



Meeting note

Project name	East Northants Resource Management Facility - Western Extension
File reference	WS010005
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	23 March 2021
Meeting with	Augean plc (the Applicant)
Venue	Telecon
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Project Update

The Applicant confirmed the design is largely finalised and provided an update to the Inspectorate on work it has carried out in relation to site investigations to inform design. Discussions have been held with stakeholders, such as East Northamptonshire and Northamptonshire Councils to inform noise and traffic modelling; and with Natural England in relation to the Collyweston Great Wood and Easton Hornstocks Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This information is captured in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

Consultation

Statutory consultation took place between 26 October and 14 December 2020, which was subsequently extended until 15 February 2021.

The Applicant confirmed the Consultation Report will cover how it has complied with the consultation requirements set out in PA2008.

The Applicant highlighted that it has been engaging in consultation on a range of different environmental aspects with Local Authorities (LA) and statutory bodies such as Natural England and the Environment Agency.

The Applicant stated that the LA structure is being reformed, to be replaced by two unitary authorities.

The Inspectorate referred the Applicant to the [Infrastructure Planning \(Publication and Notification of Applications etc.\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-planning-inspectorate-guidance) and reminded them to regularly check the guidance on the Inspectorate's website in relation to Covid-19: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-planning-inspectorate-guidance>.

Development Consent Order

The Applicant confirmed that the proposed application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) intends to replace the 2013 DCO (2013 No. 1752) and the non-material amendment (which increased the capacity at the soil treatment facility).

The Applicant explained that the application will be for the construction of a new void (the western extension) and an alteration to increase the capacity of the waste treatment facility.

The Applicant stated that it proposes to increase the existing landfill void in combination with the new void, which will effectively be a continuation of the existing void, allowing a continuous restoration profile. The Applicant advised it is seeking flexibility in the approach to ancillary works (site office, wheel wash etc), which will be assessed in the Environmental Statement.

The Applicant advised that the proposed order limits will include both the existing East Northants Resource Management Facility site and an area to the west. There will be a diversion of existing overhead powerlines and changes to the drainage watercourse. It is not anticipated that any land outside of the Applicant's control will be required, save for the potential for rights over land in order to re-route assets, such as pipelines, where prior agreement cannot be reached with asset owners. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider all potential land interests including persons who would, or might be, entitled to make a relevant claim and that it should seek its own legal advice in relation to compulsory acquisition.

The Inspectorate asked if the development, as consented in the 2013 DCO, has been built to completion. The Applicant responded that only some of the consented development has been concluded. While some of the landfill has been completed and capped, other parts of the landfill are constructed but not yet filled or capped, and some landfill has not yet been constructed, including the area of the site which is currently under the treatment plant.

The Inspectorate asked if there would be a situation where works consented in the 2013 DCO would also be sought in the proposed DCO, including the parts already constructed. The Applicant confirmed that this would be the case and that works already consented in the 2013 DCO may also be carried out during the examination period for the proposed DCO. The Inspectorate enquired if this approach was covered in the Applicants consultation, or was consultation only carried out on the new aspects that the proposed DCO would enable, if consented. The Applicant confirmed that consultation was carried out in relation to all aspects of the existing and proposed DCO and confirmed the approach will be explained in the explanatory memorandum.

An application for an Environmental Permit for the whole landfill site is due to be made shortly. This will be a variation to the existing permit for the site.

Section 35 Direction

The Applicant has considered if a section 35 direction (PA2008) is required for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste. It shall be using the same approach for the new DCO as was used for the 2013 DCO, that is, the main purpose shall be for the disposal of hazardous waste, as defined in section 30 of PA2008 and in the National Policy Statement for Hazardous Waste, and that a section 35 direction will not be required. The disposal of any low-level radioactive waste is approved by an Environmental Permit.

Draft Documents

The Applicant plans to submit draft documents to the Inspectorate for comment in mid-April 2021.

Anticipated submission date

The Applicant anticipates that the project will be submitted to the Inspectorate in July 2021.

Next steps

- Planning Inspectorate to review and provide comments on draft documents
- Arrange a meeting to discuss comments on draft documents (late May 2021)