

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Project	12951 - Household Waste Recycling Centre, Reliance St., Manchester		
Date	7 September 2022	Memo No	M001b
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QUALITATIVE NOISE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1 INTRODUCTION

We are appointed by Canham Consulting to assess the potential noise impact associated with proposed changes to the existing household waste recycling centre (HWRC) at Reliance Street, Manchester. The proposals include the reconfiguration of the existing site which will result in some changes to the way the site is operated.

Having reviewed the proposals, we consider it very unlikely that there would be any significant change in noise impact and do not believe that a quantitative assessment is necessary. We contacted the Environmental Services department at Manchester City Council (MCC) in April 2022 to confirm this, but as yet have received no response.

In any case, this technical memorandum summarises the proposed changes to the HWRC and sets out the reasons why we do not expect noise emissions from the site to change significantly and why, in some cases, noise emissions may actually reduce.

2 DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND PROPOSALS

Currently, the site is split into two main areas – the northern part of the site where there are waste containers for different types of waste, and a loose waste area to the south where waste material is deposited to be loaded onto a waste wagon by an excavator.

Other than a relatively limited extension of the site boundary into an area of trees to the north, the most significant change which is proposed involves the replacement of the loose waste area with another area of waste containers for different types of waste.

The function of the site and the types of waste materials that can be accommodated will not fundamentally change, only the layout and removal of the loose waste area.

The existing and proposed site boundary and layout are shown below in Figure 1 and Figure 2, respectively. The location of the existing loose waste area is clearly shown.



Figure 1 – Aerial photograph of existing HWRC © Google 2022

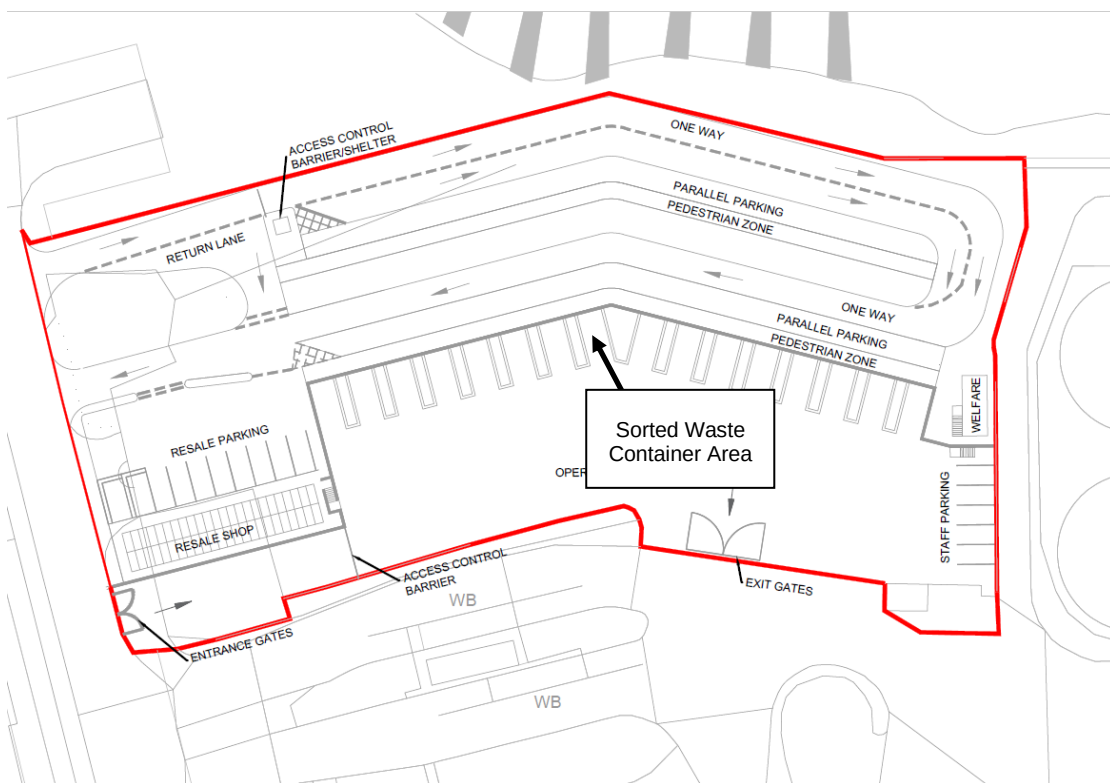


Figure 2 – Proposed HWRC boundary extension and revised layout

3 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

For several reasons, we do not expect that the noise levels generated by the site (and the associated impact) are likely to change, and in some cases may in fact reduce.

The qualitative reasoning for this assessment is set out below.

3.1 Operating hours

The current and proposed opening/working hours for the HWRC are the same:

- 08:00 – 20:00 hrs, seven days a week.

Currently, waste container collection vehicles and waste wagons (collecting waste from the loose waste area) could attend at any time during these hours. This would remain the case following the proposed redevelopment (with the waste wagons being replaced by additional waste container collection vehicles, as discussed in Section 3.3, below).

3.2 Site extent and layout

The proposed development would expend the site boundary very slightly, but only into an area of trees directly to the north, and not in the direction of the nearest residential properties (Moston Grange care home to the west on the other side of Reliance Street).

The proposed development would not bring any waste deposit and/or collecting activity any closer to the nearest residential properties. The main household waste deposit and collection areas would remain in the same general locations as they are currently.

3.3 Traffic and visitor numbers

The general running of the site, including the number of waste collection vehicles and visitor vehicles are not expected to change significantly. Future visitor numbers have not been formally predicted, but we understand that there is no reason to expect a significant increase considering that the limited and specific nature of the proposals.

Furthermore, we understand that it is typical for the HWRC to attract upwards of 10,000 visitors in a month. It is unlikely that even a modest increase in visitor numbers would result in a significant change in the noise levels generated by visitor vehicles, because the nature of vehicular noise is such that vehicle numbers would need to approximately double in order for there to be a noticeable (+ 3 dB) increase in average noise levels.

3.4 Machinery and processes

The following machinery would continue be used on site:

- RoRos (8 wheeler) trucks to remove waste containers.
- 360° excavator to assist with tamping down/compression.
- Recycling wagons (3.5/7.5/10 tonnes) e.g. to remove large electrical items.

Generally, this would represent no change to the existing situation. There would be likely to be more waste container removal trucks and fewer recycling wagons (due to the changes to/removal of the loose waste recycling area) but the type and frequency of activity involving large and/or mobile plant is not expected to change significantly.

To be clear, there would not be any new and/or significantly different (bigger/noisier) machinery or other mobile plant used on site that is not already used, and, if anything, the frequency with which machinery and mobile plant is used is very likely to reduce.

Particularly, the removal of the function in the loose waste area is the change which is most likely to result in a reduction in overall operational noise emissions from the site.

Currently, people drop waste over a wall on to a slab (the loose waste area). A 360° excavator then picks up the waste and drops it into an empty wagon for the waste to be taken away to another site. The new function of this area would mean waste being dropped into containers which would be collected by 8-wheel truck. This means that there would no longer be a need for an excavator going back and forth moving waste.

In addition, we understand that at present the noisiest single activity is glass deposits and, again, this is very unlikely to change as a result of the proposed development.

3.5 Existing noise impact

Perhaps the most important consideration is that there is, as far as we are aware, no history of noise complaints associated with the site. Whilst the site operations do and would continue to involve some machinery and processes which are inherently noisy, for the reasons explained above we do not expect overall noise emissions from the site to increase significantly following development, and in fact may actually decrease.

Subsequently, we see no reason to expect any additional or increased noise impact as a result of the proposals and therefore see no particular need for a full, quantitative assessment or a noise-related reason why planning permission should not be granted.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- The operating hours of the HWRC would not change following development, and the hours during noise might be generated from the site would not change.
- The proposed extension of the site boundary is relatively limited and within the area of trees directly to the north, so the site boundary and noise-generating activities would be no closer to the nearest residential properties to the west.
- The general running of the HWRC, including the number of waste collection and visitor vehicles are not expected to change significantly and we therefore see no reason why noise from associated vehicles would increase significantly.
- The types of machinery and mobile plant used on site would also not change significantly, although the removal of the loose waste function means that there would be much less excavator activity, which could reduce overall noise levels.
- We understand that at present the noisiest single activity is glass deposits and, again, this is very unlikely to change as a result of the proposed development.
- In conclusion, we see no reason to expect any significant change to the overall noise impact of the HWRC site as a result of the proposals and therefore also see no noise-related reason why planning permission should not be granted.

Report Status

Revision	Date	Prepared by	Checked by
-	5 May 2002	Gary Percival MIOA	Andy Thompson MIOA
a	21 July 2022	Gary Percival MIOA	Andy Thompson MIOA
B	7 September 2022	Gary Percival MIOA	Andy Thompson MIOA

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