### Clifton Marsh Landfill Site

![Operational landfill](image)

#### Key Issues –

- Understanding the nature of the site, the proposed development and the surrounding environment/receptors.

- Understanding the existing baseline conditions and being able to clearly identify likely significant effects.

- Understanding the relationship between Town and Country Planning and Environmental Permitting regimes

- Effective scoping of the likely significant effects to allow for a focussed EIA

- Thorough assessment of hydrogeology, hydrology, ecology and landscape and visual impacts upon the nearby sensitive receptors.

#### Purpose of the project

SITA UK Limited (SITA) operates a non-hazardous landfill site at Clifton Marsh in Lancashire. The landfill accepts three waste streams – residual non-hazardous wastes, asbestos (a hazardous waste) and Lower Activity Low Level (radioactive) Waste. The planning permission for the landfill site expires at the end of 2015 and so a planning application was needed to allow the continuation of operations beyond 2015.

#### Description of the project

The planning permission for the landfill requires disposal operations to cease by 31 December 2015; however, a significant void remains. SITA therefore wanted to continue the operations for a further 20 years. SITA obtained a screening opinion that indicated that the proposal to continue to operate the landfill after 31 December 2015 would be EIA Development. SLR was commissioned to secure a scoping opinion as to the likely significant effects and then carry out the EIA, reporting the findings in an ES.
Lessons learnt

The success of the project can be ascribed to:

- understanding the nature of the development and the context of the area within which it is located which allowed for an effectively scoped EIA
- understanding what assessment work has been carried out in relation to the Environmental Permit and using that work within the EIA (to avoid duplication)
- a comprehensive assessment of environmental effects

The site benefits from an extant planning permission and has operated for several decades; these were taken into account in the baseline assessments and were integral in scoping out environmental issues like noise, heritage and transportation.

In providing their screening opinion, the LPA indicated that the development would fall within the scope of Schedule 2 by virtue of the “potential ground and surface water contamination associated with the disposal of the proposed waste types”.

Lessons learnt cont. -

In this context, the site lies close to European and national ecologically designated sites - the key assessments therefore related to the water environment and ecology (and the interaction of the two); however, cognisance was given to the detailed assessments already undertaken as part of the Environment Permitting process. The LPA also identified emissions to air of particulate matter as needing assessment; for these existing operational practices were referred to. Finally, the landscape/visual assessment considered the effects of leaving a partially completed landform and the continued operational effects.

The effectiveness of scoping and understanding of the environment no requests for further information or clarification with a resolution for planning permission made some 11 weeks after being validated by the LPA.

Contact details

Chris Lowden
SLR Consulting Limited
Aspect House, Aspect Business Park
Bennerley Road, Nottingham
NG6 8WR
07765 407791
clowden@slrconsulting.com

For access to more EIA case studies and hundreds of non-technical summaries of Environmental Statements visit:

www.iema.net/qmark