

Consultation starts on a permit variation application in Horsham

Press release

Britaniacrest Recycling Ltd applies for an environmental permit variation for a recycling, recovery and renewable energy facility, near Horsham.



The Environment Agency is holding a public consultation on an application from Britaniacrest Recycling Limited for an environmental permit variation. The variation is to add mechanical sorting and an energy recovery facility to their site off Langhurstwood Road near Horsham, West Sussex.

Wealden Works Recycling, Recovery and Renewable (3Rs) Energy facility would be capable of treating up to 230,000 tonnes of non-recyclable non-hazardous waste each year from homes and businesses across west Sussex and its neighbouring counties. Asbestos can also be accepted and stored but will not be used in the energy recovery facility. Electricity generated by the energy recovery facility will be exported to the local electrical grid.

The Environment Agency is now seeking comments on the company's application from the local community and interested groups. Information received about relevant environmental considerations during the consultation will be used to help determine the application as part of a detailed and rigorous assessment of the proposed operation.

A permit variation will only be issued if the operator demonstrates that it meets all legal requirements of the Environment Permitting Regulations and that the facility will be operated in a way that provides a high level of protection of the environment and human health.

Michael Turner, Area Environment Manager at the Environment Agency, said:

When we make a permit decision, we use information on the potential environmental and human health impacts of the activity. Our officers have the specialist knowledge and skills that are required to assess this application.

Public consultation lets people and organisations take part in our decision making. As this consultation is for an environmental permit variation we are looking specifically for environmental or health considerations. You can comment on issues that could affect you or where you have particular knowledge. We take all relevant comments into account so we can make better decisions.

Should we issue a permit, our expert officers will regularly audit the operation, including analysing monitoring data. We have the right to conduct unannounced inspections.

The consultation runs from 13 May until 24 June 2021. [Application documents are available to view](#). Comments can be made online or they can be emailed to us at pscpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Published 13 May 2021

Yorkshire wetlands designated Site of Special Scientific Interest

Natural England has today officially notified that the Dearne Valley Wetlands is a SSSI for its nationally important bird species, including the willow tit, as well as wetland birds such as bittern, garganey, lapwing, redshank and avocet.

The SSSI links different pockets of valuable habitat in the Dearne Valley area between Pool Ings near Royston in the north, a large area between Worsbrough in the west, and Adwick Washland in the east.

Natural England worked with a number of organisations on the SSSI proposal, including the RSPB, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Garganey Trust, Environment Agency, Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster councils, together known as the Dearne Valley Green Heart Partnership.

Paul Duncan, Natural England Area Manager, said:

Much of the land within the Site of Special Scientific Interest was formerly used for coal mining. The brownfield land of disused railway lines and spoil heaps has developed important scrub habitats while other land has been used to create new wet grasslands, wetlands and open water sites.

Many areas of the Dearne Valley Wetlands have public access including the RSPB reserve at Old Moor, so it not only protects

valuable habitat but it also gives opportunities for local people and visitors to experience and connect with the rich wildlife of the valley, as well as provide economic benefit to the area.

The designation as a SSSI ensures the national importance of this place for nature and people can be fully taken into account in future decisions regarding its use and management.

A key factor in achieving the SSSI status was the stronghold of willow tits, a nationally important bird species, which has declined by 94% since the 1970s and is now this country's most threatened resident bird species.

One of the catalysts for the regeneration was the establishment of Old Moor nature reserve by Barnsley Council in 1998, before management was taken over by the RSPB in 2003.

RSPB Yorkshire and Humber Area Manager Richard Barnard said:

The restoration and improvement of the Dearne Valley into the nationally important home for wildlife that it is today is one of the great success stories in UK nature conservation.

The history of the Dearne shows how investing in nature is vital for addressing the nature and climate emergency and can help bring wildlife back to the nature-depleted environments from which it has been lost.

In the Dearne Valley, investment in sites like RSPB Old Moor has led to wetlands that help protect homes and businesses from flooding, provide jobs for local people, and offer amazing, nature-rich recreation opportunities, as well as homes for wildlife.

This has only come about because of the combined efforts and commitment of all involved. From the local birders protecting the original wetlands through to the partners involved today, it has been a real team effort that should bring hope to everyone.

Large parts of the wetlands that now form part of the SSSI were established for flood risk management purposes by the Environment Agency to slow the flow of water down the Dearne Valley to the River Don, including Bolton Ings, Adwick and Houghton and protect communities along the rivers Dearne and Don.

Anthony Downing, Environment Agency catchment co-ordinator for the Don and Rother, said:

In the 1980s, the Dearne Valley was a post-industrial landscape including the bulldozed remains of the pits, spoil heaps, coking plants and railway marshalling yards, known locally as 'Hell's Kitchen' because of the frequent fires that broke out there.

The transformation of the Dearne Valley following the closure of the coal mining industry and coke works to this remarkable landmark of SSSI notification is a truly fantastic achievement, and it is thanks to the tireless efforts of a partnership of organisations and dedicated individuals.

One of the key drivers of the habitat regeneration was combining nature with flood risk solutions – the washlands still provide the flood risk protection but also wider benefits not only for wildlife but also create a ‘green lung’ for the people of the Dearne Valley.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Chief Executive Rachael Bice said:

A truly inspiring transformation has occurred over a few decades to make this place, so culturally important to the residents of Barnsley, into an abundant living tapestry where both wildlife and people can thrive. The Dearne Valley was stripped bare and polluted during the Industrial Revolution as coal mines reshaped the landscape and waterways in the area.

Yet nature has recovered here with help from a committed partnership stewarding the changes, and this landscape is now a national exemplar for what is possible, when we support nature to flourish again. It is wonderful that Natural England have designated this landscape recognising the impact of the work done with the community.

Cllr Tim Cheetham, Cabinet Spokesperson for Regeneration and Culture, said:

The fantastic news that the Dearne Valley Wetlands is being designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest is testament to the incredible work of a huge number of people and organisations over many years.

Two of the borough’s many renowned visitor attractions, Barnsley Council’s Worsbrough Mill and Country Park and RSPB Old Moor, are among a total of 15 sub-sites recognised here for their staggering conservation success seen in recent years.

This designation demonstrates that through much hard work and commitment, it’s possible to see tremendous recovery of habitats and animals in areas where more than a century of industry has weighed heavily on the landscape.

We are now able to look forward to further recovery of our natural environment alongside further growth of our economy, through sustainable development and enhancement of this SSSI going hand-in-hand.

Garganey Trust Chairman Jeff Lunn BEM said:

This is fabulous news for the Dearne Valley and we are thrilled that our site at Broomhill Flash has been recognised in this way. We've described the wetlands along the Dearne as a 'string of pearls' for many years and so it is fitting that their true value is now being appreciated. It shows that we can make a real contribution locally to the twin global crises of the loss of our planet's wildlife and combatting the effects of climate change.

Natural England has notified landowners and occupiers, and statutory bodies of the designation of the Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI. There is now a four month consultation period in which people can give their views.

For further information on [Dearne Valley Wetlands](#)

Notes to editors

For people wishing to visit parts of the Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI the following access points are open to the public (subject to the latest coronavirus restrictions – check before visiting):

- Worsbrough Reservoir Country Park and Local Nature Reserve managed by Barnsley Council. Main car park off the A61 at Worsbrough Bridge (parking fees apply).
- Carlton Marsh Nature Reserve managed by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Small car park open daily during working hours off Shaw Lane (the road from Carlton to Cudworth).
- Adwick Washlands managed by the RSPB. Small car park (free) off the B6098 between Wath-upon-Deane and Bolton-upon-Deane.
- Old Moor managed by the RSPB. Large car park, visitor centre and café off the A633 Manvers Way at Broomhill.
- Broomhill Flash Nature Reserve managed by the Garganey Trust. Small car park (free) off Everill Gate Lane, Broomhill.

CMA open letter to package travel sector

We use some essential cookies to make this website work.

We'd like to set additional cookies to understand how you use GOV.UK, remember your settings and improve government services.

We also use cookies set by other sites to help us deliver content from their services.

CMA warns package travel firms over refunds ahead of summer trips

Press release

The CMA has warned package holiday companies to respect the refund rights of holidaymakers ahead of the summer period.



The CMA has warned package holiday companies to respect the refund rights of holidaymakers ahead of the summer period.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has published [a further open letter](#) to the sector and has also sent it directly to the 100 package travel firms with the most complaints about them. The letter reminds the firms of their legal obligations and of the need to ensure refund options are clear and accessible.

As a result of CMA action, TUI UK has now [given a formal commitment – known as ‘undertakings’](#) – to provide clearer information on refunds upfront to customers whose holidays have been cancelled due to coronavirus (COVID-19). The company had already taken steps to meet concerns raised by the CMA, by improving the information it provides to customers and making it easier for people to get their money back.

Since March 2020, the CMA has received over 23,000 complaints from consumers about refund issues relating to package holidays that could not go ahead due to the pandemic. In acknowledgement of this, today’s letter to the package travel sector sets out what businesses should provide and what customers can expect, including:

- holidays cancelled by package holiday companies must be refunded within 14 days under the Package Travel Regulations (PTRs).
- any offer of a refund credit note must be accompanied by the option of a full refund. Customers should be able to exchange their credit note for a refund at any time.

- people have a right to a full refund where they decide to cancel their package because unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances at the destination significantly affect the holiday they have booked or their travel there.
- if the FCD0 (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) is advising against travel to the package holiday destination when the consumer is due to leave, that is, in the CMA's view, strong evidence that these unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances are likely to apply. If the consumer is refused a full refund, the package holiday company should fully explain why it disagrees that the holiday or travel is significantly affected.

Andrea Coscelli, Chief Executive of the CMA, said:

International travel is set to resume soon and lots of people will be considering a long-awaited trip abroad. With that in mind, we want to make sure people are fully aware of their refund rights, so they can make informed choices about booking a holiday.

We've secured millions in refunds for people who couldn't go on their hard-earned trips over the past year and now we're calling on package holiday companies to make the refund process less hassle in the future. We expect all firms to give clear cancellation options and will consider appropriate steps if we see companies breaking the law by refusing or delaying refunds this summer.

Today's letter and the commitments from TUI follow action the CMA has already [taken against 5 major package travel companies](#), which have provided more than £200 million in refunds for customers.

Further information on this case can be found on the [COVID-19 cancellations: package holidays web page](#).

1. The CMA has taken significant action in relation to [Teletext](#) and secured refund commitments from [LoveHolidays](#), [Lastminute.com](#), [Virgin Holidays](#), and [TUI UK](#).
2. The CMA also published an open letter to package holiday companies last summer: [CMA open letter to all package holiday businesses](#)
3. The key pieces of consumer protection legislation relevant to the CMA's work are the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (CPRs) and the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 (the PTRs). The CPRs prohibit unfair commercial practices by businesses towards consumers and the PTRs provide consumers with certain rights specifically in relation to package travel.
4. Under Regulation 12(7) and (8) of the PTRs, a traveller has a right to cancel their package holiday and receive a full refund where there are extraordinary and unavoidable circumstances at the package destination or the immediate area, which significantly affect the provision of the package or the transport of passengers there.

Premier League Broadcast Rights – Potential Exclusion Order

Letter to the Premier League on behalf of the Business Secretary and Culture Secretary setting out that the Business Secretary is minded to make an Exclusion Order regarding the Premier League's domestic broadcast rights, and inviting representations – including correspondence from the Premier League on the proposal.

Letter from the Minister for Sport to the Chairs of the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee and the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee setting out the final decision to make an Exclusion Order regarding the Premier League's domestic broadcast rights after careful consideration of the representations received.