

Augean Sites Still Operating During Covid-19 Lockdown

The UK government has defined Waste Management as a critical industry and our staff and contractors are defined as key workers. We were grateful to receive a letter from the Minister, Rebecca Pow thanking our workers for their contribution to the national effort.

Our operational sites form part of the network of nationally important facilities for the management and disposal of hazardous and radioactive waste in the UK. Without keeping our facilities operational the waste supply chain would be seriously comprised.

We are very proud of how all our staff have responded to the demands of working with a new set of challenges to deliver a vital national service while ensuring we continue to keep each other and our communities safe.



East Northants Resource Management Facility (ENRMF) Future Operations

In the last edition of the newsletter we raised the issue that Augean was considering ways of maintaining the provision of a hazardous waste landfill situated in the southern part of the UK, and that the preferred option is to extend the ENRMF to the west, maintaining the current facility with all the additional advantages of continued use of the existing infrastructure as well as retaining an employment site and sustaining the local supply chain.

We have now undertaken a number of site investigations and feasibility studies in order to make decisions about the future of the site and have decided to move ahead with the planning process at ENRMF.

As the development proposals meet the criteria of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, Augean must submit a Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate whose role is to consider all important and relevant matters and whether consent should be granted for major infrastructure projects.

You can find out more about the DCO application process and how you can become involved in the process on the National Infrastructure Planning website at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

As the application documents for the DCO will be accompanied by Environmental Impact Assessments a Scoping Report has been sent to all the statutory consultees to ensure that we look at all aspects of the scheme that they feel are relevant.

Once the scoping is complete a Preliminary Environmental Information Report and other information about the proposed development will be prepared which will form the basis on which we will consult with the local community in accordance with our normal company policy and the legislation that sets out how communities should be consulted as part of the DCO application.

In accordance with that legislation we will publish a Statement of Community Consultation which will give details of how we intend to consult with the local community about the proposed development. The consultation will provide an important opportunity for the local community to engage and help inform the proposals. We will include opportunities to participate that take into account the implications of the current Covid 19 restrictions. Your responses to the consultation will be considered before finalising the proposals and submitting the application.

To be kept updated on the proposals why not sign up to our Register of Stakeholders? Details of how to do this can be found on the back of this newsletter.



Landfill cell being engineered

Forthcoming planning application for Thornhaugh

We will shortly be submitting a planning application to Peterborough City Council requesting a change in the currently approved sequence of the excavation and engineering of landfill cells. This will mean that Phase 2 will be brought forward before Phase 1 located in the east of the site.

In the early 1990s, before acquisition of the site by Auegan, waste was deposited in Phases 1 and 2 of Thornhaugh Landfill Site prior to the establishment of current landfill containment standards and without the benefit of an engineered low permeability lining system. Planning permission was granted in 2015 for controlled removal of the waste from Phases 1 and 2 to properly contained landfill to allow these phases subsequently to be engineered and landfilled in accordance with current regulations and standards.

The proposed changes to the sequence of working are needed for logistical reasons on site to reduce haul routes (and consequently fuel usage, emissions and noise) for the excavated wastes from the point of excavation to the point of disposal and to minimise the number of open waste faces. The changes to the phasing will not alter the overall restoration plans for the site.

Auegan wish to gain consent for a limited storage area at Thornhaugh to receive and store HiPods to increase transport efficiencies. There will be no sorting or bulking of the wastes at the site and at no time will wastes be removed from the HiPods in which they were delivered. The HiPods will be delivered to the site in smaller vehicles and then the containers will be organised for collection on larger vehicles for dispatch off site for management and/or disposal elsewhere within the Auegan Group. The storage area will be for approximately 100 HiPods and the anticipated

vehicle numbers associated with the Hi-pods are approximately 2 per day which can be accommodated within the currently consented vehicle numbers accessing the site.

If you would like to be kept informed about the progress of this application please sign up to our Register of Stakeholders, details of which are on the back of this newsletter.



HiPods more popular than ever

HiPods are a secure and lockable unit that can accept a wide variety of separated hazardous waste streams including solid oily rags, absorbent pads and mats, spill granules, contaminated paper, plastic, wood and metal.

The HiPod processing service is managed from our Paisley site, encompassing a complete storage, collection, transport and treatment solution for hazardous wastes. So, not only do we supply deliver and collect the HiPods, we also have the processes to sort, recycle and treat their contents, minimising the journey time of these wastes, and where necessary providing safe disposal also.

Auegan's HiPod services have gone from strength to strength, with customer demand for our comprehensive waste solution method reaching an all-time peak for demand. The system provides both a safe and secure storage method for hazardous wastes for our customers on their premises and is an environmentally friendly solution as we can provide a recycling service that can achieve up to 100 per cent recovery with zero impact on landfill.



Leading by example

At Auegan we are always trying to raise waste industry standards and expectations. This can be through the use of innovative techniques to treat a wide variety of waste streams at our sites or assisting in the design of products, such as car batteries, so that reuse, treatment or final waste disposal is considered at the point of manufacture.

It is important to consider how we handle wastes as well as how we manage wastes, so we can do so in a safe and complaint way at all points in the process.

Therefore, we were very pleased to have hosted a joint visit from the Environment Agency (EA) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) at our Thornhaugh landfill site, so they could observe and learn more about our asbestos disposal methods and practice.

The EA selected us for this exercise as they recognise that Auegan sets a high standard in operational quality. The visit was highly successful enabling the EA and HSE to gain valuable insights which will be used as a reference point and benchmark when visiting other sites in the future and will be used in the preparation of guidance for the wider industry.

Our Port Clarence site participated in the EA secondment programme once again, so that EA employees can have first-hand experience of the day to day operations of a waste management facility. The feedback from those on secondment to us was that they were very impressed with the management of a large facility that deals with a wide range of complex waste streams but also with the ability to remain focused on both environmental compliance and Health & Safety.

What is hazardous waste?

Our landfill sites at ENRMF, and Port Clarence are two of less than 10 landfill sites in the UK that are classed as 'Hazardous' landfill sites. But what do we mean when we say hazardous and what sort of wastes does that mean we are allowed and not allowed to accept at these sites?

Hazardous waste refers to many common waste materials produced by modern industrial or commercial markets that possess characteristics which mean that they have the potential to harm the environment or human health. For this reason, these wastes need to be managed and handled in a careful and expert way.

Some common examples of hazardous wastes include:

Construction and Demolition Wastes:
e.g. contaminated soil, treated wood and asbestos.

Electronic Wastes:
e.g. televisions, fluorescent tubes and computer monitors.

Industrial waste:
e.g. solvents, paint, varnish, oils, cleaning cloths, filters and used protective clothing.

Residue from Other Waste Treatment:
e.g. ash from incinerators or dewatered sludge from treatment plants.

If you open up the cupboard under your kitchen sink or look in your garage or garden shed, you will find many very common items that you handle daily that are classified as hazardous if you need to dispose of them. The vast majority of these cannot be disposed of to landfill.

Landfill sites are only allowed to accept a very restricted range of hazardous wastes:

- No liquid waste
- No explosive or flammable waste
- No oxidising waste
- No corrosive waste
- No infectious waste



The principal wastes that we dispose of in our hazardous waste landfill sites are contaminated soils, asbestos, stabilised wastes and residues from our recovery or treatment operations. What wastes a hazardous landfill site is allowed to accept is strictly controlled and precisely set out in the Environmental Permit for each site, issued by the Environment Agency. Copies of these for every Augean site are available on our website.



Giving a helping hand in the community



At all of our sites, Augean takes the approach that we are part of the community in which we operate. To help this, we are always keen to take the opportunity to help with or participate in local community projects.

Last Autumn, we were more than happy to take part in a litter picking event along the esplanade between Seaton Carew and Hartlepool. The initiative involved a number of Augean employees, including a director and senior management, senior site staff, site operators and office personnel from our Port Clarence site. The event was a great success, which resulted in an astonishing 100kg of waste being collected on the day and then be responsibly disposed of.

While fly tipping of bulk waste can be a significant problem, we must all be conscious of the cumulative impact of casual littering as well. A concerning fact is that approximately 80 per cent of the litter collected on the day were wet wipes.

In the last ten years there has been a huge rise in the use of wet wipes. While some bio-degradable products are available, most wet wipes are made from plastic polymers that do not biodegrade. If flushed away this can have a negative consequence as a result of build-up in domestic drains and sewage systems, but they also have a detrimental effect on our environment.

Although they do not biodegrade, wet wipes made from plastic polymers do gradually break down over time into plastic micro fibres that permeate their way into delicate ecological systems. As we become more aware of the effects of plastics in our oceans and rivers, perhaps spare a thought the next time you buy or dispose of wet wipes.

Further Site Improvements at Avonmouth

Our Avonmouth site where we treat effluents and recover oils and solvents has undergone a significant planned programme of improvements over the last few years. The latest project has been to replace the internal site roadway and drainage.

To manage site traffic and allow waste processing operations to continue safely, additional adjoining land to the site was leased to provide a park up area for loads arriving at the site. The work was undertaken in four separate phases, involving the removal of the existing concrete roadway as well as sub-base and clay, before replacing the drainage system and pouring of the new concrete roadway. The pouring of the concrete for the new roadway for each phase was completed as a single slab, which would reduce the number of joints and improve containment.

The project has been successfully completed but proved challenging throughout. Team-work and careful planning was essential, as it required the progress of the work without postponing site inputs, while maintaining compliance and the safe and smooth operation of the site at all times. This major investment has brought major dividend in managing the site for both safety and environmental purposes.

The Augean Community Fund and ENRMF Fund

Many communities within a 10-mile radius of ENRMF in Northamptonshire and Thornhaugh Landfill near Peterborough have benefited from funding from the Augean Community Fund. In 2019 alone, nearly £450,000 worth of Community Fund grants were awarded. Funding is available for organisations and community groups up to a maximum of £50,000 per application for many kinds of community projects and initiatives.

Over the years the types of projects that have been awarded funding have been very diverse; from upgrading and creating sporting and recreation facilities to enhancing, refurbishing and even repurposing village halls and churches, so these spaces and facilities are fit for purpose and keep them at the heart of community life.



RSPB Saltholme Visitor Centre

Two funding rounds are made available each year. The next closing date for applications in the current funding round is **Wednesday 4 November 2020** with decisions being notified by the end of January 2021.

The fund is administered by Grantscape with qualifying projects decided by the Kings Cliffe Environmental Association (KCEA) and the Thornhaugh Environmental Association (TEA), whose members are community volunteers who are best placed to represent local priorities. The Augean Community Fund can and does make a difference. If you have a community project get in touch to see if it could qualify for support from the Augean Community Fund. Please contact: Karen Roberts, Grantscape, Office E, Whitsundoles, Broughton Road, Salford, Milton Keynes MK17 8BU
Email: karen.roberts@grantscape.org.uk
Tel: 01908 247630.

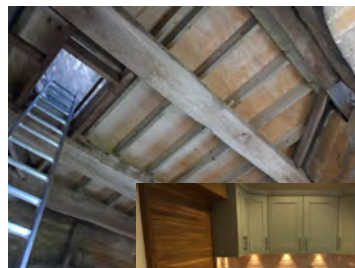


Smaller grants, normally up to £5,000, are also available through the East Northants Resource Management Facility (ENRMF) Fund, which was set up as part of the planning consent to accept Low Level Waste at the ENRMF site. Unlike the Augean Community Fund, the ENRMF Fund can also be used towards overheads and salary costs for community projects and is also available to those within a 10-mile radius of the site, but with a preference to applications from within a 5-mile radius. The ENRMF Fund is administered by Northamptonshire County Council. Please contact your County Councillor for further information on how to apply.



Barrowden Mill Pond Cleaned

Benefield Cricket Club



Tower repairs at St Leonard's, Apethorpe

Gapthorn Village Hall



KEEPING YOU UPDATED

Would you like to be kept informed about Augean news and other events such as site open days, engineering days and other information you might find useful?

So that we can advise efficiently on information, events and activities, which may be of interest to people living nearby, Augean has established a Register of Stakeholders, which has been developed from existing contacts with whom we have already corresponded.

If you would like to sign up to receive updates by email or by post please contact us at consultation@augeanplc.com or telephone us on **01904 654989**.

It will be possible to unsubscribe from these updates at any time.

If you have any comments or concerns regarding one of our sites or if you would like to arrange a site visit when we are able to welcome visitors again, please get in touch with the relevant site contact from the list below.

Augean North Sea Services

Simon Gibb
Tel: 01224 719200

Avonmouth

Tim Young
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ENRMF / Thornhaugh

Simon Moyle
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