Local Authority Collected Waste Spatial Strategy

Recycling Centre Annex

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Hertfordshire

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1.0 Executive Summary

This annex to the Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) Spatial Strategy 2021 focuses specifically on the Recycling Centre (RC) network and has been prepared by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA). It sets out an assessment of the current RC network and identifies the WDA's requirements for a robust service that is capable of fulfilling future demand over the period to 2037 and beyond but that recognises the challenging financial climate when developing the provision of newer, more modern and fit for purpose RCs.

The RC annex to the LACW Spatial Strategy was first issued in September 2017 and updated in 2019. This revised version reflects changes and influencing factors affecting the development of a RC network capable of meeting resident's future needs.

This annex uses data from 2019/20 due to significant abnormalities in how the RC service operated due to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020/21. The operation of the RC service transferred to HCC on 1 October 2020. As part of the transfer the opportunity was taken to rename the sites from Household Waste Recycling Centres to Recycling Centres in order to simplify the name and focus on 'recycling' rather than 'waste'.

This annex highlights the up-to-date assessment of current infrastructure, the potential impacts from wider industry developments, and details future plans for the development of the RC network.

The current RC network consists of 16[1] operational RCs located throughout the county. In 2019/20 the network handled c.76,700 tonnes of LACW and received in excess of 1.6 million visits. For RCs to effectively and efficiently assist in meeting higher targets for reuse and recycling, likely to be set out in forthcoming Government legislation, and manage waste arising from housing growth in the county, it remains critical to invest in the RC network.

The level of service provision at each RC differs as some centres have been constructed in recent years and other, more historic centres, are barely adequate in

[1] 16 RCs are operational at the time of writing with the Buntingford RC closed pending review of service provision in the area.

terms of suitability. For example, a small centre will provide a service but is likely to have limited parking spaces, a reduced number of containers / material types, and an unsuitable layout that limits recycling facilities and makes the centre awkward to use and/or operate efficiently.

From 2009/10 to 2019/20, Figure 3 shows that the recycling rate has slightly decreased from 69% to 66% with a peak recycling rate of 73% in 2012/13. Residual disposal rates from 2009/10 to 2019/20 have increased marginally from 31% to 34% with the lowest rate of 27% in 2012/13.

The WDA has assessed the suitability of each RC and developed a recycling centre site assessment. This looks at several aspects regarding each site such as capacity and location and assesses their short, medium and long-term viability. Appendix 1 provides a synopsis of each RC and identifies a need to improve existing deficiencies within the network. Following assessment RCs have been classified as follows:

Table 1. Summary table of recycling centre assessment study [2]

Highly unsuitable	Unsuitable	Satisfactory	Suitable	Highly Suitable
Bishop's Stortford	Potters Bar	Rickmansworth	Harpenden	Ware
Cole Green	St Albans	Berkhamsted	Royston	Waterdale
Elstree	Stevenage			
Hemel Hempstead				
Hoddesdon				
Letchworth				
Turnford				

There are several factors that may impact the future use of the Recycling Centre Service. They include, but are not limited to, population, new waste legislation, housing growth, the sustainability agenda, the economy, district and borough Local Plans, planning restrictions and changes to Waste Collection Authority (WCA) and WDA service provision.

Having considered the appraisal of current provision, the RC site assessment and contributing factors alongside the WDA guiding criteria for recycling centres, the WDA

[2] Buntingford has been excluded from this assessment as the centre is incapable of delivering an adequate service provision due to a reduction in the already very limited footprint.

considers that in its current state the RC network as a whole will not be fit for purpose to handle the future population growth expected over the next 10 to 15 years across the county and improvements to the RC network are required. The introduction of larger RCs or 'super sites' close to the primary road network combined with suitable and highly suitable existing RCs will ensure a well distributed service is achieved, enable a reasonable journey time to a RC and provide a better service on arrival. An example of a 'super site' is the new Ware RC which opened in October 2020 and represents a blueprint for future RC provision in the county.

Several improvements to the RC network are being progressed, these fall into four categories:

Under construction

- Welwyn Garden City

Planned improvements

- Berkhamsted
- Bishop's Stortford (short term)

Planned construction or expansion

- Stevenage – significant expansion proposed
- Turnford – relocation due to proposed development
- Baldock – forms part of provision for a Transfer Station and WCA depot
- Waterdale (including a 'supersite' design and larger Reuse Centre)

Areas of search – provision of new centres

- Bishop's Stortford (long term)
- Buntingford
- Hemel Hempstead
- Elstree & Potters Bar

A map showing these areas can be seen in section 8.3.3.

These requirements will be kept under review with representations made at appropriate stages to district and boroughs councils.

2.0 Introduction

This annex to the Local Authority Collected Waste[3] (LACW) Spatial Strategy 2021 focuses specifically on the RC network. The Spatial Strategy Recycling Centre Annex sets out an assessment of the current RC network and identifies the Waste Disposal Authority's (WDAs) requirements for a robust service that is capable of fulfilling future demand over the period to 2037 and beyond but that recognises the challenging financial climate when developing provision of newer, more modern and fit for purpose RCs.

This Annex is a 'live' document and is periodically reviewed to ensure it reflects the position of the WDA and the wider influencing factors that affect the RC network in Hertfordshire. Influencing factors include, but may not be limited to, waste legislation and local and national waste management policies, tenancy agreements, availability of suitable development sites, planning restrictions, population and housing growth within Hertfordshire, and the strength of the economy.

In November 2021, the Environment Act 2021 received Royal Assent into UK law. This Act is the enabling legislation to bring forward long-term targets to improve air quality, biodiversity, water and waste reduction and resource efficiency. In terms of resources and waste management, the Environment Act will help the "transition to a more circular economy, incentivising people to recycle more, encouraging businesses to create sustainable packaging, making household recycling easier and stopping the export of polluting plastic waste to developing countries. This will have an effect on all local authorities in Hertfordshire and, alongside aspects for consideration such as producer

[3] In Hertfordshire "LACW" is the waste managed by the Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs), which represent the 10 districts and boroughs and are responsible for collecting waste and materials from households and businesses, and HCC as the WDA, under Section 30(2)(a) and Section 51(1)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, who are responsible for managing the RC network, waste transfer stations and the end treatment and disposal of LACW. The WCAs and WDA together constitute the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP).

responsibility schemes, waste prevention, consistency in collection and deposit return schemes, the network of RCs will have to be fit for purpose to assist in meeting higher targets for the reuse and recycling of wastes received from residents.

The Government's Resources and Waste Strategy 2018 specifically points to RCs; it highlights their potential to facilitate the increased reuse of items and considers how they may align themselves with commercial and third-party services in the years ahead. This direction from Government supports the plans outlined in this LACW Spatial Strategy RC Annex and confirms that a network of larger centres is required if they are to perform effectively.

Proposals include the introduction of a National 65% recycling rate, the potential to set targets for the diversion of reusable items deposited at RCs, minimum service standards and, beyond the introduction of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for packaging wastes, considerations for a potential future extension of EPR to include other additional wastes at RCs.

EPR schemes require the producer to pay the full cost of collection, transport and treatment of a product once it is disposed of. The introduction of such schemes, for items beyond the currently planned packaging waste EPR scheme, for example textiles, bulky wastes (e.g., mattresses) and tyres would be likely to result in RCs being identified as Designated Collection Facilities (DCFs) in a similar way that RCs currently act as DCFs for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE).

For RCs to assist in meeting higher targets effectively and efficiently for reuse and recycling and manage waste arising from housing growth in the county and the EPR schemes, it remains necessary to invest in the RC network.

3.0 Changes since the last issue

The Recycling Centre (RC) annex to the LACW Spatial Strategy was first issued in September 2017 and updated in 2019. This revised version reflects changes and influencing factors affecting the development of a RC network capable of meeting resident's future needs. This annex uses data from 2019/20 as this is the most up to date data that has not been affected by the significant abnormalities in how services operated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While not impacting on the data used for this version of the annex, significant changes have occurred since the annex was last published in 2019.

1. Operation of the RC service transferred to HCC on 1 October 2020. This coincided with the rebranding of RCs from HWRCs (Household Waste Recycling Centres) with the intention of shifting public perception away from locations where waste can be ‘dumped’ to centres where unwanted materials can be collected for recycling.

2. A new RC ‘super site’ opened near Ware on 31 October 2020.

3. In addition to the Waterdale Reuse Centre, two new dedicated Reuse centres are now operating at the Ware and Harpenden RCs.

4. Buntingford RC is currently closed due to a reduction in the operational footprint of the centre that has rendered it incapable of adequate service provision.

5. In May 2021, our three busiest centres, Ware, Waterdale and Stevenage began operating seven days a week to provide additional service availability.

6. A business waste drop-off service was introduced at the Ware RC in March 2022 This service enables businesses to deposit their waste for a fee. Currently Ware is the only site to offer this service, however, if successful the service will be provided at other suitable centres.

7. Where space at RCs has allowed, HCC has introduced JCB 360 Material Re-Handlers to compact waste materials in containers onsite. Nine JCBs were introduced between April and July 2021, with three more planned, enabling a significant increase in waste volumes within each container and therefore reducing the number of centre closures due to container servicing.

8. Further RCs planned for development include Welwyn Garden City, Stevenage, Turnford, Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted, Bishop’s Stortford and Baldock which

is proposed as part of joint waste facility for the provision of a new transfer station and depot for North Hertfordshire District Council.

4.0 Hertfordshire's Current Recycling Centre Service Provision

Under Section 51(1)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 there is a requirement for Hertfordshire as the WDA to provide places where persons resident in Hertfordshire may deposit their household waste free of charge. In Hertfordshire, these places are known as Recycling Centres (RCs).

In 2019/20 the network handled c.76,700 tonnes of LACW and received in excess of 1.6 million visits. The current RC network consists of 16 RCs located throughout the county as shown in Figure 1.

The RC service plays an important role in moving waste up the waste hierarchy. The service complements the kerbside recycling service provided by the WCAs by enabling residents to deposit additional larger waste types and excess waste for reuse, recycling or disposal. In 2019/20 15% of Hertfordshire's total LACW was deposited at RCs with 66.4% of this redirected away from the residual waste stream, significantly contributing towards Hertfordshire's overall recycling rate of 52.3%.

The RC network has evolved over time with facilities traditionally developed to serve sizable settlements and the location and size of each centre principally determined by the availability of suitable land.

The level of service provision at each RC differs as some centres have been constructed in recent years and other, more historic centres, are barely adequate in terms of suitability. For example, a small centre will provide a service but is likely to have limited parking spaces, a reduced number of containers / material types and an unsuitable layout that limits recycling facilities and makes the centre awkward to use.

As a concession RCs in Hertfordshire also accept a limited amount of waste generated from modest home improvement activities. This waste type is classed as non-household waste and under current legislation, does not have to be accepted at RCs. The RCs also have a separate function as Designated Collection Facilities (DCFs)

under the terms of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations. DCFs are places where waste household electrical items are collected before being sent for treatment, reuse and recycling.

Reuse Centres constitute an important part of the RC network within Hertfordshire where service users can deposit items that are suitable for reuse which can then be purchased by other service users. Such a service is in line with the Waste Hierarchy that priorities Reuse over Recycling and Recovery. Within Hertfordshire, items suitable for reuse can be donated at all our RC sites, they are currently sold at our dedicated reuse centres located at the Waterdale, Ware and Harpenden RCs.

A business waste drop-off service was introduced at Ware RC in March 2022 and enables businesses to deposit their waste for a fee. Currently Ware is the only site to offer this service, however, if successful the service will be provided at other suitable centres.

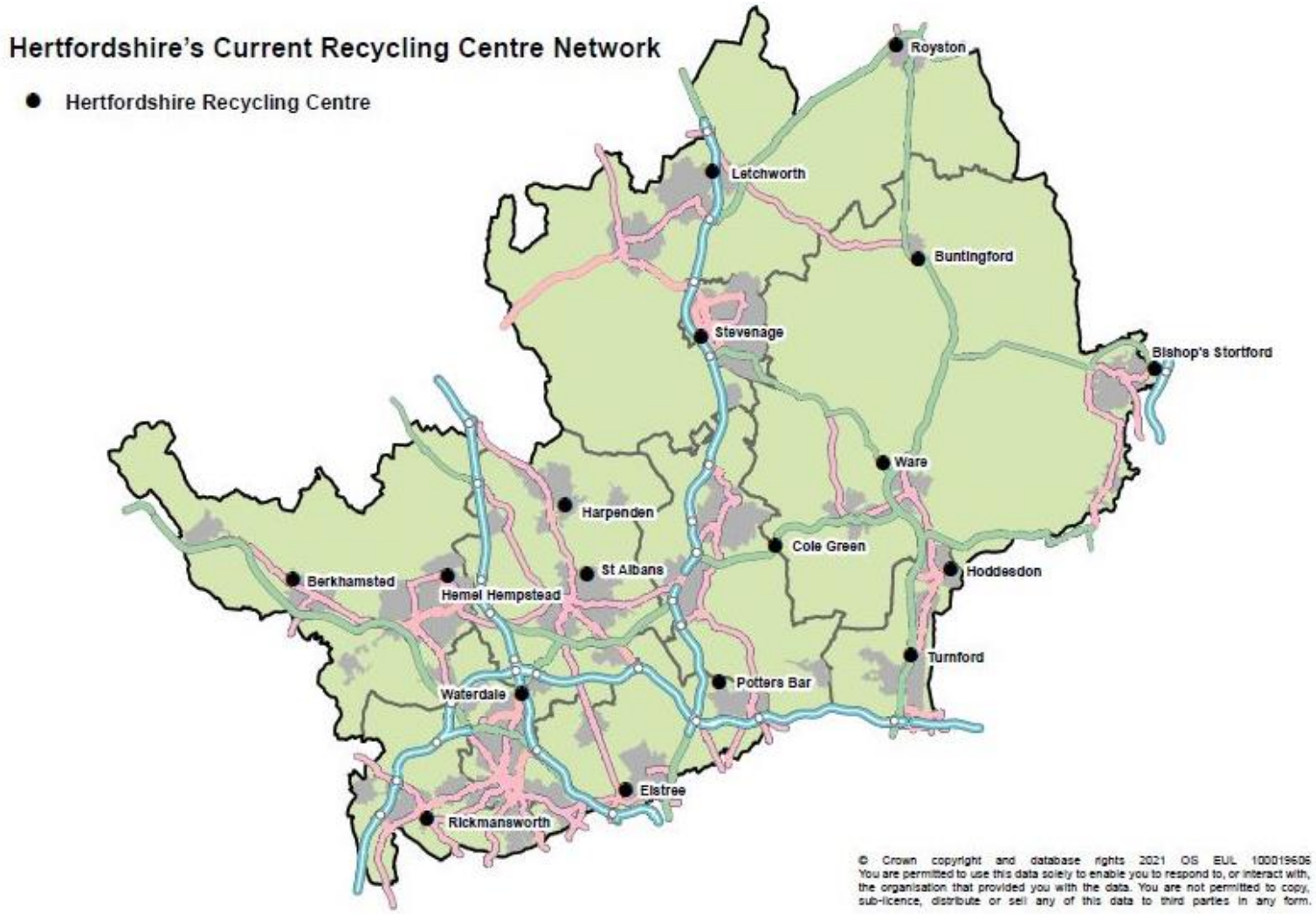

Figure 1. Hertfordshire's Current Recycling Centre Network

5.0 Historical Recycling Centre Service Provision

HCC took operational control of the RC network in October 2020, following six years of operation by an external provider under contract to HCC. Direct delivery has enabled service improvements to be delivered in line with the authority's priorities.

Figure 2 shows that over the last 10 years, the amount of waste collected at our RCs has fluctuated between 72,000 and 90,000 tonnes however total tonnages figures in 2009/10 and 2019/20 remain broadly similar at c.78,000 tonnes.

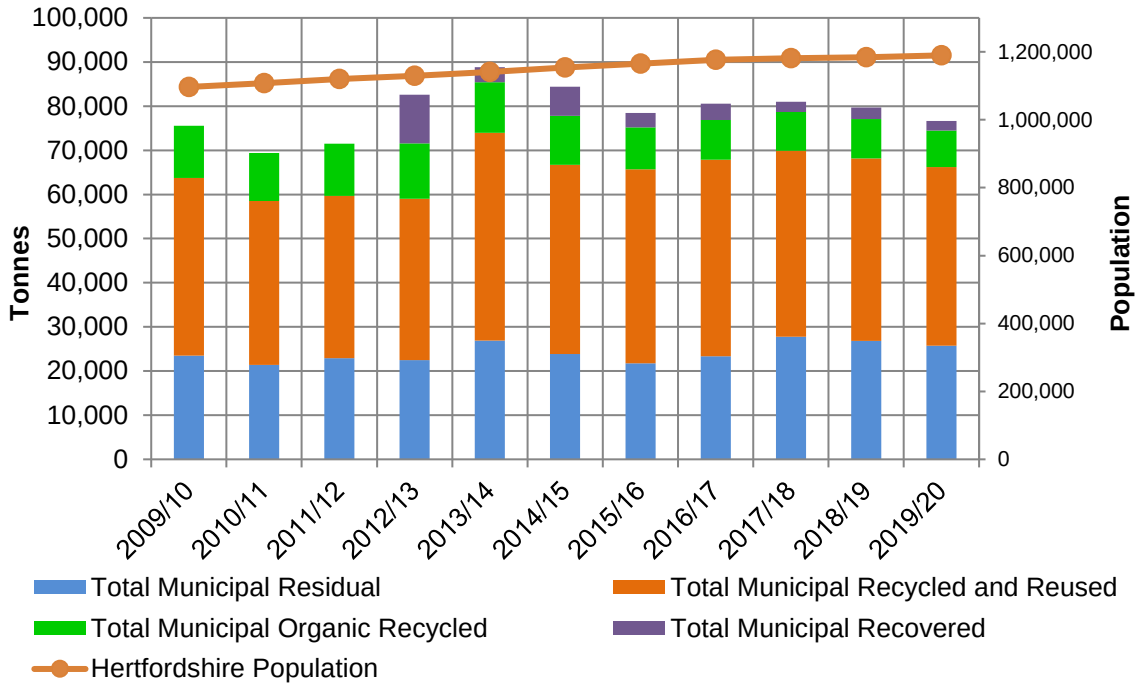

Figure 2. Historical waste and resources tonnages at HCC recycling centres from 2009/10 to 2019/20

From 2009/10 to 2019/20, Figure 3 shows that the RC recycling rate has decreased from 69% to 66% with a peak recycling rate of 73% in 2012/13. Residual disposal rates from 2009/10 to 2019/20 have increased marginally from 31% to 34% with the lowest rate of 27% in 2012/13.

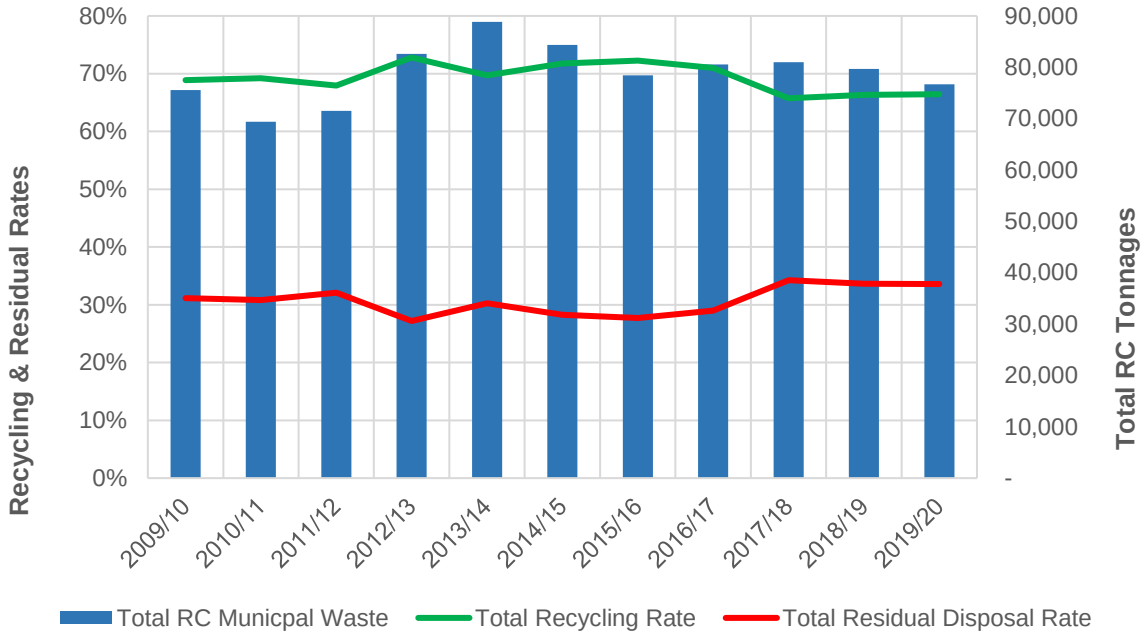

Figure 3. Historical changes to Recycling and Residual disposal rates alongside total municipal waste from 2009/10 to 2019/20

The introduction of charging for kerbside organic waste collections by the WCAs has not adversely impacted tonnages at the RCs.

Our Reuse Centre network is designed to divert useable and repairable items away from waste and recycling streams and enable residents to buy quality unwanted items for a small charge, with income from sales paying for the service and invested into initiatives designed to improve the RC service to residents, increase reuse and support social value projects. The Waterdale Reuse Centre has been open since September 2018; the Ware Reuse Centre opened in October 2020, and the Harpenden Reuse Centre opened in September 2021 following refurbishment albeit that the recruitment market at the time of writing is presenting challenges in maintaining services across the reuse and RC network. A trial to sell reuse items directly to residents will be held at the Stevenage RC began at the Stevenage RC in April 2022.

6.0 Appraisal of Current Recycling Centre Service Provision

This section assesses the current service provision being delivered by our RC network and covers areas such as each centre's assessment score, the catchment areas for

each centre, the capacity of the network, the property ownership and compositional analysis results.

6.1 Recycling Centre site assessment

The WDA has assessed the suitability of each RC and developed a site assessment as shown in Figure 4. This looks at a number of aspects regarding each site such as capacity and location and assesses their short, medium and long-term viability. Appendix 1 provides a synopsis of each RC and identifies a need to rectify existing deficiencies within the network.

The RC site assessment identified that in the long term to 2037 the 16 RCs are classified as follows:

Table 2. Recycling Centre site assessments

Highly unsuitable	Unsuitable	Satisfactory	Suitable	Highly Suitable
Bishop's Stortford	Potters Bar	Rickmansworth	Harpenden	Ware
Cole Green	St Albans	Berkhamsted	Royston	Waterdale
Elstree	Stevenage			
Hemel Hempstead				
Hoddesdon				
Letchworth				
Turnford				

6.2 Property ownership

10 of the RCs occupy land owned by HCC. A range of tenancy agreements are in place with local authorities for the seven remaining centres within the network, with only two sites commanding a rental fee (Letchworth RC leased from North Hertfordshire District Council and Cole Green leased from Tarmac Lafarge Aggregates).

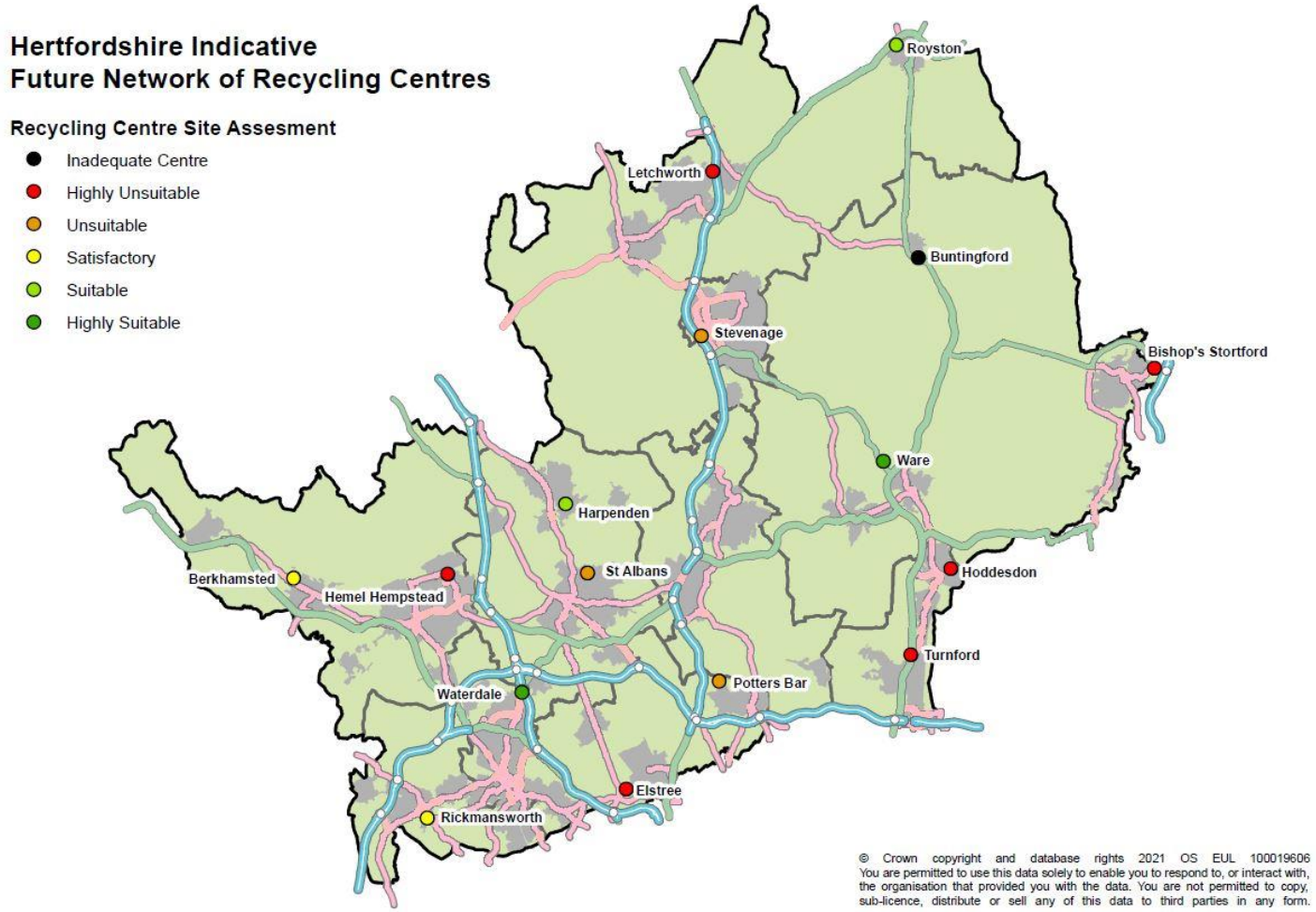

Figure 4. Hertfordshire's current recycling centre site assessment.

6.3 Compositional analysis results

Waste compositional analysis carried out at a sample size of eight RCs in October 2020 identified that 54.72% of waste deposited in the residual waste stream could have been placed into alternative collection points within the RC. This identifies there is significant potential to reduce the quantity of residual waste with the compositional analysis identifying that there are approximately 14,088 tonnes of recyclable material being disposed of in the residual waste stream each year. As residents are already asked to separate their waste this demonstrates the challenges faced in capturing this material through changes to operational practise and challenging residents' behaviour.

There are significant differences in recyclable content between RCs. Turnford has a total recyclable content of 76% in the residual waste stream almost diametrically opposed to Waterdale at 35%. Potters Bar, Stevenage, Hemel Hempstead, and Rickmansworth fall between 59% and 65% with Bishop's Stortford and Cole Green recording a recyclable content of 45%. This highlights a lack of consistency and a variation in how residents interact with our service across Hertfordshire. Improving the recycling centre network by developing new centres and improving existing centres could have a beneficial effect on the amount of recyclable waste captured as new and improved centres have better signage, more convenient layout and create an all-round easier experience for residents.

6.4 Recycling centre catchment areas

As previously stated, the 16 RCs across Hertfordshire have evolved over time with facilities traditionally developed to serve sizable settlements and the location and size of each centre was principally determined by the availability of suitable land. The RCs are well distributed throughout the county, with several located close to the county's border, more so than other authorities' provision, see appendix 4. The catchment areas map shown in Figure 5 is based on 15-minute travel times from each centre and the boundaries represent the points at which these travel times first overlap.

Figure 5. Hertfordshire's Recycling Centre catchment areas

6.4 Capacity assessment of the recycling centre network

An indication of each centre's capacity has been identified within Appendix 3. The capacity assessment of each recycling centre detailed below includes the number of visitors on a daily and hourly basis from Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) in comparison with the centre's theoretical maximum capacity.

The theoretical maximum capacity of a centre is based on the number of useable car parking spaces, number of container exchanges required and the average time a service user spends on site. It should be recognised that trailers, large vehicles, parking across two bays and a restricted layout will adversely affect the number of usable car parking spaces during peak times and therefore the capacity figures provide a best-case scenario including equal distribution of resident visits throughout operational hours.

It is important therefore to note that any centre will have peaks and troughs in usage patterns and negative impacts on the surrounding road network, residents, and businesses may not be definitively identified. This assessment also does not take into account other pressures on the service provision such as the future demands from proposed legislation and/or wider sustainability plans such as increased separation of material types and the recycling rate of the service.

The daily visitor profile graphs provided for each centre in Appendix 3 demonstrate the average use of each centre over the course of a day and informs the daily capacity status of each centre shown in Table 3. However, as these graphs use data from a twelve-month period to produce an average, they do not demonstrate the lack of capacity during peak periods within each day.

As shown in Table 3. the assessment of the daily capacity of the centres has identified, Berkhamsted, Bishop's Stortford, Letchworth, St Albans, Stevenage, and Turnford as close to capacity or over capacity even when considered against the best-case scenario for availability.

The capacity graphs based on the hourly profile of each centre throughout the day is an important consideration to determine an RCs capacity as it takes into account the peak periods. This information is used to inform the hourly capacity status of each

centre shown in Table 3. The winter and summer visitor hourly profile graphs shown in Appendix 3 and summarised in Table 3 identify that on an hourly basis the recycling centres operating at, over or close to capacity at points during the operational hours are Berkhamsted, Bishop's Stortford, Hemel Hempstead, Hoddesdon, Letchworth, St Albans, Stevenage, and Turnford.

Table 3 Summary of the recycling centre capacity assessments to 2037.

Recycling Centre	Daily Capacity Status	Hourly Capacity Status
Berkhamsted	Over capacity	Close to capacity in summer
Bishop's Stortford	At capacity levels	Close to capacity
Buntingford	No Data*	No Data*
Cole Green	No Data*	No Data*
Elstree	Under Capacity	Under Capacity
Harpenden	Under Capacity	Under Capacity
Hemel Hempstead	Under Capacity	Close to capacity in morning of summer months
Hoddesdon	Under Capacity	Close to capacity in the mornings of summer months
Letchworth	Over capacity	Close to capacity
Potters Bar	No Data	No Data
Rickmansworth	Under Capacity	Under Capacity
Royston	Under Capacity	Under Capacity
St Albans	Close to capacity	Close to capacity in morning of summer months
Stevenage	Over capacity	Over capacity in the summer months
Turnford	Over capacity	Over capacity in summer, under in winter
Ware	No data*	No data*
Waterdale	Under Capacity	Under Capacity

Total	7 - Under Capacity 1 - Close to Capacity 5 – Over capacity	5 - Under Capacity 6 – Close to capacity 2- Over capacity

* Buntingford, Cole Green, Potters Bar, and Ware have no data available as ANPR data was not available at these centres for the assessment period.

Overall, the recycling centre visitor numbers have decreased since 2018/19 but the tonnages received have stayed the same and so this implies that, on average, residents are bringing more waste with them with each visit to the centres. This reduction in visits to the centres has reduced associated travel greenhouse gas emissions but also implies residents spend longer onsite unloading more waste which affects the capacity available.

7.0 Factors affecting future use of the Recycling Centre Service

There are several factors that may impact the future use of the Recycling Centre Service. Influencing factors include, but may not be limited to, waste legislation and local and national waste management policies, tenancy agreements, availability of suitable development sites, planning restrictions, population and housing growth within Hertfordshire, and the strength of the economy.

7.1 Projected waste growth for the RC network

Using projected population growth, a projection of LACW in Hertfordshire over the period to 2037 was carried out and is shown in Figure 6 below. Waste growth projections based on increasing population suggests an increase in waste deposited at RCs of 9% between 2019/20 to 2036/37, an increase of c.7,200 tonnes. This is however only an estimate as other factors such as changes resulting from the Environment Act 2021 are difficult to accurately predict.

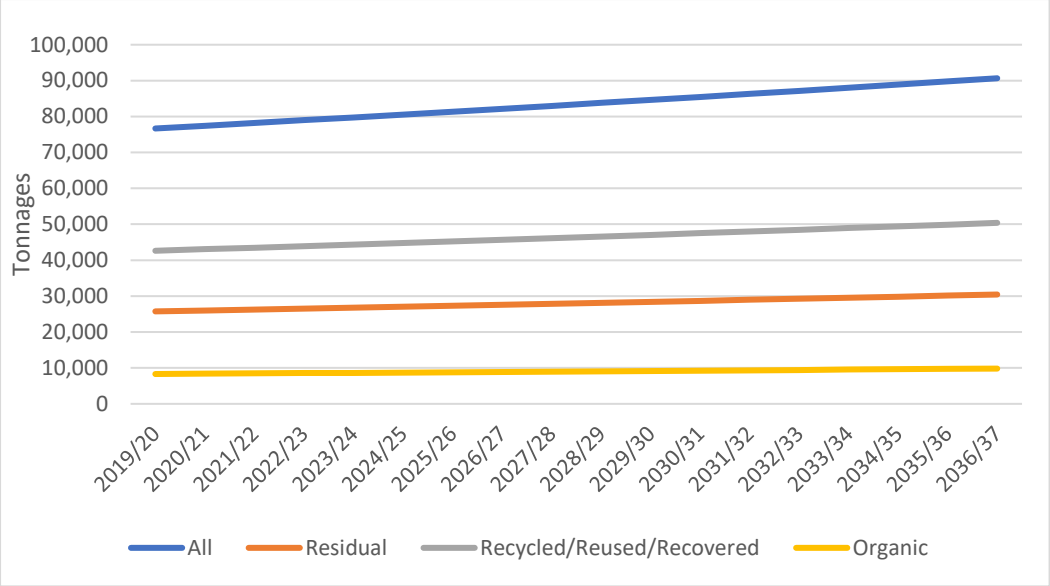

Figure 6. Recycling Centre Waste Tonnage Growth Projections to 2037

7.2 Local Plans

Each of the ten district and borough councils within Hertfordshire is required to develop and adopt a Local Plan. Each authority's Local Plan identifies housing targets for their district/borough based on economic, social, and environmental characteristics. The scale of individual developments varies and range from small developments on brownfield sites within existing settlements to large housing developments that expand existing settlements by building on former Greenbelt land Figure 7 identifies proposed development areas in Hertfordshire to 2037 and this has enabled an assessment of the projected population in 2037 that will need to be served by each RC. Whilst it is recognised that several characteristics may render a centre unfit for purpose, capacity assessments are a useful focus to identify where the most immediate problems in service provision may arise as discussed in section 6.4.

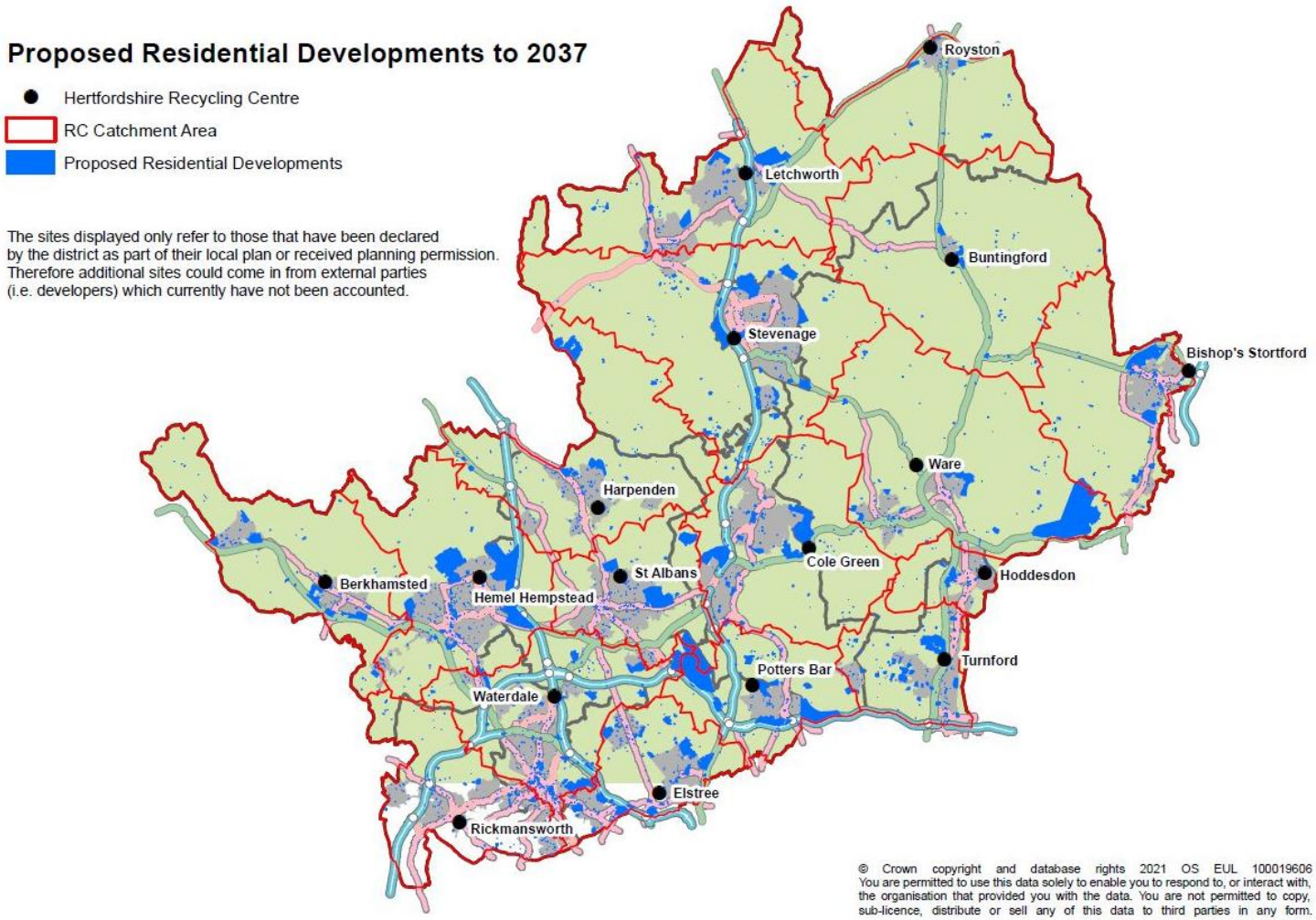

Figure 7. Proposed residential developments throughout Hertfordshire's Recycling Centre catchment areas to 2037

7.3 Sustainability Agenda

In 2019, Hertfordshire County Council declared a climate emergency in response to the levels of global warming and ecological decline experienced locally, nationally, and internationally. RC have an important role to play in reducing our impact on the planet through reducing wasted resources and extending material life cycles. As we transition to a more circular economy where waste is eliminated as much as possible, RCs will play an ever-increasing role in this and as a council we must invest in our service to ensure that our network is capable of meeting the needs and requirements of future developments.

RCs will need to be robust but flexible to accommodate changes in arrangements, waste volumes and waste composition and will be developed with consideration of the environmental implications. Such developments could include and are not limited to repair and reuse hubs, electric car charging points, renewable energy options such as PV cells on buildings, sustainable construction materials, integration with local transport plans to minimise car travel, whole life cost assessments, and green roofs or walls.

7.4 Availability of suitable land

The potential change in designation of some Greenbelt and/or greenfield sites to accommodate the significant number of dwellings identified in district and borough Local Plans may present opportunities to relocate RCs to more strategically beneficial locations.

It is also recognised that Hertfordshire's proximity to London and the designation of land as Greenbelt means the availability of land in suitable locations is limited and the cost of acquiring land is often prohibitive. Waste sites are generally perceived as being undesirable neighbours therefore identification of sites can be problematic. However, to assist with this Appendix 2: Providing Service for Residents: Recycling Centres was produced and distributed to prospective developers and elected members to highlight the important role recycling centres play in the local community and provides examples of how infrastructure required to provide this service can be successfully integrated into the local setting.

Where new developments are constructed financial and/or land contributions from developers are sought, as identified in The HCC Guide to Developer Contributions document, as part of the Section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levey process for either the improvement of existing RCs or the development of new sites (subject to funding for projects being approved and land becoming available) in order to accommodate the foreseen increase in service use arising from the additional new dwellings in the area.

7.5 COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has also had a significant impact on the amount of waste captured at the kerbside and recycling centres as more people work and spend longer at home. During the lockdowns, Hertfordshire's RCs were extremely busy as it was one of the few things people were permitted to do outside of their houses along with the social distancing rules that reduced the number of parking spaces and therefore the capacity of the centres to handle residents.

There is still significant uncertainty surrounding the future impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic including whether or not visitor numbers and tonnages will return to pre-pandemic levels. National Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) driver shortages has also impacted on the service and is being continually monitored as part of the WDA Business Continuity Plan.

7.6 Strength of the economy

The strength of the economy has historically influenced the growth of waste with more LACW created in a strong economic climate. The Waste Management Plan for England 2013 sets out the Government's continued focus on the decoupling of economic growth and waste arisings. As indicated previously, increased population coupled with a strong economy will place the RC network under additional strain.

The economic stimulus packages that have been undertaken to restart the economy following the economic slowdown from the pandemic have meant that inflation has significantly increased, and this creates significant uncertainty in the strength of the economy.

7.7 Waste legislation

The Environment Act 2021 is the enabling Act for significant changes in the waste industry. The Government's Resources and Waste Strategy 2018 does include a 65% recycling rate target for municipal solid waste by 2035 and proposals to introduce Consistency in collection, a Deposit Return Scheme and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging waste. These measures are designed to divert waste away from the residual waste stream and are likely to widen the number of waste types requiring segregation at RCs.

The Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS) supports the waste hierarchy and promotes the use of RCs to achieve this. The strategy states that RCs are ideally placed to identify, segregate and promote good quality products that are suitable for reuse through the provision of onsite centres. It recognises that while some local authorities already promote reuse there is considerable scope for being more ambitious. This approach will be supported through amendment of the waste regulations to clarifying the duty as to reuse and through measures such as setting reuse targets for local authorities. Future changes are likely to extend the role of RCs as Designated Collection Facilities for EPR waste streams such as textiles, hazardous household waste and potentially, items such as tyres and mattresses.

The RWS recognises that the Controlled Waste Regulations which set out charging arrangements for different categories of waste, including waste currently delivered to RCs may be reviewed, specifically highlighting waste arising from small scale DIY construction activity. The proposed review aims to ensure the regulations remain fit for purpose, charges are fairly applied, and that services are accessible, support high levels of recycling, and deliver value for money. It will also explore whether setting minimum service standards for RCs would be helpful.

To enable the RC network to actively support the RWS and implement the waste hierarchy, larger centres capable of segregating further waste streams and able to accommodate better reuse facilities will be required.

7.8 Local infrastructure development

The Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Funding Prospectus 2018-2031 identifies three major economic growth corridors in Hertfordshire linked to the north to south radial road network and along the A10/M11, A1(M) and M1 corridors. The main east to west routes are the A41, A414 and A120.

The Hertfordshire Transport Vision for 2050 recognises the capacity limitations of east to west routes, especially along the A414 which has been identified as a growth corridor and has identified initiatives designed to increase capacity within the existing road network and improve traffic flow within the county.

With a significant proportion of the planned housing growth (over 50%) to 2037 being within 3 miles of the east to west corridor, specific pressures will be evident at the RCs along this route. These include Ware, Cole Green, St Albans, Hoddesdon and Hemel Hempstead. The recent redevelopment of Ware RC, delivery of a new RC within Welwyn Garden City in winter 2022/23 and proposed provision in the Hemel Hempstead area are aimed at addressing this future growth.

8.0 Improving the Recycling Centre Network

As mentioned previously the RC network has developed over several years without the aid of set service provision criteria, however, to support future development of the network the WDA has produced guiding criteria that is designed to maximise the effectiveness of the network and ensure it is fit for future requirements.

Making changes to the RC network presents opportunities to standardise and improve aspects of service provision. With the necessary consideration of constraints on funding and operational costs, the guiding criteria identifies that where possible RCs should be:

- Configured to improve waste reuse, recycling, and boost recovery.
- Configured to enable a dedicated reuse facility with a repair workshop area to move waste up the hierarchy.
- Configured to be easily accessible to all service users including those with disabilities.

- Able to serve a wider, multi settlement catchment areas of Hertfordshire.
- Located close to the primary road network to aid journey times.
- Able to accommodate large numbers of service users simultaneously.
- Able to accommodate queuing traffic on site.
- Within a reasonable traveling time for residents.
- Able to segregate pedestrians and vehicles.
- Able to maintain safe service provision during container exchange and container compaction.
- Accommodate split level design for a majority of containers.
- If feasible co-located with other waste management facilities i.e., transfer stations, WCA depots and other Local Authority services.

8.1 Hertfordshire's Strategy for developing its recycling centre network

The WDA considers that in its current state the RC network as a whole will not be fit for purpose to meet likely changes in waste legislation and future population growth expected over the next 10 to 15 years across the county and as a result improvements to the RC network are required.

Having considered the appraisal of current provision, the recycling centre site assessment and contributing factors alongside the WDA guiding criteria for recycling centres it is concluded that the introduction of larger RCs or 'super sites' close to the primary road network combined with existing suitable RCs will ensure a well distributed service is achieved, enabling a reasonable journey time to a RC and provide a better service on arrival. However, it should be noted that in the future this may lead a network of fewer but larger and fit purpose RCs better positioned to provide service and resident's needs.

The development of super sites will result in a more modern and operationally effective RC service enabling more material to be diverted from the residual waste stream. Larger sites will increase capacity and decrease the turnaround time of each visit by reducing queuing at the centres.

These “super sites”, such as the recently developed Ware RC (see Figure 10), enable a more user friendly and efficient layout, supporting service users to segregate their waste more easily and efficiently, increasing recycling and reducing residual waste disposal. Large purpose-built reuse centres with an area for a repair workshop to divert useable and repairable items away from the waste stream and enable residents to buy quality unwanted items for a small charge whilst meeting the objectives for implementing the waste hierarchy across the network.

Purpose built super sites enable safety features such as the segregation of pedestrians and heavy goods vehicles reducing the need to close sites for servicing during opening hours, a split-level design to reduce carrying materials up steps, and a running lane to enable traffic to be kept off the road network. Design improvements include clearly marked and carefully designed pedestrian walkways, barriers and bollards to protect residents from vehicles and clear and large signage to direct site users to the right containers. All of these benefits improve the customer experience and increase customer satisfaction whilst reducing the risk of injury.

8.2 Recycling Centre Supersite example

In October 2020, the super site Recycling Centre opened near Ware, as shown in Figure 10. This redeveloped a highly unsuitable centre situated on top of an old landfill site, into a facility that is fit for purpose far into the future. This site has the following features and represents an example for future super site development for Hertfordshire’s recycling centre network.

- Large Reuse Centre and workshop space with dedicated parking.
- Internal queuing lane to take vehicles off the highway.
- Split level design allowing the majority of waste to be deposited without the need for lifting or carrying up steps.
- A large number of parking/unloading spaces configured to segregate service users from centre traffic.
- Fenced off areas enabling container exchanges without closure of the centre.
- Improved staff offices and welfare facilities with a meeting/training room.

Figure 10: Ware RC supersite facility.

8.3 Hertfordshire's Indicative Recycling Centre Network

On page 33, Figure 11 shows Hertfordshire's future indicative recycling centre network. It identifies existing facilities, facilities with planned or proposed provision and the areas of search where HCC are exploring opportunities for improving our network.

8.3.1 Existing Fit for Purpose Facilities

As shown in Figure 4 of the 17 RCs within the network, only Ware and Waterdale are highly suitable, and Harpenden and Royston are suitable with no improvements planned.

8.3.2 Significant planned and proposed provision

Welwyn Garden City

A new facility to replace the Cole Green RC is currently under construction and is due to open in early 2023. It will be Hertfordshire's second new supersite, constructed in line with the guiding criteria that led to the Ware facility, albeit on a smaller scale due to land availability. The new facility will be a significant improvement on the Cole Green RC providing more containers to store more waste types and additional tonnages, a split-level design to reduce carrying materials up steps and to enable more efficient servicing, increased car parking spaces, clearer signage and a new large purpose-built Reuse Centre. The facility will be co-located with Welwyn Hatfield's WCA Depot.

Berkhamsted

To meet the future demands expected to impact the service provision of Berkhamsted RC from population growth, legislation changes and the sustainability agenda, significant improvement works are required and proposed to improve the existing sites layout and functionality of the centre. The changes will support the newly introduced compaction at the site to increase efficiency and service to residents.

Waterdale

The Waterdale RC occupies a significant footprint and is 'split level' for the majority of containers however, the reuse centre is restricted and improvements to the welfare facilities and upper level of the RC are required. Funding through the Council's Integrated Plan will provide canopies (with PV cells) to cover the containers, a new larger reuse shop and substantially improved welfare facilities for the operatives. This will upgrade the site to provide a 'super site' in the West of the County within the short-term ensuring the RC is capable of meeting future demands.

Bishop's Stortford

As can be seen from Table 3 the RC that serves the Bishop's Stortford area is operating over its capacity on daily and hourly timescales. This immediate issue of inadequate capacity requires short-term improvements to increase the capacity levels of the centre through an improved site layout and more parking spaces for residents. Without these short-term improvements, the centre will continue to operate over capacity and risk not providing residents with an adequate service provision. The changes will support the introduction of compaction at the site to increase efficiency and service to residents. An area of search has also been set up to locate a new site to replace the current Bishop's Stortford RC in the longer term.

Stevenage

An opportunity to expand the existing Stevenage RC has been identified and initial feasibility and design work has been completed. The existing facility at Stevenage is the busiest in the network and operates at above capacity during peak times. Queuing is experienced during peak periods and this affects the surrounding industrial estate.

Planned residential growth within the area will result in the facility continuously operating at overcapacity as identified in Appendix 3.

Baldock

A recycling centre in this location would better serve the residents of Baldock and Letchworth (currently identified as unsuitable). A new centre in this area could form part of a co-located waste complex that would deliver a Transfer Station to serve the north of the county and a depot for North Hertfordshire District Council. While the Letchworth centre has been reconfigured to maximise its capacity the centre still experiences queuing at peak periods which significantly affects nearby residents and the operation of businesses within the surrounding industrial estate. The beneficial opportunities from co-locating a Transfer Station with a RC make this proposed provision a promising development to Hertfordshire's RC network. Co-locating facilities would significantly reduce associated haulage costs and significantly reduce any closures related to centre servicing.

Brookfield Garden Village

The Broxbourne Local Plan: Framework for future development of the borough was released in June 2020 and identifies the Brookfield area as an area of major redevelopment. This area includes the industrial estate where the existing Turnford RC is located. Development of this area will require the relocation and expansion of the Turnford RC. The current RC receives the fifth highest tonnage in the RC network per annum and regularly experiences queuing as it has insufficient capacity as demonstrated in Appendix 3. A new and improved RC super site located close to the A10 corridor would enable a better service to be provided to the residents of Cheshunt, Hoddesdon and Waltham Cross.

8.3.3 Areas of Search

Existing provision combined with planned and proposed improvements will not be sufficient to meet the future needs of Hertfordshire as there are still large gaps in the capabilities of the network to meet future demands. To further develop the suitability of the network the development of additional or improved facilities, based on the Ware super site, is proposed. Although it is recognised that funding and planning would need

to be obtained, Areas of search have been identified, as shown in Figure 11. These areas are indicative and locations within proximity to them will also be considered on an individual basis:

Area of Search 1: Bishop's Stortford (Long-term)

A new RC close to Bishop's Stortford could replace the current RC which is identified as highly unsuitable and could serve the needs of an expanding Bishop's Stortford, Sawbridgeworth and surrounding settlements. Land searches undertaken to date for a suitable employment area of land in the south of Bishop's Stortford have not identified a suitable alternative location. The challenges of extending searches to include potential green belt land are recognised, and therefore the WDA will continue to make representations to East Herts Council for provision of suitable land as part of the Local Plan development process.

Area of Search 2: Buntingford

The area of land on which the Buntingford RC has historically operated on has been unexpectedly reduced. The reduced land area means the centre is unable to function safely and effectively and makes the centre inadequate. As a result, site searches are being conducted for a replacement facility and suitable available options are being identified for consideration. The Buntingford RC remains closed whilst this work is ongoing.

Area of Search 3: Hemel Hempstead

The existing Hemel Hempstead RC is identified as highly unsuitable as the condition of the centre is very poor, the centre lacks sufficient capacity for a variety of waste streams, and it is too small to adequately deal with the level of demand which can cause long queues onto the industrial estate. Previous work to investigate expansion into neighbouring land demonstrated it was unfeasible. The area of search has been expanded to incorporate the western area of Hemel Hempstead. Dacorum Borough Council have identified a provisional location for a new facility in their New Dacorum Local Plan (to 2038) published in the summer of 2021.

Area of Search 4: Elstree & Potters Bar

Elstree RC has been identified through our recycling centre site assessment as a highly unsuitable centre due to its condition, parking capacity and long-term suitability. Alongside this, Potters Bar has been identified as an unsuitable centre due to its parking capacity, location, and long-term suitability. An ideal situation may be a new larger centre located between the two settlements but the cost and availability of land in this area is a particular challenge. Whilst the long-term focus should be to continue the area of search for a new centre, consideration should be given to improving the existing facilities where possible to provide short to medium term improvements. An area of search has been identified for a new or improved facility that would support the substantial planned housing growth in the surrounding area.

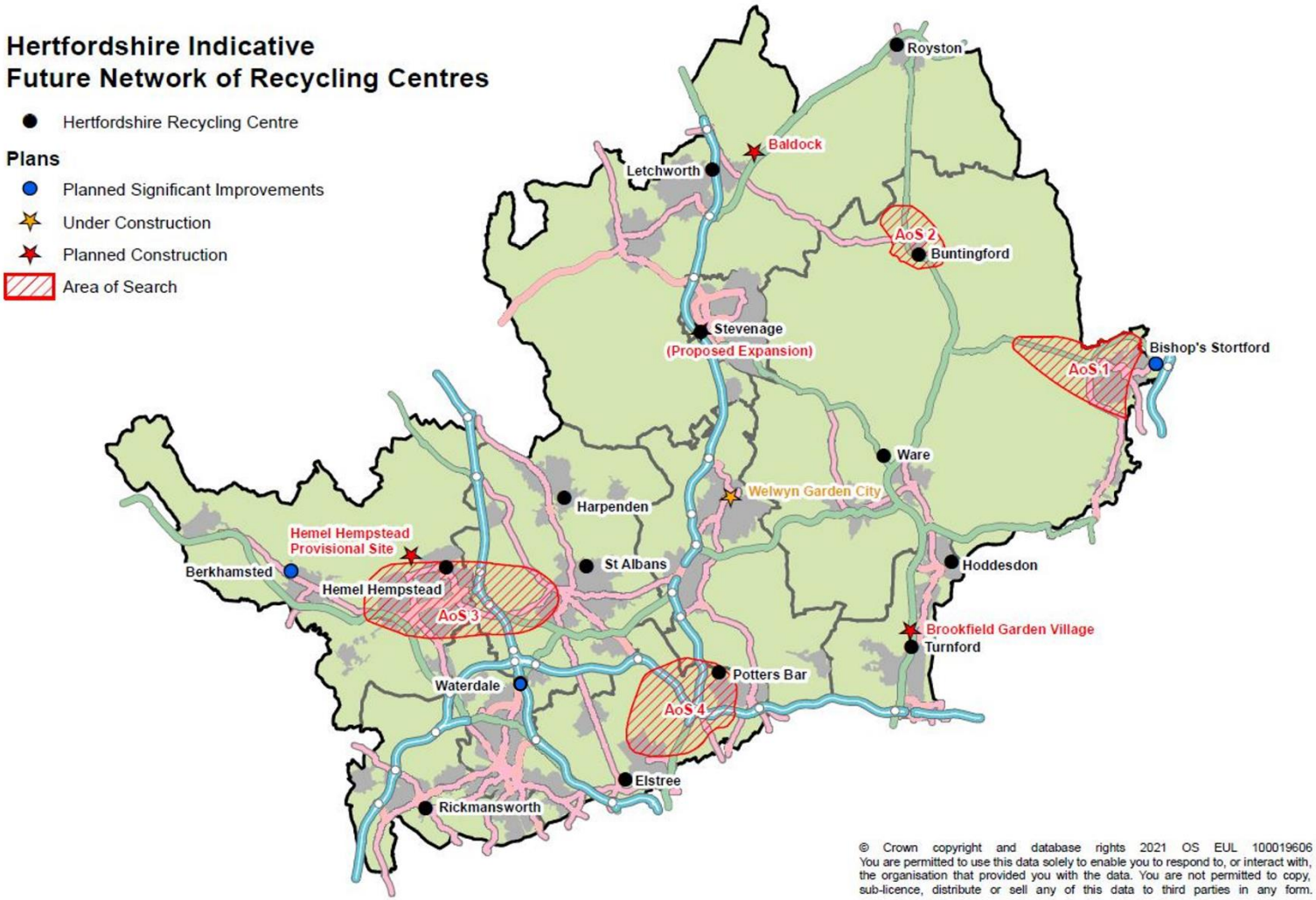

Figure 11. The indicative future network of recycling centres for Hertfordshire.

9.0 Conclusion

The WDA considers that in its current state the RC network as a whole will not be fit for purpose to handle the future population growth expected to 2037 across the county and meet likely legislative changes. Therefore, improvements to the RC network are required.

Having considered the appraisal of current provision, the recycling centre site assessment and contributing factors alongside the WDA guiding criteria for recycling centres it is concluded that the introduction of larger RCs or ‘super sites’ close to the primary road network combined with existing supporting RCs will ensure a well distributed service is achieved, enable a reasonable journey time to a RC and provide a better service on arrival.

The significant expansion of the Ware RC and the planned delivery of a supersite in Welwyn Garden City in early 2023 will help to increase capacity within the network. However, it will be necessary to deliver all planned and proposed development to address population growth and the requirements of future legislation.

This can be achieved by designing centres that facilitate increased use while better enabling the sorting of waste; allowing waste to be redirected for repair/reuse/recycling, composting and recovery. These requirements will be kept under review with representations made at appropriate stages to district and borough councils.

There are significant planned construction works at three sites in Hertfordshire (Stevenage, Baldock, and Brookfield Garden Village). Short term improvements are planned for Berkhamsted and Bishop’s Stortford and four areas of search are identified for new centres in Buntingford, Bishop’s Stortford (long-term), Hemel Hempstead, and the Elstree & Potters Bar area. If the construction and development of all of these planned or proposed centres and areas of search for new centres are successful, then Hertfordshire’s network of Recycling Centres would be fit for purpose to manage the future demands on the service.

Appendix 1: Recycling Centre Site Assessment

Centre	Visitor numbers 2019/20	Condition (*)	Container & Material Capacity	Parking Capacity (**)	Location (***)	<5 yr Suitability	5-10y suitability	>10 yr suitability	Overall Rating	Development potential of the existing centre
Berkhamsted	79,430	3	3	2	3	4	2	2	19	3
Bishop's Stortford	92,457	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	11	3
Buntingford	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	1
Cole Green	n/a	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	10	1
Elstree	86,167	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	10	1
Harpenden	115,580	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	24	1
Hemel Hempstead	112,902	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	1
Hoddesdon	69,777	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	9	1
Letchworth	142,898	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	11	2
Potters Bar	53,714	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	18	3
Rickmansworth	146,078	4	4	4	3	3	3	2	23	2
Royston	99,233	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	24	1
St Albans	126,601	2	3	3	2	3	2	1	16	1

Stevenage	187,882	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	18	5
Turnford	115,871	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	12	2
Ware	n/a	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	35	n/a
Waterdale	174,180	3	5	5	4	5	5	5	32	3

***** **Integral infrastructure e.g. welfare facilities, drainage, hardstanding**

****** **Number of spaces for service users**

******* **Centre catchment area and ease of access**

Centre	Ownership	Terms	Planned action/Comments
Berkhamsted	DBC	Leasehold until Mar 2121	Plan: Capital bid submitted to improve the site. Comment: Potential for development towards the roundabout at front of site increasing parking and container capacity.
Bishop's Stortford	HCC	Freehold	Plan: Capital bid submitted to improve site, continuing to lobby local authority for a new site Comment: Potential for development towards the rear of the site towards the A120 increasing parking and container capacity. Cross boarder restrictions would improve capacity for Hertfordshire site users as 60% of current usage is by out of county residents.

Buntingford	HCC	Freehold	Centre currently closed, investigation underway for identifying a more suitable centre.
Cole Green	Tarmac Lafarge Aggregates	Leasehold until new facility provided.	Plan: Replacement Centres development in progress, Tewin Road. Comment: Potential for development towards the rear of the site towards the A120 increasing parking and container capacity.
Elstree	HBC	Leasehold until Dec 2038.	Plan: No potential for further development. Replacement centre to be considered as part of a future area of search
Harpenden	HCC	Freehold	Plan: No expansion planned Comment: Generally considered to be suitable
Hemel Hempstead	Freehold	Leasehold until Mar 2121	Plan: No potential for further development. Replacement centre to be considered as part of a local plan process
Hoddesdon	BBC	Leasehold March 2021 in process of negotiating extension.	Plan: No potential for further development Comment: This facility suffers from queuing at peak times, is smaller than desired and the sites narrow shape makes operations within the site difficult. Currently it is not possible to expand or reconfigure this centre.
Letchworth	NHDC	Leasehold until Aug 2023	Plan: Site layout and additional staff parking is currently being reviewed in order to increase parking and capacity. Investment required to provide compliant drainage conditions. Longer term, potential for centre to be replaced by a new centre in Baldock.
Potters Bar	HBC	Leasehold until Oct 2027	Plan: Site layout development in progress to increase parking and container capacity. To be confirmed.

Rickmansworth	HCC	Freehold	Plan: Layout is being investigated within existing footprint. Comments: Site access often creates traffic congestion in the locality.
Royston	HCC	Freehold	Plan: No further development required Comments: Currently suitable
St Albans	HCC	Freehold	Plans: No further development planned. Comments: this facility has recently been extended with the aim of alleviating the impact of queueing cars accessing the centre. While this has had some impact during peak times queueing cars disrupts access to the industrial estate and impacts on the nearby junction. As further expansion is not possible, relocation to a larger site is preferable to address existing issues and local growth.
Stevenage	HCC	Freehold	Plan: Capital bid approved for expansion of existing centre and design underway, awaiting further approval for the next stage
Turnford	HCC	Freehold	Plan: Redevelopment linked to Brookfield garden village development. Developments under way regarding improvements to layout.
Ware	HCC	Freehold	Plan: No further development required Comments: Currently highly suitable
Waterdale	HCC	Freehold	Plan: Layout recently reconfigured and capital bid submitted for further improvements including PV cells, canopies and larger reuse centre

Appendix 2: Providing Service for Residents: Recycling Centres

Providing Services for Residents: Recycling Centres

December 2020

For further information please contact the Waste Management Team

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Executive Summary

Recycling Centres play a significant role within the local community with each centre visited around 2 million times a year, Recycling centres provide the local residents with an opportunity to recycle an extensive range of materials and to manage items that are not collected or are costly to collect from the kerbside. The introduction of reuse centres located at many recycling centres also provides an excellent opportunity for good quality items, that would have otherwise been thrown away, to be reused.

Local waste disposal authorities are responsible for managing the recycling centres and this management always takes into consideration neighbouring land uses to ensure compatibility. For example, scheduling container changes to not coincide with any other nearby activities e.g. school drop off times. No treatment of waste takes place at the centres; their function is purely to provide a designated location from which waste and recyclable materials can be deposited ready for onward transport to a processing facility.

Each recycling centre is granted a permit to operate by the Environment Agency (EA) to ensure it doesn't negatively impact on the surrounding area. The EA regularly conduct assessments of each centre. Each centre has a fire prevention plan, an Environmental Management System and is regularly monitored and inspected by the County Council's waste and health and safety teams.

The provision of recycling centres at the Master Planning stage of a development, presents an opportunity to ensure the facility is sensitively placed within a design. It is possible to develop a modern aesthetically pleasing, high-quality facility that will complement the surrounding environment. Facilities can be open, partially covered or enclosed if appropriate.

The case studies of Ware Recycling Centre located in a green belt, the partially enclosed Witchford Recycling Centre and the fully enclosed Fengate Recycling Centre are prime examples of where a centre has been planned or developed and significant consideration has been given at the planning and design stage to ensure their successfully integrated into the local setting.

Recycling centres present significant benefits to the local community and can be successfully integrated into the local setting

Introduction

This document highlights the important role recycling centres play in the local community and provides examples of how infrastructure required to provide this service can be successfully integrated into the local setting.

An explanation of the role of local authorities in managing waste from households is provided, along with details of how the recycling centres are regulated and managed on a day to day basis to ensure consideration of neighbouring land users.

A valued service

Recycling centres provided by the County Council (Waste Disposal Authority) significantly contribute to the county's recycling rate by complementing regular kerbside waste collections provided by district and borough councils (Waste Collection Authorities). The provision of recycling centres is a statutory responsibility of the Waste Disposal Authority under the Environmental protection Act (1990). The service is highly valued by the local community and each centre receives a significant number of visitors (circa 2 million per annum).

Recycling centres significantly enhance the opportunity for local communities to manage their waste responsibly. Service users can deposit an extensive range of materials for recycling and take items there that are not collected or are costly to collect from the kerbside. The introduction of reuse centres at many recycling centres provides an excellent opportunity for good quality items that would have been thrown away to be reused.

The Government's Resources and Waste Strategy (2018) recognises the importance of recycling centres and emphasises the opportunity that they present for increasing reuse and repair. The strategy also considers the extension of producer responsibility schemes which could expand the number of items that are collected at recycling centres for recycling.

Example case studies

The following case studies provide examples of where a centre has been planned or developed and significant consideration has been given at the planning and design stage to ensure their successfully integrated into the local setting.

Case study 1: Recycling centres located in the greenbelt

The Ware Recycling Centre constructed for Hertfordshire County Council sits in an area of greenbelt. This modern centre is user friendly and incorporates a large reuse centre and repair workshop. To ensure the facility is assimilated into the local environment specific design features have been incorporated. The centre is partially screened by vegetation and all structures fall below the tree line.

Figure 1. The Ware Recycling Centre.

The facade of the reuse centre and offices are green and incorporate a wood effect on the panelling. This naturalistic theme is reflected in the canopies which have light brown supports and green coloured roofs. The centre is sufficiently sized to accommodate running lanes; which enable any queueing vehicles to be contained within the centre and away from the local road network.

Case study 2: Partially enclosed recycling centres

Many covered centres are designed to assimilate their environment and have a low visual impact. The Witchford Recycling Centre in Cambridgeshire has been identified by WRAP as a state-of-the-art recycling centre. The partially covered centre is set close to a village and is on the edge of a light industrial and business park.

A wide range of design aspects have been incorporated into the site. To address the visual impact of the centre several aspects have been introduced to the design including soft landscaping which has increased biodiversity, sustainably sourced wood cladding on the exterior of the building and a wave-shaped roof that incorporates a 'living green roof'. This roof acts as a noise dampener and is complemented with strategically placed wooden acoustic boundary fencing on the side adjoining neighbouring businesses and the village.

Figure 2. The Witchford centre incorporates wood cladding and a living green roof. Image: soprema.co.uk

Figure 3. The Witchford centre's low-profile green roof. Image Google Earth

Case study 3: Enclosed recycling centres

Recycling centres can be enclosed in a range of building styles. In Peterborough, an existing warehouse building has been retrofitted to accommodate council offices and a recycling centre. Use of this building has enabled the facility to be well assimilated into the local environment and only the entrance welcoming sign identifies the building's use as a recycling centre.

The recycling centre at Fengate is a local facility that is pleasant to use, residents can use the service whilst being protected from the elements and an excellent internal design means the centre functions well. Neighbouring businesses have not been impacted by the centre as it is completely self-contained with two internal lanes merging into one, this means that no queueing occurs on the local road network.

As with all recycling centres, the waste and recycling deposited at the centre is frequently collected so there is limited opportunity for odours to occur. The facility's design incorporates a ventilation system and roller shutter doors to mitigate any potential odour.

Figure 4. Fengate Recycling Centre is enclosed and integrates with the local environment. Image Google Earth

Figure 5. The Fengate centre is self-contained and well organised. Image: Peterboroughtoday.co.uk

Other examples include facilities built in Southwark and Reading. These recycling centres are self-contained, and all activity takes place inside the building. The structure and appearance of these recycling centres are very generic and therefore from the outside the use of the building is not immediately identifiable. The inside of the facilities is spacious well organised, making the service quick and easy to use. Waste and recyclable materials are collected in containers and the facilities are kept tidy and clean by operatives.

Figure 6. The Southwark Reuse and Recycling Centre is enclosed and located next to housing. Image Google Earth

Figure 7. A bright and clean interior at the Reading Recycling Centre. Image: FCC Ltd

Management of the centres

The day-to-day management of existing centres always takes into consideration neighbouring land uses to ensure compatibility. Where appropriate specific traffic management schemes and operational practises are introduced to minimise the impact on neighbours such as container exchanges scheduled so they do not coincide with any other nearby activities e.g., school drop off times.

Each recycling centre is granted a permit to operate by the Environment Agency (EA) to ensure it doesn't negatively impact on the surrounding area.

The EA regularly conduct assessments of each centre focusing on a range of topics including operation of the centre, storage and segregation of waste materials and amenity of the centre.

Each centre has a fire prevention plan, an Environmental Management System and is regularly monitored and inspected by the County Council's waste and health and safety teams.

No treatment of waste takes place at the centres; their function is purely to provide a designated location at which wastes, and recyclable materials can be deposited ready for onward transport to a processing facility.

The top five waste types deposited at centres are wood, green garden waste, scrap metal, cardboard and small domestic appliances such as toasters, kettles etc. These, along with other waste types, are all collected in containers and no waste or recycling is deposited on the ground. As the containers are regularly collected and replaced, waste and recyclable materials are not stored at the centres for any length of time; this significantly reduces the risk of odours and vermin occurring.

Master planning and design

The provision of recycling centres at the Master Planning stage of a development, presents an opportunity to ensure the facility is sensitively placed within a design. This consideration will reduce the number of possible proximate sensitive receptors and the requirement for enhanced engineering of the facility which can be costly. The placement of recycling centres nearby to other services or shops that the local community regularly use allows the local community to be more sustainable by combining journeys. An example of this is Biggleswade Recycling Centre which is conveniently located next to a supermarket.

It is possible to develop a modern aesthetically pleasing, high-quality facility that will complement the surrounding environment. Facilities can be open, partially covered or enclosed if appropriate.

Specific elements can be introduced into a design to create a pleasant environment such as soft landscaping that incorporates trees and shrubs. This design feature can break up the outline of a facility and screen facilities and boundary lines; it can also be introduced to architectural aspects of the design through green walls and roofs. Vegetation can be used to dampen noise and where neighbouring receptors are more sensitive acoustic fencing can be introduced.

The exterior finish of a centre can also be designed to complement the landscape in which it sits. For example, buildings can be painted green, incorporate wood or include glass and metal finishes. Planning permission for a centre is granted by the Waste Planning Authority who can place specific enforceable permissions on a centre to ensure it is appropriately designed and operated in respect of the surrounding environment. Planning conditions can pertain to operational hours, noise levels and artificial lighting.

For further information please contact the Waste Management Team
Tel: 01992 556182 Email: Wasteaware@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Appendix 3: Recycling Centre Capacity Assessment

Introduction

This document assesses the capacity of each of Hertfordshire County Council's 17 Recycling Centres.

This document first calculates the theoretical maximum capacity of the centres by multiplying the number of hours open per day by the number of parking spaces, divided by the average time spent at the centre by each service user to calculate the maximum number of people the site can handle in an hour and therefore a full day.

This theoretical capacity figure can be adversely affected by poor parking by service users and centre servicing closures and assumes that use of the service is equally dispersed over the opening hours. It should also be recognised that trailers, large vehicles, parking across two bays and a restricted layout will adversely affect the number of usable car parking spaces during peak times and therefore the capacity figures provide a best-case scenario.

This theoretical max capacity is then compared against the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) data, where available, this data informs us of the number of visitors to the centre. This information is then combined with the expected population growth anticipated in each of the recycling centre catchment areas and compared against the theoretical capacity to assess the centres capacity.

Data considerations

Information from the ANPR system has been used to update this appendix. Further updates will be made as and when data becomes available.

Where ANPR data has not been available for 2019/20 then the previous year's data has been used. Buntingford, Cole Green, Potters Bar and Ware ANPR system were not functional and so no data is available for these sites.

Number of total visitors and tonnages data is based on 2019/20, with an average of the previous years used for the months of February and March 2020 to avoid the anomaly of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

Average time spent on site uses data from 2020/21.

Servicing information is based on the only available date of October 2021 to January 2022.

The following table shows information on expected population growth in each catchment area.

Catchment	Growth expected
Berkhamsted	26.57%
Bishop's Stortford	21.73%
Buntingford	7.37%
Cole Green	22.52%
Elstree	12.26%
Harpenden	19.00%
Hemel Hempstead	41.24%
Hoddesdon	10.17%
Letchworth	24.40%
Potters Bar	43.00%
Rickmansworth	13.07%
Royston	14.52%
St Albans	10.86%
Stevenage	25.25%
Turnford	22.37%
Ware	25.66%
Waterdale	17.32%

Berkhamsted Recycling Centre

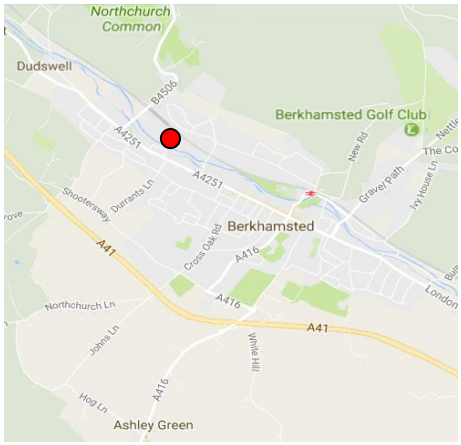
Property Ownership Details	Address	Opening Times
Leasehold – Commenced 14/3/96 – 125 years Peppercorn Rent Owned by Dacorum Borough Council	Northbridge Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 1TL	All Year: Saturday – Wednesday 08.30 - 16.30

The Berkhamsted RC is located on Northbridge Road in an industrial estate area to the northwest of Berkhamsted. The centre is 0.23 of a hectare. The centre does experience any specific issues with operating over capacity during peak periods.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition information demonstrates that on average there is sufficient capacity at the Berkhamsted RC.

The graph demonstrates that during peak periods the centre has insufficient capacity. The centre is busiest on the weekend and is quietest during Tuesday and Wednesday. In the winter months, the centre is much quieter during the week and busier on the weekend. Projected population growth in the Berkhamsted RC catchment area to 2037 is projected to increase use of the centre over capacity levels.

Location of Berkhamsted RC



Centre photograph (2008)

Theoretical Capacity	
Parking spaces	9
Hours open per day (minus time lost to servicing)	07:54:55
Average time on site (minutes)	00:08:38
Visits per hour per parking space	7
Visits per hour for site	63
Total visits in a day	495

	2018/19	2019/20
Total visitor capacity over the year (258 working days a year)	n/a	148,608
Number of annual visits	96,006	79,430
Total waste into RC (tonnes)	2,625	2,764
Average amount of waste deposited by each service user (kg)	27.3	34.7

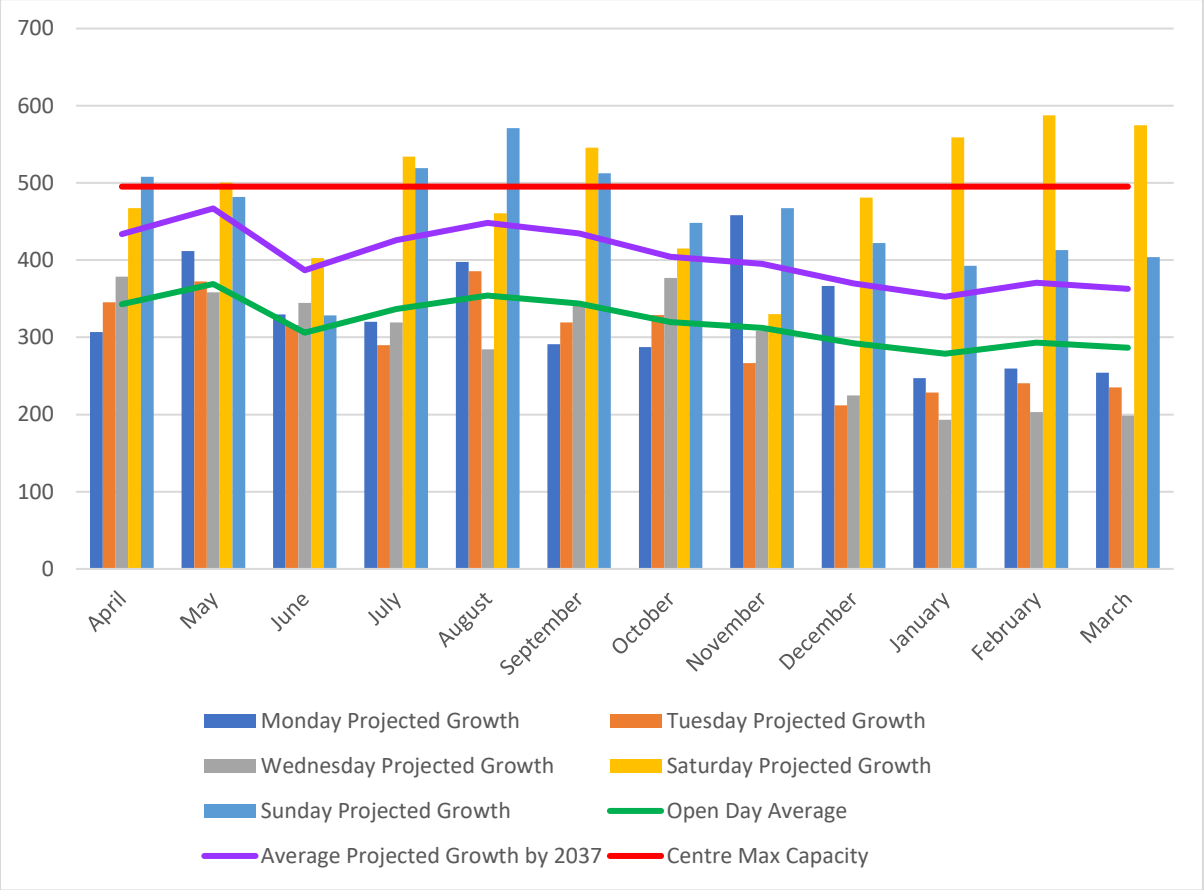


Figure 1. Average daily visitor usage projected in 2037 against maximum centre capacity.

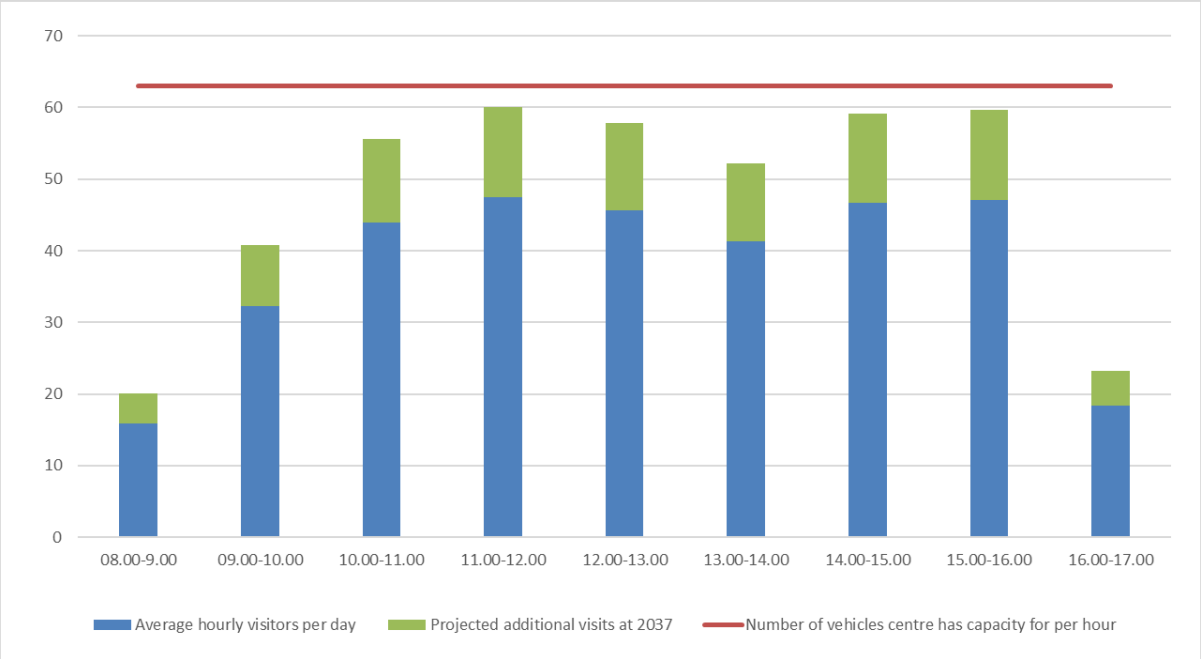


Figure 2. Summer daily profile

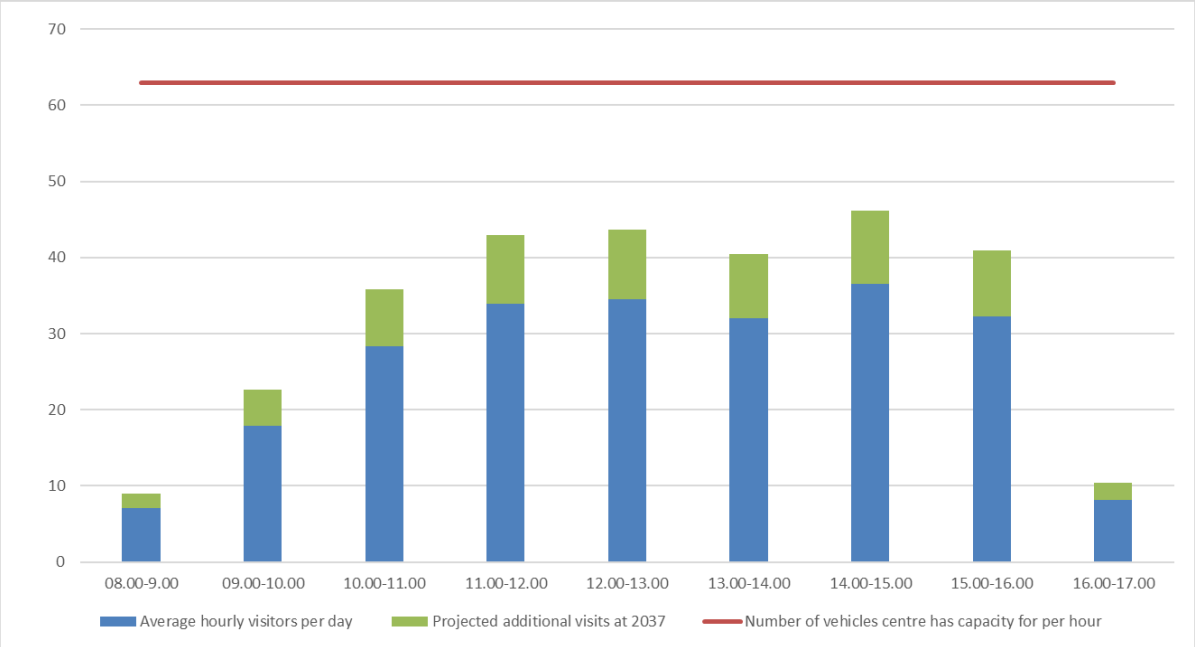


Figure 3. Winter daily profile

Bishop's Stortford Recycling Centre

Property Ownership Details	Address	Opening Times
Freehold Owned by Hertfordshire County Council	Woodside Industrial Estate, Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 5RG	All Year: Thursday – Monday 08.00 - 16.00

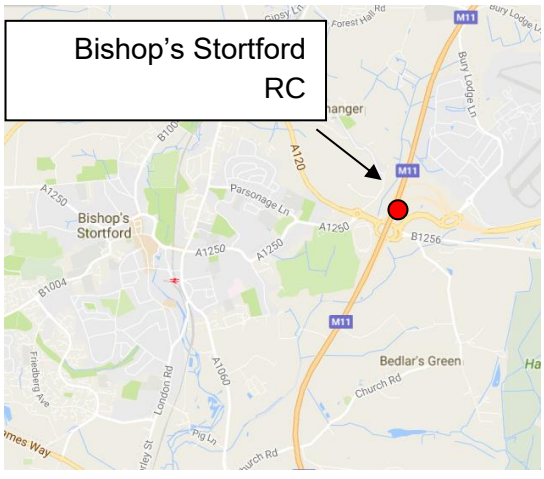
The Bishop's Stortford RC is located on Dunmow Road in the Woodside industrial estate area to the east of Bishop's Stortford. It is very close to the Hertfordshire Essex boundary, the A120 and the M11. The centre is 0.13 of a hectare and is too small to adequately deal with demand. While the best possible use of available space has been utilised the restricted size of the site means at peak times queuing occurs back onto Dunmow Road.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition information demonstrates that on average there is sufficient capacity at the Bishop's Stortford RC if usage is spread out evenly across the day.

The graphs demonstrates that during peak periods the centre has insufficient capacity. The centre is busiest on the weekend along with the occasional busy Monday and is quietest during Tuesday and Wednesday. The centre is considerably busier in the winter months and the centre is currently operating at over capacity on peak days.

Bishop's Stortford RC has an immediate issue of inadequate container space to meet future demands and these shortfalls requires short-term improvements to improve site layout with more parking spaces for residents, more containers for extra waste types and space for a JCB compaction machine. Without these short-term improvements, the centre risks operating over capacity and not satisfying residents with an adequate service provision.

Location of Bishop's Stortford RC



Centre photograph (Date unknown)

Theoretical Capacity	
Parking spaces	10
Hours open per day (minus time lost to servicing)	07:56:46
Average time on site (minutes)	00:07:24
Visits per hour per parking space	8
Visits per hour for site	81
Total visits in a day	644

	2018/19	**2019/20**
Total visitor capacity over the year (258 working days a year)	n/a	103,200
Number of annual visits	154,987	92,457
Total waste into RC (tonnes)	4,760	4688
Average amount of waste deposited by each service user (kg)	30.7	50.7

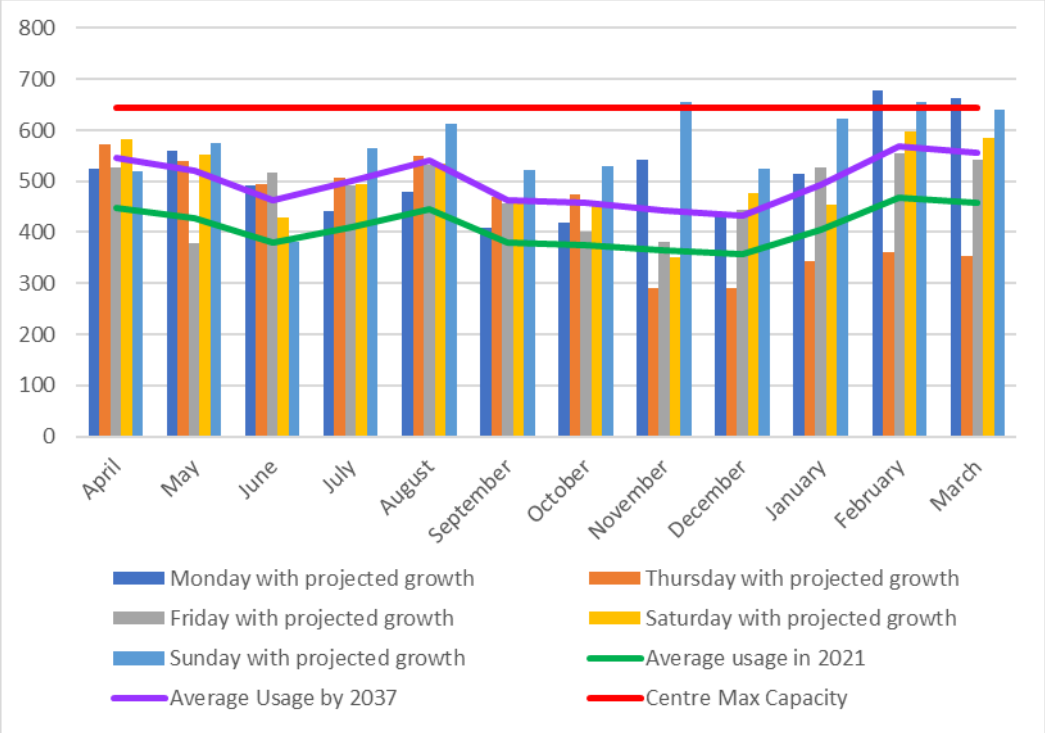


Figure 4. Average daily visitor usage projected in 2037 against maximum centre capacity.

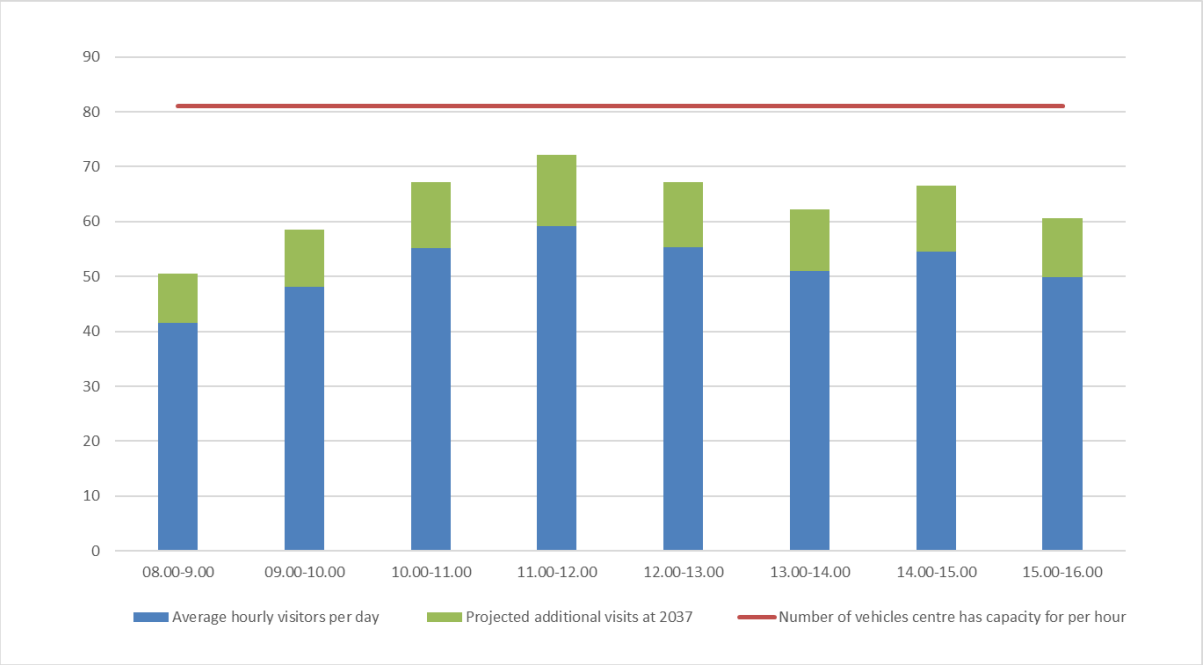


Figure 5. Summer hourly profile

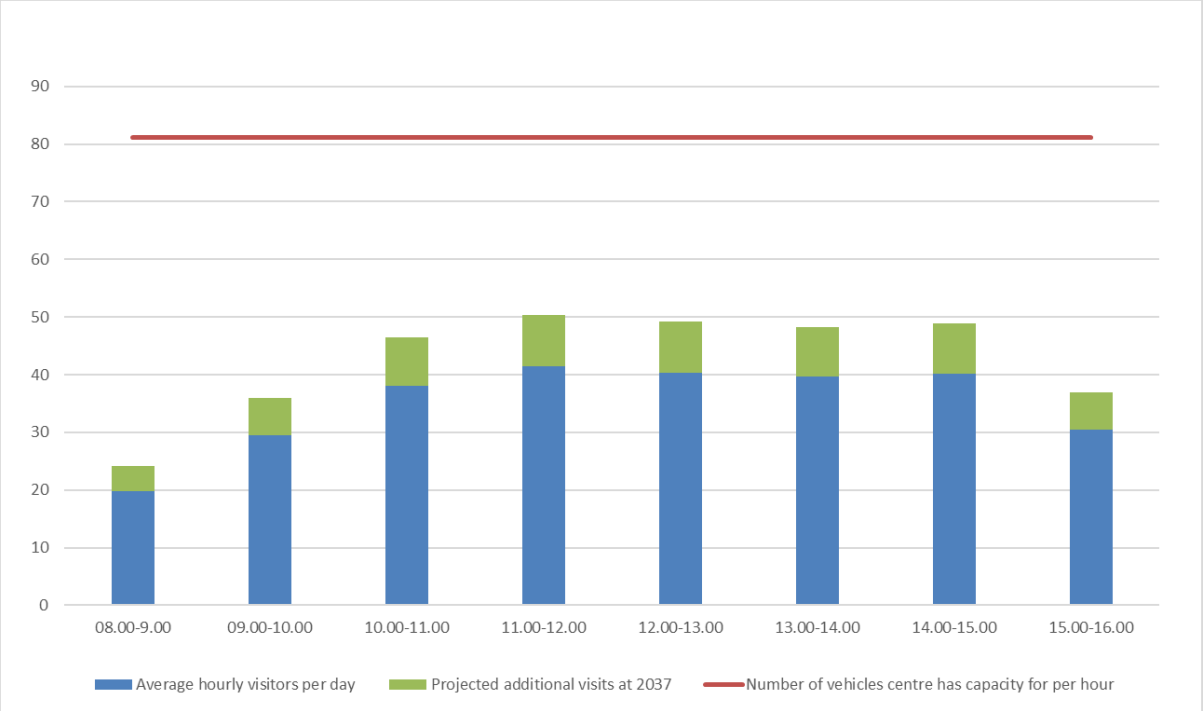


Figure 6. Winter hourly profile

Buntingford Recycling Centre

Property Ownership Details	Address	Opening Times
Owned by Hertfordshire County Council	Aspenden Road, Buntingford, Hertfordshire, SG9 9PA	All Year Monday - Friday 17.00 - 20.00 Saturday & Sunday 10.00 - 13.00

The Buntingford RC is located on Aspenden Road on the edge of an industrial estate south of Buntingford. The centre is 0.03 of a hectare. The centre is exceptionally small and provides a basic service. Operational movements at the centre can disrupt traffic movements on the industrial estate.

There is not a single vehicle access point onto the centre as the centre is accessed by parking adjacent to it on the carriageway. Therefore, it is not possible to install ANPR and so a capacity assessment for this centre has not been possible.

Buntingford RC is currently closed due to a reduction in the operational footprint of the centre that has rendered it incapable of adequate service provision. Therefore, Buntingford has been excluded from this assessment.

Location of Buntingford RC

Centre photograph (2008)

	2018/19	2019/20
Total waste into Buntingford RC 2019/20 (tonnes)	610	993.2

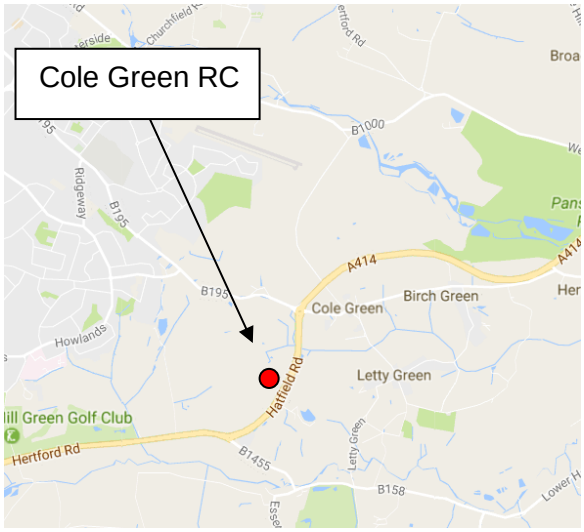
Cole Green Recycling Centre

Property Ownership Details	Address	Opening Times
Leased from Tarmac Lafarge Aggregates.	Along A414 Bypass, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, SG14 2NL	Summer: Thursday – Monday 10.00 - 18.00 Winter: Thursday – Monday 08.00 – 16.00

The Cole Green RC is located off the east bound carriageway of the A414 between Hatfield and Hertford. The centre is 0.18 of a hectare and the size and location of the centre presents a number of problems. While the best possible use of available space has been utilised, the current restrictions on layout and an inability to accommodate more than seven parking spaces suitable for unloading means that queuing traffic from the centre leads back onto the A414 with associated Health and Safety concerns. Welwyn Garden City is currently under construction and planned to replace Cole Green RC.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) information is not available for Cole Green RC and so a capacity assessment of this centre is not available.

Location of Cole Green RC



Centre photgraph (Date unknown)

Elstree Recycling Centre

Property Ownership Details	Address	Opening Times
Owned by Hertsmere Borough Council. Operated under user rights	Radnor Hall, Allum Lane, Elstree, Hertfordshire, WD6 3LS	All Year: Thursday – Monday 08.00 - 16.00 Thursday – Monday 09.00 - 17.00

The Elstree RC is located on Allum Lane to the west of Borehamwood. It neighbours residential properties but is otherwise set in open land. The centre is 0.17 of a hectare and the limited size of the centre results in queuing during peak periods.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition information demonstrates that on average there is sufficient theoretical capacity at the Elstree RC.

The graphs demonstrate that during peak periods the centre has sufficient capacity however the small size of the site limits the ability to meet future demands on the network from increased material segregation. The centre is busiest on the weekend along with the occasional busy Monday and is quietest during Tuesday and Wednesday. The centre is significantly quieter during the autumn months. Projected population growth in the Elstree RC catchment area to 2037 is projected to increase use of the centre but not to above capacity levels.

Location of Elstree RC

Site photograph (May 2017)

Theoretical Capacity	
Parking spaces	14
Hours open per day (minus time lost to servicing)	07:51:14
Average time on site (minutes)	00:09:29
Visits per hour per parking space	6
Visits per hour for site	89
Total visits in a day	696

	2018/19	**2019/20**
Total visitor capacity over the year (258 working days a year)	n/a	190,662
Number of annual visits	88,941	86,167
Total waste into RC (tonnes)	3,570	3,755
Average amount of waste deposited by each service user (kg)	40.1	43.5

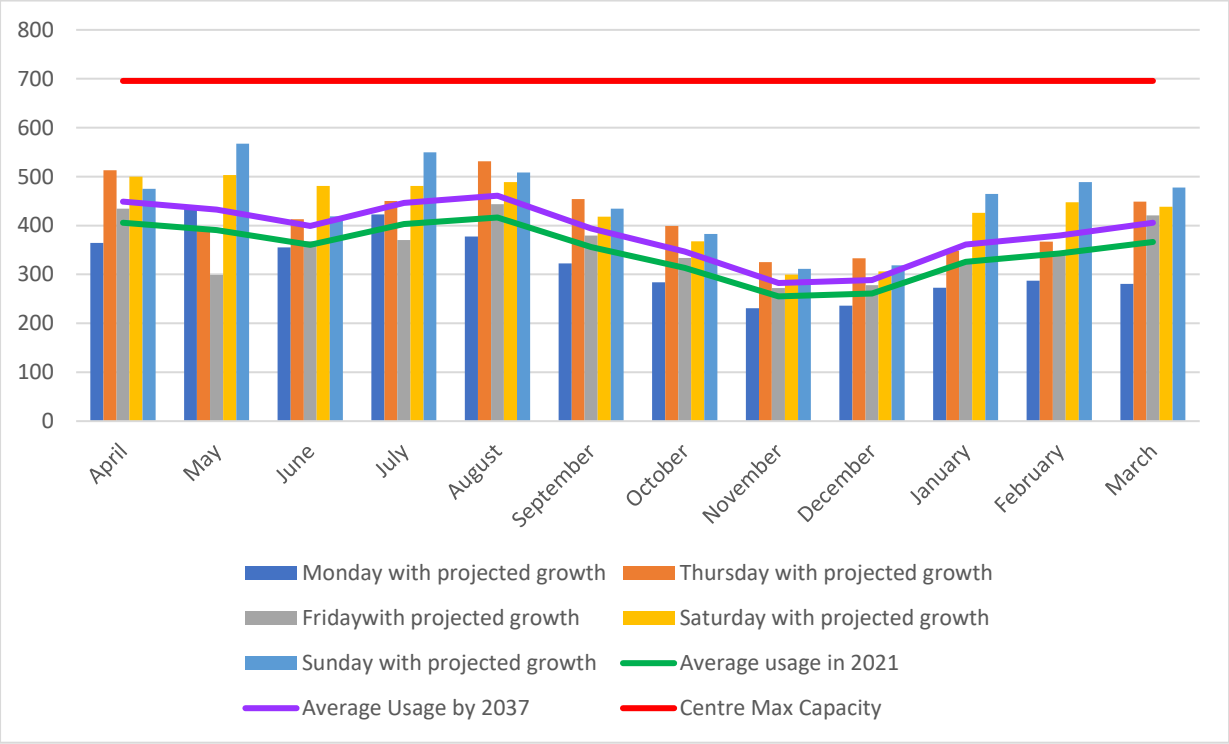


Figure 7. Average daily visitor usage projected in 2037 against maximum centre capacity.

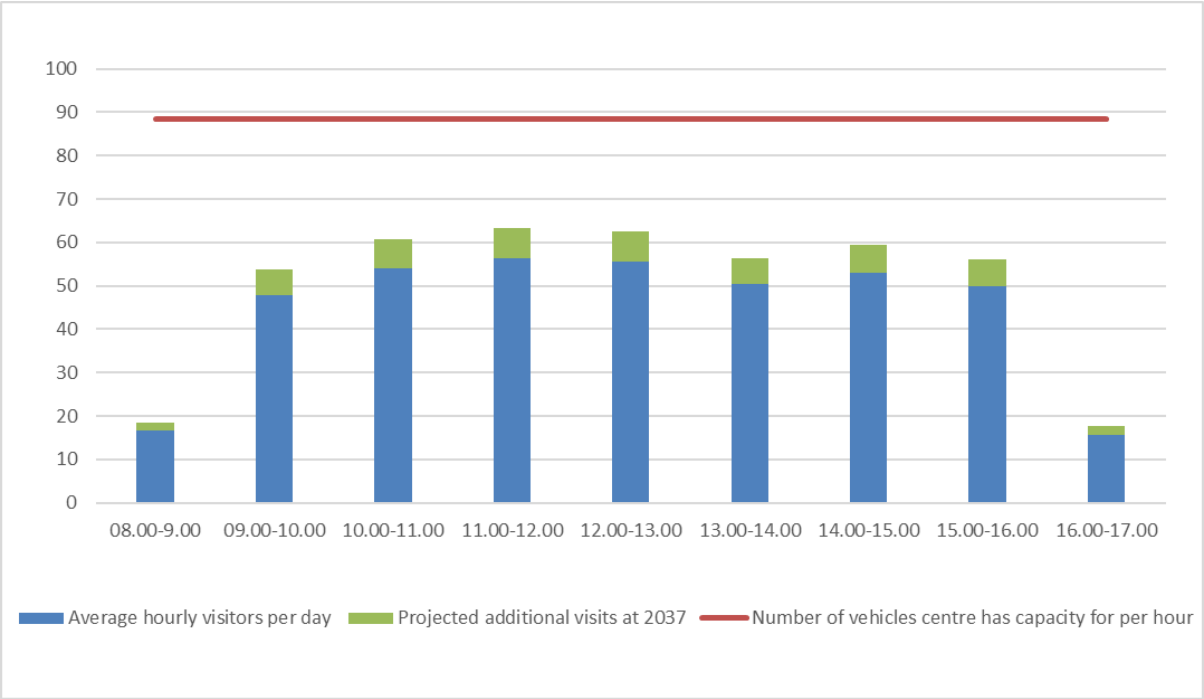


Figure 8 Summer hourly profile

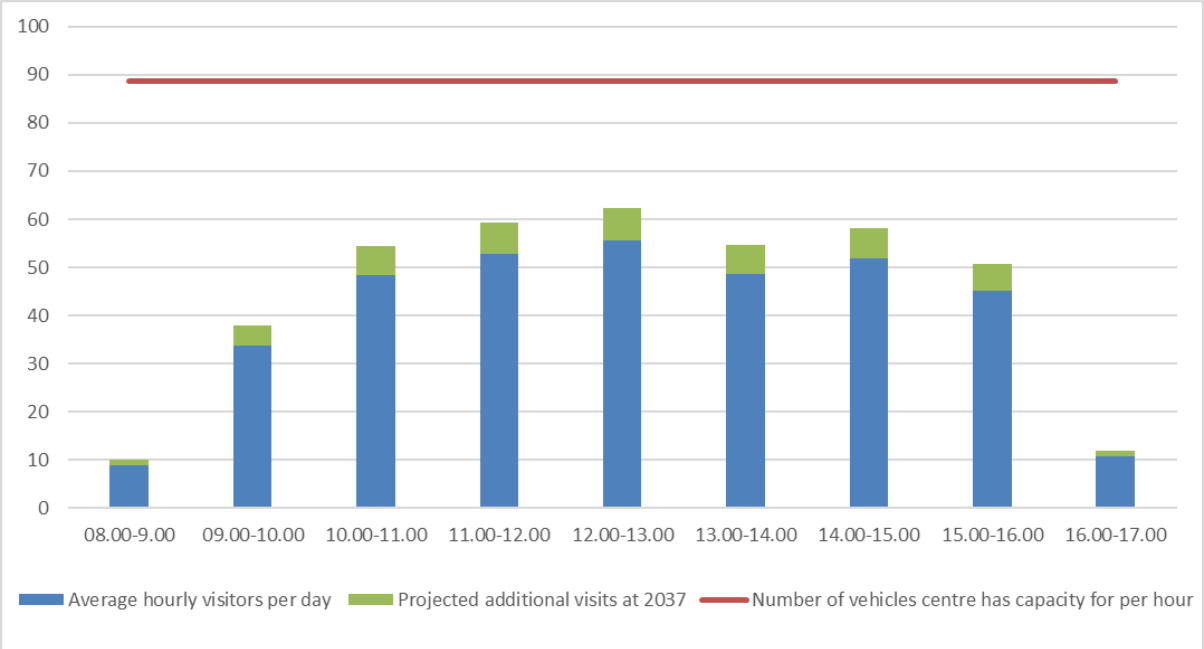


Figure 9. Winter hourly profile

Harpenden Recycling Centre

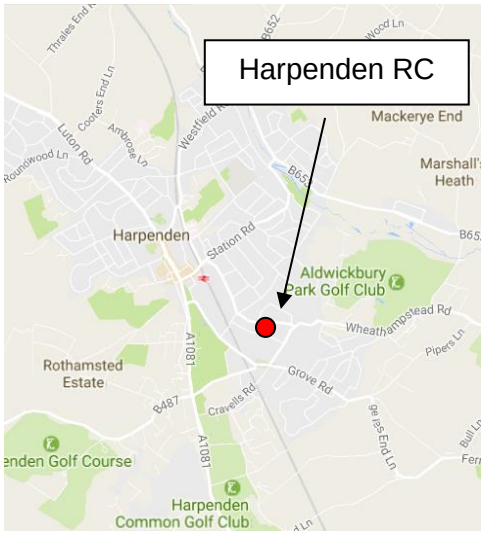
Property Ownership Details	Address	Opening Times
Freehold Owned by Hertfordshire County Council	Dark Lane, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 1QB	All Year: Saturday – Wednesday 10.00 - 18.00 Reuse Centre – All Year: Saturday – Wednesday 10.00 – 18.00

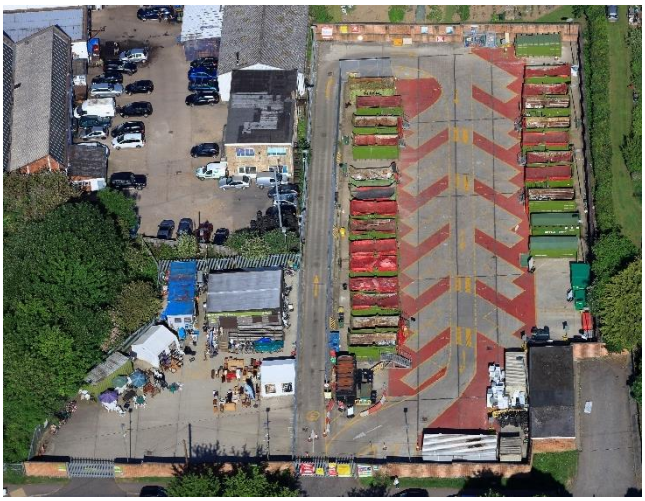
The Harpenden RC is located on Dark Lane next to an industrial area, allotments and a school in the south of Harpenden. The centre is 0.27 of a hectare. The centre does not experience any specific issues and functions well during peak periods.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition information demonstrates that on average there is sufficient capacity at the Harpenden RC.

The graphs demonstrates that during peak periods the centre has sufficient capacity. The centre is busiest on the weekend and is quietest during Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The centre is not significantly quieter or busier throughout the year. Projected population growth in the Harpenden RC catchment area to 2037 is projected to increase use of the centre but not to above capacity levels.

Location of Harpenden RC





Site photograph (May 2017)

Theoretical Capacity	
Parking spaces	23
Hours open per day (minus time lost to servicing)	07:15:42
Average time on site (minutes)	00:08:46
Visits per hour per parking space	7
Visits per hour for site	157
Total visits in a day	**1218**

	2018/19	**2019/20**
Total visitor capacity over the year (258 working days a year)	n/a	378,744
Number of annual visits	107,384	115,580
Total waste into RC (tonnes)	4,364	3,855
Average amount of waste deposited by each service user (kg)	40.6	33.3

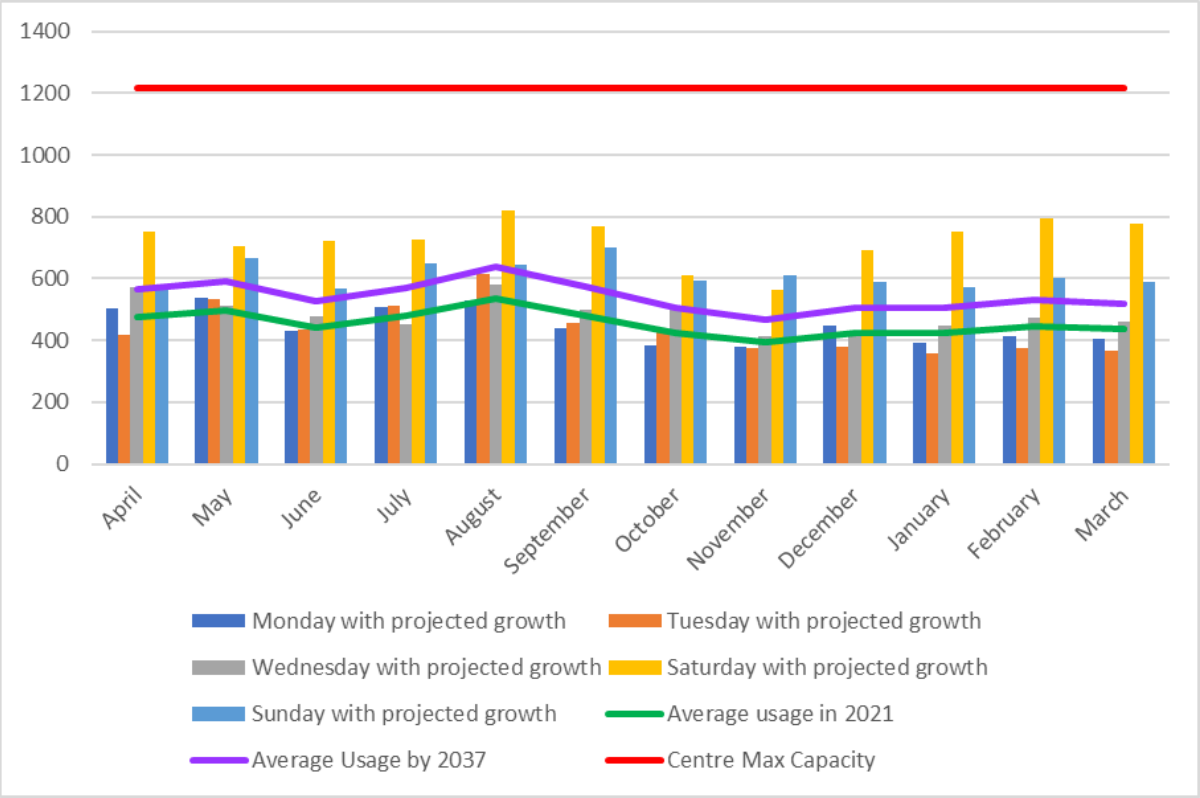


Figure 10. Average daily visitor usage projected in 2037 against maximum centre capacity.

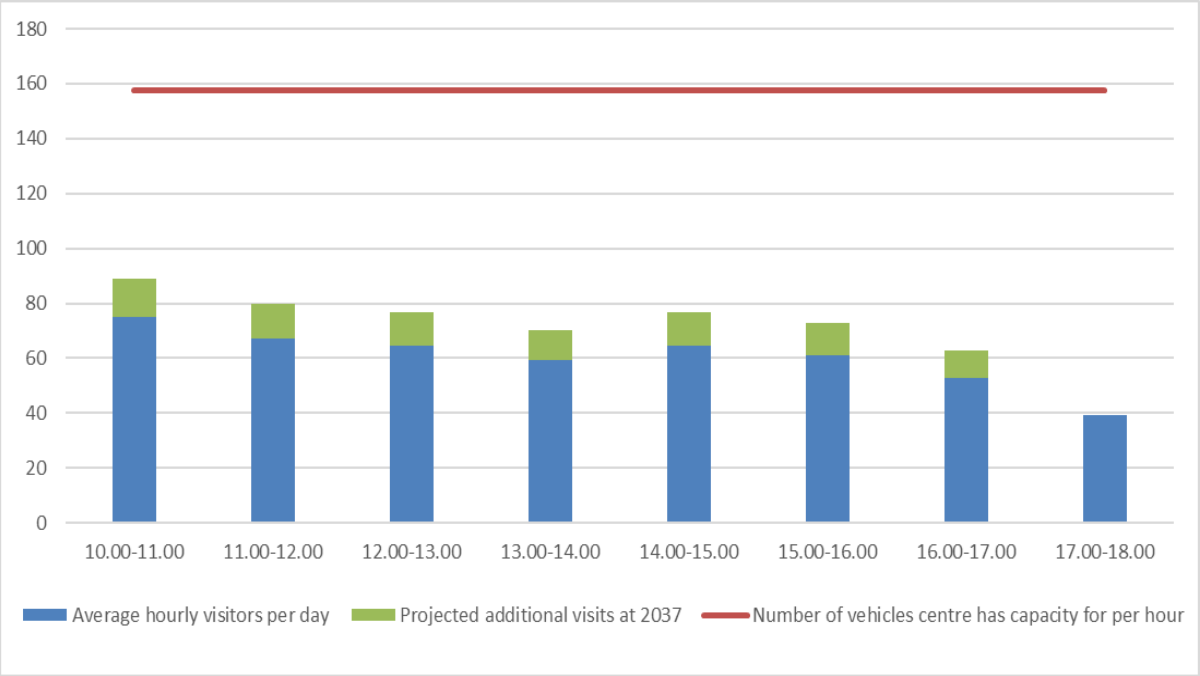


Figure 11. Summer hourly profile

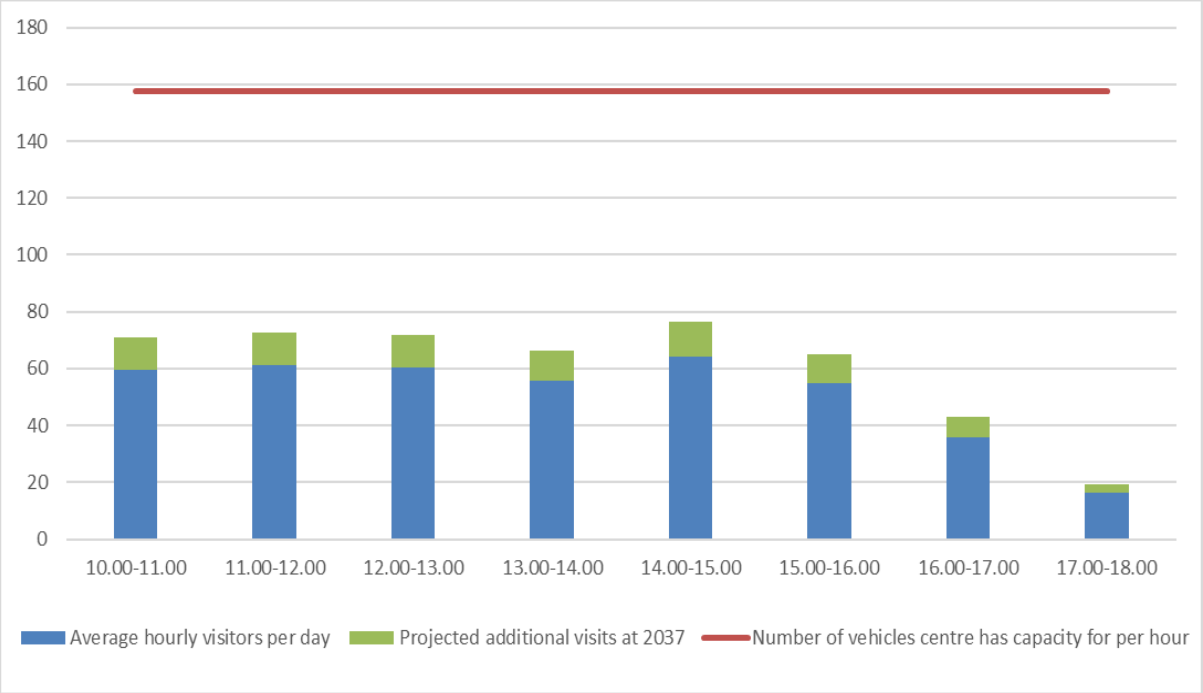


Figure 12. Winter hourly profile

Hemel Hempstead Recycling Centre

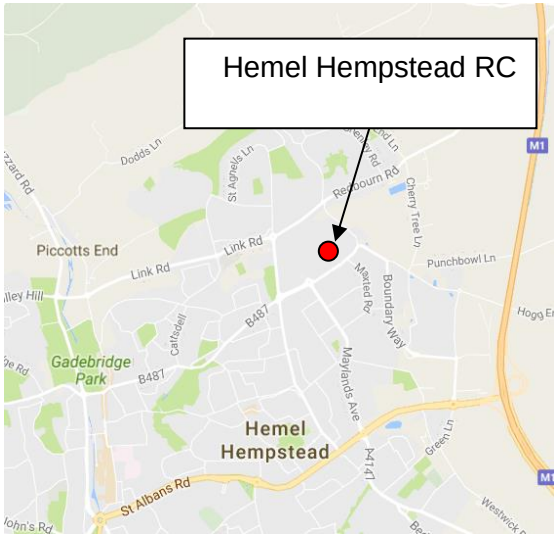
Property Ownership Details	Address	Opening Times
Leasehold – Peppercorn Rent Owned by Dacorum Borough Council	Eastman Way, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP2 7DU	Summer: Thursday – Monday 10.00 - 18.00 Winter: Thursday – Monday 08.00 - 16.00

The Hemel Hempstead RC is located on Eastman Way in an industrial and business area to the north of Hemel Hempstead. The centre is 0.18 of a hectare and is too small to adequately deal with demand. While the best possible use of available space has been utilised the restricted size of the site means at peak times queuing occurs back onto Eastman Way.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition information demonstrates that on average there is sufficient theoretical capacity at the Hemel Hempstead RC.

The graphs demonstrates that during peak periods the centre has sufficient capacity however this centre suffers from congestion and a lack of containers to meet the future demands on the network. The centre is busy throughout the week and weekend. The centre is significantly quieter in the winter and busier on the weekend in this season as well. Projected population growth in the Hemel Hempstead RC catchment area to 2037 is projected to increase use of the centre but not to above capacity levels except for in the mornings of the summer months.

Location of Hemel Hempstead RC



Site photograph (May 2017)

Theoretical Capacity	
Parking spaces	19
Hours open per day (minus time lost to servicing)	07:48:28
Average time on site (minutes)	00:07:53
Visits per hour per parking space	8
Visits per hour for site	145
Total visits in a day	**1129**

	2018/19	**2019/20**
Total visitor capacity over the year (258 working days a year)	n/a	287,154
Number of annual visits	129,959	112,902
Total waste into RC (tonnes)	5,688	5,563
Average amount of waste deposited by each service user (kg)	43.7	49.2

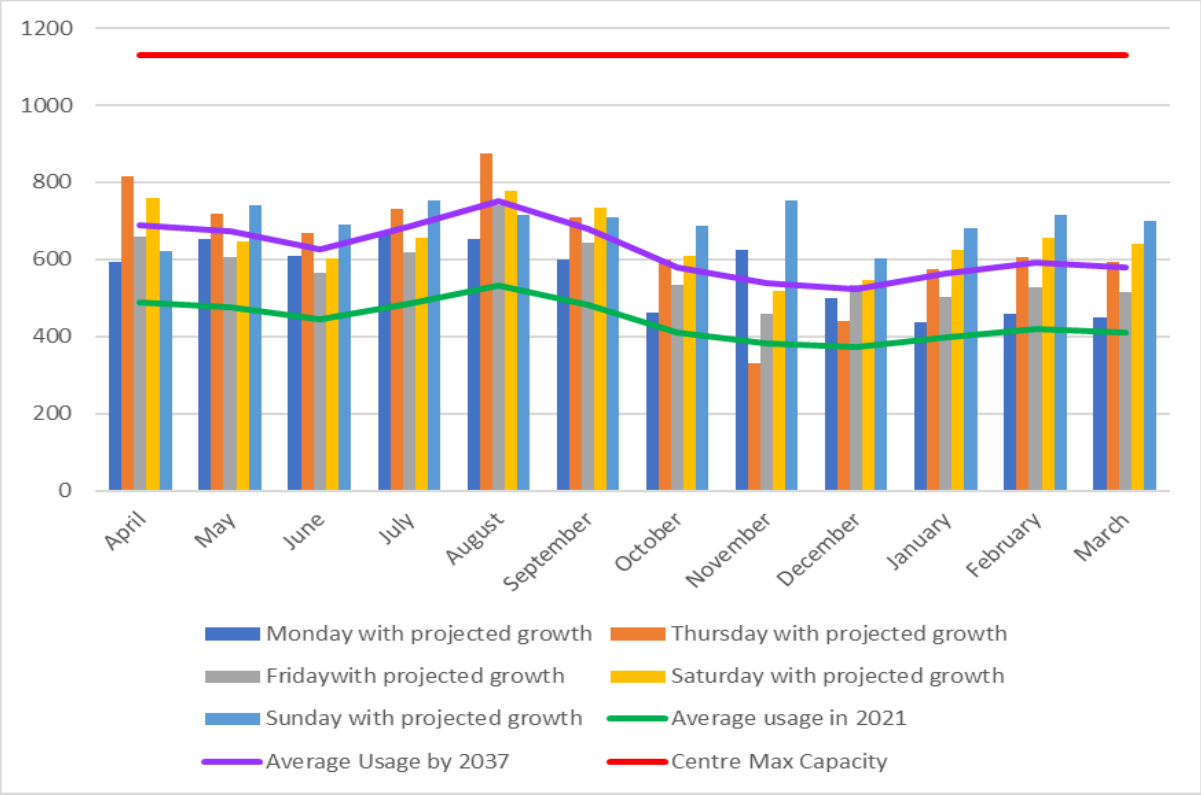


Figure 13. Average daily visitor usage projected in 2037 against maximum centre capacity.

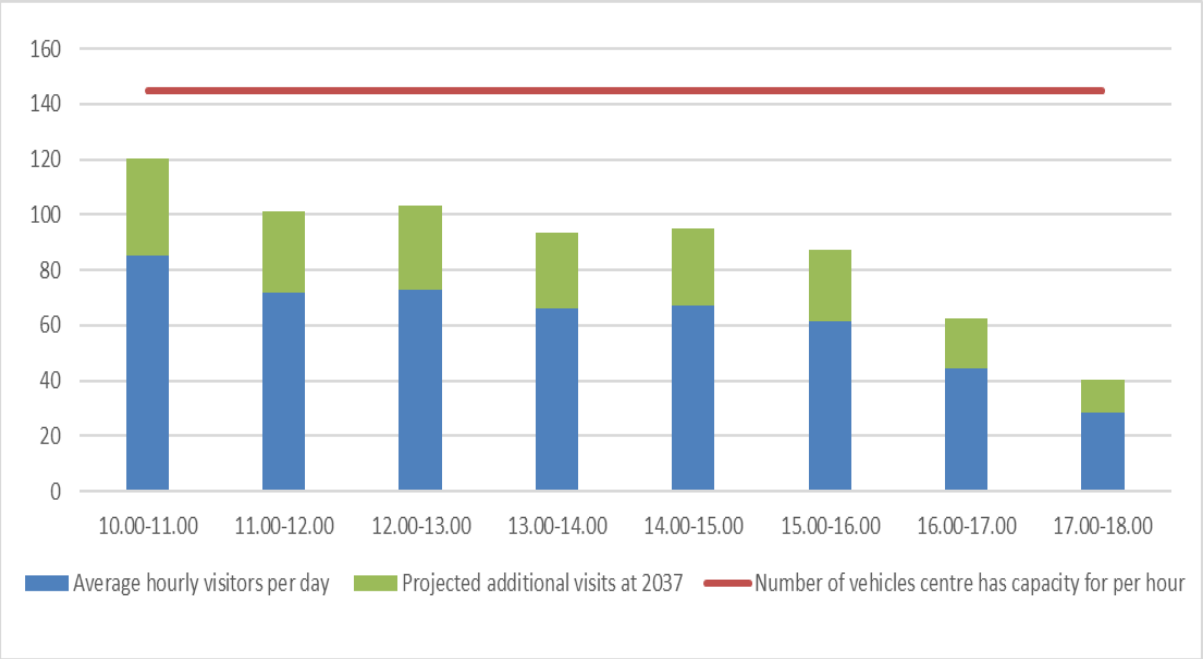


Figure 14. Summer hourly profile

Figure 15. Winter hourly profile

Hoddesdon Recycling Centre

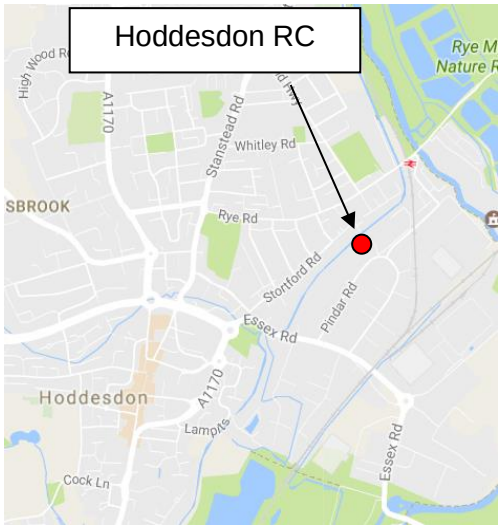
Property Ownership Details	Address	Opening Times
Owned by Broxbourne Borough Council	Pindar Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 0BZ	All Year: Thursday – Monday 10.00 - 18.00

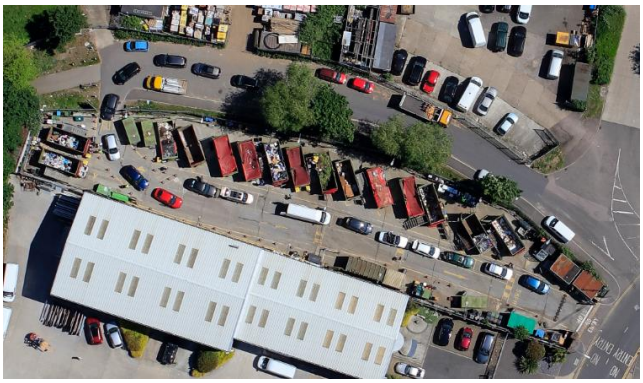
The Hoddesdon RC is located on Pindar Road in an industrial estate area to the east of Hoddesdon town centre. The centre is 0.15 of a hectare. The size of the centre presents a number of problems as the centre is smaller than desired. Its narrow shape also makes operations within the centre difficult. While the best possible use of available space has been utilised, the current restrictions on layout and an inability to accommodate more than nine parking spaces suitable for unloading means that queuing occurs at peak periods.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition information demonstrates that on average there is sufficient theoretical capacity at the Hoddesdon RC.

The graph demonstrates that during peak periods the centre has sufficient capacity. The centre is busiest on the weekend and is quietest during Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The centre is not significantly quieter or busier throughout the year. Projected population growth in the Hoddesdon RC catchment area to 2037 is projected to increase use of the centre but not to above capacity levels.

Location of Hoddesdon RC





Centre photograph (May 2017)

Theoretical Capacity	
Parking spaces	9
Hours open per day (minus time lost to servicing)	07:58:09
Average time on site (minutes)	00:07:55
Visits per hour per parking space	8
Visits per hour for site	68
Total visits in a day	**544**

	2018/19	2019/20
Total visitor capacity over the year (258 working days a year)	n/a	150,156
Number of annual visits	98,352	69,777
Total waste into RC (tonnes)	2,506	2,772
Average amount of waste deposited by each service user (kg)	25.4	39.7

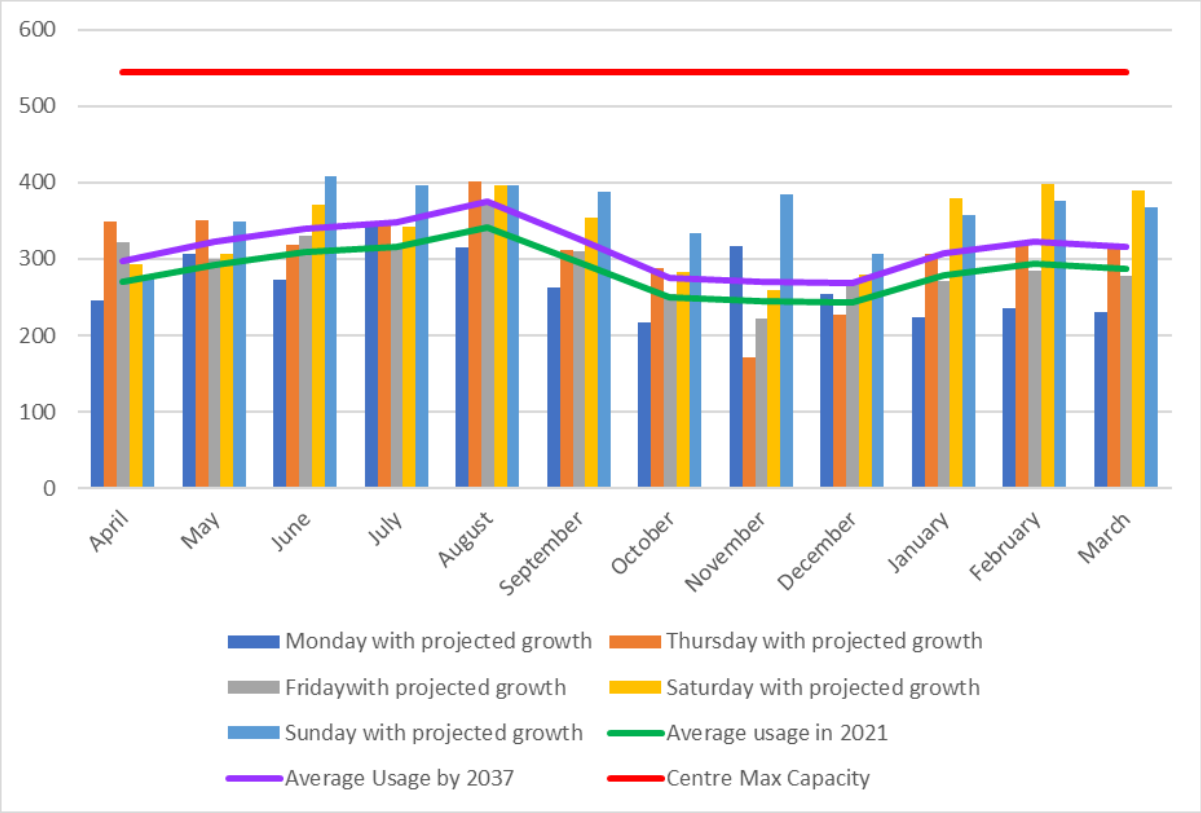


Figure 16. Average daily visitor usage projected in 2037 against maximum centre capacity.

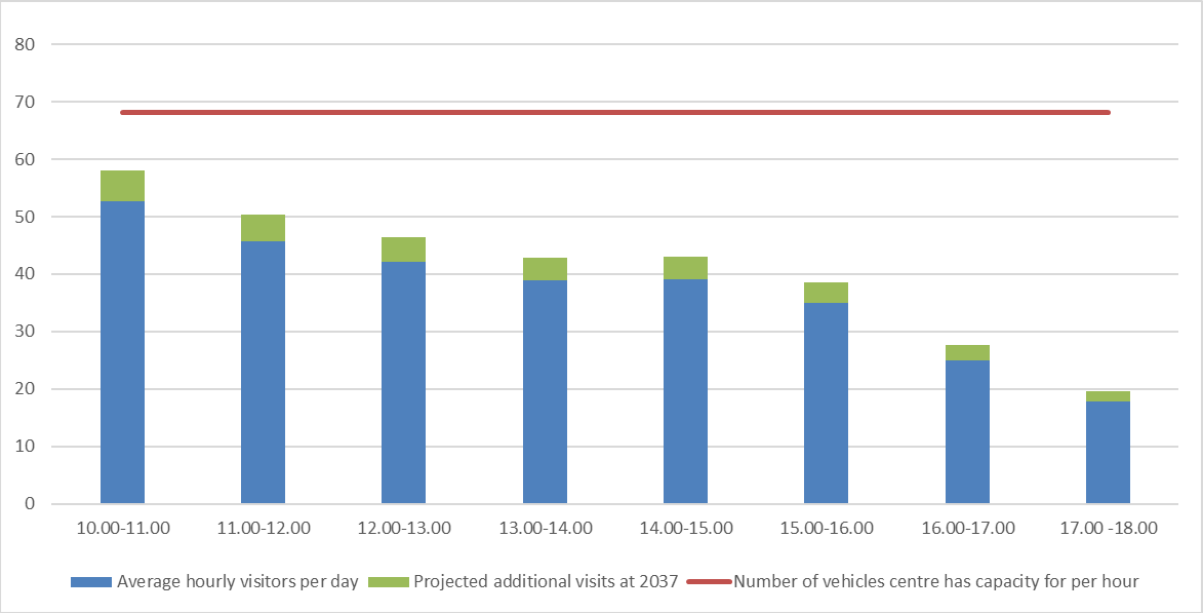


Figure 17. Summer hourly profile

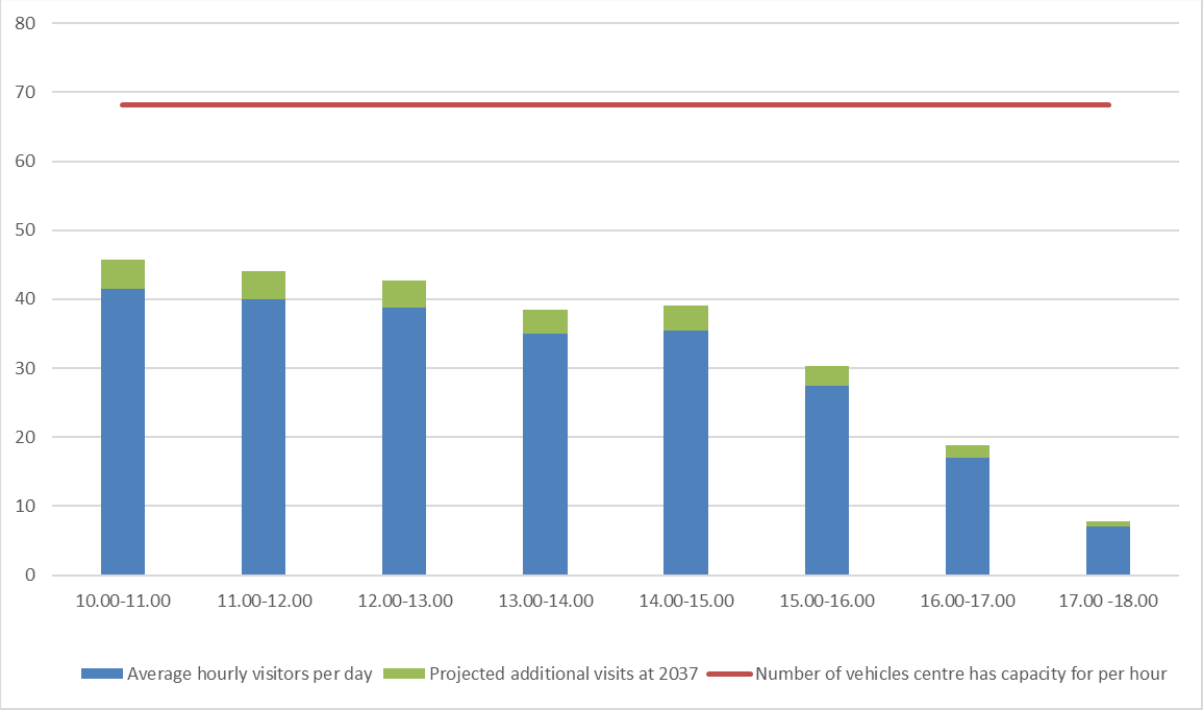


Figure 18. Winter hourly profile

Letchworth Recycling Centre

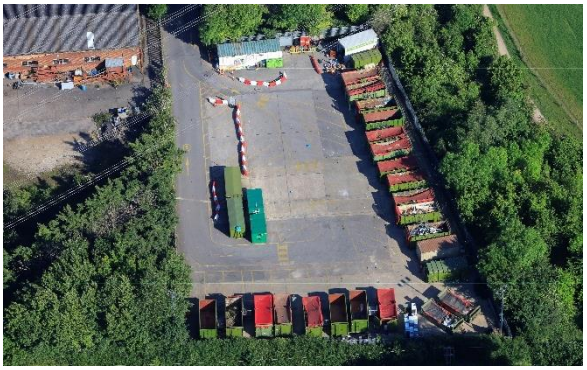
Property Ownership Details	Address	Opening Times
Owned by North Herts District Council	Blackhorse Road, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, SG6 1HB	All Year: Thursday – Monday 10.00 - 18.00

The Letchworth RC is located on Blackhorse Road in an industrial estate area to the northeast of Letchworth. The centre is 0.25 of a hectare and is too small to adequately deal with demand. While the best possible use of available space has been utilised the restricted size of the site means at peak times queuing occurs back onto Blackhorse Road and disrupts business activity.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition information demonstrates that on average there is sufficient capacity at the Letchworth RC.

The graphs demonstrates that during peak periods the centre is over capacity. The centre is busiest on the weekend and is quietest during Monday and Friday. The centre is significantly quieter in the winter months on average. Projected population growth in the Letchworth RC catchment area to 2037 is projected to increase use of the centre but not to above capacity levels.

Location of Letchworth RC



Centre Photograph (May 2017)

Theoretical Capacity	
Parking spaces	22
Hours open per day (minus time lost to servicing)	07:47:05
Average time on site (minutes)	00:11:09
Visits per hour per parking space	5
Visits per hour for site	118
Total visits in a day	**922**

	2018/19	2019/20
Total visitor capacity over the year (258 working days a year)	n/a	302,634
Number of annual visits	132,604	142,898
Total waste into RC (tonnes)	6,702	6,573
Average amount of waste deposited by each service user (kg)	50.5	45.9

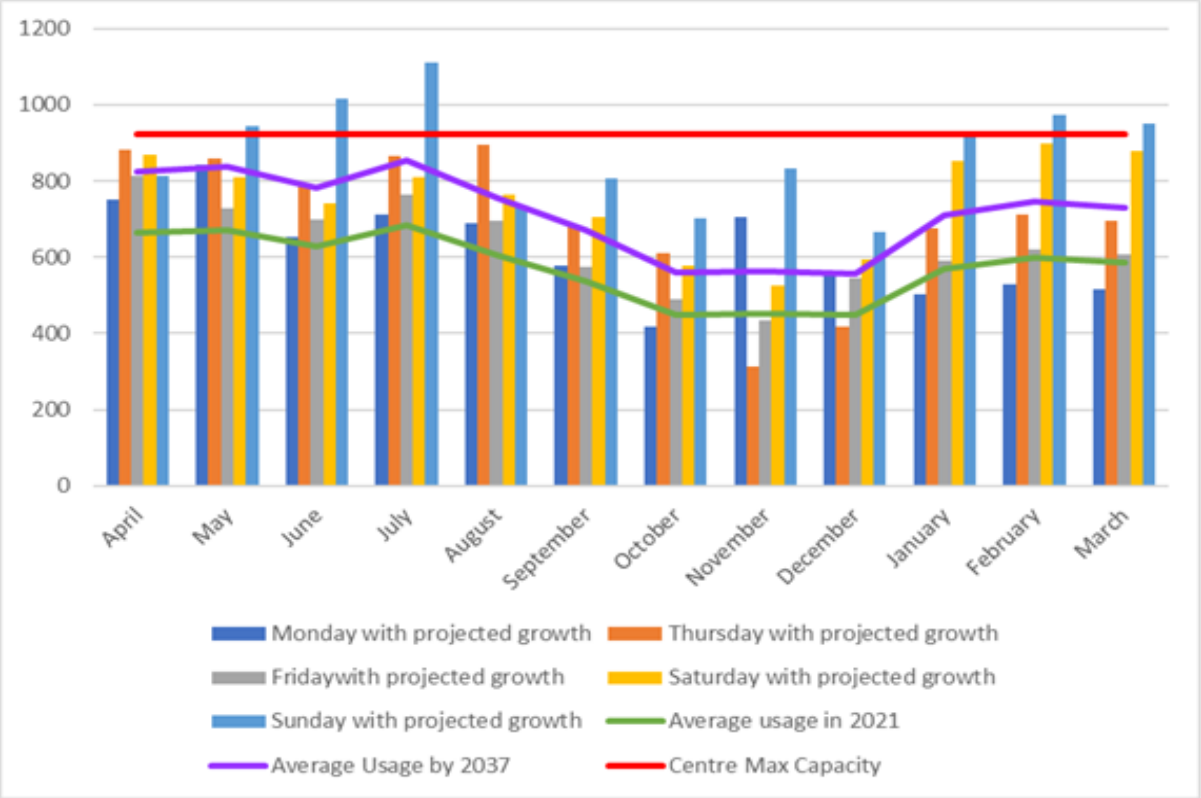


Figure 19. Average daily visitor usage projected in 2037 against maximum centre capacity.

Figure 20. Summer hourly profile

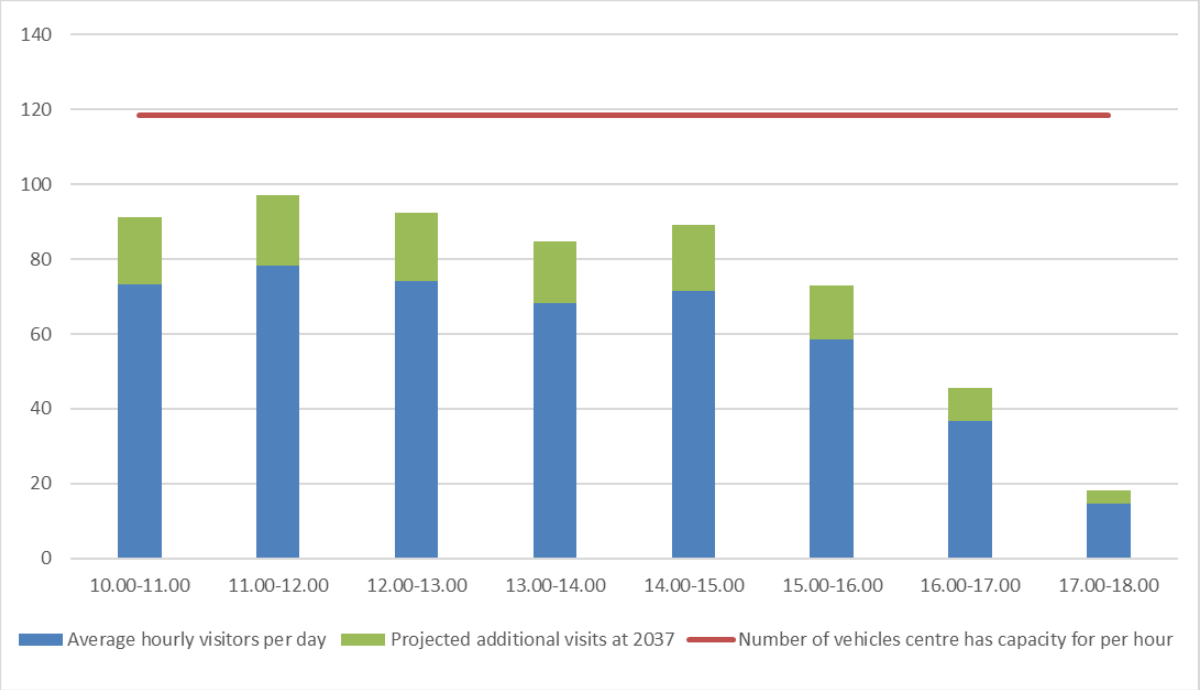


Figure 21. Winter hourly profile

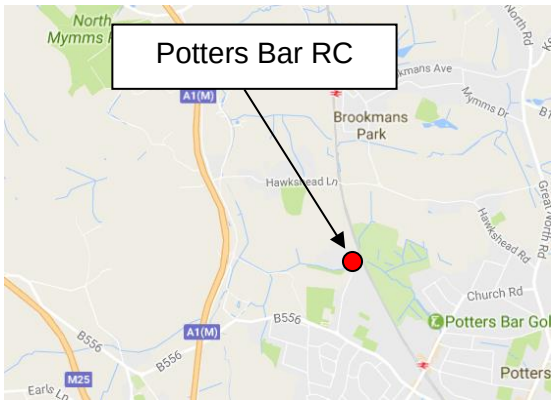
Potters Bar Recycling Centre

Property Ownership Details	Address	Opening Times
Owned by Hertsmere Borough Council Leased – Commenced 21/9/90 – 25 years Peppercorn Rent (£1/annum)	Cranbourne Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 3JE	Summer: Saturday – Wednesday 10.00 - 18.00 Winter: Saturday – Wednesday 08.00 - 16.00

The Potters Bar RC is located on Cranbourne Road an industrial estate north east of Potters Bar. The centre is 0.18 of a hectare. The centre experience issues with queues and with too few containers for the site to meet future demands on the network.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition information is not available for Potter's Bar and so no capacity assessment is possible.

Location of Potters Bar RC



Centre Photograph (2008)

Rickmansworth Recycling Centre

Property Ownership Details	Address	Opening Times
Freehold Owned by Hertfordshire County Council	Riverside Drive, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 1BN	All Year: Thursday – Monday 10.00 - 18.00

The Rickmansworth RC is located on Riverside Drive to the southeast of Rickmansworth. The centre is 0.3 of a hectare. The centre does not experience any specific issues and functions well during peak periods.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition information demonstrates that on average there is sufficient capacity at the Rickmansworth RC.

The graphs demonstrates that during peak periods the centre has sufficient capacity. In the summer months the centre is busy throughout the week and in the winter months usage begin to drop off and pocking up in the new year with more usage on the weekend. Projected population growth in the Harpenden RC catchment area to 2037 is projected to increase use of the centre but not to above capacity levels.

Location of Rickmansworth RC

Centre photograph (2008)

Theoretical Capacity	
Parking spaces	30
Hours open per day (minus time lost to servicing)	07:58:37
Average time on site (minutes)	00:08:53
Visits per hour per parking space	7
Visits per hour for site	203
Total visits in a day	**1616**

	2018/19	2019/20
Total visitor capacity over the year (258 working days a year)	n/a	495,360
Number of annual visits	141,749	146,078
Total waste into RC (tonnes)	6,058	5,973
Average amount of waste deposited by each service user (kg)	42.7	40.8

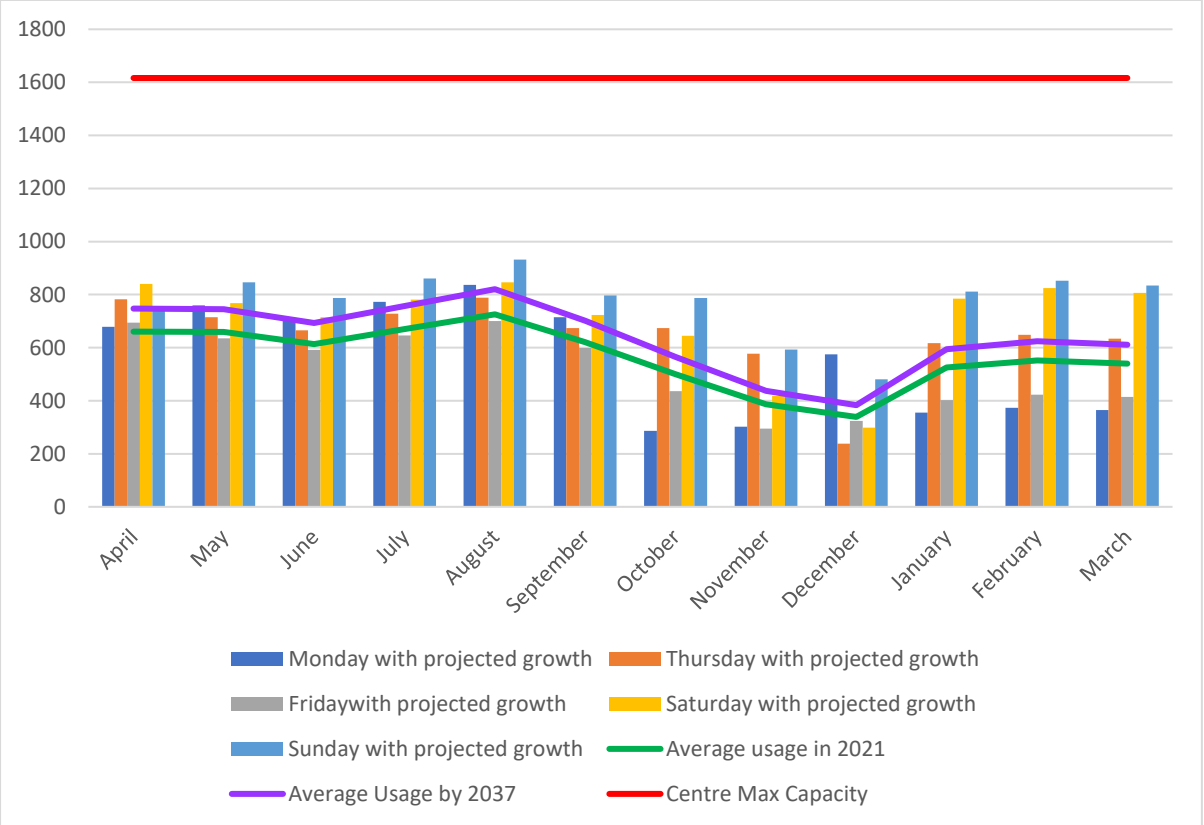


Figure 22. Average daily visitor usage projected in 2037 against maximum centre capacity.

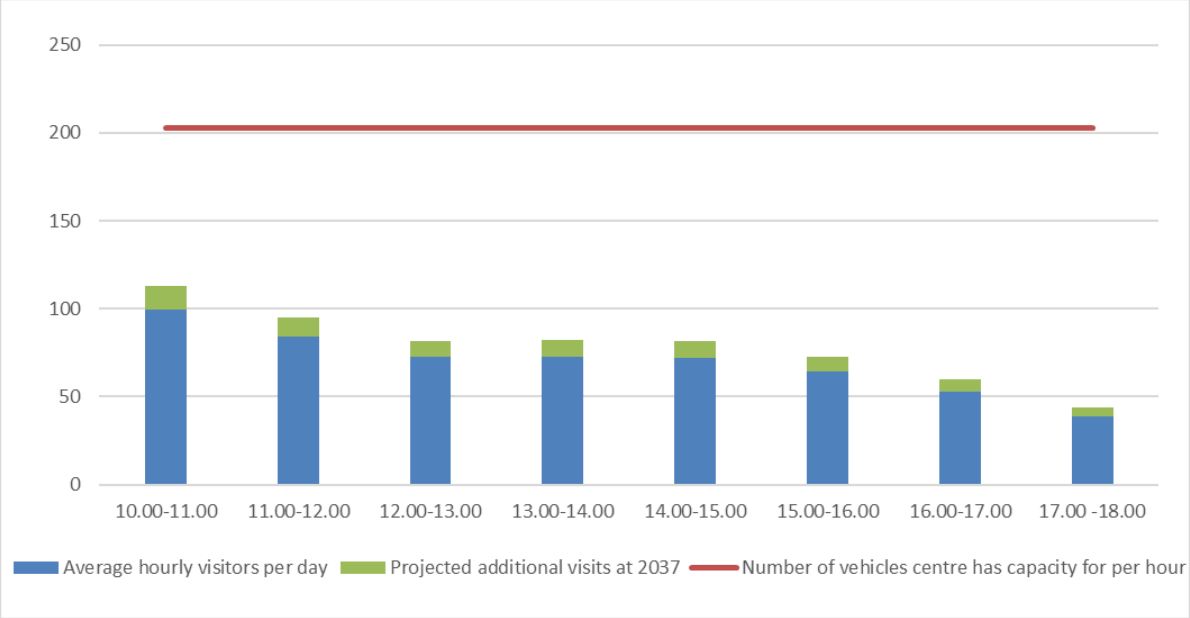


Figure 23. Summer hourly profile

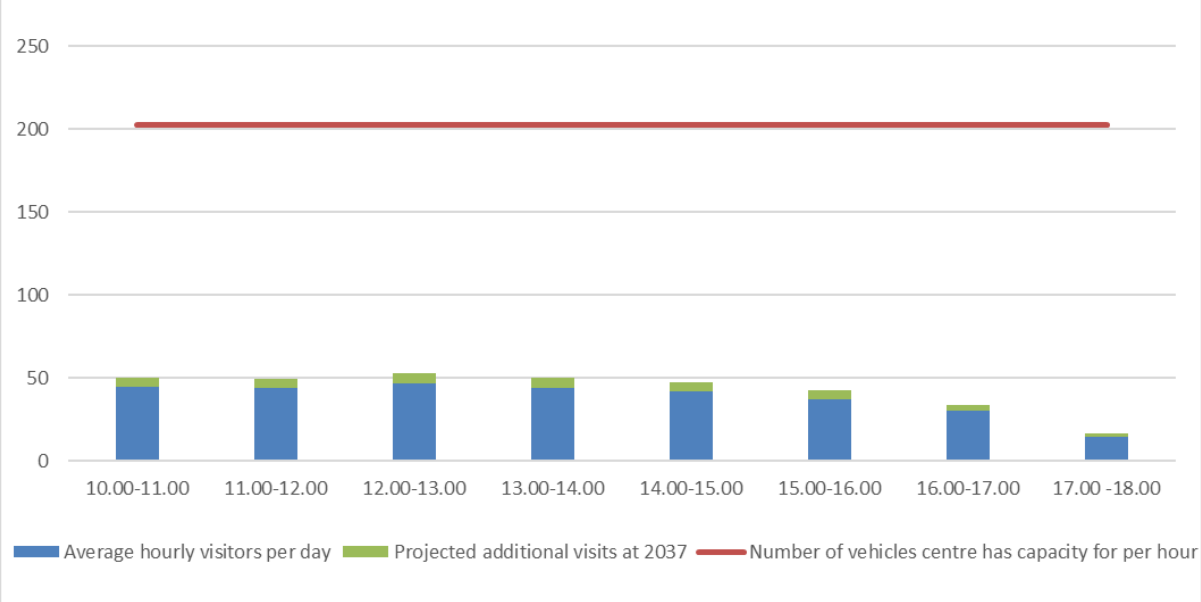


Figure 24. Winter hourly profile

Royston Recycling Centre

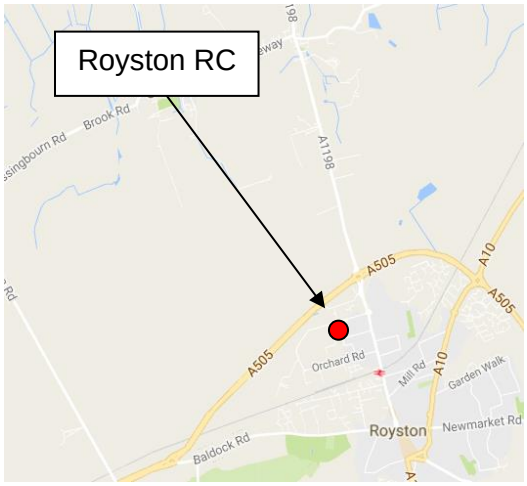
Property Ownership Details	Address	Opening Times
Freehold Owned by Hertfordshire County Council	Beverley Close, Off York Way, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5HF	All Year: Saturday – Wednesday 08.00 - 16.00

The Royston RC is located on Beverly Close in an industrial and business area to the north Royston. The centre is 0.26 of a hectare.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition information demonstrates that on average there is sufficient capacity at the Harpenden RC.

The graphs demonstrates that during peak periods the centre has sufficient capacity. The centre is busiest on the weekend and is quietest during Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The centre is not significantly quieter or busier throughout the year. Projected population growth in the Royston RC catchment area to 2037 is projected to increase use of the centre but not to above capacity levels.

Location of Royston RC



Centre photograph (2008)

Theoretical Capacity	
Parking spaces	16
Hours open per day (minus time lost to servicing)	07:54:28
Average time on site (minutes)	00:09:35
Visits per hour per parking space	6
Visits per hour for site	100
Total visits in a day	**792**

	2018/19	2019/20
Total visitor capacity over the year (258 working days a year)	n/a	266,514
Number of annual visits	116,172	99,233
Total waste into RC (tonnes)	3,037	2,958
Average amount of waste deposited by each service user (kg)	26.1	29.8

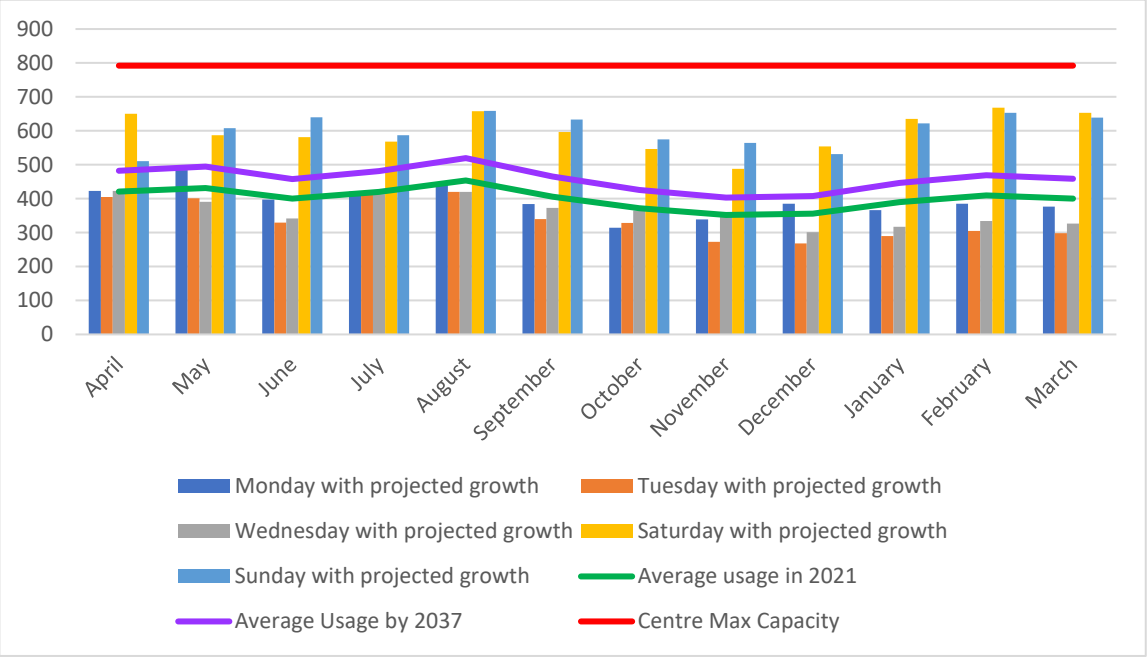


Figure 25. Average daily visitor usage projected in 2037 against maximum centre capacity.

Figure 26. Summer hourly profile

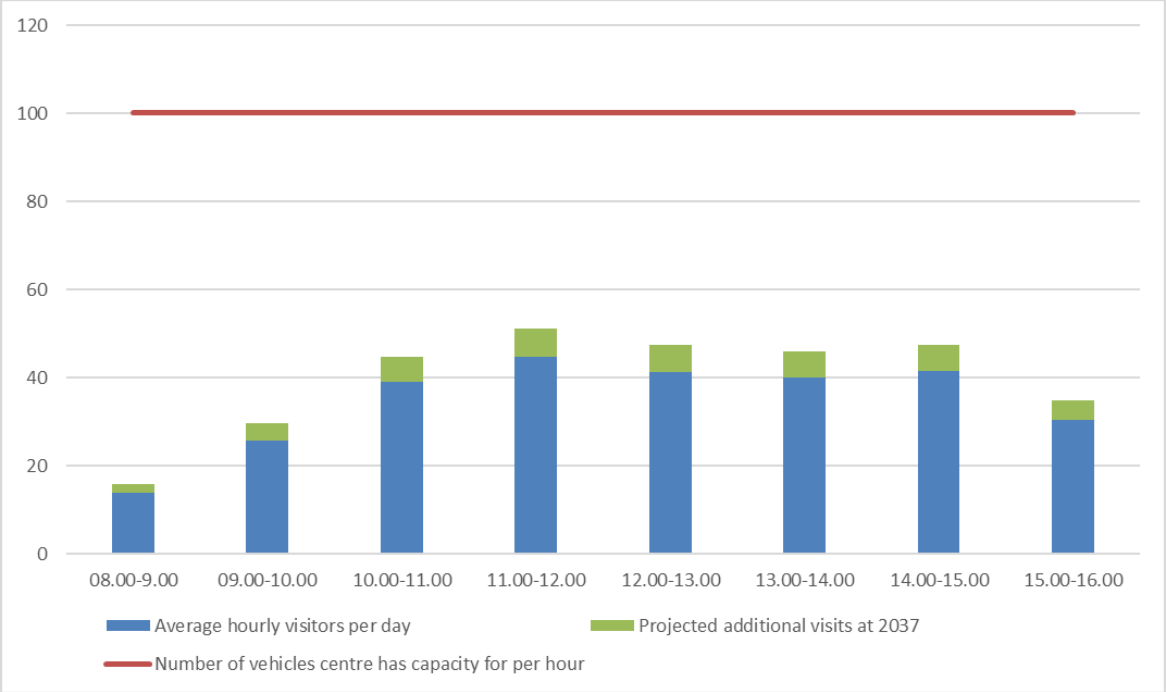


Figure 27. Winter hourly profile

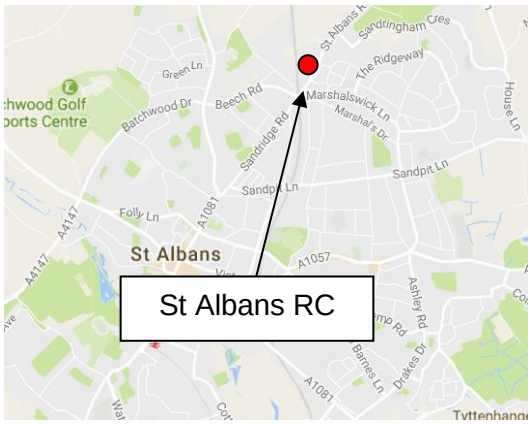
St Albans Recycling Centre

Property Ownership Details	Address	Opening Times
Freehold Owned by Hertfordshire County Council	14 Ronsons Way, (Off St Albans Rd), St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 4AP	Summer: Thursday – Monday 10.00 - 18.00 Winter: Thursday – Monday 08.00 - 16.00

The St Albans RC is located on Ronsons Way. The centre is 0.17 of a hectare. Although the centre has recently been expanded it is too small to adequately deal with demand. While the best possible use of available space has been utilised the restricted size of the site means at peak times queuing occurs back onto Ronsons Way and can affect the flow of traffic in the local area.

The graph demonstrates that during peak periods the centre has sufficient capacity. The centre is busiest on the weekend and is quietest during Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The centre is significantly quieter in the winter months and increases in usage in spring. Projected population growth in the St Albans RC catchment area to 2037 is projected to increase use of the centre but not to above capacity levels.

Location of St Albans RC



Centre photograph (May 2017)

Theoretical Capacity	
Parking spaces	17
Hours open per day (minus time lost to servicing)	07:15:42
Average time on site (minutes)	00:10:29
Visits per hour per parking space	6
Visits per hour for site	97
Total visits in a day	**777**

	2018/19	2019/20
Total visitor capacity over the year (258 working days a year)	n/a	210,528
Number of annual visits	129,292	126,601
Total waste into RC (tonnes)	5,776	4,827
Average amount of waste deposited by each service user (kg)	44.6	38.1

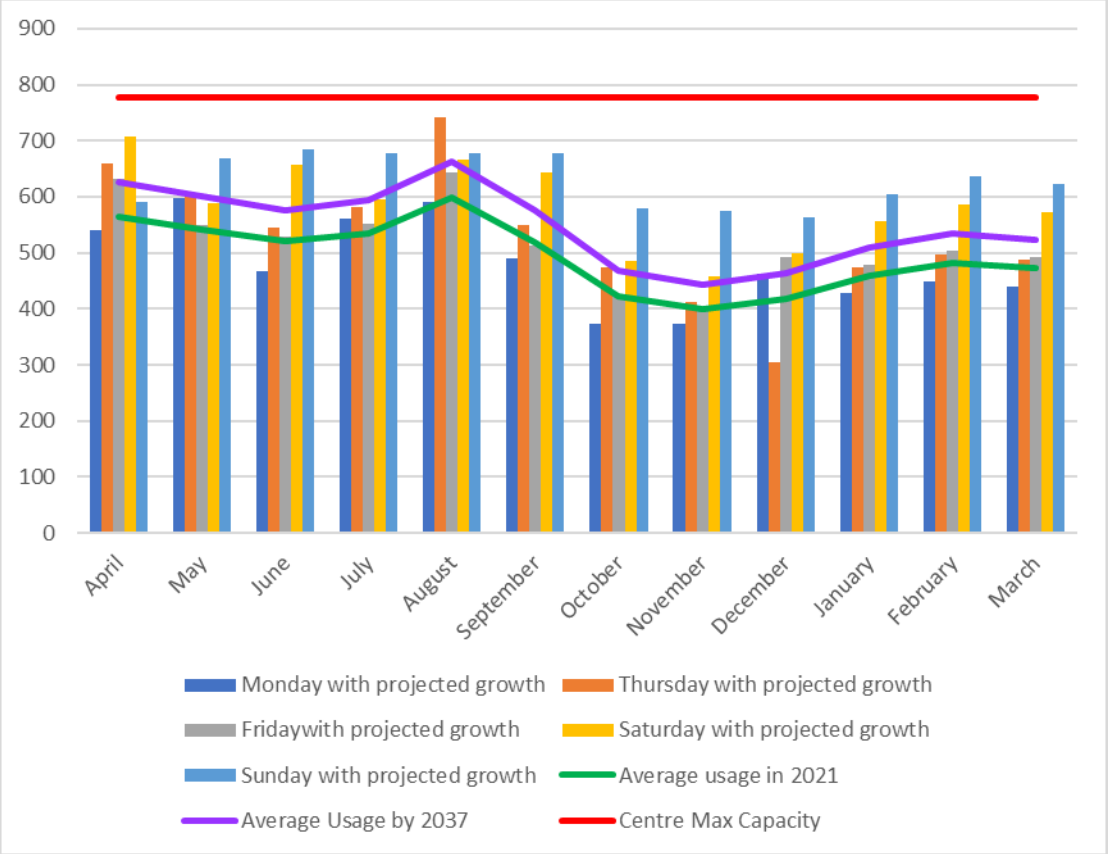


Figure 28. Average daily visitor usage projected in 2037 against maximum centre capacity.

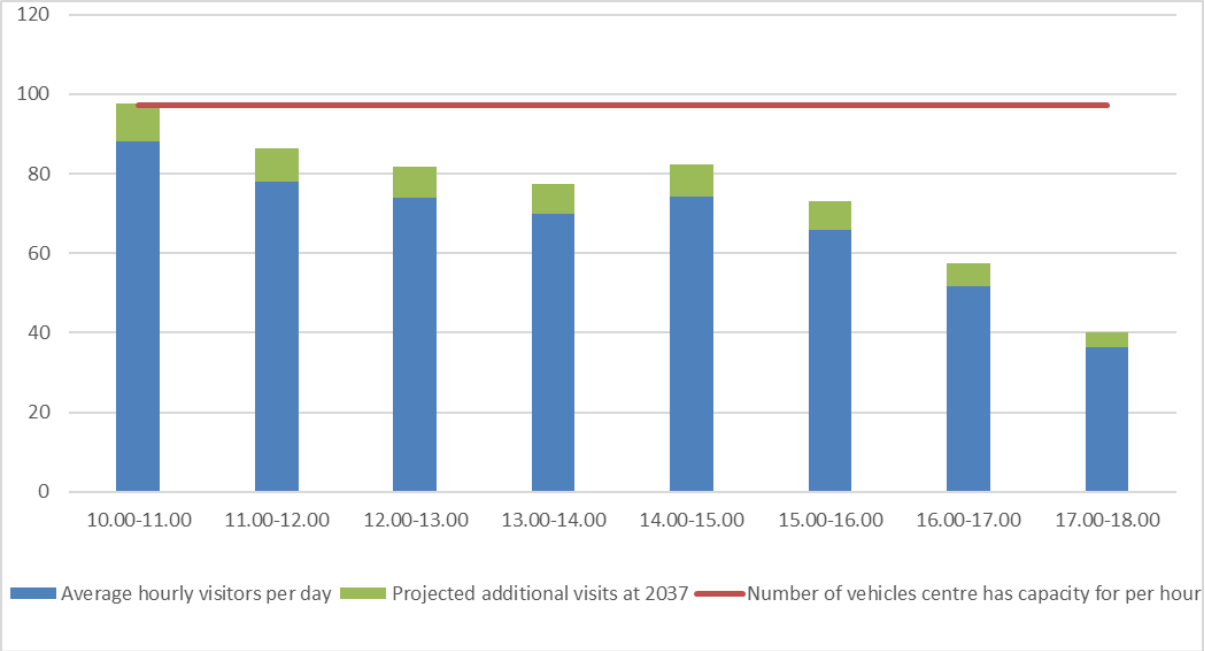


Figure 29. Summer hourly profile

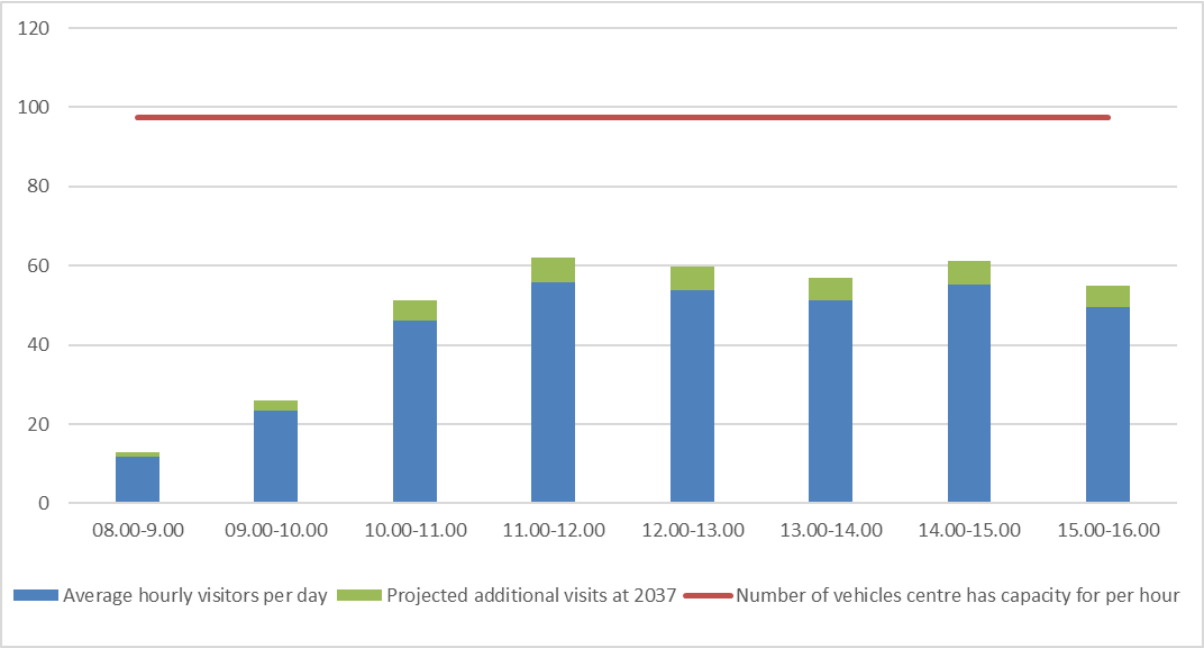


Figure 30. Winter hourly profile

Stevenage Recycling Centre

Property Ownership Details	Address	Opening Times
Freehold Owned by Hertfordshire County Council	Caxton Way, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 2DF	All Year: Saturday – Wednesday 10.00 - 18.00 Saturdays (Summer only) 08.00 – 18.00

The Stevenage RC is located on Caxton Way, on a business area to the west of Stevenage. The centre is 0.37 of a hectare. This centre is one of the busiest within the RC network.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition information demonstrates that on average there is sufficient capacity at the Stevenage RC.

The graph demonstrates that during peak periods the centre is over capacity. The centre is busiest on the weekend and is quietest during Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The centre is quieter in the winter months with an uptick in usage in January. Projected population growth in the Stevenage RC catchment area to 2037 is projected to increase use of the centre to over capacity levels particularly in the summer months with the centre going over capacity on Saturdays and Sundays.

Location of Stevenage RC

Centre photograph (2008)

Theoretical Capacity	
Parking spaces	28
Hours open per day (minus time lost to servicing)	07:45:49
Average time on site (minutes)	00:12:09
Visits per hour per parking space	5
Visits per hour for site	138
Total visits in a day	**1073**

	2018/19	2019/20
Total visitor capacity over the year (258 working days a year)	n/a	314,760
Number of annual visits	218,093	187,882
Total waste into RC (tonnes)	9,971	9,764
Average amount of waste deposited by each service user (kg)	45.7	51.9

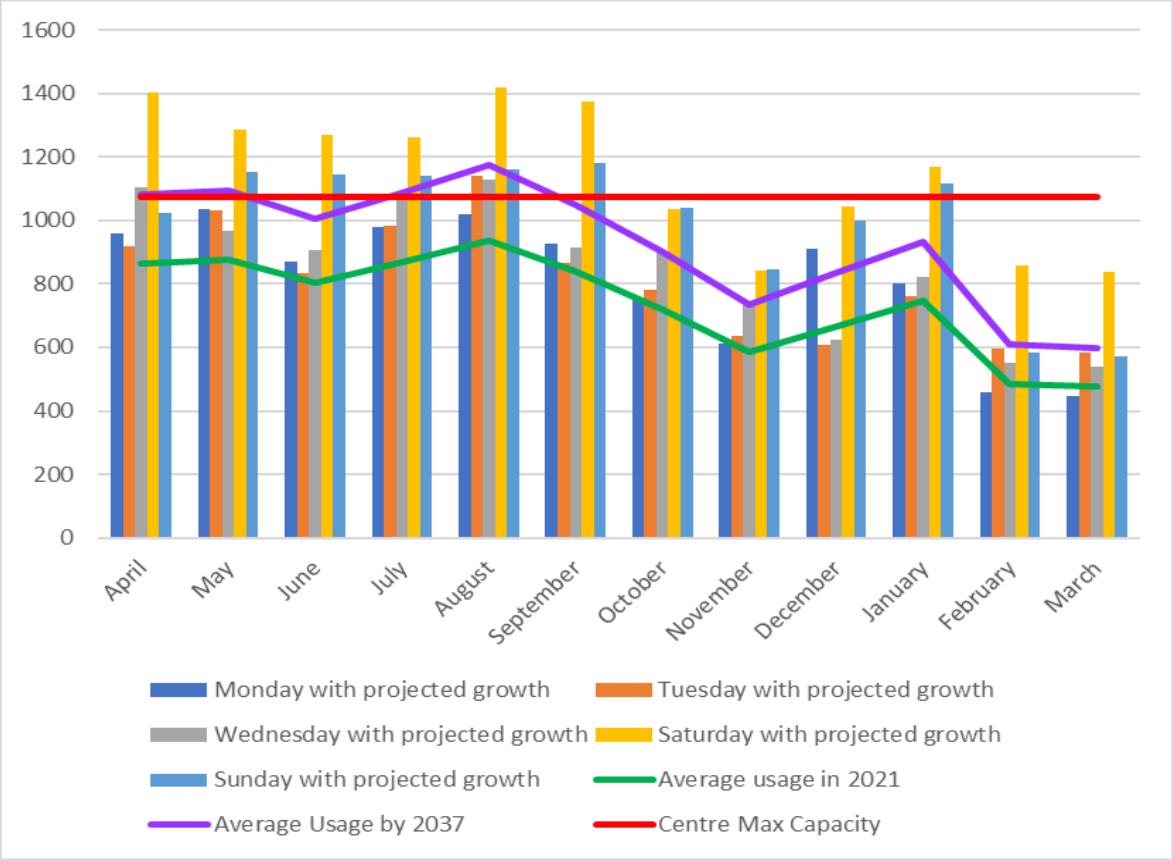


Figure 31. Average daily visitor usage projected in 2037 against maximum centre capacity.

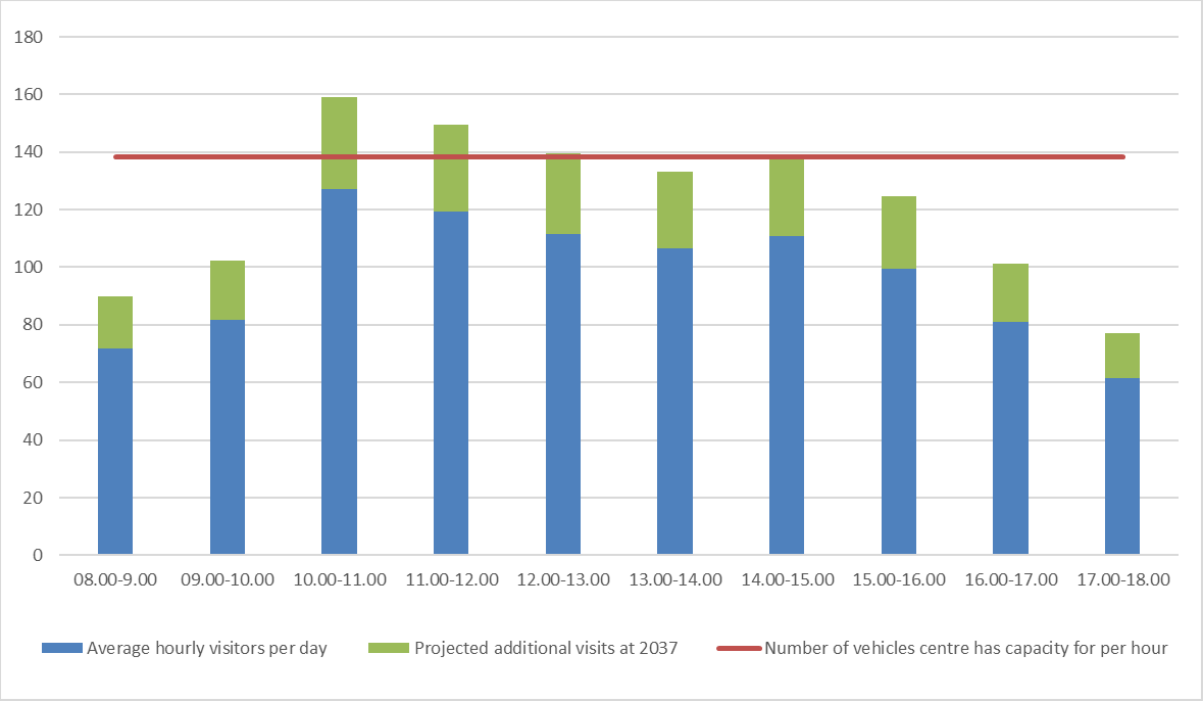


Figure 32. Summer hourly profile

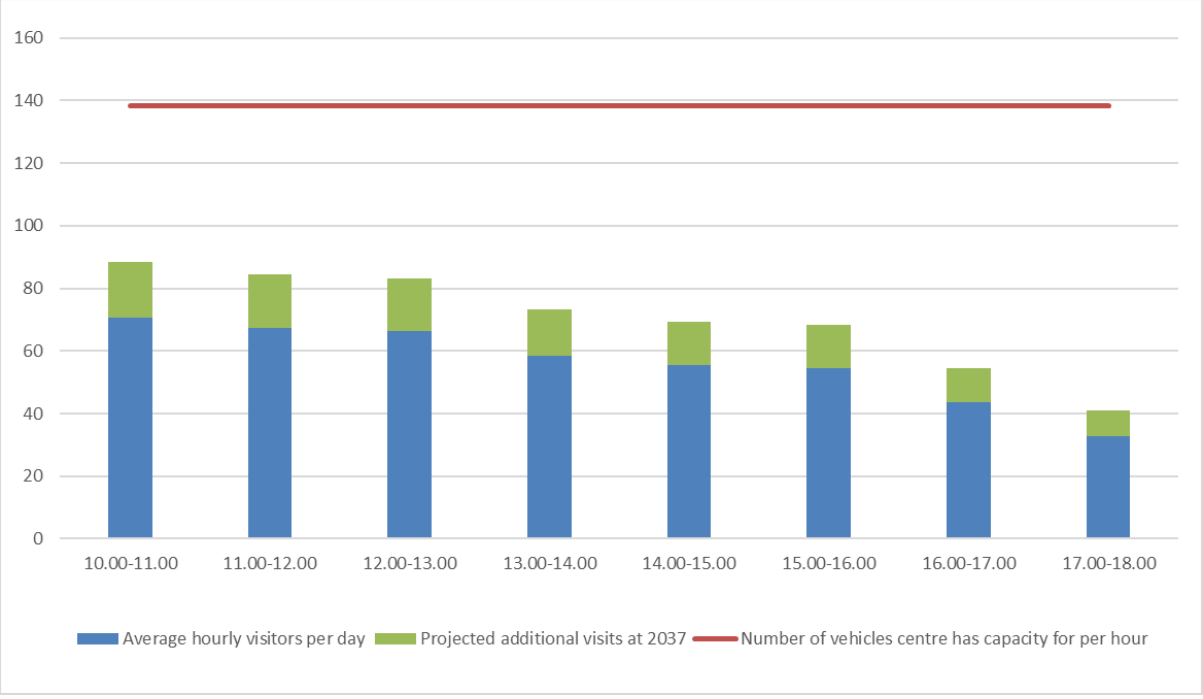


Figure 33. Winter hourly profile

Turnford Recycling Centre

Property Ownership Details	Address	Opening Times
Freehold Owned by Hertfordshire County Council	Fairways, Brookfield Farm, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, EN8 0NP	All Year: Saturday – Wednesday 10.00 - 18.00

The Turnford RC is located on Fairways in an industrial estate within the Brookfield Farm area of Turnford. The centre is 0.24 of a hectare. This centre is the second busiest within the RC network. While the best possible use of available space has been utilised, the centre is not big enough to cope with demand and an inability to accommodate more than 11 parking spaces suitable for unloading means that queuing occurs at peak periods.

The graphs demonstrates that during peak periods the centre is over capacity. The centre is busy throughout the week and busiest on the weekend. Usage drops marginally in the winter and spring months. Projected population growth in the Turnford RC catchment area to 2037 is projected to increase use of the centre further over capacity levels.

Location of Turnford RC

Centre photograph (2008)

Theoretical Capacity	
Parking spaces	11
Hours open per day (minus time lost to servicing)	07:57:42
Average time on site (minutes)	00:08:32
Visits per hour per parking space	7
Visits per hour for site	77
Total visits in a day	**616**

	2018/19	2019/20
Total visitor capacity over the year (258 working days a year)	n/a	183,438
Number of annual visits	158,615	115,871
Total waste into RC (tonnes)	5,485	5,675
Average amount of waste deposited by each service user (kg)	34.5	48.9

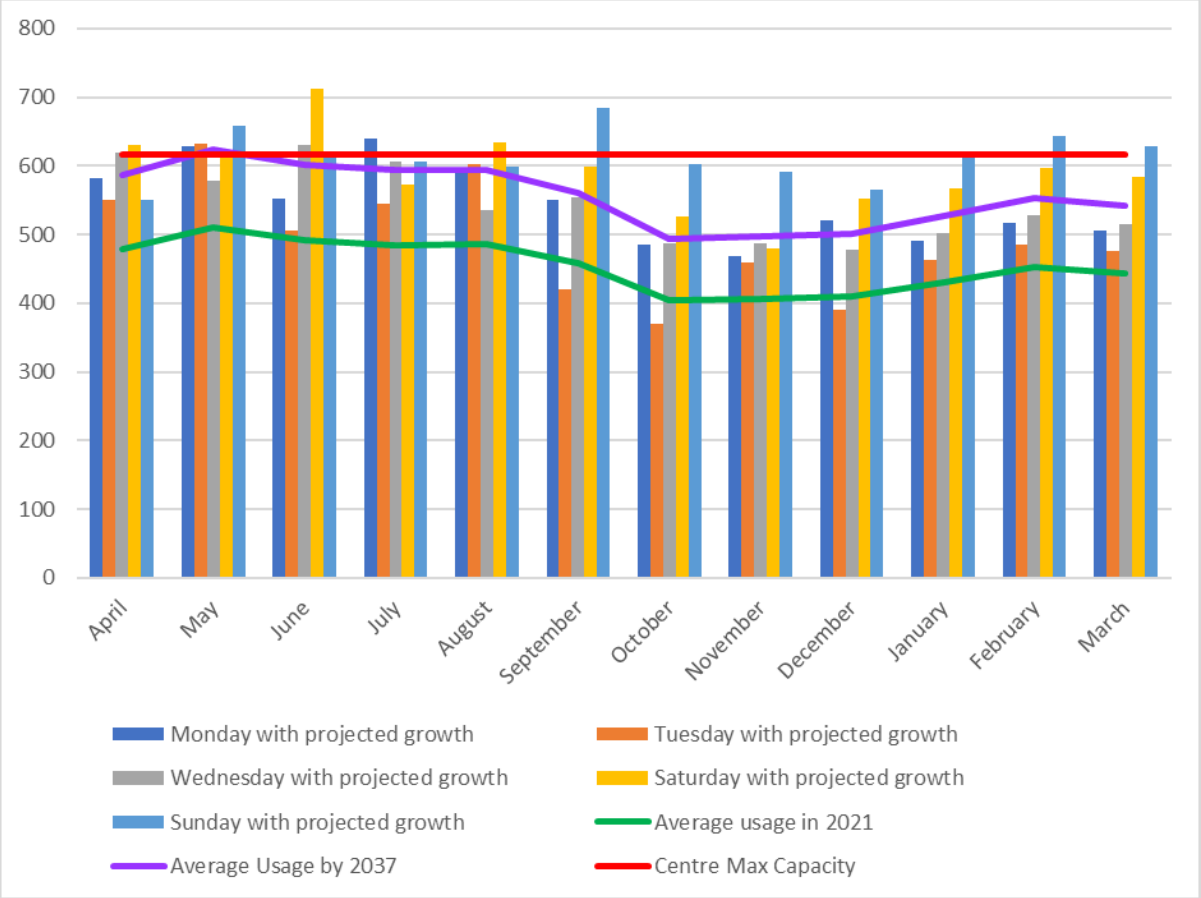


Figure 34. Average daily visitor usage projected in 2037 against maximum centre capacity.

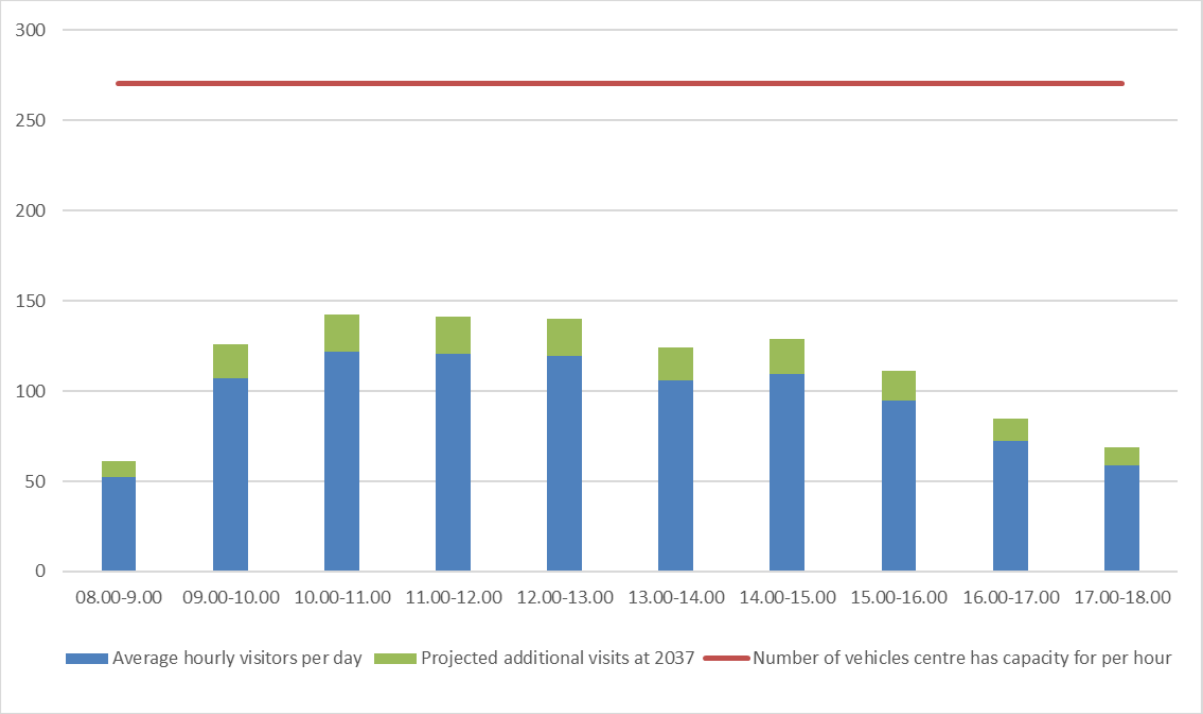


Figure 35. Summer hourly profile

Figure 36. Winter hourly profile

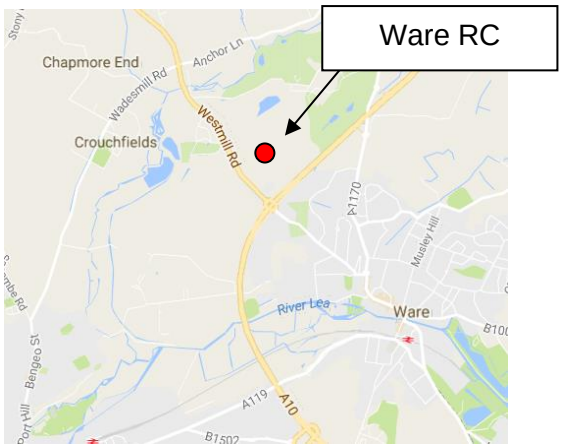
Ware Recycling Centre

Property Ownership Details	Address	Opening Times
Freehold Owned by Hertfordshire County Council	Westmill Road, Ware, Hertfordshire, SG12 0EL	Summer: Saturday – Wednesday 10.00 - 18.00 Winter: Saturday – Wednesday 08.00 - 16.00

The Ware RC is located on Westmill Road / A602 to the northwest of Ware. The centre is 1.78 hectares. The size of the centre is very large, and it is the desired size for such a facility.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition information was not available for Ware RC and so there is no information or analysis.

Location of Ware RC



Centre photograph (October 2020)

Waterdale Recycling Centre

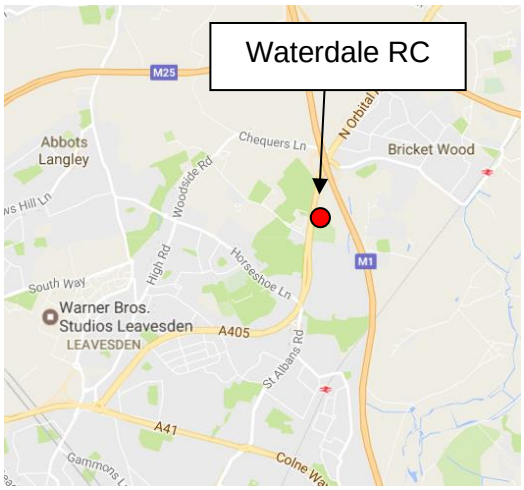
Property Ownership Details	Address	Opening Times
Freehold Owned by Hertfordshire County Council	St Albans Road, Garston, Watford WD25 0PR	All Year: Saturday – Wednesday 10.00 - 18.00 Saturdays (Summer only): 08.00-18.00

The Waterdale RC is located on St Albans Road to the north of Watford and near junction 21A of the M25. The centre is 0.85 of a hectare. The centre is the largest within the RC network and has recently been redeveloped, it does not experience any specific issues and functions well during peak periods.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition information demonstrates that on average there is sufficient capacity at the Waterdale RC.

The graph demonstrates that during peak periods the centre has sufficient capacity. The centre is quieter throughout the week and busiest on the weekend. Usage drop marginally n the winter and spring months. Projected population growth in the Waterdale RC catchment area to 2037 is projected to increase use of the centre but not to above capacity levels.

Location of Waterdale RC



Centre photograph (May 2017)

Theoretical Capacity	
Parking spaces	53
Hours open per day (minus time lost to servicing)	08:00:00
Average time on site (minutes)	00:11:46
Visits per hour per parking space	5
Visits per hour for site	270
Total visits in a day	**2162**

	2018/19	**2019/20**
Total visitor capacity over the year (258 working days a year)	n/a	646,548
Number of annual visits	157,121	174,180
Total waste into RC (tonnes)	8,439	7,829
Average amount of waste deposited by each service user (kg)	53.7	44.9

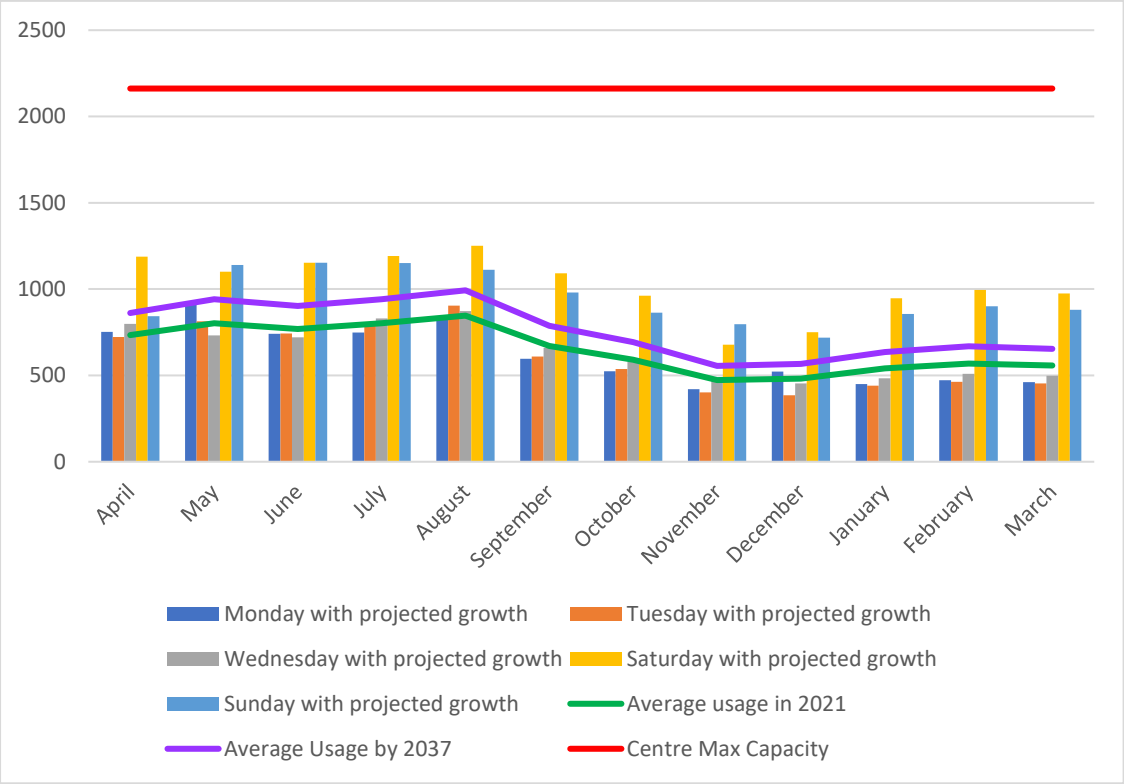


Figure 37. Average daily visitor usage projected in 2037 against maximum centre capacity.

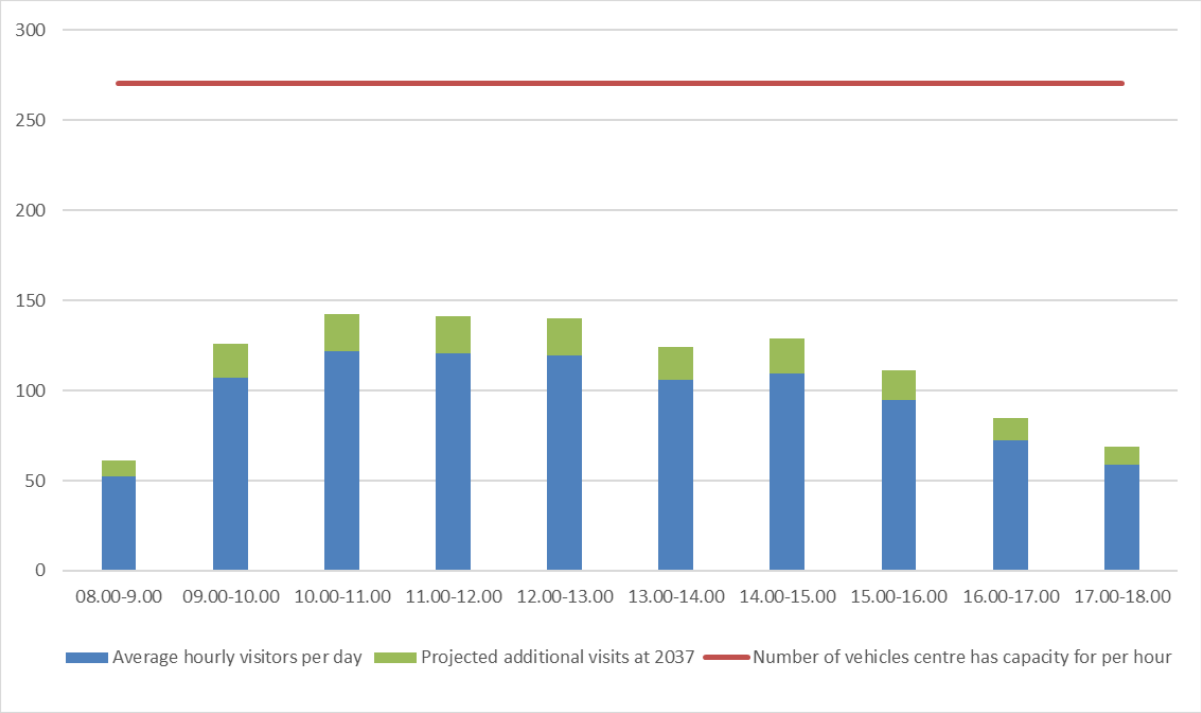


Figure 38. Summer hourly profile

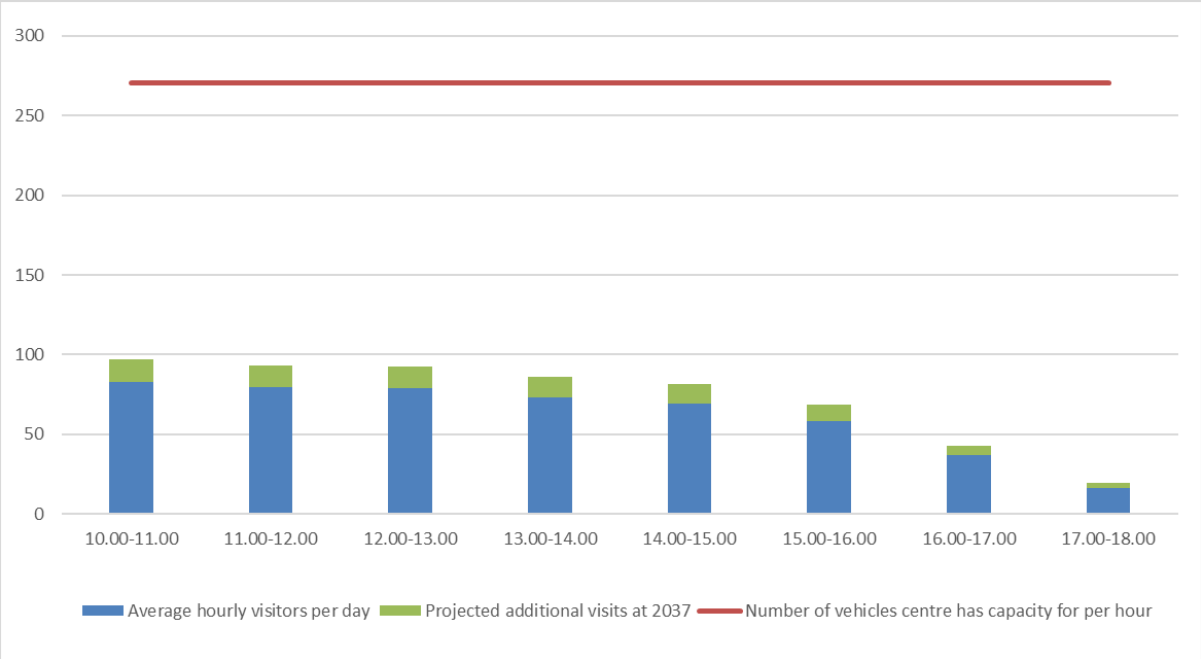


Figure 39. Winter hourly profile

Appendix 4: Neighbouring Recycling Centre Provision.

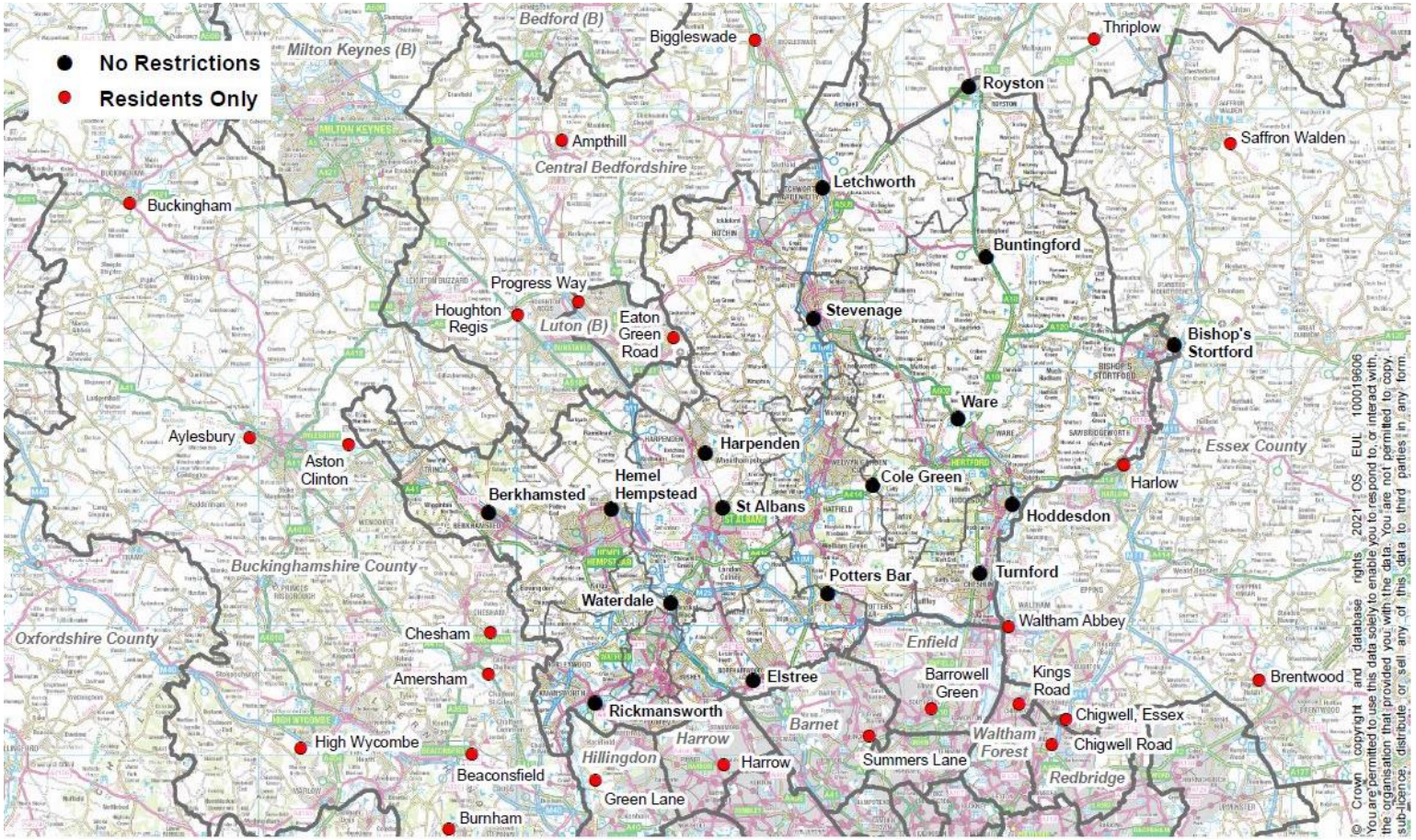


Figure 8. Neighbouring local authority Recycling Centres

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Support for schools, pupils and parents
Support for carers
Fire and rescue
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County Hall, Pegs Lane
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