

WINGMOOR FARM

Integrated Waste Management Facility

May 2009

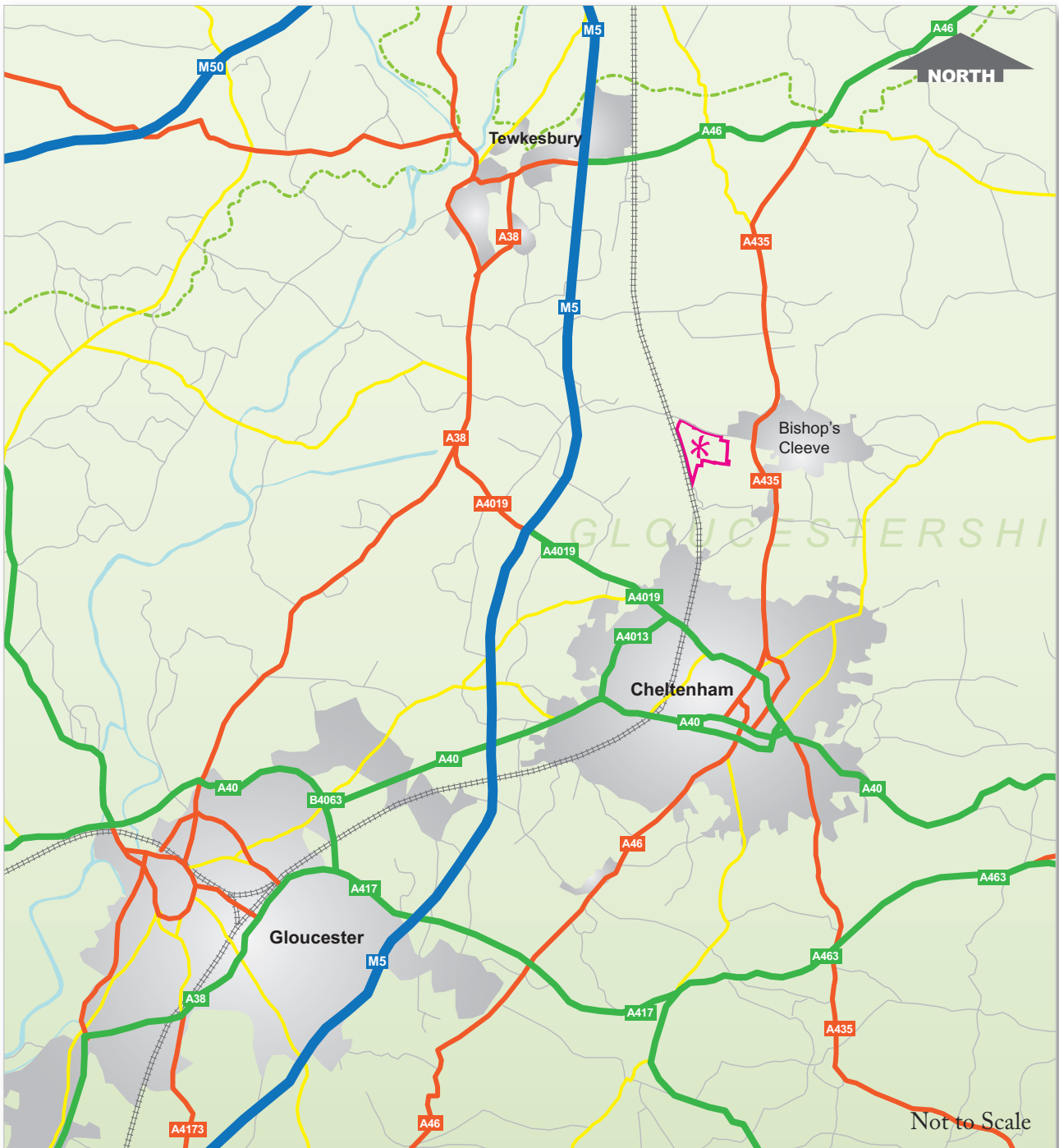


Non-Technical Summary

GRUNDON

Figure 1 : Location Plan

* Application Site



Source. Adams Hendry

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INTRODUCTION

1. Grundon Waste Management Ltd (subsequently referred to as Grundon) is applying for planning permission to continue to extract minerals (sand, gravel and clay), import waste and undertake restoration activity at its current operational site at Wingmoor Farm, to the west of Bishop's Cleeve in Gloucestershire. The proposals will result in the site being restored to a profile (landform) that is fundamentally the same as that which was previously granted planning permission, and for it to be put to agricultural use with areas set aside for landscape and nature conservation purposes. In this document, these proposals are referred to as 'the Scheme'.
2. The Scheme is needed because conditions attached to the planning permissions for the site require minerals and waste operations to cease by 12th May 2009. This does not give Grundon sufficient time to complete their operation and restore the site. It is considered that the current permitted operations need to continue and a new consent is therefore required.
3. The Scheme is located within the borough of Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire. The planning application has been submitted to Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) which is the Waste Planning Authority.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND THIS DOCUMENT

4. An assessment of the potential significant impacts of the Scheme on the environment has been undertaken as required by UK and European laws on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The results of the EIA have been reported in an Environmental Statement (ES) which accompanies the planning application. The EIA was undertaken by Adams Hendry Consulting Ltd and a team of independent specialist consultants.
5. In addition to identifying likely significant environmental impacts, the ES explains why the scheme is needed, the consideration that has been given to alternative solutions, and the measures that are proposed to avoid or reduce adverse environmental impacts.
6. This document is the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the ES that accompanies Grundon's planning application. It summarises the findings and conclusions of the ES in non-technical language.

THE SITE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

7. The application site is approximately 78.65 hectares of which 54 hectares are and will be used for the landfilling of waste. This includes approximately 3 hectares of land from which sand and gravel has yet to be extracted.
8. Over 40% of the site area has already been restored under a planning permission granted in 1996 (ref: 95/8446/1099). This has created the northern and eastern slopes, including the high point, of the approved landform. A further 20% of the site has been or is in the process of being filled.
9. The site has two site accesses off Stoke Orchard Road. The eastern access provides access to the materials recovery facility (MRF) and to the south eastern

Wingmoor Farm Integrated Waste Management Facility Non-Technical Summary

Figure 2 : Aerial context

Source: Grundons



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part of the site used for landfill of non-hazardous waste. The western access point provides access to the waste treatment plant and the hazardous waste landfill area, as well as the current parking and vehicles servicing area for Grundon's fleet of collection vehicles. An aerial photograph of the site taken in September 2008 is provided at Figure 2.

10. The immediate surroundings of the site are generally open and rural, comprising farmland and other land restored after mineral extraction.

Wingmoor Farm West, a waste management facility operated by Cory Environmental, is separated from the application site by the Bristol to Birmingham railway line.

11. Away from these two waste management facilities, Bishop's Cleeve has seen additional housing and economic development throughout the 1990's following the development of the Bishop's Cleeve Bypass, the A435. This brought the settlement closer to the application site. The nearest group of dwellings

to Wingmoor Farm East are on the western edge of Bishop's Cleeve, approximately 220m east of the boundary of Grundon's site, 400m from the MRF building, 550m from non-hazardous landfill operations and 1000m from the hazardous waste landfill. Some individual residential properties lie closer to the proposed development site.

12. Residential properties in the village of Stoke Orchard are situated approximately 1km to the west of the site boundary. Residential properties in Brockhampton are over 550m to the south.

Cheltenham North RFC rugby ground and clubhouse adjoin the site of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). South east of the rugby ground, adjoining the eastern boundary of the site, is a restored area of former infilled mineral workings, known as Elliot's Landfill.

13. The boundary of the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is approximately 2.5km to the east. Wingmoor Farm Meadow, which is a Key Wildlife Site as identified in the Tewkesbury Borough Local Plan, adjoins the operational site's southern boundary, and is within Grundon's ownership. There are also several public footpaths near to the site.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEME

14. The proposed Scheme is largely a continuation of the existing consented activities permitted in 1996, which have no permission beyond May 2009. The proposals involve the extraction of minerals from the site and the subsequent restoration of the site through the importation of wastes, including the operation of a waste treatment plant and an MRF.

15. The operational site layout is shown in Figure 3, which identifies the remaining sand and gravel reserves and the next phase of clay extraction, together with the various components of the site.

16. The proposed completed restoration profile (landform) is intended to remain fundamentally the same as that previously approved by GCC in 1996 (Planning Permission Ref: 95/8446/1099), but with minor amendments to accommodate revised surface water management requirements and to take account of future site management arrangements. The proposed completed restoration profile of the site is shown on Figure 4.

17. The following current activities are needed to achieve the completed restoration scheme:

- extraction of approximately 24,000 m³ of sand and gravel;
- extraction of approximately 1,350,000 m³ of clay, of which approximately 432,000 m³ will be exported, with the remainder being used on site mainly for engineering purposes;
- operation of plant to process sand and gravel for restoration of land to the approved profile, which will require the continued importation of approximately 2,945,000 m³ non-hazardous and 1,287,000 m³ hazardous wastes;

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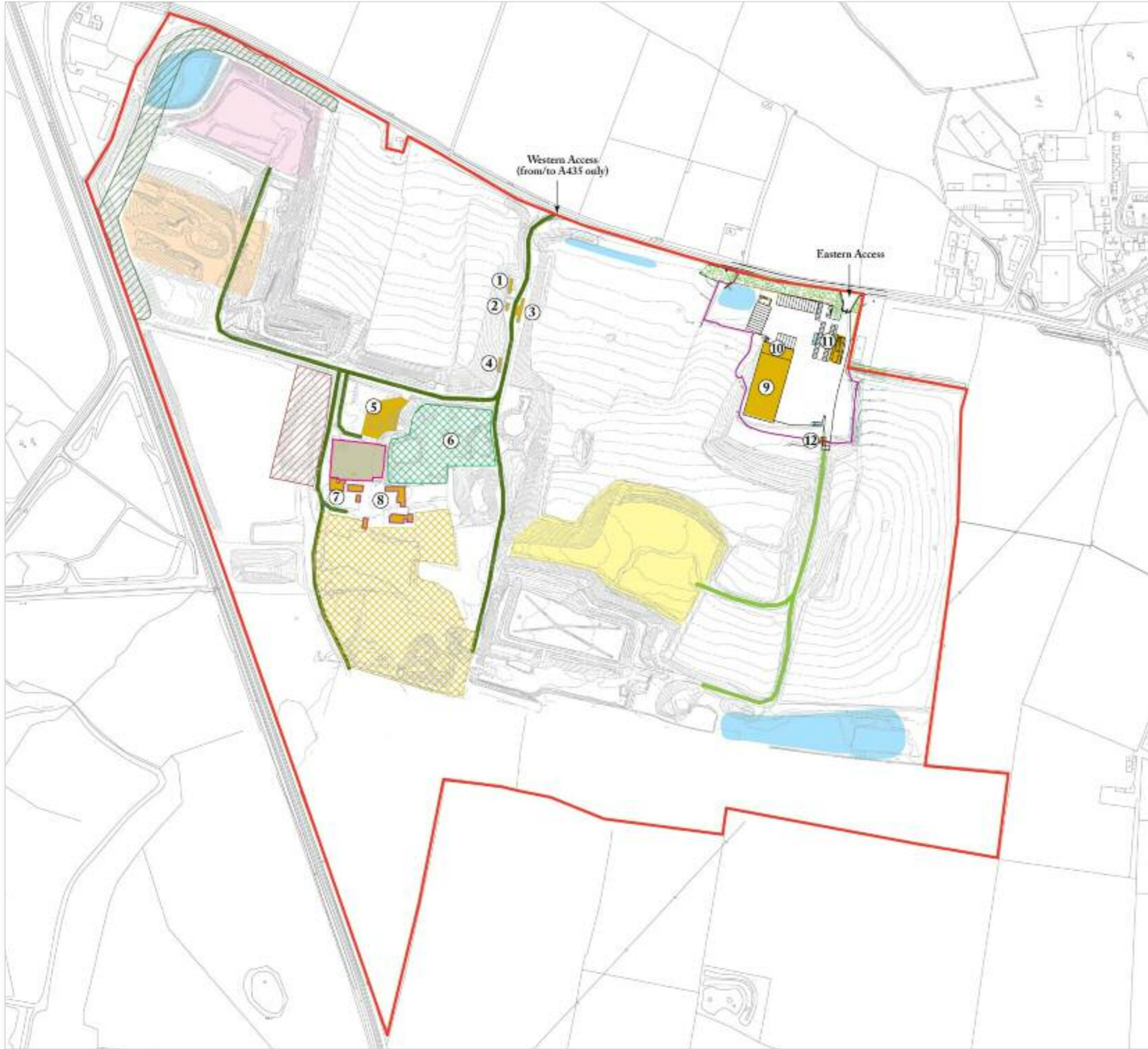















Figure 3 : Proposed Operational Site Layout

-  Planning application area
 -  Surface Water Management Ponds
 -  Western Haul Road
 -  Eastern Haul Road (to be removed and area restored upon completion of current landfill cell)
 -  Remaining sand and gravel reserves
 -  Clay stock pile area
 -  Current vehicle parking to relocate to the MRF
 -  Plant/Buildings
1. Mess building
 2. Landfill gas engine
 3. West weighbridge
 4. West wheel wash
 5. Waste treatment plant
 6. Sand & gravel processing plant
 7. Vehicle servicing
 8. Farmhouse & outbuildings
 9. Materials recovery facility (MRF)
 10. Vehicle servicing building
 11. East weighbridge
 12. East wheel wash
-  Buildings to be demolished
 -  Next phase of clay extraction
 -  Current hazardous landfill cell (Phase A)
 -  Current non-hazardous landfill cell (Phase 1a)
 -  Noise attenuation bund



Source. Grundons Waste Management

Scale. 1:5000

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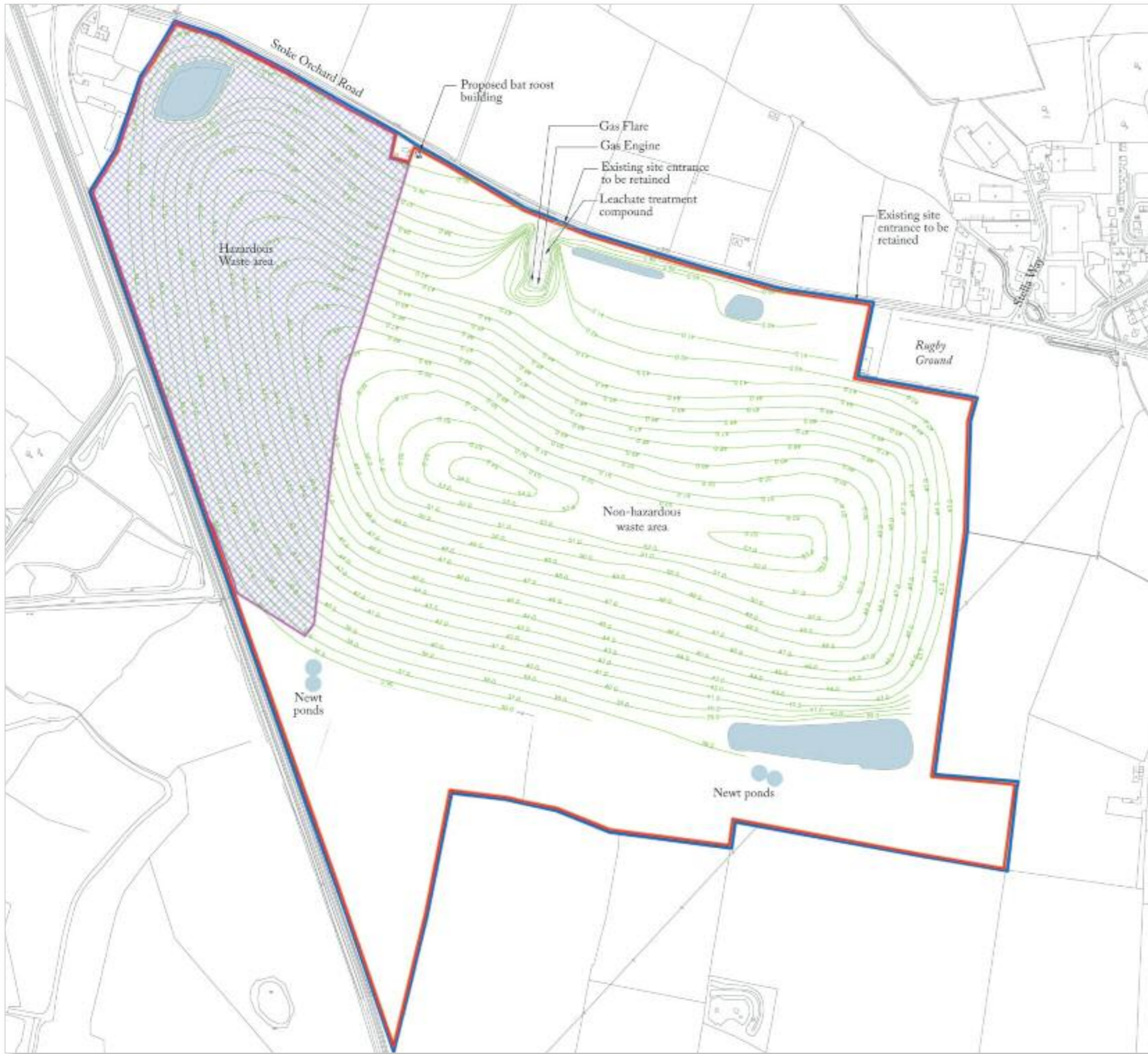


Figure 4 : Restoration profile and site layout

- Planning application area
- Grundon's ownership area
- 20.0 Post-settlement restoration contours
- Extent of hazardous waste area
- Surface water management ponds



Source. SLR

Scale. 1: 5000

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- operation of the waste treatment plant (used to treat incoming waste, including air pollution control residues, prior to landfilling);
- use of the landfill gas control system and associated landfill gas engines;
- use of site offices and mess facilities;
- use of weighbridges at both site entrances, and
- use of wheel wash facilities at both site entrances.

18. The scheme includes the retention of the MRF facility that also includes vehicle servicing facilities, offices and mess facilities. The proposed MRF has a throughput of up to 50,000 tonnes per year.

19. The site will also continue to operate a clinical waste transfer service, handling approximately 500 tonnes per year. The clinical waste is stored in sealed articulated trailers for transport off site for treatment. The trailers are parked in the operational area of the waste treatment plant on impermeable hard standing at all times. All waste stored in the trailer at the site is stored within lidded bins.

20. All of the above activities will occur concurrently to restore the site in a phased manner. Generally, the existing minerals (sand, gravel and clay) within the site will be excavated and the void space (hole) created as a result will then be engineered and filled with hazardous and non-hazardous wastes. The site will then be capped and restored in accordance with the proposed landscaping scheme.

21. The site will be restored progressively and waste disposal operations are expected to stop in 2027 for hazardous waste and the end of 2029 for non-hazardous waste, with the site fully restored by June 2030.

22. Under the environmental permitting regime, there will be an ongoing obligation on Grundon to manage the site once it has closed. Infrastructure needed for this purpose includes treatment facilities for leachate (the liquid produced in a landfill from the decomposition of waste), landfill gas collection and management systems, and site-monitoring equipment. This will remain at the site beyond June 2030. It is proposed that the plant necessary for this, other than some monitoring equipment, will be within an environmental compound to be located at the current western entrance into the site as shown on Figure 4.

23. Once restored the site will be put to agricultural use with areas of woodland and areas set aside for

nature conservation purposes. A permissive footpath around the site will be provided, affording vantage points looking across the Severn Vale and towards Bishop's Cleeve. Other than the permissive footpath, public access to the site will be restricted by the requirements of the environmental permit and the need for continued site management. The restoration landscaping scheme and indicative route of a permissive footpath is shown in Figure 5.

24. There are a number of physical elements of the proposals which are proposed specifically to mitigate the environmental effects of the Scheme. These include noise attenuation bunds, newt ponds, a building to replace bat roosts at the site, surface water management ponds, and landscape planting and screening.

25. It is proposed that the landfill will operate between 07:00 and 18:00 on Mondays to Fridays and between 07:30 and 13:00 on Saturdays, which are the existing permitted operating hours of the site and plant. There will be no operations on Sundays or public holidays, except for essential maintenance work and in response to emergencies. However, occasional 24-hour access to the treatment plant for delivery tankers, both leaving the site to collect loads and delivering loads after collection, is required. This reflects the current consented arrangements for the facility.

26. Operations at the MRF (including the moving, loading or unloading of vehicles, processing and any activity associated with the waste management facility) will operate to the same hours as the landfill, except for operations undertaken inside the MRF building. Operations inside the MRF building will take place between the hours of 0630 to 2100 hours Monday to Friday, 0700 to 1400 on Saturday and at no time shall operations take place on Saturday afternoons, Sundays or public holidays.

27. A full description of the Scheme, and the method of mineral extraction, waste operations, restoration and other operations is provided at Chapter 3 of the ES.

NEED FOR THE SCHEME

28. The immediate need for the Scheme arises from the conditions attached to the planning permissions for the site that require minerals and waste operations to cease by 12th May 2009. There is also a wider need for the Scheme which relates to national, regional and

local waste and planning policies, as well as practical considerations. These are explained briefly below.

Conditions on Existing Planning Permissions

29. The landfilling operations are currently incomplete, as is the approved restoration scheme. Planning conditions require the permitted operations to cease by a date that does not give Grundon sufficient time to complete their operation and restore the site. It is considered that the current permitted operations need to continue and a new consent is therefore required.

Green Belt

30. The site is located in the Cheltenham and Bishop's Cleeve Green Belt. The proposals were, and still are, designed to ensure that the operation of the site and its progressive and final restoration are both undertaken to the highest possible environmental standards. As detailed in the ES, the Scheme will provide for a restored site that will not introduce any significant adverse impacts upon the environment, including the Green Belt. In contrast, failure to restore the site as proposed would be considered to result in an inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

Non-Hazardous Waste Management

31. Gloucestershire is assessed as having a combined non-hazardous landfill capacity of approximately 6,669,000 m³ at the end of 2008/2009, taking account of capacity at the application site. This contrasts to a requirement for non-hazardous capacity between 2009/2010 and 2025/2026 of between 6,710,160 and 7,197,000 m³, a shortfall in capacity of between 41,160 m³ based upon the forecasts in the draft South West Plan and up to 528,000 m³ based on interpretations of GCC's draft Waste Core Strategy (Preferred Options). The Scheme will therefore play a critical role in meeting Gloucestershire's non-hazardous waste disposal requirements over the period to 2026 and beyond to 2029, the end of the life of the site.

32. The provision of the MRF alongside the waste disposal capacity will continue to assist Gloucestershire County Council in working towards its waste recovery targets and will allow Grundon to process a proportion of the wastes prior to disposal, ensuring that recyclable materials can be diverted from landfill.

Hazardous Waste Disposal

33. Hazardous waste management in the South West Region is dominated by capacity at Wingmoor Farm. The identified maximum capacity for the region as a whole is estimated at 1,562,000 m³, of which 1,242,000 m³ is at Wingmoor Farm. The draft South West Plan identifies a minimum requirement of between 1,260,000 m³ and 1,440,000 m³.

34. The Scheme has an important role in managing wastes from the south west region, as well as the surrounding regions, and meeting the hazardous waste disposal needs identified within regional waste planning policy and guidance.

Mineral Extraction

35. Whilst there are limited sand and gravel reserves within the site, it would be inconsistent with Government, Regional and Local Planning Guidance to allow that remaining reserve to be sterilised and lost. Currently, sand and gravel from the application site is supplied to a local market. The continued provision of this material, and completion of sand and gravel extraction operations on site would make a small but nonetheless valuable contribution towards the overall annual sand and gravel supply required in Gloucestershire.








36. The site has a valuable and recognisable role to play in the provision of engineering clay both for use in the operations on the site, and for export to the local and regional market, mainly for brown field remediation and flood defence works. It is considered that the provision of this essential mineral is fully in accordance with Government and Local Planning Policy. This Environmental Statement has demonstrated that impacts from the extraction, use on-site and export off-site of clay reserves can be accommodated by the receiving environment and the local highway network without significant adverse effects.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

37. The Environmental Statement has assessed alternative options to the proposed development. The assessment considered whether any alternative options would meet the following key planning objectives, which it is considered justify the need for



Figure 5 : Landscape restoration scheme

-  Proposed woodland
-  Proposed scrub grassland
-  Existing and proposed hedgerows
-  Existing tree belt
-  Proposed species rich grassland
-  Area to be managed for reptiles and invertebrates
-  Proposed permissive footpath



Source: David Jarvis Associates

Scale: 1:5000

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continued mineral extraction and landfilling operations, and the operation of the MRF, at the application site:

- The need to achieve a restoration profile and landform at Wingmoor Farm following cessation of waste management operations that is compliant with Green Belt policy in PPG2 whilst being acceptable in landfill engineering, design and safety terms.
- The need to consider the implications of the loss of winnable mineral resources of importance for the local and regional market that would otherwise have been extracted at an already established mineral site.
- The need to consider the implications of the loss of any waste management capacity that would otherwise have been provided at Wingmoor Farm and the impact of this in national, regional and local policy terms.

38. Five alternative options were considered. These include providing the required waste management capacity 'off-site' and, failing this, the ability to pursue alternative 'on-site' options', as outlined below:

- 14
- Expansion of capacity at existing non-hazardous waste landfill facilities in Gloucestershire, i.e. at neighbouring Cory Wingmoor West; Cory Hempsted, Gloucester, or the former Frampton Landfill;
 - Identification of a non-hazardous / hazardous landfill facility at a new site in the County, considering alternative mineral voids or at wholly new sites;
 - The export of wastes requiring management out of the County;
 - Alternative on site option to 'do nothing', and close the site immediately once working areas have been made safe; and
 - Alternative on site option implementing a 'minimum engineered scheme' to secure the long term engineering integrity and safety of the site.

39. The Environmental Statement concludes that there is an overwhelming need for the application proposals in terms of minerals and waste management policy and achievement of land restoration that is suitable in the Green Belt. It is concluded that none of the above options provide a viable, sustainable and practicable alternative to meeting the identified need for the proposed development.

THE POLICY CONTEXT

40. The statutory development plan against which the planning application for the proposal has to be considered consists of:

- Regional Planning Guidance for the South West (RPG10) (September 2001) (pending the approval of the Regional Spatial Strategy).
- The Gloucestershire Structure Plan (Second Review) November 1999 (Saved Policies).
- Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan 2002-2012 October 2004 (Saved Policies).
- Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan 2003 (Saved Policies).
- Tewksbury Borough Local Plan March 2006 (Saved Policies).

41. Emerging policy within the draft South West Plan and Gloucestershire's Minerals and Waste Local Development Frameworks has also been considered.

42. The site lies within the Cheltenham Green Belt and is approximately 2.5km west of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Policies and guidance of particular relevance to the proposed scheme include those relating to waste management, minerals extraction and management, sustainable development, AONBs and the Green Belt. The main planning and environmental designations at the site are shown in Figure 6.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

43. The basis for the assessment (described in detail in Chapter 7 of the ES) is that the predicted effects of the Scheme have been considered against two scenarios; the on-site alternatives described in paragraph 38:

- (i) the 'do nothing' scenario, with the site closing 13 May 2009 and no further operations taking place at the site; and,
- (ii) the 'minimum engineered scheme' scenario, considered to be necessary to leave the site in a safe and suitably managed form.

Landscape

44. The predicted landscape and visual impacts of the Scheme have been assessed against the two scenarios identified above and in accordance with published guidance.

45. The site is an existing operational landfill within the Severn Vale of Gloucestershire, lying to the west of Bishop's Cleeve and to the north of Cheltenham. The Cotswold Scarp, part of the Cotswold AONB, lies to the east of the site, and certain views from the Scarp include the site. The site lies entirely within the Cheltenham Green Belt, and there is a locally-designated Key Wildlife Site, also in the ownership of the applicant, immediately to the south of the proposed landfill footprint.

46. Landscape character, value, features and elements have been identified as 'landscape receptors' in the assessment. Potential visual receptors included users of public rights of way, occupiers of residential properties, users of roads, and passengers of trains with views of the site. In terms of the duration of any impacts to landscape and visual receptors, the assessment considers both the operational phase of development lasting until 2030, and the permanent restoration of the site.

47. The assessment concludes that during the operational phase, the proposed development will result in adverse landscape and visual effects of slight significance. Once the site is fully restored, the site will contribute beneficial landscape and visual impacts of moderate significance.

Traffic and Transport

48. The ES presents the findings of a detailed assessment of the potential traffic impacts of the development proposals on Stoke Orchard Road and the A435 to the north and south of Bishop's Cleeve.

49. The application site is located in close proximity to the A435 primary road, which provides access to Cheltenham and the M5 motorway. The motorway can also be accessed via various routes through Cheltenham to the south. The majority of vehicles access the site from the east via Bishop's Cleeve with a small number travelling from the west via Stoke Orchard village.

50. In terms of two-way Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) movements, the Scheme will generate approximately 377 trips per day. This compares with 315 trips per day from the current 2009 operation on the site, and 268 that would be anticipated to be required to undertake the 'minimum engineered scheme' scenario.

51. Junction capacity tests have been undertaken for 5 junctions along the A435, testing the situation in 2009, 2014 and 2024. The assessments indicate that three of the junctions will be nearing capacity in 2024 based on a combination of general traffic growth and the planned housing and employment developments in the draft South West Plan. The additional impacts resulting from the proposals are considered to be negligible.

52. A comprehensive Travel Plan will be developed in conjunction with the Planning and Highway Authorities to promote car sharing between staff and encourage the use of non car modes where practicable.

53. In light of the traffic generated by the Scheme, and the mitigation measures proposed, it is considered that the Scheme will have an insignificant impact on the highway network and is acceptable in traffic and transport terms.

Noise

54. A noise assessment is included within the ES. Existing noise conditions have been calculated by a series of noise surveys in the vicinity of the site. These noise measurements describe the existing noise climate and are used to determine the level of noise arising from activity within the site boundary. Noise from the site and from vehicles on the site access roads and internal haul routes has been calculated and assessed in line with relevant British Standards and policies.

55. The conclusion of the noise assessment is that the magnitude of the impact is low for most daytime operations, due to the large separation distances to most dwellings. The exception to this is for operations in the north western corner of the site where clay extraction and restoration activities could give rise to an unmitigated impact for three dwellings, unless mitigated.

56. Increased bund heights set back from the north western boundary of the site will mitigate this impact and will reduce the residual impact for the nearest dwellings to an impact of minor significance. These bunds are included in the Scheme for which permission is sought.

57. With mitigation in place the calculated daytime and night-time noise levels resulting from the proposals comply with the noise limits recommended

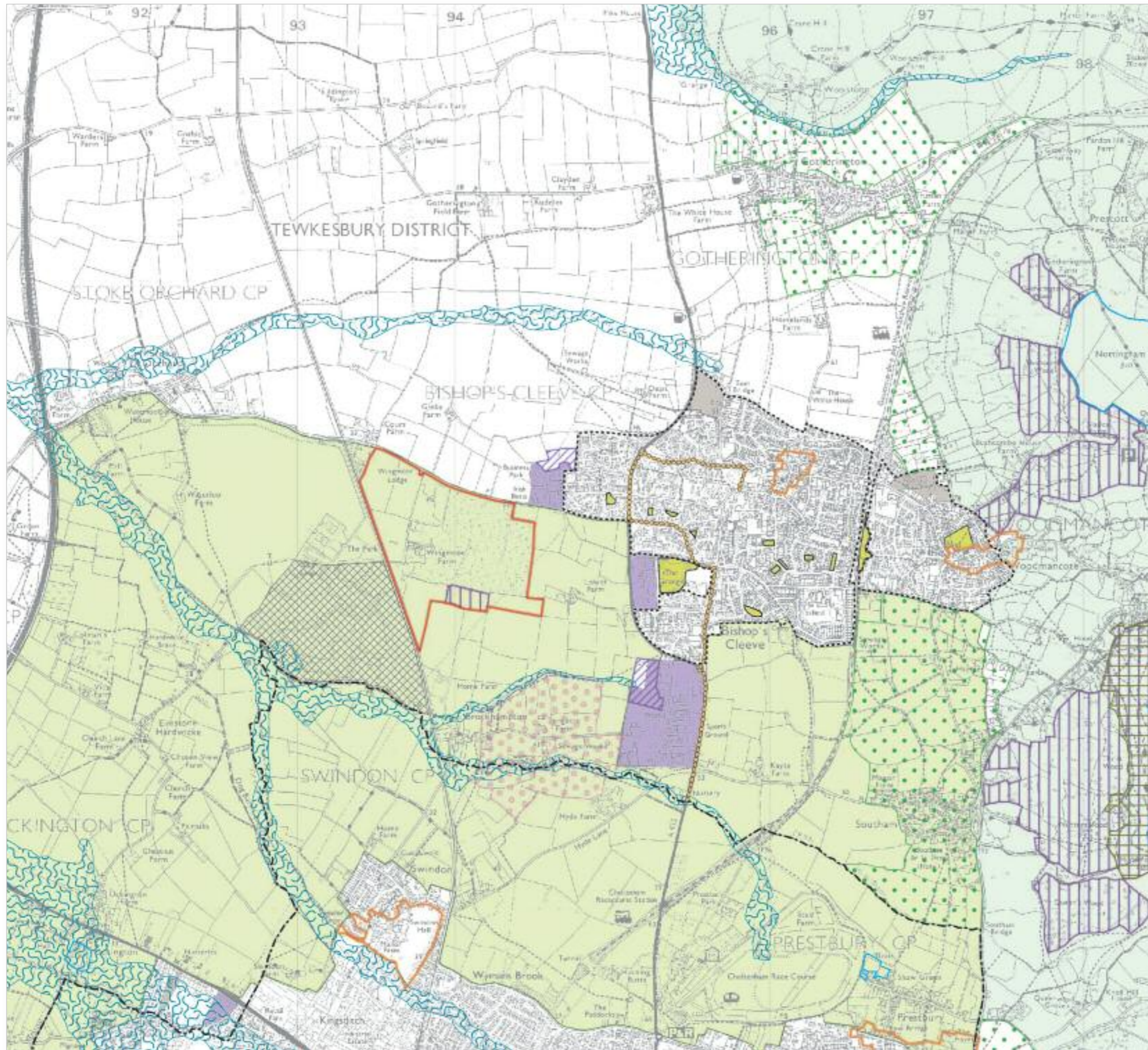


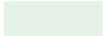

















Figure 6 : Planning Policy Context

-  Planning application area
-  Local Authority Boundary
-  Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
-  Special Landscape Area
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest
-  Key Wildlife Site (Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Reserve)
-  Scheduled Ancient Monument
-  Housing Allocation
-  Conservation Area
-  Important open space
-  Extent of Extreme Flood
-  Wingmoor Farm West
-  Green Belt
-  Public transport corridor
-  Major employment site
-  Land allocated for employment use
-  Sewage treatment works odour zone (Tewkesbury)/Development exclusion zone (Cheltenham)
-  Residential development boundary



Source. Tewkesbury Borough Local Plan to 2011
Cheltenham Borough Local Plan July 2006

Scale: 1:25 000

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in the assessment. For Stoke Orchard Road and the A435, the changes in noise level are considered to be negligible and imperceptible within the normal daily variation that occurs on the road.

58. The assessment concludes that there will be no significant residual noise or vibration impacts arising from the scheme.

Air Quality

59. An assessment of the potential effects of the proposed development on air quality is included within the ES. The topics covered by this assessment are:

- Control of dust from handling hazardous and non-hazardous waste materials, quarrying, and associated activities;
- Control of odours;
- Control of emissions to air of treated or untreated landfill gas; and
- Emissions from road traffic.

60. The assessment has used a variety of techniques to investigate the current and forecast levels of airborne pollutants in the vicinity of the Wingmoor Farm site.

61. It was found that dust levels in the local area are not at levels which would give cause for concern with regard to potential effects on amenity. Furthermore, the levels of chemicals within the dust are sufficiently low that they would not be of concern with regard to their potential effects on air quality.

62. Emissions from the site do occasionally give rise to odours in the local area, but this does not represent a widespread odour problem – other sources of odour such as an adjacent site have been more significant sources of odour. The impacts of odour will continue to be reduced at the site through the continued development and improve the system for collecting landfill gas and its use to generate electricity.

63. Emissions from road traffic were forecast not to have a significant effect on local air quality. In conclusion, provided the appropriate mitigation measures continue to be applied, and that the site is operated in accordance with the Environmental Permits, it was found that the proposals will have a residual impact of no more than a minor significance on air quality.

Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology

64. The geology, surface water and groundwater regimes at the site have been assessed with reference to Environment Agency, Local Authority and other information, and by the consideration of site specific monitoring data.

65. The application site is located on the Quaternary River Terrace sands and gravels of the River Avon, which are classified as a Minor Aquifer.

66. The potential impacts of the Scheme upon the geological, hydrological and hydrogeological environment have been identified and assessed with respect to the currently consented mitigation measures, and the requirements of the Environmental Permits for the Site issued by the Environment Agency.

67. The assessment concludes that, with respect to the geological, hydrological and hydrogeological environment, there are no significant residual impacts or cumulative effects associated with the continuation of operations at Wingmoor, with proposed mitigation measures in place. Waste management activities at the site will continue to operate under the requirements of the site's Environmental Permits to ensure compliance with the Groundwater Regulations.

Health

68. The ES reports the findings of an assessment of the potential impacts upon human health associated with the proposal.

69. The following methods have been used to determine the potential human health effects associated with the proposed development at Wingmoor Farm:

- a review of the health profile of the local community;
- a review of the study undertaken by the Wingmoor Farm Task Group, a sub group of GCC's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- a review of the Community Health Impact Assessment of the Wingmoor Waste Treatment and Landfill Sites facilitated by Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust;
- consultation with Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust and other key health stakeholders;

- consideration and interpretation of the results and conclusions of other chapters of this Environmental Statement, in particular the findings of the Air Quality and Groundwater chapters.

70. The Neighbourhood Health Profile prepared by Gloucestershire PCT in 2005 concludes that:

“People living in the Bishop’s Cleeve area generally experience levels of ill-health which do not differ markedly from people living in other areas of Gloucestershire when a range of established health indicators and other less robust sources of evidence are compared”.

71. The Community Health Impact Assessment (2009) facilitated by Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust concludes that:

“based on those areas of community health for which data exists, the Steering Group have found no definitive evidence to suggest that the health of the community has been affected by the Wingmoor Farm sites. However, the Group would strongly emphasise that there has often been no definitive data or answers to the areas that have been explored in detail.”

72. The available information relating to the health of the local community identifies that there is no definitive data to suggest that the operation of the Wingmoor Farm sites has given rise to public health impacts in the local communities. The proposed development has been designed to provide effective control of the key issues which could potentially affect health and well-being in the local community. These will be managed through proposed mitigation measures identified throughout the ES and will be regulated by appropriate planning conditions and Environmental Permitting. The key issues identified comprise:

- Control of emissions to air (including odours and dusts);
- Noise control;
- Management of risks to groundwater and surface water;
- Landscape and visual impacts; and
- Management of risks relating to road traffic.

73. It is concluded that the potential and perceived health issues can be properly managed via the proposed mitigation measures set out within the ES. Grundon will continue to manage the site so as to

minimise, eliminate and monitor potential emissions which could theoretically pose a risk to the health or wellbeing of the local community, and to maintain its ongoing dialogue with the local community in relation to the management of the site. This is the considered to be most appropriate means of ensuring that the public perception of risks to health is effectively addressed throughout the remaining life of the landfill site.

Ecology

74. The application site comprises a large expanse of active landfill and quarry workings, with additional smaller areas of semi-improved grassland, re-colonised topsoil and gravel, amenity planting, rough grassland, un-vegetated shallow ditches, un-vegetated standing open water, and poor quality hedgerows. Limited areas of broad-leaved woodland, vegetated pools, mature trees, lines of trees, hedgerows and several mature individual trees are also present.

75. The habitats adjacent to the application site are dominated by agricultural fields, both pasture and arable. No statutory designations or sites of ecological importance were identified within 2km of the application site.

76. Wingmoor Farm Meadow, a non-statutory wildlife site, is situated to the south of the proposed landfill footprint. With adoption of industry standard suppression techniques and site monitoring, it is considered unlikely that the favourable conservation status of this site will be impacted upon and that the integrity of its interest features will be maintained.

77. The operation of the Scheme will lead to a direct loss of approximately 21ha of semi-improved grassland, re-colonised topsoil and gravel, amenity planting, rough grassland, un-vegetated shallow ditches, un-vegetated standing open water, and poor quality hedgerows. These habitats are of site level ecological value only.

78. There will be a loss of approximately 0.02ha of broad-leaved woodland, vegetated pools, mature trees, lines of trees, hedgerows and several mature individual trees. These habitats are considered to be of parish-level ecological value to wildlife, there are, however, many other areas of such habitat in the area.

79. The presence of great crested newts, bats, reptiles, breeding birds and badgers has been confirmed

within the application site. Mitigation incorporated into the scheme, including the relocation of reptiles, replacement of alternative bat roosts, operating a safe working scheme, and habitat enhancements, will ensure that residual impacts upon protected species are either avoided or insignificant.

80. The proposed restoration scheme will provide increased areas of species-rich hedgerows, deciduous woodland, standing water bodies and species-rich grassland. There will also be new lengths of hedgerow planted. The majority of the site will be restored to agriculture, with areas specifically being managed for wildlife, in particular a corridor connecting the north and south of the site along the western site boundary. The proposed mitigation/compensation through the creation of new habitats and species-specific habitats should assist in meeting a number of local and UK BAP targets. The restored site will be of greater value for wildlife than that which currently exists.

Cultural Heritage

81. The likely significant effects on the cultural heritage resource resulting from the implementation of the proposals have been identified, and their magnitude assessed.

82. Information on cultural heritage was gathered from a study area, which extended 500m from the site boundary, using desk-based sources of information and a site-walkover. Early consultation with the Gloucestershire County Council's Senior Planning Archaeologist confirmed that additional surveys were not required.

83. Potential effects on the cultural heritage resource resulting from the proposals have been identified as damage to or loss of potential archaeological deposits, and the loss of a complex of 19th century agricultural buildings which make up Wingmoor Farm. In cultural heritage terms these are considered to be of low value.

84. Without mitigation, the potential impact on archaeological deposits (where present) and the demolition of the Wingmoor Farm complex would result in the total loss of the archaeological deposits and the 19th century buildings.

85. These impacts will be mitigated by means of an archaeological watching brief and historic building recording. These techniques are designed to enable preservation by record, a suitable measure for

receptors of low value. However, the techniques themselves cannot reduce the magnitude of the identified impacts and consequently, there remains a slight adverse significant effect.

Other Matters

86. The ES also examines the potential impacts associated with the proposed continuation of mineral extraction, waste disposal and MRF activities on additional matters including sport and recreation, sustainability and climate change, agriculture, and operational waste.

87. There are no direct adverse impacts upon any sport and recreation resources as a result of the proposals. It is considered that the restored site will result in a beneficial residual effect of moderate significance as a result of the provision of a new recreational resource for the local population, where there is currently none.

88. The potential for sustainability and climate change impacts arising from the proposals, including the potential for in combination effects arising as a result of climate change, are considered in the relevant technical chapters of the ES, and within the consideration of need and alternatives.

89. The continuation of the minerals extraction and waste operations at the site will result in a temporary adverse impact on agriculture through the loss of agricultural land. Following restoration of the site, to be secured as part of the proposals, the site will be returned to agricultural use as grazing land, together with the areas to be set aside for nature conservation. It is not considered that there will be any significant residual effects on agriculture arising from the proposals to restore the site.

90. The continuation of the minerals extraction and waste operations at the site have the potential to result in low volume waste streams being produced from the site, including landfill gas and leachate. The assessment of potential impacts arising from this waste is set out in detail in the Air Quality and Hydrology chapters of the ES. The planning application is also supported by a Site Waste Management Plan and Waste Minimisation Strategy that considers other waste generated in more detail. It is not considered that operational waste will give rise to significant adverse residual effects.

Further Information

91. Copies of this Non-Technical Statement can be obtained free of charge from the address below, or from the website www.grundon.com

92. Copies of the Environmental Statement can be obtained at a reasonable charge to reflect printing and distribution costs from the address below.

93. Any queries about the Scheme, or requests for further information, should be directed to:

Grundon Waste Management Ltd
Grange Lane
Beenham
Berkshire
RG7 5PY

Telephone 01189 714040

