

Article is published for information, I the Web-Master for this site, am not pre-determined or pre-judgemental on the issues raised and as the elected representative on both Whittlesey Town and Fenland District Council am here to support ALL residents and businesses within the ward.

News Update Saxon Residents Group.

New European Report Challenges Incinerator Ash Recycling Claims.

A major new report by Zero Waste Europe, published May 2026, describes incinerator bottom ash as a toxic legacy. IBA is the solid residue left when household waste is burned. Saxon Pit in Whittlesey processes this material, and a recent planning application by Johnsons Aggregates Recycling Ltd to nearly double its operations was refused.

The report finds that IBA contains hazardous substances that can leach into soil and water over time, and concludes that current processing techniques cannot reliably remove those hazardous substances.

Zero Waste Europe is clear: this material should not be in roads, buildings or public spaces. It should be properly contained. The report states that controlled landfill is currently the safest available option for IBA.

The refused planning application is subject to appeal. Cambridgeshire County Council relied heavily on recycling as a justification for the site expansion, but this report is unambiguous: only the extraction of metals from IBA qualifies as recycling under European law. The report puts recoverable metal content at around 10% of the total material. Information from the operator suggests that only around 3% is actually being recovered at Saxon Pit. The bulk of the material, once processed, leaves Saxon Pit and sites like it across the UK, going into roads and construction. The report describes this as landfill by another name, but less contained. Unlike an engineered landfill, which has liners and leachate controls, IBA dispersed into roads and buildings is subject to limited end-of-life controls. It is, in effect, a linear landfill spread across the landscape. The report confirms that the mineral fraction of IBA contains very little organic material and does not generate greenhouse gases in landfill. The report also describes incineration as the dirtiest way to generate power, emitting greenhouse gases comparable to coal-fired power stations.

We believe this will become a major national issue. Commercial interests appear to be overriding the need for an abundance of caution with material that the report warns risks leaving a toxic legacy for future generations.

The report also cites work published by Saxongate Residents Group, demonstrating that our research and advocacy is being recognised at a European level. Alongside the report, more than 40 organisations across Europe have written jointly to the European Commissioner for Environment calling for a precautionary approach to IBA, based on the scientific evidence.

Saxongate encourages you to read the full report, become informed and share it widely. We will continue to lobby politicians and agencies at a strategic level on this issue, alongside our ongoing work on the detailed regulatory and planning challenges at Saxon Pit, including any possible planning appeal.

Please see below links to the full report and executive summary, together with the joint statement to European Commissioner Jessika Roswall signed by more than 40 organisations calling for a precautionary approach to incineration residues. The report was authored by Dr Andrew Rollinson,

edited by Janek Vähk, Dorota Napierska and Nanna Cornelsen, and published by Zero Waste Europe in May 2026.



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Full report and executive summary: [[A toxic legacy: Bottom ash in Europe's circular economy - Zero Waste Europe](#)]

Joint statement: [[Joint statement calling for a precautionary approach to incineration residues - Zero Waste Europe](#)]

The usual small print and a help request: -

We will never give your data to third parties and will only email you relevant information about Saxongate. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list just reply to, stop or remove to this email.

We also need to grow our membership so please do pass on our details. People can contact us on this email or via Facebook if they wish to join :- <https://www.facebook.com/SaxonGatePE7> or email saxongate2022@gmail.com

If you have any photos or videos or logs of issues (from your homes, gardens, roads or public land) please let us know and share them with us.

If you suffer any noise, smells or dust please continue to report it to the Environment Agency 24/7 on 0800 80 70 60.

They also run an engagement HQ page for the area - [Whittlesey Quarry \(Saxon Pit\) | Engage Environment Agency](#)

You can also email envhealth@fenland.gov.uk or call 01354 654321. **This can be the best route for long term issues.**

See = <https://www.fenland.gov.uk/nuisance> for noise, smoke, smell, dust or light problems - Fenland District Council.