

Reference to CG Ashburner Compund, Millom Road. LA18 4AZ

I am advised by the planning authority that I should apply for B2 and B8 permission.

The site was originally where the town gas was made and stored. The huge gasometer tower sat in the yard.

British gas kept their vehicles in the yard and all the materials they needed to repair the gas pipes and roads. They had bunkers/bays with stone, sand and tarmacadam labelled up, still visible to this day. The picture directly below is before Ashburners took over the yard, but you can clearly see their workshops at the front, and the yard next to ours where they then kept the vehicles.

The Gas company, now cadent gas have 24/7 access into the yard at all times as they still own the pump house in the yard where the towns gas comes in. They turn up at any time with commercial vehicles/plant and vans to carry out maintenance. This has always been the case and has been a continual industrial use from when the yard was built.



Ashburner's were a successful coal and haulage business from the 1950's through to the early 2000's.

In the 1950's, Cedric Ashburner originally bought pet coke(coal) that was a by-product from the gas making process based in the yard (Compound Millom Road). This was taken out of the bays in the yard that can still be seen today,

and bagged into smaller quantities and then sold and delivered around the local area.

In the 1960's CG Ashburner Haulage was formed and built up. The workshops were built on Millom road where the trucks were maintained and the yard to the rear where the trucks and trailers were stored and operated from.

After that Ashburner's then took on the old gas yard (the yard in question) where they moved their offices to and ran the operation from. The back of that yard was also used to store and operate the trucks from. This can be seen in the picture attached.

The coal side of the business continued to be operated from Bootle Station by Stan Ashburner, and eventually the rest of the haulage business was sold off in the early 2000's by Mr John David Ashburner.

After that, Armstrongs Haulage of Wigan operated from the CG Ashburner compound in Millom where they used the offices and stored their trucks and trailers. They used this site until they pulled out of the area in the mid 2000's.

The picture bellow is when Ashburners used both yards, and the offices in the yard in question. You can see on the picture some vehicles in the back of the yard including a couple of HGVs and vans. The main of their trailers were parked in the yard adjoining. There was a gateway joining the 2 yards, the gate posts are still in the fence now.



Current uses include:-

The Bagging Part.

Operating times are from 09.00hr to 17.00hr with no operations of bagging or bag collections on bank holidays or weekends.

We have a small bagging plant, low noise, with electric motors. This transfers the loose sands/aggregates into bagged form from a hopper. We load the hopper with a telehandler, from the bay where the loose materials are tipped by wagon. The bay is situated at the front of the yard pointing away from the

houses to keep all noise to a minimum. A forklift truck then takes the bags from the other side of the hopper (nearer the middle of the yard) and stacks them on the relevant heap at the back of the yard ready for collection at a later date. The bags are collected from our yard by the PGM builders merchant wagon. Some days they may only collect once a day but at their busiest it could be 3 times in and out (6 movements). Their collection times are between 09.00hr – 17.00hr.

If we are operating in a dry windy spell, we have sprinklers set up to keep dust down and likewise if we have a product known to be dusty we dampen it before we handle it. We do not tend to use lighting in the yard, as in winter we are very quiet work wise, and in summer it is daylight in the hours we work.

Currently and historically, there have been no time restrictions on the uses.

We only work in that yard a rough average of 6-8 hours per week. In winter, we may not even work at all some weeks. This is a similar process to how Ashburners, and others started their coal businesses from the site when the gas board sold off the coal, they bagged it from bulk, into smaller bags, and delivered it around the local area.

The Haulage.

We currently have 3 articulated wagons and allowance for 3 trailers (that the wagons pull) that we keep in this yard. This is the same as the previous usage by CG Ashburners, and then also Armstrong Wigan Group. Both hauliers operated many wagons from this site, the site next to us, and also the garages were situated at the front of our yard for maintaining the vehicles. The ancillary offices, welfare and storage facilities/ repair shop for their operations are still in our yard. The wagon operating times are from 06.15hr 18.00hr. Monday – Friday. 06.15hr – 06.30hr for vehicle daily safety checks only. Environmental Health had said Monday hours could be extended to 06.00hr start.

When discussing with the traffic commissioner they recommended there be no more than 12 movements into or out of the operating centre for our own haulage HGV vehicles on our operators license in the course of a week. For avoidance of doubt each movement of an authorised vehicle into or out of the operating centre shall count as a single movement.

The wagons are usually out all week, sometimes the odd one may pop back into the yard, if they are nearby to get a night at home or to deliver material for bagging up. But where possible we keep the trucks out of town until they return on a Friday. The return time can vary too for lots of reasons, from traffic holdups, Road closures, Mill breakdowns, and so on. If we have a late return for a reason out of our control, we will keep a log on this to report back if needed. Also, our wagons are fitted with trackers so we can down load vehicle movements if needed. We take great pride in working with local businesses. We haul stone from Millom Quarry to where it is needed, and return to Cumbria with cattle feed to various farms.

The local area where the yard/ compound is based on Millom road has always been the industrial area of Millom. I will list below to sites near by :-

The council yard is still there although it now privately owned were local businesses and garages/tyre fitters operate from.

The fire station is next to our yard.

Milligans car garage and workshops.

Milligans also have planning in to put up another industrial building.

Millom Self Storage site.

The sewage works/water treatment, where wagons go to unload at any point of the day.

Rickies travel, operate 10 or more busses from the yard at the bottom of Millom road. Again these busses leave and return numerous times per day and at all hours. (As you can see from the sheet I sent in, our vehicle movements are minimal in comparison).

More council building/lock ups next to Milligans storage facility where their wagons and vans are delivering/loading and unloading.