

# **Review of an Environmental Permit for an Installation subject to Chapter II of the Industrial Emissions Directive under the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended)**

## **Decision document recording our decision-making process following review of a permit**

The Permit number is: EPR/EB3805UL  
The Operator is: Hope Farm Limited  
The Installation is: Hope Farm Composting Facility  
This Variation Notice number is: EPR/EB3805UL/V003

### **What this document is about**

Article 21(3) of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) requires the Environment Agency to review conditions in permits that it has issued and to ensure that the permit delivers compliance with relevant standards, within four years of the publication by the European Commission of updated decisions on BAT Conclusions.

We have reviewed the permit for this installation against the revised BAT Conclusions for the Waste Treatment industry sector published on 10 August 2018 in the Official Journal of the European Union. In this decision document, we set out the reasoning for the consolidated variation notice that we have issued.

It explains how we have reviewed and considered the techniques used by the Operator in the operation and control of the plant and activities of the installation. This review has been undertaken with reference to the decision made by the European Commission establishing Best Available Techniques (BAT) Conclusions (BATc) for Waste Treatment as detailed in document reference C(2018) 5070. It is our record of our decision-making process and shows how we have taken into account all relevant factors in reaching our position. It also provides a justification for the inclusion of any specific conditions in the permit that are in addition to those included in our generic permit template.

As well as considering the review of the operating techniques used by the Operator for the operation of the plant and activities of the installation, the consolidated variation notice takes into account and brings together in a single document all previous variations that relate to the original permit issue. Where this has not already been done, it also modernises the entire permit to reflect the conditions contained in our current generic permit template.

The introduction of new template conditions makes the Permit consistent with our current general approach and with other permits issued to Installations in this sector. Although the wording of some conditions has changed, while others have been deleted because of the new regulatory approach, it does not reduce the level of environmental

protection achieved by the Permit in any way. In this document, we therefore address only our determination of substantive issues relating to the new BAT Conclusions.

We try to explain our decision as accurately, comprehensively and plainly as possible. Achieving all three objectives is not always easy, and we would welcome any feedback as to how we might improve our decision documents in future.

## **How this document is structured**

1. Our decision
2. How we reached our decision
3. The legal framework
4. Annex 1 – Review of operating techniques within the Installation against BAT Conclusions.
5. Annex 2 – Review and assessment of changes that are not part of the BAT Conclusions derived permit review
6. Annex 3 – Improvement Conditions

# 1 Our decision

We have decided to issue the Variation Notice to the Operator. This will allow the Operator to continue to operate the Installation, subject to the conditions in the Consolidated Variation Notice that updates the whole permit.

We consider that, in reaching our decision, we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the varied permit will ensure that a high level of protection is provided for the environment and human health.

The Consolidated Variation Notice contains many conditions taken from our standard Environmental Permit template including the relevant annexes. We developed these conditions in consultation with industry, having regard to the legal requirements of the Environmental Permitting Regulations and other relevant legislation. This document does not therefore include an explanation for these standard conditions. Where they are included in the Notice, we have considered the techniques identified by the operator for the operation of their installation, and have accepted that the details are sufficient and satisfactory to make those standard conditions appropriate. This document does, however, provide an explanation of our use of “tailor-made” or installation-specific conditions, or where our Permit template provides two or more options.

## 2 How we reached our decision

### 2.1 Requesting information to demonstrate compliance with BAT Conclusion techniques

We issued a Notice under Regulation 61(1) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (a Regulation 61 Notice) on 22/06/2020 requiring the Operator to provide information to demonstrate where the operation of their installation currently meets, or how it will subsequently meet, the revised standards described in the relevant BAT Conclusions document.

The Notice required that where the revised standards are not currently met, the operator should provide information that:

- describes the techniques that will be implemented before 17 August 2022, which will then ensure that operations meet the revised standards, or
- justifies why standards will not be met by 17 August 2022, and confirmation of the date when the operation of those processes will cease within the Installation or an explanation of why the revised BAT standards are not applicable to those processes, or
- justifies why an alternative technique will achieve the same level of environmental protection equivalent to the revised BAT standards described in the BAT Conclusions.

Where the Operator proposed that they were not intending to meet a BAT standard that also included a BAT Associated Emission Level (BAT-AEL) described in the BAT Conclusions Document, the Regulation 61 Notice required that the Operator make a formal request for derogation from compliance with that BAT-AEL (as provisioned by Article 15(4) of IED). In this circumstance, the Notice identified that any such request for derogation must be supported and justified by sufficient technical and commercial information that would enable us to determine acceptability of the derogation request.

The Regulation 61 Notice response from the Operator was received on 30/01/2021.

We considered it was in the correct form and contained sufficient information for us to begin our determination of the permit review.

The Operator made no claim for commercial confidentiality. We have not received any information in relation to the Regulation 61 Notice response that appears to be confidential in relation to any party.

## 2.2 Review of our own information in respect to the capability of the Installation to meet revised standards included in the BAT Conclusions document

Based on our records and previous experience in the regulation of the installation we consider that the Operator will be able to comply with the techniques and standards described in the BAT Conclusions other than for those techniques and requirements described in BAT Conclusion 4(b) and 19(c)(d)(h) and (i). In relation to these BAT Conclusions, we do not fully agree with the Operator in respect of their current stated capability as recorded in their response to the Regulation 61 Notice. We have therefore included Improvement Condition IC1 and IC2 in the Consolidated Variation Notice to ensure that the requirements of the BAT Conclusions are delivered before 17 August 2022.

## **3 The legal framework**

The Consolidated Variation Notice will be issued under Regulations 18 and 20 of the EPR. The Environmental Permitting regime is a legal vehicle which delivers most of the relevant legal requirements for activities falling within its scope. In particular, the regulated facility is:

- an *installation* as described by the IED;
- subject to aspects of other relevant legislation which also have to be addressed.

We consider that, in issuing the Consolidated Variation Notice, it will ensure that the operation of the Installation complies with all relevant legal requirements and that a high level of protection will be delivered for the environment and human health.

We explain how we have addressed specific statutory requirements more fully in the rest of this document.

## **Annex 1: decision checklist regarding relevant BAT Conclusions**

BAT Conclusions for Waste Treatment were published by the European Commission on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018. There are 53 BAT Conclusions. This annex provides a record of decisions made in relation to each relevant BAT Conclusion applicable to the installation. This annex should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Variation Notice.

The overall status of compliance with the BAT conclusion is indicated in the table as:

**NA – Not Applicable**

**CC – Currently Compliant**

**FC – Compliant in the future (within 4 years of publication of BAT conclusions)**

**NC – Not Compliant**

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Environment Agency assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
1	<p>In order to improve the overall environmental performance, BAT is to implement and adhere to an environmental management system (EMS) that incorporates all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. commitment of the management, including senior management;</li> <li>II. definition, by the management, of an environmental policy that includes the continuous improvement of the environmental performance of the installation;</li> <li>III. planning and establishing the necessary procedures, objectives and targets, in conjunction with financial planning and investment.</li> <li>IV. implementation of procedures paying particular attention to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) structure and responsibility,</li> <li>(b) recruitment, training, awareness and competence,</li> <li>(c) communication,</li> <li>(d) employee involvement,</li> <li>(e) documentation,</li> <li>(f) effective process control,</li> <li>(g) maintenance programmes,</li> <li>(h) emergency preparedness and response,</li> <li>(i) safeguarding compliance with environmental legislation;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	CC	<p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 1. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 1.</p>

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Environment Agency assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	<p>V. checking performance and taking corrective action, paying particular attention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) monitoring and measurement (see also the JRC Reference Report on Monitoring of emissions to air and water from IED installations – ROM),</li> <li>(b) corrective and preventive action, recruitment, training, awareness and competence,</li> <li>(c) maintenance of records,</li> <li>(d) independent (where practicable) internal or external auditing in order to determine whether or not the EMS conforms to planned arrangements and has been properly implemented and maintained</li> </ul> <p>VI. review, by senior management, of the EMS and its continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness;</p> <p>VII. following the development of cleaner technologies;</p> <p>VIII. consideration for the environmental impacts from the eventual decommissioning of the plant at the stage of designing a new plant, and throughout its operating life;</p> <p>IX. application of sectoral benchmarking on a regular basis;</p> <p>X. waste stream management (see BAT 2);</p> <p>XI. an inventory of waste water and waste gas streams (see BAT 3);</p> <p>XII. residues management plan (see description in Section 6.5);</p>		



BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Environment Agency assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	XIII. accident management plan (see description in Section 6.5); XIV. odour management plan (see BAT 12) XV. noise and vibration management plan (see BAT 17).		
2	In order to improve the overall environmental performance of the plant, BAT is to use all of the techniques listed below:  (a) Set up and implement waste characterisation and pre-acceptance procedures; (b) Set up and implement waste acceptance procedures; (c) Set up and implement a waste tracking system and inventory; (d) Set up and implement an output quality management system; (e) Ensure waste segregation; (f) Ensure waste compatibility prior to mixing or blending of waste; (g) Sort incoming solid waste	CC	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 2. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 2.  Although the permit currently contains non-standard waste codes, (see Section below on non-standard waste codes) the operator has agreed to have them removed from the permit.  We therefore consider the installation to be currently compliant with BATc 2.
3	In order to facilitate the reduction of emissions to water and air, BAT is to establish and to maintain an inventory of waste water and waste gas streams, as	CC	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 3. We have assessed the information provided and we are

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Environment Agency assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	<p>part of the environmental management system (see BAT 1), that incorporates all of the following features:</p> <p>(i) information about the characteristics of the waste to be treated and the waste treatment processes, including:  (a) simplified process flow sheets that show the origin of the emissions;  (b) descriptions of process-integrated techniques and waste water/waste gas treatment at source including their performances;</p> <p>(ii) information about the characteristics of the waste water streams, such as:  (a) average values and variability of flow, pH, temperature, and conductivity;  (b) average concentration and load values of relevant substances and their variability (e.g. COD/TOC, nitrogen species, phosphorus, metals, priority substances /micropollutants);  (c) data on bioeliminability (e.g. BOD, BOD to COD ratio, Zahn-Wellens test, biological inhibition potential (e.g. inhibition of activated sludge)) (see BAT 52);</p> <p>(iii) information about the characteristics of the waste gas streams, such as:  (a) average values and variability of flow and temperature;  (b) average concentration and load values of relevant substances and their variability (e.g. organic compounds, POPs such as PCBs);  (c) flammability, lower and higher explosive limits, reactivity;</p>		<p>satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 3.</p>

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Environment Agency assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	(d) presence of other substances that may affect the waste gas treatment system or plant safety (e.g. oxygen, nitrogen, water vapour, dust).		
4	<p>In order to reduce the environmental risk associated with the storage of waste, BAT is to use all of the techniques given below:</p> <p>(a) Optimised storage location;  (b) Adequate storage capacity;  (c) Safe storage operation;  (d) Separate area for storage and handling of packaged hazardous waste.</p>	<b>FC</b>	<p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 4 and has identified areas for improvement. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 4 except BATc 4(b) – adequate storage capacity</p> <p>We have therefore included IC1 and IC2 to ensure compliance.</p> <p>We are satisfied the Operator will be future compliant with BATc 19.</p>
5	<p>In order to reduce the environmental risk associated with the handling and transfer of waste, BAT is to set up and implement handling and transfer procedures.</p> <p>Handling and transfer procedures aim to ensure that wastes are safely handled and transferred to the respective storage or treatment. They include the following elements:</p>	<b>CC</b>	<p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 5. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 5.</p>

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Environment Agency assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• handling and transfer of waste are carried out by competent staff;</li> <li>• handling and transfer of waste are duly documented, validated prior to execution and verified after execution;</li> <li>• measures are taken to prevent, detect and mitigate spills;</li> <li>• operation and design precautions are taken when mixing or blending wastes (e.g. vacuuming dusty/powdery wastes).</li> </ul> <p>Handling and transfer procedures are risk-based considering the likelihood of accidents and incidents and their environmental impact.</p>		
6	For relevant emissions to water as identified by the inventory of waste water streams (see BAT 3), BAT is to monitor key process parameters (e.g. waste water flow, pH, temperature, conductivity, BOD) at key locations (e.g. at the inlet and/or outlet of the pre-treatment, at the inlet to the final treatment, at the point where the emission leaves the installation).	NA	There are no direct or indirect discharges of waste water to controlled waters.
7	BAT is to monitor emissions to water with at least the frequency given in BATc 7, and in accordance with EN standards. If EN standards are not available, BAT is to use ISO, national or other international standards that ensure the provision of data of an equivalent scientific quality.	NA	There are no direct or indirect emissions to water.

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Environment Agency assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
8	<p>BAT is to monitor channelled emissions to air with at least the frequency given in BATc 8, and in accordance with EN standards. If EN standards are not available, BAT is to use ISO, national or other international standards that ensure the provision of data of an equivalent scientific quality.</p>	NA	There are no channelled emissions to air.
10	<p>BAT is to periodically monitor odour emissions.</p> <p>Odour emissions can be monitored using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EN standards (e.g. dynamic olfactometry according to EN 13725 in order to determine the odour concentration or EN 16841-1 or -2 in order to determine the odour exposure);</li> <li>• when applying alternative methods for which no EN standards are available (e.g. estimation of odour impact), ISO, national or other international standards that ensure the provision of data of an equivalent scientific quality.</li> </ul> <p>The monitoring frequency is determined in the odour management plan (see BAT 12).</p>	CC	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 10. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 10.

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Environment Agency assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
11	<p>BAT is to monitor the annual consumption of water, energy and raw materials as well as the annual generation of residues and waste water, with a frequency of at least once per year.</p> <p>Monitoring includes direct measurements, calculation or recording, e.g. using suitable meters or invoices. The monitoring is broken down at the most appropriate level (e.g. at process or plant/installation level) and considers any significant changes in the plant/installation.</p>	CC	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 11. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 11.
12	<p>In order to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce odour emissions, BAT is to set up, implement and regularly review an odour management plan, as part of the environmental management system (see BAT 1), that includes all of the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a protocol containing actions and timelines;</li> <li>• a protocol for conducting odour monitoring as set out in BAT 10;</li> <li>• a protocol for response to identified odour incidents, e.g. complaints;</li> <li>• an odour prevention and reduction programme designed to identify the source(s); to characterise the contributions of the sources; and to implement prevention and/or reduction measures.</li> </ul>	CC	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 12. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 12.
13	<p>In order to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce odour emissions, BAT is to use one or a combination of the techniques given below:</p>	CC	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 13. We have

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Environment Agency assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	(a) Minimising residence times; (b) Using chemical treatment; (c) Optimising aerobic treatment		assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 13.
14	<p>In order to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce diffuse emissions to air, in particular of dust, organic compounds and odour, BAT is to use an appropriate combination of the techniques given below:</p> <p>(a) Minimising the number of potential diffuse emission sources; (b) Selection and use of high-integrity equipment; (c) Corrosion prevention; (d) Containment, collection and treatment of diffuse emissions; (e) Dampening; (f) Maintenance; (g) Cleaning of waste treatment and storage areas; (h) Leak detection and repair (LDAR) programme</p>	<b>CC</b>	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 14. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 14.
15	<p>BAT is to use flaring only for safety reasons or for non-routine operating conditions (e.g. start-ups, shutdowns) by using both of the techniques given below:</p> <p>(a) Correct plant design;</p>	<b>NA</b>	We are satisfied that BATc 15 is not applicable to this Installation. No flares are used on site.

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Environment Agency assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	(b) Plant management		
16	<p>In order to reduce emissions to air from flares when flaring is unavoidable, BAT is to use both of the techniques given below:</p> <p>(a) Correct design of flaring devices;  (b) Monitoring and recording as part of flare management</p>	NA	We are satisfied that BATc 16 is not applicable to this Installation. No flares are used on site.
17	<p>In order to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce noise and vibration emissions, BAT is to set up, implement and regularly review a noise and vibration management plan, as part of the environmental management system (see BAT 1), that includes all of the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. a protocol containing appropriate actions and timelines;</li> <li>II. a protocol for conducting noise and vibration monitoring;</li> <li>III. a protocol for response to identified noise and vibration events, e.g. complaints;</li> <li>IV. a noise and vibration reduction programme designed to identify the source(s), to measure /estimate noise and vibration exposure, to</li> </ul>	NA	The applicability is restricted to cases where a noise or vibration nuisance at sensitive expected and/or has been substantiated.



BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Environment Agency assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	characterise the contributions of the sources and to implement prevention and /or reduction measures.		
18	<p>In order to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce noise and vibration emissions, BAT is to use one or a combination of the techniques given below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Appropriate location of equipment and buildings;</li> <li>(b) Operational measures;</li> <li>(c) Low noise-equipment;</li> <li>(d) Noise and vibration equipment;</li> <li>(e) Noise attenuation</li> </ul>	<b>CC</b>	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 18. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 18.
19	<p>In order to optimise water consumption, to reduce the volume of waste water generated and to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to soil and water, BAT is to use an appropriate combination of the techniques given below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Water management;</li> <li>(b) Water recirculation;</li> <li>(c) Impermeable surface;</li> <li>(d) Techniques to reduce the likelihood and impact of overflows and failures from tanks and vessels;</li> </ul>	<b>FC</b>	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 19 (ref "Hope Farm Composting Facility Containment Assessment", SLR Ref: 424.10694.00001, dated December 2020). We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 19 except for: BATc 19 part c impermeable surfacing.

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	(e) Roofing of waste storage and treatment areas; (f) Segregation of water streams (g) Adequate drainage infrastructure; (h) Design and maintenance provisions to allow detection and repair of leaks (i) Appropriate buffer storage capacity		BATc 19 part d techniques to reduce likelihood of overflows and failures from tanks and vessels. BATc 19 part h – design and maintenance provisions to allow detection and repair of leaks  The operator has identified several areas for improvement concerning these BAT elements. We have therefore included improvement conditions IC1 and IC2 (see Annexe 3) to ensure compliance. We are satisfied the Operator will be future compliant with BATc 19.
20	In order to reduce emissions to water, BAT is to treat waste water using an appropriate combination of the techniques given below:  <b>Preliminary and primary treatment, e.g.</b> (a) Equalisation (b) Neutralisation	NA	The site does not have a direct or indirect discharge to controlled waters.

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	<p>(c) Physical separation, e.g. screens, sieves, grit separators, grease separators, oil-water separation or primary settlement tanks</p> <p><b>Physico-chemical treatment, e.g.</b></p> <p>(d) Adsorption  (e) Distillation /rectification  (f) Precipitation  (g) Chemical oxidation  (h) Chemical reduction  (i) Evaporation  (j) Ion exchange  (k) Stripping</p> <p><b>Biological treatment, e.g.</b></p> <p>(l) Activated sludge process  (m) Membrane bioreactor  (n) Nitrification / denitrification when the treatment includes a biological treatment</p> <p><b>Solids removal, e.g.</b></p> <p>(o) Coagulation and flocculation  (p) Sedimentation  (q) Filtration (e.g. sand filtration, microfiltration, ultrafiltration)</p>		

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Environment Agency assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	<p>(r) Flotation</p> <p>See also: Table 6.1: BAT-associated emission levels (BAT-AELs) for direct discharges to a receiving water body</p> <p>See also: Table 6.2: BAT-associated emission levels (BAT-AELs) for indirect discharges to a receiving water body</p>		
21	<p>In order to prevent or limit the environmental consequences of accidents and incidents, BAT is to use all of the techniques given below, as part of the accident management plan (see BAT 1):</p> <p>(a) Protection measures; (b) Management of incidental /accidental emissions; (c) Incident /accident registration and assessment system</p>	<b>CC</b>	<p>The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 21. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 21.</p>
22	<p>In order to use materials efficiently, BAT is to substitute materials with waste.</p>	<b>NA</b>	<p>The Installation only processes green waste and does not use other materials.</p>

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Environment Agency assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	Waste is used instead of other materials for the treatment of wastes (e.g. waste alkalis or waste acids are used for pH adjustment, fly ashes are used as binders).		
23	<p>In order to use energy efficiently, BAT is to use both of the techniques given below:</p> <p>(a) Energy efficiency plan; (b) Energy balance record</p>	CC	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 23. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 23.
24	<p>In order to reduce the quantity of waste sent for disposal, BAT is to maximise the reuse of packaging, as part of the residues management plan (see BAT 1).</p> <p>Packaging (drums, containers, IBCs, pallets, etc.) is reused for containing waste, when it is in good condition and sufficiently clean, depending on a compatibility check between the substances contained (in consecutive uses). If necessary, packaging is sent for appropriate treatment prior to reuse (e.g. reconditioning, cleaning).</p>	CC	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 24. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 24.
33	In order to reduce odour emissions and to improve the overall environmental performance, BAT is to select the waste input.	CC	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 33. We have

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	The technique consists of carrying out the pre-acceptance, acceptance and sorting of the waste input (see BAT 2) so as to ensure the suitability of the waste input for the waste treatment, e.g. in terms of nutrient balance, moisture or toxic compounds which may reduce the biological activity.		assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 33.
34	<p>In order to reduce channelled emissions to air of dust, organic compounds and odorous compounds, including H<sub>2</sub>S and NH<sub>3</sub>, BAT is to use one or a combination of the techniques given below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Adsorption;</li> <li>(b) Biofilter;</li> <li>(c) Fabric filter;</li> <li>(d) Thermal oxidation;</li> <li>(e) Wet scrubbing</li> </ul> <p>See also: Table 6.7: BAT-associated emission levels (BAT-AELs) for channelled NH<sub>3</sub>, odour, dust and TVOC emissions to air from the biological treatment of waste.</p>	<b>NA</b>	The Installation does not have any channelled emissions to air.
35	In order to reduce the generation of waste water and to reduce water usage, BAT is to use all of the techniques given below:	<b>CC</b>	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 35. We have assessed the information provided and we are

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Environment Agency assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	(a) Segregation of water streams; (b) Water recirculation; (c) Minimisation of the generation of leachate		satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 35.
36	<p>In order to reduce emissions to air and to improve the overall environmental performance, BAT is to monitor and/or control the key waste and process parameters.</p> <p>Monitoring and/or control of key waste and process parameters, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• waste input characteristics (e.g. C to N ratio, particle size);</li> <li>• temperature and moisture content at different points in the windrow;</li> <li>• aeration of the windrow (e.g. via the windrow turning frequency, O<sub>2</sub> and/or CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the windrow, temperature of air streams in the case of forced aeration);</li> <li>• windrow porosity, height and width.</li> </ul>	CC	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 36. We have assessed the information provided and we are satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 36.
37	<p>In order to reduce diffuse emissions to air of dust, odour and bioaerosols from open-air treatment steps, BAT is to use one or both of the techniques given below:</p> <p>(a) Use of semi permeable membrane covers;</p>	CC	The operator has provided information to support compliance with BATc 37. We have assessed the information provided and we are

BAT Conclusion No	Summary of BAT Conclusion requirement for Waste Treatment	Status NA/ CC / FC / NC	Environment Agency assessment of the installation capability and any alternative techniques proposed by the operator to demonstrate compliance with the BAT Conclusion requirement
	(b) Adaptation of operations to the meteorological conditions		satisfied that the operator has demonstrated compliance with BATc 37.
38	<p>In order to reduce emissions to air and to improve the overall environmental performance, BAT is to monitor and/or control the key waste and process parameters.</p> <p>This includes monitoring and/or control of key waste and process parameters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pH and alkalinity of the digester feed;</li> <li>• digester operating temperature;</li> <li>• hydraulic and organic loading rates of the digester feed;</li> <li>• concentration of volatile fatty acids (VFA) and ammonia within the digester and digestate;</li> <li>• biogas quantity, composition (e.g. H<sub>2</sub>S) and pressure;</li> <li>• liquid and foam levels in the digester.</li> </ul>	<b>NA</b>	Only applicable to anaerobic treatment.
39	<p>In order to reduce emissions to air, BAT is to use both of the techniques given below:</p> <p>(a) Segregation of the waste gas streams; (b) Recirculation of waste gas</p>	<b>NA</b>	Only applicable to MBT.



## **Annex 2: Review and assessment of changes that are not part of the BAT Conclusions derived permit review**

### **Existing Medium Combustion Plant**

We asked the Operator to provide information on all combustion plant on site in the Regulation 61 Notice as follows:

- Number of combustion plant (CHP engines, back-up generators, boilers);
- Size of combustion plant – rated thermal input (MWth)
- Date each combustion plant came into operation
- Confirmation as to whether or not the combustion plant is subject to a capacity market agreement (2014 or 2015 auction) or whether or not a Feed-in Tariff preliminary accreditation application was received prior to 1 December 2016

The Operator confirmed there are no combustion plant on site.

### **Bioaerosols monitoring requirements**

We asked the Operator to confirm the following aspects regarding the site operations in the Regulation 61 Notice:

- Whether or not the operational processes of biodegradable waste are in open processes within 250 metres of human receptors.
- Whether or not there is a channelled or point source release within 250 metres that are open sources e.g. biofilters within 250 metres of human receptors; and
- The existing permit contains bioaerosols monitoring requirements, the microbiological markers, associated bioaerosols limits and the monitoring standards

The Operator provided information regarding bioaerosols monitoring in their response to the Regulation 61 Notice. We carried out an assessment of the site location and the distance of site processes from sensitive receptors as part of this determination.

The nearest sensitive receptor to composting activities is Hope Farmhouse situated approx. 20m south of the boundary. The farmhouse serves as the site office and is the only sensitive receptor within 250m of the composting facility. The farmhouse is occupied by the site operator. There are no channelled air emissions. The current permit contains bioaerosol monitoring requirements.

We consider it appropriate to retain the bioaerosol monitoring requirements, in line with our M9 guidance.

### **Soil & groundwater risk assessment (baseline report)**

The IED requires that the operator of any IED installation using, producing or releasing “relevant hazardous substances” (RHS) shall, having regarded the possibility that they

might cause pollution of soil and groundwater, submit a “baseline report” with its permit application. The baseline report is an important reference document in the assessment of contamination that might arise during the operational lifetime of the regulated facility and at cessation of activities. It must enable a quantified comparison to be made between the baseline and the state of the site at surrender.

At the definitive cessation of activities, the Operator has to satisfy us that the necessary measures have been taken so that the site ceases to pose a risk to soil or groundwater, taking into account both the baseline conditions and the site’s current or approved future use. To do this, the Operator has to submit a surrender application to us, which we will not grant unless and until we are satisfied that these requirements have been met.

The Operator submitted a site condition report [SCR v1, dated 22/11/2016]. The site condition report included a report on the baseline conditions as required by Article 22. We reviewed that report and considered that it adequately described the condition of the soil and groundwater at that time.

The Operator submitted a summary report which referenced the site condition report and baseline report. We have reviewed the information and we consider that that it adequately describes the condition of the soil and groundwater. Consequently, we are satisfied that the baseline condition has not changed.

**Waste types**

We have specified the permitted waste types, descriptions and quantities, which can be accepted at the regulated facility. The wastes are specified in Table S2.2 in the permit.

We are satisfied that the Operator can accept these wastes for the following reasons:

- they are suitable for the proposed activities
- the proposed infrastructure is appropriate
- the environmental risk assessment is acceptable.

**Other wastes (non-standard waste codes)**

The following wastes in the current permit are not specified in the our revised biowaste treatment permit templates. The operator has agreed to have them removed from the permit.

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Description</b>
04 02 10	organic matter from natural products (un-dyed and untreated only)
07 02 13	waste plastic (compostable plastics only, unused and uncontaminated excess production only)
19 08 05	sludges from treatment of urban waste water
19 12 07	wood other than that mentioned in 19 12 06
20 01 38	untreated wood where no non-biodegradable coating or preserving substance is present

### Excluded wastes (99 waste codes)

We have excluded the following waste streams ending with “99” code(s) because more suitable waste codes are already in the European Waste Catalogue (EWC) that accommodate the waste described:

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Description</b>
02 07 99	wastes not otherwise specified (malt husks, malt sprouts, yeast and yeast-like residues only)

Our technical guidance on waste classification WM3 specifically sets out clear instructions for the use of the European Waste Catalogue (EWC), particularly with regard to “99” codes.

The guidance specifies that the Operator must:

- Identify the source generating the waste in chapters 01 to 12 or 17 to 20 and identify the appropriate six-digit code of the waste (excluding codes ending with 99 of these chapters).
- If no appropriate waste code can be found in chapters 01 to 12 or 17 to 20, the chapters 13, 14 and 15 must be examined to identify the waste.
- If none of these waste codes apply, the waste must be identified according to chapter 16.
- If the waste is not in chapter 16, the 99 code (wastes not otherwise specified) must be used in the section of the list corresponding to the activity identified in step one as a last resort.

We made this decision with respect to “99” codes in accordance with the Technical Guidance WM3: Waste Classification – Guidance on the classification and assessment of waste [1<sup>st</sup> Edition v1.1, May 2018].

### **Secondary containment and lagoon storage infrastructure design**

We asked the Operator via the Regulation 61 Notice to:

- describe any secondary containment and whether it currently meets the relevant standard in the “Containment systems for the prevention of pollution (C736)” report, where there are above-ground storage or primary containment on site; or
- explain why the current site infrastructure design and construction is fit for purpose, where it is concluded that secondary containment is not required or does not need to meet the standards in the C736 report, to enable a baseline standard so as to establish a quantified comparison; and
- describe how the construction of the lagoons meets the relevant standard in CIRIA C736 report, where there are storage lagoons used for the storage of digestate on site.

### **Risk assessment for secondary containment and storage lagoons**

We assessed site containment (including storage lagoons) as part of the permit review. Our assessment is in two stages:

Stage 1 – A review of the site containment risk assessment; and

Stage 2 – A review of existing site containment – a demonstration that the existing site containment (including storage lagoons) is fit for purpose i.e. meets the CIRIA C736 standards

The operator submitted a site containment report (Hope Farm Composting Facility Containment Assessment, SLR Ref 424.10694.00001, Dec 2020) which included an assessment of the site secondary containment, and storage lagoon in comparison to the CIRIA C736 standard. The report included a site specific risk assessment methodology for the existing secondary containment and storage lagoon in accordance with Chapter 2 of CIRIA C736.

In accordance with the CIRIA C736, the general framework for the risk assessment of containment adopts a three-step approach as follows:

**Step 1** applies the source–pathway–receptor model to the site to assess the hazard presented by the inventory to the surrounding environment. The assessment of the source–pathway–receptor is combined to provide a **site hazard rating**. However, in many cases the nature and quantity of the inventory and knowledge of nearby sensitive receptors such as water bodies or designated habitats may be sufficient to determine that there is negligible (low site hazard rating) or, conversely, a high (high site hazard rating) risk.

**Step 2** considers the likelihood of a loss of containment. This will depend on several factors such as the reliability of the operations and inspections undertaken on site, the conditions of the primary storage vessels and the degree they are protected from impact damage etc. Security will also be a consideration. The likelihood of a loss of containment is combined with the site hazard rating to provide a **site risk rating**.

**Step 3** the site risk rating leads to a recommendation for an appropriate class of containment.

We assessed the operator’s risk assessment in accordance with the following guidance documents:

- ADBA Industry Guide: Secondary Containment at AD Plants (Version 1, 2016);
- ADBA PROJEN AD Containment Classification Tool
- CIRIA C736 Containment systems for the prevention of pollution

We are satisfied that the risk assessment of the existing secondary containment and lagoon storage infrastructure is adequate with respect to the following aspects:

- The site hazard rating is accurate based on the details of the source-pathway-receptor assessment
- The site hazard risk rating is accurate based on the assessment of the likelihood of occurrence of each event that may lead to loss of containment

Consequently, we agree that the overall site risk rating is HIGH.

Assessment of existing secondary containment & lagoon storage design and construction

We reviewed the Operator's report and its findings. The report identified several areas where the existing infrastructure does not meet the CIRIA standards, and provided a gap analysis.

Therefore, we are not satisfied that the existing site containment and storage lagoon meets the standards set out in CIRIA C736.

We have set improvement conditions IC1 and IC2 in the permit to address the deficiencies in the existing site secondary containment. See Improvement conditions in Annex 3 of this decision document.

### **Primary containment infrastructure design (tanks /vessels used for storage and/or treatment activities)**

We asked the Operator via the Regulation 61 Notice to provide a detailed report which describes an assessment of the suitability of any existing above ground storage or primary containment (tanks and/or vessels) used for the storage and treatment of waste in comparison to the relevant standard in the CIRIA C736 guidance or another equivalent industry standard.

The operator submitted a site containment report (Hope Farm Composting Facility Containment Assessment, SLR Ref 424.10694.00001, Dec 2020) which included an assessment of the primary containment.

We assessed the Operator's primary containment assessment having regard to the following guidance document as part of the permit review:

- CIRIA C736 Containment systems for the prevention of pollution

We reviewed the Operator's report and its findings. The report highlighted several areas that require improvement. We are therefore not satisfied that the existing primary containment meets the standards set out in CIRIA C736.

We have set improvement conditions IC1 and IC2 in the permit to address the deficiencies in the existing site existing primary containment. See Improvement condition(s) in Annex 3 of this decision document.

### **Lagoon cover and digestate storage capacity**

We asked the Operator via the Regulation 61 Notice to:

- confirm if storage lagoons are covered to prevent emission loss; and
- confirm whether or not the operational lagoon storage capacity provides a minimum of two months storage

The Operator confirmed in their response that the storage lagoon is not covered but submitted two proposals for cover (floating clay tiles or polytunnel).

The issue of storage for the site is being addressed as part of the primary and secondary containment strategies (see paragraphs above).

## Annex 3: Improvement Conditions

Based on the information in the Operator's Regulation 61 Notice response and our own records of the capability and performance of the installation at this site, we consider that we need to set improvement conditions so that the outcome of the techniques detailed in the BAT Conclusions are achieved by the installation. These improvement conditions are set out below - justifications for them is provided at the relevant section of the decision document (Annex 1 or Annex 2).

If the consolidated permit contains existing improvement conditions that are not yet complete or the opportunity has been taken to delete completed improvement conditions then the numbering in the table below will not be consecutive as these are only the improvement conditions arising from this permit variation.

<b>Table S1.3 Improvement programme requirements</b>		
<b>Reference</b>	<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Improvement condition for progress report to achieve Narrative BAT</b>		
IC1	The operator shall submit, for approval by Environment Agency, a report which demonstrates that the 'Narrative' BAT conclusions have been achieved where BAT is currently not achieved but will be before 17 August 2022. The report shall address the BAT Conclusions for Waste Treatment with respect to 4(b) and 19(c) (d) (h) & (i).  Refer to BAT Conclusions for a full description of the BAT requirement.	17/08/2022
<b>Improvement condition for site containment</b>		
IC2	The proposals and recommendations in the report "Hope Farm Composting Facility Containment Assessment", SLR Ref: 424.10694.00001, dated December 2020 shall be implemented by the operator in accordance with the Environment Agency's written approval.	17/08/2022 or other date as agreed in writing with the Environment Agency