



# Ministry of Defence

Secretariat  
Defence Infrastructure Organisation  
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Sutton Coldfield  
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E-mail: diosec-parli@mod.gov.uk  
www.gov.uk/DIO

12 August 2019

Ref. FOI 2019/08087

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 11 July 2019 requesting the following information:

*"A. Do you recognise APHA's statement that Middlewick Ranges were used to dispose of ashes related to the burning of livestock during the foot and mouth outbreak?*

*B. If not can you explain why*

*C. If you do, can you explain why this was omitted from your response of 17th January 2017*

*Please can you also provide me with answers to the following questions (all related to the disposal of livestock as part of the foot and mouth disease clean up operation on the Middlewick Ranges in Colchester around 2000/2001):*

1. - the exact date (day, month, year) any disposals happened at this site
2. - how many carcasses were buried whole (i.e without being burnt)
3. - how many carcasses were burnt and buried
4. - were the animals burnt on the ranges or were the burnt elsewhere and the ashes transported to the ranges for disposal
5. - the total number and type of livestock disposed of
6. - who gave approval for the ranges to be used to be used for the disposal
7. - the size of any areas used on the Middlewick ranges to dispose of any livestock
8. - the exact location(s) (either marked on map, the latitude and longitude co-ordinates or a description of the location) used to dispose of the livestock on the ranges.
9. - any documents relating to the disposal of livestock in the Middlewick ranges (e.g notes from the day, documents confirming the work has been done etc)
10. - any photographs of the disposal happening
11. - have there been any subsequent ground tests of the burial site to check for contamination (or anything else), and if so what were the results
12. - any documents relating to any of the above questions"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

With reference to QA, QB and QC, I can confirm that the response provided by the MOD to FOI2017/12456 on 17 January 2017 was correct based on our knowledge at that time.

The information you have requested for Q1, Q2, Q3, Q5, Q7, Q8, Q9 and Q12 can be found at Annex A, however some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at Section 40 (Personal Data) and has been redacted.

The information you have requested for Q6 falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) and has been withheld.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of this information in order to protect personal information as governed by the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

The MOD does not hold the information you have requested in relation to Q4, Q10 and Q11.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that in progressing the disposal of Middlewick Ranges, the MOD has identified an Environment Agency licence dated April 2001, authorising the disposal of pyre ash and accelerants including wheat and silage at Middlewick Ranges. This original licence issued to MOD, enabled the burial of material on 8 April 2001. The burial of whole carcasses did not take place on Middlewick Ranges. This licence and all responsibility for it was transferred to Ministry Agriculture Fisheries and Food on 25 May 2001, shown at Annex A.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency have confirmed that as far as the risk of onward transmission of Foot and Mouth Disease from the buried material, there is zero risk.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made in writing within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat



ENVIRONMENT  
AGENCY

AUTHORISATION NO.	GWELF/50686
SCHEDULE NO.	GWELF/50686 01

**GROUNDWATER REGULATIONS 1998****REGULATION 18(3)(a)****AUTHORISATION OF DISPOSAL  
OR TIPPING FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISPOSAL****TO:**

Ministry of Defence  
H.Q EATA  
Gryphon House  
Goojerat Barracks  
Colchester  
Essex CO2 7NZ

The ENVIRONMENT AGENCY ("The Agency") in pursuance of its powers under the Groundwater Regulations 1998 and in accordance with Regulation 18(3)(a) of those Regulations, hereby **AUTHORISES** the disposal of **burnt remains of animal carcasses and specified ancillary waste by burial.**

**AT: Middlewick Ranges, East Donyland, Colchester, Essex**

**TO : land at TM 0120 2240, as shown on the attached plan GWELF/50686 01**

**SUBJECT TO:** the conditions set out in the following Schedule :

**GROUNDWATER AUTHORISATION    schedule ref. no GWELF/50686 01**

The Agency will review this Authorisation at least every 4 years and may vary or revoke the Authorisation in writing at any time.

This Authorisation is issued on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 2001 and takes effect from 8<sup>th</sup> April 2001

Signed... ..

**Team Leader – Scientific Support**

## **SCHEDULE OF CONDITIONS**



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### **Burial of Pyre Ash and ancillary farm waste**

#### **GENERAL**

1. The disposal shall consist only of burnt remains of animal carcasses and specified ancillary farm waste.
2. The disposal shall be undertaken at the location specified in condition 3 below so that:
  - (a) There shall be no direct discharge of List 1 substances (set out in Annex 1 to this Authorisation) to groundwater or surface waters;
  - (b) Groundwater (as defined by the Groundwater Regulations 1998) is not polluted;
  - (c) The disposal shall not cause any adverse effects on sources of water for potable supply;
  - (d) Disposal of List 1 and List 2 substances (set out in Annex 1 to this Authorisation) shall only be made in accordance with the following conditions of this Authorisation.
  - (e) Provided that the disposal hereby authorised is made in accordance with all of the conditions of this Authorisation, the disposal shall not be taken to be in breach of conditions (a), (b) or (c) above because it contains substances or has properties identified in and controlled by conditions (a), (b) or (c).
  - (f) The Authorisation holder shall take all practicable measures to minimise adverse environmental impact of the disposal.
3. The disposal shall be made by burial on an area of land centered at:
  - (a) National Grid Reference TM 0120 2240
  - (b) As shown marked on the attached Plan GWELF/50686 01
4. No part of the disposal area shall lie within:
  - (a) 10 metres of the nearest watercourse (which includes ditches and open land drains which may run dry for part of the year);
  - (b) 50 metres of any well, spring or borehole, irrespective of its current use;
  - (c) 500 metres of any well, spring or borehole used for potable water supply
  - (d) 25 metres of an identified swallow hole.

#### **RECORD OF DISPOSAL**

5. A record of the disposal is appended to this Authorisation.



## **MONITORING AND REPORTING SYSTEMS**

6. Engineered groundwater monitoring systems shall be provided to enable monitoring of the groundwater outside the disposal pit, in accordance with British Standards 5930 Code of Practice for Site Investigations.
7. A record of the groundwater monitoring and sampling results shall be made and submitted to the Agency at 6 monthly intervals for 4 years or until the Agency specifies otherwise

## **EXPIRY DATE**

8. The Authorisation shall cease to have effect on 01/05/2005.



**ANNEX 1.**

**Summary listing of the substances to be controlled under the Groundwater Regulations 1998.**

**List One.** "List One" substances are the most toxic and must be prevented from entering groundwater. They include pesticides, sheep dip and solvents.

- Organohalogen compounds and substances which may form such compounds in the aquatic environment
- Organophosphorus (OP) compounds
- Organotin compounds
- Substances which possess carcinogenic, mutagenic, or teratogenic properties in or via the aquatic environment (including substances which may have those properties which would otherwise be in list two)
- Mercury and its compounds
- Cadmium and its compounds
- Mineral oils and hydrocarbons
- Cyanides

**List Two** "List Two" substances are less dangerous but, if disposed of in large amounts, could be harmful to groundwater. Entry of these substances into groundwater must be restricted.

- The following metals and metalloids and their compounds

Zinc	Antimony	Uranium
Copper	Molybdenum	Vanadium
Nickel	Titanium	Cobalt
Chromium	Tin	Thallium
Lead	Barium	Tellurium
Selenium	Beryllium	Silver
Arsenic	Boron	

- Biocides (including pesticides) and their derivatives not appearing in list one
- Substances which have a deleterious effect on the taste or odour of groundwater, and compounds liable to cause the formation of such substances in such water and to render it unfit for human consumption.
- Toxic or persistent organic compounds of silicon, and substances which may cause the formation of such compounds in water, excluding those which are biologically harmless or are rapidly converted in water into harmless substances.
- Inorganic compounds of phosphorus and elemental phosphorus
- Fluorides
- Ammonia and nitrites



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<b>AUTHORISATION NO.</b>	GWELF/50686
<b>SCHEDULE NO.</b>	GWELF/50686 01

#### RECORD OF DISPOSAL

<b>Date of burial</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> April 2001
<b>Location</b> <i>NGR</i>	TM 0120 2240
<b>Area &amp; depth of burial</b>	2700m <sup>3</sup> (90m x 10m x 3m)
<b>Nature of carcasses</b> <i>Animal type &amp; whether incinerated</i>	Pyre Ash: Cattle, pigs, sheep, goats
<b>Approx. number of carcasses</b>	153 cattle (33 pre-1996) 469 pigs 2230 sheep 2 goats
<b>Reason for burial</b> <i>Disease type</i>	Confirmed foot & mouth: Greenacres Farm 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2001 Old England's Farm 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2001 Marsh Farm 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2001 Wick Farm 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2001 Rye Farm 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2001
<b>Materials added</b> <i>e.g accelerants</i>	370 tonnes of wheat 100 bags of silage





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**GROUNDWATER REGULATIONS 1998**  
**AUTHORISATION TO DISCHARGE IN/ON TO LAND**  
**CERTIFICATE OF HOLDER**

**Part A**

**To: The Ministry of Defence**

The Environment Agency hereby confirms that the above named is the registered holder of the Authorisation

**Nature of Discharge/Disposal: Pyre Ash and Ancillary Waste from Foot and Mouth infected Farms into land**

**At: Middlewick Range, Colchester Essex**

Note: This certificate should be kept with the Authorisation document for future reference. If you transfer responsibility for the discharge to someone else you must pass the Authorisation to them and tell the Agency within 21 days. Responsibility for the Authorisation cannot be disclaimed by the holder but the registration of the holder may be transferred to a successor. To do this please complete the form below, then tear it off and return it to the address shown. If you fail to transfer the Authorisation, even though you are no longer on the site, you may still be liable for prosecution for pollution. If you transfer the Authorisation but do not tell us, you will be committing an offence. In case of any queries please contact your local Environment Agency.

**Part B Please complete in block capitals or type.**

**To: The Ministry of Defence**

Groundwater Regulations 1998: Notice of Transfer of Authorisation to Discharge to land

**Authorisation: GWELF/50686**

**Name: Ministry of Defence**

**Address: H.Q EATA**

**Gryphon House**

**Goojerat Barracks**

**Colchester**

**Essex CO2 7NZ**

We hereby serve notice on the Agency that We are no longer the Holder of the above Authorisation which was transferred to:

**Name of new holder: The Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food**

**Address: Government Buildings**

**Beeches Road**

**Chelmsford**

**Essex**

**Post Code: CM1 2RU**

**Date of Transfer to new Holder: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2001**

**Signed:**

**Name: (block capitals):**

**Dated:**

**Position:**

(to be signed when signing on behalf of corporate bodies)







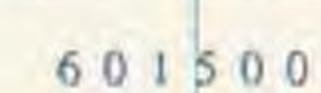
## ANNEX 2


## PLAN GWELF\50686 01





601500



<p><b>CONTAMINATED AREA</b>  <b>MIDDLEWICK RANGE</b>  <b>COLCHESTER</b></p> <p>Scale 1: 5000          GRID REF TM010224</p>	
	<p>MINISTRY OF DEFENCE          DEFENCE ESTATES (EAST)          STIRLING HOUSE, DENNY END ROAD          WATERBEACH, CAMBS. CB5 9QE</p>
<p><small>This plan is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by Defence Estates with the permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationary Office, Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Home No. 05/11290</small></p>	
<p>Plan Ref No.</p>	<p>Plan Dated 26 Apr 01</p>



# Middlewick Ranges Foot & Mouth Disposal Site

