

An application to vary environmental permit number EPR/FB3139AU for the inert and excavation waste transfer station operated by Tarmac Aggregates Limited at Harper Lane, Hertfordshire

Non-Technical Summary

- 1.1** MJCA is commissioned by Tarmac Aggregates Limited (Tarmac) to prepare an application to vary Environmental Permit number EPR/FB3139AU (the permit) for the inert and excavation waste treatment facility operated by Tarmac at Harper Lane Quarry, Radlett, Hertfordshire, WD7 7HX (the site). The site is centred approximately at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 15964 01655.
- 1.2** The proposed activities will be consistent with the activities that are authorised under Environment Agency Standard Rules SR2009No6 - inert and excavation waste transfer station with treatment, with the total quantity of waste accepted at the site less than 250,000 tonnes per annum (tpa). Following the completion of the Environment Agency (EA) Consultation Number 25 on SRPs, SR2009No6 was withdrawn by the EA on 18 December 2024 and consolidated into SRP SR2022No1 treatment of waste to produce soil, soil substitutes and aggregate. The EA provided letters to operators to explain the changes and published on 12 February 2025 a Regulatory Position Statement (RPS) 'Extension to comply with new standard rules permits: RPS 331' which states that if permit holders do not comply with the new Standard Rules, they must apply for a bespoke permit by 27 June 2025. As the site does not meet the requirements of the new Standard Rules specified in SR2022No1 due to the site being located in a Groundwater Source Protection Zone (SPZ) 1 it is necessary to apply to vary the permit to a bespoke permit.
- 1.3** There are no proposals to vary the activities which will remain consistent with those specified in SR2009No6. Although the permit was varied in March 2012 to add the standard rules set SR2008No3, Tarmac do not propose to undertake or include in the bespoke permit any activities consistent with SR2008No3. The activities under the bespoke permit will be consistent with those specified under SR2009No6 and the list of wastes permitted to be accepted at the site under the bespoke permit are also consistent with the list of waste types in SR2009No6.
- 1.4** The site comprises a site for the receipt, storage and processing by manual sorting, separation, screening or crushing of waste into different components for disposal, (no more than 50 tonnes per day) or recovery.
- 1.5** This application has been prepared with reference to relevant guidance provided by the Environment Agency (EA) on the GOV.UK website and includes a Site Condition Report (SCR) prepared in 2012 which describes the condition of the site prior to operations commencing.

- 1.6 Based on information on the DEFRA MAGIC website and the EA Nature and Heritage Conservation Screening Report there are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar Sites, Marine Conservation Zones, National Nature Reserves (NNRs) or Local Nature Reserves (LNR) within 2km of the site. Hound's Wood Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland is located approximately 500m from the site and there are areas of deciduous woodland in the vicinity of the site. The site is located within a groundwater SPZ1. There are no Scheduled Monuments or World Heritage Sites within 500m of the site. There is one Listed Building within 500m of the site. Old Parkbury Farmhouse (Grade II listed building) is located approximately 450m north of the site. The closest residential property to the site is Bridgefoot Cottages, which is located just over 150m north west of the permit boundary.
- 1.7 The application is supported by a qualitative Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) for accidents, odour, noise and fugitive emissions. The ERA assesses the potential impacts to the surrounding environment from the proposed activities at the site. In the ERA it is concluded that the operation of the facility has a negligible, very low or low risk of adverse impact on the surrounding environment including sites of heritage or nature conservation interest. Based on the assessment presented in the ERA it is unnecessary to provide an odour management plan with this application.
- 1.8 A dust and emissions management plan (DEMP) is presented and identifies the operations at the site which may have the potential to have an impact on air quality as a result of emissions of particulate matter, presents the details of the operational controls which are implemented to minimise emissions and describes the monitoring which will be carried out to confirm the effectiveness of the management controls.
- 1.9 As there are no proposals to change the current activities, the process of varying the SRP to a bespoke permit with no change in the site activities will not change the risk in respect of noise. Based on the absence of noise complaints in respect of the current activities at the site since operations commenced in 2012 and as there are no receptors that are sensitive to noise within 150m of the site and there are no proposals to undertake activities at night, it is considered unlikely that the activities will have a significant adverse environmental impact in respect of noise and therefore a quantitative noise impact assessment and noise management plan is not required.
- 1.10 Consistent with Condition 1.1.1 of the permit, the site will be managed in accordance with an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) using sufficient competent persons and resources.