area, the industrial complex extends over 2km to the north and generally between 1 to 1.5km to the northeast, south and southeast.

2.2 The canalised section of the River Tame flows northwards immediately west of the site, beyond which are the A41 dual carriageway (Black Country New Road), a disused railway line and Walsall Canal respectively. Beyond this infrastructure are the residential suburbs of Toll End, in which the nearest residential property is c. 160m from the site boundary.

2.3 As previously alluded to, the site is surrounded to the north, east and south by the wider extents of an industrial estate. This area is considered to represent a commercial/industrial site and includes a large number of places of work. Businesses located within closest proximity to Tipton SWaRF include (but are not limited to) an Iceland warehouse to the east, car parking facilities and a HGV training site (to the north) and Aquila Truck Centre (who provide vehicles, machines and services to the logistics and construction industry) to the south. Other businesses within the wider industrial estate include Cromwell Tools (maintenance and repair supplies), Charter Castings Limited (producer of Aluminium and Zinc Castings), Stainless International (stainless steel supplier

and processor), Speedy (tool and equipment hire), The Appliance Recycling Group, Wicke UK (manufacturer of wheels and castors), Enablelink (waste vehicle recycling company) etc.

2.4 The nearest Public Right of Way (PRoW) (which is classified as a "Recreational Route") is located ~130m to the west of the site, adjacent to the Walsall canal in a north south alignment. This PRoW is also classified as a "traffic free off-road cycle route".

2.5 There are a number of Grade II listed buildings within 2km of the site, with the closest sites associated with bridges or locks located at various points along the Walsall Canal.

2.6 There is one Local Nature Reserve (LNR) within 2km - 'Sheepwash LNR' located ~ 715m to the south.

2.7 There are no sites designated as Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA`s), RAMSAR sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or National Nature Reserves (NNR) within a 2km of the site.

2.8 There are numerous Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) within 2km of the site boundary in all directions from the site, the closest of which is Ocker Hill Balancing Pool, which lies ~925m to the north/northeast of the site.

2.9 The site is located within the administrative area of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. The entire borough has been assigned as a designated AQMA's (Air Quality Management Areas) as stated by DEFRA.

2.10 The site is located within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) for surface water as designated by DEFRA.

2.11 The site is not located within a groundwater Source Protection Zone (SPZ).

2.12 The nearest surface water feature to the site, is the River Tame which is located ~12m to the west of the site. The Walsall Canal is located ~120m to the west of the site, beyond the River Tame and the A41 (Black Country New Road).

2.13 In terms of Flood Risk, Environment Agency data has been reviewed and found that the site sits outside any recognised floodplains and associated flood zones in an area, therefore, where flooding from rivers and the sea is very unlikely. There is less than a 0.1 per cent (1 in 1000) chance of flooding occurring each year. In addition to this, it should be noted that the stretch of the River Tame which runs adjacent to the western boundary of the site is equipped with flood defence barriers.

Geology and Hydrogeology

2.14 The site is underlain by the Etruria Formation which comprises mudstones. There are no superficial deposits recorded beneath the site. Alluvium deposits (clay, silt, sand and gravel) associated with the floodplains of the River Tame are recorded to the immediate west of the site.

2.15 The bedrock geology is classed as a 'Secondary A' aquifer, as are the alluvium deposits which are situated to the immediate west of the site. A 'Secondary A' aquifer is defined by the Environment Agency as permeable layers capable of supporting water supplies at a local rather than strategic scale, and in some cases forming an important source of base flow to rivers. As previously discussed, there is no underling superficial geology meaning there is no aquifer status.

2.16 DEFRA's "Magic Map" indicates that the groundwater vulnerability is classed as 'medium', which is based on the likelihood of a pollutant reaching the groundwater, the types of aquifer present and the potential impact.

3.0 CURRENT PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

1.1.1 Biffa previously operated a non-hazardous Waste Transfer Station and Materials Recycling Facility at Chimney Road, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 7BY under Environmental Permit number EPR/FB3809KS.

1.1.2 The activities at the regulated facility consisted of a Waste Transfer Station (WTS) which undertook the separation of recyclable material from dry mixed recyclables and mixed waste, with the shredding of waste for disposal only and the processing of the non-recyclable residual materials to produced refuse derived fuel (RDF). Low grade (non-recyclate rich) wastes that were delivered directly to the facility, were also processed to produce RDF. In addition to this, pre-sorted recyclable wastes were accepted and stored at the site without further processing. All operations are currently suspended at the site pending redevelopment.

3.1 All treatment operations were carried out internally within the main processing building, whilst segregated recyclates were permitted to be stored externally.

4.0 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

4.1 Biffa are now seeking to redevelop this site into a Secure Waste and Recycling Facility (SWaRF). Principally, this is for the purposes of destroying counterfeit, 'grey market' or confiscated goods, in addition to returned online orders to prevent them reaching the market. Whilst wastes will be treated onsite, this is for the purposes of an 'initial destruction' with almost all subsequent waste streams transferred off-site for recovery.

4.2 Activities at Tipton SWaRF will include the treatment via manual sorting/de-packaging, shredding, milling, bulking, chemical treatment, blending, compaction and baling of a range of non-hazardous and hazardous wastes.

4.3 Treatment activities will be carried out internally within the existing and upgraded main processing building and a new alcohol and cosmetics building. An overview of the key treatment activities to be carried out in each building is present below. Each process line will process specific waste streams based on their suitability to be treated via each process line.

Waste Treatment – Main Processing Building

4.4 The main processing building will be split into separate processes to accommodate the storage and treatment of various hazardous and non-hazardous wastes. A description of each process line due to be housed within the main processing building is provided below:

- **Hazardous Vapes and WEEE destruction** – milling and separation of vape (and suitable WEEE) contents and components, including evaporation of battery electrolytes and nicotine in a dryer *(Capacity: 9.6 tpd);*

- **Hazardous Nitrous Oxide Cannister Destruction -** mechanical piercing and / or degassing (Dependant on canister size) of nitrous oxide cannisters, and treatment of nitrous oxide via a heated catalyst reaction unit prior to emission to air (as N_2 and O_2 – inert gases) *(Capacity: 1.12tpd - gross).*
- **Tobacco and Packaging Destruction** - manual sorting/de-packaging, shredding and compaction of hazardous and non-hazardous tobacco products (hazardous and non-hazardous waste to be processed and stored separately*) (Capacity: 10 tpd);*
- **Manual Sorting and Repackaging of Online Returns** – Manual sorting, separation, de-packaging of non-hazardous and hazardous non-saleable products (including the removal of batteries from electronics, and the removal of secondary packaging from food).
- **Non-Hazardous Clothing and Textiles** - manual sorting/de-packaging, shredding and compaction of non-hazardous textiles;

Waste Treatment – Alcohol and Cosmetics Building

4.5 The alcohol and cosmetics building will contain storage for incoming waste streams as well as processed packaging. A tank farm consisting of three bunded tanks will be located outside for the storage of each liquid waste stream.

4.6 Wastes will be sprayed with water during de-packaging to minimise potential emissions and the risk of combustion during and after the process.

- **Non-Hazardous Liquid Destruction** – compacting/baling of plastic and metal packaged non-hazardous alcohol and non-alcohol products to segregate the contents and the blending of subsequent liquids for recovery off-site;
- **Hazardous alcohol and cosmetics destruction** – shredding of glass packaged hazardous alcohols and cosmetics in a controlled environment for blending and subsequent recovery for off-site transfer (Capacity: 40tpd);

5.0 INFRASTRUCTURE

5.1 The site will consist of two buildings equipped with internal processing areas and palletised storage areas, supported by a tank farm for the storage of de-packaged liquid wastes streams, and an external service apron to support waste reception operations and the external storage of processed wastes streams in containers or undercover (e.g. curtain-sided trailers). Separate site offices and welfare facilities will also be provided by existing building unit located in the north-eastern areas of the permitted facility.

5.2 The whole site will be engineered with impermeable pavement, with large section of existing pavement regraded/engineered to support revised drainage requirements. All run-off from external yard areas will be collected by a network of gulleys and discharge via the existing discharge point, alongside roof waters) to the canalised section of the River Tame located just beyond the western boundary of the site. The drainage network is fitted with a oil separator and isolation valve to manage oil leaks and prevent the discharge of any potentially polluting substances discharging to the river.

5.3 The internal areas of the new alcohol, liquid waste (Including beverages) and cosmetics building will be engineered with a sealed drainage system to manage potential leaks and spills of the liquid wastes to be handled in the building. As dry, solid and gaseous wastes streams with be handled in the main processing

building, no sealed drainage system will be installed internally. Spills kits will be strategically positioned to handle any small leaks or spillages.

5.4 Due to the sensitive nature of the wastes to be processed, the site will also undergo extensive security upgrades.

6.0 EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT

6.1 The potential for fugitive emissions of dust, odours, and noise will be managed by implementation of the following key appropriate measures.

- All treatment activities will be carried out internally;
- Treatment lines with a high risk of generating dust will be fitted with air extraction and filtration plant;
- External activities will be restricted to the reception and offloading of palleted/containerised packaged waste streams and the storage of processes wastes in baled, palleted or containerised wastes;
- The site will operate a closed-door policy outside of operational hours.

6.2 Updated management plans for dust and odour have been prepared in support of this application to reflect revised site operations.

7.0 FIRE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

7.1 A Fire Prevention Plan has been prepared to support the revised site operations.

7.2 The key strategic techniques to prevent fires at the site include:-

- Segregation of flammable alcohol and cosmetic waste streams in a designated building located away from other combustible waste streams
- Use of ATEX rated abatement plant in process lines likely to generate flammable dust environment internally.
- Increased security infrastructure to prevent unauthorised access and arson;
- Restricted site waste storage capacities and storage durations for combustible waste streams below EA guideline thresholds.

7.3 The key strategic factors to be employed to manage any residual fire risk include:-

- Firebreaks (6m) to be maintained between combustible waste storage areas and other combustible or explosive materials;
- Targeted suppression systems to be installed in processing plant with high risk flammable environments;
- Fire hoses and extinguishers will be available on site to tackle any small to moderate fires at the site;
- Hydrants maintained by the Fire Rescue Service (FRS) are located within 100m of the site, in addition to multiple hydrants positioned throughout the site.
- Fire water volumes can be contained within the site due to the presence of impermeable pavement across the site and the presence of kerbing and bunding along the perimeter of the yard;
- The discharge point of the site drainage system is fitted with an isolation valve.