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INTRODUCTION

This document comprises an Environmental Statement (‘ES’) and has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited (‘SLR’) on behalf of Veolia ES Landfill Limited (‘the applicant’). The ES forms part of a package of documents being formally submitted to Warwickshire County Council (as Waste Planning Authority, ‘WPA’) in support of planning applications relating to land at the Ling Hall Landfill Site, which is located around 5.5 kilometres from the centre of Rugby, Warwickshire.

1.1 The applicant is submitting a planning application which seeks to amend the cessation date for the operation of the landfill site. Ling Hall Landfill Site is an established landfill which is progressively infilling former sand and gravel workings. It has been in operation since c. 1993 and operated continuously since. In addition to the landfill the applicant has secured planning permission for three other waste management uses: a street sweeping recycling facility; an IBA1 processing facility; and a green waste composting facility. These developments are all linked to the life of the landfill operation. Also within the general boundary of the landfill site are a concrete batching plant and roadstone coating plant, both operated by Breedon Southern Limited. These two operations do not form part of the current proposals. The planning history for the landfill site is set out in Chapter 2 of this volume.

1.2 This ES provides an objective account of the possible environmental effects of the proposed development by setting out the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (‘EIA’) which has been undertaken. It is intended to provide the WPA with sufficient information to determine the planning application having due regard to the protection of the local amenity and the environment as a whole. The ES has been prepared in line with the framework provided in the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 with cognisance of the guidance set out in the online National Planning Practice Guidance and The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment’s “Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment”. It also has regard to a scoping opinion issued by the WPA in June 2019 (see Chapter 4 of this volume).

Application Submission Package

1.3 This ES comprises the second of two volumes submitted to the WPA to accompany the planning submission. In addition to the formal planning application forms and certificates, the full submission comprises:

- Volume 1 - Planning Statement;
- Volume 2 - Environmental Statement;

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1 Incinerator Bottom Ash. The residue from combusting waste within an energy from waste facility.
INTRODUCTION

1.4 The Planning Statement supports the planning submission and considers the proposals in the context of relevant planning policies in the Development Plan, and other material considerations, such as national planning policy.

1.5 The Non-Technical Summary (NTS) has been produced as a separate, standalone document in line with best practice prescribed by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) to accompany the planning submission, being a mandatory part of the ES. The purpose of the NTS is to provide, in non-technical language, a brief summary of the likely significant effects that the proposed development would have on the environment.

The Site

1.6 Ling Hall landfill is located on around 120 hectares (ha) of land at the former Church Lawford airfield, Church Lawford near Rugby. It lies approximately 5.5 kilometres (km) to the south west of the centre of Rugby in relatively open countryside.

1.7 Further details of the landfill site are set out in Chapter 2 below.

The Proposed Development

1.8 The landfill site currently operates under planning permission R16/890805 which granted planning permission on 14 May 1991 for “the extraction of minerals in the form of sand and gravel and to process the raw material to produce concrete aggregates, building and asphalt sands”

1.9 Under the existing planning permission the landfill can operate until 14 May 2021; however due to a reduction in landfill inputs owing to recent economic conditions and an overall switch to a sustainable, reusable society, a 4 Million cubic metres (Mm³) void space remains at the landfill. Currently, input rates to the landfill are approximately 400,000 tpa, thus requiring an additional 10 years to fill the remaining void space and allow for landfill restoration and profiling as agreed by the existing planning permission.

1.10 The applicant is therefore submitting a planning application to Warwickshire County Council for permission to ‘vary’ Condition 53 of the planning permission R16/890805 dated 14 May 1991.

1.11 Condition 53 of the planning permission currently states:

“No sand and gravel extraction shall take place later than the expiration of the period of 25 years beginning with the date of this permission. No waste disposal operations shall take place later than the expiration of the period of 30 years beginning with the date of this permission”
1.12 Accordingly, under the current planning consent landfill operations must therefore cease by 2021. The applicant proposes to extend the life of Ling Hall landfill for a further 10 years, resulting in a revised closure date of 14 May 2031.

1.13 As noted above, in addition to the landfill operations planning permission has also been granted for a number of additional waste management (recycling) facilities located within the Ling Hall site. At the present time, their use is limited to the duration of landfill operations rather than a specific date. In this respect:

- **Street sweeping recycling facility** (RBC/11CM020) Condition 3: “The road sweepings and gully arisings processing plant shall be removed from the site upon the cessation of landfill operations and the restored in accordance with the provisions of planning permission R16/890805”;

- **IBA processing facility** (RBC/13CM003) Condition 4: “The incinerator bottom ash facility shall be removed from the site upon the cessation of landfill operations and the site restored in accordance with the provisions of planning permission R16/890805 or any variation or replacement of those provisions approved by the County Planning Authority”; and

- **Open Windrow Composting of Green Waste** (RBC/17CM021) Condition 3: “the open windrow composting facility shall be removed from the site upon cessation of landfill operations and the site restored in accordance with the provisions of planning permission R16/890805 or any subsequent approved restoration scheme”.

1.14 In view of this, by amending the cessation date for the landfill, the continued operation of these operations would be allowed.

1.15 There would be no other changes to the landfill which would continue to comply with all other existing conditions imposed by the planning permission.

1.16 Further details of the proposed development are set out in Chapter 3 below.

**The Applicant**

1.17 The applicant and site owner is Veolia ES Landfill Limited, which is part of the Veolia Group, one of the UK’s leading waste management companies, collecting, treating and disposing of waste produced by businesses and the public across the UK.

1.18 Veolia is committed to minimising environmental impacts associated with its activities and to complying with all relevant environment legislation, permit conditions and planning approvals. Each Veolia landfill site is certified to ISO 9001 quality management; ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and ISO 18001 Health and Safety. This provides a framework for the ongoing identification, prevention and management of significant environmental impacts, and will continue to be used in relation to the operation of Ling Hall landfill site and associated activities.
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1.19 Environmental Impact Assessment (‘EIA’) is an important procedure for ensuring that the likely effects of a new development on the environment are fully understood and taken into account before the development is allowed to proceed. The term EIA describes a procedure that must be followed for certain types of development before they are given “development consent”, which in the UK includes the grant of a planning permission. The procedure is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of a project’s likely significant environmental effects.

1.20 An ES is a report of an EIA that is required to be submitted with a planning application for major and other developments that are likely to have significant impacts on the environment. It evaluates the likely environmental impacts of the development, together with an assessment of how the severity of the impacts could be reduced.

1.21 Chapter 4 within this volume provides further information on the legislative requirements regarding EIA and in particular, how the scope of the EIA has been derived.

THE SUBMISSION AND ITS STRUCTURE

1.22 The first section of this ES provides an overview of the submission and the regulatory framework in which it sits. Subsequent sections of the ES provide a description of the application site; set out its planning history; describe the development proposals and any alternatives considered; set out the relevant planning policy considerations; and then provide individual and cumulative analysis and evaluation of the likely significant effects of the development on the human and natural environment. Where potential environmental effects are identified, mitigation strategies are secured against the impact and residual effects are assessed. As such, the ES is intended to provide the WPA with sufficient information to determine the planning application having due regard to the protection of local amenity and the environment as a whole.

1.23 This document is organised and presented in the following way:

Background Information (Chapters 1-5) – This part of the ES is descriptive in nature. It provides the reader with an overview of the application site and its surrounding environs alongside a description of the development for which planning permission is being sought and any alternatives to the proposed development that have been considered. It provides an overview of the legislative requirements relating to EIA. Finally, the relevant planning policies at both a local and national level are outlined.

Environmental Assessments (Chapters 6-13) – For each environmental topic, a package of relevant background information and data is provided and the potential effects are considered. Where appropriate, mitigation measures are suggested and any residual effects are considered. Taking into consideration the results of the scoping exercise, the following environmental assessments have been undertaken;

• Chapter 6 – Air Quality
INTRODUCTION

- Chapter 7 – Landscape and Visual
- Chapter 8 – Highways and Transport
- Chapter 9 – Noise
- Chapter 10 – Water Environment
- Chapter 11 – Ecology
- Chapter 12 – Cultural Heritage
- Chapter 13 – Cumulative Impacts

Project Team

1.24 SLR is a multi-disciplinary environmental consultancy to *inter alia* the minerals, energy and waste management industries, and also provides advice to local authorities and the Environment Agency on strategic issues. SLR is a registered Environmental Impact Assessor Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and has secured the EIA Quality Mark awarded by IEMA.

1.25 In preparing this submission package, SLR has drawn upon the expertise of an in-house team of specialists comprising planners, landscape architects and environmental scientists for the technical assessments. Throughout the EIA process SLR has worked with the management teams and technical staff of Veolia ES Landfill Limited, as part of an iterative process, to ensure that the proposed development is practical, feasible and optimises environmental protection.

Publication

1.26 Paper copies of the ES can be obtained from SLR Consulting Ltd at the following address:

Aspect House
Aspect Business Park
Bennerley Road
Nottingham
NG6 8WR

1.27 The ES is available in both paper and CD-ROM format, for which charges of £250 and £25 are applicable respectively. A copy of the NTS is available free of charge on request subject to the provision of a valid email address. In addition, the application documents will be available to download from the Warwickshire County Council website.
PLANNING AND POLLUTION CONTROL

1.28 The operation of the landfill is subject to the grant of an Environmental Permit by the Environment Agency (ref. EPR/BU2381IE). The permit contains a number of conditions intended to regulate the day to day management of the site with the aim of minimising the effect of the operation on the environment; it will also contain conditions regulating site management and monitoring.

1.29 Government advice on waste planning makes it clear that it is important to avoid unnecessary or confusing duplication. For example, Paragraph 122 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that “…local planning authorities should focus on whether the development itself is an acceptable use of the land, and the impact of the use, rather than the control of processes or emissions themselves where these are subject to approval under pollution control regimes. Local planning authorities should assume that these regimes will operate effectively.”

STATEMENT OF COMPETENCE

1.30 The EIA Regulations introduces a new requirement for the “developer to ensure that the environmental statement is prepared by competent experts”, with the environmental statement to be “accompanied by a statement from the developer outlining the relevant experience and qualifications of such experts” [refer to Regulation 5 (5) (a) and (b)].

1.31 The EIA Report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Ltd which has a specialist capability in mineral and waste planning. SLR is a member of the ‘Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment’ (IEMA) with an awarded EIA ‘Quality Mark’. The EIA Quality Mark is a voluntary scheme, operated by IEMA through which EIA activity is independently reviewed, on an annual basis, to ensure it delivers excellence in the following areas:

- EIA Management
- EIA Team Capabilities
- EIA Regulatory Compliance
- EIA Context & Influence
- EIA Content
- EIA Presentation
- Improving EIA practice