Non-Technical Summary

Background

PDE Consulting Limited (the 'Agent') has been commissioned by Green Aggregates Limited (the 'Operator') to prepare and submit to the Environment Agency (EA) an application for a new environmental permit for a Road Planings Recycling Facility to be located on Land off Burnley Road, West Thurrock, Essex, RM20 3ED (the 'Site').

The Site will act as a processing hub for planings removed from roads within the region, whereby the material is subsequently processed and recycled for reuse in similar applications. Processed planings will be used in the adjacent asphalt manufacturing process, also operated by the Operator, or transported off-Site for use elsewhere. The proposed permit boundary is shown in green on Drawing No. M20.119.D.100.

Annual throughputs will be limited to 220,000 tonnes per annum (tpa).

Site Location and Surroundings

The Site lies within the administrative boundary of Thurrock Council, sitting approximately three kilometres to the east of Purfleet. The Site is situated on the northern bank of the River Thames and east of the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge. The Site covers an area of approximately 0.7 hectares.

Presently the Site is comprised of relatively flat ground, the topography is characterised by a generally level plateau with a small number of isolated stockpiles upon it.

The Site is bound by the larger planning application boundary which will include related infrastructure and landscaping, and a new asphalt plant to be constructed on land to the west of the road planings recycling building. To the north of the asphalt plant, and north west of the permit boundary, will be an innovation and technology centre also in the control of the Operator. Beyond the planning application boundary to the north and west are other industrial and commercial uses which are not considered to be sensitive. To the east there is low lying marshland, to the south is land occupied by a footpath and flood defences with the Thames Estuary beyond.

At present the land is vacant and there is no evidence on the Site of any recent or surviving built development save for a fence line.

The nearest residential receptors are located off Sartoria Close approximately 950 m to the north of the Site. West Thurrock primary school is located approximately 1 km to the north east of the Site.

Environmental Site Setting

According to British Geological Survey (BGS) mapping and borehole records, the Site is underlain by Made Ground, with a typical thickness of around 3 m. This rests atop Alluvium: mainly sand, silt and clay with peat horizons (up to 11 m thickness). The alluvial deposits are underlain by 4-5 m of River Gravel (Thames River Terrace Deposits): dense to very dense, black to brown, fine to coarse, sandy gravel. The solid geology is the Seaford and Newhaven Chalk Formation (undifferentiated).

The superficial sand and gravel deposited on top of the Chalk comprises a Secondary Aquifer. The chalk is classed as a Principal Aquifer. The Site is not located within a groundwater source protection zone (SPZ).

The Site falls within the catchment area of West Thurrock Marshes; the main drainage channel in the marshes runs from northwest to southeast across the marshes and discharges into the River Thames. The confluence

is some 0.6 km to the east of the Site. There is a ditch that flows into the River Thames located some 35 m to the east of the Site. The River Thames is located some 80m to the south of the Site. It generally drains in an easterly direction; this stretch is tidal.

The Site is not located within an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).

There are no internationally important ecological sites within two kilometres of the Site. There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within two kilometres of the Site: West Thurrock Lagoon & Marshes SSSI and Swanscombe Peninsula SSSI.

West Thurrock Lagoon & Marshes SSSI is located some 35 m to the east of the Site and some 80 m to the south of the Site. This 66.5 ha site is one of the most important areas for wintering waders and wildfowl on the Inner Thames Estuary. It comprises extensive intertidal mudflats and a large and secure high tide roost which combine to attract waders in nationally important numbers, with significant populations of other bird species. The SSSI also supports large areas of reedbed and a saltmarsh which is noted for its size and unique character.

Operational Details

The Site will be used for the crushing and screening of road planings only. The storage and treatment of road planings will be undertaken in a building with dust suppressions measures installed. Annual waste throughputs will be limited in the permit to a maximum of 220,000 tpa.

The Site will be operated by technically competent management who will operate the Site in accordance with their own environmental management system which includes a Dust Emissions Management Plan and an environmental risk assessment.