

## Old Kent Road IWMF

### Frequently asked questions

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1. **What is Veolia Environmental Services building on Old Kent Road?**  
An Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF) which will handle most of Southwark's recycling and waste. Building this state of the art facility will enable us to divert most of Southwark's waste away from landfill and recycle more than ever before.
2. **Why does the facility have to be located on Old Kent Road?**  
Southwark Council spent several years considering all possible sites in the borough. The old gasworks site was identified as the only possible option in Southwark.
3. **What's wrong with the current site at Manor Place on Walworth Road?**  
Manor Place is almost running at capacity in terms of the amount of waste that it is allowed to handle – it was built at a time when much less waste was produced. The site is in a residential and shopping area and is difficult to access. There is a railway line operating through the middle and there are some listed buildings on the site. All of the above mean that the Manor Place site cannot be expanded.
4. **What will happen on the site when the new facility is complete?**  
The site will comprise a Household Waste Reuse and Recycling Centre (HWRRC), a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), a Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) process, a transfer station and an education centre. All these facilities are needed to reach recycling targets and reduce the amount of rubbish sent to landfill.
5. **What is a Household Waste Reuse and Recycling Centre (HWRRC)?**  
The Household Waste Reuse and Recycling Centre will accept a range of materials from householders for recycling reuse and disposal, including:

aerosols (empty)	gas bottles
batteries (household and car)	glass bottles and jars
building rubble and hardcore	ink and toner cartridges
cans and tins	metal
card and cardboard	mobile phones
cartons (food and drink cartons, eg Tetra Paks)	oil, used engine and cooking oil
CDs, DVDs, cassettes and videos	paint
clothes and shoes	paper such as newspapers, magazines, catalogues and directories, including the Yellow Pages
electrical appliances, large and small	plasterboard
electronic equipment	plastic bottles and food containers, like yoghurt pots and ready meal food trays
energy saving lightbulbs	textiles
fluorescent tubes	tyres
furniture	wood, timber, MDF and chipboard
garden waste	

6. **What is a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)?**  
A Materials Recovery Facility is designed to separate materials collected in the recycling scheme, such as glass, paper and cardboard, steel and aluminium cans and plastic. The separation processes uses state of the art machinery and some manual labour to sort the different materials into the highest quality possible. The separated materials are then sent to reprocessors who recycle them into something new.

**7. What is Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT)?**

Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) is the part of the facility that will deal with rubbish that would normally go to landfill. The process extracts some materials that are suitable for recycling, eg scrap metal, and treats the rest of the waste to produce a product that can either be used as a fuel at an energy recovery facility or a stabilised material for landfill disposal.

**8. What happens in the Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) process?**

The MBT process consists of two different stages. The first stage of the process involves mechanically sorting the waste to remove items that can be recycled, eg scrap metal. The bags of waste are split open and the waste is sorted into smaller and larger pieces, which will then go through to the next stage of the process. The second stage of the process is the biological phase where the remaining waste is allowed to breakdown naturally in a controlled environment. This prevents harmful gases, eg methane, that would otherwise be produced in landfill from being released.

**9. Are any chemicals added as part of the biological stage of the MBT?**

No, this is a natural process similar to composting and no chemicals are added at any stage.

**10. What happens at the transfer station?**

The transfer station acts as a collection point for materials that are unsuitable for further processing in the facility. Some examples of materials passing through the transfer station are garden waste and small amounts of rubble from the HWRRC. These materials will be securely stored for a limited time before being transferred to other facilities.

**11. Will there be clinical waste on site?**

As at Manor Place Depot, a limited amount of clinical waste will be stored on site while awaiting collection for onward disposal. It will consist of low-risk waste, such as sanitary items, swabs and disused needles from home medication. These items will be stored in a container in accordance with the Controlled Waste Regulations and site licence conditions. This storage container will be securely sealed and will be cleaned each week.

**12. Are you building an incinerator?**

No, we are not building an incinerator. Planning permission for an incinerator has not been applied for and the Environmental Permit for the site will not allow Veolia to do this. Furthermore, it would not be financially viable to build an incinerator as there is one a few miles away (SELCHP).

**13. What will happen to the residue from the MBT process? Will it be incinerated?**

Much of the output from the MBT process will be sent for energy recovery at the SELCHP plant, in Lewisham. However, in the long term, Veolia plans to investigate other markets for this product.

**14. Will it only be household waste that is processed on the site?**

As with Manor Place Depot, the new facility will take in mostly household waste as well as a limited amount of business waste of a similar nature.

**15. What is the size of the proposed site?**

The size of the proposed site for development is 5.5 hectares.

**16. How big will the buildings be?**

The main building will be:

135m (443ft) long

13.5m (44.3ft) tall at the eaves, 16m (52.5ft) in the centre of the roof

35m (114ft) height of stack

**17. How far will the site be to the nearest household?**

The nearest household will be approximately 35m (114ft). There will be trees planted on the periphery of the site to shield the IWMF buildings from sight.

**18. Will there be any green space incorporated into the new site?**

The planning for the site includes landscaping with trees. Wildlife will be encouraged via the placing of stag beetle loggeries and bat and bird boxes around the site.

**19. When will the site be operating?**

The site will be operating 24 hours a day. The arrival of recyclables and waste will mostly occur between 6.00am to 6.00pm. The HWRRC opening hours will be the same as at Manor Place Depot which is 8.00am to 6.00pm from October to March and 8.00am to 8.00pm from April to September.

**Environment and Health**

**20. Will it smell?**

No, the facility is designed to prevent smells being let out. Odour and air quality will be closely monitored by the Environment Agency to ensure that bad smells are not released.

**21. Will it be noisy?**

No, the centre will be designed so that waste activities are contained within buildings. There will be rapid closing doors on all entrances which will be low-noise, made with a double layer fabric. Noise will also be monitored by the Environment Agency and Southwark Council's noise team.

**22. Will the site attract vermin?**

Veolia have taken all possible steps to prevent vermin being attracted to the area. All waste will be stored and treated in enclosed buildings which will not be accessible to vermin. Veolia will also have onsite pest control.

**23. What about pollution in the area?**

The facility will not give off dangerous emissions or pollutants and will not present a health risk to people living in surrounding areas.

**24. How will the site affect traffic on the Old Kent Road?**

We realise that the Old Kent Road is currently very busy however this site is the best and only option. Veolia will manage traffic movements to minimise the impact on the Old Kent Road and traffic movements will be closely monitored by Southwark Council. Southwark Council will also monitor noise coming from traffic and the facility itself.

**25. How will the trucks access the site?**

All vehicles will access the site via the Old Kent Road and will use main roads instead of back streets. The entrance will be via Devon Street and a planning application has been submitted for a new road that will exit on to the Old Kent Road to the right of the Jet petrol station. Veolia vehicles will be given set routes around the borough and they will only be allowed to use approved routes.

**26. What's in it for local residents? What gains will the new site bring?**

The new facility will enable us to divert much more of Southwark's waste produced away from landfill and increase recycling rates, which of course is good not only for the local area, but the borough as a whole. There will also be an education centre so that residents and local school children can learn more about recycling and waste management.

**27. Will there be employment opportunities for local people?**

There will be job opportunities at the new site, and we would encourage local people to apply. Jobs will be created during both the construction and operational phases. When we plan to recruit we will advise via the Veolia website and local press.

**Construction**

**28. How long will it take to build the site?**

We estimate that the build will take about two years. If all goes well the facility is likely to be operational in late 2011 or early 2012.

**29. Is the site safe to build on?**

Yes, the site has been remediated to decontaminate the land so it is suitable to build on. The preparation work included clearance and removal of asbestos, demolition, earthworks, remediation and the diversion of utilities on the site. The remediation work was undertaken by specialist contractors VolkerFitzpatrick. Actual construction is now underway.

**30. What will VolkerFitzpatrick's working hours be during construction?**

Monday to Friday (08.00 – 18.00) Saturday (08.00 – 13.00)

**31. Is there a complaints system in place?**

All VolkerFitzpatrick sites are registered with the Considerate Construction scheme. If there are any problems please contact VolkerFitzpatrick directly using their onsite telephone: 0207 635 7457.

**32. How secure will the site be during construction?**

There will be 24-hour security on the site.

**33. How will you keep me informed?**

The best way to stay informed is by checking Veolia's website at [www.veolia.co.uk/southwark](http://www.veolia.co.uk/southwark). Information can also be found via Southwark Council's website [www.southwark.gov.uk/oldkentroad](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/oldkentroad). We will continue to keep local people informed through a range of activities including leaflets, articles in the local press and newsletters.

**Glossary**

**EA:** Environment Agency

**ERF:** Energy Recovery Facility

**HWRRC:** Household Waste Re-use and Recycling Centre

**MBT:** Mechanical-Biological Treatment

**MPD:** Manor Place Depot – the existing depot of waste collection vehicles, transfer station and HWRRC

**MRF:** Materials Recovery Facility

**MSW:** Municipal Solid Waste

**SELCHP:** South East London Combined Heat and Power

**SRF:** Secondary Recovered Fuel

**WTS:** Waste Transfer Station