

Comment for planning application LCC/2022/0014

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| Application number | LCC/2022/0014 |
| Name | Sandra Jones |
| Address | 10 Priory Close Burscough |
| Type of Comment | Comment |

Comments

Assessment of Environment Agency Reports on Round O Quarry by Newburgh Parish Council following an FOI request

Fifty four reports were submitted over a period from 2013 - 2021. They comprised quarterly reports, annual reports and regular Compliance Assessment Reports.

Assessment

1 Overfill

The planning permission from 2000 and again from 2010 allows infill to existing ground levels with the bunds being used as soil cover after infill. The site has been filled to bund level and sometimes over that. The 2013 Annual Monitoring report states that the northern sector is complete. Survey Operations has completed the surveys and phased reports have been sent to LCC as specified in the conditions within the planning permission. By April 2014 final gradings works are reported to have been completed. Again in 2015 phased plans have been submitted to LCC. Overfilling was already evident in the northern sector, an area worst affected by height levels.

Comment

It is questioned why the phased reports supplied prior to those obtained here had not highlighted to LCC that overfilling had been occurring for several years prior to the 2013 report. The Survey Operations maps prove overfilling has taken place. It would appear that the new Restoration Plan makes no attempt to remediate the overfilling or to mimic the previous topography of the landscape as outlined in the permissions.

2 Drainage

Both bore holes retain fairly static levels throughout the period. Leachate has not been monitored during the period. In 2013 water was discharged into a tributary of the River Tawd, but no route is stipulated. By 2015 there is an upward trend in groundwater following the cessation of pumping. In the 1 st quarterly report of 2017 a temporary bund was requested for surface water runoff with discussions with the EA of additional external and internal monitoring points for long term closure and surrender, which was being planned for 2017. Since 2017 excessive natural runoff has been recorded in every successive report. In the Annual Report of 2017 " a final re-grading design is likely to be required, supported by a new flood risk assessment and surface management plan". There is no further mention of this anywhere.

Comment

The present Restoration Plan suggests that the 2017 advice has not been heeded. There appears to be little linkage between the concerns indicated in the reports and in the new plan which contains a pond on the eastern side and no attenuation ponds on the west. There is no drainage or planting scheme to remediate the runoff concerns outlined.

3 External Monitoring

It would appear that there has been no follow up to the suggestions made in 2017 regarding off site monitoring. There is no reference to the slumping in the western bund, likely to have been caused by excessive runoff towards the lower western edge of the site. There is no recording of the discoloration in the ditch on the western boundary. There is no recording of the changing in water levels in wells that exist to the northeast of the site as indicated by at least 2 neighbours, or recognition of the 2 new discoloured springs that have appeared in the neighbouring fields within the last 4 years. These springs discharge into streams that run into and through the village of Newburgh.

Comment

Had the recommendations of 2017 been fulfilled then preparation for closure would be able to start. Concerns over new discoloured springs, changes in water levels and surface runoff should be addressed by the EA before closure is accepted. Without that re assurance there is concern that water related problems will continue to cause problems for the village and its residents in the future.

Newburgh Parish Council September 2022

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Attachments