
Monitoring of Quarry and Landfill Sites

Auchencarroch Landfill Site, Jamestown
Dumbuckhill Quarry, Milton
Rigangower Landfill, Milton
Sheephill Quarry, Milton

Auchencarroch Landfill, Jamestown

Date of Site Visit: 20 June 2014

Attended by: Keith Bathgate
Bernard Darroch
Lorna Ramsey

Site Notes:

Officers were shown around the site by Colin Wallace (Barr Environmental - Project Manager) and Gavin Ramsey (Barr Environmental - Director). The site visit included the restored areas, active areas and the new recycling plant which has recently been constructed and is now operational. In general, work is ongoing at the landfill site with a steady stream of vehicles entering and leaving the site, with regular deposits of landfill being made before being compacted. The permission allows a maximum of 116 vehicles to deposit waste at the site on a daily basis, with the total amount of waste material being imported set at a limit of 225,000 tonnes per annum.

The biggest difference from previous visits is that the recycling building has been erected and is now operational. As a result of the recycling that is being undertaken, there has been a reduction in the amount of waste that is being deposited as landfill since the waste treatment facility is capable of accepting and processing up to 25,000 tonnes per annum of waste which would otherwise go straight into the landfill.

Compliance with Conditions:

There are two separate planning permissions which have been reviewed; the first permission (DC07/233) covers the whole of the land fill site whilst the second planning permission (DC13/216) is for a waste treatment facility.

DC07/233

The site is operating as an active landfill site and it is evident that the site is being restored as the landfill is deposited across the site and the landfill cells are filled up. At present, restoration work has commenced on approximately 50% of the available landfill cells, with 8 of the cells either having very little landfill activity to date or none whatsoever. Due to the reduction in landfill materials as a result of increased recycling, the speed at which the site is being filled has slowed. However, in order for our records to be as up to date as possible, copies of the most recent site surveys which demonstrate progress have been requested.

The majority of conditions attached to this planning permission require ongoing compliance. In particular, the site operator is required to provide annual reports in relation to progress on the habitat management proposals approved. A Technical Working Group made up of planning officers, the site operator, SNH and RSPB, is required to meet annually to monitor the habitat management of land outwith the operation landfill area and this has not happened in the last few years.

DC13/216

There are a number of conditions which require ongoing compliance in relation to the waste treatment facility. The building has only recently been erected and became operational earlier this year. The conditions attached to this planning permission have generally been complied with and certain conditions will require the site to be restored in accordance with the restoration plan for the whole of the landfill site (DC07/233) in due course. There is a requirement for landscaping to be undertaken to help screen the building and this has already been agreed. However, due to the relatively recent completion of the building, the landscaping of the site has not yet been completed although it does require to be completed by the end of the next appropriate planting season. It is therefore anticipated that the landscaping should be completed and in place by spring 2015.

Any Breaches/Issues:

There is a bond in place which relates to site restoration and work is currently being undertaken by external consultants to assess if the sum of the bond is adequate. The site operators need to confirm the phasing for the habitat management proposals for the completed cells and the Technical Working Group needs to re-convene to discuss progress across the site.

Conclusions:

The operation of the site is generally in accordance with the planning permissions and the conditions granted. However ongoing monitoring will be required to ensure that the habitat formation of completed cells to dry heathland is progressed as per the approved plans and that the site continues to operate in accordance with the relevant planning permissions. The restoration bond also needs updated to ensure that there is adequate funding to ensure the site is fully restored on completion of the landfill activities. The findings of the external consultants will be discussed with the operator shortly and the bond and restoration proposals may require review. A technical working group is required to be set up in relation to the habitat management proposals and discussions have previously been undertaken regarding this matter. It is intended that a technical working group will be re-established and a meeting held before November.



Auchencarroch Landfill Site – Aerial View Summer 2013



Auchencarroch Landfill, summer 2014



Auchencarroch Landfill, summer 2014

Dumbuckhill Quarry, Milton

Date of Site Visit:

28 May, 2014

Attended by:

Karen McChesney, Keith Bathgate, Kemp Lindsay

Site Notes:

Both officers were shown around the entire site by Kemp Lindsay, Estates Director of Paterson's Quarries Ltd. The site visit included the perimeter edge of the quarry, viewpoint, TPO area and the operational floor. Activity on the site consisted of approximately five vehicles entering and leaving the site during a two-hour period, a digger moving materials that had been blasted and two mobile sorter/crusher plants steadily grading materials into piles. The number of vehicles visiting the site is approximately 260 per week (Equating to an average of 52 vehicles per day Monday to Friday).

The biggest difference from the previous site visit in September 2013 was that the large platform has now been blasted and is in the process of being removed. Paterson's bought the site last summer and their work practices and standards are now being established on-site. When Paterson's purchased the quarry in May 2013 there were reported to be 3.7 million tonnes of reserves. They have taken out 100,000 tonnes of rock and the current reserve figure is some 3.6 million tonnes. The site has planning consent until 2024 and there are enough reserves to last until this date. They anticipate an extraction rate of approximately 250,000 tonnes per annum. The production rate depends on market demand so the output could be higher than this.

Compliance with Conditions:

Some conditions on the consent DC02/187 require ongoing compliance and these were discussed so that the operator Paterson's is aware of these, e.g. noise limits, blasting notification to EH.

Condition 29 requires soils stripped from the site to be stored. The Estates Manager confirmed that there were no topsoil deposits on the site when Paterson's purchased the site in 2013. He also indicated it unlikely that there would have been much topsoil depth to strip given the geology of site. This raises an issue when the site is ready to be restored on completion of extraction activities.

Condition 39 requires levels drawings to monitor progress across site. A survey of the bench levels has been carried out by Johnson Poole and Bloomer recently. This has since been submitted to Council and is acceptable.

The majority of restoration on the site is required to be carried out on cessation of the quarry operations. The exception to this is the upper benches, as discussed below. Therefore the main issue at this stage is ensuring that the restoration bond in place will cover the restoration proposed to be carried out.

Any Breaches/Issues:

Condition 47 – tree planting above the upper benches has not been carried out by previous owner. Paterson's are reviewing the physical limitations of the benches and further action should be held off pending this review.

Condition 29 - no soil storage on site when site was bought over. It is likely that given geology of site and long historical use of the site there was not much overlying soil. This does mean that soils will need to be imported during restoration phase and the costs of this should be included in any revised restoration bond and plans.

Conclusions:

The operation of the site is in accordance with the planning permission and the conditions granted with the exception of the two issues: soils and tree planting. The absence of soil stockpiles on the site means that these will have to be imported and is likely to increase the overall restoration costs unless alternative, more sustainable restoration methods e.g. natural regeneration can be agreed. The external consultants are providing input to this. The tree-planting on the upper benches will be assessed as part of the planning application. Discussion of these issues and the bond value will take place shortly with the operator.



Dumbuckhill Quarry, September 2013



Dumbuckhill Quarry, May 2014



Dumbuckhill Quarry, September 2013



Dumbuckhill Quarry, May 2014

Rigangower Landfill, Milton

Date of Site Visit: 19 May 2014

Attended by: Keith Bathgate
Bernard Darroch

Site Notes:

Both officers were shown around the entire site which is located in close proximity to Sheephill Quarry by Andrew Thompson. During the site visit, operations were ongoing with vehicles depositing inert waste materials on the site before being spread and compacted. There are no restrictions on the number of vehicles that can deposit material on a daily or annual basis and there is no restriction on the quantity of waste which can be deposited. The only restrictions relate to the finished ground levels which have to be completed in accordance with the approved plans. At present, it is estimated that the site has a remaining capacity of 93,000 tonnes. It is evident from marker posts on site that the landfill site is nearing the end of its life and will require full restoration when the planning permission expires on 25 March 2016.

The site operator was asked to provide up to date survey plans of the site in order that the Council have an up to date record of the current levels on site and it is understood that these are being prepared.

The landfill site is quite remote and there were no issues raised with the work that was being undertaken on site at the time of the site visit.

Compliance with Conditions:

There are a number of conditions attached to the planning permission (DC04-458) which require ongoing compliance. The most significant conditions which require to be complied with relate to the restoration of the site. In order to restore the site, there are stockpiles of subsoil and topsoil being stored. The restoration that is to be undertaken involves a 300mm layer of subsoil being spread on top of the overburden and then finished with a layer of topsoil in order to complete the development in accordance with the approved levels. The restoration only requires to be implemented on completion of the infilling works which have permission to continue until 25 March 2016.

In addition to the restoration, for a period of 15 years after the date of completion of the infilling, the applicant shall be responsible for the monitoring of the site for the generation and migration of landfill gases, with the monitoring tests to be undertaken four times per year unless alternative intervals are agreed with the Planning Authority. Details of the proposed gas monitoring are to be submitted within 6 months of the proposed completion of the infilling.

Any Breaches/Issues:

There were no issues apparent during the site visit which would require any further action to be taken at the present time. However ongoing monitoring

will be required to ensure that the site is fully restored in accordance with the aforementioned planning permission once the infilling is completed or the permission has expired.

Conclusions:

The landfill site is being operated in a satisfactory manner at the present time. However, a planning application (DC14/160) has now been submitted which seeks permission to extend the area of landfill and to excavate previously landfilled materials and imported materials, to create secondary aggregates. In effect, this would extend the period of time that the site could be used for landfill purposes and also represents an opportunity for the restoration of the site to be fully reconsidered.



Rigangower Landfill Site, 2014



Rigangower Landfill Site, 2014



Rigangower Landfill Site, 2014

Sheephil Quarry, Milton

Date of Site Visit: 30th July 2014

Attended by: Pamela Clifford, Keith Bathgate, Stewart MacCallum

Site Notes:

Officers were shown around the quarry by Andrew Thompson and Willie Booth of Dalgliesh Associates. A new phasing plan is in the process of being submitted which indicates that the quarry works are now concentrated around the eastern boundary. Work has ceased at present along the north-west boundary face until the outcome of the extension application is finalised (DC02-447). The applicant has indicated that it was their intention to commence quarrying operations to the east and potentially south of Sheephil Fort in the next year.

Current Status of Operations:

Current reserve

As of 2011- 25-82million

New phasing plans will be submitted shortly which will show that operations are moving towards Sheephil and the east and south of the quarry boundary. The upper southern face will be reduced as indicated in the EIA which would make the quarry more visible especially from the opposite side of the Clyde.

The tonnage of material taken out last year was 415,512 tonnes and it was indicated that this was the best year since the start of the recession. They believe that there is enough rock to 2042 as per the planning permission.

Compliance with Conditions:

The planning consent to be monitored was the 1949 consent which contains only seven conditions. The Review of Minerals Permission (ROMP) has not been agreed and therefore the conditions of the ROMP cannot be monitored until they have been agreed. However the site visit was based around the matters covered by the ROMP.

Operating Hours:

The standard working hours are 07:00-17:30 Monday to Friday and 07:00-13:00 on a Saturday and the quarry also does maintenance over the weekend. Out with these hours working operations tend to be only to meet particular contracts such as road contracts.

Blasting:

Usually once a week during the hours of 1000-1600 Monday to Friday with no blasting at weekends as per the ROMP condition. They indicated that they are now using digital dynamite and they feel that the last six blasts have made the blasting less adverse. They indicated that if we receive a complaint regarding blasting that the Council contact them immediately. However they have indicated that all their blasts are below the velocity of 10mm as required by the ROMP condition. They indicated that weather conditions can affect the impact of the blasts and they try not to blast when the weather is overcast.

Sheephill Fort – Scheduled Ancient Monument

The applicant has been in correspondence with Historic Scotland regarding the Scheduled Ancient Monument. They have indicated that it is their intention to commence quarry operations to the east and south of the scheduled monument. To ensure that there is no potential to encroach within the scheduled area a 10m stand off will be set out from scheduled monument boundary prior to the commencement of operations. They will renew the Scheduled Ancient Monuments Consent when the ROMP is issued.

Restoration

No restoration has commenced on site, however they indicated that in the next few years they may carry out progressive restoration whereby the upper faces would be soiled to encourage plant growth. A condition of the ROMP requires a restoration masterplan to be submitted. There is no restoration bond on this site due to the age of the permission.

Any Breaches/Issues

There were no issues identified during the site visit. It is important to get the ROMP agreed to allow the quarry work under modern conditions especially restoration works, blasting operating hours, etc.

Conclusions

The ROMP is likely to be referred back to the Planning Committee in the next few months as the outstanding matters have been addressed. The extension area cannot be returned to Planning Committee as the legal agreement for the restoration bond cannot be concluded at present.



Sheephill Quarry, 2014



Sheephill Quarry, 2011