



Cowen Road Waste Reception and Recycling Centre (HWRC)

1.7 Fire Prevention Plan

September 2025



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CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2	RISK OF FIRE	2
2.1	Assessing the Risk of Fire	2
2.2	Combustible Materials on Site	2
2.3	Waste Storage and Hazardous Materials Storage	2
2.4	Cause of Fire	3
2.5	Impacts of a Fire	4
2.6	Sensitive Receptors.....	4
2.7	Wind Direction	6
3	PREVENTATIVE MEASURES.....	7
3.1	SUEZ Policies and Procedures	7
3.2	Controls to Manage Common Causes of Fire	7
3.3	Controls to Prevent Self-Combustion of Waste	9
4	DETECTION AND SUPPRESSION MEASURES.....	12
4.1	Fire Detection	12
4.2	Fire Suppression.....	12
4.3	Fire Fighting Techniques	12
4.4	Water Supply	13
4.5	Fire Water Management.....	13
4.6	Contingency Plan in the Event of a Fire	14
4.7	Out of hours Response.....	14
5	FIRE FIGHTING PROCEDURE	15



APPENDICES

Appendix A Waste Storage Details

FIGURES

Figure 1	Site Location Plan	Cwn-PLN-1123-01b
Figure 2	Indicative Site Layout	Cwn-LAY-1124-01a
Figure 3	Sensitive Receptor Plan	Cwn-REC-0225-01a
Figure 4	Emergency Access Route	Cwn-EAR-0325-01-01a
Figure 5	Drainage Plan	Cwn-REC-0924-01
Figure 6	Cowen Road Depot Drainage And Service Ducts	AL(00)04A
Figure 7	External Drainage Plan	TS

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This document details the Fire Prevention Plan (FPP) for operations undertaken by SUEZ at Cowen Road HWRC, Blaydon, Gateshead, NE21 5TW. National Grid Reference (NGR) NZ 19156 63335. The site location and permit boundary are shown in Figure 1 and 2 respectively.
- 1.1.2 This document is written in support of the Environmental Permit (permit) to operate a household waste recycling centre (HWRC) and Transfer Station (TS) with a waste acceptance limit of 71,350 tonnes.
- 1.1.3 The waste types permitted accepted at the HWRC comprise those that are typically expected to arise from households, which are received directly from members of the public. Highways waste is accepted, stored and transported by the Council at the adjacent depot, including hardcore, asphalt and street sweepings.
- 1.1.4 A Fire Risk Assessment covering the operation is in place and is reviewed at regular intervals not exceeding 12 months. The Fire Risk Assessment is included within the SUEZ electronic risk assessment database.
- 1.1.5 An appropriate person will review this Fire Prevention Plan at regular intervals and on at least an annual basis, following any of the events below:
 - Testing of the plan to ensure the plan works and staff understand the procedures to be undertaken to prevent a fire occurring and the procedure to be undertaken in the event of a fire;
 - an incident;
 - change in legislation or formal guidance;
 - prior to a change in activity on site.
- 1.1.6 In addition, the requirements of the Fire Prevention Plan will be communicated to site operational staff on at least an annual basis via toolbox talks. Yearly refresher toolbox talks will ensure that the requirements of the Fire Prevention Plan are reinforced.

2 RISK OF FIRE

2.1 Assessing the Risk of Fire

2.1.1 The risk assessment to identify potential events or failures that may lead to an environmental impact as a result of a waste related fire at site is included in the Environmental Risk Assessment and Accident Management Plan for the site. The risk assessment provides details of the following: the hazard, the pathways and receptors, the probability of occurrence, the consequences or impacts and the measures that will be taken to manage the risk, and an evaluation of the mitigated risk.

2.1.2 Further detail on the hazard, in terms of the materials received stored and/or treated on the site, the volumes of materials received, and the potential causes of fires are discussed further in this section of the Fire Prevention Plan. The sensitive receptors and the consequence of a fire on those receptors are also discussed below.

2.2 Combustible Materials on Site

2.2.1 The combustible materials which may be received and stored at the site include:

- Paper
- Green Waste
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)
- Cardboard
- Tyres
- Metals
- Plastics
- Textiles
- General waste
- Mattresses
- Segregated bulky waste containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- Wood
- Oil
- Household chemicals
- Gas cylinders
- Batteries
- Street cleaning residues
- Highways maintenance material

2.3 Waste Storage and Hazardous Materials Storage

2.3.1 Managing waste storage is a key factor, not only in preventing fires, but in mitigating the impact, should a fire break out.

2.3.2 Appendix A details the volume, storage time and storage method for each waste type at site.

Waste storage

- 2.3.3 The site has been designed to receive, store and subsequently load household and similar wastes for onward transport. All wastes received and accepted to the site will be directed to specific areas on site for storage.
- 2.3.4 The majority of waste types are directed to the appropriate ROROs in bays labelled 1 to 14 in the east and central part of the site, where wastes are segregated into separate containers.
- 2.3.5 Other household wastes are directed to appropriate specialised containers in the waste storage area to the west of the site.
- 2.1.1 Highways waste is deposited in the designated bays via a separate entrance to the Highways Depot.
- 2.3.6 Each bay and container is clearly labelled to ensure different types of waste accepted are stored separately and do not contaminate each other.
- 2.3.7 An indicative site layout plan showing the location of the waste storage bays, containers and/or areas is provided in Figure 2.

Hazardous materials storage

- 2.3.8 Batteries are stored in battery boxes that will contain any spillage of acid batteries.
- 2.3.9 Where is the potential for contaminated run-off, WEEE is accepted into covered skips to prevent the ingress of any rainwater that could cause contaminated run-off.
- 2.3.10 Hazardous chemicals accepted on site are stored within a dedicated chemical cabinet which is kept locked and only opened by site staff during loading.
- 2.3.11 Domestic gas cylinders are placed into and stored upright within a lockable roofed steel cage. The cage is clearly marked with a "flammable gas" warning sign and is kept locked when cylinders are not being delivered or removed.
- 2.3.12 The site will accept items of waste that may contain Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), which are segregated and stored in a dedicated container.
- 2.3.13 In the event that a fire occurs on site and there are wastes containing POPs on site, SUEZ will notify the Fire Rescue Service
- 2.3.14 Any hazardous waste delivered to the site that is not permitted by the permit will be segregated and consigned appropriately for disposal at a suitably permitted facility.
- 2.3.15 The maximum quantity of hazardous waste stored at the site shall not exceed 10 tonnes at any one time.

2.4 Cause of Fire

- 2.4.1 The potential causes of fire on the site have been considered and include the following:
 - arson or vandalism

- self-combustion of received and processed waste materials (e.g., chemical oxidation, microbial decomposition), although recent WISH data suggest that this takes far longer than the storage durations proposed in this document
- plant or equipment failure
- electrical faults
- naked lights
- discarded smoking materials
- hot works, e.g., welding, cutting
- hot exhausts
- fuel deliveries and refuelling plant
- build-up of dusts
- damaged/exposed electrical cables
- neighbouring sites activities
- sparks from loading buckets
- incompatible wastes
- ignited materials received at the site
- heat generated by friction on mobile plant/vehicles

2.4.2 Any of the causes detailed above has the potential to ignite waste materials upon the site. The consequences of a fire are discussed below with mitigation measures detailed in a further section.

2.5 Impacts of a Fire

2.5.1 The effects of a fire may be both immediate and long term. The potential impacts of a fire have been considered and are summarized below:

- thermal radiation harming nearby properties and residents leading to fire spread
- creation of hazardous waste by the fire and impacts of firefighting
- explosions and projectiles harming sensitive receptors and spreading the fire to unaffected areas
- firewater run-off transporting pollutants to surface water and groundwater
- transport disruption resulting from road and rail closures
- nuisance from smoke, odour and particulates
- threat to life and property
- detriment of local amenity

2.5.2 The general management actions to mitigate the impact of a fire on sensitive receptors are detailed in Sections 3 and 4 of this Fire Prevention Plan.

2.6 Sensitive Receptors

2.6.1 Sensitive receptors within 1km of the site that may potentially be at risk from a fire have been identified within Table 1 and are shown in drawing in Figure 3.

Table 1 – Sensitive receptors

No.	Receptor Name	Category/Type	Approx. Distance in meters	Direction from Site
0	Groundwater	Water	0	N/A
1	Electricity Pylons	Infrastructure	30	N
2	Waste/Recycling site	Industrial commercial	50	NWN
3	Gateshead council	Industrial commercial	30	E
4	Various Industrial buildings	Industrial commercial	85	E/ESE
5	Fuel station	Industrial commercial	365	WSW
6	Blaydon Shopping centre	Commercial	465	W
7	St Cuthberts community hall	Recreation	475	SW
8	Blaydon cemetery	Recreation	500	SSW
9	Playing fields	Open space	350	S
10	Shibdon pond local nature reserve/SSSI	Habitat/open space	60/ 325	SSE
11	Blaydon youth & community centre	Recreation	545	S
12	Blaydon leisure centre	Recreation	850	ESE
13	Derwenthough Industrial Estate	Industrial commercial	675	E
14	Various Industrial buildings around Tundry Way	Industrial commercial	850	NNE
15	Various Industrial buildings around Scotswood Road	Industrial commercial	600	NE
16	Blaydon Industrial Park	Industrial commercial	225 - 616	N/NNE
17	B&Q Warehouse	Industrial commercial	910	NNE
18	Various Industrial buildings around Bells Close	Industrial commercial	995	N
19	Various Industrial buildings Newburn Riverside	Industrial commercial	695 - 980	NW
20	Various Industrial buildings around Greenfinch Way	Industrial commercial	880 - 1000	NW
21	Residential properties around Murray Street	Residential	605 - 1000	WSW
22	Residential properties around Shibdon Park	Residential	850 - 1000	SSE

No.	Receptor Name	Category/Type	Approx. Distance in meters	Direction from Site
23	Residential properties around Woodlands Park Drive	Residential	690 - 1000	SSW
24	Residential properties around Western Way	Residential	670 - 1000	SSW
25	Railway line	Transport	60	N
26	A1 road	Transport	275	E
27	A695 Blaydon Highway	Transport	165	N
28	Blaydon West Primary School	Education	740	W
29	Blaydon Station	Transport	620	NW
30	River Tyne	Water course	450	NW
31	Priority Habitat – Lowland Meadows	Habitat	900	NW
32	Priority Habitat – Lowland Fens	Habitat	420	SE
33	Priority Habitat – Reedbeds	Habitat	420	SE
34	Priority Habitat – Lakes	Habitat	510	SE
35	Priority Habitat – Deciduous Woodland	Habitat	150	SE

2.7 Wind Direction

2.7.1 The data was obtained for Blaydon. The prevailing wind direction is from the southwest. A compass wind rose from meteoblue.com, with the prevailing wind direction, is included in Figure 3.

3 PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

3.1 SUEZ Policies and Procedures

- 3.1.1 SUEZ Integrated Management System (IMS) includes a section on Emergency Preparedness and Response and will be followed in the event of a fire or explosion.
- 3.1.2 In addition to this, the following policies and procedures, as detailed in the IMS, are also relevant:
 - Accident Investigation and Reporting
 - Site Inspection, Audit and Reporting
 - Managing Non-Conformance, Corrective & Preventive Action
 - Control of Records
 - Audits
 - Duty of Care
 - Surface Water Management
 - Oil and Fuel Storage
- 3.1.3 One of the principal objectives of the IMS is to ensure the efficient and safe operation of the site through the implementation of procedures that ensure defined staff roles and responsibilities supported by provision of appropriate training.
- 3.1.4 Key procedures that apply to all SUEZ sites include training all staff, contractors and visitors in correct health and safety and fire prevention procedures. The implementation of a regular maintenance and inspection programme for all areas of site and equipment to ensure good housekeeping and effective operation of machinery.

3.2 Controls to Manage Common Causes of Fire

Arson

- 3.2.1 Site security to prevent arson includes security fencing, locked gates and barrier control when the site is open. A CCTV monitoring system is installed in various strategic locations around the site, as indicated on Figure 4, which is monitored overnight.

Plant and equipment

- 3.2.2 Faults within a vehicle or item of plant have potential to cause fire, so a regular plant and machinery preventative maintenance programme is in place to identify and remedy potential issues at an early stage.
- 3.2.3 All vehicles are stored at a safe distance (6m) from waste stockpiles when not in use.
- 3.2.4 RORO vehicles utilised on site will be maintained in accordance with SUEZ Policies and Procedures. This includes daily vehicle pre-use inspection checks, reporting of all defects to site management and regular clearing of detritus from around the machine. Each machine will be subject to regular service inspections in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations which will include maintenance of the exhaust and weekly cleaning by the operator.

Electrical Equipment

- 3.2.5 All portable items of electrical equipment are listed in a register and tested by a competent person at least annually. Items that cannot be shown to have been tested within the previous 12 months must not be connected to the electrical supply.
- 3.2.6 Fixed electrical installations will be tested by a competent person at intervals of no more than three years, and any defects rectified as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 3.2.7 Electrical sockets must not be overloaded.

Discarded smoking materials

- 3.2.8 No wastes will be burned within the boundaries of the site.
- 3.2.9 Smoking is not permitted within the permit boundary of the site.

Hot works

- 3.2.10 Contractors required to undertake hot works will be required to provide risk assessments and follow approved safe working procedures. Any hot works will be subject to the Permit to Work procedure and will be adequately supervised. In the event of hot works on site the initial fire watch will be undertaken two hours after hot works have been completed. Following the completion of hot works, the end of the day fire watch will pay particular attention to the area where hot works were undertaken.

Industrial heaters

- 3.2.11 No industrial heaters shall be used on site.

Hot exhausts

- 3.2.12 A fire watch will be implemented at the end of the working day to reduce the risk of combustion as dust can settle onto hot exhaust and engine parts of vehicles on site.

Ignition sources

- 3.2.13 Any sources of ignition including for example heating pipes, naked flames, light bulbs and spaces heaters will be kept 6 metres away from any combustible waste.

Leaks and spillages of oils and fuels

- 3.2.14 All machinery/equipment is subject to routine cleaning, servicing in line with manufacturers guidance and daily checks/defect reporting. The daily check includes identification of leaks, and where identified, is cleaned up according to spillage procedure as detailed in Section 3.8 of the SUEZ IMS.

Build-up of loose combustible waste, dust and fluff

- 3.2.15 Site cleaning regimes to reduce dust and litter will be directed through Standard Operating Procedures detailing the duration and frequency of cleaning activities, the equipment required to clean and visual aids depicting how areas should look following cleaning activity. In general, ongoing inspection and

regular cleaning is undertaken by site staff to minimise the generation of dust and litter on site. Waste storage areas are cleaned regularly when they are emptied or as and when requested by the Site Manager.

3.2.16 Daily check sheets include a requirement for site staff to undertake visual dust qualitative monitoring; if perceived to be excessive the action causing the emission will be halted and remedial measures implemented.

Waste acceptance/reactions between wastes

3.2.17 Waste acceptance procedures will comply with the site permit and associated environmental legislation. Only waste types detailed in the permit will be accepted at the site.

3.2.18 Waste deposition at the HWRC will generally be undertaken by the public delivering the waste. Site staff will direct and assist site users to ensure the segregation of waste into the correct containers.

3.2.19 Highways waste is deposited in the designated bays via a separate entrance to the Highways Depot

3.2.20 An evaluation of the incoming waste is undertaken by site operatives, to ensure effective waste handling and storage management to prevent any potential amenity effects.

3.2.21 Any non-conforming wastes will either be rejected from the site and redirected to an appropriate permitted facility or placed in quarantine prior to removal from site. A record of a non-conforming occurrence will be recorded in the site diary.

Deposited hot loads

3.2.22 A quarantine area is available in the event that a hot or burning load is received on site. This area may also be used in the event of a fire on site.

3.2.23 If a hot load is discovered during delivery or deposit of the load, the waste will be isolated and placed in the quarantine area. The waste will be dealt with accordingly (e.g., dampened). The incident and time of discovery will be recorded in the site diary. The waste will be placed in a quarantine area until the fire is extinguished and then loaded into a suitable container. Arrangements will be made for the disposal of such wastes at a suitably permitted disposal facility as soon as practicably possible.

3.3 Controls to Prevent Self-Combustion of Waste

Waste storage procedures and waste piles sizes

3.3.1 Managing waste storage at the site is a key consideration in reducing the risk of fire. The waste types, storage detail, maximum volumes/stockpile size, storage duration and location on site are detailed in Appendix A.

3.3.2 Waste accepted at the site is inspected whilst being unloaded. Although an ongoing task throughout the day, at least twice daily checks will be made of waste in storage to identify any waste that has potential to cause a fire.

3.3.3 Clear signage reinforces the safe storage of materials and use of ignition sources.

- 3.3.4 The storage of wastes on site will be restricted to the capacities of the containers, bins and bays. 40 yard roll on/roll (RORO) off containers will be utilised on site which have the standard dimensions of 6.2m in length, 2.4m in width and 2.9m in height, with a maximum volume size of 30m³. These containers are the largest used on site and therefore it is considered that the maximum pile size on site is 30m³.
- 3.3.5 Materials will be treated and removed from site in order of receipt to reduce the risk of self-combustion.
- 3.3.6 Regular working practice includes the emptying/ removal of containers and bays when the product pile reaches a marked capacity. As the outputs of the process are a valued commodity, SUEZ seek to remove the material off site as soon as possible in order to release its commercial value. This reduces the risk of a fire arising from self-combustion.
- 3.3.7 Combustible materials stored within containers and bays are fully accessible to allow any fire inside to be extinguished. Containers and bays are accessible to enable rapid segregation, if necessary, of burning materials from non-burning materials and vice versa. Containers or stockpiles will be moved using the existing RORO vehicle at the site following instruction by site manager.

Monitoring and controlling of temperature

- 3.3.8 Waste temperature monitoring at site is not proposed due to the short maximum residence time of the majority of waste type at the site of one to two weeks. A few waste types are stored on site between a month and 3 months due to the low volume received at any one time.
- 3.3.9 Environment Agency guidance requires temperature monitoring to be in place if combustible waste is stored on site for longer than 3 months.

Waste bale storage

- 3.3.10 There is no storage of waste in bales at site.

Measures to prevent fire spread

- 3.3.11 All waste will be stored on an impermeable surface. The non-flammable nature of the impermeable surface will act as a firebreak, which should significantly reduce the risk of a fire spreading.
- 3.3.12 Containers will be positioned to maintain access to any waste from at least one side, should it ignite.
- 3.3.13 Wastes will be stored in dedicated containers, bays, bins, or lockable cabinets, as shown on the indicative layout plan.
- 3.3.14 With reference to Figure 2, RORO waste storage containers are located a minimum of 6m from the permit boundary where there is a risk of fire spreading off site. Containers that are within 6m of the site boundary are constantly accessible and can be moved rapidly in the event a fire is detected, preventing fire spreading off-site.
- 3.3.15 Containers are accessible to enable rapid segregation, if necessary, of burning materials from non-burning materials and vice versa. Containers can be moved using the existing RORO vehicle at the site following instruction by site manager.

- 3.3.16 Combustible materials stored within the bays (i.e. street cleaning residues) will be separated concrete walls to create a thermal barrier to prevent the spread of fire.

Quarantine area

- 3.3.17 A quarantine area is maintained at all times to allow burning material to be moved into this area (provided it is safe to do so) to extinguish and control fire spread. It is also used to move piles of non-burning material (adjacent to a fire) to prevent spread.
- 3.3.18 As set out in EA guidance, the size of the quarantine area should be sufficient to accommodate 50% of the volume of the largest waste pile and provide a minimum separation distance of 6m on all sides to the nearest pile, building or site boundary.
- 3.3.19 Based on the waste storage arrangements in Appendix A, all combustible waste materials will be stored in containers. The largest container will comprise a 40 yard RORO container which have the standard dimensions of 6.2m in length, 2.4m in width and 2.9m in height with a maximum volume of 30m³.
- 3.3.20 In the event of a fire being detected on site, the material would be dealt with in the most appropriate manner, including either segregation of burning material into one of the quarantine area or the remaining non burning waste will be segregated to ensure the separation distance from the burning waste. The site has capability to move loose materials and containers quickly, with the RORO vehicle located on site.
- 3.3.21 The quarantine areas located in the HWRC service yard that will be kept clear of material and are shown on Figure 4. The yard area has sufficient capacity to accommodate at least 3 x 40 yard RORO skips and provide a minimum separation distance of 6m on all sides.

4 DETECTION AND SUPPRESSION MEASURES

4.1 Fire Detection

Fire Detection Procedures

- 4.1.1 Fire detection during operational hours relies on the constant vigilance of site operatives, who regularly check waste storage areas for issues, including smoking, smouldering and fire.
- 4.1.2 If a fire is detected on site, then site operatives will raise the alarm, inform the site manager and take the appropriate action in line with this Fire Prevention Plan.
- 4.1.3 The fire alarm system comprises an air horn, which is checked at least monthly by the Technically Competent Manager (or other designated person). Checks will be recorded on the site's fire file and any fault must be reported immediately.
- 4.1.4 CCTV monitoring systems are installed in various strategic locations around the site, which are monitored overnight. This will form part of the security and fire detection system during non-operational hours.

4.2 Fire Suppression

Extinguishers/ firefighting equipment

- 4.2.1 Site staff will be trained in fire safety awareness and in the use of site firefighting equipment.
- 4.2.2 Fire extinguishers are placed at key strategic locations around site as indicated on Figure 4. A check of the fire extinguishers (discharged/full, service in date etc) is part of the weekly site check. All fire extinguishers are subject to annual testing by an approved accredited supplier.
- 4.2.3 All fire extinguishers conform to British Standard EN3 and sited in permanent fire points. The extinguishers are of a suitable size and weight for use by site staff.
- 4.2.4 If operations change a revised fire risk assessment will be undertaken and additional firefighting measures will be implemented if necessary.

Fire Hydrants

- 4.2.5 There is one hydrant on Cowen Road, approximately 60m south of the site boundary. The location of the fire hydrant is shown in Figure 4.

4.3 Fire Fighting Techniques

- 4.3.1 Providing access to the site in the event of a fire is a key consideration in containing a fire. Contact details in the event of an emergency are clearly displayed on site and a full list of emergency contacts is provided in the fire pack located in the welfare cabin.
- 4.3.2 The emergency access routes to waste storage and quarantine area in the event of a fire are shown on Figure 4. All public and operational areas of the site can be easily accessed by emergency services.

- 4.3.3 As detailed in section 3.3, in the event of a fire being detected, either burning material may be segregated into the quarantine area or the remaining non burning waste may be segregated to ensure the separation distance from the burning waste, preventing the spread of fire.
- 4.3.4 The firefighting procedure detailed in Section 5 must be adhered to if a fire should break out on site.

4.4 Water Supply

- 4.4.1 The water supply for firefighting will be provided from the public hydrant on Cowen Road. The Environment Agency Fire Prevention Plan requirements state for a 300m³ pile of waste 2,000 litres per minute are required for a minimum of 3 hours.
- 4.4.2 The maximum total volume of combustible wastes stored at the site is 30m³, equating to a requirement of 200 litres per minute, and an overall 3-hour water supply of 36,000 litres (36m³). Any waste extinguished in a container will need no more than the volume of the container (maximum 30m³).
- 4.4.3 It is therefore considered that the public hydrant can deliver the necessary water supply for suppression.

4.5 Fire Water Management

Fire water volume

- 4.5.1 As calculated above, the maximum volume of water required to extinguish a fire on site is calculated to be 36m³, which is a low volume. Any water on the HWRC is likely to flow downgradient to the east yard area and service yard, which have a combined area of approximately 3,000m².
- 4.5.2 In the highways depot bays, water is likely to flow downgradient to the car park, which has an area of approximately 1,000m².

Fire water management

- 4.5.3 All areas of hardstanding, impermeable pavement, bays and containers are visually inspected at least monthly to ensure continuing integrity and fitness for purpose. The inspection and any necessary maintenance subsequently required will be recorded.
- 4.5.4 Fire water management will depend on the location of a fire on site. In the event that a fire is located in one of the containers on site, fire water may be able to be retained within the container.
- 4.5.5 Fire water will be minimised by extinguishing a fire with the available fire extinguishers, where safe to do so, or the isolation of burning material by moving it, or adjacent waste containers, with the site's RORO vehicle. The containerised nature of most waste will also prevent the spread of fire and therefore the overall size of any fire.
- 4.5.6 The perimeter of the HWRC has kerbs which will prevent the firewater from escaping outside of the permit boundary or to surface and groundwater. The service yard entrance has a traffic bump across its full length preventing the escape of any water.
- 4.5.7 In the event of a fire, booms and drain cover mats will be used as necessary to retain any fire water and prevent it leaving site via the drainage system. The site has an ample supply of drain cover mats,

which will be stored in strategic areas of the site, including in spill kits and the operational yard. Plans of the HWRC's and Depot's drainage systems, including drain locations, are provided in Figure 5, 6 and 7, respectively.

4.5.8 A service agreement will be in place for a tanker to pump fire water from the site if necessary and dispose of accordingly.

4.6 Contingency Plan in the Event of a Fire

4.6.1 In the event of a major fire, the emergency procedures will be followed which includes notifying the Fire Service and Environment Agency. A business continuity plan is in place as part of the contract, and this includes contingency planning in the event of a major fire. In such an event, the following contingency action plan will be implemented:

- Remove all staff off site to a safe place.
- Depending upon the scale of the fire, operations on site will be suspended whilst the fire is extinguished.
- Close site and await further instruction from the authorities.
- During this period, SUEZ haulage team will be notified.
- Inform nearby residents and businesses. This will be done via SUEZ's communications team and in consultation with the local authority.
- Direct waste deliveries to alternative facilities.
- Any burnt waste or material will be segregated and contained on site, either on site or within containers. This will then be assessed and disposed of to a suitably permitted facility. Any firewater produced as a result of fighting a fire would be contained on site. This would then be removed from site via tanker for subsequent processing at a suitably permitted facility.
- The site will be cleaned prior to operations recommencing.
- Operations will only recommence once the Fire Service have advised that it is safe to do so.
- Internal plant checks may also be required prior to recommencement of operations.
- Environment Agency will be notified of the restart of operation.

4.6.2 Fire damaged wastes will be disposed of at a suitably permitted facility.

4.7 Out of hours Response

4.7.1 A fire pack is located on site, clearly marked for the Fire Rescue Service (FRS) to access in the event of attending site in the absence of personnel on site. The pack will contain:

- Information relating to hazardous materials and their location.
- Drainage plans.
- Contact details for key holders.

4.7.2 In the event of an out of hours fire when there was no SUEZ presence at site, the FRS would force their entry into the site and will gain access to the site via the normal site access route.

5 FIRE FIGHTING PROCEDURE

The following procedure must be adhered to if a fire should break out on the site.

ALL FIRES ON SITE MUST BE TREATED AS SERIOUS AND MUST BE REPORTED TO THE SITE SUPERVISOR AND/OR MANAGER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

- 5.1.1 It is considered unlikely that a fire will occur but if this should happen then any outbreak of fire will be regarded as an emergency and immediate action will be taken to extinguish the fire. No one should attempt to fight a fire unless they have received training in the use of fire extinguishers and then only if this can be done without risk.
- 5.1.2 If it is safe to do so, attempts should be made to extinguish a fire. This can be done by using site machinery to move any non-burnt material away from the smoulder or source of fire or using water, working from the edge of the fire inwards. Plant and machinery must never be driven into the centre of any fire; this will place both the driver and the machine in danger. If possible, extinguish the fire with a portable extinguisher or water.
- 5.1.3 Should the fire be successfully extinguished by this action, a check should be kept of the area to ensure that the fire does not re-ignite. The area should be vacated until it is obvious that there is no further danger of the fire restarting.
- 5.1.4 If the above action FAILS to extinguish the fire, prohibit all entry to the area, then summon emergency services immediately. Close the site to all members of the public. Any persons already on the site should leave. The Fire Service will be contacted to deal with major fire incidents. Site staff will not be deployed to deal with major fires.
- 5.1.5 Telephone the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) – Dial **999**. Give the exact details including the site address and telephone number.
- 5.1.6 Before the Fire and Rescue Service arrives, staff will:
 - ensure operators of appropriate machinery are standing by in a safe location to help create fire breaks, under the direction of the FRS when they arrive
 - Appoint a clearly identified person to liaise with the emergency services on site. They should identify themselves to the FRS as soon as they arrive
 - ensure access routes are clear
 - use pollution control equipment to block drains and/or divert firewater to a containment area and/or operate any pollution control facilities.
- 5.1.7 On arrival the FRS should be met by the identified responsible person who must update them with relevant information that will assist them in dealing with a fire more effectively.
- 5.1.8 The designated Assembly Point is in the car park facing the operations yard on the other side of the exit route. All persons must wait at the Assembly point for further instructions. A Fire Warden will ensure

that unauthorised persons do not enter the premises and that no one re-enters the site until given permission by a Fire Warden.

- 5.1.9 Upon the outbreak of fire, the receipt of waste at the site is to be suspended and not resumed until authorised by the Site Manager.
- 5.1.10 For a major fire that cannot be quickly extinguished, the Site Manager should notify the Environment Agency immediately by telephone on the incident hotline: 0800 80 70 60. The Agency must also then be informed in writing as soon as is practicable.
- 5.1.11 Communication with local businesses and residents identified in the sensitive receptor table (Table 1 Section 2.6) will be undertaken in the event of a fire to reduce any environmental damage and risks to human health associated with smoke and dust.
- 5.1.12 All incidents must be reported in the daybook and on SUEZ's Incident Reporting and Investigation System (IRIS). The Environment and Industrial Risk (EIR) Manager should be informed so that in turn, full details of the event can be reported to the Environment Agency.
- 5.1.13 Site operations will not be recommenced until deemed safe to do so by the Local Fire Authority and the Environment Agency.



Appendices



Appendix A – Waste Storage Details

Cowen Road Household Waste Reception and Recycling Centre (HWRC) – Waste Storage Plan

APPENDIX B – WASTE STORAGE DETAILS

Waste type	Form	Location within site	Storage detail	Bay or Container Dimensions	Volume of waste (m ³)	Maximum storage time on site
HWRC						
Hardcore & Rubble	Loose	Operational Yard - Skip Bay 1	20yd Ro-Ro Skip	2.4m (W) x 6.1m (L) x 1.2m (H)	18m ³	1 week
Plasterboard	Loose	Operational Yard - Skip Bay 2	40yd Ro-Ro Skip	2.4m (W) x 6.2m (L) x 2.9m (H)	30m ³	1 week
Green Waste	Loose	Operational Yard - Skip Bay 3 & 12	40yd Ro-Ro Skip	2.4m (W) x 6.2m (L) x 2.9m (H)	30m ³	1 week
Wood	Loose	Operational Yard - Skip Bay 4 & 11	40yd Ro-Ro Skip	2.4m (W) x 6.2m (L) x 2.9m (H)	30m ³	1 week
Cardboard	Loose	Operational Yard - Skip Bay 5	40yd Ro-Ro Skip	2.4m (W) x 6.2m (L) x 2.9m (H)	30m ³	1 week
General Waste	Loose	Operational Yard - Skip Bay 6 & 9	40yd Ro-Ro Skip	2.4m (W) x 6.2m (L) x 2.9m (H)	30m ³	1 week
Mattresses	Loose	Operational Yard - Skip Bay 7	40yd Ro-Ro Skip	2.4m (W) x 6.2m (L) x 2.9m (H)	30m ³	1 week
Hard Plastics	Loose	Operational Yard - Skip Bay 8	40yd Ro-Ro Skip	2.4m (W) x 6.2m (L) x 2.9m (H)	30m ³	1 week
Scrap Metal	Loose	Operational Yard - Skip Bay 13	40yd Ro-Ro Skip	2.4m (W) x 6.2m (L) x 2.9m (H)	30m ³	1 week
Soil	Loose	Operational Yard - Skip Bay 14	40yd Ro-Ro Skip	2.4m (W) x 6.2m (L) x 2.9m (H)	30m ³	1 month
Street Scene General Waste	Loose	Operational Yard – Skip	20 yd Ro-Ro skip	2.44m (W) x 6.1m (L) x 1.22m (H)	18m ³	1 week
TVs/Monitors	Loose	HWRC yard (publicly accessible area in west part of site)	40yd Ro-Ro Skip	2.4m (W) x 6.2m (L) x 2.9m (H)	30m ³	1 week
Fridges/Freezers	Loose	HWRC yard (publicly accessible area in west part of site)	40yd Ro-Ro Skip	2.4m (W) x 6.2m (L) x 2.9m (H)	30m ³	1 week
WEEE (LDA)	Loose	HWRC yard (publicly accessible area in west part of site)	40yd Ro-Ro Skip	2.4m (W) x 6.2m (L) x 2.9m (H)	30m ³	1 week
Tyres	Loose	HWRC yard (publicly accessible area in west part of site)	20 yd Ro-Ro skip	2.44m (W) x 6.1m (L) x 1.22m (H)	18m ³	3 months
Fluorescent Tubes/Bulbs	Loose	HWRC yard (publicly accessible area in west part of site)	Specialist Container	1.2m (W) x 2.5m (L) x 1.2m (H)	3m ³	3 months
WEEE (SDA)	Loose	HWRC yard (publicly accessible area in west part of site)	30yd Ro-Ro Skip	2.4m (W) x 6.10m (L) x 1.98m (H)	30m ³	1 week
Used Oil	Liquid	HWRC yard (publicly accessible area in west part of site)	Bunded Tank	1.32 (W) x 2.36 (L) x 1.41(H)	4.3m ³	1 month
Lead-acid Batteries	Loose	HWRC yard (publicly accessible area in west part of site)	Battery Box	1m (W) x 1m (L) x 2m (H)	2m ³	1.5 months
Household Batteries	Loose	HWRC yard (publicly accessible area in west part of site)	Battery Box	1m (W) x 1m (L) x 2m (H)	2m ³	1.5 months
Co-mingled mixed recycling bins	Loose	HWRC yard (publicly accessible area in west part of site)	Mixed recycling bin	1.4m (W) x 1.1 (L) x 1.3 (H)	1100 litres	2 weeks
Textiles	Loose	HWRC yard (publicly accessible area in west part of site)	Textiles Mini RoRo	2.2 (W) x 3.9(L) x 2.1(H)	18m ³	2 weeks
Chemicals (flammable/corrosive)	Containerised	HWRC yard (publicly accessible area in west part of site)	Chemical Cabinet	1m (W) x 1m (L) x 2m H	2m ³	1 month
Paper	Loose	HWRC yard (publicly accessible area in west part of site)	Paper Bank	1.4m (W) x 1.1 (L) x 1.3 (H)	1100 litres	2 weeks

Waste type	Form	Location within site	Storage detail	Bay or Container Dimensions	Volume of waste (m³)	Maximum storage time on site
Reuse Container (not waste)	Containerised	HWRC yard (publicly accessible area in west part of site)	20ft Shipping Container	2.4 (W) x 6.0 (L) x 2.6 m (H)	37m³	1 month
Highways Depot (Transfer Station)						
Tarmac/Asphalt	Loose	Highways Depot (Bay 1)	External Storage Bay	3.6m (W) x 3.3 (L) x 2.7 (H)	24m³	1 week
Hardcore/ Rubble	Loose	Highways Depot (Bay 2)	External Storage Bay	3.6m (W) x 3.3 (L) x 2.7 (H)	24m³	1 week
Hardcore/ Rubble	Loose	Highways Depot (Bay 3)	External Storage Bay	3.6m (W) x 3.3 (L) x 2.7 (H)	24m³	1 week
Hardcore/ Rubble	Loose	Highways Depot (Bay 4)	External Storage Bay	3.6m (W) x 3.3 (L) x 2.7 (H)	24m³	1 week
Street Sweepings	Loose	Highways Depot (Bay 5) <i>(Bay 4 may also be used depending on seasonal demand)</i>	External Storage Bay	3.6m (W) x 3.3 (L) x 2.7 (H)	24m³	1 week
Street Sweepings	Loose	6 - Highways Depot Container (adjacent to Bay 5)	20 yd Ro-Ro skip	2.44m (W) x 6.1m (L) x 1.22m (H)	18m³	1 week

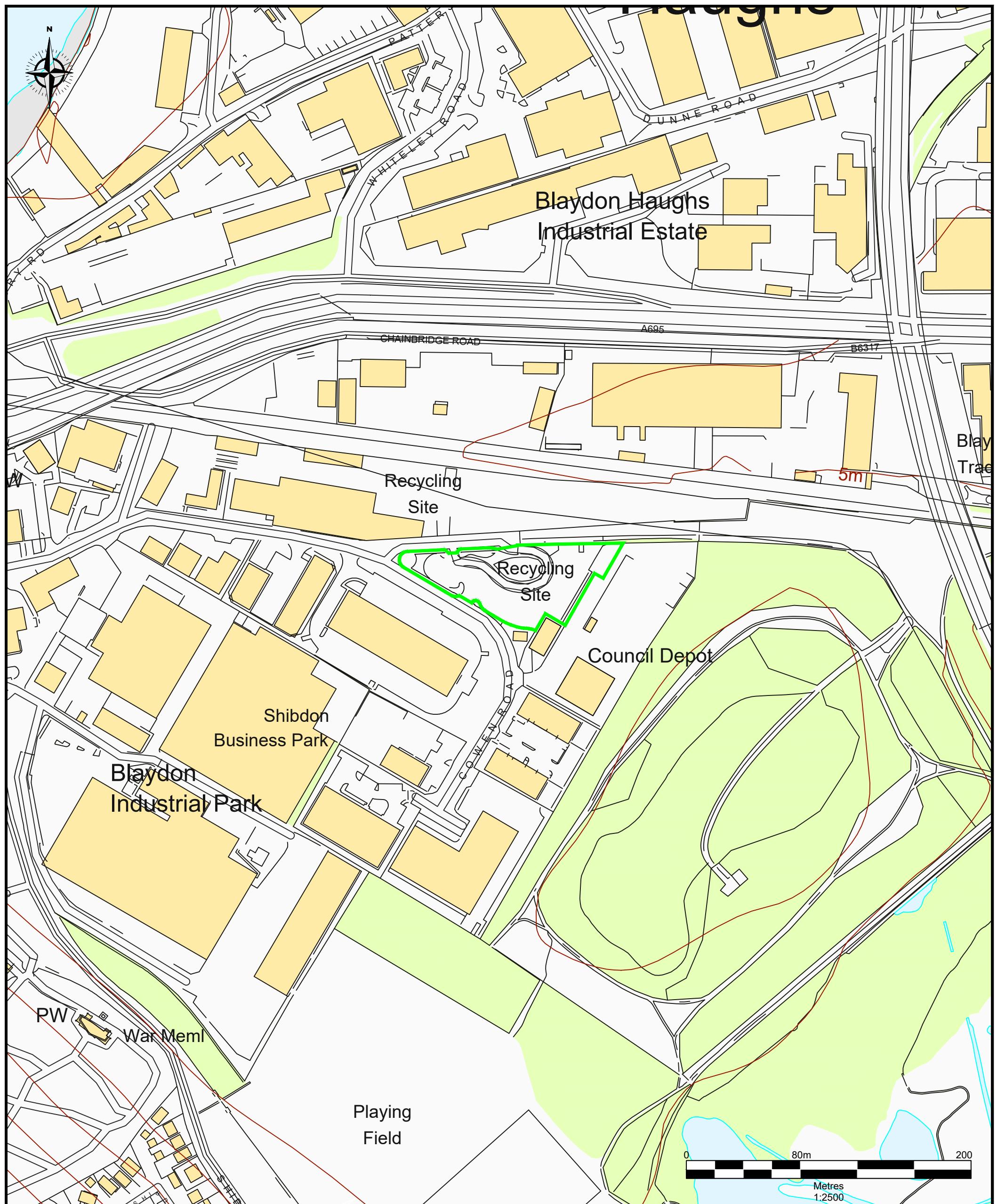
Note: volume calculations for bays allow for material slump at the front of the storage area and so equate to 75% of the total cubic volume.



Figures



Figure 1 – Site Location Plan



Notes

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— Permit Boundary

 <p>Darwen Resource Recovery Park, Lower Eccleshill Road, Darwen, BB3 0RP Tel: (01254) 819700, Fax: (01254) 819749, Email: richard.bisset@slta.co.uk</p>	<p>Site Cowen Road HWRC Title Site Location Plan</p>	<p>Scale 1:2,500 @ A3</p>	<p>Drawn by JA</p>	<p>Rev A</p>	subject Updated Layout	date March 2025
		<p>Date August 2025</p>		<p>B</p>	Permit Boundary Adjusted	August 2025
		<p>Drawing Ref Cwn-PLN-1123-01b</p>		<p>Checked by SW</p>		



Figure 2 – Indicative Site Layout



Notes

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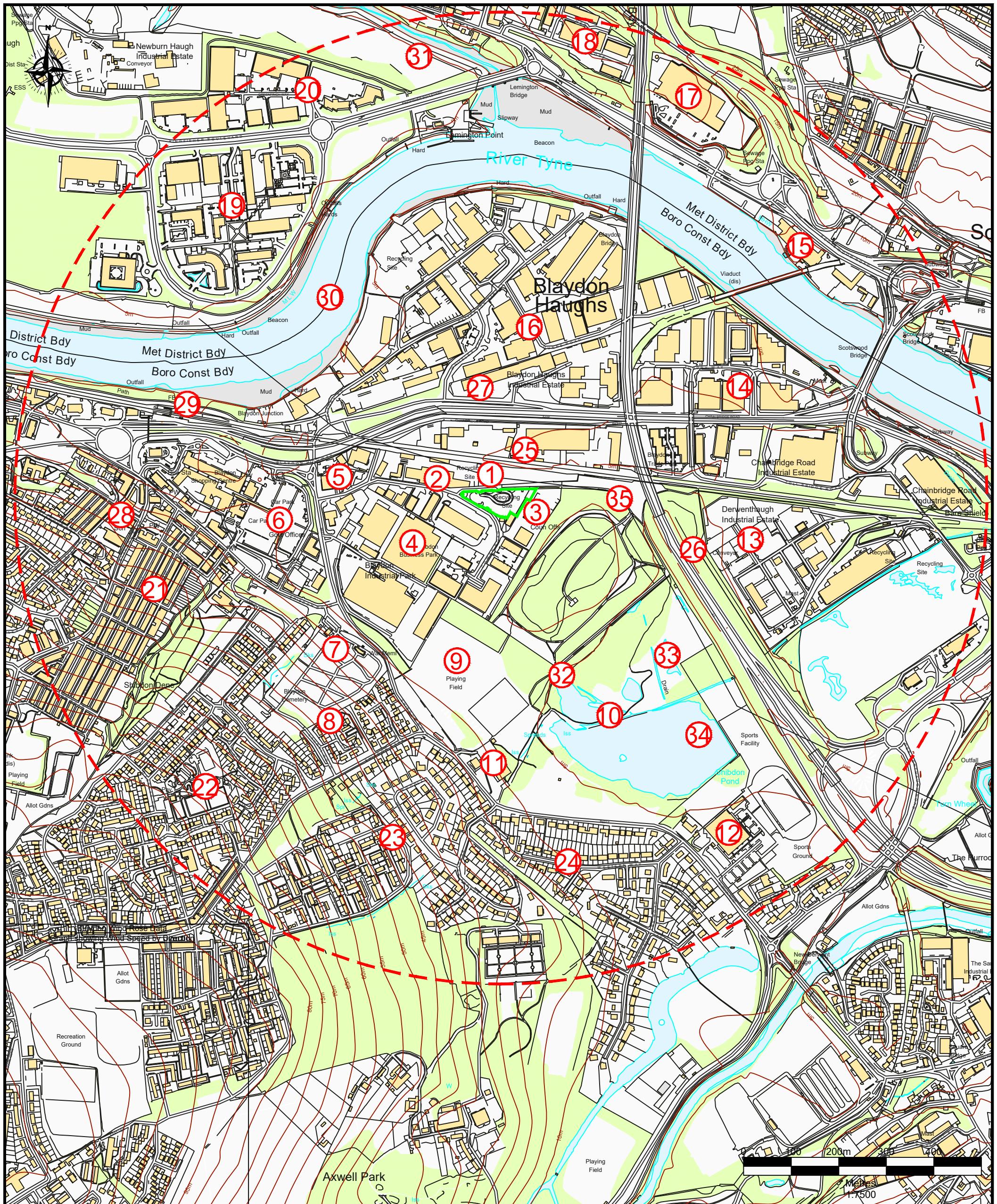
 Permit Boundary



Rev	subject	date
A	Permit Boundary Adjusted	August 2025
SUEZ Darwen Resource Recovery Park, Lower Eccleshill Road, Darwen, BB3 0RP Tel: (01254) 819700, Fax: (01254) 819749, Email: richard.bisset@sita.co.uk		
Site Cowen Road HWRC		
Title Indicative Site Layout		
Scale 1:500 @ A3		
Date August 2025		
Drawing Ref Cwn-LAY-1124-01a		Drawn by JA
		Checked by SW



Figure 3 – Sensitive Receptor Plan



Notes

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Ordnance Survey AC0000808122/100004910.

— Permit Boundary
- - - 1km Offset

① Receptors



Figure 4 – Emergency Access Route

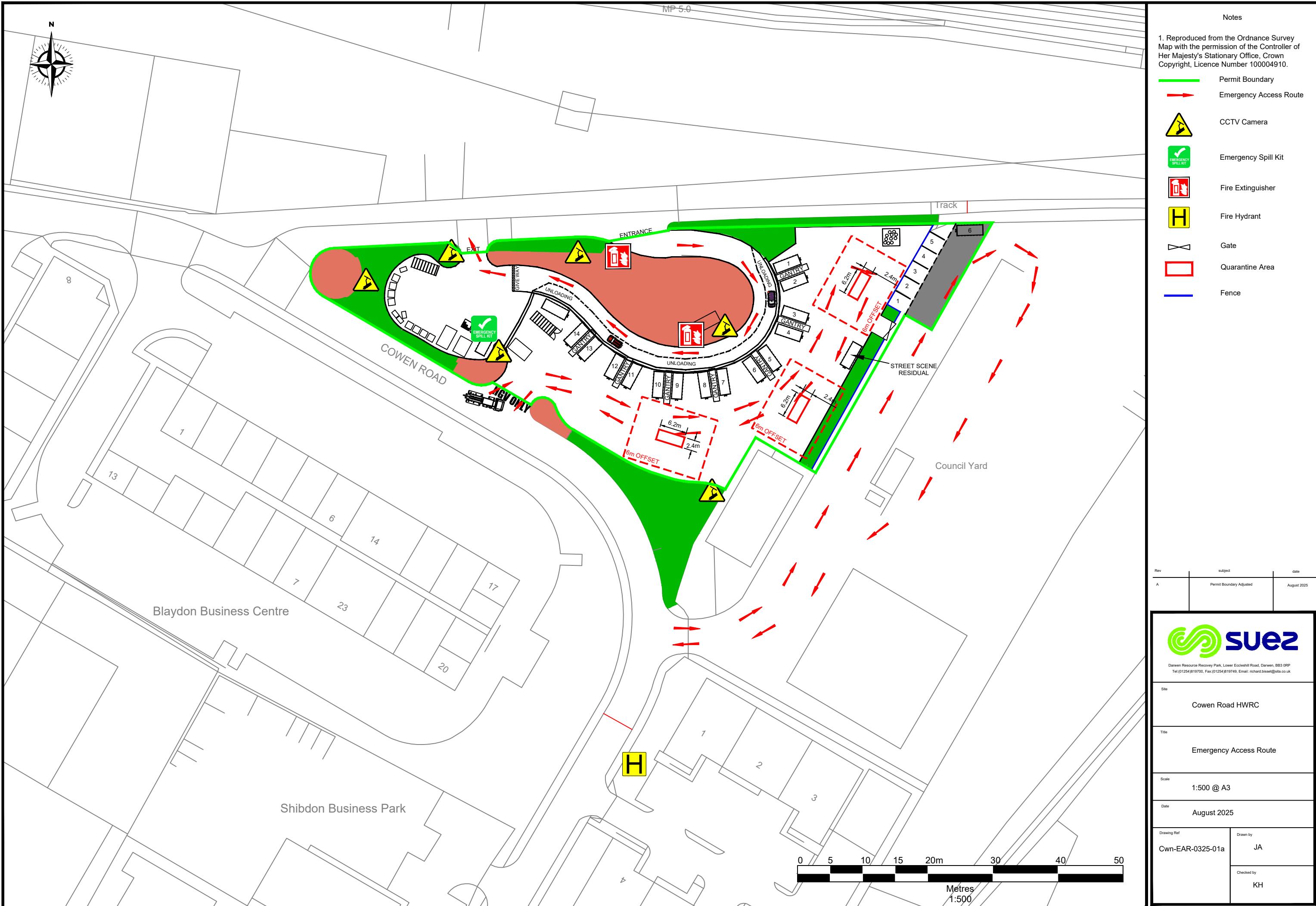




Figure 5 – Drainage Plan



750N

700N

Notes
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- Existing Foul Drainage
- Existing S.W. Drainage
- Proposed S.W. Drainage

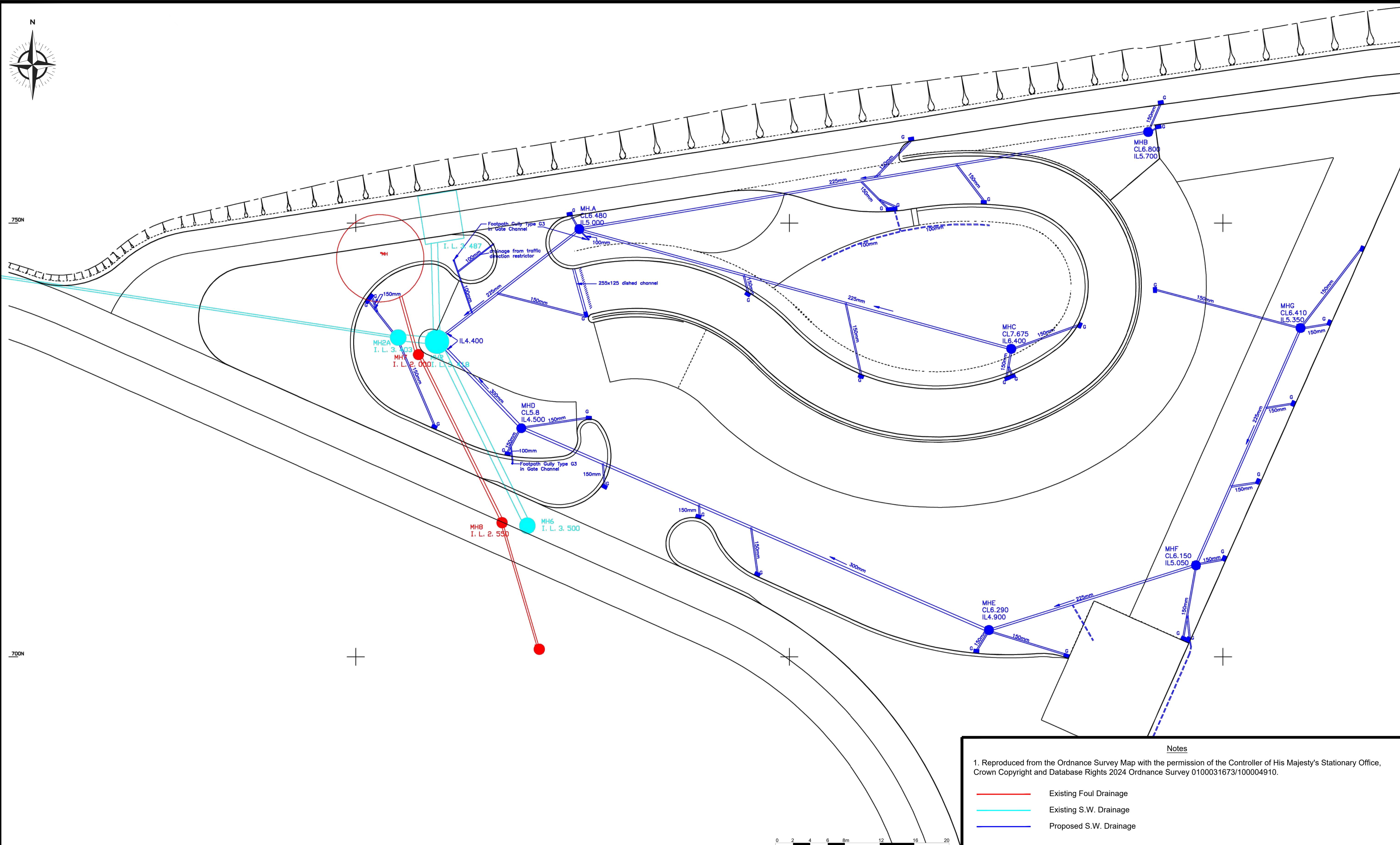
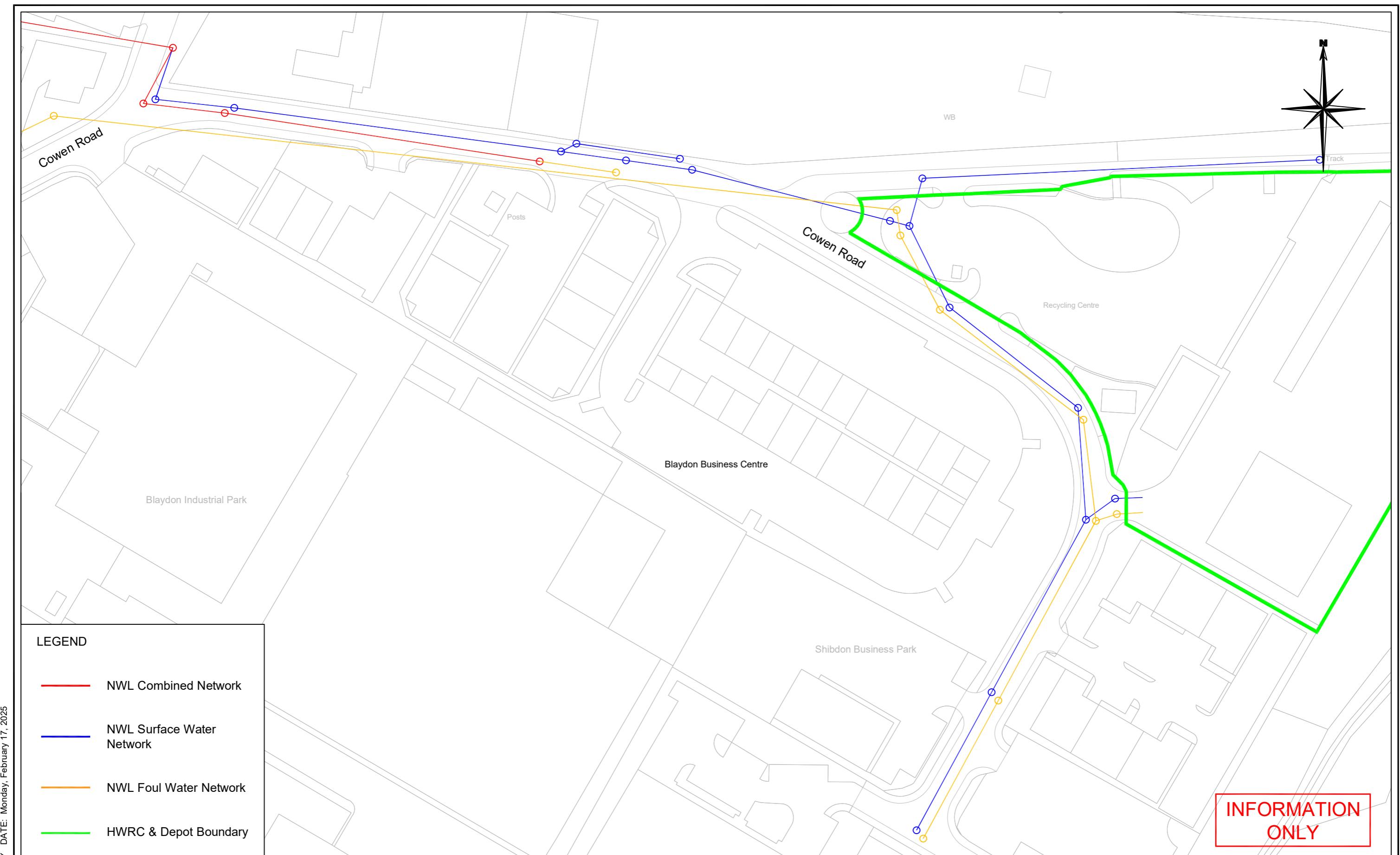




Figure 6 – Cowen Road Depot Drainage And Service Ducts



Figure 7 – External Drainage Plan (TS)



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Highways & Waste Trevor Waggett B.Eng (Hons), FIHE Engineering Services Manager	CLIENT: Gateshead Council	DRAWING TITLE: External Drainage Plan	PREPARED BY:- John McEvoy	DATE:- 17/02/2025
	SCHEME NAME: Cowen Road HWRC		CHECKED BY:- --	SCALES:- 1:1000 @ A3
			APPROVED BY:- --	DRAWING NO:- TS- REV --
Gateshead Council	Civic Centre Regent Street Gateshead NE8 1HH Tel. 0191 4333000 www.gateshead.gov.uk	M:\TransPlan\HFRM\John McEvoy\Projects\Cowen Road HWRC\Drawings\Cowen Road - External Drainage Layout.dwg		A3