

Public Protection Service

The Portal, Wellington Road, Ellesmere Port
CH65 0BA

Area Director, Environment Agency

Email:

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BY EMAIL:

Date: 12 March 2026

Dear

Joint working: Programme of works, Commonside Former Landfill Site, near Alvanley, Cheshire.

I am writing to you about the former landfill site at Commonside, near Alvanley, Cheshire. As you are aware, Cheshire West and Chester Council is undertaking a Part IIA contaminated land investigation at this site and we are currently working in partnership with the Environment Agency, relying on your technical advice on potential controlled waters pollutant linkages. Recognising the high-profile nature of this case and understanding the concerns of both the local and wider community, we appointed AECOM in May 2025 as our lead consultant to facilitate this process.

The Council is working to progress this matter as quickly as possible notwithstanding the need to ensure that the investigation is well planned, appropriately resourced and subject to effective scrutiny and analysis. We recognise and understand that demands on the Environment Agency, like those on the Council, are significant. On that basis we are providing you with an outline of the proposed 2026 works programme for the site so that you may allocate sufficient resources and/or identify and address any additional requirements to ensure that this project proceeds to schedule.

Proposed Works Programme 2026

- Preliminary risk assessment completion - final Environment Agency sign off required: as soon as possible
- Site investigation proposal (final draft – to be issued by Aecom) – Environment Agency comment required: by end March 2026.
- Site investigation to commence late April 2026 – ongoing and timely input during investigation from Environment Agency required.
- Draft site investigation report – expected late Summer 2026: timely analysis of report by the Environment Agency: required timeframes to be confirmed.

We propose that, in addition to the schedule outlined above, an allocation of resource by the Environment Agency to enable monthly progress meetings and ongoing input on an “as required” basis.

We trust that the Environment Agency can fully support us in this matter, ensuring delivery of our respective statutory obligations so that jointly, we are able to address the health concerns, and meet the expectations, of the local community and other interested parties.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the Environmental Protection team by email at the following email address: environmentalprotection@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or by telephone on 0300 123 8123 (8am until 7pm, Monday to Friday).

Yours sincerely

Maria Byrne
Director of Environment and Communities