

An application to vary Environmental Permit No. RP3133PP for the Thornhaugh Landfill Site operated by Augean South Limited to change the restoration profile of the existing permitted site

Non-Technical Summary

- 1.1** MJCA is commissioned by Augean South Limited (Augean) to prepare an application (the Application) to vary Environmental Permit reference EPR/RP3133PP (the Permit) to change the restoration profile for the Thornhaugh Landfill Site (the site), Thornhaugh, Peterborough, PE8 6NS. The site is operated by Augean and is permitted for the deposition of non-hazardous commercial and industrial waste, gypsum and other high sulphate bearing wastes, stable non-reactive hazardous waste (SNRHW) and asbestos waste. The site is centred approximately at National Grid Reference (NGR) TF 04876 00139.
- 1.2** This variation application is made in order to incorporate the changes to the consented restoration profile for the site as a result of the integration of the restoration proposals for the site with the former mineral extraction site at Cooks Hole Quarry immediately to the south of the site. As a result of the changes to the restoration profile, an additional depth of waste will be placed over some of the landfill area compared with that currently consented.
- 1.3** There are no changes to the types of wastes received at the site, the general principles of the site containment design, the principles of the site operations including leachate and landfill gas management and site monitoring. There are no changes to the permit boundary or the boundary of the landfill area as part of this variation application. The variation will not add any additional activities to the Permit.
- 1.4** The following changes are proposed in respect of the operation of the landfill site and are the subject of this variation application:
- An increase in depth of waste over some areas of the landfill as consented by the revised restoration contours in the planning permission reference 24/00210/MMFUL granted on 26 September 2024.
 - The removal of Pre-Operational Measure PO5 which is included in Table S1.4 of the current version of the permit comprising a requirement for cap infiltration testing.
 - To implement the recommendations from the Hydrogeological Risk Assessment Review submitted to the Environment Agency in December 2024 to amend aspects of Table S3.4 of the Permit 'Groundwater - emissions limits and monitoring requirements'.

- 1.5** The elevation of the highest point of the restoration landform at Thornhaugh (71.5m Above Ordnance Datum) has not changed as a result of the recently consented revised restoration contours for the integrated restoration of the Thornhaugh and Cooks Hole sites. The net void for waste which will be available as a result of the changes to the restoration profile in the landfill area will depend on a number of variables. These include the volume of waste remaining to be excavated principally from Phases 1 and 2 which, in accordance with the current Permit, need to be redeposited in engineered landfill cells and the volume of wastes such as construction and demolition and mineral wastes which are suitable for recovery and use off site. Based on information available from site investigations and the design of the site restoration, the currently consented void remaining at Thornhaugh Landfill Site (at early 2024) is approximately 1,310,000m³ and the maximum additional waste void created at Thornhaugh as a result of the recently consented development is approximately 920,000m³. This provides a total remaining waste void of approximately 2,230,000m³.
- 1.6** The installation will continue to provide an appropriate site where non-hazardous wastes including selected stable non-reactive hazardous waste and asbestos wastes in separately engineered cells can be deposited and disposed of permanently. The wastes will continue to be delivered in road vehicles to the site and checked in order to confirm compliance with the written description of the waste that must be provided by the delivery driver. Once the waste has been accepted the delivery vehicle will travel along internal haul roads to the operational landfill area where wastes will be deposited at the working face. In all cases, after acceptance, drivers will be directed to unload their vehicles in the appropriate active phase of the installation.
- 1.7** In order to demonstrate that, following the requested variations to the Permit, the installation can continue to be operated in accordance with the requirements of relevant legislation and the conditions of the Permit, a number of risk assessments have been undertaken to evaluate the potential risks of the proposed activities to human health and the environment. The risk assessments demonstrate that the proposed activities, which are the subject of the variation application, can be undertaken without significant impacts to human health or the environment including sites of heritage or nature conservation importance.
- 1.8** A programme of routine environmental monitoring in respect of landfill leachate, groundwater, surface water, landfill gas, particulate matter in ambient air and topographical surveys is specified in the permit for the site. The monitoring will continue to be undertaken for the purpose of confirming the assumptions made in the various risk assessments and to demonstrate that the activities are not affecting adversely the surrounding environment.

- 1.9** Augean has in place an externally certified management system to support the operation of the installation under the Permit. The site will continue to be operated under an Environmental Management System (EMS) that is certified to ISO14001. The management system identifies specific roles and responsibilities relevant to the operation of the installation and provides procedures that must be followed under normal operating conditions and specific procedures to deal with abnormal operating conditions or in the event of an incident. The management system has been developed with reference to relevant guidance produced by the Environment Agency to support the operation of this type of regulated facility under an Environmental Permit.
- 1.10** Augean is committed to training its staff so that they are technically competent to undertake the waste operations and uses the formal Chartered Institution of Wastes Management/Waste Management Industry Training and Advisory Board (CIWM/WAMITAB) scheme for these purposes. The training standards set out in the CIWM/WAMITAB scheme, as applicable to the operation of a non-hazardous waste landfill, are adopted for training purposes.