
NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Introduction

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is part of the application by Greenstar Materials Recovery Ltd - Greenogue Depot (*greenstar*), formerly Burns Waste Recycling Ltd, to South Dublin County Council for planning permission to increase the volume of waste that can be accepted annually at its Materials Recovery and Transfer Facility (MRTF) at Unit 14B, Phase 3, Road 3A, Greenogue Industrial Estate, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin.

Burns Waste Recycling was granted planning permission to develop the facility in July 2002 and was also granted a waste permit to operate the facility by South Dublin County Council (SDCC). It is intended to construct the facility in 2003. Burns Waste Recycling was acquired by Greenstar Recycling Holdings Ltd, through its wholly owned subsidiary Murphy Waste Ltd, in 2002.

Condition 2 of the planning permission stipulates that any proposal to increase the volumes of waste accepted at the facility above 25,000 tonnes per annum would require a new planning application. Based on a review of market conditions *greenstar* concluded that there is a need to increase the volumes of waste which it can accept at the site to 95,000 tonnes per annum.

The proposal to increase the waste volumes has resulted in minor changes to the site layout including the relocation of the site offices, provision of a double weighbridge, alterations to surface water drainage system and the decision not to provide a civic amenity area. The changes to the site layout are subject to a separate planning application.

The EIS examines the potential impacts and significant effects on the environment associated with the increase in tonnages accepted at the facility. Where the potential for a significant impact is identified the measures to prevent or mitigate that impact are presented.

greenstar

Greenstar Recycling Holdings Ltd to be known as *greenstar* formerly known as Celtic Waste Ltd. Greenstar Recycling Holdings Ltd has been involved in the waste industry since 1999 and is Ireland's leading integrated waste management company.

The facility will, when operational, handle source separated and mixed non-hazardous solid wastes, of primarily commercial and industrial origin. The site operations will involve on-site waste sorting, compacting, baling and waste transfer off-site to recycling/treatment facilities and to residual landfill. All waste handling and processing activities will be carried out indoors. The facility will be constructed in one phase and it is anticipated that when fully operational will handle 95,000 tonnes per annum (tpa).

The site operations involve waste recovery activities, as defined in Schedule 4 of the Waste Management Act 1996, and will form a very important part of the waste management infrastructure required in the Dublin Region to achieve European Union, national and regional objectives for waste treatment, recovery and recycling and the diversion of waste, including biodegradable waste, from landfill.

Waste Management Policy

The Dublin Region Waste Management Plan (1998) emphasises the ‘urgent need for new waste management initiatives to reduce the waste volumes produced and to divert waste from landfill to the maximum possible extent’.

It is an objective of the South Dublin County Development Plan (1998) ”the Plan” ‘to reduce the amount of waste produced and reduce the toxicity and environmental effects of that waste. Following this it is the policy to re-use, repair, recycle/compost remaining waste and to dispose of waste to landfill as a last resort’.

The facility is consistent with the zoning status and will form a very important part of the waste management infrastructure required in the Dublin Region to achieve European Union, national and regional objectives for waste treatment, recovery and recycling and the diversion of waste, including biodegradable waste, from landfill. South Dublin County Council were of the opinion, when granting permission for the facility, that the development complies with the Council’s planning objectives.

Need for the Expansion in Waste Inputs

The proposal to increase the volumes of waste accepted at the facility is designed to maximise the recovery of commercial and industrial waste and minimise the volume of waste disposed of to landfill.

The Dublin Waste Management Plan emphasises the need to divert waste from landfill. It identifies the lack of recycling and disposal infrastructure in the short to medium, as well as long term, as one of the main practical problems facing the local authorities in the Greater Dublin Area. The *greenstar* facility will form a key element of the required recycling infrastructure thus reducing reliance on scarce landfill capacity in the Greater Dublin Area.

Alternative

The need for the increase in the annual waste acceptance limits is based on an assessment of market conditions completed by *greenstar*. There is a recognised need to expand on the waste recycling and recovery rates in the Dublin Area and *greenstar* is committed to significantly increasing the recycling/recovery rates.

The alternative to an increase in the volume of materials accepted at the facility would be to establish a new facility. This would, in the context of *greenstar's* current customer base, involve the unnecessary duplication of the services that will be provided by the current facility and would not be commercially viable.

Public Consultation

greenstar discussed the proposal to seek approval for an increase in waste volumes with South Dublin County Council, and has also informed the owners of the adjoining lots in the Industrial Estate. *greenstar* also consulted with the Department of Defence due to the proximity of Casement Aerodrome to the facility. *greenstar* placed a notice in the Evening Herald announcing its intention to apply for planning permission and inviting submissions *greenstar* did not receive any verbal or written responses to their notice.

Description of the Proposed Development

Site Location

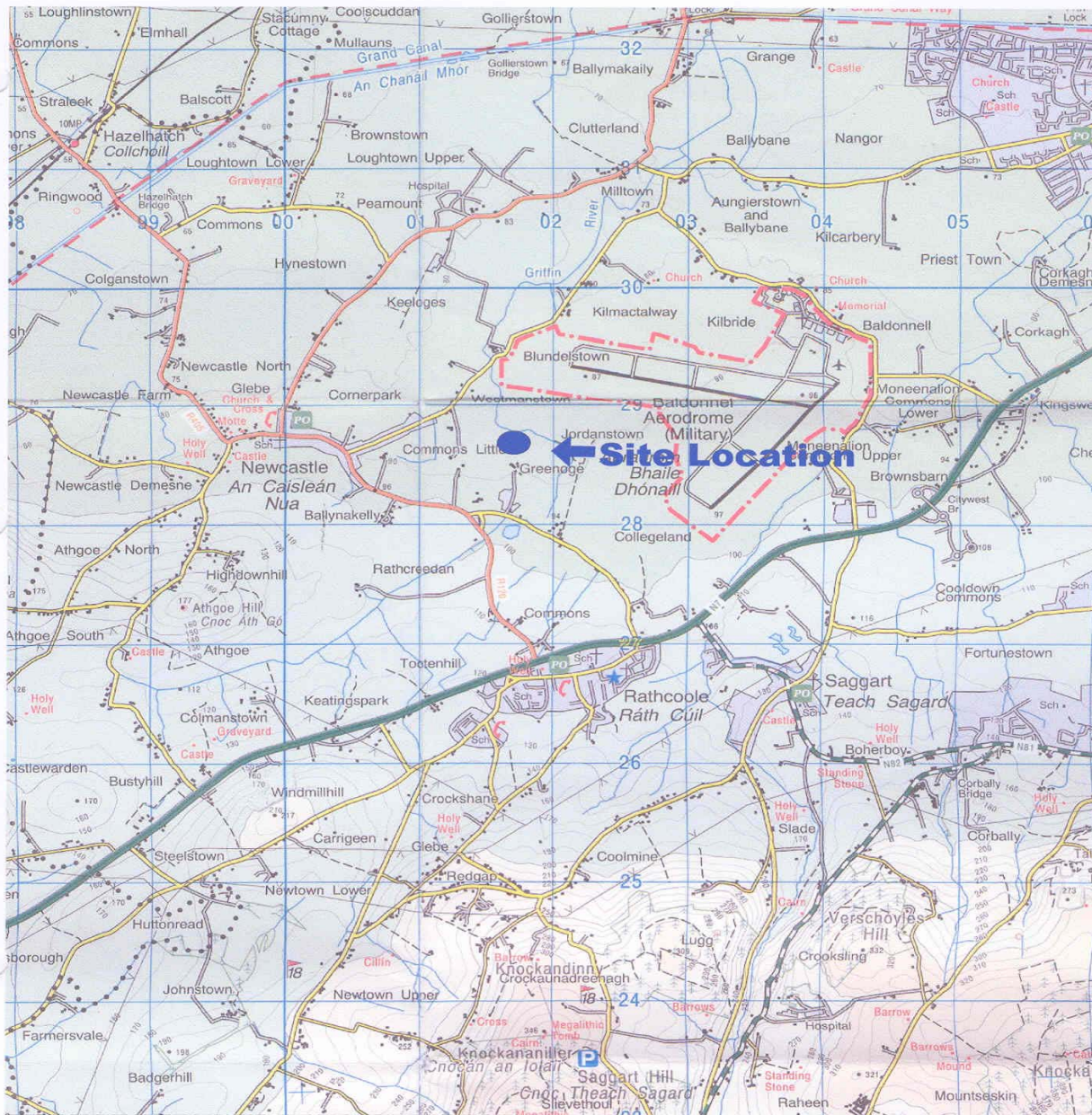
The site is located within the Greenogue Industrial Estate, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin at National Grid Reference E 3018 N 2288 as shown on Figure 1.1. The Industrial Estate is accessed off a Regional Road, the R120, linking Rathcoole and Newcastle. An internal road constructed during the development of the Industrial Estate, provides access to the site. The Industrial Estate has been developed and expanded in a number of Phases. The *greenstar* site was developed as part of the Phase 3 expansion of the Industrial Estate.

Site Development

The construction of the facility, once started, will be completed in one phase taking approximately six months. The facility will consist of one main building for the treatment of waste materials and associated support infrastructure such as site offices, weighbridge, parking and general hardstanding.

Opening Hours and Staffing Levels

The operational hours at the facility, when waste will be processed, will be between the hours of 07:30 and 19:30 Monday to Friday and 09:00 to 15:00 on Saturdays. The facility will remain closed on Sundays, Bank Holidays and Public Holidays. The facility will accept waste outside these hours although no processing will be carried out. The waste will be stored in a bunded area inside the building and processed the following working day.



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CLIENT



TITLE

Site Location Map

Details

O.S. Licence Agreement
 Number AR 0038702

Ordnance Survey Ireland,
 Government of Ireland.

FIG. No

1.1

Scale

NTS

Rev.

A

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The facility will be operated by trained staff. The expected staff numbers will be of the order of six which will comprise a Facility Manager, Site Foreman, Weighbridge Clerk, and machine operators. The Facility Manager will be responsible for day-to-day operations. Staff will be present at all times during the opening hours to supervise waste acceptance, processing and transfer and to deal with any emergency that may arise.

Waste Acceptance and Handling

Only solid non-hazardous Industrial and Commercial, Construction and Demolition and Municipal Solid Wastes will be accepted at the facility. All wastes accepted will be subject to waste acceptance measures, which will be approved by the EPA. *greenstar* will not accept wastes delivered by individual householders. The producer/holder/collector of the waste must, if requested, provide documentation that the waste meets the *greenstar* specification. Waste not conforming to this specification will not to be accepted at the facility.

The waste will typically be delivered in fully enclosed collection vehicles, containers or netted open top skips. Wastes will be removed from the facility in enclosed containers and/or netted open top skips.

All waste handling and processing will be carried out inside the building. The facility will primarily handle dry recyclable materials although waste containing foodstuffs will be processed. Loaded and covered trailers may be parked at the facility overnight prior to transfer to an appropriately licensed disposal or recovery facility the next morning.

Plant and Equipment

A maximum capacity the equipment used will include two balers, a trommel screen, a picking line, a finger screen, a forklift, a front end loader and a grab machine. Additional supporting plant items may be hired for use on site for short periods if required to augment standby capability.

Drainage

Surface water run-off from paved and roofed areas will be collected in drains and discharged via an attenuation tank and petrol/oil interceptor to the municipal surface water sewer. The drainage system will serve all paved areas, including parking, storage and weighbridge areas.

Sanitary and sink wastewater from the offices will be discharged to the facility's foul drainage system. Wastewater from the vehicle wash down area will discharge via a combined petrol/oil interceptor while wastewater from floor wash downs in the MRTF building will be collected using a mini road sweeper and discharged to the foul drainage system via the vehicle wash area. As a contingency measure against the build up of water, two drainage sumps which will be connected to the foul sewer will be installed in the floor of the building. These will be covered with heavy duty manholes and only opened if a build up of water occurs. These sumps will drain through the oil interceptor to the foul sewer serving the Industrial Estate, as shown on Drawing No. D623-D2.

The outfall from the foul sewer serving the facility will connect to the sanitary sewer serving the Industrial Estate, which in turn is connected to the South Dublin County Council municipal pumping station, located to the west of the Griffeen River. The peak volume of discharge to the foul sewer will remain as specified in the current planning permission for the site i.e. 1.58 litres per second.

Existing Environment, Potential Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

Climate

The climate in the area of Greenogue Industrial Estate can be described as mild and wet, with the prevailing wind direction from the south west. The development will not result in any impacts on the climate or microclimate at the site.

Traffic

The Industrial Estate is accessed off the R120/College Lane Roundabout junction. The R120 runs from Newcastle, located approximately 1.5 km west of the park, to the N7. College Lane links the Industrial Estate to the N7 via the Rathcoole Interchange. The N7 is a National Primary Route, connecting the southwest of Ireland to Dublin City. Vehicles can also approach the Industrial Estate via the National Primary Route N4, which intersects the R120 at Lucan.

The impact of the subject development on the local roads network will not be significant. At full operation the subject development will result in an average of just 14 vehicle movements/peak hour. The local road network has been designed to cater for the extensive expansion of the Greenogue Industrial area. Recent improvements to roads servicing the industrial areas have been carried out to facilitate industrial growth for the short and long-term.

Geology / Hydrogeology

The soils and subsoils at the site are between 1.5 - 1.7 m thick and comprise a boulder clay. The site is underlain by Calp limestone. The limestone has been classified by the Geological Survey of Ireland as a Locally Important Aquifer that is productive only in local zones. The aquifer vulnerability beneath the site is considered to be extreme.

Surface Water

The facility is located in the catchment of the River Griffeen which is a tributary of the Liffey. A tributary of the Griffeen River forms the northern boundary of the Industrial Estate, which includes the northern section of the boundary of the site. Water quality monitoring identified that while generally satisfactory, there is evidence that quality has been impacted by the surrounding landuses.

Ecology

The *greenstar* site along with the remainder of the Industrial Estate is of low ecological value therefore the impact of the subject development is considered to be imperceptible.

Human Beings

Land use in the surrounding area varies between industrial, commercial and agricultural uses. The nearest dwelling is approximately 350 m to the south west of the site. There are no hospitals, hotels or holiday accommodation within 1 km of the site. The closest hospital is Peamont Hospital located approximately 2 km north of the site. The nearest schools are in Rathcoole and Newcastle over 1.5 km from the site. Casement aerodrome is located approximately 0.5 km north of the site.

Facility operations will not present a risk to the health of human beings in the local environment. The facility is designed and will be operated in a manner to eliminate or minimize the risk of environmental nuisance. It is considered that the site will have an imperceptible impact on human beings.

Air Quality

A baseline air monitoring programme identified that the air quality in the vicinity of the site is of good quality. Potential impacts on air quality associated with waste management facilities are dust and odours.

It is not anticipated that dust will be a significant issue at the facility. There will be no open storage of waste. The facility access roads, vehicle manoeuvring and parking areas will be paved. The waste delivery vehicles will not track across waste offloaded inside the building. *greenstar* will ensure that site roads will be damped down during periods of dry weather and routinely swept in order to reduce the potential for dust generation.

The potential for generation of odours at the site will be minimized by the type of waste that will be accepted and through good working practices. All wastes handling, sorting, treatment and storage of wastes will be carried out indoors. The floor of the building and in particular the area handling mixed waste will be swept and washed down at regular intervals. Daily inspections will be carried out and if odour is identified as a problem odour neutralising agents will be employed.

Noise

A noise prediction model of the proposed development was completed. Facility plant and equipment (loading shovel, grab, balers and vehicle movements) will be the main source of noise on-site, however the on-site activities will not result in noise levels of >55db(A) at the nearest noise sensitive location.

The Landscape

The site is located on lands which are zoned for “industrial and related uses”, and are therefore not considered unique or highly scenic. The sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be low. The facility will not interfere with the existing landscape character or eliminate a landscape value. The landscape within which the site is located has already been subject to extensive industrial development and construction. The facility is infill development within the Industrial Estate and therefore the overall sensitivity of the landscape to this change is minimal.

The site is visible from one residential property located to the northwest. The impact on this property is however considered to be imperceptible. The facility will be indistinguishable from the other industrial units on the adjoining lands and further development on currently vacant lots in the Industrial Estate will compound this effect.

Material Assets

The site is in an area zoned for industrial development. The site and its immediate environs do not have a significant leisure or amenity potential. It is considered based on the nature of the development, the existing land use and the existing zoning status of the site and its environs that the potential for diminution of amenities and leisure land use arising from the subject development is negligible.

The area occupied by the Industrial Estate and the surrounding lands were formerly used for agriculture. However, the area has been extensively developed for commercial and industrial use. The subject development will not have any impact on agricultural land use in the area.

Facility operations will involve the consumption of water, oil and electricity. The main source of energy for the facility will be electricity and diesel. Diesel will be used as fuel for mobile equipment in the facility (caterpillar loader, shredders).

Archaeology

There is no record of any archaeological feature on the site. The nearest potential site is located approximately 500 m to the east. Since there has been no archaeological features at the site no mitigation measures are required.

Interaction of the Foregoing

The proposed development will result in emissions to surface water and air with the potential to impact on water and air quality with consequent effects on amenity value, nuisance and health. The site design and proposed method of operation incorporates measures to effectively control and mitigate the impact of the emissions from site operations. There are three other waste management facilities either approved or proposed for the Industrial Estate. An assessment of the cumulative effects of these facilities concluded that such effects would be imperceptible.