

Our reference: Grimethorpe SWT

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Dear Sir/ Madam

Full planning application for construction of two chemical dosing kiosks at Grimethorpe Sewage Treatment Works, Barnsley, S72 8RE

On behalf of our client, Yorkshire Water Services Ltd (YWS), I am pleased to enclose for your consideration, a planning application for full planning permission for the above proposed works.

This planning application is made in full to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) and seeks permission for the construction of two chemical dosing kiosks at the existing Grimethorpe Sewage Treatment Works (STW), Engine Lane, Shafton, Barnsley.

In accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, the planning submission comprises the following documents, plans and drawings, all of which have been submitted:

- Covering letter (incorporating Planning Statement);
- Ownership Certificates;
- Planning application form;
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal;
- Site Location Plan and Proposed Plant Layout Plan (drawing reference: GRI02-BND-WWT-WWT-DR-M-0001); and
- Proposed Elevations Plan (drawing reference: GRI02-BND-WWT-WWT-DR-M-0002).

Yorkshire Water

YWS is one of the largest water and wastewater companies in England and Wales and collects and treats around 1 billion litres of wastewater from homes and businesses every day. In order to treat this water, YW use their network of more than 600 Wastewater Treatment Works (WTW) to chemically treat the wastewater. As the population of Yorkshire has increased rapidly over the last 35 years and is set to continue to grow by a predicted 30% by 2033, there is additional pressure on the existing WwTW network. In order to manage this additional pressure and ensure the continued efficient treatment of wastewater in line with the regulatory requirements, YW are investing in additional infrastructure across the network.

Water Industry National Environment Programme

A climate and environment emergency has been declared by the UK government. As part of the response to this emergency, the Environment Agency established a clear set of actions in the Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) that they expect water companies across England

to complete during the period 2020-2025. The WINEP describes the actions that water companies need to take to meet environmental legislative requirements including meeting binding targets for water quality and biodiversity. Collectively, the WINEP actions will deliver approximately £5.2 billion of asset improvements and interventions across England which will in turn support the sustainable management of wastewater.

The WINEP identifies a number of actions that YWS need to take during the period 2020-2025. These actions include a reduction in phosphorous levels, increase in storm tank capacity, and an increase in monitoring at the Grimethorpe STW. These actions, alongside YWS' wider programme of investment will ensure YWS contribute to tackling the climate and environment crisis.

Need for the Proposed Development

In order to meet the requirements set out in the WINEP, a programme of works is required which will include a combination of upgrades to the existing operational STW alongside the construction of additional plant. This programme of works will include an increase in storm tank capacity, construction of two chemical dosing kiosks and resurfacing and bunding of the existing access road. A further detailed description of the proposed works is set out below.

Application Site

The land which forms the 0.015 hectare application site ('the Site'), as shown edged red on the submitted Site Location Plan (included on drawing reference: GRI02-BND-WWT-WWT-DR-M-0001) is located within YWS' existing operational Grimethorpe STW site, approximately 750 metres north west of the village of Grimethorpe in the district of Barnsley. The approximate National Grid Reference (NGR) of the centre of the Site is SE 40160 09510.

The Site forms a small part of the wider operational STW site, on a section of land which comprises grassland and an area of hard standing. The STW is long-established in the area, having been built in the mid-1950s. Over time it has been subject to periodic change and expansion in response to changes in demand and operational requirements, much of which has been delivered through the use of YWS' permitted development rights as afforded to them under Part 13 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (GPDO) (as amended).

The STW site is located adjacent to agricultural fields, to the east of Engine Lane (A6195) and is accessed via Engine Lane and a shared private access track with Home Farm Stables & Trekking Centre. The STW site is bounded to the east by an unnamed watercourse, with agricultural land beyond. To the north the site is bounded by the shared private access track and agricultural land, beyond which is Bridge House Farm, and to the west it is bounded by Engine Lane, Home Farm Stables & Trekking Centre and two residential properties on Engine Lane. To the south is further agricultural land.

A small number of residential properties are located approximately 70 metres to the west of the STW site, on the western side of Engine Lane. The village of Cudworth lies approximately 1 kilometre to the west, Shafton approximately 1.25 kilometres to the north, and Barnsley approximately 7 kilometres to the south west.

The Site to which this application relates and the wider STW site are not covered by any international or national ecological designations, nor is the land part of a nationally protected landscape. The nearest nationally designated sites are Carlton Main Brickworks Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and West Haigh Woods Local Nature Reserve (LNR) which are located approximately 1.2 kilometres and 2 kilometres south east of the Site respectively.

A review of the BMBC Proposals Map (adopted 2019) shows the Site to be located within the following local designations:

- Dearne Valley Green Heart Nature Improvement Area – a strategic part of Barnsley's Green Infrastructure network; and
- Liverpool, Manchester, and West Yorkshire Green Belt.

The Site is located approximately 700 metres from the nearest designated heritage asset (Grade II Listed Grimethorpe Hall) and is not located within a designated Conservation Area. The closest public right of way (PRoW), Footpath Brierley CP 59, is located approximately 100 metres to the east of the Site and will not be impacted by the proposed works.

The Site is located within Flood Zone 1, meaning there is a low probability of flooding. The wider STW site is directly adjacent to an ordinary watercourse and is within an area identified as being at risk of potential surface water flooding (excluding the Site to which this application relates).

Planning History

A search of BMBC's online planning register has been undertaken to identify any relevant planning applications at the Site or within the Site's surroundings, including within the existing wider STW site. The planning applications listed in Table 1 below have been identified as relevant.

Table 1: Planning History

Planning ref.	Description of development	Site Address	Decision
B/02/0621/HR	Siting of portable building for housing of control equipment	Grimethorpe WwTW, Engine Lane, Shafton, Barnsley	Not known
B/01/0058/HR	Retain control kiosk building	Grimethorpe WwTW, Engine Lane, Shafton, Barnsley	Approved Feb 2001

A small number of planning applications have been approved in the Site's immediate surroundings which predominantly relate to minor household improvements and are not therefore of particular relevance to this planning application.

The Proposed Development

The final design of the proposed Development is shown on the following submitted drawings:

- Site Location Plan and Proposed Plant Layout Plan (drawing reference: GRI02-BND-WWT-WWT-DR-M-0001); and
- Proposed Elevations Plan (drawing reference: GRI02-BND-WWT-WWT-DR-M-0002).

The proposed chemical dosing kiosks exceed 29 cubic metres in capacity and therefore are the subject of this application for full planning permission. Other minor alterations linked to the proposed Development (for example, increase in storm tank capacity, resurfacing and bunding of the existing access road) will be carried out using YW's permitted development rights afforded to them under Part 13 ('Water and sewerage'), Class B ('development by or on behalf of sewerage undertakers') of the provisions of the GPDO (as amended).

The proposed Development includes for the construction of two dosing kiosks of a maximum size of 11.07 x 3.8 x 4.15 metres high each. The final size of the kiosks will be confirmed following appointment of contractor who will undertake the works. The kiosks will be of glass reinforced plastic (GRP) construction. They will be finished with British Standard paint (reference: BS4800/5252 14C 39 Holly Green/Hollybush) and will comprise:

- Access steps – mild steel hot dipped galvanised;
- Emergency safety shower and eyebath (shared) – 1.45 x 1.6 x 3.9 metre high;
- Internal tanks high level warning beacon;
- 2 x internal tank vent pipes;
- Hose reel cabinet;
- Tank fill/drain point cabinet; and
- Security passive (PIR) LED lighting above each door and at fill point cabinet.

Evolution of the Proposed Development

The proposed Development has been the subject of an iterative design process that has been informed by operational requirements and the results of a number of surveys and technical assessments. The proposed Development has been carefully sited within the confines of the existing operational STW site in relation to the existing assets including those which contribute positively to screening and visual amenity.

The design has sought to minimise impacts to residents, the landscape (including the Green Belt), and environment through the sensitive use of materials, which are similar to other existing on-site buildings.

Every effort has been made to minimise the construction footprint and vertical scale of the proposed structures within the parameters of the functional design of the kiosks.

Planning Considerations

Having established the Site and the STW site conditions as well as the likely effects arising from the proposed Development, the main planning issues raised by this application are considered within this section under the following headings. In so doing, it demonstrates the planning rationale for the proposed Development, and why planning permission should be granted.

- Principle of Development;
- Sustainable Development;
- Green Belt;
- Landscape and Visual Impact;
- Nature Conservation; and
- Amenity

Principle of Development

Grimethorpe STW is one of over 600 WwTW operated by YWS. As part of the WINEP, there is a need to provide new assets, which include the construction of two chemical dosing kiosks, in order to reduce phosphorous levels and increase storm tank capacity.

The proposed Development forms an essential part of the continued future operation of the Grimethorpe STW which will allow wastewater to be efficiently managed locally, for an increased population in line with legislative requirements and legally binding targets whilst also assisting in tackling the climate and environment crisis. Therefore, the proposed Development is considered to accord with the policies of the Barnsley Local Plan, in particular Policy SD1, as well as national planning policy.

Sustainable Development

The design of the proposed Development has been informed by the specific requirements of WINEP and the findings of the technical assessments and surveys which have been undertaken to support this application for full planning permission. The design has aimed to minimise potential impacts on amenity, the landscape and environment including the Green Belt. The proposed Development covers a small and discrete area of land within the confines of the existing STW operational boundary and will form an essential part of its future operations. This will not only support YWS' strategic and sustainability objective to be efficient and effective now and in the future, in response to changing legislation and increasing demand but will support the wider programme of action against the climate and environment crisis.

The chosen materials and colour of the building envelope have been selected for their natural appearance and for consistency with the existing materials found in the wider STW site.

As such the proposed Development is considered to accord with the policies of the Local Plan, in particular policies D1, SD1, GD1, CC1, and national planning policies.

Green Belt

The Site lies within the Liverpool, Manchester, and West Yorkshire Green Belt, in the area between Cudworth and Grimethorpe where the Green Belt boundary is very tightly drawn around the urban area. Paragraph 137 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) describes the fundamental aim of Green Belt policy as preventing urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open, with the essential characteristics of Green Belts described as being their openness and permanence.

Paragraph 147 states that '*inappropriate development*' is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt. Paragraph 149 states that a local planning authority '*should regard the construction of new buildings as inappropriate in the Green Belt*' except in certain circumstances. These limited circumstances include the limited infilling of previously developed land (whether redundant or in continuing use) provided that

it would *'not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt than the existing development'*. The proposed Development is small in scale and is located entirely within the existing operational STW site. The siting of the proposed kiosks, away from the boundaries of the STW site and within the existing screening provided by hedgerows and trees, ensures that there will be no impact on the openness of the Green Belt in this location. Notwithstanding this, the proposed Development is necessary for YW to achieve its obligations under WINEP (as described above) regarding phosphorus removal and water quality and, therefore, must be sited in this location within the Green Belt.

As set out above, the proposed Development will not cause harm to the Green Belt, nor will it conflict with any of the five purposes of including land within it. It is, therefore, considered to accord with the provisions of the NPPF and Local Plan policy GB1.

Landscape and Visual Impact

In landscape and visual terms, the proposed Development in this location would be barely perceptible due to the largely confined nature of the Site within the existing operational STW site. Consideration for the need to minimise land-take and develop a footprint which retains as much grassed land as possible, and which preserves other features such as trees and hedgerows has been given throughout the iterative design process. The use of sensitive materials and colour, which is similar to other existing buildings within the operational STW site, will minimise impacts.

Whilst construction activities themselves may form a noticeable feature in the view for some nearby receptors during the construction phase, these will be limited to short range glimpsed views and are temporary in nature. The permanent view will remain largely unchanged due to the sensitive siting of the proposed structures.

The proposed Development is therefore considered to comply with relevant policies with respect to landscape, in particular policies GD1, D1, GB1, LC1 and GI1 of the Local Plan, and national planning policy.

Nature Conservation

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) submitted with the planning application identifies that existing habitat within the Site comprises grassland and hard standing of limited ecological value. Based on the habitats present and the results of the PEA, it is considered reasonably unlikely that protected and priority species would be present within the Site. However, due to the adjacent ordinary watercourse and other habitats, there is some limited potential for commuting and foraging bats, badger, otter, hedgehogs, birds, reptiles, and amphibians (great crested newt) to be present in the vicinity of the Site. No invasive non-native species (INNS) were recorded on the Site during the surveys.

As demonstrated in the PEA, the proposed Development has sought to protect the biodiversity value of the Site and its surroundings through the retention of all trees, hedgerows, and as much grassed land as possible. With embedded design features, construction phase mitigation, and the precautionary approach to protected and priority species, it is considered that the proposed Development will not result in any significant impact on any features of nature conservation importance throughout its construction or operational phases.

Accordingly, the proposed Development is in accordance with the Local Plan, particularly policies GD1, GI1 and BIO1, and national planning policy.

Amenity

There are a small number of properties in the vicinity of the STW site, principally to the north and along Engine Lane to the west, as well as users of local footpaths, who could potentially be affected by the proposed Development. However, the main impacts on views will be limited to the construction phase and are therefore temporary in nature. Furthermore, views of the Site from the surrounding area are well screened due to existing vegetation and its location within the existing STW site. During operation, the degree of change in views will not be significant and the introduction of the new kiosks will be barely perceptible.

Construction works will be short-term and any effects such as from noise, vibration, or dust will be limited by the confined nature of the Site and be of a temporary duration only. During construction, appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented and the adoption of best practicable means to reduce noise and dust will be implemented.

As the proposed Development is well designed and carefully sited, the STW will continue to operate without causing undue disturbance to the amenity of local residents and footpath users in the operational phase.

The proposed Development is therefore considered to accord with the requirements of Local Plan policies GD1, D1 and Poll1, and national planning policy.

Summary

The proposed Development is required to enable YWS to meet the requirements of the WINEP including the reduction in phosphorous levels which will in turn support the efficient and effective provision of wastewater treatment facilities for a growing population in the context of a climate and environment crisis.

The final design of the proposed Development has emerged through a comprehensive iterative design process, which has included close collaboration between the design and environmental teams to enable the evolution of a final design that minimises impact to the site and its surroundings, including its location within designated Green Belt land, whilst enabling YW to achieve its phosphorus removal and water quality obligations under WINEP.

The proposed Development is located entirely within the existing operational STW and has been sensitively sited and designed to minimise land take, ensure integration with existing features where possible, and includes appropriate materials and colour that will blend in with the surrounding environment to ensure that it will be barely perceptible in the view. The design and siting of the proposed structures within the existing STW site boundary has also sought to ensure that there will be no harm to the Green Belt in terms of its five purposes, specifically any impact on its openness.

The PEA, submitted as part of this planning application, demonstrates that the proposed Development will not result in any significant adverse impacts in terms of ecology. In addition, the use of industry best practice construction mitigation measures and precautionary methods of working will help to manage any construction impacts.

The overall requirements and benefits of the proposed Development described within this letter, combined with the minimal impact upon amenity, landscape and the environment, including no impact to the openness of the Green Belt, means that the proposed Development is fully in accordance with the provisions of the adopted Local Plan and the NPPF. Consequently, it is considered that the proposed Development has been fully justified and there are no sound planning considerations as to why planning permission should not be granted.



I trust that the above details and fees are sufficient to register and process this application. In the meantime, if you have any queries regarding the submission or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



For and on behalf of Atkins Ltd
Stuart Hardy
Planning Consultant