

Non-Technical Summary

Bespoke Permit Application/Variation for PRS, Thruxton

Application Reference No.: EPR/DB3704KC/V002

Current Permit Number: EAWML 402972

The need for this application for a variation to a Bespoke Permit has arisen because the existing operation has exceeded the limit of the existing Standard Rules Environmental Permit (SR2015 No6 75kte - household, commercial and industrial waste transfer station with treatment), simply due to the fact that the supply of waste plasterboard has increased, despite the Covid-19 crisis.

PRS has been operating at the Thruxton site for over five years. Its core business is based upon the recovery of gypsum powder from waste plasterboard, which is banned from disposal to landfill. Basing its standards upon PAS 109, and the Quality Protocol, PRS has developed techniques that enable it to efficiently separate gypsum powder from waste plasterboard, such that all of this material now goes to the plasterboard manufacturing industry for the making of new plasterboard products.

PRS has limited the use of its SR Permit to the acceptance of this one waste stream by means of its Management System. In applying for a Bespoke Permit, PRS would like to retain the full list of EWC codes associated with SR2015No6, but continue restricting operations to plasterboard waste recovery for the foreseeable future. This is because plasterboard waste recovery is a very competitive sector of the waste industry, which is entirely dependent upon the plasterboard manufacturing industry for the uptake of its main product, gypsum.

Having the option to become a conventional waste and recycling transfer station would give PRS a viable alternative business model, if the demand for gypsum should ever decline.

PRS fully understands that such a future change would require the approval of the EA, and that its Management System, ERA, FPP, DMP, operating procedures, etc. would all have to be reviewed, revised and submitted for approval before any change of operation could occur.

All reception, handling, treatment and loading of plasterboard and its constituent products takes place with an enclosed building.

All loads of plasterboard are fully inspected to ensure compliance with the site's very restrictive acceptance criteria. Contracts are in place with all suppliers, which explain the importance of supplying conformant loads in order to avoid rejection upon delivery.

Measures are in place to minimise the risk of dust escape when vehicles and plant enter and exit the building via a fast-acting roller shutter door.

A road sweeper is based on site, enabling external surfaces to be washed and swept if gypsum does escape whilst vehicles and plant enter or leave the building.

Gypsum is a non-hazardous, non-toxic, inherently safe material, so it presents little risk to neighbours or the local environment. Nonetheless, PRS makes every effort to prevent its escape, which could cause nuisance and an adverse visual impact on the local amenity.

No liquids are used in the treatment process, apart from a misting spray that operates around the roller shutter door during the short periods that it is open.

Diesel, oils, lubricants, etc. used for vehicle and plant maintenance are securely stored in bunded units providing 110% retention capacity.

Foul water from welfare activities is collected in a cesspit, which is emptied, as necessary, by an approved contractor.

Surface water is directed to a catchpit or a sweeper tip, which both allow for suspended solids to settle before clear water is released.