

Rt. Hon. Stephen Barclay MP
stephen.barclay.mp@parliament.uk

Our ref: AMC/2023/17335-1

Your ref SB121023

Date: 8 June 2023

Dear Stephen,

Saxon Pit, Whittlesey

Thank you for your email of 24 May 2023 regarding prosecutions and continued activity at Saxon Pit.

Our investigation into the unlawful deposit of non-conforming waste at Saxon Pit is still ongoing, however it would not be appropriate for us to comment on the specifics of the investigation which will conclude when all relevant lines of enquiry have been pursued.

The investigation is subject to regular legal review and governance oversight with a final decision on the outcome in line with the Environment Agency enforcement and sanctions policy

It is entirely appropriate for the operator to carry out the restoration and remediation works, and for us to hold them to task to ensure these essential works are followed through and completed; and to save the expense on the public purse. Completing the restoration and remediation works remains the best outcome in terms of preventing further environmental impact, achieving the stabilisation of Saxon Pit and creating ecological improvement.

We consider the growth-duty in respect of any regulatory decision that we are required to make, however it is not for us to comment generally about an operator and them being able to carry-on profitable business(es).

An application to de-water the Victory Works pit is currently being determined by the Environment Agency's National Permitting Service (NPS). That application was duly advertised allowing interested parties to provide any comments or concerns to be considered as part of our permitting decision-making process. We understand that the proposed Whittlesey Science & Research Development is subject to relevant planning, and we are not aware of any proposal to infill the Victory Works pit once it is de-watered. We would refer anyone to the local planning authority in the first instance should they have any concerns regarding the filling in of the Victory Works pit as that activity may require planning consent.

The permit application to discharge from the lagoon within Saxon Pit itself into the King's Dyke watercourse is still awaiting assessment. As soon as it is allocated for assessment, it will be advertised to allow interested parties to view and comment on the application. Our National Permitting Service (NPS) will consider the location of where the proposed discharge is to take place along with any potential impact on the receiving watercourse as part of their determination of the permit application. However, we anticipate this application will start to be assessed by our NPS very soon, and will let you and interested parties know when that is the case.

I trust this has answered the matters raised to your satisfaction. If I can be of further help in this, please do contact me.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Verrier', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Graham Verrier
Area Director
East Anglia Area