

Project Title: Greenway Recycling Facility & Inert Landfill

HCE Ref: HCE0577.NTS

1. Environmental Permit Application

Decharge Ltd is submitting an application to the Environment Agency for an Environmental Permit to operate a recycling facility and inert landfill at land off Greenway, located to the north of the village of Halberton, Devon. Planning Permission is being sought separately for the proposed development. The proposal is to infill void space across the Site and infill with approximately 330,000 m³ of inert soil and stones and then return the land to agricultural use once the waste operation is completed.

The Site forms part of the Bycott Farm holding, and is bounded by mature hedgerows interspersed with trees, and a copse and pond to the south-western boundary. The Site is concave to convex from west to east, cresting just before the Site's eastern boundary. Within the concave section of the Site's topography, there is a central spur of raised ground that protrudes in a westerly direction before dropping steeply towards the copse referred to above. This effectively creates two modest combs known as "Phase 1" (in the north) and "Phase 2" (in the south).

The field is accessed via an agricultural access track that runs west to east immediately to the south of A361 Tiverton Expressway, from Greenway that runs north to south between Uplowman Road to the north and High Street within Halberton to the south. Uplowman Road provides vehicular access between the Site and Tiverton to the west and A361 and J27 of M5 to the east. The A361 lies approximately 150m to the north of the main areas of retrospective and proposed fill. The nearest farm buildings are approximately 400m east-south-east and 150 m west of the Site.

Environment Agency Nature and Heritage Conservation mapping identifies the presence of deciduous woodland located 50 m south of the Site. Grand Western Canal Country Park, a local nature reserve, is located 700 m south-east of the Site. There are no National Nature Reserves or Local Wildlife Sites within a 1 km radius of the Site. No sensitive habitats and environmental areas e.g. sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs), RAMSAR sites are within 2 km of the Site. The nearest identified surface water feature is the pond located adjacent to the south-west of the Site. The pond drains via a stream south of the Site before the land plateaus and the stream runs dry

An Environmental Site Setting & Design (ESSD) report and an Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) have been prepared to assess the risks that the proposed inert landfill might pose to the environment and set out details of mitigation measures as appropriate. The ESSD report includes details of the pollution control measures including site engineering, restoration, surface water management and post closure controls. Site-specific waste acceptance procedures have been prepared, which set out how Decharge Ltd, as the Operator, will confirm that the material imported is inert and suitable for deposition at the Site. Given the surrounding topography, the proposed infilling will take place above existing ground level. A low permeability liner will be installed to limit the infiltration of potential contaminants into the underlying soils. Surface water will be managed by a series of drains and lagoons which will encourage the settling out of suspended solids before discharge at the lowermost points of each void.

Technically competent management of the inert landfill under the Environmental Permit is to be provided by a holder of a WAMITAB certificate. Management of activities on-Site in an environmentally responsible manner is to be in accordance with an Environment Management System, prepared with reference to Environment Agency guidance.