

From: phil [<mailto:phil.plant@midwestplanning.co.uk>]

Sent: 21 November 2018 15:05

To: 'Hockenhull, Joel'; CHORSLEY@environment-agency.gov.uk; Jenman, Rebecca

Cc: 'George Leeds'; 'Peter Gwynne'; 'Blair, Ruth'

Subject: RE: 182191 Land at Lodge Farm and Highway Farm, Monkton Farm Lane, Ocle Pychard, Herefordshire

Hello Joel,

For clarification....

The two tanks referred to in my previous correspondence are two steel above-ground former farm slurry tanks, previously used when the farm was in milk production. Please see the landscaping plans and aerial photograph that depict the tanks adjacent to the Lodge Farm buildings.

These tanks are now redundant and the proposal is to pump (please see the attached pump chamber specification) the treated sewage plant discharge into these tanks and from there pump water (might be gravity fed even) to the apple trees.

The attached letter from the Fruit Services Advisory Team explains how this can be implemented to provide approximately 60m³ of the 75m³ of daily water required. There will be no surface water run-off as a result of the trickle irrigation system proposed.

The diameter of each of these tanks at Lodge Farm calculates at 17.1m and the storage volume for a height of 3.9m (i.e. 4.2 less the 0.3 freeboard) would work out as 898 m² or 898, 000 litres. Therefore the overall storage capacity for both tanks is approximately 1796m³ for the treated effluent leaving the sewage plant. This gives the applicant approximately 30 days storage when the seasonal workers site is fully occupied, and obviously much more in the winter months when the number of workers is at the lowest level. The period of high worker occupation coincides with the peak irrigation period in the summer.

I trust this is of assistance, but please feel free to give me a call to discuss the matter if you wish?

Kind regards,

Phil.

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Registration Number: UK 07183717

From: Hockenhull, Joel <Joel.Hockenhull@balfourbeatty.com>
Sent: 21 November 2018 12:43
To: phil <phil.plant@midwestplanning.co.uk>; CHORSLEY@environment-agency.gov.uk; Jenman, Rebecca <Rebecca.Jenman@herefordshire.gov.uk>
Cc: 'George Leeds' <>; 'Peter Gwynne' <>; Blair, Ruth <Ruth.Blair@balfourbeatty.com>
Subject: RE: 182191 Land at Lodge Farm and Highway Farm, Monkton Farm Lane, Ocle Pychard, Herefordshire

Phil

I've been reviewing the information submitted and note an email 16/10/18 from Rebecca referring to some existing tanks. Can you present details of the location of these.

I've copied an email below received from the EA

The soakaways would need to run down the site, to irrigate the tree roots. Water would ultimately pond at the bottom of the site and so presumably to make full use of this water it would be necessary to pump the surplus water back uphill to the tanks on higher land.

We suggest that the soakaway pipes should be installed at a gradient of 1/200. This is a Building Regulations specification. The purpose of the slack gradient is to ensure that the water would be retained within the ground to allow the microbes in the ground to provide tertiary treatment to the effluent.

The proposals for a closed loop would be consistent with pumping the water back uphill. So a tank and a pump would be needed to lift the water back uphill. I can see that rainwater would also end up in the lower tank, in rainstorms dilute effluent would probably spill onto adjacent land.

We consider that this issue can be resolved by means of an EA Permit. However I have provided some feedback to you to allow the design work to be completed

Joel

From: Horsley, Kelly [<mailto:CHORSLEY@environment-agency.gov.uk>]
Sent: 19 November 2018 16:17
To: Hockenhull, Joel; Jenman, Rebecca
Subject: RE: 182191 Land at Lodge Farm and Highway Farm, Monkton Farm Lane, Ocle Pychard, Herefordshire

Dear Joel and Rebecca,



I have now spoken to our National Permitting Service, a water quality technical specialist and my colleagues trying to come up with a way to use the treated effluent to irrigate the trees. Unfortunately there is no way you can surface irrigate with treated effluent under our permitting regime.

A possible suggestion would be to discharge continually to ground and lay the soakaway in such a way that it is in contact with the most number of trees whilst still being a closed loop. Your permit would have to be bespoke if this was the case.

I am sorry after all this time this is the outcome, I have really tried to come up with a solution.

Kind regards,

Kelly Horsley
Environment Officer
Land & Water English Wye and Lower Teme
West Midlands Area (WMD)

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Joel Hockenhull CEng MICE

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From: phil [<mailto:phil.plant@midwestplanning.co.uk>]

Sent: 21 November 2018 09:10

To: Hockenhull, Joel; CHORSLEY@environment-agency.gov.uk; Jenman, Rebecca

Cc: 'George Leeds'; 'Peter Gwynne'

Subject: 182191 Land at Lodge Farm and Highway Farm, Monkton Farm Lane, Ocle Pychard, Herefordshire

Good morning everyone,

Mr Leeds has asked me to clarify a couple of points about the proposal to irrigate the apple trees with the treated water from the sewage treatment plant.

Firstly the water can be applied by burying the trickle irrigation pipes close to the young trees, therefore there will be no surface water run-off issues.

Secondly the nutrients in the irrigation water emitting from the sewage plant will replace those nutrient otherwise introduced to freshwater for irrigation. Therefore his proposal conserves water in the summer month and greatly reduces the need to apply artificial fertilizers.

If the trickle irrigation pipes are buried will we still need a bespoke permit?

I look forward to your comments in reply to my queries.

Thanks you.

Kind regards,

Phil.

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