

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member – Environmental
Sefton East Parishes Area Committee

DATE: 16th December 2009
21st January 2010

SUBJECT: **CONTAMINATED LAND INSPECTION OF FORMER
SEFTON MEADOWS LANDFILLS**

WARDS AFFECTED: Park

REPORT OF: Peter Moore
Environmental Protection Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Iain Robbins –
Contaminated Land Team Leader
0151 934 4030

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To advise the Cabinet Member - Environmental of progress with the Contaminated Land Inspection at the former Sefton Meadows Landfill.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Cabinet Member, Environmental, notes the report.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN:

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: N/A

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

N/A

IMPLICATIONS:**Budget/Policy Framework:** None.**Financial:**

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2006/ 2007 £	2007/ 2008 £	2008/ 2009 £	2009/ 2010 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal:**Risk Assessment:** N/A**Asset Management:** N/A**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		✓	
2	Creating Safe Communities	✓		
3	Jobs and Prosperity		✓	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	✓		
5	Environmental Sustainability	✓		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		✓	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy		✓	
8	Children and Young People		✓	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

- Final Interpretive Report for Potential Special Site No. 26581 – Sefton Meadows Landfills – Vol 1 dated 22nd February 2008. Jacobs UK Ltd Ref. No. B2112400
- Collation and Assessment of Documentary Information B20(a) report for potential special site No. 26581 – Sefton Meadows Landfill(s) dated November 2005. Environment Agency Groundwater and Contaminated Land Team – Central Area – NW Region. Ref B20(a) 26581
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Circular 01/2006, Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part 2A, Contaminated Land, September 2006
- Record of Determination that land is Contaminated Land, August 2009, Land at Sefton Meadows Landfill Extension 1
- Record of Determination that land is Contaminated Land, August 2009, Land at Sefton Meadows Landfill Extension 2
- Sefton Council Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (Second Review) June 2001 (Revised September 2006)

Background

1. In the report to Sefton East Parishes Area Committee dated 15th September 2005, Members were informed of the contaminated land site investigation works being carried out in relation to the former landfill site at Sefton Meadows and the River Alt. This report is to advise the Cabinet Member - Environmental of the progress being made with the inspection at the former Sefton Meadows Landfills.
2. The deposit of waste in the area identified as Sefton Meadows Extension 1 (Appendix 1) commenced in 1957 under the responsibility of Liverpool Corporation. In April 1974 Merseyside County Council came into existence and assumed responsibility for the disposal of domestic waste, which was completed in 1975. During the period of deposit of waste little protection was provided for the groundwater or watercourses and upon completion, the site was capped by replacement of the thin soils that had existed prior to disposal of waste.
3. The landfill area identified as Sefton Meadows Landfill Extension 2 (Appendix 2), filled between 1975 and 1981, was regulated under the 1974 Control of Pollution Act under the responsibility of Merseyside County Council. Prior to the deposit of waste, the soils which were present on site were excavated and later used as cover when the site was completed. Land drains were also installed at the base of the fill to channel leachate to the foul sewer which received treatment at Hillhouse Wastewater Treatment Works.
4. Under the provisions contained within Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990), Local Authorities have a duty to inspect their area and identify land that meets the statutory definition of contaminated land. Sefton's approach to dealing with contaminated land is detailed in the Council's Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy published in June 2001 and revised in September 2006.
5. As part of the identification of sites requiring further inspection, officers from the Council's Environmental Protection Department have collated information regarding the previous uses of land from historic maps and other records and have formulated a prioritised list of sites that require further inspection.
6. Sites have been prioritised based on the **potential** for contaminants to be present which may cause "*significant harm*" and by assessing the proximity and potential linkage of the sites to sensitive receptors. The Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy makes the provision for Sefton Council to vary the priority of investigations based on any information made available which may indicate a potential contamination issue.
7. As part of this process the Council's Environmental Protection Department was provided with environmental monitoring data from Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) that indicated that leachate water from the former landfill sites at Sefton Meadows was entering the adjacent watercourses.

8. The Environment Agency (EA) subsequently informed the Council that the part of the River Alt that passes through the former landfilled areas is a designated Freshwater Fishery. As such, the quality of the water along this stretch has to comply with the criteria contained in The Surface Waters (Fishlife) (Classification) Regulations 1997.
9. The Environmental Protection Department assessed the information supplied by MWDA and the EA relating to soil and groundwater conditions at this site and concluded that there was a reasonable possibility that a significant pollutant linkage may exist. This is due to the impact on the River water quality, caused by Ammonium leachate (formed from the decomposition of waste within the former landfill), seeping into the River Alt.
10. In accordance with DEFRA Circular 01/2006, an assessment of the available information indicated that, if the land was determined as being Contaminated Land (as statutorily defined), it would meet the description of land prescribed in the Regulations as being designated a Special Site, for which the EA would become the enforcing authority.

Site Investigations

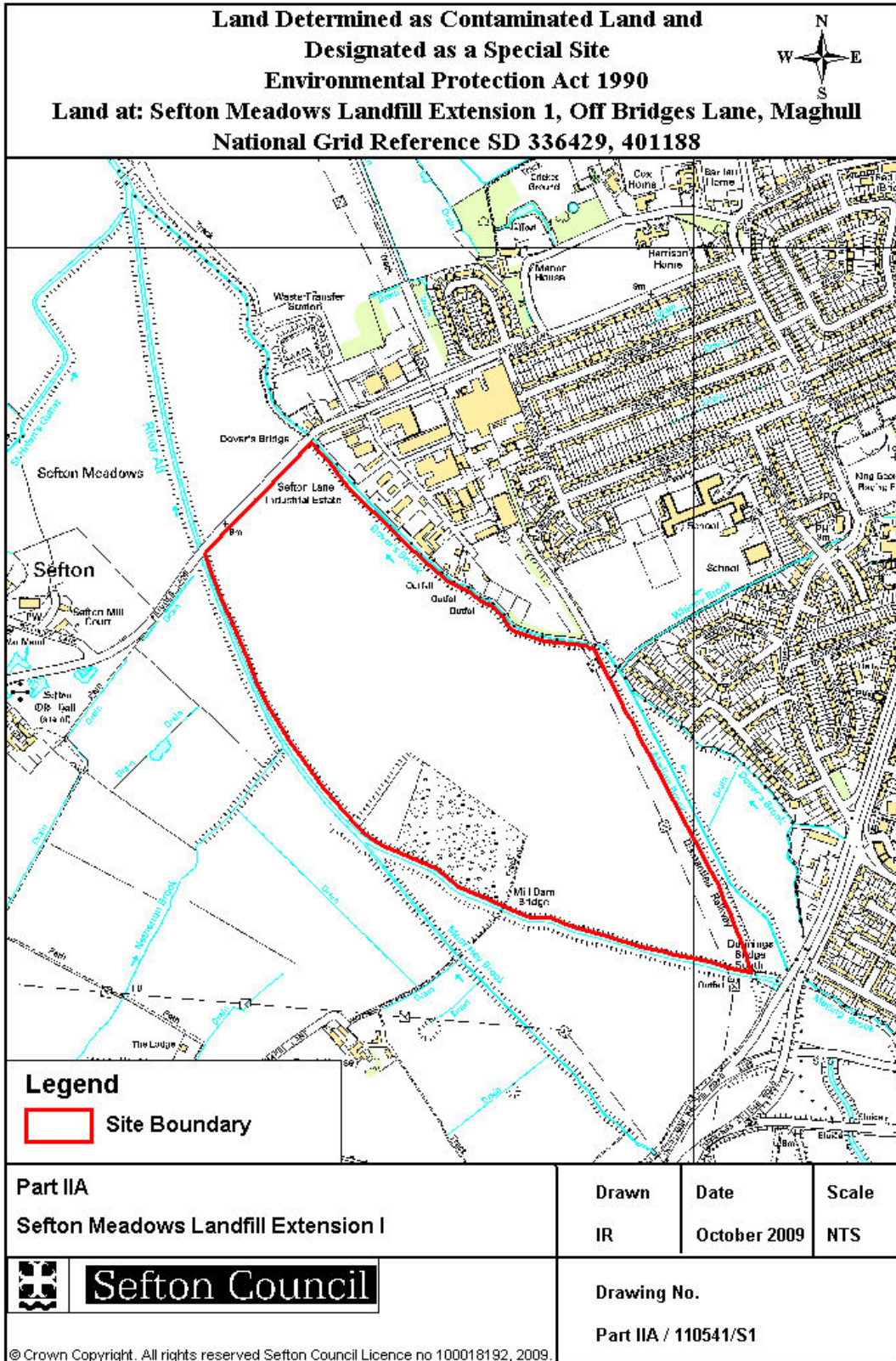
11. The EA, on behalf of the Council, undertook an inspection of the former landfills to assess whether contaminants were present at concentrations that may pose a significant risk to human health or controlled waters.
12. Following completion of their detailed inspection the EA considered that the areas identified as Sefton Meadows Landfill Extension 1 and Sefton Meadows Landfill Extension 2 met the requirements to be determined as contaminated land sites and designated as Special Sites.
13. The contamination has been shown to be affecting controlled waters and their quality, in that the surface waters are not meeting relevant surface water criteria as set out in the Surface Waters (Fishlife) (Classification) Regulations 1997.

Conclusion

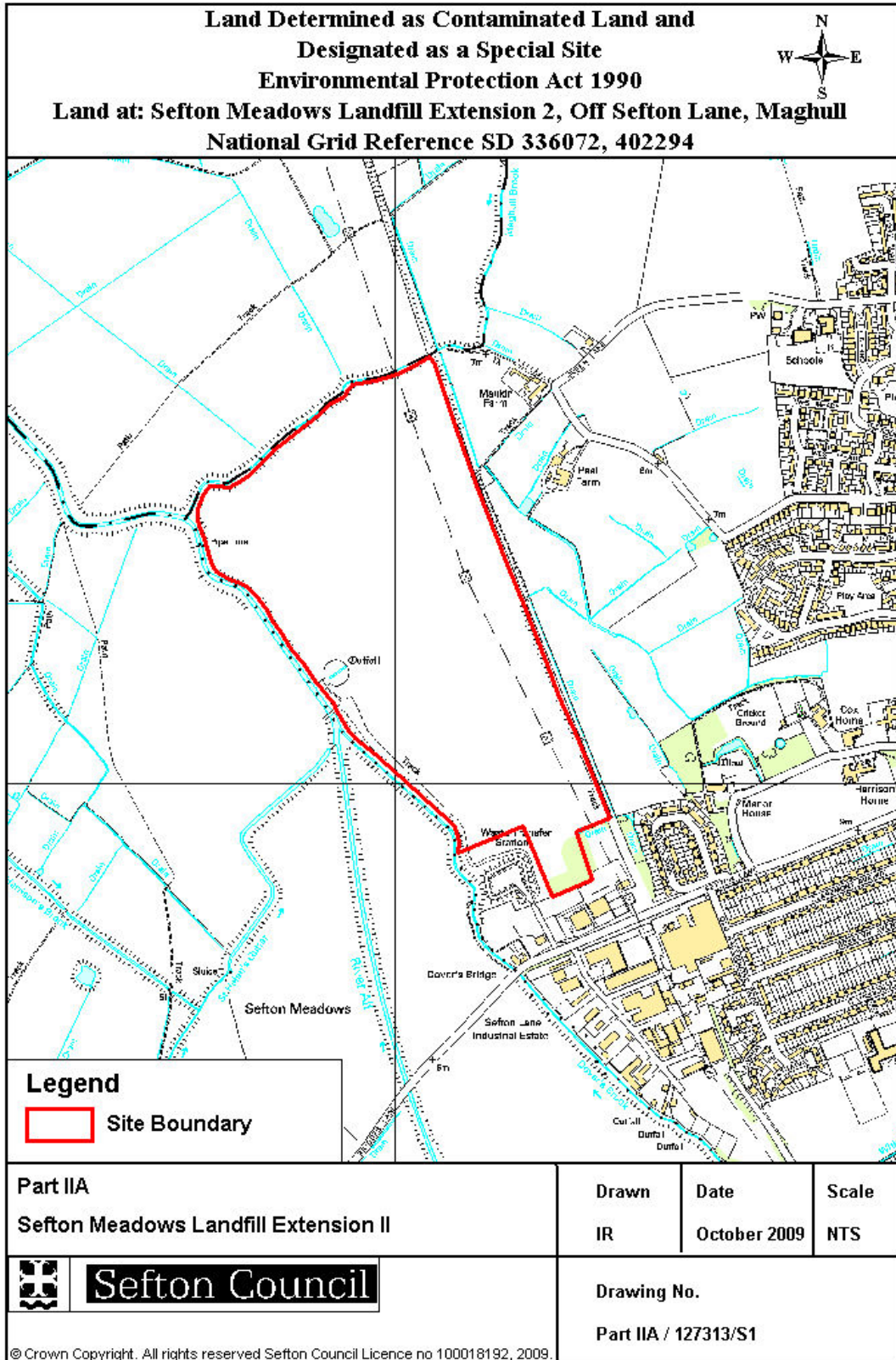
14. Officers from the Council's Environmental Protection Department, have reviewed the inspection report prepared by the EA and concur with the findings and recommendations of the report.
15. The landfill areas identified as Sefton Meadows Extension 1 and Sefton Meadows Extension 2 were determined as Contaminated Land sites and designated as Special Sites in August 2009 by Sefton Council. The Notices of Determination and Designation were issued to the appropriate persons who have an interest in the sites.
16. The EA agreed with the decision to designate the sites as Special Sites and are now the enforcing authority for the two sites.

17. As part of the next phase of work the EA have commissioned an environmental consultant to undertake an options appraisal to identify and evaluate different remedial options to improve the water quality.
18. The remediation of the landfills is a long-term project requiring co-operation and consultation to ensure that remediation is achieved in a cost effective and practicable way.
19. A Sefton Meadows Remediation Forum has been formed consisting of officers from the EA, Sefton Council's Environmental Protection Department and appropriate persons who are liable for remediation, with the intention of identifying appropriate and cost effective remedial measures.
20. The EA concluded that two further landfill areas identified as Sefton Meadows East and Sefton Meadows West (Appendix 3) also meet the requirements to be determined as Contaminated Land sites, but recommended that further investigation is required in these areas. Sefton Council is currently consulting with the landowners responsible for Sefton Meadows East and Sefton Meadows West to establish the scope of further works.
21. The Cabinet Member - Environmental and Sefton East Parishes Area Committee will be updated on works as they progress.
22. Officers from the Council's Environmental Protection Department will assist the Environment Agency with risk communication, assessment of risks to human health and liaison with the appropriate persons who have an interest in the sites.

Appendix 1



Appendix 2



Appendix 3

