



**Connetts Farm Compost  
Land to West of Flightways Business Park  
Dunkeswell  
EX14 4RD**

**50.866627 -3.225663**

## **Non-Technical Summary**

**S21-628/NTS  
May 2021**

***Prepared by :***

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***On behalf of :***

**Connetts Farm Compost  
Land to West of Flightways Business Park  
Dunkeswell  
EX14 4RD**

## **1.0 Introduction**

This non-technical summary is prepared to support an application for a bespoke waste permit at Connects Farm Compost, Land to West of Flightways Business Park, Dunkeswell, EX14 4RD.

This document sets out the various activities on site, the effects the activity may have on neighbours around the site and gives a summary of the various desk and field based investigations, so that they might be easily referred to by interested parties.

## **2.0 Operator**

The Operator(s) is Nick Stevens and Heather Stevens, the facility is Connetts Farm Compost, at the address listed in section 1.0.

## **3.0 Pre-App Advice**

Before submitting an application for a Permit, we have engaged with the Environment agency so as to conduct options appraisal between two alternate sites, and the application reference which relates to this application is EPR/KB3209UU/A001.

## **4.0 Proposed Activities**

The proposed site will be a “waste transfer station with treatment”, proposed to be run under a Bespoke Permit. There are three waste streams which will be transferred and or treated on site. These have been carefully considered, it is required that the materials handled on site are diverse. The business must remain diverse, if it is to be economically sustainable.

### **4.1 Compost**

Nick and Heather have been making very high quality compost for nearly ten years. The compost is almost peat like it is so well processed, with no coarse fragments of wood, or other vegetation.

Green waste will be accepted on site, shredded and then composted in open windrows (heaps), for a period of weeks. It is then screened, to remove larger pieces, and the finer compost is taken for use as waste application, whilst coarser fragments are re-composted to further break them down.

Description of Activities:

- R13: Storage of wastes pending any of the operations numbered R1 to R12 (excluding temporary storage, pending collection, on the site where it is produced)
- R3: Recycling/reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents

Limits of Activities:

- Secure storage of wastes listed in Wastes List (S21-628/WL)
- Physical treatment and composting including sanitisation, stabilisation and maturation of the types of waste listed in Wastes List (S21-628/WL)
- Biological treatment of waste shall not exceed 75 tonnes per day

Compost will be exported from site by licensed carrier, or in time as a product under PAS100 & CQP.

### **4.3 Soils, Soil Substitute & Aggregates**

Alongside compost it is also planned to process soils and soil substitutes.

What is an aggregate? – A material or structure formed from a mass of fragments or particles loosely compacted together. – The gravel used on a driveway for example is a type of aggregate. Sand would be another example of an aggregate.

#### **4.3.1 Soils**

A soil is any natural ground that is capable of being excavated by hand. Topsoil, or Subsoil may be delivered to site and stockpiled so that other may then use the waste in projects such as raising of land, or redressing brown field sites.

Some soils can contain metals (whether by natural or manmade means) or chemicals that make them unsuitable for use in certain applications. All soils being received to site will be accompanied by paperwork showing their chemical composition, both in terms of waste classification (WAC), and chemical concentrations of metals (lead for example) and other chemicals (Phenols for example).

#### **4.3.2 Soil Substitutes**

It is possible to “manufacture” a soil. Topsoil for example is a blend of organic (“rotten” vegetation) and minerals (for example sand). The two ingredients together form a basic topsoil. If the materials are suitable then compost and screened fines may be mixed to create a topsoil.

The topsoil will then be tested in line with a set of guide values (British Standard) to see if it is fit for use.

Typically subsoil is not manufactured as there is such much sub soil going spare from construction sites. But it is possible, and in some cases useful to create a substitute for sub soil.

#### **4.3.3 Aggregates**

Since the introduction of landfill tax, it has been a long term goal of the UK government to divert wastes from landfill that could be used for other purposes.

Concrete and Bricks from the demolition of buildings and other structures, can be crushed to form a recycled aggregate, which can be used as sub base or to form tracks.

#### **4.3.4 Activities relating to Soils, Soil Substitute & Aggregates**

Below activities relate to Soils, Soil Substitute & Aggregates

- R13: Storage of wastes pending the operations numbered R3 and R5.
- R3: recycling or reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents.
- R5: Recycling or reclamation of other inorganic materials.

Limits of Activities

- Treatment of wastes listed in Wastes List (S21-628/WL) consisting only of sorting, separation, screening, crushing and blending of waste for recovery as a soil, soil substitute or aggregate.
- Secure storage of wastes listed in Wastes List (S21-628/WL) pending treatment.

- Storage of wastes listed in Wastes List (S21-628/WL) shall not exceed 5000 tonnes in total at any one time.
- All other wastes stored shall not exceed 5000 in total at any one time.
- No more than 75,000 tonnes of waste shall be treated per year.
- Treatment of slags and ashes for disposal shall not exceed 50 tonnes per day, or if for a mix of recovery and disposal shall not exceed 75 tonnes per day.

## **5.0 Environmental Impact**

The proposal will create various environmental impacts. These are discussed in the Risk Assessment, where risk is high supporting documents have been requested to further describe impacts, and the mitigation measures put in place to limit their affects.

### **5.1 Bio-Aerosols**

Bio-Aerosols are particulates, which consist in part or as a whole of living organisms. They drift through the air, whereby they may affect hygiene, or cause reparatory illness.

Assessment of risk and mitigation measures for Bio-Aerosols is included in Document S21-628/SSBARA.

### **5.2 Noise**

Noise Impact is considered in S21-628/NIA. The Impact Assessment attempt to quantify noise impacts in line with current standards.

S21-628/NMP, the Noise Management Plan explains mitigative measures that may be put in place to limit noise impact on sensitive receptors.

The noisiest piece of equipment that will be used on site is a concrete crusher. This machine breaks big lumps of concrete and brick in to smaller ones, the broken concrete is placed in to a pile using a conveyor belt.

This noisy work will only take place during typical working hours, it will be confined to a certain area of site (furthest away from homes and businesses) and will likely be rest cited to 5 or 6 days a month.

Other noisy (but less noisy than a crusher) pieces of equipment intended to be used on site, are:

- Screeners – These sieve soils, compost and aggregates so as to separate the various sizes of particles. For example big chunks in compost are not good, so these are sieved out.
- Wind Sifters – A wind sifter is a machine that blow light wastes (plastic film) off of denser wastes (rock, compost). Nearly everything (food, water air) contains plastic, and imported wastes will inevitably have some plastic mingled within the, A wind sifter can be used to try and remove this.
- Shredders – A shredder is used to mash up green waste so that it can be pile dup neatly, and being the composting process. Items such a logs, Christmas trees, and shrubs go in one end, and a mulch comes out of the other end. This mulch is principal ingredient for the composting process.

### **5.3 Odour**

Odour from the composting operation is considered in S21-628/OMP.

Compost heat up when it is being made, the “bugs” in the compost create heat as they “munch” on the plant based materials. If these bugs are kept happy they will speed up the composting process, and importantly keep the odour levels low, and scent of the odour pleasant. To keep the good composting bugs happy, the pile of mulch needs to be:

- Warm
- Well aired
- Not too Wet
- Contain enough food for bugs

If the pile become too wet, is too compacted or becomes too cold. Then a different set of “bad bugs” will start munching on the mulch. They “bad bugs” create an unpleasant odour, and do not create good compost.

The intention is to manage compost heaps on site, so they encourage good oxygen loving bugs, which will increase composting speed, and reduce odour.

Some activities such as shredding and screening create more odour than usual, because the compost is disturbed. They will be carried out when the wind is strong (to aid dispersion) or when wind is blowing away from homes and businesses.

It is unlikely that soils, or aggregates will create odours.

### **5.4 Geo-Environmental**

Run-Off or Liquids which are allowed to infiltrate in to ground from site operations, may have negative environmental impacts. Site Condition Report S21-628/SCR considers baseline conditions, and future record keeping with regards to geo-environmental impacts.

### **5.5 Bio Aerosols**

Bio aerosol is an umbrella term for microscopic matter typically composed of bacteria, fungi, viruses, spores, moulds, rusts, protozoa, pollens, etc and their products such as toxins etc. As you might imagine there are very high levels of naturally occurring bio-aerosols.

As compost and soils may contain this microscopic matter, there is a good chance some will be released when compost or soil is disturbed.

However, scientists has shown that a great deal of this microscopic matter is mixed with clean air, or settles out so that within 50m to 100m of the process, the levels found in the air are close to background levels.

You can read more in S21-628/SSBRA, the Site Specific Bio Aerosol Risk Assessment.

### **6.0 Training**

It is intended that Nick, Heather or Both will attend the EPOC course within the next few months (as of May 2021). Details of their registration on the course are included with this application. It may be required to complete two further learning modules, to complete a NVQ qualification. Which may or may not be supported by Talbot Training Services.

## **7.0 Neighbours**

The site has some unusual neighbours in that the nearby residencies, are live work units. They consist of 1<sup>st</sup> floor living accommodation with ground floor commercial & industrial use.

This live work arrangement could be seen as either lowering the sensitivity of the receptors, in that they already live in close proximity to industrial processes, or that in some circumstances they may be more sensitive particularly with regards to hours of operation. These concepts are discussed more fully in the various supporting documents.