

Guernsey's Inert Waste Strategy

Excavation, construction and demolition activities generate large amounts of waste – typically rubble, hardcore, concrete, bricks, ceramics, and clean soil. This is generally termed “inert waste”, because the materials do not readily react or decompose when exposed to the elements. That makes them suitable for reuse or recycling in other building projects, or for use in land reclamation.

The current Longue Hougue Land Reclamation site, which opened in 1995, is expected to reach full capacity around 2020 or 2021. A longer-term solution is therefore now required to ensure the sustainable management of these materials. For that purpose, a strategy for inert waste has been drawn up that will provide a framework against which sound investment decisions can be made. This will complement the island's broader Solid Waste Strategy.

The Waste Hierarchy

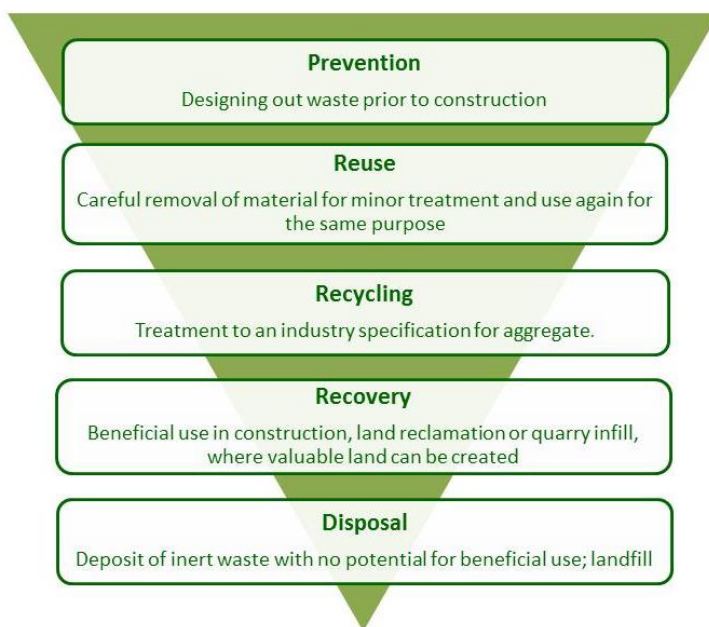
The proposed strategy reflects the internationally accepted principle of the **Waste Hierarchy** - but adapted to the island's specific circumstances. This identifies the different approaches to waste management, in order of preference, with the aim of getting the most practical benefit out of any materials:

In a Guernsey context, land created by coastal reclamation or infilling old quarries can, under certain circumstances, have potential future value. Where that is the case, such use is promoted up the waste hierarchy, above disposal.

Reduce, reuse, recycle in a construction context

A key element of the future approach will be individual **site waste management plans** for medium and large construction projects. These are required under the Island Development Plan, to detail how waste will be managed, including measures to minimise waste, and reuse or recycle materials within the project. This will help capture data to quantify how much of this material being diverted away from disposal, and identify waste prevention measures being implemented. Targets for each tier of the hierarchy should be implemented after three years of data collection after adoption of the Strategy.

However the priority for waste reduction will not remove the need to manage some inert material through either recovery or disposal. With the Longue Hougue Land Reclamation site expected to be full around 2020 or 2021, a new facility is therefore required by 2022.



A key objective of the Inert Waste Strategy is therefore to identify a preferred way forward that:

- Strikes an appropriate, sustainable balance for Guernsey between waste reduction, reuse and recycling, and minimises inert waste being sent for disposal;
- Identifies the best practical environmental options;
- Satisfies the needs of the island;
- Considers the views of stakeholders and interested parties; and
- Represents best value for money.

Options for future inert waste sites

A wide range of potential options were considered. These were assessed against various criteria, such as practicality, capacity, value for money, potential future uses, and social and environmental factors. The evaluation involved several stakeholders, including local construction industry representatives and business organisations, environmental groups, as well as States bodies.

Following this thorough and detailed assessment, an extension to the current site at Longue Hougue, to the south, was identified as the ‘preferred way forward’ for the medium term. This is in a location already established for waste management activity, including an inert waste facility.

However, the management of inert waste will not just focus on one residual management site as a sole 20 year solution. The objectives of the Strategy will be achieved by a combination of solutions that consider behavioural changes and new facilities in the most appropriate location.

The Strategy

| Short Term (up to 5 years) | Medium Term (up to 15 years) | Long Term (15 years plus) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Manage inert waste according to the waste hierarchy, prioritising prevention, reuse and recycling. | Manage inert waste according to the waste hierarchy, prioritising prevention, reuse and recycling. | Review Strategy based on information collected to inform the next steps. |
| Continue use of the current Longue Hougue Reclamation Site. | Provide a new on-island recovery facility, before disposal through land reclamation or quarry with no beneficial value. | More than one site may be required for residual inert waste management within the Strategy period (i.e. 20 years). |
| Collect data from site WMPs to establish baseline and targets for recycling. Provide information and guidance to promote good practice and support the Strategy. | Identify strategic projects, including land reclamation, that require inert waste and can divert material to prolong the life of any facility. | |
| Provide temporary solutions at the current Longue Hougue Site | | |

