

Method Statement

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Company	Whiteshore Cockles Ltd
Location:	Paible, Isle of North Uist
Working hours	Monday – Saturday 8.00 a.m – 7.0p.m.
Authorised Personnel	[redacted]. Director [redacted]. Site Manager. [redacted]. Company Secretary.

1. INTRODUCTION

This method statement describes the specific safe working methods and practices used to collect and dispose of morts collected by the Fish Farms within the Western Isles of Scotland. The content of this method statement reflects the findings of the relevant risk assessments and experience gained in carrying out these procedures for the past eight years.

2. DESCRIPTION OF WORK

The collection and disposal by burying of morts supplied by the Fish Farms in North Uist , Benbecula and South Uist. All farms are within one hour's road travel of the disposal site. In the case of a large outbreak of

disease then Lewis and Harris can be serviced only after authorisation is approved by the monitoring body.

3. COLLECTION PROCESS

Fish Farm manager informs Whiteshore Cockles Ltd authorised person of number of bins to be collected.

Authorised person informs producer when collection will be made and arranges for the disposal area to be prepared.

Transport operative inspects bins on arrival to ensure that no leakages are present. All bins must have an internal liner which must be sealed with a cable tie. In case of expansion, bins are only to be filled to a maximum of 150mm from the top. All lids must be securely attached by a cable tie at each corner. Site manager oversees the disinfection of the vehicle before exiting site.

ANY BINS NOT ADHERING TO THESE REGULATIONS WILL BE REJECTED FOR TRANSPORTATION

A waste transfer note must accompany each load. This has to be completed and signed by an authorised Fish Farm employee and the transport operator before leaving the site.

4. SITE ARRIVAL.

On arrival at disposal site the vehicle is met by an authorised person and is completely disinfected before being guided to the prepared burial site.

Waste transfer note is checked by site manager and signed. Site diary is then completed recording the delivery.

Ratchet straps are removed and cleaned in disinfectant bath.

Vehicle is then offloaded and bins left at burial area.

Vehicle is then guided to wash area where it is steam cleaned and disinfected.

Transport operative uses the disinfectant footbath before entering vehicle and leaving site.

5. BURIAL PROCESS

Site manager checks wind direction to ensure no odour will be detected by distant township.

Cable ties are removed from bins.

Liner is held back.

Fish are tipped out of bin by site telehandler under guidance from site manager.

Hole is covered in sand. If the pit has capacity left then a predator net is firmly secured over the site.

The empty bins are transported to the wash area where they are steam cleaned and disinfected before the lids are attached with cable ties.

Site telehandler is then steam washed and disinfected before transporting the cleaned bins to the producers designated storage area.

6. WASH BAY

The wash bay is now cleaned and disinfected and made ready for the next delivery.

7. MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES.

An authorised person inspects the site daily and newly closed holes are checked for any sign of seepage.

If any leakage is visible then an extra layer of sand is applied to the site.

After each hole is filled to maximum levels and an authorised person gives approval the seaweed is taken from the adjacent beach and spread on top of the sand to stop windblow and encourage grass growth.

8. HEALTH AND SAFETY.

At all times the company Health and Safety procedures must be followed. A copy is displayed in the site office.

Chemicals used on site:

Virkon S cleaner additive

Target detergent.

A copy of the COSHH certificates for these chemicals is displayed in the site office.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

SNH and the RSPB are aware of the large numbers of corn bunting which have inhabited the site since operations began as they are thriving in the created environment.

This bird is a protected species and the site manager monitors their activity on a daily basis to ensure that there is no disturbance to their natural habitat.

In the winter months the site manager feeds the corn bunting with corn sheaf's supplied by RSPB.

10. BURIAL SITE

The burial site is located approximately 1.5 miles away from the company head office in an area of agricultural common grazing which is well away from any dwelling. The site is securely fenced off with all necessary warning signs and contact information clearly displayed.

The site is 2 hectares in size and has a capacity to hold 40,000 tons of morts. After the burial pit is closed it is then covered with seaweed which fertilises the area and creates a natural reseed.

The ground conditions are of “machair” type which is a sandy loam with pure sand underneath.

11. ADMINISTRATION AND MONITORING PROCESS

The waste transfer notes and site diary are maintained and kept in the site office by the site manager. These are collated weekly and taken to the company head office for administration.

All invoicing for mort disposal work is done on a monthly basis. Each company receives a copy of the corresponding waste transfer notes to match their invoices.

At the end of each month a total of the periods burials are sent to the local authority Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar who can monitor the mortification rates. Regular meeting swill be held between the authority and Whiteshore Cockles Ltd to discuss any relevant issues that have arisen.