States of Guernsey

Longue Hougue South - Environmental Impact Assessment

Draft Scoping Document

A non-technical summary

The following pages provide an overview of the *draft scoping document* for an environmental impact assessment on the development of a new inert waste disposal site at Longue Hougue South. For the full version, go to *www.gov.gg/inertwaste.* Key stakeholders are currently being consulted before the draft is finalised.

7th February 2019

Introduction

Inert waste is a general term for materials that do not readily decompose when exposed to the elements, or react with the surrounding environment. Locally, it is typically concrete, bricks, tarmac, stone, ceramics and clean soil, arising from construction activity, demolition and roadworks.

Some material will be suitable for use in other building projects, which is how a large proportion of inert waste is currently managed. The remainder has to be disposed of locally, and that is done now through a process of land reclamation. Since 1995, a new area of land has been created at Longue Hougue, St Sampson's, using this inert material. That site has approximately four years' capacity remaining, by which time a new disposal solution will be required.

That is part of a wider strategy for managing inert waste, which also encompasses measures to encourage minimisation, reuse and recycling. Numerous disposal options have been considered, ranging from using the material to infill old quarries or raise land in low-lying areas, to an extension of the runway or more coastal land reclamation.

Planning requirements

Any proposed new site is subject to a full planning process before development can take place, including a formal planning inquiry overseen by an independent planning inspector.

A comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is also required. This involves detailed studies looking at the various potential impacts that could arise from a particular development, both during construction and operation, and identifies potential measures to reduce or eliminate them. Typical examples include noise, air quality, traffic, flood risk, visual landscape, and flora & fauna.

The initial stage is what is known as a **scoping document**. This sets out all the potential impacts the EIA proposes to cover, and how they will be assessed.

This document provides an overview of the draft scoping document for the current preferred option for a future inert waste disposal site. The full version is available at *www.gov.gg/inertwaste.* **Key stakeholders are currently being consulted, so that their feedback can be incorporated before the draft is finalised.**

Preferred option for future disposal

The option that is currently preferred is to extend the land reclamation site at Longue Hougue, to the south (the location is shown in Figure 1). This was identified as the most feasible proposal, following an initial appraisal of more than 50 potential options which looked at environmental considerations, benefits and costs.

Details of the initial assessment phase, including information on the original long list of options considered, can be found at *www.gov.gg/inertwaste*.

A new site at Longue Hougue South, would involve creating a new breakwater, approximately 800 metres long and extending up to 300 metres offshore. Construction could take up to two years, and once complete, the area bounded by the new structure would be used to dispose of inert waste. This would mirror the activities at the current Longue Hougue land reclamation site.

It is anticipated the new site would have an operational life of approximately 12 to 15 years.

Benefits identified

- Has the largest capacity of any site available in the required timeframe;
- Combination of capacity and location result in a cheaper cost compared to other land reclamation options;
- Based on a high level assessment, environmental impacts are more limited and manageable compared to other options;
- Greater coastal defence for nearby properties;

- When complete, it will provide valuable additional land - but any future development would be subject to a separate environmental assessment.

Draft Scoping Document

The draft EIA Scoping Document outlines the baseline environment within and surrounding Longue Hougue South. For example:-

- From a wildlife perspective, the Herm, Jethou & the Humps Ramsar site for sea birds is 2.1km from the development boundary, and the site itself is used by a variety of bird species for foraging on the foreshore.
- The site also lies on a small section of the coastal Area of Biodiversity Importance (ABI), and is the location of geologically significant St Peter Port Gabbro rock, and home to a potentially rare species of cricket.
- From a landscape perspective, the area immediately west of and adjacent to the site with the Spur Point public footpath and garden has a rural rather than urban character.
- Guernsey has rich archaeological assets, with evidence of human activity and settlement from 8,000 BC. There are a number of significant assets within 250m of the site, including a protected monument at Mont Crevelt, WWII fortifications, and various maritime artefacts.

Table 1 provides a summary of the potential impacts that are considered likely in both the construction and operation of the site. Therefore, they proposed for inclusion in the detailed EIA.

The full draft EIA Scoping Document, detailing the potential environmental impacts of the proposed scheme and the planned survey schedule, can be found at *www.gov.gg/inertwaste*.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The next stage of the EIA process will assess each impact in detail. This will include methods such as:-

- Coastal tidal modelling;
- Marine ecology and sediment surveys;
- Overwintering bird surveys;
- Air quality monitoring;
- Noise monitoring; and
- Baseline traffic surveys.

Table 1- Potential impacts identified in the Draft EIA Scoping Document

Topic	Potential Impacts
Coastal Processes	Effect on waves, tidal currents and sediment.
Marine Sediment and Water Quality	Contamination release; other water quality impacts.
Surface Water and Flooding	Surface water run-off; flood defence; pollution of water sources.
Land Use, Land and Soil Quality, Geology and Hydrology	Disturbance to geological sites, disruption to existing land uses.
Traffic and Transport	Effect of construction traffic on congestion and road safety
Air Quality	Increase in air pollution and/or dust
Noise and Vibration	Vibration and/or noise disturbance from construction activity and/or traffic.
Population and Human Health	Impact on recreation, human health, and increased industrialisation during construction
Material Assets (Archaeology and Built Heritage)	Indirect impacts on known and unknown archaeological sites
Landscape and Visual Character	Impact on landscape character and/or visual amenity.
Marine Ecology	Physical disturbance; sediment movement; marine habitat loss or impact; effect on protected marine features and/or wildlife,
Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology	Disturbance to birds; wildlife habitat loss; impacts on prey; and potential impact on protected sites.

Consultation

Consultation and engagement is ongoing throughout the EIA process. This will help identify the likely considerations and expectations regarding potential constraints, baseline requirements, potentially significant impacts to consider and further details on environmental opportunities. This is done by:

- Liaison with relevant local experts and interested parties to obtain further key data;
- Discussions with relevant States departments to confirm the EIA scope and gain feedback on social, environmental and technical aspects;
- Meetings with key local environmental stakeholders, to review the proposed scope of the EIA to garner their concerns;
- Circulation of the draft EIA Scoping Document to stakeholders for comment and feedback;
- A public drop-in event for islanders to discuss the proposed EIA and raise any issues, concerns or suggestions;
- The full scoping document (and this non-technical summary) will also be made available online for the public to provide feedback; A further pubic drop-in will be planned for later in 2019, when the initial EIA assessments have been completed.

More details of the inert waste project, including the full draft EIA Scoping Document, can be found at *www.gov.gg/inertwaste***.**

Any questions or comments can be forwarded to *tradingassets@gov.gg***. Alternatively, the project team can be contacted by calling 01481 231200.**