

From: Sarah Owen <sarah.owen@watermangroup.com>
Sent on: Thursday, February 10, 2022 9:37:55 AM
To: PSC Land <PSC@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Subject: WASTE - Bespoke - Laci Land Restoration Ltd.
Urgent: High

Categories: Joel

Good morning

Re: Application for new bespoke environmental permit for deposit of waste for recovery, Sweethayes Farm, London Road, Hurst Green, Etchingham, TN19 7PS

We have great pleasure to write enclosing Laci Land Restoration Ltd's application for an Environmental Permit (EP). The following are available via OneDrive link:

- Supporting Information document – Waterman February 2022 reference WIE18431-101-R-4.2.2-SupplInfo. The application forms are to be found at Appendix A.
- Approved Waste Recovery Plan – a folder containing the three documents the EA considers to be the approved waste recovery plan.

 [Sweethayes Farm EP app submission Feb 2022](#)

As you will know the applicant has been in pursuit of EP for an appreciable period of time. So long in fact that it has moved on to its second team of environmental consultants, now being represented by Waterman. The application is now hereby submitted to you afresh. It is comprehensive, thorough and we trust the EA will find it to be fully informed.

We are writing to request that this application be expedited for determination please. By way of context we explain that the applicant has worked tirelessly to refine and clarify its proposals. Including by way of sending its Waste Recovery Plan (WRP) to the EA for prior assessment. The WRP was submitted in September 2021. It was determined positively by the EA some 4 ½ months later (mid-January 2022).

The applicant now responds to the EA with its EP submission.

Having endured the costs and delays, including because of the impact of the COVID pandemic over the last 23 months, the applicant is intent to now make timely progress. It sees it essential to state to the EA that projects involving groundworks, such as its own, are likely to best undertaken during the clement spring and summer seasons.

The Statutory period for applications of this kind is to determine them within a four month period. Presumably, it does not need to take all four of those to be determined? Especially given that a bespoke EP is only required due to the presence of ancient woodland nearby. In all other respects the proposal would meet the relevant Standard Rules requirements.

The Penfold Review recommended the EA determine all new permit applications within 13 weeks. The applicant notes that its submission is most unlikely to fall within the scope of exceptions agreed with government. It is not:

- 1) remotely a major/complex project and not on a scale similar to those determined through the major infrastructure planning unit;
- 2) likely there will be factors beyond the Environment Agency's control where the statutory consultation periods take up all or a significant proportion of the 13 week period, or the site is of high public interest and extended consultation is required;
- 3) No other permission, consent or decision is required before the EP can be issued.

Neither is it likely that any notice will need to be served for further information. As we state above the application is comprehensive, thorough and we trust the EA will find it to be fully informed.

We therefore trust our special pleading will not go to waste and we look forward to the swift determination of the applicant's proposals.

Kind regards

Sarah

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