INTRODUCTION

Starling Environmental Limited (SEL) has been commissioned by Astley Sand and Aggregates Limited (the operator) to prepare an environmental permit variation application for their aggregate recycling facility located at Morleys Quarry, Astley, Manchester, M29 7EW. The site is regulated under permit EPR/LP3597SR which allows two separate activities; inert landfill and a Standard Rules permit SR2010No12 for the treatment of waste to produce soil, soil substitutes and aggregate. This allows processing of waste by sorting, separation, screening, crushing and blending.

The operator would like to vary the SR activity to a bespoke activity to increase the treatment and storage capacity. The operator would also like to reduce the number of waste types. There are no proposed changes to the treatment activities or the permit boundary. There are no proposed changes to the inert landfill activity.

Site Details and Surrounding Area

Morleys Quarry is located immediately south of the A580 East Lancashire Road, midway between the Lately Common roundabout and the main junction at Astley, approximately 2.5 km south-east of Leigh and 15 km west of Manchester. The national grid reference for the recycling area is at SJ 68812 99107.

The site is in a rural location surrounded by mainly flat lying, open and featureless ground, the majority of which is farmland. There are a limited number of isolated residential properties in the vicinity of the site. The closest residential properties are Morleys Hall and Morleys Hall Farm approximately 120 m from the site boundary to the northeast.

Approximately 820 m to the south are the Manchester Mosses which consist of raised bogs and mosses which include designations for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Layout

Access to Morleys Quarry is off the westbound carriageway of the A580 via Morleys Lane. The site is a sand quarry which is being progressively restored by inert landfill. The quarry/landfill extends to the west and south of the recycling area, which is situated on the eastern periphery of the site, outside of the landfill footprint.

The layout of the recycling area is shown on Drawing No 151/02. The recycling area is bounded by a vegetated screening bund to the east which is approximately 4 m high. The northern boundary (the site access road) is marked by a 2.5 m wooden fence. Concrete block bays are situated along the western and southern perimeters to house recycled products. Crushing and screening is carried out in the centre of the site. The weighbridges, site office, wheel wash and fuel store are located to the north-west of the recycling area.

The recycling area is surfaced with concrete and the surface drains into perimeter ditches which carry run-off to the landfill site settlement ponds, before discharge to surface water course Moss Brook which is approximately 260 m south of the site. The discharge is permitted under the landfill activity and is monitored monthly.

CURRENT OPERATIONS

The standard rules activity was added to the permit in 2012. The current permit allows importation of a range of waste types for processing to make aggregate products and soil substitutes. The permitted annual throughput is 75,000 tonnes and the maximum permitted quantity of waste for storage is 40,000 tonnes.

Construction, demolition and excavation waste is imported to site. Material is crushed and screened to produce recycled aggregates such as 6F2 and MOT Type 1. Recycled products are produced according to a quality protocol to achieve end of waste status following the WRAP end of waste protocol. Products are stored in concrete block bays approximately 2.5 m high and tested for conformity. The recycled products are then reused as part of the circular economy.

Screened soil is also stored in a concrete block bay and tested against inert landfill waste acceptance criteria. If it is suitable it is transported to the landfill area for deposit.

The recycling area is also used to store non-waste products such as sand. These are stored in the concrete block bays.

PROPOSED CHANGES

It is proposed to increase the maximum throughput to 300,000 tonnes per annum. This would allow increased recovery and recycling to accommodate the needs of the growing market requirement for recycled products. Increased throughput for the recycling area will allow more waste to be diverted from landfill and moved up the waste hierarchy, which is a legal requirement under the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

It is proposed to increase the permitted storage allowance to 60,000 tonnes. The additional capacity can be accommodated within the existing site. Incoming waste will be stored within the site as shown on the site layout plan. Increased storage allowance will allow more flexibility when accepting waste from larger earthworks campaigns.

It is proposed to reduce the number of permitted waste codes to those listed in Table 1. SR2010 No12 has been withdrawn and replaced by a new standard rules set, SR2022 No1. All of the waste types listed in Table 1 are listed on SR2022 No1.

Waste Code	Description
01 04 08	Waste gravel and crushed rocks other than those mentioned in 01 04 07 *May include excavation from mineral workings*
01 04 09	Waste sand and clay *Must not include contaminated sand*
10 01 01	Bottom ash and slag only
10 01 15	Bottom ash and slag from co-incineration other than those mentioned in 10 01 14
10 12 08	Waste ceramics, bricks, tiles and construction products (after thermal processing)

Table 1 (continued over): Proposed Waste Types

Waste Code	Description
10 13 14	Waste concrete only
17 01 01	Concrete *Must not include concrete slurry*
17 01 02	Bricks
17 01 03	Tiles and ceramics
17 01 07	Mixtures of concrete, bricks, tiles and ceramics other than those mentioned in 17 01 06
17 02 02	Clean glass Must not include fibreglass or glass fibre
17 03 02	Bituminous mixtures other than those mentioned in 17 03 01 *Only bituminous mixtures from the repair and refurbishment of the asphalt layers of roads and other paved areas (excluding bituminous mixtures containing coal tar and classified as waste code 17 03 01)* *Must not include coal tar or tarred products* *Must not include freshly mixed bituminous mixtures*
17 05 04	Soil and stones other than those mentioned in 17 05 03 *Must not contain any contaminated soil or stone from contaminated sites*
17 05 06	Dredging spoil other than those mentioned in 17 05 05 *Only inert aggregate from dredgings* *Must not contain contaminated dredgings* *Must not contain fines*
17 05 08	Track ballast, soil and stones other than those mentioned in 17 05 07 *Must not contain soil and stones from contaminated sites*
17 09 04	Mixed construction and demolition waste other than those mentioned in 17 09 01, 17 09 02 and 17 09 03 *mixed construction and demolition waste, limited to that generated from utilities trenching, consisting of sub base aggregates, and containing only material that would be described as 17 01 01, 17 03 02 and 17 05 04*
19 12 05	Glass *Does not include glass from cathode ray tubes*
19 12 09	Minerals (eg sand, stones) *Must not contain contaminated concrete, bricks, tiles, sand, stone or gypsum from recovered plasterboard*
19 12 12	Incinerator bottom ash, aggregate only
20 02 02	Garden and park waste (including cemetery waste) – soil and stones *Must not contain contaminated stones from garden and parks waste*

Table 1 continued: Proposed Waste Types

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The following documents have been submitted with the application:

Environmental Risk Assessment – identifies receptors and assesses the risks from the proposed changes and proposes mitigation to reduce risks where required, includes habitats assessment for Astley and Bedford Mosses. Report No 151/1.

Dust Emissions Management Plan - to control dust and air pollution from site activities, to protect the local residents, neighbouring land users and ecological sites. The aim is to identify the potential risks of dust emissions from operations at the site, consider the impact to identified receptors and set out the required mitigation measures. Report No 151/2.

Site Layout Plan – Drawing No 151/02.

Noise Management Plan – a noise impact assessment has been carried out which is appended to the NMP. The NMP demonstrates how noise will be controlled on site. Report No 153/3.