Watlington Quarry — Non-Technical Summary

A117209
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1.1.1 This Environmental Permit Application has been prepared by Tetratech on behalf of the Operator, Mick George Limited (Mick George), in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 as amended.

1.1.2 This application relates to Watlington Quarry in Norfolk which has been an active site for the production of sand and gravel, and aggregate since the first planning permission was issued in the mid 1960's. Since then a number of planning permissions for extensions to the site have been granted have been Norfolk County Council.

1.1.3 In 2021, planning permission (Reference Number FUL/2021/0007) was granted by NCC, for the "extraction of sand & gravel and clay, and subsequent importation of inert fill to achieve a beneficial restoration of the site back to enhanced agriculture". A copy of this planning permission is provided as Appendix N of this application.

1.1.4 In order to facilitate the restoration works, Mick George seeks to utilise imported inert waste materials rather than 'virgin soils'. As such, Mick George seeks to gain a bespoke waste disposal permit for the infilling and subsequent restoration of the Watlington Quarry as approved under planning permission reference FUL/2021/0007).

2.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

2.1 PERMIT APPLICATION

2.1.1 This Environmental Permit Application is submitted to the Environment Agency by the operator, Mick George, under the requirements of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations as amended in 2016. It is a requirement of these Regulations that any application is accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary of the submitted documentation.

2.1.2 The application site forms part of the wider Watlington Quarry site in Norfolk and is located approximately 1.5km north east from the village of Watlington. The site is centred at approximate National Grid Reference (NGR) TF 63427 11556 and the environmental permit boundary is shown on Drawing Number MGL/A117209/PER/01.

2.1.3 Access to the site is achieved from an access road off Watlington Road located to the north of the site. Beyond the wider quarry site, the immediate surroundings are agricultural and the nearest residential property is considered to be Oak House which is located approximately 575m north of the application site.

2.1.4 Watlington Quarry has been an active site for the production of sand and gravel, and aggregate since the first planning permission was issued in the mid 1960's. Since then a number of planning permissions for extensions to the site have been granted have been Norfolk County Council.

2.1.5 In 2021, planning permission (Reference Number FUL/2021/0007) was granted by NCC, for the "extraction of sand & gravel and clay, and subsequent importation of inert fill to achieve a beneficial restoration of the

site back to enhanced agriculture". This planning application relates to an area of land located to the south of the existing quarry site and is shown on Drawing Number MGL/A117209/PER/01.

2.1.6 In order to facilitate the restoration works, Mick George seeks to utilise imported inert waste materials rather than 'virgin soils'. As such, Mick George seeks to gain a bespoke waste disposal permit for the restoration of the Watlington Quarry as approved under planning permission reference FUL/2021/0007.

2.1.7 This application is accompanied by all relevant documentation, as required by the aforementioned Regulations, and in the format set out in the Environment Agency guidance documents. In summary, these documents comprise:-

- Application Forms A, B2, B4 and F1 (Appendix A);
- Operating Techniques (Appendix B);
- Environmental Risk Assessment (Appendix C);
- Environmental Setting and Site Design (Appendix D);
- Dust Management Plan (Appendix E);
- Nosie Impact Assessment and Management Plan (Appendix F);
- Site Condition Report (Appendix G);
- Hydrogeological Risk Assessment (Appendix H);
- Stability Risk Assessment (Appendix L);
- Landfill Gas Screening Report (Appendix J);
- Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (Appendix I);
- Financial Provision (Appendix L);
- Closure and Aftercare Plan (Appendix K); and
- Drawings.

2.1.8 Specific details of the operations at the site are provided in the Operating Techniques (Appendix B), which describes both the operational techniques and management procedures carried out at the site. In summary, this document provides details of:-

- Waste types and waste acceptance criteria;
- Site records;
- Emissions control;
- Incidents and non-conformance procedures;
- Accident management; and
- Emergency procedures.

2.1.9 The Environmental Risk Assessment (Appendix C) is concerned with the nature and extent of any linkages between the source of any environmental hazards, and the receptors, which may be susceptible to harm; such linkages being termed pathways. Where potential for harm is identified, the assessment identifies engineering or management techniques, which will mitigate such impacts. This report is supported by a Nature and Heritage Conservation Screen that was requested from the Environment Agency (Reference Number EPR/GB3805FN/A001). This screen determines the presence of any sites of nature and heritage conservation, or protected species or habitats that may be impacted by the proposal.

2.1.10 The Environmental Setting and Site Design report (Appendix D) describes the site in relation to the environmental setting, identifying the source terms, pathways and receptors that have been used as the basis for the Environmental Risk Assessment.

2.1.11 Noise and Dust Management Plans (Appendix E and F) have also been submitted for this permit application to show that the permitted activities would not cause nuisance or environmental issues.

2.1.12 As required under the Environment Agency's Regulatory Guidance Note RGN 9 – Surrender, a Site Condition Report (Appendix G) has been prepared regarding the areas of the site that will not be used for the permanent deposits of wastes.

2.1.13 The Hydrogeological Risk Assessment (Appendix H) provides the geological and hydrogeological setting of the site allowing the development of a conceptual model to determine the risk that the facility will pose to underlying groundwater.

2.1.14 The Stability Risk Assessment (Appendix L) documents the structural and physical ability of the landfill over its entire life cycle.

2.1.15 The Landfill Gas Screening Report (Appendix J) determines the risks presented by the placement of materials on surrounding receptors.

2.1.16 The Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (Appendix I) outlines the pre-operational, operational

and post-operational monitoring requirements associated with the permit application. This includes monitoring requirements with regards to groundwater, perimeter monitoring boreholes, in-waste monitoring boreholes and the monitoring of the landfill body in accordance with relevant technical guidance.

2.1.17 The Financial Provision document (Appendix M) shows all associated costs of environmental monitoring, restoration, monitoring, reports, site reports and security.

2.1.18 The Closure and Aftercare Plan (Appendix K) demonstrates how the landfill will be maintained following cessation of filling activities to the point of surrender of the Environmental Permit, to avoid any risk of pollution.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – APPLICATION FORMS

APPENDIX B – OPERATING TECHNIQUES

APPENDIX C – ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX D – ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND SITE DESIGN

APPENDIX E – DUST MANAGEMENT PLAN

APPENDIX F – NOISE IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

APPENDIX G – SITE CONDITION REPORT

APPENDIX H – HYDROGEOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX I – STABILITY RISK ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX J – LANDFILL GAS SCREENING REPORT

APPENDIX K – ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & MONITORING PLAN

APPENDIX L – FINANCIAL PROVISION

APPENDIX M – CLOSURE AND AFTERCARE PLAN

APPENDIX N – COPY OF PLANNING PERMISSION