

Goodwin Steel Castings Limited (Goodwin) has operated as a foundry in Ivy House Road since 1883. Since around 1990 the installation has operated as a LA-PPC Part B ferrous foundry process under a permit issued by Stoke-on-Trent City Council and has operated an accredited environmental management system to ISO 14001 since 1999. Therefore many of the environmental control processes anticipated by the A2 application are already in place. The installation of two off 20 tonne induction furnaces (discussed further below and which trigger this A2 application) will not significantly affect the processes on the rest of the site.

The business seeks to identify markets into which it can supply high-integrity castings reliant on a technically proficient manufacturing process and to avoid low added value repetition work so as to keep itself ahead of the general UK competition and the competition that has emerged over the last two decades in so called low-cost countries such, as those in Eastern Europe and Asia.

The Goodwin PLC parent company has supported the installation with significant capital investment over the years with this business aim in mind. Goodwin PLC is committed to maintaining its UK manufacturing base and has again recently significantly invested in its Hanley site with the development of the Jubilee site on the Eagle Pottery works in 2013/4. Additional expansion works on the Foundry site are also now taking place and in total represent an investment of over £15m in Hanley over the last decade. This has been the sole factor in the creation of manufacturing jobs, and the retention of jobs during economic down-turns at the installation.

Goodwin has identified the potential to supply markets with technically advanced steels in a size range which is difficult and inefficient to produce from its current permitted suite of melting furnaces. Therefore an investment has been made in two off 20 tonne induction furnaces which take the installation in to the A(2) environmental permitting bracket. This investment is seen as critical for the installation's future given the general down-turn that has hit the UK foundry industry and seen a number of the installation's competitors cease trading.

In drafting the application it was noted that the directly and technically related activity of pattern making is now undertaken on the Jubilee site. Some ancillary fettling of clean metal castings has also taken place on the Jubilee site and which similarly can be regarded as a directly and technically associated activity. It is for this reason the Jubilee site is included in the permit application. The locations of each process are clearly described throughout the application and in the site maps submitted and it is understood these will be prescribed in any issued permit.