

**An application to transfer and vary environmental permit number EPR/LB3733AF in respect of Wellingborough Railhead, Neilsons Yard, Meadow Close, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire**

**Non-technical summary**

- 1.1** Wellingborough Railhead (the railhead site) is an operational railhead where aggregates are imported by rail, stored and loaded for onward distribution by road. The railhead site is located in a predominately industrial area on the north east outskirts of Wellingborough. The railhead site covers an area of approximately 6 hectares (ha). GRS Rail Services Limited (formerly Northampton Aggregates Limited) have the benefit of Standard Rules Environmental Permit SR2009No6 – inert and excavation waste transfer station with treatment (number EPR/LB3733AF) for an area in the south of the railhead site (the site). Environmental Permit number EPR/LB3733AF (the permit) was issued by the Environment Agency on 31 October 2012, is centred approximately at National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 90458 69643 and covers an area of approximately 1.5 hectares.
- 1.2** GRS Rail Services together with GRS (Roadstone) Limited are both part of the GRS Group of Companies. It is proposed that the permit is transferred to GRS (Roadstone) Limited and varied to become a bespoke Environmental Permit which, in addition to the operations currently authorised by the permit will also provide for the operation of an incinerator bottom ash aggregate (IBAA) blending facility at the site (the proposed blending facility). The permit currently provides for the transfer and treatment of up to 250,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of inert and excavation wastes. The permit provides the ability to import inert and excavation wastes and treat the wastes by manual sorting, separation, screening or crushing of wastes into different components for disposal (no more than 50 tonnes per day) or recovery.
- 1.3** The IBAA activities which will be undertaken at the proposed blending facility will comprise the acceptance, under List of Waste Code (LoW) 19 12 12, of up to 200,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of IBAA that has been processed elsewhere to meet the BS13242 specification. The IBAA will be stored on site before being blended with primary aggregates or aggregates produced in accordance with the Aggregates

Quality Protocol<sup>1</sup>. The IBAA will be blended to form an aggregate output to meet a required specification which will be sent off site for use. Consistent with the inert and excavation waste transfer and treatment operations, processed IBAA will be imported to the railhead site by road and the aggregate product will predominantly be exported from the railhead site by road. It is possible that aggregate product also will be exported by rail.

- 1.4** The site including the proposed IBAA storage and blending area is located in the open air. Consistent with Standard Rules Environmental Permit SR2009No6 the inert and excavation waste transfer and treatment operations may be carried out on a hardstanding surface. The proposed IBAA storage and blending operations will be carried out on impermeable surfaces with sealed drainage systems. The IBAA storage and blending areas will be delineated on three sides by concrete block walls up to 4m high. In summary the IBAA blending operations will be carried out by loading shovels and the placement in the bays of alternate layers of IBAA and aggregate. Effective dust suppression will be provided.
- 1.5** A Nuisance and Amenity Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) has been prepared and is included in the application to vary the permit to provide for the operation of the proposed blending facility. It is concluded in the ERA that subject to the implementation of appropriate controls the proposed blending operations have a low or very low risk of adverse impact on amenity or the surrounding environment including sites of heritage or nature conservation interest. A Dust and Emissions Management Plan (DEMP) has been prepared in respect of the proposed blending operations and the DEMP is included in the application to vary the permit. A Noise Assessment (NIA) has been prepared and is included in the application to vary the permit. It is concluded in the NIA that there will be no significant or unacceptable adverse impact at existing noise sensitive premises in the vicinity of the site. A Noise Management Plan (NMP) has been prepared in respect of the proposed blending operations and the NMP is included in the application to vary the permit.
- 1.6** The site is and will be managed in accordance with an Environmental Management System (EMS) using sufficient competent persons and resources. A summary of the EMS is included in the application to vary the permit.

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<sup>1</sup> WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) Quality Protocol for Aggregates from inert waste, end of waste criteria for the production of aggregates from inert waste published on 22 October 2013