

Woodlands Composting Plant

Client :
Veolia Environmental Services

Location :
Kent

Date :
2008 - 2009



The Woodlands Composting facility will recycle up to 31,500 tonnes a year of green waste and 13,500 tonnes of food waste into useable compost

The plant was built on a brownfield site previously used as a chipping and logging facility in Kent.

An ECI contract was awarded before the main contract in order to complete the detailed design, undertake utility diversions and environmental mitigation works. As part of these works, extensive reptile fencing was erected around the proposed site and, over a period of six months, Great Crested Newts and other reptiles were captured and relocated outside the site boundary in a previously prepared area.

During early stages of the design, the earthworks were valued engineered to reduce excavated material for disposal by almost 10,000m³. This revised cut and fill exercise involved some soil engineering to meet the required CBR's for the ground bearing slabs to the buildings and access roads.

The main building is a steel frame 121m x 75m clear span with a height of 15m, internal and external reinforced concrete push walls up to 6m high, and is clad externally in natural cedar giving a 'farm building' appearance.

Eight reinforced concrete tunnels were constructed complete with a humidifier room, underground process water reservoir and a ventilation corridor. Above this is a bio-filter consisting of two steel frame buildings with steel cladding for housing the filter material over precast vented slabs.

A visitors centre with weighbridge and office and a control building with a laboratory were constructed using a steel frame and modular wall system, again with external cedar cladding.

Two ponds, constructed using sprayed concrete, store surface water from the site which is then recycled and used in the process or carefully discharged to a local watercourse.

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