

31 July 2020

clerk@plaistowandifold.org.uk

Via email

Dear Catherine,

Crouchland Farm - Emptying Lagoon 2

I am writing to let you know about the next significant step we are taking at Crouchland Farm which is the safe emptying and disposal of the contents of Lagoon 2.

Since the turn of the year we had been working with environmental waste management specialists, Harpers Environmental, on options for emptying the contents of Lagoon 2. One of these was to separate the solid and liquid waste safely on site and then spread the farmland-conducive resultant liquid to parts of our land, with the solids going to backfill Lagoon 2 prior to restoration, landscaping and replanting as woodland.

This work also needed to be carried out this year in order to facilitate the removal of the last remaining anaerobic digestion plant and equipment on our land to comply with the pre-existing CDC Enforcement Notice.

Ultimately, it did not prove possible to pursue this option in the time available and under current regulatory constraints. In any event, we determined that the safer environmental option would be to tanker the material to an off-site waste treatment centre.

So, very recently, we decided to commit to the removal option, albeit at a significantly higher cost. This will bring our spending to date on the restoration of the Farm to over £5.3m.

The waste from Lagoon 2 will be pumped into tanker lorries and taken off site for safe disposal. Over a period of 2-3 months there will be an average of 12 lorries arriving on site and leaving with their loads each day from Monday to Friday with 4 lorries on Saturdays. The plan is to complete the work by mid-October.

Of course, we are working closely with Harpers Environmental to minimise disruption during this period and detailed planning has gone into how the lorries arrive on site, load and then depart in a controlled manner in the mornings and early afternoons. The lorries will then return to the site and park up overnight.

Once the lagoon has been emptied, we intend to start at the earliest opportunity the landscaping and other restoration work referred to above as part of our overall habitat creation plans for the farm.

We had hoped to avoid taking the material offsite and having to turn to road haulage to deal with this issue, but I hope you will understand the circumstances that led to this option being taken. If you have any questions as we embark on this work, please do not hesitate to get in touch. David Bick, on 07831 381201 is available for what remains of this week to deal with any questions, as I am away briefly and returning to Crouchland next Monday.

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Fairbanks Weston
Chairman

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