

AUGEAN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021

ENRMF Annual Open Day

For a lot of people, their idea of a landfill site is an enormous hole in the ground or an old quarry, where waste is tipped and simply covered over, with little or no protection for the environment. This perception of modern landfill sites lacking environmental protection could not be further from the truth.

In reality a modern landfill site, like the East Northants Resource Management Facility (ENRMF), is made up of a phased series of 'cells' which are constructed and filled in sequence. Each cell is meticulously designed and engineered to give a very high level of protection to the environment and human health. The standard of engineering is particularly important for a hazardous waste landfill cell. These sites are subject to stringent monitoring requirements by Augean and by the environmental regulator.

Hazardous waste landfill is an important national resource as it allows for the final disposal of society's more challenging and difficult to handle wastes, once all other options for treatment, recycling and reuse have been exhausted. There are very few such facilities in the UK. It is recognised and supported in a range of Government policies and strategies that only residues which remain after consideration and application of the alternatives are suitable for landfill disposal, but that the need for landfill capacity for the disposal of hazardous waste will remain.

The operation and monitoring of ENRMF is supported by our state-of-the-art laboratory and the site is also home to the innovative Waste Treatment and Recovery Facility.

The best way to see all this for yourself is to attend one of our Annual Open Days, which have been held at ENRMF for over ten years. We had intended to hold our next Annual Open Day in the Summer of this year. However, due to the current uncertainty about the timing of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown in the coming weeks, we have decided to postpone the Open Day until the Autumn. **If you would like to register your interest in attending an Open Day later this year, please let us know by email to ENRMF@augeanconsultation.co.uk or by calling 01904 654989.**

If lockdown restrictions are lifted completely before the next Open Day, we will also be able to resume our Open-Door Policy so that you can visit the site by appointment with Simon Moyle the Site Manager. We can let you know when this opportunity is available again if you subscribe to our Register of Stakeholders.

Thornhaugh Applications Approved

In November 2020, Augean submitted a planning application to Peterborough City Council requesting a change in the currently approved sequence of the excavation and engineering of landfill cells at the Thornhaugh Landfill Site and to allow limited storage of Augean's innovative HiPod waste storage and separation system. In March 2021 permission was granted by the Council to allow these changes.

HiPods are secure units that can accept a wide variety of separated industrial wastes including oily rags, absorbent pads and mats, spill granules, contaminated paper, plastic, wood and metal. The system provides both a safe and secure storage and transport method for these 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.

Augean now have consent for a designated area at Thornhaugh to receive and store approximately 100 HiPods. The purpose of the

new HiPod storage area at Thornhaugh is to increase transport efficiencies only. There will be no sorting or bulking of the wastes at the site and at no time will the HiPods be opened or the wastes be removed from the HiPods in which they were delivered as all wastes are managed and/or disposed of elsewhere within the Augean Group.

The changes to the sequence of working at the site are needed for logistical reasons on site to reduce haul routes and consequently fuel usage, emissions and noise. The changes to the phasing do not alter the overall restoration plans for the site.



New HiPod
Storage Area Layout



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 ENRMF@augeanconsultation.co.uk or telephone us on **01904 654989**.

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

ENRMF Consultation Feedback and Application Update

We would like to thank all the members of the local community, Parish Councils and other stakeholders who have participated in the pre-application consultation regarding the proposed extension to the East Northants Resource Management Facility (ENRMF).

Several issues have been raised with us as a result of the consultation and we have addressed some common themes in greater detail in this newsletter.

It had been intended to submit the Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) at the end of April, however due to the extension of the period for the public consultation the submission is now scheduled for the end of July. We have taken account of the consultation responses that have been received and where possible we will demonstrate how these have influenced alterations to the scheme in our final application documents.

PINS will first decide, on behalf of the Secretary of State, whether to accept the application. If accepted, PINS will appoint an independent examiner or panel of examiners (referred to as the Examining Authority) who carry out a six-month examination with hearings and consider any representations made by interested parties. Following the examination, the Examining Authority will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will then decide whether or not a DCO should be made.

Further information regarding the DCO application process can be found on the National Infrastructure Planning website at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/> or by telephone on 0303 444 5000.

If the application is accepted this would mean that the six-month examination process would be scheduled to start in late 2021 with a final decision on the application made in late 2022.

Once the application has been submitted and is accepted for examination, we will advertise in the news media and notify all our stakeholders. Any stakeholder will then be able to register their interest with PINS which will enable them to participate in the examination process as an Interested Party. All the application documents will be made available on the Augean website (www.augeanplc.com) and the PINS dedicated project page is <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/>

Revised Restoration Plan

By far the issues most raised with us from the consultation were regarding the restoration of the land and connectivity between Fineshade Wood and Collyweston Great Wood. Augean has listened to these concerns, undertaken surveys and monitoring to understand the issues and has significantly altered the proposed location and timing of the working area, how and when areas can be brought forward for restoration and create connectivity between habitats. These include:

- At the beginning of development, a new, species-rich hedgerow will be planted along the northwest side of the northern field. The existing hedge, which is gappy, but has much dead wood, will be left in place, making the new hedge denser and thus more attractive to nesting birds, and providing connecting habitat for dormice. The current poor hedgerow along the northern boundary of the western extension will be improved by gapping up with a range of local species. These hedgerow improvements will provide larval food plants and strengthen connectivity for a range of invertebrates and mammals, including dormice. Blackthorn planting is proposed in particular to enhance the habitat at locations where a local colony of Black Hairstreak butterflies have been identified. The enhanced hedges will also improve the existing commuting corridor for bats between the two woodlands.
- Also, at the initial stages of development a 20-metre wide corridor crossing the northern field will be created bordered by double hedgerows connecting The Assarts in Fineshade Wood to Collyweston Great Wood, near to the north west corner of the existing ENRMF site. An underground culvert currently runs through this area which will be developed as an open watercourse with small ponds after the land to the north has been restored.
- The phasing of the proposed extension has been altered so that the northernmost cell can be worked, filled, capped and restored in around 5 to 7 years from the start of cell excavation work. This will bring forward at an early stage further connectivity between the two areas of woodland.
- A minimum 10-metre stand-off of existing agricultural land will be retained undisturbed on the boundary with Collyweston Great Wood and the proposed site extension. This will perform a number of ecological functions during the works such as providing foraging and resting areas for reptile and amphibian populations, maintaining existing connection of Great Crested Newt habitat between existing breeding



ponds and hibernation sites and maintaining existing connectivity for badgers and important invertebrate populations from the adjacent ancient woodland.

- A 10-metre stand-off of existing agricultural land will similarly be retained undisturbed on the boundary with Fineshade Wood and the proposed site extension. The mains gas and water pipelines crossing the land are not being rerouted, so a similar corridor of agricultural land above these will also be retained undisturbed. These will be developed as wildlife corridors that do not exist at present due to the agricultural cycle and will be bordered by hedgerows once the adjacent areas are restored.
- The existing site car park will be retained to allow public access to the restored land. The restoration proposals will result in the potential for footpaths created through the restored area to be linked up at several points with the existing public footpath MX15 in Fineshade Wood.

Issues Raised Through ENRMF Consultation

The proposed expansion will reduce wildlife connectivity between the two woods. This will have a significant detrimental effect on wildlife populations and cause loss of biodiversity.

While detailed and intensive ecological surveys carried out over more than the last two years have identified that a number of species use the woodland margins there is no evidence that the currently intensively farmed arable land that forms the proposed extension area to the ENRMF acts as a wildlife corridor for ground dwelling species between the woodland areas and there is no evidence of interaction between ground dwelling populations in the two woods. Birds and bats regularly fly between the two woods, and the deer populations use the whole area as one; all of these will continue to do so.

All wildlife, plants, animals and insects, have certain definite habitat requirements; these are mainly to find shelter, cover from predators and to obtain food. They rarely move far from the habitat that meets their requirements and that they are established or feel safe within. To function as a wildlife corridor, an area must provide all these attributes consistently. Due to the cyclical nature of arable farming, there is little opportunity for such a corridor to become established and as no species cross it as part of continuous or habitual use, loss of the fields will not sever any wildlife corridor or disconnect any population.

Very great care has been taken to identify the species currently using the woods, hedges and their margins. No woodland will be lost or damaged and enhancement of existing habitat together with creation of new habitat from the period prior to development will provide increased and improved habitat for all the species currently using the area resulting in substantial biodiversity net gain for the area. Consultation with the ecologists currently involved in monitoring the rare and vulnerable species in the area has ensured that their current locations and requirements are known and understood so they will not be put at risk.

The proposed restoration plans won't come about until 2046, by which time it will be too late for threatened species.

The site operations and subsequent restoration have been planned to ensure that no species, flora or fauna, will be lost. The requirements of all species have been carefully considered in planning the sequence and method of working the site so that habitats can be enhanced or created at the earliest opportunity during the operational life of the site. These early improvements include the retention and improvement of the hedgerow to the north west and north of the proposed site, planting of two double hedgerows across the central part of the site and the establishment of wide field margins so that the important existing woodland margin habitats will be maintained, improved and managed throughout the operational life of the site.

The extension to the site will be constructed and operated in a series of phases which will be progressively restored so that the site is returned to beneficial ecological use as soon as possible. The current projection is that the first, northernmost, cell will be filled, capped and restored in around 5 to 7 years from the start of cell excavation work in the area. There are active discussions with both Natural England and the Forestry Commission regarding planting as both organisations have an interest in the choice of trees and linking habitats. Natural regeneration will also play a part. There are other opportunities for habitat creation which are being actively explored to realise the ambitions to create connectivity between the two areas of woodland as soon as possible and to maximise biodiversity gain.

Land to the south of the site should be investigated for suitability to extend the ENRMF.

The aspiration of developing fields to the south of the site has never been a viable alternative to the extension into the western fields, as the land has not been, and will not be for sale. This position has been reconfirmed by the landowner. The only viable extension to the site is the development of the land to the west on which we have an option agreement which will only be implemented once a Development Consent Order (DCO) is in place. In the event the application is refused the land will continue to be used for commercial farming. The development and subsequent restoration of the site presents a realistic opportunity and the only way to create significant connectivity between the two existing woodlands relatively quickly, and with habitats designed specifically for this purpose, in the foreseeable future.



The road is often muddy due to vehicles from the site.

We recognise the sensitivity of the road conditions around the site and accordingly have implemented rigorous wheel and chassis cleaning controls at the site; in addition, we regularly sweep the road. During any particularly wet weather periods, a pressure washer is used as an additional measure by Augean staff to ensure no material is being deposited on to the road. However, as the vehicles leaving site are often still wet, water can drain on to the road on exiting, but this would be discoloured water which can be mistaken for mud or slime. It is rare that clods of mud are carried on to the road and these are removed rapidly.

The road north of the site bends to the right, has an adverse camber and due to the trees growing on either side of the road remains wet after rainfall for extended periods of time. These conditions combined with excessive speeds have resulted in a number of incidents. Augean staff have attended these incidents and assisted the drivers and their passengers acting as first responders. As we have CCTV monitoring and recording the road condition and any incidents along the site boundary, we have been able to investigate each incident to confirm that the road conditions were not adversely affected by the traffic from the site.

The road condition outside the site has been improved since re-surfacing and this will be complemented by the works being undertaken to widen the site entrance to minimise any queuing traffic, to improve visibility for departing lorries and to ensure no left turns into the carriageway of oncoming traffic. Augean contributes £5,000 per year to the Highways Authority. This is specifically for maintenance of the section of road between the site and the A47. Additionally, Augean has offered to fund further signage on the road.

Augean Community Fund



The Augean Community Fund helps community projects within a 10-mile radius of ENRMF in Northamptonshire and Thornhaugh Landfill near Peterborough. The fund is managed by Grantscape with qualifying projects decided by local community volunteers on the Kings Cliffe Environmental Association (KCEA) and the Thornhaugh Environmental Association (TEA). There are two rounds of funding each year that allocate grants of approximately £500,000 per annum in total, up to a maximum of £50,000 for each project. The closing date for the next round of applications is 3 November 2021 and eligible projects will be informed of the decision by the end of January 2022. Here are some examples of recently completed projects that have benefitted from the Augean Community Fund.

Lyndon Visitor Centre, Rutland Water - Centre Refresh and New Interpretation Grant: £27,000

The Lyndon Visitor Centre is where the Wildlife Trust get their first chance to engage with visitors, young and old, at Rutland Water. The Centre is open free of charge to all, and for many, will be their first steps towards discovering the natural wonders and scenic beauty of Rutland water and its iconic Ospreys. One of the main areas of work within this project was to focus on the interpretation within the Centre. This was originally installed in 2008, and had become very outdated and tired, no longer relevant or having the eye-catching draw needed to instantly engage with visitors. The funding from Augean has allowed a redesign, reprint and installation of brand-new interpretation panels, working with a designer to create large impactful images. The new panels are filled with up to date information, not only about the Rutland Osprey Project, but also the work of the Trust as a whole, and what you can expect to see on the nature reserve all year round. The funding has also allowed a much-needed lift for the Centre, painting all their display units and adding new lights to give the centre a bright new look, in line with the Wildlife Trust branding colours.



Kitchen Refurbishment at the Charteris Community Centre, Welland Grant: £32,364

The Charteris Community Centre is based in Welland, which is one of the most deprived areas in Peterborough. Families First Peterborough runs a lot of activities in the Community Centre, including a Community Café where people can eat a healthy meal at very reasonable prices. The Charteris Centre has two kitchens which both needed replacing in order to comply with Food Safety Standards and to make them easier for staff to work in and enable children, young people and families to participate in cookery workshops.

Replacement Boardwalk at Snipe Meadow, Oundle Grant: £17,576

The old boardwalk needed to be removed as it was in a dangerous state. The original boardwalk was built in 1988 and enabled people access to the flooded land throughout the year. The replacement boardwalk installed is made from recycled plastic materials to ensure greater longevity and enabling people to safely access the flooded areas once again.



Marquees and Generator - King's Cliffe Parish Council Direct Funding: Circa £10,000

Augean were approached by the local community to provide a couple of marquees so that community groups could hold meetings outside during these extraordinary times. This will allow these groups to meet face to face and comply with social distancing guidelines whilst protecting participants from the weather.

Following discussions with the Chairman of the Parish Council, it was agreed that Augean would purchase two 9 metre by 18 metre marquees on their behalf. In addition, a 11kW generator was also purchased to provide power for heating, lighting and any other electrical requirement.



If you have a community project that needs help to be realised, 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 or visit
www.grantscape.org.uk/fund/augean-community-fund/

Smaller grants, normally up to £5000, 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 North Northamptonshire Council.

Please contact your local Councillor for further information or to express an interest.

If you have any comments or concerns regarding our ENRMF or Thornhaugh 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 Site Manager:

Simon Moyle
Tel: 01780 444900

For further information about Augean please visit: www.augeanplc.com
or contact our Telephone Helpline: 01904 654989

