

# Community Newsletter

Summer 05

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## Landfill operator's commitment to residents



Residents have been reassured that the new owner of the landfill sites at King's Cliffe and Thornhaugh will respect the local community and the local environment.

**John Huntingdon, CEO, Augean PLC**

The reassurance came in a letter to local community representatives from John Huntingdon, Chief Executive of Augean PLC, which purchased the sites from Atlantic Waste Holdings late last year.

"I recognise that the actions of any waste disposal business may have a material impact on the communities in which it operates and I have always taken, and will continue to take, that responsibility seriously," said Mr Huntingdon.

"We will be open, transparent and honest in all that we say and do. We respect the environment and will invest time and resource in protecting it.

"For example, we are working to create a sanctuary for the great crested newts who populate the local landscape. We are also working to improve the visual aspect of the sites."

## A view over the fields

Augean South has acted quickly to improve the view across the site for residents at Thornhaugh. The previous owner of the landfill site had built up part of the site next to the A47 road higher than the agreed landform.

Augean started to excavate the waste and reduce the level of the landform on 31st May, to provide residents with a better view of the countryside from their homes over the road.

The work will be carried out in accordance with a method agreed with the planning authority and the Environment Agency, and Augean is working to complete this work as soon as possible.

## Did you know?

*Only solid waste is allowed to be deposited at the hazardous landfill sites at Augean South. That means no liquids such as oils, sewage, liquid paint and other chemicals are allowed to be deposited here.*

## Tyres recycled

Thousands of old tyres from cars and lorries which had been stacked up in piles have now been shredded and used for lining landfill cells at Thornhaugh and King's Cliffe. These tyres act as a drainage blanket and are approved for use by the Environment Agency.

## Sanctuary for great crested newts

A nature reserve has been built by Augean South to make sure that the landfill operations at Thornhaugh do not impinge on local wildlife. Over the spring, a team of conservationists have moved several hundred Great Crested Newts to a new sanctuary specially designated for them.

"The sanctuary is formed out of a piece of limestone, complete with pond and vegetation specifically planted to provide a suitable habitat," says Paul Blackler, Operations Director of Augean PLC. "We are proud of our population of Great Crested Newts and we expect them to live here for many generations to come!"

## Million pound machine overhaul for a quieter, cleaner community

Augean has recently started a significant replacement programme of the machinery on its sites at King's Cliffe and Thornhaugh. This huge project, costing over £1 million, will introduce machines that are more environmentally friendly, quieter and cleaner in the local community.

## Profile: Paul Blackler

Paul Blackler is the Operations Director for Augean PLC. Aged 35, he is a qualified chemist with a BSc Honours degree.

Paul is passionate about disposing of society's waste products in the safest possible manner. "We don't just run a business here," says Paul. "We perform a vital public service too."

Should you want to contact Paul, please call or write to him on the address below.

## Cricket club donation

Augean is proud to be helping King's Cliffe cricket club by recently donating £1,000 to purchase new equipment and replenish the playing kits of both teams.

Andrew Pick, Chairman of the club said: "We are extremely grateful for this donation, which will enable us to improve facilities and equipment necessary to run a senior league team as well as a junior team."

## Contact details

Augean welcomes feedback, and should you wish to contact John or Paul or have a general query, please either call or write to:

**Telephone:** 0870 041 6452  
**Fax:** 0870 041 6453  
**Address:** King's Cliffe Landfill Site,  
Stamford Road,  
King's Cliffe, PE8 6XX

### Cook's Hole

Augean owns around 54 hectares of land known as Cook's Hole. The land is located to the west of the A47 and to the south of Augean's existing site at Thornhaugh. The land at Cook's Hole was granted planning permission for the working of minerals in 1957 and workable minerals are still present on the site.

The land is currently the subject of an Application for Determination of Conditions under the Review of Old Mineral Planning Permissions (ROMPP) procedure. This process requires Augean to explain how the remaining minerals will be extracted and the site restored. A full Environmental Impact Assessment is being undertaken to ensure that impacts associated with further quarrying are acceptable.

Under the ROMPP review procedure, Augean cannot resume quarrying at the site until Peterborough City Council has updated the existing planning conditions or imposed new conditions on the operation of the site. This ensures that the quarry will be operated and restored to modern standards.

The site will be worked in a number of phases, with the land being progressively restored to agricultural use. The restoration proposals will not involve the importation of inert waste or any other materials to the site.

An exhibition to explain the need for the application was recently held in Wansford and a preview exhibition and presentation given to the Thornhaugh Liaison Committee.

An application will be submitted to Peterborough City Council by the end of September.

### Schools Out

Augean recently provided a rapid relocation and disposal service for six schools on behalf of Knowsley County Council. This involved transferring all the laboratory chemicals to three new academies, with disposal of any redundant chemicals. All the relocation was undertaken within a month with urgent work prioritised 48 hours from enquiry to ensure the chemicals were secured.

Additionally, Augean provided advice on health and safety requirements and detailed analysis of how the waste chemicals were managed through the range of recycling, treatment and disposal facilities within the Group.

### Recycling Offshore

We are delighted to announce we have successfully secured an exclusive contract with Scomi Oiltools. Scomi is one of the world's leading providers of innovative high performance drilling fluids solutions and state-of-the-art drilling waste management. Scomi service drilling platforms around the world and provide extensive expertise in the management of drilling fluids and muds. The new Waste Recovery Park at Augean's Port Clarence site provides a broad range of technologies to treat, recycle and dispose of the wastes arising from offshore drilling activities. The contract is for three years with an option to extend and, in the first 16 months, provides a minimum of 10,000 tonnes of drill cuttings waste into the Recovery Park.

### Milestone for Osprey Project

The Wildlife Trust has reported that the Rutland Osprey Project, maintained with funding support from Augean, is one step closer to becoming a self sustaining colony.

30,000 people have been able to enjoy spectacular views of breeding Ospreys since late March. One pair in particular is of greater significance as they are the first breeding pair that do not consist of at least one translocated bird. The male fledged from a nest in Rutland in 2004 and the female is almost certainly from Scotland.

Fifteen years after the first ospreys arrived at Rutland Water, this is a clear indication that the population is becoming self-sufficient.



### NEW FINANCES SECURE A BRIGHT FUTURE

Augean is pleased to announce that it has finalised new banking facilities with HSBC Corporate Banking. As part of the refinancing, the guarantees required by the Environment Agency as a landfill permit condition have been restructured and placed with four sureties arranged by HSBC Insurance Brokers.

Paul Blackler, Chief Executive, commented: "Following Augean's successful fundraising, this new revolving credit facility further strengthens the financial position of the Group. Furthermore, we are very pleased to be working with HSBC, one of the world's largest banking institutions and with whom we look forward to enjoying a long and close relationship."

Neil Abbott, Corporate Manager at HSBC commented: "We are delighted to be working with Augean as they have a well deserved reputation for handling waste streams safely and responsibly. We are looking forward to working with them and believe the new facilities will further support the development of the Group as it continues to grow."

### Did You Know...

Augean takes health and safety very seriously. The slightest accident - as small as a cut thumb or even near misses - is reported to the PLC board.



## LLW Proposals and Appeal

As you will be aware, Augean is appealing the decision of Northamptonshire County Council regarding our proposals to allow the East Northants Resource Management Facility (RMF) to accept LLW. We do not believe the decision was based on sound scientific or planning grounds. A public inquiry will be held on 26 October 2010 and is expected to last for three to four weeks.

In the meantime, we would like to take this opportunity to once again highlight the answers to some of the issues that have been raised frequently since we first made our proposals known. We hope they will further reassure the community as to the safety of these proposals and the negligible risk associated with them.

### Why the proposed development will be safe

Augean prepared its proposals following the advice of the Government regarding these wastes which have only small amounts of radioactivity. We have followed closely the standards set by law and the guidance of the Environment Agency and the Health Protection Agency to ensure that the proposals will be safe. In fact, even at the boundary of the site, the proposals will result in less than 1 per cent of the average level of exposure to radiation that we receive on a day to day basis naturally throughout the UK. We hope that you will be assured that the Environment Agency has confirmed that the proposals meet the necessary standards and are the Best Available Technique for disposal of the waste.

#### Who is the Health Protection Agency?

The Health Protection Agency's role is to provide an integrated approach to protecting UK public health through the provision of support and advice to the NHS, local authorities, emergency services, the Department of Health and the devolved administrations. This includes being the lead national authority on radiation and providing advice and guidance on radiological protection.

The radiological protection advice of the HPA to the UK Government and others is "based on an objective review of the scientific evidence and its application in the development of standards, informed by direct involvement in epidemiological and biological research as well as substantial experience setting protection criteria". The HPA states in respect of those providing contrasting opinions that they "represent extreme minority views which rely on selective use of data to support the contention that radiation risks have been underestimated".

HPA raised no objections to the proposals.

Following a Government review, the responsibilities of the Health Protection Agency will be gradually merged into other departments.

### How the risk assessments are conducted

Risk assessments are the standard tool and approach used for all forms of environmental management. This is not just a series of theoretical mathematical models. Risk assessments are based on well understood processes such as groundwater flow, air dispersion and acceptable exposures. Where there is uncertainty, conservative or worst case assumptions are made. Where the effectiveness of a protection measure is not clear, it is assumed that the measure is not present. Risk assessment therefore generates a conservative assessment of the maximum impact.

The risk assessments are based on international standards and national standards of safety and take into account fatal and non-fatal outcomes, the effect on unborn babies, effects on all age groups (including children and the elderly), the cumulative effect on all organs and effects from external and internal irradiation.

### Why ENRMF is an appropriate site

As a working landfill site for hazardous waste it is already constructed to the high standards of engineered containment required by law. Augean staff at East Northants RMF are very experienced in handling wastes that in practice can be more difficult to manage than LLW. We already have rigorous pre-acceptance and acceptance procedures. No waste is received at the site without detailed analysis and assessment prior to even leaving the producer's site.

Staff will receive thorough training in all aspects of handling LLW before any consignments arrive on site. Our workforce at ENRMF have no concerns about the nature of the waste they are being asked to handle. Protecting their welfare is a primary concern of Augean. Protecting the welfare of our staff results also in stringent levels of protection to members of the public.

#### Who is the Health and Safety Executive?

HSE is the national independent watchdog for work-related health, safety and illness.

They are an independent regulator and act in the public interest to reduce work-related death and serious injury across Great Britain's workplaces. The HSE raised no objections to our proposals.

### Consideration of the effects on the environment, such as groundwater and ecology

Effects on the environment, such as ecology, air and water quality, were all considered in the Environmental Statement which was based on a rigorous risk assessment submitted as part of the planning application. In all cases, the likely effects were found to be not significant. Natural England was satisfied there would be no adverse effects on ecology, when consulted on the application, and stated they had no objection. Anglian Water and the Environment Agency were satisfied that there would be no adverse effects on water quality, now or in the future.

#### Who is Anglian Water?

Anglian Water is the largest water and wastewater company in England and Wales, covering 27,500 square kilometres, representing 18 per cent of the area of England and Wales. They provide water and wastewater services to more than five million domestic and commercial customers in the east of England. In response to the application Anglian Water said "...water quality would not be adversely affected."

### Can't the waste be recycled or disposed of at the producer site?

The answer for some of it is, yes, it is. All sites must first consider recycling as much waste as possible and then the option of disposal on the site where the material is generated. However, for environmental or land use reasons, some sites will not be suitable for on-site disposal, hence the need for facilities like East Northants RMF to accept LLW. All sites producing LLW will need to demonstrate to the Environment Agency that disposal to East Northants RMF is the Best Practicable Environmental Option.

### How the proposals satisfy the proximity principle

The proximity principle states that waste should be disposed of in one of the nearest appropriate facilities. The few other facilities available to accept LLW are in Cumbria and Lancashire. The proposals have the potential to save 10,000s of miles of road movements by providing a centralised facility serving the south of the UK.

### What other types facilities are currently available in the UK for LLW

There is a highly engineered concrete vault facility in Cumbria but this is designed to take waste with much higher levels of radioactivity and has very limited space. It is simply just not sustainable to dispose waste with only small amounts of radioactivity at this highly engineered site. The only other available facilities are also landfill sites located in the north west.

#### Who is Natural England?

Natural England is the government's advisor on the natural environment. They provide practical advice, grounded in science, on how best to safeguard England's natural wealth for the benefit of everyone.

When consulted on our application Natural England had no objections.

## The containers that are proposed for the LLW

The type of containers that should be used are specified in legislation. LLW will be transported in steel drums or highly engineered, flexible containers of a water-resistant woven fabric, which will be placed directly in the landfill.

## How the site is regulated

The Environment Agency is the main regulator for the site together with the Health and Safety Executive and the Local Planning Authority. The environment Agency regulates sites by:

- Deciding whether or not it should grant applications for new authorisations or changes to existing authorisations, and setting appropriate limits and conditions in any authorisations that it issues, which ensure that the public and the environment are well protected
- Reviewing authorisations and operators' environmental performance and varying authorisations to make sure that the authorisation's limits and conditions are up to date and effective and continue to ensure that the public and the environment are well protected
- Reviewing the results of waste, effluent and environmental monitoring and assessments of public radiation exposure to confirm that the facility is being managed as designed
- Carrying out announced and unannounced inspections
- Where necessary investigating incidents and using its powers

## How monitoring of radiation will take place and who will do it

The Environment Agency is the regulator for radioactive waste and employs a team of specialists to regulate sites. The site will be allocated an inspector from the radiological team to check the performance of the site operation. The site is already the subject of extensive monitoring, which will be substantially extended to include radiological measurements, for example, of water, soil and air. The detailed scope of this will be agreed with and regulated by the Environment Agency.

The monitoring of the site under the existing Permit is undertaken by Augean and audited by the Environment Agency. The extended regime to include radiological observations will similarly be undertaken by Augean and audited by the Environment Agency. The Health Protection Agency as Radiation Protection Advisor will also undertake health-based checks.

### Who is the Environment Agency?

The Environment Agency is an Executive Non-departmental Public Body responsible to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Their principal aims are to protect and improve the environment, and to promote sustainable development. They play a central role in delivering the environmental priorities of the government.

The Environment Agency has stated: *"We believe that allowing waste with low levels of radioactivity to be disposed of at the ENRMF would pose no threat to either people living and working in the area or the environment."*

## The level of site security

Security will be the subject of a condition of the Authorisation issued by the Environment Agency. Augean will provide the appropriate level of security as specified by the Agency. If necessary, these could include new fencing and manned monitoring systems. Notwithstanding this due to the low level of radioactivity of the waste, the waste poses a low security risk. It has no intrinsic value or qualities that would result in theft for financial benefit, terrorism or other purposes and it is of negligible risk to trespassers.

If you would like more information on the LLW proposals and appeal contact:  
Helpline: 01904 629210 Email: [llwproposal@augeanplc.com](mailto:llwproposal@augeanplc.com)

## Team Focus



The staff based at ENRMF are highly trained and include seven with university degrees and several higher degrees.



## Underground Youth Club

### A Message from Katy Weeks - Youth Club Leader



34 youngsters enjoyed a weekend at the Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough in June.

The two youth clubs continue to be a huge success with large numbers attending and the drop-in on a Friday night for 15 -18 year olds is building up well with some local bands being invited to showcase their talents.

The Youth Club has recently completed an art/craft area at the centre including a new sink which has made the area a fully functional art facility for King's Cliffe and our surrounding villages. We hope that this will be used by youngsters doing their GCSE or A level art coursework too. We would welcome anyone who is interested in running an art/craft project at Underground for any age group to contact us.

A residential trip took place in June, where 34 youngsters enjoyed a weekend of kayaking, raft building and high ropes at the Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough. This was substantially funded which made it financially accessible to all parents. We feel that cost should never be a barrier to activities at Underground and funding is vital to make sure that this can happen.

A 'Race for Glenfield' fun run was organised to raise money for the Oncology Unit at Glenfield Hospital, Leicester, where a volunteer for the older youth club is currently being treated. Daniel Keatings, Olympic Gymnast opened the event and helped to make it a huge success raising £1,640.

We are very grateful to Augean for their continued funding which helps keep this important local resource running.

If you would like more information about joining the Youth Club or any of the activities at Underground please call Katy on 01780 470125.

With best wishes  
Katy Weeks

## Up, Up and Agghhhh....

Having missed this year's Race For Life, Rachel Coates, from Augean's Worcester Treatment centre, was determined to complete her annual challenge to raise money for charity. So she decided to jump out of a plane instead!

Climbing to 10,000 feet, Rachel sat nervously in the airplane waiting to complete a tandem skydive. Freefalling at speeds of approximately 120 miles per hour it took only 25 seconds to reach 5,000 feet; then Rachel's instructor deployed the main parachute for the five minute descent to the landing area.



This year, Rachel's challenge was in aid of Acorn's Children's Hospice who offer a network of care for life limited and life threatened children and young people, and their families, across the heart of England. These children and young people are not expected to reach

adulthood and require specialist care 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Acorns is currently supporting nearly 600 children and 800 families, including those who are bereaved.

Rachel hoped to raise £500 from her skydiving but to date has raised a massive £800 and counting.

## Kings Cliffe Local Liaison Group Meeting

At the last Local Liaison Group meeting in July, we made known our intentions regarding the future of the site. For a number of years we have explained to local community organisations that East Northants RMF has not filled as quickly as anticipated and that it may be necessary to extend its life beyond the planned completion date in 2013. It is now clear that it is unlikely that we can complete this site by then and consequently we plan to apply for an extension of time.

Because of the volatility of the market and the lengthy recession in the UK, resulting in a significant reduction in the volume of wastes accepted into the site, predicting the life of the site during this period has been difficult.

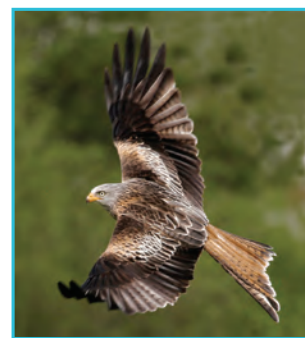
As a major planning application is required to extend the life of the site, which will include the soil recycling and treatment facility, Augean has considered the viability of extending its operation into land to the west that is within its ownership and is already within the planning boundary.

For management reasons and to give certainty to the local community about the future of the site, we have decided to seek additional void space by preparing a single application to cover the extension in time and an extension in landfill area. This will give the site an additional ten year life.

Environmental studies and scheme design work are currently underway but the details will not be complete until the end of the year. Thereafter, in early 2011, the company will consult widely with local communities before submitting an application in mid-2011. This application will be required regardless of whether Augean is permitted to accept LLW at the site, as we will continue to accept hazardous waste.

## Biodiversity Action Plan for ENRMF

Quarries and landfill sites are well known as havens for wildlife creating significant opportunities for enhancement of biodiversity. ENRMF sits next to an ancient woodland with a strong colony of badgers and stunning spring flora. The site is regularly visited by red kites and is host to a colony of great crested newts protected in a reserve area created for amphibians and reptiles. In recognition of the sites ecological context we have recently commissioned the specialist consultancy Ecological Services Limited (ESL) to undertake an ecological audit of the site. This will identify the key ecological features and value of the site and the surrounding area. On the basis of the audit we shall work with ESL to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan comprising a series of practical measures to sustain and develop the ecological capital of the site with reference to local biodiversity objectives and the integration of the site with the surrounding ecology. The audit is currently being undertaken. We hope to provide updates of progress in future editions of the newsletter.



### Did You Know...

The soil treatment facility at ENRMF is one of only four such facilities in the UK. These technologies recycle contaminated soils so that up to 80% of the material treated can be reused.

If you have any further questions for Augean please contact us at:  
East Northants RMF, Stamford Road, Kings Cliffe PE8 6XX. Tel: 0870 041 6452