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Katherine Parkin
Gravesham Borough Council
Sent via email

Our ref: KT/2025/132271/01-L01
Your ref: 20241011

Date: 04 February 2025

Dear Katherine Parkin

Extension of existing storage warehouse to provide a bagging and packaging facility for aggregates and cementitious products, incorporating extensions to both sides, a new warehouse section to the south and silos to the side.

Land and Buildings at Seacon Site, Tower Wharf, Lower Road, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent DA11 9BD

Thank you for consulting us on the above application which we received on 17 January 2025.

Environment Agency Position

We have **no objections** to the proposal, subject to **planning conditions** being applied to any planning permission granted as set out below.

Please refer to the following section for our full response:

- Section 1: Planning Conditions and Informatives

Please note that our comments are based on the details available to us at the time of writing. If any subsequent changes are made to the application, please reconsult us.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Ms Laura Edwards
Planning Advisor

Direct e-mail KSLPLANNING@environment-agency.gov.uk

Section 1: Planning Conditions and Informatives

Flood Risk

We do not object to proposal and do not require any conditions secured to the planning application in order for the development to proceed as it is low risk overall.

Groundwater and Contaminated Land

We consider that planning permission could be granted to the proposed development as submitted if the following planning conditions are included as set out below. Without these conditions, the proposed development on this site poses an unacceptable risk to the environment and we would object to the application.

Land affected by contamination- Condition 1

No development approved by this planning permission shall commence until a strategy to deal with the potential risks associated with any contamination of the site has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority. This strategy will include the following components:

1. A preliminary risk assessment which has identified:
 - all previous uses;
 - potential contaminants associated with those uses;
 - a conceptual model of the site indicating sources, pathways and receptors; and
 - potentially unacceptable risks arising from contamination at the site.
2. A site investigation scheme, based on (1) to provide information for a detailed assessment of the risk to all receptors that may be affected, including those off site.
3. The results of the site investigation and the detailed risk assessment referred to in (2) and, based on these, an options appraisal and remediation strategy giving full details of the remediation measures required and how they are to be undertaken.
4. A verification plan providing details of the data that will be collected in order to demonstrate that the works set out in the remediation strategy in (3) are complete and identifying any requirements for longer-term monitoring of pollutant linkages, maintenance and arrangements for contingency action.

Any changes to these components require the written consent of the local planning authority. The scheme shall be implemented as approved.

Reason

To ensure that the development does not contribute to, or is not put at unacceptable risk from, or adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution in line with paragraph 187, 196 and 197 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Condition 2

Prior to any part of the permitted development being occupied a verification report demonstrating the completion of works set out in the approved remediation strategy and the effectiveness of the remediation shall be submitted to, and approved in writing, by the local planning authority. The report shall include results of sampling and monitoring carried out in accordance with the approved verification plan to demonstrate that the site remediation criteria have been met.

Reason

To ensure that the site does not pose any further risk to human health or the water environment by demonstrating that the requirements of the approved verification plan have been met and that remediation of the site is complete. This is in line with paragraph 187, 196 and 197 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Condition 3

If, during development, contamination not previously identified is found to be present at the site then no further development (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority) shall be carried out until a remediation strategy detailing how this contamination will be dealt with has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The remediation strategy shall be implemented as approved.

Reason

To ensure that the development does not contribute to, or is not put at unacceptable risk from, or adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution from previously unidentified contamination sources at the development site in line with paragraph 187, 196 and 197 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Surface Water Drainage-

The design of infiltration Sustainable Drainage Systems may be difficult or inappropriate in this location. We therefore request that the following planning condition is included in any permission granted. Without this condition we would object to the proposal in line with paragraph 186 and 196 of the National Planning Policy Framework because it cannot be guaranteed that the development will not be put at unacceptable risk from, or be adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution.

Condition 4

No drainage systems for the infiltration of surface water drainage into the ground is permitted other than with the express written consent of the Local Planning Authority, which may be given for those parts of the site where it has been demonstrated that there is no resultant unacceptable risk to controlled waters. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason

To ensure that the development does not contribute to, or is not put at unacceptable risk from, or adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution caused by mobilised contaminants in line with paragraph 186 and 196 of the National Planning

Policy Framework.

Drainage Informative 1

Only clean uncontaminated water should drain to the surface water system. Roof drainage shall drain directly to the surface water system (entering after the pollution prevention measures). Appropriate pollution control methods (such as trapped gullies and interceptors) should be used for drainage from access roads and car parking areas to prevent hydrocarbons from entering the surface water system. There should be no discharge into land impacted by contamination or land previously identified as being contaminated. There should be no discharge to made ground. There must be no direct discharge to groundwater, a controlled water.

Foul Drainage- Condition 5

Development hereby approved shall not commence until a foul drainage strategy, detailing how the developer intends to ensure that appropriate foul drainage is implemented with a connection to foul sewer, has been submitted to and approved by, the local planning authority in consultation with the water undertaker and Environment Agency. The development shall be constructed in line with the agreed detailed design and recommendations of the strategy.

Reason:

To ensure that the development does not contribute to, or is not put at unacceptable risk from, or adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of water pollution in line with paragraph 186 and 196 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Waste on-site Informative 2

The CLAIRE Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice (DoWCoP, version 2) provides operators with a framework for determining whether or not excavated material arising from site during remediation and/or land development works are waste or have ceased to be waste. Under the Code of Practice:

- excavated materials that are recovered via a treatment operation can be re-used on-site providing they are treated to a standard such that they are fit for purpose and unlikely to cause pollution
- treated materials can be transferred between sites as part of a hub and cluster project formally agreed with the EA
- some naturally occurring clean material can be transferred directly between sites.

Developers should ensure that all contaminated materials are adequately characterised both chemically and physically, and that the permitting status of any proposed on site operations are clear. If in doubt, the Environment Agency should be contacted for advice at an early stage to avoid any delays.

It should be noted that re-use of historic landfill materials (including capping materials) is not covered under DoWCoP.

The Environment Agency recommends that developers should refer to:

- the Position statement on the Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice and;
- The [Environmental regulations](#) page on GOV.UK

Waste Informative 3

Contaminated soil that is, or must be disposed of, is waste. Therefore, its handling, transport, treatment and disposal is subject to waste management legislation, which includes:

- Duty of Care Regulations 1991
- Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005
- Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010
- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011

Developers should ensure that all contaminated materials are adequately characterised both chemically and physically in line with British Standard BS EN 14899:2005 'Characterization of Waste - Sampling of Waste Materials - Framework for the Preparation and Application of a Sampling Plan' and that the permitting status of any proposed treatment or disposal activity is clear. If in doubt, the Environment Agency should be contacted for advice at an early stage to avoid any delays.

If the total quantity of waste material to be produced at or taken off site is hazardous waste and is 500kg or greater in any 12 month period the developer will need to register with us as a hazardous waste producer.