

# Site monitoring report

Please find detailed below the report for the site monitoring undertaken. If you should have any queries or require any photographs taken on, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Site Name:** Ongar Landfill, Mill Lane, Ongar, Essex, CM5 9RG

**File Ref:** 22 421 23

**Operator:** FCC Environment

**Site Representative:** None – unattended visit.

**Visit no:** 1 of 1

**Date:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Time on site:** 10:30

**Time off site:** 11:30

**Monitoring Officer:** Tom Sycamore / Chloe Budd      Tel No: 03330 321 896

**Site Co-ordinator:** Tom Sycamore      Tel No: 03330 321 896

## Permission no's:

ESS/11/13/EPF – Importation of 50,000m<sup>3</sup> of inert material to correct differential settlement and re-profile the site; revised restoration scheme with afteruse to energy crops and conservation grassland.

Condition 26 (Aftercare Scheme) of ESS/11/13/EPF – 5 year plan approved to bring the land back to the beneficial and sustainable after-use to compliment the restoration scheme approved under ESS/11/13/EPF. Scheme involves returning the land to biomass (energy) crop, with enhanced periphery grassland.

## Constraints:

- Weather: Dry/ **Windy** / Rain / Snow
- Noise: **Acceptable**/ Not acceptable / N/A
- Approach roads: Dry / Dusty / **Wet** / Muddy / Flooded
- Ground: Dry / Dusty / Wet / **Damp** / **Muddy** / Flooded
- Access: **Obstructed (site entrance security gate)**/ Not Obstructed

- Wheel cleaning: Washer / Spinner / Sweeper / none **N/A**
- Hose: In use / Not in Use / **N/A**
- Machinery: **Working** (gas compound and extraction pumps)/ Not working
- In correct position: **Yes** / No / N/A
- Stockpiles: Height = N/A
- Bunds: Profiled / Grassed / Some weeds / **NA**

#### **Actions from last site visit:**

- No visit carried out last year (2022-23) due to the submission of pre-application advice request for a solar farm. Advice was issued stating that the Council would be unlikely to support the proposal.
- Grass has visibly been cut and is being maintained.
- No progress towards aftercare scheme of miscanthus biomass plantation.
- Gas compound and gas extraction continuing.

#### **Inspection Results Summary:**

- Site representative did not attend but spoke on the phone at the site entrance and gave permission to access site unattended.
- Grass covering has been maintained but no progress made towards miscanthus restoration plan.
- Site profile was per the approved drawings.
- Gas extraction works ongoing with regard to gas wells/vents and pipes. Internal haul remained to facilitate gas extraction.
- Some large rubble around the periphery of the site which needs to be removed.
- Regarding approved aftercare scheme, FCC Environment have been reminded of the requirements multiple times now over the last few years but no progress has been made. It is understood that miscanthus energy crops are now not the desire of the operator. The aftercare scheme can be changed but they need to submit a formal planning application to do so.
- As it stands, the aftercare scheme is split into two sections: Grassland management and Biomass plantation management. Each has a clear 5-year plan set out in the scheme. Grassland management is considered to have been achieved and is maintained by the operator as per the scheme. Biomass plantation management has not been achieved beyond year 1. The operator is again reminded of their responsibility to complete the aftercare period as per the approved scheme. The scheme will again be sent to the operator in accompaniment to this report.

**Permission under 2017 EIA regulations?:**

- Yes / No

**Actions to be taken before next site visit:**

- Site needs to be worked towards the approved aftercare scheme which is for miscanthus biomass plantation. If this is sought to be changed, this may be done through the submission of a Section 73 planning application to vary the aftercare scheme.
- In the meantime, see aftercare scheme for guidance and direction on current approved plan.
- Continue general maintenance and grass cuts.
- Remove large rubble around the site periphery.

**Note: The actions noted in this report are required in order to ensure adequate progress is made and to avoid potential enforcement action against a breach of planning control.**