

TWC/2011/0292

Land adjacent to Woodhouse Farm, Granville Road, Donnington Wood, Telford, Shropshire

Construction and Operation of a 64,000 tonne per annum In Vessel Composting Facility with Windrow Composting (fully enclosed) to compost and recycle Shropshire's organic non-hazardous waste (52,000 tonnes per annum) and Telford & Wrekin's Organic Waste (12,000 tonnes per annum) with associated upgraded improvements (Granville Road) and landscaping

**APPLICANT**

Veolia Environmental Services (UK) PLC, James Cook

**RECEIVED**

11/04/2011

**PARISH**

Lilleshall, Donnington and Muxton

**WARD**

Muxton

OBJECTIONS RECEIVED: Yes

**MAIN ISSUES**

Environmental health, ecology, need, alternative sites, access, highways, landscape, leisure, sport and recreation.

**THE PROPOSAL**

Veolia Environmental Services (UK) PLC propose to construct a fully enclosed In-Vessel Composting (IVC) facility with access road improvements at Woodhouse Farm, Redhill, near Telford.

The proposed facility would process up to 64,000 tonnes per annum of source segregated kitchen waste (food waste), garden green waste and cardboard from housing, which is beyond any local Telford & Wrekin need. It is anticipated that this waste would be predominantly from Shropshire (52,000 tonnes) with the possibility of the remaining coming from other local communities (12,000 tonnes).

Organic waste would be unloaded inside the main waste reception building but cardboard would be placed into a separate adjoining building. The doors of these two buildings would only be opened for vehicles entering or leaving the building.

The waste would then be shredded, mixed and placed into a stage 1 composting facility, which is then sealed and the material aerated and watered. Air in the waste reception building would be extracted and exhausted to the biofilter. After about 1 week the material in the tunnel is transferred into a stage 2 composter tunnel. The material is then composted under forced aeration for another week. Only 5% of the circulating air is replaced. The removed air is exhausted first through the biofilter and then the stacks, ensuring a slight vacuum remains in the tunnels to prevent odours escaping.

Upon opening the tunnel doors the exhaust fan operates at maximum to minimise intrusion of air from the tunnels. All exhausted air goes firstly into the biofilter and the stacks.

From the stage 2 tunnels the compost is transferred into the aeration area of maturation halls for 3 weeks, with air being extracted. Then the compost is transferred to the fully enclosed maturation area for another week. This is followed by the compost being transferred to a fully enclosed storage area or into the sifting shed. This building has no ventilation. The purpose is to allow compost stored in the open to dry out and be sifted for distribution. By this stage the compost should be odour less.

Green non IVC waste is also taken into the green waste aeration area where it is shredded and placed into the garden waste aeration bays for four weeks during which air is extracted. After about 4 weeks the green compost is transferred to the maturation area for another 4 weeks, where it will compost without forced aeration. Then the green waste is sifted and stored as with the in vessel compost. All air extracted from the roof and floor of the maturation hall is extracted firstly to the biofilter and then the two stacks.

Site operating hours (delivery and departing vehicles) will be:

0800 – 1700 Monday to Friday  
0800 – 1300 Saturdays

There will be no site operations on Sundays, or Bank Holidays.

Section 3.2 (Tonnages and Vehicle Movements) of Volume 1 of the Environmental Statement states that the average number of vehicles based on the maximum throughput of 64,000 tonnes per annum over 5.5 days per week is 21 loads (42 heavy goods vehicle movements). However, Volume 3 (8-81 on noise) of the Environmental Statement states that on a worse case scenario, there will be 56 HGV movements per day, 12 per hour. The latter equates to one HGV movements every 5 minutes.

The IVC process itself is a 24 hour operation. 6 full time jobs will be created.

The IVC complex will be constructed according to the following design:

- Waste reception building (12.5m high to eaves x 69m wide x 55m length).
- Maturation hall building (12.5m high to eaves x 54m wide a 127m length).
- Biofilters (combined 3m high in height a 28m wide x 63m length).
- Site and weighbridge office (4.3m high x 12m wide x 20m length).
- Workshop and storage building (existing buildings).
  - Workshop 10m high x 11m wide x 32.5m long).
  - Storage building 6m high x 24.5m width x 34.5m length).
- Tanks (3 tanks 2.6m high x 7m width; 1 tank 6.1m high x 12.5m width).
- Building for cardboard (12.5m high x 15m wide x 20m length).
- Stacks (2 stacks 4m high x 1.4m width).

The proposed Granville Road upgrade including widening and alignment necessary to accommodate the larger sized vehicles that will use the site. The first section, between the existing improved length and the Granville Country Park car park and

the Golf Course which has mixed traffic use, requires two way heavy goods vehicles traffic to pass along the entire length of this section.

The road alignment requires significant widening to allow larger vehicles to pass through the reverse ('S' bends) between the Granville Country Park car park and the Golf Course entrance. Travelling further east there is less traffic and widening is only introduced where necessary to create suitable passing places and traffic signals will be introduced. The surface is upgraded along the entire length with tarmac from Granville Roundabout to approximately the entrance to the Scrapyard, and the remainder of the access road length until the site entrance will be upgraded with gravel.

The first section from Granville Roundabout to Granville Country Park will be widened to a minimum of 6.1m carriageway. The second section from the Granville Country car park to the Golf Course entrance shall be widened to a minimum of 5.5m and thereafter selected widening to create selected passing places. Traffic signals will be introduced where physical restrictions exist between the Golf Course entrance and the application site.

Finally, Veolia have offered to undertake enhancement works to Granville Country Park. Veolia's Communication Manager is exploring the potential for enhancing the school/educational experience at the Country Park through the provision of a shelter in the car park area and information boards. Further enhancements, more closely associated with the Country Park's Management Plan, are also likely to fall out of the further ecology work such as through Japanese Knotweed eradication along the access road or habitat enhancement works at key locations.

## SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

The application site is located in the part of Woodhouse Farm complex consisting of some of the farmyard and an adjoining pasture field, the latter being bounded by hedgerows and old tyres. To the immediate west is the Granville Waste management site, which consists of the landfill site, community recycling centre and other waste management facilities. To the south west of the Granville waste management site along Grange Lane is 'The Windings' Naturist Club, a kennels/cattery and Watling Street Grange.

The southern access to Woodhouse Farm is a connection to the A5 by Woodhouse Lane, passing the Telford Crematorium adjoining to the west. The area to the north and east of the site is essentially open countryside and agricultural land. The hedgerow at the east of the application site is also the local authority administration boundary with Shropshire.

The application site is administratively connected in the west to the A5060 by Granville Road, which also serves an industrial unit, a few residential properties, a scrap yard, an Equestrian Centre, Muxton Golf Course, Granville Country Park and the Industrial Estate. This is the proposed access route to the application site referred to as 'western approaches'.

To the north west of the application site is a Local Nature Reserve and Granville Country Park which is an important and valuable recreation area for Telford & Wrekin residents. The Muxton Marsh SSSI overlaps with the Local Nature Reserve.

There are major residential areas to the west of the A5060 at St Georges and to the north and north/west of the site at Donnington and Muxton, all within Telford. Jack Moody Ltd has an open windrow composting facility at Lodgewood Farm, Redhill.

#### PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

A draft officer's report is currently being finalised concerning this application. During the consultation process concerns have been raised about the proposals. Officers consider that Members of Plans Board would benefit from a site visit and time to consider the implications of the proposals before receiving a final officer's report that will be presented to Plans Board on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2012.

Given the routes that will have to be taken to see several vantage points and that afternoon daylight will be shorter during winter, it is proposed that Members have a site visit at 3pm on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2012, prior to determining the planning application at the Plans Board later that evening.

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. Members of Plans Board undertake a site visit on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2012, prior to the determination of the planning application later that day the Plans Board meeting.