

1 **EPR APPLICATION FORMS & SUPPORTING INFORMATION – July 2025 Update**

The following application forms have been completed and are included in Appendix A:

- Form A: About You
- Form C2: Varying a Bespoke Permit
- Form C3: Varying a Bespoke Installation Permit
- Form F1: Charges and Declarations

Discussions with the Regulator, through the local Installations Regulatory Officer of the Environment Agency (EA), advised that the proposed changes would require a variation to the existing Environmental Permit held by the Site.

WSP have identified this application as a substantial variation to an existing Environmental Permit EPR/EB3500KB due to two principal factors, compared against the EA Regulatory Guidance:

- 1) Proposed increase in the throughput and processing of the waste but remaining as a waste operation; and
- 2) Proposal for the acceptance of hazardous waste for storage ahead of treatment and/or disposal off-site.

The content in the application forms is supported by the information provided in this report which is the main supporting document associated with the application for variation. This report has been structured and developed in accordance with guidance available on the GOV.UK webpages for changing an environmental permit.

The Environment Agency's Appropriate Measures have been reviewed and assessed as a part of this variation application. The site undertakes waste activities only.

A detailed review of Best Available Techniques (BAT) is not deemed necessary as the site falls out of Schedule 1 prescribed activities but measures and arrangements for demonstrating BAT have still been broadly considered in support of this application.

July 2025 update undertaken by Collard Environmental Ltd. following request for additional information for the environment Agency duly making process.

2 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY – July 2025 Update

As an Operator, Collard Environmental Limited, has experience as a supplier for the acceptance of waste from demolition, waste management, skip hire, ready-mixed concrete, metal recycling and scrap cars. Waste vehicles are deployed into the local area to collect waste materials in which the waste is then transported to the site, weighed, categorised and deposited to the existing building on site.

They have an excellent reputation within the Waste Management field. Its operations are focused on creating a low carbon economy, providing an important service to local residents and businesses. The waste recycling plant uses mechanical, density and manual separation techniques to sort the waste into individual material fractions. i.e., Cardboard, Paper, Glass, Various polymers, wood, plasterboard, soil, stone, metals etc. Once sorted the materials are compacted in to bales or loaded in bulk for re-use and recycling within various industrial markets.

The operations at Collard Environmental Limited are focused to create a low carbon economy and provide an important service to residents and businesses. However, the current building used for recycling restricts the operations and additional space is required for the sorting of materials. The Applicant is therefore seeking to increase the footprint of the main recycling building to provide additional space for the sorting of recyclable materials and increase throughput with the installation of improved and more efficient plant that runs with less noise & dust generation.

The Site, located on Cardiff Road, Reading, holds an active environmental permit [the permit], reference EPR/EB3500KB. The Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) is located off Richfield Avenue on Cardiff Road. The site has been carrying out the processing and sorting of waste for over 20 years. The MRF operations can be operated 10 hrs a day, five and half days a week.

The permit currently places a limit on the operator, that restricts the maximum throughput of waste (non-hazardous) to 75,000 tonnes per annum. The purpose of this variation is to facilitate an expansion project which will increase the total throughput up to 150,000 tonnes per annum with the acceptance of similar and some new waste streams.

The Operator is upgrading the processing line improving the efficiency and handling capability of the proposed throughput and volumes of waste accepted at the site, which currently treats and processes a mixture of household, commercial and industrial waste.

Non-hazardous waste operations are limited to waste activities in the form of physical treatment including manual and mechanical sorting/ separation, screening, bailing, shredding, crushing or compaction of waste for recovery or disposal (no more than 50 tonnes per day). The Operator has stated that the volumes of waste stored, in addition to the proposed handling operations will continue as currently conducted on site and will not meet the definitions or throughput thresholds of any Schedule 1 Activities.

Hazardous and clinical waste operations are limited to storage, bulking and transfer only (no more than 50 tonnes stored at any one time).

Specific limitations associated with the activities remain, this will include all waste to be treated and stored on impermeable surfaces with fully sealed drainage systems. Wastes shall be stored for no longer than 1 year prior to disposal or 3 years prior to recovery and the capacity of the site for waste subject to a R3 activity (Biological treatment only) shall not exceed 75 tonnes per day and no more than 50 tonnes per day of non-hazardous waste to be treated at the site under a D9 activity.

The purpose of this variation is to notify the regulator of the proposed site changes, which must be reflected in the site's environmental permit.

The proposed changes will affect the current permitted footprint and boundary of the installation, which will require expansion.

As part of this application to vary environmental permit EPR/EB3500KB the following subject areas have been assessed and/or considered:

- **Management systems and Technical Competence:** Collard Environmental Limited operates in accordance with an Environmental Management System (EMS) which is certified to ISO 14001.
The EMS will be updated to reflect the changes that are the subject of this application. This includes the amendment and update of relevant operational procedures for the pre-acceptance, acceptance, storage, and handling of waste on site.
The site has a relevant technical person on site and complies with the requirements of a certified competence scheme (WAMITAB). These can be reviewed in Appendix C.
- **Additional Waste Types and Codes:**
The Operator is seeking to add additional wastes to their acceptable wastes. These are detailed in full below. The Operator confirms that the total volume of waste accepted and stored will not meet the volume of thresholds described and defined within Schedule 1 of the Environmental Permitting Regulations. This is relevant to both hazardous and non-hazardous wastes. The site will therefore remain as a waste operation, and the changes proposed by the operator will not include the addition of any scheduled activity.
- **Site Condition Report:**
The proposed changes involve amendments to the site layout and boundary; an updated Site Condition Report has been provided as part of the application (see Appendix D). Additionally, a new site layout plan has been created and included within this submission (see Appendix B).
- **Emissions to Air:**
There are no existing or new point source emission points to air. There will be no changes as a result of this proposed variation application.
- **Emissions to Water:**
There are no existing or new point source emission points to water.
There will be no changes as a result of this proposed variation application.
- **Emissions to Sewer:**
There will be no new point source emissions to sewer and no changes to any existing connections as a result of the proposed changes in this permit variation application.
- **Emissions of Substances not Controlled by Emission Limits:**
Fugitive emissions have been considered in relation to changes to process plant, structures and sumps including site surfacing, bunds / secondary containment and storage areas. The proposed changes as part of this permit variation application will not result in any increased impacts in terms of fugitive emissions to air, land or water.
- **Odour:** None of the proposed changes are considered to have a negative impact on odour emissions.
- **Noise and Vibration:** None of the proposed changes are considered to have a negative impact on noise or vibration emissions.



- **Environmental Risk Assessment:** A risk assessment has been provided which considers the changes proposed on site as part of this environmental permit variation application. The updated risk assessment is provided in Section 8.
- **Appropriate Measures / Best Available Techniques (BAT):** A review of Appropriate Measures for Hazardous, WEEE and Clinical and Healthcare Waste has been undertaken together with a review of the Best Available Techniques set out in Sector Guidance Note S5.06 and the Environment Agency's Technical Guidance for Regulated Industry, as part of the assessment for this application. Where changes have been proposed on site, the relevant information has been provided to demonstrate that these Appropriate Measures can be met.

