

Chapter 6

Controlling the Impacts Of Waste Management

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 This chapter deals with the various impacts waste management facilities can have on the natural environment of the Plan area and the living conditions of its residents. The following policies seek to protect these interests from significant adverse impacts.

6.2 Policy and Regulatory Context

- 6.2.1 The relationship between the planning system and waste management licensing is set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 10: Planning and Waste Management.

Planning System

- 6.2.2 Planning authorities have the power to control development through planning permissions and more specifically planning conditions. Where appropriate, additional controls may be imposed through planning obligations and agreements. There are various tests that need to be applied in framing conditions, but they can play a very significant part in mitigating the effects of a development that would otherwise be unacceptable.

Environment Agency Controls (See also Chapter 11)

- 6.2.3 In respect of most waste developments these powers are supplemented by primary forms of legislative control administered by the Environment Agency as part of their remit of preventing and controlling pollution impacts. Such controls include waste management licensing and, for certain forms of development such as waste to energy, Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) or Local Air Pollution Control (LAPC). These controls follow the grant of planning permission and are not applied if permission does not exist.
- 6.2.4 Close liaison between Waste Planning Authorities (WPAs) and the Environment Agency is required to ensure the appropriate controls are applied. WPAs are entitled to grant permission for development in the knowledge that this secondary form of control exists. Care should be taken to avoid any duplication of controls.

6.2.5 Other PPGs and MPGs contain guidance that has to be taken into account in making planning decisions for the management and disposal of waste. These include:

PPG1	General Policy and Principles
PPG2	Green Belts
PPG7	The Countryside – Environmental Quality and Economic and Social Development
PPG9	Nature Conservation
PPG13	Transport
PPG14	Development on Unstable Land
PPG15	Historic Environment
PPG16	Archaeology and Planning
PPG23	Planning and Pollution Control
PPG24	Planning and Noise
PPG25	Development and Flood Risk
MPG 1	General Considerations and the Development Plan System
MPG 6	Guidelines for Aggregate Provision in England
MPG 7	The Reclamation of Mineral Workings
MPG 11	The Control of Noise at Surface Mineral Workings

6.3 Environment (including Transport)

Policy 6

Environmental Protection, Human Health, and Amenity & Transport

Proposals for new and/or extended waste management facilities will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there will be no significant adverse impact on the environment, human health or amenity. A high standard of design will be required and applicants will need to demonstrate in their application that their proposals fulfil the following requirements:

- a) Safeguarding the amenity and character of any nearby dwellings, settlements and other nearby, sensitive land uses, including urban green spaces, and the countryside. In addition waste management development should not impede the improvement of adjoining areas of degraded environment;**
- b) High quality design of the site, buildings, structures and access roads, to achieve an acceptable visual impact on the surrounding area;**
- c) The control of noise and light emissions and their impact on existing or committed noise or light sensitive development or areas;**
- d) The control of air emissions, including smell and dust;**
- e) The need to avoid the creation of contaminated land;**

- f) **Control of the impacts of traffic movement on local communities, sensitive areas and the highway network, including making the best and most efficient use of strategic and local lorry routes. Where appropriate, applications should be accompanied by a Transport Assessment which addresses the impact on the road network of traffic generated by the proposed development;**
- g) **Protection of the best and most versatile agricultural land;**
- h) **Protection and where appropriate enhancement of the water environment, including protection of groundwater, watercourses and other surface water, the avoidance of flood risk and the efficient use of water;**
- i) **Protection and where appropriate enhancement of any affected designated sites of nature conservation, habitat and biodiversity, landscape, countryside, archaeological and/or cultural heritage importance, including listed buildings and conservation areas, taking into account the objectives of the designations;**
- j) **Protection of other features identified as being important for biodiversity, and any rare and protected species;**
- k) **Protection of important local landscapes;**
- l) **Protection of the settings of listed buildings, conservation areas and scheduled monuments;**
- m) **Protection of other important archaeological remains, parks and gardens of historic interest and the Roundway Down Battlefield;**
- n) **Protection of other recreational, cultural and tourism assets;**
- o) **The safeguarding of rights of way;**
- p) **The safeguarding of canal and railway routes where their re-use may be achievable; and**
- q) **The requirement to safeguard airfields.**

6.3.1 All planning applications need to be assessed against the collective requirements of the Development Plan. In assessing what policies may apply to their development proposals, applicants must also consider the policy requirements of the Wiltshire Structure Plan, this Plan, the Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Local Plan and the Local Plans produced by the Borough and District Councils. There may be more detailed requirements covering the criteria above set out in Borough and District Wide Local Plans and it is important that these are taken account of when assessing applications. Designated Areas referred to in **Policy 6** and the supporting text are shown on the Proposals Maps of the District and Borough Local Plans. Where appropriate, applicants will need to provide information on impacts in adjoining Local Authority areas as well as Wiltshire and Swindon.

6.3.2 When assessing the performance of all waste development proposals against the particular requirements of **Policy 6** the WPAs will ensure that proposals comply with the Plan's strategy and objectives, and that a consistent process of

evaluation is undertaken by utilising the methodology employed to identify the Preferred Areas for strategic and local waste management facilities. Appendix B of the Technical Supporting Document "Revised Comparative Appraisal of Sites 2002" provides detail on the objectives that will be used to guide and inform the WPAs on a proposal's compliance with individual criteria. Some proposals will require an Environmental Impact Assessment (see **Section 11.4** of the Plan).

Amenity, Character and Design

- 6.3.3 Waste management facilities have the potential to impact significantly on the setting, character and environment of individual properties and settlements, thereby potentially affecting the health and the quality of life for people living and working nearby. Green spaces within and adjoining settlements, which may be important for access and recreation, need to be safeguarded. Also, development for waste treatment should not impede the improvement of adjoining areas of degraded environment, such as derelict land or areas suffering from cumulative impact on their amenity.
- 6.3.4 The WPAs will do all in their power to ensure that the adverse effects of waste management facilities do not impinge on the quality of life of people in the area. For example, the degree of impact can be greatly reduced by good site design, including appropriate scale, colour, form and siting of buildings, structures, plant and lighting; the careful choice of materials; minimising the time period of operations; undertaking appropriate landscaping; and allowing for provision of a suitable buffer zone between the operations and the properties or settlements affected, in which no waste management operations would be permitted.

Noise and Light

- 6.3.5 Noise can have a significant effect on the environment and the quality of life enjoyed by individuals and communities. Complaints about noise are amongst the most common received about waste management operations. Waste facilities are likely to produce noise from vehicles and heavy plant, including reversing alarms, as well as from recycling plant, particularly those concerned with construction and demolition waste and its crushing. Very often the most significant noise can be experienced during demolition and construction operations. It is recognised in PPG24 that many forms of development which are unavoidably noisy by nature are necessary.
- 6.3.6 Consequently, the WPAs will aim to mitigate the impact of noise by discussions with applicants aimed at reducing the noise at point of source (use of quiet equipment and working methods, containment by insulation and barrier effects) by influencing the layout of the site and by controls on noise emissions. Close liaison with the Environment Agency, and Local Planning Authorities and District and Borough Council Environmental Health Officers will be necessary in respect of how such controls will be applied. It is not proposed to include specific noise

levels as a matter of policy. Instead, it is proposed to leave the setting of noise limits to the planning application stage. Appropriate and enforceable conditions will be imposed where necessary on all planning permissions to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors are kept to an acceptable limit.

- 6.3.7 In applying this policy, housing, hospitals and schools will generally be regarded as noise sensitive development. Committed development, that is development with planning permission or allocated in a Local Plan which has reached the First Deposit Stage, will also be taken into account. Other areas may be considered noise sensitive, such as nearby ecological sites, areas used by protected or sensitive species (see **Paragraph 6.3.20 and 21**) or areas used for quiet recreation.
- 6.3.8 Similar considerations apply to the control of light pollution. Some waste facilities are located in the open countryside where inappropriate lighting could have a major impact over a wide area. Light pollution is also an issue in urban areas and can affect nocturnal animal species such as bats. The WPAs will use controls over the positioning, height, alignment, intensity (lux), and period of use (time limits) of lighting to minimise impact.

Air Quality

- 6.3.9 Waste management facilities can affect the quality of air through emissions from chimneys (or stacks), dust and odours. The legislative control of these emissions is often outside the scope of WPA. However, the quality of the atmosphere is clearly an important material planning consideration. Because of the overlap of control mechanisms the WPAs will work closely with their partners in the assessment of planning applications and the imposition of conditions on planning permissions or the reasons for refusal in respect of unacceptable proposals. At **Paragraphs 8.3.11 and 8.3.12** reference is made to the Environment Agency's requirement for a 250 metre buffer zone around certain composting facilities to avoid excessive exposure to bioaerosols. The paragraph also points out that the wider impacts on air quality may require a buffer zone around waste management facilities of an even greater distance in some circumstances, in order to protect the amenities of sensitive development.

Traffic

- 6.3.10 Most waste management facilities are currently dependent on the delivery or collection of materials by lorry. The resulting traffic can be a major source of local disturbance and is likely to be a significant environmental issue for many proposed facilities. Nuisance derives from noise, vibration, emissions and the physical size and impact of vehicles as they pass. Facilities used by the public can also generate large volumes of car traffic which can affect the amenity and safety of local communities. Where access is off the primary network or by short links to it, the degree of nuisance is likely to be more acceptable. However, some roads in this category may be unsuitable for increased levels of

traffic associated with waste facilities, due to existing capacity issues or poor alignment and accident history.

- 6.3.11 A network of Strategic and Local Lorry Routes has been defined for Wiltshire and Swindon in the Local Transport Plans of the County and Borough Councils. The network consists largely of a "box" based on the M4, A419, A34 (in Berkshire) A303 and A350. A number of Local Lorry Routes have also been defined, giving access to the "box" from main towns. In order to minimise traffic impact on sensitive sections of highways, the WPAs, in dealing with planning applications, will encourage waste contractors to make the best and most efficient use of Strategic and Local Lorry Routes wherever possible. In order to minimise traffic impact on sensitive sections of highway, the WPAs will, where appropriate, use a range of measures including planning conditions, legal agreements and voluntary traffic management plans. They will also give appropriate weight to the nature of other land uses affected by proposals and to the significance of any protective designations, such as the New Forest National Park, AONBs and sites protected for their biodiversity, both within the Plan area and in adjoining counties.
- 6.3.12 To assist the assessment of the likely impact of transport including car access to facilities for public use, the WPAs encourage, and in relevant circumstances will require, the submission of Transport Assessments, especially for larger waste management facilities or where a new access is required. Where the highway network is unsuitable for the proposed facility or the access to the site is unsuitable, and the proposal is acceptable in all other respects, the WPAs will be prepared to secure highway improvements through planning conditions where appropriate, or by means of a planning agreement or obligation under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Transport Assessments must be carried out to the satisfaction of the relevant highway authorities and where any development is likely to impact upon the Trunk Road Network, this must include the Highways Agency. Use of appropriate routes should be agreed before development commences.

Agricultural land

- 6.3.13 Agricultural land is classified on a scale of 1 to 5. The "best and most versatile" agricultural land is within grades 1 to 3A. This should not be developed unless opportunities have been assessed for accommodating development on previously developed sites or on land of lower agricultural grade. Lower grade land should be used in preference, unless other sustainability factors such as the environmental value of the land or its accessibility to infrastructure, workforce and markets would outweigh agricultural considerations.

Water and Flood

- 3.6.14 Protection and enhancement of the water environment is a particular issue for waste treatment proposals and for landfill. Both the Waste Planning Authorities and the Environment Agency are charged with protecting surface water courses

and groundwater from development that might cause derogation of water resources in regard to both quality and quantity. Deterioration of the water resource may be caused, for example, by leaching to groundwater or surface flow to watercourses. Local geology and hydrology therefore need to be taken into account in assessing site suitability. All sites on aquifers will be subject to the Environment Agency's Policy and Practice for Protection of Groundwater (PPPG). Protection from flood risk is a key consideration.

- 6.3.15 The WPAs will apply a sequential approach to the location of waste development, avoiding sites in areas with a risk of flooding in accordance with PPG25. The Preferred Areas in **Schedules 1 and 2** have been selected on this basis, taking account of advice from the Environment Agency. The WPAs will also need evidence that water will be used efficiently during the operation of the proposal, to avoid shortages and environmental degradation due to pressure on resources. National planning guidance (see **Paragraph 6.3.14**) also requires the protection and enhancement of various habitats, including watercourses and other surface water. Use of sustainable drainage systems such as ponds, reedbeds and landscape features to reduce flood risk and pollution, and increase biodiversity, will be supported (PPG25 Appendix 6).

Designated Areas

- 6.3.16 In assessing the acceptability of proposals for waste management facilities the WPAs will also have regard to the other criteria contained in **Policy 6**. In particular, planning applications for waste management facilities will need to have due regard to the countryside, nature conservation and landscape designations. The significance of these features to the acceptability of any such application will depend upon the weight of importance that the designation in question carries.

Protection and Enhancement

- 6.3.17 **Policy 6** seeks the "protection" and "enhancement" of aspects of the environment. PPG9 Nature Conservation (paragraph 24) sets out requirements for local plans. They should "identify relevant international, national and local nature conservation interests". They should also "ensure that protection and enhancement of those interests is properly provided for in development and land-use policies".
- 6.3.18 In the Adopted Wiltshire Structure Plan 2011, Policy C1 refers to "the maintenance and enhancement of the county's nature conservation resources". Policy C3 also refers to protection and enhancement. Policy C5 seeks to "protect, restore or enhance the natural elements of the river or waterway environment". The Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) seeks an enhancement of biodiversity where development takes place in urban areas, proposing a target of net gain in 50% of cases. This will be sought by the WPAs.

