

Environmental Permit surrender notices issued

MJCA secured recently on behalf of a client surrender notices issued by the Environment Agency for two Environmental Permits for adjacent inert waste landfill sites. MJCA held preliminary discussions with the Environment Agency based on information collated for the landfill sites to agree with the Environment Agency the approach to the permit surrender applications. As the two landfill sites ceased accepting waste before 16 July 2001 they were not subject to the provisions of the Landfill Directive. Based on the discussions with the Environment Agency MJCA prepared the surrender applications which included supporting technical reports. The applications were submitted on the understanding that additional water samples would be collected for analysis. This was agreed to supplement the information provided with the applications regarding the assessment of the impact of the landfill sites on the aqueous environment. The agreed work was carried out and the data were submitted to the Environment Agency. The residents of a property close to the landfill sites then wrote to the Chairman of the Environment Agency raising concerns regarding the surrender applications. As a result of issues raised by the residents it was necessary to undertake further work including obtaining additional information on groundwater abstractions in proximity to the landfill sites and assessing the information regarding their potential impact on groundwater. The further work included gas monitoring by probing in the curtilage of the adjacent property and the collection of a sample of water from the well at the property for analysis at a laboratory. The further work including the sampling and analysis confirmed what was already known regarding the landfill sites hence the conclusions made in the reports submitted in support of the permit surrender applications were confirmed and the permits have now been surrendered.