

Artist's impression of how the facility could look.



TOFTS ROAD ENERGY RECOVERY FACILITY

Qualitech Environmental Services Ltd is proposing to construct and operate the Tofts Road Energy Recovery Facility (TRERF) on land off Tofts Road West in Hartlepool.

The facility would provide much-needed capacity to treat hazardous waste arising in the Tees Valley and UK. It would reduce the amount of waste that is currently shipped overseas for treatment, and it would also generate domestic energy, helping to reduce reliance on unstable global supplies.

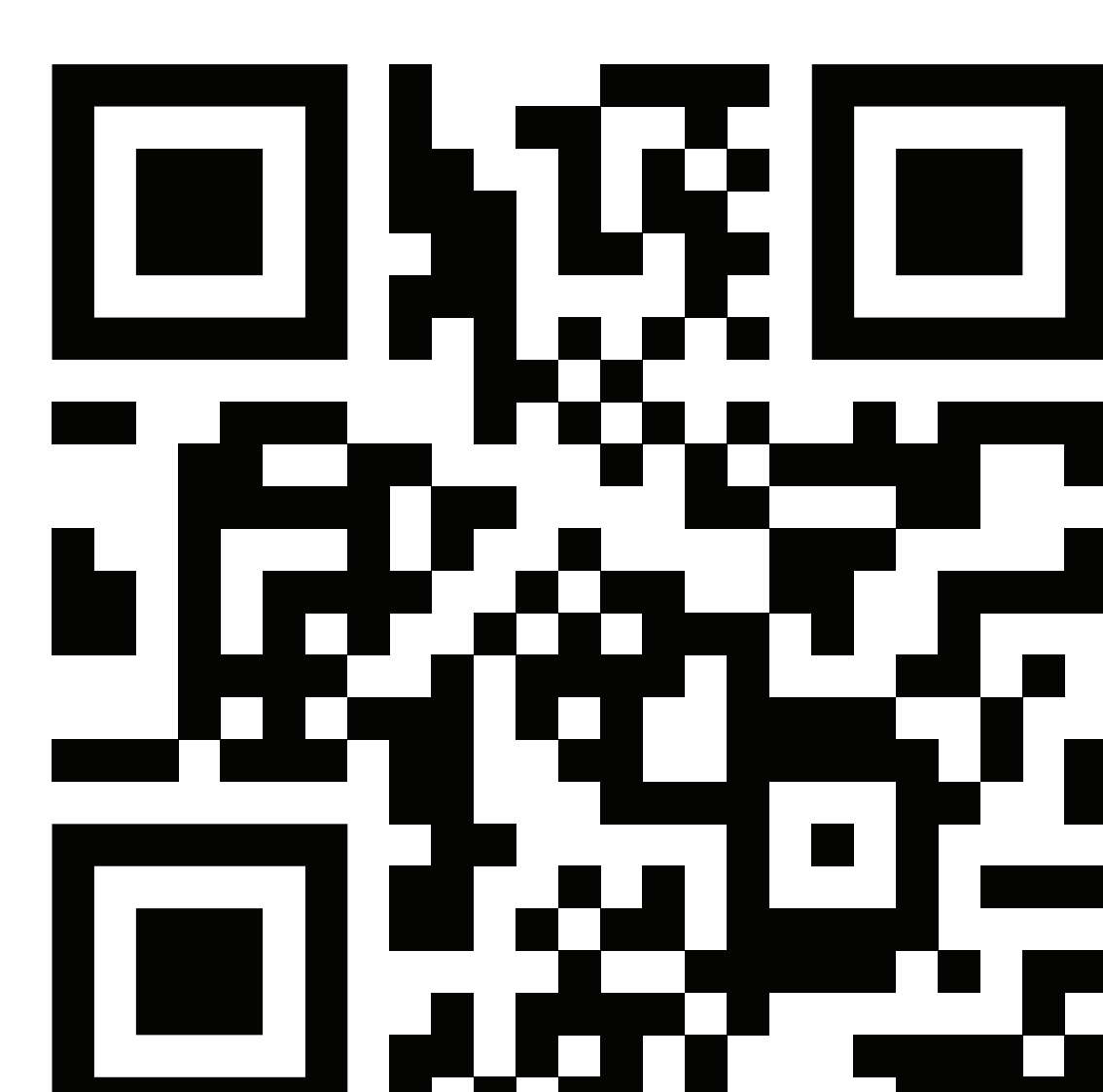
The energy recovered could generate enough electricity to power the equivalent of up to 2,000 homes every year, while heat and steam could also be made available to nearby businesses.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Fill in a feedback form here today or scan the QR code to provide your feedback online.

The consultation closes on 26 June 2026 – please make sure to send your feedback before then.

All feedback will be recorded and considered as we finalise our plans. A consultation report summarising the responses received will be submitted alongside the planning application.



ABOUT QUALITECH

Qualitech Environmental Services Ltd is a specialist waste management company with experience in the safe treatment and disposal of hazardous waste. Forming part of the Qualitech Group, they are recognised as leaders in waste management and industrial services in the UK.

Founded in 2011, the company has continually grown and invested in new technology to improve service, reduce downtime and minimise waste.



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WHY THIS FACILITY IS NEEDED

The UK currently has very limited capacity to treat hazardous waste. The two existing facilities are both over 35 years old and experience frequent shutdowns, meaning they cannot keep up with demand. As a result, thousands of tonnes of hazardous waste is exported to mainland Europe every year – adding to carbon emissions through long-distance road and sea transport.

A new facility in Hartlepool would treat this waste closer to where it is produced, while also generating energy (electricity and heat).

The facility would also be capable of treating per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (known as “forever chemicals”), which do not break down naturally and can only be destroyed at very high temperatures.

WHAT WILL THE FACILITY TREAT?

The facility will treat waste which is classed as hazardous from manufacturing, pharmaceutical facilities, engineering, maintenance and industrial cleaning. Waste will come primarily from the UK, and is likely to come from the North West and North East regions as the majority of hazardous waste for incineration produced in England comes from here.

High-temperature incineration is the only option for the management of these types of wastes, which can't be recycled.



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THE SITE

The site is located on Tofts Road West, within an established industrial area of North Graythorp. The eastern extent of the site comprises hardstanding and buildings, with the western extent comprising grassland and shrubs. The site, alongside the wider North Graythorp area, is allocated in the Hartlepool Local Plan for ‘specialist industries’. Land to the south of the site has previously received planning consent for an energy from waste facility.

The site sits among existing industrial and waste-related uses. The environmental assessments supporting the planning application will consider the effects of the facility with existing operations in the area. They will also consider the potential for cumulative effects with other planned development within the area.

Being in the Tees Valley industrial area is a big advantage – the Tees Valley is at the centre of the UK’s ambitions for carbon capture, utilisation and storage through the East Coast Cluster and Net Zero Teesside.

WHAT IS PROPOSED?

The facility would take hazardous waste that can’t be recycled and use it to generate enough electricity to power the equivalent of up to 2,000 homes every year. Heat and steam could also be made available to nearby businesses.

Hazardous waste will either be delivered to the site in sealed containers and unloaded inside a purpose-built reception building, or delivered as liquid waste in tankers before being transferred into a series of storage tanks. Then it would be fed directly into a high-temperature incinerator operating at between 1,100°C and 1,400°C. At these temperatures, the waste is fully destroyed.

The heat generated by this process is used to raise steam, which in turn drives a turbine to produce electricity that would both power the facility and be sent for export to the local grid. Heat and steam could also be supplied directly to nearby industrial users.

The facility has also been designed to be carbon capture ready, and could potentially be connected to the planned Net Zero Teesside carbon capture and storage pipeline in the future.

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BENEFITS FOR HARTLEPOOL



£65M
INVESTMENT IN
HARTLEPOOL



45 CONSTRUCTION
JOBS OVER THE
3-YEAR BUILD



40 PERMANENT
SKILLED ROLES
ONCE OPERATIONAL



11 APPRENTICESHIP
PLACES



UP TO 2,000 HOMES
EQUIVALENT ELECTRICITY
GENERATED EVERY YEAR



SAVING CO₂ VERSUS
EXPORTING WASTE
TO EUROPE



CARBON
CAPTURE READY



POTENTIAL TO PROVIDE
HEAT AND STEAM FOR
LOCAL BUSINESSES

QUALITECH IN HARTLEPOOL

Qualitech already employs around 30 people in Hartlepool. The 40 permanent roles and 11 apprenticeships at the Tofts Road facility would be in addition to this existing local workforce.

Qualitech are committed to recruiting locally and working with local schools and colleges to offer apprenticeships leading to long-term careers in engineering and waste management.

THE FACILITY WILL REQUIRE A RANGE OF SKILLED ROLES INCLUDING:

ENGINEERS
(MECHANICAL
AND ELECTRICAL)

CHEMISTS
AND LAB
TECHNICIANS

TECHNICAL
ADMINISTRATION

SKILLED PLANT
OPERATORS

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ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND REGULATION

PLANNING AND PERMITTING

The proposed facility requires two separate approvals before it can be built and operated:

- A comprehensive **planning application** will be submitted to Hartlepool Borough Council, supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) covering landscape and visual, ecology, air quality, noise, traffic, flood risk, land contamination, cultural heritage, socio-economics and climate change
- An **Environmental Permit** from the Environment Agency, involving a detailed assessment of potential environmental impacts including emissions to air, land and water

DESIGN AND STANDARDS

The facility has been designed to meet the latest Best Available Techniques for waste treatment. It will be a modern, purpose-built plant operating within a tightly regulated environment.

AIR QUALITY

A detailed air quality assessment is being carried out as part of the EIA. Flue gases will pass through a multi-stage cleaning system before release through the stack, with continuous monitoring in place to ensure compliance with strict emission limits set by the Environment Agency.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has consistently advised that any potential impact on the health of those living near modern, well-regulated incinerators is likely to be very small. The air quality assessment will specifically consider the impacts on human health to demonstrate that there will not be an adverse impact on people living and working near the facility.

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ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND REGULATION

TRANSPORT

All waste materials will be delivered in sealed containers, with vehicles required to follow a dedicated route away from residential areas via Tees Road, the A1185 and onwards to the A19. A full transport assessment will accompany the planning application and will set out how vehicle movements will be managed, however the proposed facility is expected to generate fewer vehicle movements than the site's existing permitted use.

NOISE

The facility will be designed to contain noise from its operations. All waste will be handled inside enclosed buildings and received in sealed containers throughout.

ODOUR

The facility will not handle general household 'black bag', food, or agricultural waste like other local facilities. Materials will arrive securely packaged in sealed packets, containers or tankers, and all treatment systems will be designed to be fully enclosed and airtight. Any odours are eliminated during the high-temperature treatment process.

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CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION WASTE DELIVERY AND STORAGE

Hazardous waste will arrive at the site in sealed containers and either be unloaded inside a purpose-built reception building or directly transferred to a series of storage tanks. Only the minimum quantity needed to keep the facility running will be stored on site at any one time. The buildings have been designed with containment, ventilation and air management systems to prevent any release to the surrounding environment.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction is expected to take around three years. A Construction Environmental Management Plan will set out controls on working hours, HGV routing, dust, noise and site management to limit disruption to neighbours.

RESIDUES

The treatment process produces limited amounts of bottom ash and air pollution control residues. The bottom ash may contain a small amount of metal which will be recovered where possible for recycling. The remaining residues will be removed from site and managed at specialist permitted facilities.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The facility will have fire detection, suppression and containment systems built in from the outset. Qualitech will work closely with Cleveland Fire Brigade and the Environment Agency to develop and maintain a detailed emergency response plan.

NEXT STEPS

Your feedback will be carefully considered as we finalise our plans before we submit a planning application to Hartlepool Borough Council later this year. A Consultation Report will be prepared summarising the feedback received and how it has been taken into account, and this will be submitted alongside the planning application.

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