

# Waterbeach MBT Plant

**Client :**  
Donarbon Ltd

**Designer :**  
RPS Burkes Green

**Location :**  
Cambridgeshire

**Date :**  
2008 - 2009



In March 2008 Donarbon awarded BAM Nuttall the design and construct contract for a state of the art Mechanical Biological Treatment Plant [MBT] in Cambridgeshire.

## Scope

Waterbeach will be the first MBT plant to be constructed in the UK using Austrian technology and will be capable of handling 170,000 tonnes of mixed waste per year. The composting process design and machinery (worth 35% of the contract value) will be provided by Austrian based company Kelag Umwelttechnik.

Ultimate client, Cambridgeshire County Council, require Waterbeach to form a key part of their strategy to reduce the volume of waste sent to landfill.

As the waste enters the plant it will be sorted. Materials such as plastics and metals will be separated and recycled. The remaining biodegradable waste will be sent through the composting process where its volume will reduce by 75%.



BAM Nuttall supported Donarbon throughout the PFI bid process as preferred civils contractor. As principal contractor BAM Nuttall will be responsible for managing the supply chain including Kelag.

The chosen location for Waterbeach is an 8 acre green field site. Initial works will include the installation of 5000 vibro-stone columns. The structure itself will consist of an external galvanised steel frame with internal composite cladding panels. The external frame design will protect the structural members from the composting process.

Additional construction will include a 3 storey office building complete with conference rooms, an education centre and welfare facilities as well as car parks and a sustainable drainage system (SUD's).

