# Permitting Decisions - Variation

We have decided to grant the variation for Steel Bright Road Metal Recycling Facility operated by Dunn Bros Recycling Ltd.

The variation number is EPR/GB3106HM/V002.

The permit was issued on 19/11/2026.

The variation is for the existing waste operation Standard Rules Environmental Permit SR2015 No14 to become an installation.

The primary installation activity is now a Section 5.4A(1)(b)(iv) activity – Recovery or a mix of recovery and disposal of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 75 tonnes per day involving treatment in shredders of metal waste, including waste electrical and electronic equipment and end-of-life vehicles and their components.

The change to the remaining storage and transfer of hazardous waste operation activity is limited to the addition of two new waste codes 16 02 15* and 16 02 16 for the acceptance of burnt motors. The motors have gone through an incineration process, and tests have been undertaken to confirm they no longer contain electrical parts, plastics or hazardous materials including POPs.

We consider in reaching that decision we have taken into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements and that the permit will ensure that the appropriate level of environmental protection is provided.

## Purpose of this document

This decision document provides a record of the decision-making process. It

- highlights key issues in the determination
- summarises the decision making process in the decision considerations section to show how the main relevant factors have been taken into account
- shows how we have considered the consultation responses

Unless the decision document specifies otherwise, we have accepted the applicant's proposals.

Read the permitting decisions in conjunction with the environmental permit and the variation notice.

# Key issues of the decision

The key issues identified during the determination were the increased risk of fugitive emissions of dust from the physical treatment activities, potential fire incidents relating to the recycling, recovery and disposal of non-hazardous waste, compliance with BAT conclusions and Appropriate Measures Guidance, and restriction of permitted waste types. There were also concerns raised about the waste codes under which the burnt motors would be accepted on site, point source emissions to air from the shredding activity, and the external waste storage procedures.

Fire prevention plan

The issue of the potential increased risk of fire was raised during consultation as part of the determination. Following the consideration of the representations received during determination, we asked the operator to provide an updated Fire Prevention Plan.

The Fire Prevention Plan (titled Fire Prevention Plan, Version ECCS 117 005 R 003 E, dated September 2026) includes substantial detail on how the site will prevent the event of a fire, how a fire will be managed if one should occur and mitigation of adverse impacts on the surroundings. An automatic water cannon fire suppression system is installed on site. Regarding the firewater containment, the site has an existing impermeable concrete surface, sealed perimeter drainage system, two 20,000 litre storage tanks, concrete kerbing, and a full retention oil interceptor. In the event of a fire, firewater will be contained and tested prior to removal off site via tanker to an appropriate facility for treatment.

Point source emissions to sewer – inventory of site surface water

The site has two point source emissions to sewer (S1 and S2). During normal operations, rainwater that falls onto the outside yard is discharged to sewer via discharge point S1, and clean uncontaminated rainwater from roofs links to the storm drain and is discharged to sewer via discharge point S2. The operator reports that the water stream discharged via emission point S2 includes areas that are used for the storage of wastes.

The Waste Treatment BAT Conclusions require operators to establish and to maintain an inventory of waste water, as part of the environmental management system (BATc 3) as follows:

*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 part of the environmental management system, that incorporates all of the following features which are identified for waste water as:*

*Information about the characteristics of the waste water streams, such as:*

- *average values and variability of flow, pH, temperature, and conductivity;*
- *average concentration and load values of relevant substances and their variability (e.g. COD/TOC, nitrogen species, phosphorus, metals, priority substances / micropollutants);*
- *data on bioeliminability (e.g. BOD, BOD to COD ratio, Zahn-Wellens test, biological inhibition potential (e.g. inhibition of activated sludge))*

The waste water emissions inventory informs treatment methodologies, environmental risk assessments and monitoring requirements. The Environment Agency recognises that the operator's emissions discharged to sewer have never been fully quantified, and therefore, accept that emissions to the sewer have not been subject to a quantitative risk assessment.

We understand and recognise that this facility is already existing and consider it prudent, to bring the discharge to sewer into environmental regulation, where appropriate. Although the facility is existing, the operator is not introducing new risks to the environment. It is important to note that any permit application including a new emission to surface water and/or sewer would require a demonstration that emissions would not adversely impact any receiving waters, or breach relevant BAT-AELs before a permit could be issued.

To establish a waste water inventory and to facilitate a quantitative risk assessment from this indirect emission point, we have set improvement conditions IC1a, IC1b, IC1c and IC1d in the permit to address these deficiencies. Improvement condition 1a requires the operator to submit a sampling and analysis program for approval; Improvement condition 1b requires the operator to undertake the sampling program and gather the relevant data.

On completion of IC1b, IC1c requires the operator to undertake a full assessment of the results providing a summary of the sample results, a completed H1 risk assessment(s) and detailed modelling (where necessary) with an assessment made against the parameters specified in the relevant environmental standards as specified in our guidance. We also require the operator to submit proposals and/or additional measures required to prevent or minimise any significant emissions from the installation along with timescales for implementation. IC1d requires the implementation of any relevant improvements identified.

Management of dust emissions

The issue of dust was raised during consultation as part of the determination. Following the consideration of the representations received, we asked the operator to provide an updated Dust and Emissions Management Plan.

The Dust and Emissions Management Plan (titled Dust and Emissions Management Plan, Version 5, dated September 2026) includes substantial detail on how the site will prevent dust and mitigate adverse impacts on sensitive receptors. All waste treatment will be undertaken within the treatment building which is fitted with dust bag filters. Process monitoring requirements have been included in the permit to ensure that the bag filters are properly maintained. Waste stored in the yard area is covered, thereby minimising the impact of dust emissions on the surrounding environment. We have assessed the Dust & Emissions Management Plan and we consider the measures are acceptable.

Based upon the information provided in the application, we are satisfied that appropriate measures are in place to prevent fugitive emissions to air, land and water.

Compliance with Best Available Techniques /Appropriate Measures Guidance and Waste codes

The issue of compliance with BAT conclusions, Appropriate Measures Guidance, and permitted waste types was raised during consultation as part of the determination. Following the consideration of the representations received, we asked the operator to provide an updated BAT Assessment, Appropriate Measures Assessment, and waste code list.

The Variation Report (titled Variation Report, Version ECCS 117 005 R 002 E, dated September 2026) contains the BAT and Appropriate Measures Assessment and the waste codes to be accepted on site. We have assessed this document in accordance with our guidance and consider the proposed measures and waste codes to be acceptable.

The issue of EWC codes under which the burnt motor waste can be accepted on site was raised during the determination. Following consideration of the representations received and internal discussions, we concluded that EWC 16 02 15* and 16 02 16 were appropriate waste codes for the proposed burnt motor waste. However, waste accepted under EWC 16 02 16 is limited to storage only pending transfer off-site.

Point source emission to air

The main processing line is enclosed under a negative-pressure extraction hood connected to two fabric dust bag filters. The filters have a single outlet next to the shredder, inside the warehouse building.

The operator originally proposed to discharge treated air from the dust filters into the building. We queried whether the discharge of treated air into a building was considered as BAT / Appropriate measures.

The operator changed their original plan for discharge into a building. The operator proposes to design and install a duct filter outlet to the existing bag filters. A duct will be retrofitted to the filter outlet through the wall or roof of the warehouse, to a vent which will meet the EN 15259 measurement section and ports standards. We have included improvement condition 2 (IC2) to allow the operator to install new sampling point(s) as proposed.

The Waste Treatment BAT Conclusions require operators to establish and to maintain an inventory of waste gas streams, as part of the environmental management system (BATc 3) as follows:

*Information about the characteristics of the waste gas streams, such as:*

- *average values and variability of flow and temperature;*
- *average concentration and load values of relevant substances and their variability (e.g. organic compounds, POPs such as PCBs);*
- *flammability, lower and higher explosive limits, reactivity;*
- *presence of other substances that may affect the waste gas treatment system or plant safety (e.g. oxygen, nitrogen, water vapour, dust).*

To establish a waste gas inventory and to facilitate a quantitative risk assessment from the proposed direct emission point (A1), we have set improvement condition 3 (IC3). The improvement condition requires the operator to undertake emissions monitoring followed by comparison with the limits in the permit and an assessment of impact. The operator is required to propose measures to mitigate emissions to meet the relevant emission limit (for example, the provision of additional treatment or abatement) and timescales for the implementation of these measures, where applicable.

<u>Storage of wastes in the yard area</u>

The operator proposed to store wastes in the yard area without cover. We issued a Schedule 5 Notice (dated 12th November 2026) which required the operator to demonstrate how storage of waste without cover is in accordance with BAT and Appropriate Measures guidance. The operator confirmed in their Schedule 5 response that all wastes stored in the yard area will be under cover. We are satisfied that this demonstrates compliance with BAT and Appropriate Measures guidance.

# Decision considerations

## Confidential information

A claim for commercial or industrial confidentiality has not been made.

The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on confidentiality.

## Identifying confidential information

We have not identified information provided as part of the application that we consider to be confidential.

The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance on confidentiality.

## Consultation

The consultation requirements were identified in accordance with the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations (2016) and our public participation statement.

The application was publicised on the GOV.UK website. No responses were received.

We consulted the following organisations:

- Local Authority – Environmental Protection Department
- Local Authority – Planning
- Fire & Rescue
- Director of Public Health/UK Health Security Agency (PH/UKHSA)
- Health and Safety Executive
- Sewerage Authorities

We received comment from the Local Authority, Fire & Rescue Service, and Director of Public Health/UK Health Security Agency. The comments and our responses are summarised in the consultation responses section.

## The regulated facility

We considered the extent and nature of the facility at the site in accordance with RGN2 ‘Understanding the meaning of regulated facility’, Appendix 2 of RGN2 ‘Defining the scope of the installation’, Appendix 1 of RGN 2 ‘Interpretation of Schedule 1’

The extent of the facility is defined in the site plan and in the permit. The activities are defined in table S1.1 of the permit.

## The site

The operator has provided a plan which we consider to be satisfactory.

These show the extent of the site of the facility including the discharge points.

The plan is included in the permit.

## Nature conservation, landscape, heritage and protected species and habitat designations

We have checked the location of the application to assess if it is within the screening distances we consider relevant for impacts on nature conservation, landscape, heritage and protected species and habitat designations. The application is within our screening distances for these designations.

We have assessed the application and its potential to affect sites of nature conservation, landscape, heritage and protected species and habitat designations identified in the nature conservation screening report as part of the permitting process.

We consider that the application will not affect any site of nature conservation, landscape and heritage, and/or protected species or habitats identified.

The decision was taken in accordance with our guidance.

## Environmental risk

We have reviewed the operator's assessment of the environmental risk from the facility.

The operator’s risk assessment is satisfactory.

## General operating techniques

We have reviewed the techniques used by the operator and compared these with the relevant guidance notes and we consider them to represent appropriate techniques for the facility.

The operating techniques that the applicant must use are specified in table S1.2 in the environmental permit.

## National Air Pollution Control Programme

We have considered the National Air Pollution Control Programme as required by the National Emissions Ceilings Regulations 2018. By setting emission limit values in line with technical guidance, we are minimising emissions to air. This

will aid the delivery of national air quality targets. We do not consider that we need to include any additional conditions in this permit.

## Fire prevention plan

We have assessed the fire prevention plan and are satisfied that it meets the measures and objectives set out in the Fire Prevention Plan guidance.

We have approved the fire prevention plan as we consider it to be appropriate measures based on information available to us at the current time. The applicant should not take our approval of this plan to mean that the measures in the plan are considered to cover every circumstance throughout the life of the permit.

The plan has been incorporated into the operating techniques S1.2.

## Dust management

We have reviewed the dust and emission management plan in accordance with our guidance on emissions management plans for dust.

We consider that the dust and emission management plan is satisfactory and we approve this plan.

We have approved the dust and emission management plan as we consider it to be appropriate measures based on information available to us at the current time. The applicant should not take our approval of this plan to mean that the measures in the plan are considered to cover every circumstance throughout the life of the permit.

The applicant should keep the plans under constant review and revise them annually or if necessary sooner if there have been complaints arising from operations on site or if circumstances change. This is in accordance with our guidance ‘Control and monitor emissions for your environmental permit.

The plan has been incorporated into the operating techniques S1.2.

## Waste types

We have specified the permitted waste types, descriptions and quantities, which can be accepted at the regulated facility.

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; and

- the environmental risk assessment is acceptable.

## Improvement programme

Based on the information on the application, we consider that we need to include an improvement programme. See the key issues section.

## Emission limits

Emission Limit Values (ELVs) and equivalent parameters based on Best Available Techniques (BAT) have been added for the following substances:

- Dust – BAT-AEL limit of 5 mg/$m^3$
- Oil and grease – No visible oil or grease

No limit has been set for:

- Total VOCs
- Metals (as, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Mn, Ni, Pb, Sb, Se, Tl, V)
- Brominated flame retardants
- Dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- Dioxins and furans

These limits are included in:

- Table S3.1 for the point source emissions to air; and
- Table S3.2 for point source emissions to sewer (S1 and S2)

## Monitoring

We have decided that monitoring should be added for the following parameters, using the methods detailed and to the frequencies specified in the permit

We have decided that monitoring for the dust bag filters installed on the main production line should be added for the following parameters, using the methods details and to the frequences specified:

- Dust at 5 mg/$m^3$ – monthly for the first 6 months following completion of IC3, and 6 monthly thereafter in accordance with EN 13284-1.
- Total VOCs – 6 monthly in accordance with EN 12619.
- Metals (As, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Mn, Ni, Pb, Sb, Se, Tl, V) – annually in accordance with EN 14385.
- Brominated flame retardants – annually in accordance with CEN TS 13649.
- Dioxins and furans (PCDD/F) – annually in accordance with EN 1948-1, 2, 3.

- Dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) – annually in accordance with EN 1948-1, 2, 4.
- Pressure difference – monitored continuously in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

We have decided that monitoring for the point source emissions to sewer S1 should be added for the following parameters, using the methods detailed and to the frequencies specified:

- Oil and grease at a limit of 'no visible oil or grease' weekly through visual assessment.

We made these decisions in accordance with the following guidance:

- COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2018/ 1147 - of 10 August 2018 - establishing best available techniques (BAT) conclusions for waste treatment, under Directive 2010/ 75/ EU of the European Parliament and of the Council - (notified under document C(2018) 5070)
- Treating metal waste in shredders: appropriate measures for permitted facilities - Guidance - GOV.UK
- Non-hazardous and inert waste: appropriate measures for permitted facilities - Guidance - GOV.UK
- Chemical waste: appropriate measures for permitted facilities - 4. Waste storage, segregation and handling appropriate measures - Guidance - GOV.UK
- Control and monitor emissions for your environmental permit - GOV.UK
- Monitoring emissions to air, land and water (MCERTS) - GOV.UK
- Risk assessments for specific activities: environmental permits - GOV.UK

Based on the information in the application we are satisfied that the operator's techniques, personnel and equipment have either MCERTS certification or MCERTS accreditation as appropriate.

## Reporting

We have added reporting in the permit for the following parameters for emissions to air and process monitoring as required by condition 3.5.1 of the permit and Table S4.1:

- Dust
- TVOC
- Metals (As, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Mn, Ni, Pb, Sb, Se, Tl, V)
- Brominated flame retardants
- Dioxins and furans (PCDD/F)
- Dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)

- Pressure difference

We made these decisions in accordance with the following guidance:

- COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2018/ 1147 - of 10 August 2018 - establishing best available techniques (BAT) conclusions for waste treatment, under Directive 2010/ 75/ EU of the European Parliament and of the Council - (notified under document C(2018) 5070)
- Treating metal waste in shredders: appropriate measures for permitted facilities - Guidance - GOV.UK
- Non-hazardous and inert waste: appropriate measures for permitted facilities - Guidance - GOV.UK
- Chemical waste: appropriate measures for permitted facilities - 4. Waste storage, segregation and handling appropriate measures - Guidance - GOV.UK
- Control and monitor emissions for your environmental permit - GOV.UK
- Monitoring emissions to air, land and water (MCERTS) - GOV.UK
- Risk assessments for specific activities: environmental permits - GOV.UK

## Management system

We are not aware of any reason to consider that the operator will not have the management system to enable it to comply with the permit conditions.

The decision was taken in accordance with the guidance on operator competence and how to develop a management system for environmental permits.

## Technical competence

Technical competence is required for activities permitted.

The operator is a member of the CIWM/WAMITAB scheme**.**

We are satisfied that the operator is technically competent.

## Previous performance

We have assessed operator competence. There is no known reason to consider the applicant will not comply with the permit conditions.

No relevant convictions were found. The operator satisfies the criteria in our guidance on operator competence.

## Financial competence

There is no known reason to consider that the operator will not be financially able to comply with the permit conditions.

## Growth duty

We have considered our duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting economic growth set out in section 108(1) of the Deregulation Act 2015 and the guidance issued under section 110 of that Act in deciding whether to grant this permit variation.

Paragraph 1.3 of the guidance says:

“The primary role of regulators, in delivering regulation, is to achieve the regulatory outcomes for which they are responsible. For a number of regulators, these regulatory outcomes include an explicit reference to development or growth. The growth duty establishes economic growth as a factor that all specified regulators should have regard to, alongside the delivery of the protections set out in the relevant legislation.”

We have addressed the legislative requirements and environmental standards to be set for this operation in the body of the decision document above. The guidance is clear at paragraph 1.5 that the growth duty does not legitimise non-compliance and its purpose is not to achieve or pursue economic growth at the expense of necessary protections.

We consider the requirements and standards we have set in this permit are reasonable and necessary to avoid a risk of an unacceptable level of pollution. This also promotes growth amongst legitimate operators because the standards applied to the operator are consistent across businesses in this sector and have been set to achieve the required legislative standards.

# Consultation Responses

The following summarises the responses to consultation with other organisations, and the way in which we have considered these in the determination process.

## Responses from organisations listed in the consultation section

Response received from **UK Health Security Agency**.

Brief summary of issues raised: The main emissions of potential concern are dust and particulate matter from handling and mechanical treatment of waste on site. In addition, the potential incidents and accidents of concern are fires from the recycling, recovery and disposal of inert non-hazardous waste handling.

Summary of actions taken: We have assessed the Dust and Emissions Management Plan and we consider the plan to meet the requirements of our guidance: Control and monitor emissions for your environmental permit - GOV.UK. We have approved the plan. All treatment activities are undertaken within the treatment building. All wastes stored in the external yard areas shall be under cover. We have assessed the operator's proposals in accordance with the Waste Treatment BAT Conclusions and Appropriate Measures Guidance. Waste codes permitted have been assessed as appropriate.

Response received from **Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council**.

Brief summary of issues raised: Particular attention is to be given to the Dust and Emissions Management Plan (DEMP) during the determination process to ensure its robustness and effectiveness in minimising fugitive emissions and protecting the environment and local amenity. Ensure compliance with BAT conclusions and Appropriate Measures Guidance, and that the permitted waste types should be restricted to those applied for.

Summary of actions taken: As above (see response to UK Health Security Agency)

Response received from **Birmingham Fire Safety Team**.

Brief summary of issues raised: West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority does not object to this proposal. However, this proposal will need to meet all the functional requirements stated within B5: Access and facilities for the fire service of Approved Document B Volume 2: Building other than dwellings, 2019 edition incorporating 2020, 2022 and 2025 amendments – for use in England.

Summary of actions taken: Compliance with the functional requirements within B5 Document is a matter for the local authority and is not within the remit of the

Environmental Permitting Regulations. The operator submitted a Fire Prevention Plan which is in accordance with our guidance Fire prevention plans: environmental permits - GOV.UK. We have assessed and approved the plan. An accident management plan which is part of the Environmental Management System (EMS) is in place at the facility.