

Proposal for a Depot at the Abbots Depot Site

Frequently asked questions

1. What is being proposed?

The proposal is to re-develop the Abbots Depot Site on Oakleigh Road South to create a new depot for the London Borough of Barnet Council's refuse and recycling collection fleet. This will consist of:

- A maintenance building for its waste and recycling collection vehicles
- Parking spaces for the waste and recycling collection fleet
- A diesel pump for fuelling the vehicles
- A cleaning bay for hosing the vehicles down
- A covered bulking facility for dry recyclables and food waste
- A salt barn and winter gritting facilities
- An office and welfare facilities
- Parking for staff cars

2. Why is this new depot needed?

The Council's current depot in Mill Hill was zoned for housing under the London Plan in 2004. It is now part of a wider housing development and work will begin on building new homes on the site in 2016. A new location is therefore needed for the Council's fleet. A purpose-built depot is essential to the efficient running of operations in the Borough.

The new site will help keep a cap on the cost of refuse collections in Barnet by reducing the number of long distance journeys that have to be taken by the refuse and recycling collection fleet. The site is strategically located near to main road networks and the Council's waste and recycling collection routes meaning that vehicle movements across the borough are minimised.

3. Why choose the Abbots Depot Site?

The Abbots Depot site is zoned for industrial use and is a central location in relation to recycling collection rounds across the borough. It is a privately owned site and is currently vacant.

Another site outside of the borough in Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, is also under consideration. However, using the Abbots Depot Site would reduce journey lengths and times, reducing the cost to the taxpayer and keeping carbon emissions down.

4. What will the hours of operation be?

From Monday to Friday, site operations will typically start at 6:20am, with staff arriving at the site from around 5:45am. The waste and recycling collection vehicles will return to the depot at approximately 4pm and all on-site operations, including office work, should finish by 6pm on most days. In exceptional circumstances, operations may go on until later than this.

On Saturdays there will be a smaller collection operation running from the site. This will start at 6:20am (with staff arriving from 5:45am), but will typically finish by around 2pm.

The winter gritting fleet will operate only when necessary between November and April to make sure that Barnet's roads are safe to drive on.

5. What materials will be handled at the depot?

The material handled at the proposed depot will consist of non-hazardous material, such as dry recyclables (e.g. glass, paper, cans, plastic and cardboard) and food leftovers. All of the material will come from households across the borough of Barnet. Material will not be brought in from outside the borough.

There will be no treatment of the material coming to the site, meaning there will be no emissions from waste processing and therefore, no chimney.

The material brought to the site will be bulked up (consolidated and placed into fewer vehicles) for onward transportation and subsequent treatment.

6. What exactly will be built?

The Council depot will primarily consist of a series of low-rise buildings, similar in appearance to warehouses. There will be no treatment of any waste on site and therefore there will be no chimney of any kind. To ensure the site has minimal visual impact we are incorporating visual screening into our plans.

7. What type of vehicles will be accessing the site?

There will be a range of vehicles entering and exiting the site:

- Recycling collection vehicles will bring materials to the site and leave empty
- Recycling and refuse collection vehicles will come to be serviced at the maintenance facility
- Articulated lorries will take away bulked up materials
- The gritting fleet will come and go from the site only when necessary during the winter
- Fuel delivery lorries will visit the site to re-supply the fuel tank
- Staff will arrive and leave work in their own cars

8. What impact will this have on traffic and the local road network?

A full traffic assessment is currently underway. It is expected that the waste and recycling collection vehicles visiting the site will generate around 127 additional movements per day. This is less than 1% of the current traffic flow on Oakleigh Road on a typical weekday.

All of the Council's drivers receive 'Considerate Driver' training and will be informed of the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) that they must follow. In addition, as part of the plans, the Council is considering ways to improve the feeling of safety for pedestrians walking along Oakleigh Road. The Council wants to hear ideas put forward by local people such as putting-up safety railings along the pavements.

9. Will the Council depot operations impact on local residents and businesses?

The Council is putting measures in place to minimise impact on local residents and businesses.

The operations that will take place at the Council depot are not typically noisy. Even so, they will primarily be carried out in purpose-built, acoustically designed buildings. In addition to this, the Council is looking into noise screening options which will further help to keep noise at low levels.

All of the bulking activity will take place in a covered facility to prevent wind-blown litter. The site will be cleaned-down at the end of each day to make sure that there is no material left to blow around. Vehicles transporting material into and out of the site will also be covered to reduce the likelihood of any material escaping.

There will be no black bag waste brought to the site and all food waste will be transported to site in purpose-built vehicles and held on site in covered containers before being taken off site every day for processing. There will be no material left on-site overnight. The likelihood of odour is therefore very low due to the measures put in place to control potential smells arising from materials delivered to the site.

10. What is the timescale for the project and where can I find out more information?

The Council hopes to submit a planning application in summer 2015. If the planning application is approved, construction could begin in autumn 2015. The site would then become operational from December 2016. These timescales are however, indicative, and subject to change.

All of the project information, including all of the materials presented at this public exhibition can be found at www.barnet.gov.uk/abbotsdepot. Alternatively, you can call the project team on 0800 157 7346, or email them at abbotsdepot@communityrelations.co.uk.