

ENRMF Open Day in October

The East Northants Resource Management Facility (ENRMF) will be opening its gates to the general public so that they could see for themselves how a modern, engineered landfill site is operated and monitored as well as seeing the state of the art laboratory and nationally significant soil treatment plant. The Open Day will be held on Saturday 7 October between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Are you busy or away in October, but would have liked to attend the Open Day? Don't worry! While we will continue to hold regular open days at ENRMF, we would like to remind you that Augean has an open door policy at all of its sites and a visit can be arranged at any time throughout the year, by appointment, with the site manager.

Batty About Biodiversity

As a condition of the planning permission for ENRMF, a scheme was agreed to carry out the long term restoration, landscaping and ecological management of the site. Part of this strategy was to increase biodiversity with the installation of bat boxes on trees at the edge of the woodland on the northern boundary of ENRMF.

Where a bat lives is called a roost. These can change throughout the year depending on the need of the bats, for example, whether they are rearing their young, hibernating in winter or where they are spending the warmer months. Common roosts include hollows in trees, caves and man-made structures such as church towers and barns. It is a fundamental requirement for all bats to have a roost where they can safely rest and which is close to habitat where they can forage. The availability of suitable roosts can be a limiting factor in the distribution and number of bats in an area and the loss of roosts is thought to be a major contributing factor in the decline of the bat population in the UK towards the end of the twentieth century.

When the bat boxes at ENRMF were put up in 2014, it was hoped that it would attract some of the UK's 18 species of bat, 17 of which are found in this country all year round. They have proved to have been a great success, with five species of bat recorded so far during the annual inspections. These are common pipistrelle, Leisler's bat, soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared bat and barbastelle. The last three bat species mentioned are particularly important to have been recorded in Northamptonshire.

The increase in the number of bat boxes in recent times has made a valuable contribution to the number of bat roosts available and consequently the number of bats. Since the National Bat Monitoring Programme was



introduced in 1999, it is thought that by 2013 the bat population of the UK had increased by 23 per cent. The bat boxes at ENRMF help play a part in that continuing success. As ENRMF is restored and new habitats created, ongoing monitoring ensures that the special environment needed for this, and other, species continue to thrive.

Thornhaugh Permission Amendments Allowed

To keep all planning matters in order, Augean recently applied to Peterborough City Council to amend the existing planning permission at Thornhaugh Landfill Site by revising the agreed phasing of the landfill cells. Peterborough City Council granted permission for this amendment in mid-July 2017.

A permission had been granted in July 2015 to allow excavation and engineering to be undertaken at the site so it could meet modern standards. Part of the site that had been worked under previous ownership about 20 or 30 years ago, involved a different, and now outdated, method of waste disposal into the landfill. The older part of the site did not include the provision of an engineered landfill containment system that is now a fundamental requirement of modern landfills. The best option was the removal of old waste from the first phases of the landfill and to deposit the waste into newly engineered cells elsewhere within the site. The permission that was granted included conditions on how the landfill should be operated in agreed phases.

Due to delays in the grant of the Environmental Permit for those activities, the landfill cell that was constructed to achieve the landfill management objectives is now partially full, necessitating the change in the sequence of the phases. Although this is a minor amendment it requires planning permission. There is a further minor amendment to provide better lighting on site during winter months for staff safety reasons.

The amendments are very limited and therefore we do not expect that anyone living in the locality of the Thornhaugh Landfill site will be significantly affected. It is important that we are able to remove the wastes from the old part of the site and place them in a newly engineered landfill cell in a way that will ensure the continued safe environmental management of the site in the long term.

The Augean Community Fund

Here are a selection of projects that have been completed or that have recently benefitted from a grant:

Playing Field, Collyweston

It has been an aspiration of the Collyweston Playing Field Association to also provide a Clubhouse. A grant of £50,000 has been made to contribute to the overall cost of this.

Playground, Woodnewton

The Parish Council have been looking to make further improvements to the village playground facilities, for which they have received £9,718.



New Ufford Park perimeter fence

Cricket Club, Nassington

£35,000 has been awarded to Nassington Cricket Club to provide a new roof for the pavilion.

Cricket Club, Easton on the Hill

Cricket teas will be even better after a £25,000 grant has been used to help upgrade the existing clubhouse.

Cricket Club, Ufford Park

Continuing the cricket theme, the Cricket Club were awarded £3,000 towards surrounding the Club's grounds with a new perimeter fence, which has been recently completed.

Mill Pond, Barrowden

The mill pond in Barrowden had become stagnant. With a grant of £6,680, a solar pump has been installed to restore the flow of water to the pond, making it an attractive village amenity once more.



Restored mill pond in Barrowden



About the Augean Community Fund

The Augean Community Fund helps make community projects a reality. Since the fund was established, grants to the value of around £2.6 million have been made to numerous projects within a 10 mile radius of ENRMF in Northamptonshire and Thornhaugh Landfill near Peterborough. The fund is managed by Grantscape, but community volunteers on the Kings Cliffe Environmental Association (KCEA) and the Thornhaugh Environmental

Association (TEA) decide which grants are made. So if you have a community project, or even just an idea for one, please contact Grantscape to discuss it further and see if it may qualify for a grant. Please contact:

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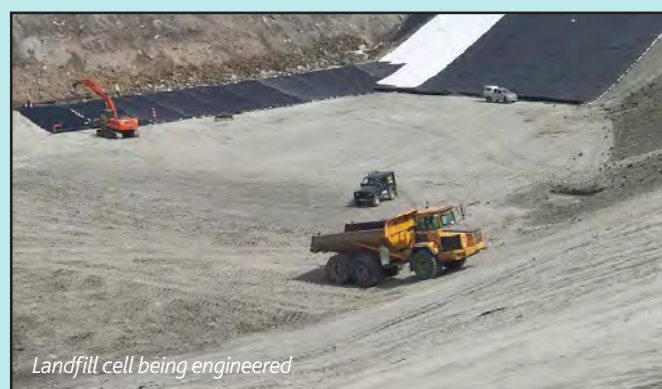


New Landfill Cell

The construction of any landfill cell is meticulously designed and engineered to give a very high level of protection to the environment and human health. This is particularly true of a hazardous landfill cell. At ENRMF we have recently completed the construction of cell 6B which will be capable of accepting 100,000 cubic metres of hazardous waste.

Hazardous landfill is an important national resource as it allows for the final disposal of our most challenging wastes, once all other options for treatment, recycling and reuse have been exhausted.

Although ENRMF already has permission to accept hazardous waste, before the cell can begin taking the waste it will still need to be inspected by an Environment Agency officer, who will only sign off the cell if he is satisfied that it has been engineered to a suitable standard.



Landfill cell being engineered

The Importance of Monitoring

Monitoring forms a very important part of the running of a facility such as ENRMF. Our trained monitoring technicians collect samples from numerous locations around and within the site, so that we can check that the site is behaving in the way anticipated in the risk assessments, and that there is no unacceptable environmental impact. Where there are indications that action should be taken, the monitoring identifies any adverse trends at an early stage before problems arise.

We sample the air and water around the site, and gather quantitative environmental data, so that Augean can report on environmental performance in respect of: landfill gas, air emissions, leachate, surface water, groundwater, dust, asbestos and noise. The measurements include as appropriate physical, chemical and radiological parameters.

The range and scope of monitoring that takes place is specified in the site permits and the programmes and protocols for this to take place are also approved by the Environment Agency (EA). The results of any monitoring are reported to the EA regularly and are publicly available. As well as reviewing the information they receive, the EA can also take their own samples to confirm that the data is accurate.

As ENRMF is allowed to accept waste classified as Low Level Waste (LLW) and Very Low Level Waste (VLLW) it is important for radiological monitoring to take place. The EA recently confirmed that radiation levels have not increased above background or baseline levels since radiological monitoring began in 2012 when LLW was first accepted at the site.



Once the site is complete, the management and monitoring of the site will continue for the duration of the Environmental Permit. This could be long after the site has stopped accepting waste as the Environmental Permit has no fixed expiry date and can only be surrendered by the operator on application to the Environment Agency, who will have to be completely satisfied that no further active management or monitoring is required. In the event that Augean ceases to exist, now or in the future, financial provision must be made in advance to ensure that funds are available to the Environment Agency so that these on-going obligations of monitoring and aftercare are met.

Augean Named Cummins Environmental Gateway Innovator

Augean Integrated Services has delivered an innovative waste concept to Cummins and is now one of only 12 companies worldwide to be named a Successful Innovator within the prestigious 2017 Cummins Environmental Gateway.

In recent years, implementing sustainable business practices and strategies has become a prominent focus for companies looking to meet the expectations of a broad range of stakeholders who expect robust social and environmental policies to form part of their business DNA.

Cummins, the largest independent maker of diesel engines and related products in the world, have taken their sustainability credentials a stage further through The Cummins Environmental Gateway - a first of its kind for Cummins globally. The project seeks to stimulate supply chain companies of all sizes to come forward with market-ready,

sustainable innovations to help Cummins achieve their environmental targets in the UK.

Augean presented a number of options to reduce wood waste, resulting in reduced traffic movements with consequent benefits of reduction of carbon emissions, lower road noise, and improved air quality and road safety for local communities. The solution also offers further benefits in the form of recycling and renewable energy generation, consistent with circular economy principles.

The Cummins Environmental Gateway focuses on the practical adoption of sustainable innovations rather than leaving the idea at just a conceptual stage. We are looking forward to meeting the challenge of testing out our innovations at the Cummins site in Darlington over the next few months.



Tackling Waste Crime

If someone said the phrase 'waste crime', for most people this would conjure images of a mattress or an old fridge abandoned in a layby or a pile of builders rubble on the side of a country lane. Fly tipping is indeed the most common form of waste crime there is and probably the type of waste crime with which the average person may have had some personal experience.

Most people would also regard fly tipping as something that usually occurs on a relatively small, albeit frequent, scale. In reality it can involve very large amounts of waste; Augean was recently called on by the Woodland Trust when a great quantity of recyclable material was fly tipped in protected woodland near to one of our sites. We helped secure the waste, which was in danger of blowing away and causing further contamination, and also assisted the Environment Agency in their investigation. In all around 20 tonnes of waste had been fly tipped.

This is not to say that small scale fly tipping does not matter. Indeed, that abandoned old fridge in a layby has the potential to cause harm and even a small amount of something like asbestos, if fly tipped, presents an even greater danger to the environment and human health.

Waste Crime Not Just Fly Tipping

Sadly, fly tipping is not the only type of waste crime there is. There are a myriad of types of waste crime but they generally fall into the following categories; whole waste sites operating without permits or regulation, sites with permits where these are seriously breached in the activities that actually take place, the misclassification of waste, burning waste and the illegal export of waste.

Why has waste crime become such a problem? Once we relied heavily on landfill as a cheap and simple means of disposal, but this was not sustainable in the long term or a good use of resources. Legislation and regulation, such as the Landfill Tax, have made disposal at landfill more expensive and encouraged reducing waste, recycling and reuse as viable alternatives, although these are not without their own costs as well. So, the primary motivation for most waste crime is quite simple. Financial gain. Either through the avoidance of the costs of proper disposal or recycling or through the gain made by charging the true cost of disposal/recycling without the appropriate action then being taken. However, where there is motivation there must also be opportunity.

Tighter Regulation Needed

As a responsible waste operator, Augean must adhere to a plethora of legislation and regulation in order to carry out our lawful business. Every site must obtain planning permission and obtain permits that set out in great detail what can and cannot be carried out or be present. Every aspect of a site is also subject to regular inspection, whether it is to check on our environmental performance or the safety and well-being of our employees.

By going through the due process in order to operate lawfully, companies like Augean invite regulation by the very nature of that process. Illegal waste operations by their nature seek to avoid that scrutiny. While a huge pile of thousands of precariously stacked tyres, for example, might indicate an illegal site, in reality they are not always that easy to spot and invite questions about what is happening on that site. While it is difficult to regulate and inspect illegal sites that want to operate under the radar, there are still gaps in the current rules and regulations, that could invite the possibility of waste crime, where the competency of waste operators is assumed rather than tested or inspected, these can include exempt sites where the risk is deemed low, waste carriers, brokers and dealers.

A Cradle to Grave Approach

As the amount of recycling and treatment of waste has increased, so the different waste streams have become more fragmented and complex. This complexity can also give the possibility of waste crime occurring, particularly with the misclassification of waste. Augean operates on a cradle to grave system so we know exactly what waste is coming on to a site, from where and when it will arrive. Samples are tested to confirm the type and content of a waste prior to being accepted for dispatch to an Augean site. The arrival of every consignment at a site is expected and, once it has arrived, the waste is again tested to confirm that it corresponds to the original sample. Any sample that does not correspond to what was expected is not accepted on to the site or is quarantined pending further investigation. A similar system across all parts of the waste industry, such as an Electronic Waste Transfer Note, that tracks waste from cradle to grave in this way would simplify and clarify the entire process in a more traceable way.

Waste Crime Costs Us All

Waste crime is not a victimless crime. It is estimated that in 2015 waste crime cost the economy around £604 million. The taxpayer, private landowners and legitimate businesses all suffer through the costs of clean up or loss of revenue. While enforcement and prosecutions have risen and become harsher in some cases, there is still a great deal of room to provide a more severe deterrent to those operating illegally and often persistently doing so.

As a society we are now generally more aware about the waste we produce and care more about what happens to it. Greater public awareness about all types of waste crime could go a long way to identifying illegal waste operations or more careful examination of what really happens to wastes once they leave our homes or businesses. While it will not be easy to stop all waste crime, it is our collective responsibility for the sake of our environment and ourselves to do so.

To report any concerns regarding our sites or to arrange for a site visit so that you can see our operations first-hand, please contact:

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