

Proposal for a Municipal Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), a Commercial MRF and waste transfer facility, with improved site access

By Hills Waste Solutions Ltd

Pre-application consultation

Spring/Summer 2011

Check our website for more information:

www.hills-group.co.uk/consult



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The reason for the application

This application will be one of a series of applications across Wiltshire that are required to facilitate the harmonisation of the waste collection service by the Council.

The activities Hills Waste Solutions (HWS) will undertake in the Summer of 2011 will be:

- **Parkgate Farm, Purton:** implementation of an existing planning permission to move composting operations from Calne.
- **Lower Compton, Calne:** submission of a planning application for materials recovery facilities for domestic and commercial/industrial waste, transport, and redesigned access.
- **Porte Marsh Industrial Estate:** submission of a planning application for a temporary waste transfer station and recycling centre that is needed until the facilities at Lower Compton are operational.
- **Castledown Business Park, Ludgershall:** submission of a planning application for a recycling and transport facility.
- **Northacre Industrial Park, Westbury:** implementation of an existing planning permission to build a mechanical and biological treatment plant.

What is on the site now

Lower Compton is one of HWS's main facilities. There are a number of operations in addition to the landfill, Household Recycling Centre and minerals extraction that will be modified by this development:

- A Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) for collected recyclable waste which is currently too small for the tonnages that the Wiltshire Waste Contract anticipates and is less than we need for commercial facilities.
- Commercial and industrial waste transfer.
- Waste transfer where waste enters the site from local small refuse collection vehicles and leaves on large lorries.
- A wood chipping operation that accepts waste wood products and reduces them in bulk for export to a recycling business.
- A green waste composting operation that takes all of Wiltshire's collected green waste.

What is being proposed

This proposal has a number of elements:

- The extension and permanent retention of the existing non-hazardous municipal MRF with an integral waste transfer station (WTS) which will

handle collected household wastes. This will be an extension of the existing building.

- The development of a new non-hazardous commercial waste MRF with integrated WTS in a separate building.
- The relocation of most of the current composting operation to our Parkgate Farm site north of Swindon. This already has planning permission. The Lower Compton facility will still have some the capacity for composting, but we expect this to be much lower than at present. It is our intention to use this only for composting low grade materials that will be used in the restoration of the landfill and as a transfer facility to supply Parkgate Farm.
- The wood chipping and industrial and commercial waste transfer operation will be moved to another part of the site.
- We are seeking ways of improving the internal site access which may have benefits off site. We are at an early stage with this.

Opening hours

We currently expect the facilities will be open from 7.00 am to 8.00 pm Monday to Friday, and 7.00 am to 1.00 pm on Saturdays.

Saturday hours will also be used for: Bank Holidays of Good Friday, Easter Monday, Early May Bank Holiday, Spring Bank Holiday and August Bank Holiday (plus any other Bank Holidays that might be issued). Hours will be extended to 8.00 pm on those Saturdays immediately following a bank holiday.

The facilities will not operate on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day.

Traffic impacts

We have employed consultants to consider the traffic impacts and prepare a Transport Assessment which will provide a comprehensive assessment of the potential transport impacts.

Air Quality and Odour

The air quality in the surrounding area is good. Residents in the Spreckley Road Estate and Compton Basset occasionally experience odours. These might be from the nearby sewage works. Any odour arising from our activities will be reduced significantly if/when the composting operations are moved to Parkgate Farm.

It is possible that the MRFs may contain some potentially odorous materials, but since the operations will take place in a building, we expect that this can be controlled to an acceptable level. This is being assessed further.

There may be some issues surrounding dust during the construction phase, but these can be controlled with good management. The main contributor to

air quality issues will arise from increased traffic movements. We have employed consultants to consider these issues in the application.

Noise and vibration

We have employed consultants to consider these issues. Background and ambient noise surveys will be undertaken over a number of days to assess the impacts.

It is our early conclusion that this may not be a significant issue within the context of existing noise in the area. Where noise will arise, the consultants will suggest mitigation measures such as the provision of earth bunds or other forms of acoustic screening that will reduce the impacts.

Landscape and appearance

We have employed consultants to consider the impact of the proposals on the surrounding landscape, particularly as views from the AONB, local conservation areas, landscape character areas, and residential properties. Where necessary, our consultants will help design means of screening the visual impacts.

Ecology

There are no statutory designated sites of international or national importance on the sites. Four locally designated sites are within 1 km of the site but not on it. An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey was undertaken in April and it was not found to contain any species requiring special protection. No significant ecological effects were found by our consultants who have so far concluded that the potential for significant environmental effects upon ecology will be low.

Geology and land quality

The majority of the development site is on made ground that will be sealed under hard standing by the proposed development. Our consultants do not foresee any significant impacts arising on this issue.

Water environment and flood risk

A number of drainage systems are already in place that will either be modified or kept in place as part of this development. The site is located outside of Flood Zones 3 and 2. Construction impacts can be controlled. Our consultants do not foresee any significant impacts arising on these issues.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

The site does not contain anything of archaeological value or protected features. All construction works will take place on land that has already been disturbed by previous development. Our consultants do not foresee any significant impacts arising on this issue.

The NAAFI site

The Hills Group has recently purchased the NAAFI site from the MOD. The future use of the site is not certain at the moment, but it is our intention to consider using either the site or the building for a community facility. Early discussions are taking place with Community First about the possibility of setting up a charitable trust, or a similar sort of body, to develop and manage the facility. The redevelopment of the NAAFI is not part of this planning application.

Public views

HWS take public concerns seriously and are inviting constructive comments from all sectors of affected communities. A series of public meetings will be arranged and a website describes all proposals in more detail. This website will be accessible through HWS' main website: www.hills-group.co.uk/consult.