

# Southend-on-Sea Central Cleansing Depot

## Application to vary an Environmental Permit

### Non-Technical Summary and Description of Proposals

#### 1. Non-Technical Summary

##### 1.1. Introduction

This Non-Technical Summary forms part of the application to vary the environmental permit for the Southend-on-Sea Central Cleansing Depot (the site).

The site is located at Eastern Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 5QX at National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 88143 87496. A site location plan and layout plan for the site are included as Figures 1 and 2.

##### 1.2. Background

The Southend-on-Sea Central Cleansing Depot (the site) is currently regulated under a bespoke waste permit (EPR/DB3402TF) and is registered to SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Limited (SUEZ).

The site was previously operated by Veolia ES (UK) Limited (Veolia) as part of their contract with Southend-on-Sea Council. Following the end of the contract, the council secured a new contract with SUEZ which required three permits to be transferred from Veolia to SUEZ in April 2025.

At present, the conditions of the environmental permit are outlined in the original waste management licence (WML) that was issued on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1998 (reference EAWML 71137). According to the WML, the site is permitted to operate as a waste treatment facility. The site is permitted to receive up to 67,900 tonnes of waste a year however, the following limits apply as per Table 1.2 of the WML.

**Table 1: Current Waste Tonnage Limits**

Permitted Waste Categories	Current Permit Maximum Permitted Quantities (tonnes per year)
Inert Wastes	9,000
Scrap metal	3,100
Special waste	Not permitted
Degradable Household Wastes	45,000
Degradable Commercial Wastes	5,000
Degradable Industrial Wastes	5,000
Liquid/sludge non-special waste (weight of solid fraction)	800

According to Table 1.2 and Condition 1.3 of the WML, the site is not permitted to accept special waste. Based on discussions with local Environment Agency (EA) officers at other permitted facilities, SUEZ have been

informed that special waste should be interpreted as hazardous waste. As a result, this indicates that the site is not permitted to accept hazardous waste however, the WML includes the following conditions which seems to contradict this:

- Condition 4.10 – Special requirements for handling waste oils and oil bearing waste
- Condition 4.11 – Special requirements for handling clinical wastes
- Condition 4.12 – Special requirements for handling liquid CFC bearing wastes

Prior to the contract start date, SUEZ understand that Veolia operated the site for the acceptance, storage and 'bulking up' of household residual waste (general waste), food waste, dry mixed recyclables, pre-sorted paper and card, green waste, bulky waste containing POPs and street sweepings collected by Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs). In addition, the site accepted residual waste from Veolia's network of HWRCs and waste from third party trade customers. The majority of waste was stored in designated bays inside the transfer station building for forward disposal or recovery.

Non-hazardous and inert waste was treated via consist of manual sorting and separation. In addition, all street sweepings accepted at the site was stored in a designated bay to naturally dewater.

Following the transfer of the environmental permit from Veolia to SUEZ, operations on site have continued largely unaltered.

### 1.3. Description of Proposals

This permit variation seeks to:

- 1. Accept clinical waste, WEEE, waste batteries, chemicals, gas bottles, asbestos and animal carcasses at the site for storage and bulking up** – Details of the proposed storage arrangements are provided in the Operations and Emissions Management Plan (Section EP8, Document Reference 1.2 of the environmental permit application). There is no intention to store more than 50 tonnes of hazardous waste on site at any one time and there is no intention to treat any hazardous waste on site.

Clinical waste will be accepted on an ad-hoc basis and will solely derive from households as part of a clinical waste collection service. The waste will comprise offensive waste (e.g. hygiene waste, nappies and incontinence pads) and sharps. Similarly, waste containing asbestos will be accepted on an ad-hoc basis.

Animal carcasses will solely derive from SUEZ's street cleansing services within Southend-on-Sea. All animal carcasses will be stored in a secure freezer prior to being sent to an approved treatment facility elsewhere.

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- 2. Remove the tonnage limits specified in Table 1.2 to allow operational flexibility with the waste streams accepted at the site.**
  - 3. Update the environmental permit to modern conditions –** This will remove the contradicting conditions from the original WML including the tonnage limits. In addition, it will enable the addition of a permitted waste code list as one is not available in the WML.
  - 4. Increase the annual permitted waste throughput from 67,900 tonnes to 85,000 tonnes.**
  - 5. Change the name of the facility to 'Southend-on-Sea Central Cleansing Depot' to 'Southend-on-Sea Environmental Services Depot'.**

This application is accompanied by all relevant documentation, as required by the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations, and in the format set out in the Environment Agency's (EA) guidance documents. Details of the supporting documents are provided in the following section.

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## 2. Application Documents

### 2.1. Pre-Application Discussions (Part C2, Question 1a)

A request for enhanced pre-application advice was requested from the EA for this application (reference EPR/DB3402TF/P003). A copy of the advice letter and associated correspondence is provided in Section EP7 of this permit application.

### 2.2. Application Forms

As detailed in the enhanced pre-application advice letter, it was advised that application forms Part A, C2, C4, and F1 would be required as part of the proposed application. The forms are provided in Section EP5 of this environmental permit application.

### 2.3. Type of Variation Part C2, Question 2a)

According to the enhanced pre-application advice provided in Section EP7, the EA advised that a substantial variation would be required and consists of the following:

- Substantial variation to vary the permitted material recycling facility to a hazardous waste transfer station.
- Addition of a clinical waste transfer station activity.

### 2.4. Ability as an Operator (Part C2, Section 3)

Details regarding SUEZ's technical competence, relevant offences and management systems are provided in an additional sheet titled 'Operator Information' which is provided in Section EP6 of this permit application.

### 2.5. Environmental Risk Assessment (Part C2, Question 4)

An Environmental Risk Assessment has been prepared to consider the potential impact of the proposed activity. The Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) 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 the management techniques which will be utilised to mitigate such impacts. The ERA is included in the site-specific management system (Section EP8, Document Reference 1.3 of the environmental permit application).

### 2.6. Site Condition Report (Part C2, Question 5)

According to the guidance notes in the Part C2 application form, a Site Condition Report (SCR) is only required if the proposal involves the following changes:

- Extend your site boundary
- Add an installation

- Use, produce or release any new hazardous substances
- Relocate hazardous substances to a new area within your site

This proposal does not involve any of the changes listed above and therefore a SCR has not been prepared to support this application.

### **2.7. Site Plan (Part C2, Question 6b)**

A site layout plan has been prepared which details the proposed site layout for the site. As mentioned in Section 1.2, a copy of the layout plan is provided as Figure 2 of this document. In addition, a copy of the layout plan is included in the site-specific management system (Section EP8 of the environmental permit application).

### **2.8. Fire Prevention Plan (Part C2, Question 6c)**

As requested in the enhanced pre-application advice letter, a Fire Prevention Plan (FPP) has been prepared which identifies the potential causes and effects of a fire and describes the measures that will be in place to prevent the occurrence of a fire at the site. In addition, the report provides details on the planned response to a fire incident and explain how fire water would be contained. A copy of the FPP is included in the site-specific management system (Section EP8, Document 1.7 of the environmental permit application).

### **2.9. General Requirements (Part C4, Table 3b)**

As requested in the enhanced pre-application advice letter, a Dust Management Plan (DMP) has been prepared to describe the measures that will be in place to prevent occurrence of dust from operations on site. The DMP is included in the site-specific management system (Section EP8, Document Reference 2.1 of the environmental permit application).

In accordance with the enhanced pre-application advice letter, an Odour Management Plan (OMP) has been prepared in accordance with the EA's Odour Management Plan' template (Version 2, May 2021). The OMP is included in the site-specific management system (Section EP8, Document Reference 2.1 of the environmental permit application).

With reference to the enhanced pre-application advice letter, the EA did not confirm that a Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) and Noise Management Plan (NMP) will not be required. Nevertheless, noise has been addressed as part of the ERA.

### **2.10. Application Fees (Part F1, Question 1)**

Based on the advice that was provided in the pre-application advice, the application fee will comprise the following:

**Table 2 - Application Fees**

Activity Reference	Description	Charge Type	Fee
1.16.5	Hazardous Waste Transfer Station	Substantial variation	£7,172
1.16.7	Clinical Waste Transfer Station	New Activity Charge	£7,930
1.19.3	Fire Prevention Plan	-	£1,241
1.16.5	Emissions Management Plan	-	£1,241
1.19.6	Odour Management Plan	-	£1,246
<b>Total</b>			<b>£18,830</b>



Recycling and recovery UK

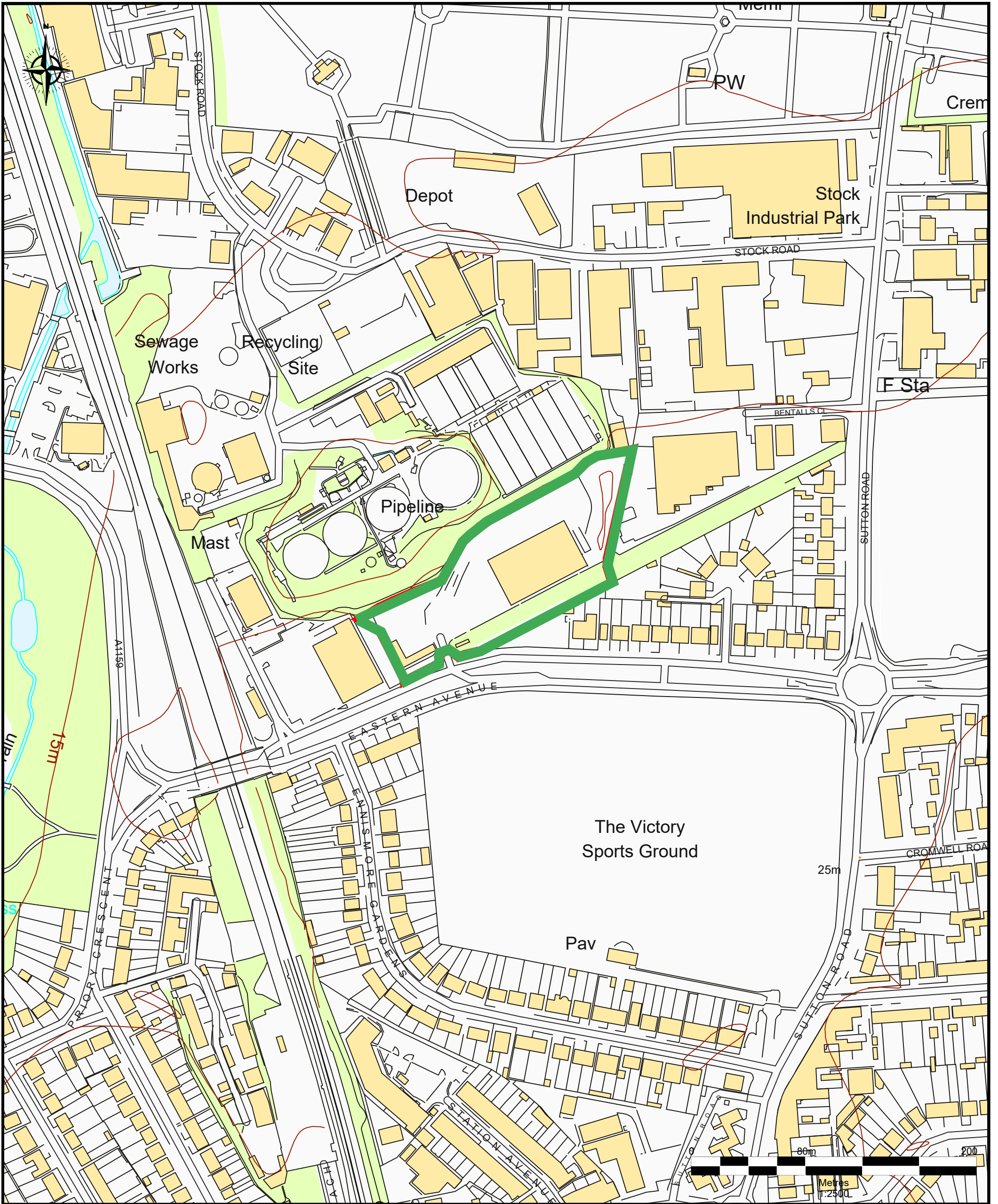
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## Figures



## Figure 1 - Site Location Plan





Notes

1. Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of His Majesty's Stationary Office, Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2024 Ordnance Survey AC0000808122.

— Site Boundary



Darwin Resource Recovery Park, Lower Eccleshill Road, Darwin, 883 DRP  
Tel: (01254) 819700, Fax: (01254) 819749, Email: richard.bisset@sitea.co.uk

Site Eastern Ave, SouthEnd-On-Sea	Scale 1:2500 @ A3	Drawn by RB	Rev	subject	date
	Date December 2025				
Title Site Location Plan	Drawing Ref Etn-LOC-1225-01	Checked by AS			



## Figure 2 – Site Layout

