

SITE MANAGER'S REPORT 2016.

This year saw UCM closing the gates Mid November which was a sad end of an era. By this time we had sold just over 400 tons of sieved compost which was all we had in stock. This was down on last year which shows how unpredictable the compost business can be. We were building up stocks of shreddings ready to sieve in the spring but this had to be removed from the site so the site was clear for EA inspection.

Last year we were able to start sieving in mid-March and sales were steady from then. Over the years there has been a gradual movement from domestic customers to commercial customers (they are more particular and appreciated the quality of the product and the team's efforts to get it right.) 2016 saw more compost going to commercial growers than was purchased by domestic users. The idea of storing some material in a barn so that it was dry for early sieving worked, giving us a 2 week advantage in the spring.

The machinery has behaved with no major problems. Routine maintenance is always expensive. The work horse Shogun was expensive to get through the MOT but as an irreplaceable piece of kit it was an essential expenditure.

Overall 2016 was a routine year with no major problems, until we had the DCC bombshell and closed the gates. After that it was just a case of clearing the site.