

gardenscape



Environmental Management System

Gardenscape Direct Ltd

Newenden Bridge Depot

Station Road

Northiam

East Sussex

TN31 6QA

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1. Introductory Information

1.1 Introduction and Statement

GardenscapeDirect Limited is a part of The John Bourne Group of companies who have been operating in Newenden since 1948. Gardenscape manufactures and supplies a range of horticultural products and aggregates to customers across London and the South East. The majority of the products that Gardenscape stores and processes on the site are natural and/or recycled (composts, soils, barks etc). Recently there has been the addition to the site of a small Waste Transfer Station (WTS), ancillary to the main operation, which aims to recycle as much DIY etc waste as possible, thereby reducing landfill requirements. This waste is brought in in bulk bags by our own lorries as 'back loads', separated and stored in an enclosed building. This process complements other existing activities on the site, maximising efficiency and reducing waste. In the main the bulk bags of DIY/garden etc waste come from customers who have had a delivery of product from us in a bulk bag. They will then fill the bulk bag with DIY, garden waste etc and we will return to collect the waste for recycling.

1.2 Waste Operations

Gardenscape is applying for an Environmental Permit for a small scale WTS to include the separating and recycling / disposal of general DIY/construction waste. This is ancillary to current operations. No hazardous material will be processed on site. In addition Gardenscape will bring into the site manure, green waste and soils from building sites for recycling. Only small stockpiles will be kept on site at any one time. Manure and soil is bagged and sold to customers, green waste taken away for disposal at composting sites.

1.3 Other Operations on Site

As well as the above mentioned activities the site also processes and supplies natural horticultural products (such as soils, composts, barks etc) and aggregates. These are kept in bays on the site, some of which are in buildings. These products are brought to the site in bulk and then loaded onto smaller lorries/trailers (either in bulk bags or loose) for transportation and delivery to customers.

1.4 Vehicle Activity on Site

Materials are collected and transported in the main by our own fleet of lorries, occasionally by outside hauliers, and there are up to 20 collections by lorry per day. Materials are delivered both in bulk by outside contractors, and by our own lorries. There are currently up to 10 deliveries per day. In addition customers come onto site to collect materials in their own vehicles, and staff (specifically lorry drivers) come to and from the site each working day. We estimate there to be, on average, approximately 80 vehicle movements on the site per day. In addition there is plant on site comprising 4 forklifts/ loading shovels.

1.5 Hours of Operation

The site is open for business from 0700 to 1700 Monday to Friday and 0800 to 1200 on Saturdays. The site is not open on Bank Holidays or Sundays.

2. Management of Waste

2.1 Waste Types

DIY/Construction

The WTS will manage the contents of bulk bags brought in on our own lorries, collected from Gardenscape customers. The contents will be similar in nature to that of a normal builders skip and so could contain DIY/construction waste, soil, bricks etc but also metal, packaging, wood etc. The following wastes would be accepted:

- Construction / trade non-hazardous waste;
- DIY waste;
- Scrap metal;
- Wood;

Green Waste

The site will accept green waste from Gardenscape customers and local landscapers/gardeners. This will be kept in a purpose built concrete floored bay. Once this bay is full the waste will be taken away for appropriate disposal at a composting site.

Soil

This will be collected from local building sites and brought to this site for recycling (namely removal of brick, ceramic etc). Once suitable for sale it will be bagged up / loaded loose for delivery to Gardenscape customers.

Manure

Our own lorries will bring in well rotted horse manure from local riding stables in loose loads. This will then be stored in a purpose built concrete floored bay ready for bagging and delivery to customers.

The site will not accept any of the following types of waste:

- Clinical waste;
- Asbestos;
- Liquid waste;
- Sludge waste;
- Any other type of hazardous waste or waste that requires special disposal.

2.2 Receiving and Separation of Waste

DIY/Construction

This will come in in bulk bags from Gardenscape customers in our own lorries. The site will not receive such waste from external bodies or the general public. These bulk bags will be off loaded into a designated building where the contents will be separated ready to be taken away for recycling or disposal.

Green waste

This will come from Gardenscape customers, in our own lorries, and from local landscapers. This will be placed / tipped into the designated bay and a loading shovel used to push the waste into the bay. Once the bay is full the waste will immediately be loaded into a lorry and taken away for disposal at a composting site.

Manure

This will be collected from local riding stables and brought into the site by our own lorries. The manure will be tipped close to the designated bay and a loading shovel used to push the manure into the bay.

2.3 Monitoring of Waste*DIY / Construction*

The contents of waste bags will be assessed at the point of collection. If anything in the bags is found to be non-permitted waste then the bag will not be collected. If any non-permitted or hazardous material is subsequently discovered it will be put in the 'quarantine area' and immediate arrangements made for appropriate disposal.

Green waste

Green waste brought in by our own lorries in bulk bags will be assessed as above. Any green waste brought in by landscapers will be visually assessed on site before it is off loaded. If any non-permitted or hazardous waste is identified then the load will be rejected. If, once off loaded, any non-permitted or hazardous waste is revealed then it will all be loaded back onto the vehicle for the customer to dispose of elsewhere. Should any non-permitted or hazardous waste be found subsequently it will be put in the quarantine area and appropriate disposal immediately arranged.

Soil

This will be brought in by our own lorries from local building sites. It will not be collected from site if any non-permitted or hazardous materials are evident in the soil. On arrival at the site it will be checked visually by a site operative before tipping. If any non-permitted or hazardous waste is subsequently identified it will be put into the quarantine area and immediate arrangements made for its appropriate disposal.

Manure

This will be assessed on collection from the riding stables. If, during the loading of the manure, anything other than horse manure and associated straw/shavings is found to be incorporated then the load will not be collected.

2.4 Recycling / Disposal of Waste*DIY / Construction*

The waste will be separated into various bays. Anything that can be recycled will be sent for recycling, the rest will be sent for disposal. No waste will be stockpiled, with each bay being cleared as soon as it is full.

Green waste

This will be stored in the designated bay. Green waste will not be stockpiled anywhere else on the site. As soon as the designated bay is full the contents will be loaded onto a lorry and taken away for disposal to a composting site.

Soil

This will be stored in a designated area on site. If necessary it will be screened to remove any inert items such as brick pieces, ceramic etc. Once ready for sale it will be loaded in bulk bags / loose onto lorries and taken for delivery.

Manure

This will be stored in a designated bay. It will be loaded into bulk bags for delivery to Gardenscape customers, or loaded loose into lorries/trailers. The manure will be turned regularly and sold on a 'first in first out' basis to ensure that no load is on site for long periods of time.

3. Site Infrastructure

3.1 Site Perimeter / Security

The site is bordered in the main by an established hedge of leylandii trees, with additional closed panel fencing on the Southern boundary. The site is then secured at the entrance on the South West side with a 5 bar entrance gate. The following security procedures are in place:

- Entrance / Exit gate is closed and locked outside working hours and at all times when the site is unmanned;
- The main areas of the yard are covered by security lighting;
- A 24hr CCTV system, accessible by all key personnel, covers all main areas of the yard including the WTS

3.2 Site Office

At the main entrance to the yard is a small cabin that serves as a breakout room for yardmen, and small office. Visitors to the site report here if no yardmen are obviously available. This building is securely locked outside office hours.

3.3 Storage Buildings / Bays

On site there are a number of buildings used to store natural horticultural products in bays. There are also a number of external bays. The buildings contain the materials that have finer particles such as compost and peat. The buildings limit the possibility of wind borne dust dispersal. The outside bays, constructed of steel uprights and wooden sleepers, house materials containing larger particulates such as barks and aggregates which have less possibility for wind borne dispersal. This is covered in the accompanying Dust Management Plan. A new building will be erected, under Planning Permission RR/2018/3144/P, in the centre of the site to separate waste for recycling / disposal.



Image 1: Location of Buildings and Bays on site

4. Site Operations

4.1 Activities

During working hours operations on site involve the following:

- Loading and unloading of horticultural products/aggregates both loose and in bulk bags. This will involve one of our fleet of lorries, a contractor lorry, or a customer vehicle. Loads can be loose, in bulk bags or on pallets. They will be loaded by one of our own front loaders or forklifts, or by lorry crane;
- Mixing of horticultural products to create specified / bespoke mixes that are then bagged up for loading, or loaded loose onto lorries;
- As part of the WTS, separating of small quantities of non-hazardous DIY/construction waste, green waste, manure for recycling or disposal (waste management, types and procedures set out in Section 2)

In addition to the material detailed in Section 2 and treated as part of the WTS, the following products are stored on the site for sale and delivery (See Drawing 1 for Site Plan):

- Soils, composts and peat. These are kept in concrete floored bays inside buildings;
- Forest products such as barks and woodchip. These are kept outside in concrete floored bays constructed out of railway sleepers;
- Aggregates. These are kept outside in concrete floored bays constructed out of railway sleepers.

4.2 Hours of Operation

The site will operate between the hours of 0700 to 1800 Monday to Friday and 0800 to 1300 on Saturdays. The site will not operate on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

4.3 Vehicles on Site

Lorry fleet

A number of lorries are kept on the site under the permission of an Operators Licence. The lorries leave the yard in the mornings and return every evening.

Collection / deliveries

During the working day our own lorries / external hauliers will attend the site to make deliveries of product, or to collect product for delivery. This equates to up to 10 and 20 movements per day respectively.

Customer vehicles / employee vehicles

Employees (specifically lorry drivers) will park their cars on the site in the morning and return to collect them every evening. In addition Gardenscape customers attend the site with trailers to be loaded with product. These will equate to approximately 80 movements per day.

Yard plant

There are 4 vehicles on site used to mix and bag product, and to load vehicles. These are front loaders / forklifts. They are only used during site operating hours. These are regularly serviced and maintained, and replaced as part of a leasing agreement every 3 years.

4.4 Control of Dust, Mud and Debris

Dust control

The site is subject to a Dust Management Plan which has been submitted as part of the Environmental Permit. All operatives on site are trained in the pertinent aspects of this Plan and a copy is available on site at all times.

Mud and Debris

Mud accumulation will be monitored and the site regularly cleaned to prevent debris / foul being carried onto the public highway. The yard will be swept on a regular basis to prevent build up of waste in and around the site. All company vehicles on site will be cleaned regularly to prevent the transportation of mud and debris onto the public highway.

4.5 Potentially Polluting Leaks

The sources of any potential leaks come from lorries, other vehicles and plant on site. All lorries contain a spill kit, and the site office also contains a spill kit to deal with any fuel leaks that should occur in the yard. In the very unlikely event that any fuel spills into the River Rother to the North of the site, the Environment Agency will be contacted immediately.

4.6 Fires on Site

The site will be subject to an Environmental Permit and therefore have a comprehensive Fire Prevention Plan, a copy of which is kept on site at all times. This Plan is submitted as part of the Environmental Permit application

4.7 Control of Odours

The site is subject to an Odour Management Plan submitted as part of the Environmental Permit application.

4.8 Control and Management of Noise

A Noise Impact Assessment was carried out in October 2018. Activities on site have not increased/changed since this time, although since this time all brick crushing activities on site have ceased and there are currently no plans to resume them.

The complete Assessment is submitted as part of the application for the Environmental Permit. The Assessment suggests some mitigation measures. The accompanying Noise Management Plan details the mitigation measures that have been put in place. The Assessment concludes that with these measures in place 'the development should not lead to unacceptable levels of noise at sensitive receptors'.

4.9 Staffing and Management

Working on site are 3 full time operatives, comprising one Site Manager and 2 machine operators. The site comes under the overall supervision of Alex O'Gorman, Director of the Gardenscape parent company John Bourne & Co Ltd, based in Newenden, who has his WAMITAB Level 4.

4.10 Site Safety

The site operates a strict vehicle one way system and a speed restriction of 5mph is imposed. Staff are trained in appropriate safety measures and wear PPE, including hi-visibility clothing, at all times. Visitors to the site are requested not to exit their vehicles unless absolutely necessary. In the event that they do need to exit their vehicles they will be required to wear appropriate PPE, and will be accompanied by a yard operative at all times. Appropriate signage in regards to safe practice are displayed around the site.

5. Complaints

Each Management Plan accompanying the Environmental Permit (Noise, Dust and Odour) has its own complaints procedure. Should we receive complaints in regards to any operations on site these will be investigated as soon as possible. The results of these investigations, including details of contact with the complainant and measures taken, will be recorded in the Environmental Logbook. The NMP, DMP and OMP all contain precedent complaint forms, completed copies of which will be kept in the logbook. The logbook will be available to the Regulator on request.

6. Training, Records and Review

Training

Staff training in regards to all matters contained in this EMS and accompanying Plans is recorded in training records kept for every individual employee.

Records

An Environmental Logbook will be kept on site which will document, amongst other things, all items referred to in this EMS and associated Plans. This will include, but not be limited to:

- Odour Surveys;
- Odour Complaint Forms
- Dust Management Reports;
- Dust Complaint forms
- Noise Complaint forms;
- Any additional fire prevention measures undertaken.

Review

The EMS will be reviewed by the Operator annually. If changes are made these will be highlighted in a new EMS and distributed to all Employees. Further training will take place if necessary.