

# HALVING WASTE TO LANDFILL

**Based in south east London, H Sivyer (Transport) Limited provide a waste management service**

**D**espite having its roots in the Nineteenth Century, with its existing head office site having been used as a haulage and coaching yard, H Sivyer now runs a modern aggregates and waste management operation. It was incorporated in 1978 as a waste removal or 'muck away' service provider and aggregate haulier and supplier.

Back then, the emphasis was on removing rather than recycling waste materials. The big change came about with alterations to the landfill regulations that prompted a move to the controlled production of recycled aggregates, which it undertakes at the Victoria Deep Water Terminal and Bethel's Wharf at Greenwich. Here, it extracts most of the mineral content from various utility, construction and demolition waste streams and has a zero waste to landfill target.

The company now has three main activities – supplying primary aggregates, processing and supplying recycled aggregates and providing waste management services. Primary aggregates comprise materials such as shingle, ballast, sand and topsoil, which it supplies to customers such as Morrison Utility Services, leading construction company Skanska McNicholas and building material suppliers Jewson, Travis Perkins and Buildbase.

Recycled aggregates include crushed concrete, hardcore and crushed tarmac, with customers including Thames Water where Sivyer is a framework supplier to the Victorian Mains





Replacement Project. The use of recycled aggregates reduces the demand for primary aggregates and at the same time prevents material going to landfill, providing a cost-effective and environmentally friendly service.

#### QUALITY PROTOCOL

Sivyer adheres strictly to WRAP's Quality Protocol format for the processing of recycled aggregate at its Victoria Deep Water Terminal recycling facility. This ensures all waste received there is processed, stockpiled, tested and supplied as recycled aggregate through a visible and accountable structure so it can be reviewed and audited.

The company is a registered waste haulier and provides a range of waste management services that include excavation, haulage and disposal, tipping, testing and advisory services. It's also a signatory to WRAP's Halving Waste to Landfill agreement, with the initiative closely aligned to Sivyer's business plan. Since the construction industry produces an estimated 120 million tonnes of waste in the UK each year and over 20 million tonnes goes straight to landfill, many contractors now insist on having robust data on recycling and recovery rates to satisfy reporting requirements. The company operates a comprehensive system of data capture, recording loads right through the cycle to create a detailed data trail. This demonstrates the efficiency of Sivyer's waste recovery

operation and helps contractors meet their own waste reduction objectives.

Despite the economic downturn reducing overall demand, the medium to long-term future is for greater use of recycled aggregate materials. The aim, therefore, is to have more input material converted into a product that can be used by clients. At the same time, Sivyer is trying to ensure received materials are high quality to reduce potential contamination hazards and is working to raise overall output quality. The company's quality management system has ISO 9001 accreditation.

The nature of the work means health and safety is a priority, with risk assessments undertaken for all operations that have any identified risk. There's also ongoing research into the types of risk, the scope of hazards and possible occurrences, with full training given to all staff.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Most of Sivyer's activities have environmental implications so it has an environmental policy that's constantly audited. It works with key suppliers to achieve its primary goals in respect of waste control and pollution, is a member of trade associations such as the FTA, attends workshops and seminars and has an on-going dialogue with the Environment Agency.

It's also a member of the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme, which identi-

fies sustainable resource management solutions for business. It was contacted by Creasey Castings, a non-ferrous foundry that wanted to avoid the cost of sending spent foundry sand to landfill. Sivyer was brought in and reprocessed the spent sand to produce a backfill product for the construction industry. The outcome was that Creasey Castings enjoyed significant cost savings while Sivyer was able to create additional sales and divert material from landfill at the same time.

The company operates a fleet of around seventy vehicles, with thirty of them being grab-equipped for self-loading. All vehicles are specifically designed for the transport of waste and have on-board weighing systems. These ensure that all loads are accurately measured, which means that customers are charged accurately, there are less under-weight loads and less environmental impact due to fewer trips.

Environmental impact is also minimised through having a modern fleet. Whilst current emission limits on vehicles working in London are to Euro 3 standard, around 40% of Sivyer's vehicles are to Euro 5 standard and a further 30% achieve Euro 4 standard, leaving only 30% at the minimum level.

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