

GE19/DCIS/8312 FAO Wendy Sweet

Fielding, Eleanor <eleanor.fielding@environment-agency.gov.uk>

Thu, 12
Dec
2019,
10:43

to parishclerk@knowstone.org.uk, DCIS

Whitemoor Equestrian Centre – Gosling Stud Ltd

Dear Wendy

Thank you for your correspondence in relation to the above site and apologies for the delay in updating you.

In response to local concerns the Environment Agency (EA) has investigated activity on site in order to ensure operations are being undertaken as legally required by the EA Permit. The site holds an Environmental Permit which was issued by the EA in November 2017. This allows the operator to store and subsequently use waste aggregate and soil for the purposes of a recovery activity involving the deposit of waste that is to be used in construction and/or reclamation, restoration or improvement of land. The maximum quantity of material allowed under this permit is 60,000m³ (or 90,000 tons). The Standard Rules Permit SR2015 No.39 held by the site is a publically available document. Other documents form part of this permit including a site specific Waste Recovery Plan which was assessed and approved as part of the permit application process.

We regulate the site as per the Environmental Permit conditions and associated documents. As well as physical onsite inspections the operator is required to submit data in the form of Waste Returns to us on a quarterly basis detailing what material has entered the site including quantities.

Having undertaken a number of site inspections and a review of Waste Returns the EA is satisfied that the fundamental activity taking place is within the requirements of the Permit. The activity is approximately over halfway through completion. Points of concern have been discussed with the operator and we are confident that issues will be resolved going forward. With regards to the road deposits; the operator is taking action to improve this situation predominantly by employing the use of a 'wet' road sweeper.

With regards to colour of the soil, the importation of waste soil is based on a broad categorisation under the European waste code 170504; which refers to non-hazardous soil and stone from construction sites. It does not control for the colour or nature of the soil. Some bespoke permits do, this permit does not. Therefore the site is legally permitted to accept soil of a different colour, provided that it is non-hazardous and meets the specified waste code. Having seen the material, we are confident that the material is of good quality; although it will continue to be variable depending on the site of origin.

We appreciate being made aware of potential non-compliance, for example a concerns that non-permitted waste is entering the site. Some concerns are however outside of the EA remit and should be raised with the relevant planning authority, these include traffic concerns and hours of operation. Concerns around hostility should of course be reported to the Police.

You are encouraged to continue to report issues, at or as close as possible to the time you noticed them, to us via our incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60. It is important to report these at the time so we can contact the operator and deal with the issue rather than feeding back to the site retrospectively.

Thank you

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