

What's happening?



Onsite Reuse and Recycling of Waste through Linear Network Waste Exemptions

Overview:

Sonic Rail Services Ltd (SRS) were contracted by Network Rail to carry out upgrade works on the Network Rail Thameslink Programme 3rd Rail electrification upgrade framework project, which has recently been completed. The works included: the delivery of electrified track equipment cabling upgrade works, associated track works (UTXs/URX's) and minor civils along much of the length of the London Blackfriars to Brighton line.

This project was completed over a two and a half year period and over a wide geographical area. **SRS overcame the challenges of physically removing waste from a linear site by re-using a very high proportion of activity generated arisings on site.** Waste material was used to provide bedding material for troughing routes, UTX's and URX's, to build up the ground level where required, and for the enhancement of roadways / access tracks from the boundary to the infrastructure at various locations along the route and for the support of existing authorised walking routes.

The legal framework for this was through the use of waste exemptions obtained by SRS from the Environment Agency. The exemptions covered two locations; the linear route from Coulsdon South to Brighton including the sub stations and track electrical sections and Selhurst Sub station.



Two main types of exemption were obtained; a **U1 linear exemption for the use of waste in construction** – including soil and stones, concrete and wood; and a **U12 exemption for spreading of mulch from vegetation clearance**. The exemptions for a linear route carry restrictions on the amount of waste that can be used per linear mile. SRS developed a spreadsheet tracker to ensure that exemption limits were not exceeded across the route.

Benefits:

- Over **450 tonnes of waste re-used** on site.
- **Cost saving = £42,541.25** from avoided waste disposal costs alone (potential cost savings based on costs of waste disposal quoted by the Environment Agency).
- Prevented carbon emissions associated with transporting waste and bringing in raw materials.
- **Project achieved 100% of construction and demolition waste reused or recycled.**

Meeting our Objectives and Targets:

Contribution made to these targets from the TLP Sustainable Design and Construction Strategy 2011:

- Recover 90% of demolition and excavation waste by weight and aim to achieve stretch target of 95%.
 - Recover at least 80% of construction materials and aim to achieve stretch target of 90%.
 - At least 25% of total material value derives from reused and recycled content in new construction.
 - Reduce carbon emissions during construction phase of TLP by 5% (stretch target of 10% reduction) compared to 2010/2011 baseline.

For further information regarding waste exemptions see the Environment Agency website:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/permitting/115597.aspx>