

Main matter 5 – Inert waste – MATTER 5/31452

Whether C & D Waste is appropriately classified as

- a) Inert
- b) How inert waste should be managed
- c) Is there sufficient capacity to manage this material
- a) Lynx believe there is a major difference between C & D Waste which may or may not be inert and the extremely large volumes of clays / subsoils / soils generated from the construction industry which are most certainly inert.

C & D Waste is mainly skip type material often containing plasterboard, timber, plastics etc. Such material is capable of recycling albeit the fines (soil looking) produced contains many impurities.

In many cases they are unsuitable for re-sale and go as cover to the domestic refuse sites. Such sites are usually quite happy to receive these low tonnages as they act as daily cover. They are not required in large quantities.

Due to the very low commercial value at the disposal point they are kept to a minimum leaving the more valuable airspace available for the higher rate disposal.

- b) The larger volumes of excavated materials being clays / subsoils / soils exceed 1 million cubes per annum in the Greater Manchester area alone.

They have minimal recycling value and are not required by the major landfills until such sites are ready for final restoration. It is not commercially viable to create transfer stations for this material as the double handling costs make it totally unviable.

History has proven on numerous occasions that less scrupulous operators have commenced transfer stations only to fill them beyond their legal planning, then collapse the company leaving the local council to pick up the vast cost of removal.

It is our belief that in the first instance every single planning application should have a simple column stating anticipated volume of material to be removed from site and to which legal disposal point. This would identify the volume of airspace required in certain areas but also make the contractor responsible for his "muck" and prevent illegal dumping.

Planners should work very closely with restoration contractors to assist with applications for such disposal points; most relate to the filling of old quarries etc.

It would also help if this material from which our Earth is made is declassified from the title of "waste". This would remove a major burden on the industry as such material can then be

used for the benefit of the community from whence it came. Landscaping, flood defences, restoration of old mine workings and many more.

- c) There is currently a major shortage of airspace especially in the South Manchester area and it is envisaged that there is less than 1,000,000 cubic metres airspace in the Greater Manchester area.

This represents one year of normal trading conditions after which one is reliant on private enterprise finding other sites.

With planning taking as long as two years to process these sites, the position is very serious, especially when the housing market turns which it most certainly will.

If the matter is not properly addressed now, then the environmental impact of more vehicles hauling longer distances with greater fuel usage is inevitable, also the cost of such removal will reflect on the development.

It is not cost effective to leave this material on site, as with the cost of land being so high it would take up valuable development area.

The answer, firstly recognise the large volume generated.

Identify sites North, South, East and West of the Greater Manchester area which may benefit from re-contouring.

Form a committee of planners, Environment Agency, and Contractors to formulate the best way to handle such valuable material.

Finally, remove its classification as "waste".