Climate Change and Extreme Weather Resilience

Frank Mercer & Sons Ltd Chequerbent Works, Manchester Road, Westhoughton, BL5 3JF

1. Purpose

This section describes how the site identifies, assesses and manages risks associated with climate change and extreme weather events in accordance with Environmental Permitting requirements.

2. Flood Risk and Surface Water Management

The site has been reviewed against Environment Agency flood mapping and is not located within a high-probability fluvial flood zone. There are no direct watercourses within the operational waste storage area.

Controls for extreme rainfall include impermeable hardstanding, sealed drainage systems, routine drainage inspections, stockpile management, and fire water containment capacity exceeding worst-case calculated requirements.

3. Heatwaves and Elevated Fire Risk

Higher temperatures may increase combustible waste ignition risk. Controls include maximum stockpile size limits, 6 metre fire break separation, limited storage duration (≤3 weeks worst case), daily inspection, 24-hour security and CCTV, and hot works permit systems.

During extreme heat alerts, inspection frequency is increased and high-risk activities may be temporarily reduced if necessary.

4. Storm Events and High Winds

Storm events may increase wind-blown waste risk and infrastructure stress. Controls include 2.4m perimeter fencing, secure storage within designated bays, routine inspection of containment structures, and immediate collection of any displaced material.

5. Drought and Dust Generation

Hot and dry conditions may increase fugitive dust risk. Controls include regular housekeeping, controlled vehicle speeds, hardstanding surfaces, visual monitoring, and damping down procedures where required.

6. Power Failure and Utility Disruption

Severe weather may cause power disruption. Controls include manual operational procedures, emergency contact systems, and suspension of waste acceptance during extended outages if required.

7. Management Review and Continuous Improvement

Climate resilience is reviewed annually as part of the Environmental Management System review and following any significant extreme weather event. Procedures are updated where necessary.

8. Confirmation Statement

Frank Mercer & Sons Ltd confirms that climate-related risks have been assessed and that appropriate engineering, operational and management controls are implemented. Residual risk to the environment from climate-related factors is considered low.