

Natural Resources Wales permitting decisions

Waste Recovery Plan – recovery v. disposal assessment

Administrative details

EPR reference number	EPR/PB3990HS/A001
Waste recovery plan (customer) ref:	EPR/PB3990HS/A001
Applicant name	Ceredigion County Council
Facility/site name	Borth Former Landfill Site, Ynys Fergi, Borth, SY24 5NA
Local area contact	Malcolm Dines
Assessing (permitting) officer	Luke Burton
Date of assessment	21/08/15

Waste Recovery Plan details

Type of activity	The type of activity i.e. construction or reclamation can be best confirmed following further pre-application advice and guidance.
Type of submission	Pre-application assessment (amended submission) Application for permit has been made for this proposal. However, the application has not been allocated to a Permitting Officer. This decision document coincides with the application being returned as the waste recovery plan has been assessed as disposal and therefore the proposal cannot meet the standard rule set criteria.
Linked to a previous submission?	Yes - This assessment relates to the receipt of some of the information requested in the 3 rd 'decision document'. The information was received via email on 11/08/15.
Previous submission reference(s)?	02/02/15 – 1st version of the waste recovery plan received. 09/03/15 – 1st recovery vs. disposal advice note sent. 27/05/15 - Some of the information requested in the 1st assessment received. 27/05/15 – 2nd recovery vs. disposal advice note sent. 29/06/15 - Information received in response to 2nd recovery vs. disposal advice note. 14/07/15 – 3rd recovery vs. disposal decision document sent.

	29/07/15 - Deadline of 10/08/15 set in which to provide the requested information requested in the 3rd recovery vs. disposal decision document. 11/08/15 - Requested information (waste permeability testing results) received via email.
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Annex 1: decision checklist

This checklist should be read in conjunction with;

- the waste recovery plan being assessed
- previous versions of that waste recovery plan (where relevant, and as referenced in the table below)
- Regulatory Guidance Note RGN13: Defining waste recovery - permanent deposit of waste on land.

The decision set out here is made in line with the standards set out in guidance document RGN13 Defining waste recovery - permanent deposit of waste on land.

A 'Yes' response confirms the information provided *does meet* the criteria in RGN13 and is considered recovery.

A 'No' response confirms the information provided *does not meet* the criteria in RGN13 and is considered disposal.

Aspect of the assessment	Justification/ Detail for decision	Recovery
No		
Is there a clear benefit from the activity?		
Is the proposed material being put to beneficial use?	Yes - The waste recovery plan states that in its current unfinished state, an excess of water is passing through the surface, into the substrata causing an excess of leachate to flow through the drainage system making the treatment system inefficient...when [the proposal] is completed the leachate treatment plant should deal with less effluent each year. No – The waste recovery plan notes that the proposal will enable the site to be contoured to the designed slopes so that natural run off of surface water will discharge into perimeter ditches, rather than soaking into the refuse material. While the designed slopes may achieve this outcome, we feel that it would be more suitable to think about final profile, rather than achieving a specific height to encourage run off.	Yes
Is there certainty of benefit when the activity is completed?	No - Our assessment of the results of waste testing on the EWC 19 12 12 waste conclude that the properties of the material are not typical of those used to form semi impermeable landforms. Therefore, if the EWC 19 12 12 waste was used an excess of water will still be able to pass through the landfill, even if the suggested contours were used.	No
Is the quantity of waste proposed proportionate to the benefit?	No – the quantity of waste is not proportionate to the benefit as the aim of diverting water from running through the landfill could be achieved using less material than stated in the cross sections and planning permission. While the designed slopes may achieve this outcome, we feel that it would be more suitable to think about	No

Aspect of the assessment	Justification/ Detail for decision	Recovery
		No
	final profile, rather than achieving a specific height to encourage run off.	
Is the recovered waste material suitable for its intended use?		
Are the proposed wastes appropriate for the stated use?	Yes - Proposed wastes to be used in the proposal (EWC 17 05 04, 19 12 12 and 20 02 02) are all featured in Appendix 2 of RGN 13. Yes - Wastes EWC 17 05 04 and 20 02 02 are suitable for use as structural fill for building and drainage, as per Appendix 2 of RGN 13. No - Your waste recovery plan states that the primary benefit of your proposal is to prevent water running through the landfill. Our assessment of the results of waste testing conclude that the properties of the material are not typical of those used to form semi impermeable landforms	Yes
Are the proposed wastes appropriate for the location?	Yes – Based upon the environmental setting the wastes are suitable. Further to this waste EWC 19 12 12 will be periodically tested to ensure safe levels of hydrocarbons and other substances ... waste will be composted, dewatered and trommled, to remove stones or litter respectively. Yes - It has been noted that: 'The final use for the site has never been envisioned as being for public access but more as a natural wildlife habitat with a pleasing public visual amenity'. It is therefore anticipated that there will be no direct contact between the waste and humans.	Yes
Will the proposed waste used ensure that the activity sites does not result in risk to human health?	Yes - Waste EWC 19 12 12 will be periodically tested to ensure safe levels of hydrocarbons and other substances ... waste will be composted, dewatered and trommled, to remove stones or litter. Yes - It has been noted that: 'The final use for the site has never been envisioned as being for public access but more as a natural wildlife habitat with a pleasing public visual amenity'. It is therefore anticipated that there will be no direct contact between the waste and humans.	Yes
Is the waste specification comparable (physically and chemically) to the non-waste it's replacing?	Yes - Waste EWC 19 12 12 will be graded into two distinct soil types... material passing a 40mm sieve for us as sub soil and material passing a 10 mm sieve for use as a top soil layer. Yes - Chemical analysis and particle size distribution tests have been undertaken on	No

Aspect of the assessment	Justification/ Detail for decision	Recovery No
	random samples of waste EWC 19 12 12, prior to treatment, and show that the waste will contain the necessary nutrients to sustain the growth of the plants proposed. Yes - If any waste code EWC 17 05 04 or 20 02 02 materials are to be deposited at Borth then testing of the material would be carried out and mechanical screening of the material to ensure compliance with the requirements of the permit. No - Your waste recovery plan states that one of the benefits of your proposal is to prevent water running through the landfill. Our assessment of the results of waste testing on the EWC 19 12 12 waste conclude that the properties of the material are not typical of those used to form semi impermeable landforms.	
Is the minimum amount of waste being used to achieve the intended benefit?		
The amount of waste is no more than what is needed to complete the scheme.	Yes - The waste recovery plan shows the quantity of material required for the proposal. The quantity was calculated using AutoCAD Civils 3D comparing the actual levels grid in plan ED3075 with the proposed levels grid in the planning approval plan CE0501D. This has provided a total fillable area of 33,340 m3. Using a conversion factor of 1.6 tons/m3 the total quantity of waste required is 53,344 tonnes. Yes - The waste recovery plan notes that the levels of the proposal will be measured before, during and after completion to ensure compliance with the planning requirements. Yes - A conversion factor of 1.6 tons/m3 was used as it is regarded as an average soil density figure. No – The quantity of waste proposed seems excessive. While the target is to achieve the contours set out in the planning permission, the aim of increasing run off could be achieved through an alternative profile using less waste. No – It is currently unclear if the quantity of waste proposed is appropriate, as this will be dependent on the permeability of the waste used i.e. it may be the case that only one meter of a highly impermeable waste is needed, rather than 3 meters of a less permeable waste, to prevent an excess of water passing through the surface.	No
Plans and cross-sections showing original and final levels.	Yes - The waste recovery plan contains cross-sections showing the original and planned final	Yes

Aspect of the assessment	Justification/ Detail for decision	Recovery
		No
	levels. Cross-sections are relative to Ordnance Datum and of an appropriate scale. Yes - A map (plan ED3075) showing where the cross-sections have been taken from, has been included in the waste recovery plan.	
Is the waste being used a substitute for a non-waste material?		
Likelihood of the activity taking place using non-waste materials.	Yes - The waste recovery plan notes that the alternative to the proposed action would be to excavate soil from another location and transport it to the Borth site	Yes
Will the proposal be completed to an appropriate standard?		
Has the scheme been designed to achieve the stated benefit?	No - The aim of the proposal is to a) achieve the final contours as shown in the planning permission and b) prevent excess of water passing through the surface. As it stands the properties of the proposed waste types are not typical of those used to form semi impermeable landforms and while the designed slopes may achieve this outcome, we feel that it would be more suitable to think about final profile, rather than achieving a specific height to encourage run off.	No
Has the scheme been designed to give effective and lasting benefit?	No - The final restoration of the site will be achieved by planting grass and other naturally occurring species including bushes and trees. Tree roots may compromise the rolled layers of waste materials and cause water to pass through the surface of the landfill. Yes - The layer thicknesses are envisaged as being 300 mm rolled layers to achieve the correct shape with a 100 mm layer of 10 mm planting layer gently compacted.	No
Has the scheme been designed to prevent soil erosion, pollution or increased flooding to local area?	Yes - The waste recovery plan notes that following classification of the materials by the materials laboratory, works will be carried out in compliance with Highway Works Schemes MCDHW Volume 1, series 600. Yes - The operator has confirmed that there are no steep slopes or unstable areas within the site that would constitute an area of instability.	Yes

Decision

Considering all the information submitted to date, we have assessed the waste recovery plan as a disposal operation.

The **No** response above confirms the information provided which does not meet the criteria in RGN13 and is considered disposal.

Should you wish to re-submit your waste recovery plan for another assessment, please provide all the information marked **No**, in your revised plan.