Energy from Waste Incinerator (EFW) including Infrastructure plus that for Combined Heat and Power (CHP), Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) Processing Plant with Outside Storage Area, and Air Pollution Control Residue (APCR) Treatment and Disposal Facility , Visitor & Office Accommodation and Landscaping within the Sutton Courtenay Resource Recovery Park

Sutton Courtenay Resource Recovery Park, Oxfordshire

Waste Recycling Group Limited

Environmental Statement
Chapter 15
Amenity Impacts

RPS

Chapter 15 Contents

Chapter 15 Drawings

No associated drawings

Chapter 15 Appendices

No associated appendices

15 Amenity Impacts

15.1 Introduction

15.1.1 In addition to the air quality and noise issues, which are addressed in chapters 7 and 12 respectively, waste management facilities also have the potential to cause environmental nuisance due to the generation of litter or through the attraction of vermin and other pests to the site.

15.1.2 The principal means of control over these issues will be through the plants' Environmental Permits rather than the planning regime. Nevertheless, the potential impacts and proposed mitigation are summarised in this chapter.

15.1.3 This chapter also examines the potential wider impacts of the scheme in terms of litter and vermin in the context of the effects that the introduction of the facility will have on the potential impact of litter, vermin and pests at existing landfill sites within the wider Oxfordshire area.

15.2 Legislation and Policy Context

15.2.1 As noted above, the principal means of control over potential environmental nuisance due to the generation of litter or through the attraction of vermin and other pests to the site will be the site's Environmental Permit.

15.2.2 Consideration of the effect on the amenity of local areas and their residents is, however, important when assessing the suitability of a site for the development proposed. This is a matter that is properly addressed at the local level and a number of development plan policies include references to what might be termed general amenity issues which will be considered when assessing the suitability of proposals for waste management development. These are referred to in Chapter 3 and include:

- The Vale of White Horse Local Plan policy DC9 which states that "*Development will not be permitted if it would unacceptably harm the amenities of neighbouring properties and the wider environment in terms of*
  - *(i) loss of privacy, daylight or sunlight;*
  - *(ii) dominance or visual intrusion;*
  - *(iii) noise or vibration;*
  - *(iv) smell, dust, heat, gases or other emissions;*
  - *(v) pollution, contamination or the use of or storage of hazardous substances; and;*
  - (vi) *external lighting*".

15.2.3 Amenity issues in respect of noise and air quality are addressed in specific chapters of this ES. The remaining matters are considered below.

15.3 Assessment Methodology

15.3.1 This chapter provides a qualitative assessment of the potential impacts.

15.4 Baseline Conditions

15.4.1 The Sutton Courtenay site extends to approximately 264ha and comprises a former sand and gravel quarry which has been variously reclaimed and restored through waste disposal. Parts of the site are however actively utilised in association with the railhead that operates as a virtual quarry. A processing plant is located in the northern part of the site to serve the Bridge Farm mineral reserves to the north. Active landfill takes place within the south of the site, an area which also houses landfill gas engines and open-air composting.

15.4.2 At present, residual municipal waste is disposed of at landfill sites within the Oxfordshire area, i.e. in an 'open environment'.

15.5 Incorporated Enhancement and Mitigation

15.5.1 The following control measures are incorporated into the development proposals to reduce the potential amenity impacts.

Litter

15.5.2 The following control measures will reduce the potential amenity impacts from wind blown litter:

- The majority of the waste management activities will be carried within enclosed vehicles.
- All vehicles delivering waste to or removing waste from the site will be required to ensure that all loads carried in open vehicles or containers are secured with a net or tarpaulin to prevent items falling or being blown from the load.
- All waste treatment and transfer operations that may be susceptible to problems from windblown litter (i.e. storage and processing of wastes containing paper, cardboard and plastics etc) will be conducted inside an enclosed building. Storage of segregated/processed materials of a similar nature will be inside the building or outside on the impermeable hardstanding in enclosed or sheeted containers.
- The facility will be inspected at daily intervals for litter. Any litter that is blown from the site into adjoining parts of the site or onto the hardstanding area will be collected at intervals of not greater than weekly.

Vermin and Pests

15.5.3 The following control measures will reduce the potential amenity impacts from vermin and pests:

- Undertaking all waste reception and storage operations involving biodegradable materials within enclosed buildings.
- Minimising the time between initial collection of waste and treatment or disposal at the application site;
- Ensuring that kitchen and green waste delivered to the facility is not retained on site for long periods and is transported off-site without undue delay. The

maximum retention time for kitchen and green waste will be three days (over a bank holiday weekend) and normally 1 day.

- Regular inspections and treatment by pest control specialists; and
- Inspection and treatment of areas where rats are likely to live (drains, culverts, etc).

Dust and Dirt

15.5.4 To mitigate the occurrence of dust and dirt spreading from the site onto the adjoining road network a programme of on site management is proposed. Wheel wash facilities for HGV's are proposed within the site. These facilities will be provided during both the construction and operational stages.

15.5.5 Where the potential for an effect on air quality exists, "Best Practicable Means" would be used to reduce the effect, including control measures as appropriate. Typical control measures for the control of dust include minimising exposed surfaces, minimising the area and height and enclosing or covering stockpiles, as appropriate, controlling vehicle speeds, damping down active areas and advance landscaping works, where practicable. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be developed for the project in which detailed measures for the control of dust during the construction phase will be set out.

15.5.6 Mitigation measures included in the Plant design, incorporating combustion control processes and the flue gas treatment system, and dispersion via a stack of appropriate height will ensure that air pollution effects during operation are minimal. The precise configuration of the flue gas cleaning equipment will be determined as part of the Best Available Technology (BAT) assessment that will be prepared for the EPR application.

15.5.7 With respect to odour and dust, the building is designed to contain emissions within the building, which will be equipped with fast opening doors, with combustion air being drawn from this area. During operation of the facility, this will ensure that odours and dust emitted in this part of the process will be destroyed in the combustion process. There are no other significant sources of odour associated with the process.

15.5.8 In view of the mitigation measures it is considered that the development will not give rise to any unacceptable impacts in terms of spreading dust and dirt.

15.6 Identification and Evaluation of Likely Significant Effects

Litter

15.6.1 The Energy from Waste (EfW) plant has the potential to generate litter. The main effect of litter escaping from the facility would be an increase to the visual impact of the development.

15.6.2 Waste management operations will be undertaken within fully enclosed buildings and the likelihood of litter escaping is considered minimal due to the enclosed nature of importing vehicles and the processing/storage facilities.

15.6.3 In addition, the development of the plant would result in the diversion of municipal waste currently tipped in an 'open environment' at landfill sites within Oxfordshire to enclosed facilities at the site. There will, therefore, be a reduction in the amount of potentially litter generating waste being openly tipped at landfill sites within the Oxfordshire area. It is considered that this will result in a minor beneficial impact.

Vermin and Pests

15.6.4 Vermin and pests can be attracted to waste management facilities as they represent a potential food source in the form of biodegradable and putrescible waste.

15.6.5 The storage and processing of biodegradable and putrescible wastes at the site has the potential to result in the incidence of flies and rodents at the site. Fly infestations normally occur as a result of waste that has been awaiting collection for some time, whereas rats would normally reach the proposed facilities by migrating along hedgerows, etc.

15.6.6 The potential for fly and rat infestations is considered to be low due to the fact that all the activities will be contained within enclosed buildings and that control measures will be required under Environmental Permit to minimise the risk of adverse impact.

15.6.7 As mentioned above, the development of the plant would result in the diversion of municipal and commercial waste currently disposed of in an 'open environment' at landfill sites within the Oxfordshire area to an 'enclosed environment'. The potential effects of this are:

- A reduction in the amount of biodegradeable and putrescible waste being openly tipped at landfill sites, reducing the potential for gulls at these sites.
- Movement of a significant proportion of the biodegradeable and putrescible waste to a scenario where it is managed within enclosed buildings allowing a greater degree of control in terms of mitigation against flies and rodents.

Dust

15.6.8 Dust emissions are potentially significant from the waste storage and processing phases of incineration. All waste will delivered to the facility, either in enclosed or sheeted vehicles and will be deposited within the waste reception hall. The types of MSW (Municipal Solid Waste) accepted at the facility will not be characteristically dusty. Excessively dusty wastes will not be accepted. To contain fugitive dust releases, the waste reception hall will be fully enclosed and fast acting doors will normally be kept in a closed position, save for when vehicles are accessing the unloading hall. The air within the unloading hall will be under negative pressure, being exhausted to the primary air feed supply to the furnace, enabling combustion (and thus minimising the potential for emissions) of dust. Ongoing management in accordance with the Environmental Permit will provide the appropriate conditions to prevent dust from being generated or from leaving the site.

Hazardous Waste Cell

15.6.9 The Pre-treatment plant will ensure appropriate measures in place for the placement of the waste within the cell.

15.7 Mitigation

15.7.1 The assessment of potential impacts, set out in Section 15.6, takes account of the mitigation measures incorporated into the design. In view of the outcome of this process it is not considered necessary to propose further mitigation measures.

15.8 Residual Impacts

15.8.1 The residual amenity impacts in relation to litter, pests, vermin and dust directly associated with the proposal will be of minor significance.

15.8.2 In addition, the move to EfW will reduce the scope for litter, flies, rat and seagull nuisance to be caused at landfill sites within Oxfordshire that are currently managing this waste

stream. The proposed facility at Sutton Courtenay will therefore have an overall minor beneficial impact within the Oxfordshire area in this respect.

15.8.3 Residual impacts and their significance are summarised in Table 15.1 below.

Table 15.1: Summary of Residual Impacts

Phase	Impact	Impact Type	Significance	Geographical Level of Importance of Issue				
				I	N	R	D	L
Operation	Amenity Impacts associated with Gulls, flies, rodents and litter – at landfill sites within Oxfordshire	Beneficial	Minor				*	
Operation	Amenity Impacts associated with flies, rodents and litter.	Neutral	Minor					*
Operation	Amenity Impacts associated with dust	Neutral	Minor					*

Key: I: International N: National R: Regional D: District L: Local

15.9 Conclusions

15.9.1 The potential adverse effects on local amenity from litter, pests, vermin and dust can be adequately mitigated using standard procedures associated with good waste management practice. These standard procedures will be required under the terms of the sites Environmental Permit.

15.9.2 In view of the mitigation measures it is considered that the development will not give rise to any unacceptable effects in terms of litter, pests, vermin and dust.

15.9.3 In addition, the removal of the municipal waste element from the landfill waste stream, that will result from the development of the facility, will reduce the potential for litter, flies, rat and seagull nuisance to be caused at landfill sites within the Oxfordshire area.