



PRESS RELEASE

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The Hills Waste Solutions team leading the new operation at Parkgate Farm – Paul Lawrence, Garry Johnson, Ed Dodd, Brian Fitzpatrick, Peter Andrew and Jamie Cameron (photo available as jpeg).

The UK's newest hazardous waste facility today (26 June) opened its gates to serve the needs of a wide area of the south, west and Midlands.

Hills Waste Solutions' Parkgate Farm project at Purton, near Swindon is believed to be the first new facility of its type to receive planning permission since the Landfill Directive banned co-disposal of different wastes and reduced available hazardous sites to a handful. There are now only 12 such sites across England.

Parkgate Farm takes over from Hills' neighbouring Purton hazardous waste landfill site, which is now closing and will be restored over the coming months. Planning permission for Parkgate Farm was granted by Wiltshire County Council in July 2006 when it recognised that the site had a regional and national role to play. Hills has now

engineered the first cell for the 50,000 tpa operation, and a Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) permit has been given.

Parkgate Farm is well placed for access from the M4 corridor via the A419 and has good links also to the Midlands via the M5, M40 and M42.



Hills is offering a full technical and advisory service to support the new operation and aims to turn round waste analyses within 24 hours. The company also has licensed asbestos disposals facilities at another site just a few miles away.

Management of the new operation is in the hands of a Hills team led by Waste Disposal and Treatment Manager, Peter Andrew. Working with him are Waste Facilities Manager Ed Dodd, Projects Manager Garry Johnson, Hazardous Waste Controller Paul Lawrence, Hazardous Waste Sales Representative Jamie Cameron, and Site Manager Brian Fitzpatrick.

Parkgate Farm is located on a deposit of highly impermeable Oxford clay some 100 metres deep. This band of clay only occurs in isolated areas across England but makes for one of the best geological settings for all types of landfill. Rigorous testing has proved the impermeable nature of the clay which prevents any liquid within it from reaching ground water. Leachate generated by the waste can then be collected and pumped away for treatment. As each phase of the landfill is completed, a minimum of a one-metre layer of engineered clay is used to cap the site, so creating a total seal. Soils are replaced above this and the site returned to agriculture.

Oxford clay, itself a valuable mineral, is extracted prior to the landfilling. The clay, because of its impermeability and stability, has a number of high specification engineering uses and has recently been used in the construction of the A419 Commonhead junction improvement at Swindon

Contaminated soils are likely to form the biggest area of business for Parkgate Farm, so making an important contribution to the Government's drive to secure re-use of brownfield sites. Other permitted wastes will include filter cakes and sludges from industrial processes plus crushed (and empty) paint and aerosol cans and crushed oil

filters from vehicles. The site will not be permitted to handle liquid wastes, nor anything likely to be explosive, radioactive, corrosive or inflammable.

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