

Press release: Northumberland farmer fined for failing to fix pollution risk

A Northumberland farmer who was fined £19,000 last year for twice polluting a protected watercourse has been ordered to pay a further £2,854.56 in fines and costs for failing to fix the source of the pollution.

John Laing, 54, of New Heaton Farm in Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland, appeared at Berwick upon Tweed Magistrates' Court on 5 April 2018 having previously admitted contempt of court.

The court heard that in January 2017 Laing was ordered by Newcastle Magistrates' Court to repair the storage unit by 30 June 2017. Without remedial works, there remains a continued risk of silage leaking from a silo storage unit into a tributary that flows into the River Till.

The order had required Laing to carry out specific works to capture and prevent any effluent from escaping the silo, and provide written certification from a chartered engineer that the works had been completed to the required standards. Environment Agency officers made several visits to the farm before and after the deadline to check whether the works had been completed.

While Laing had enlisted the services of a builder, work had not started before the June 2017 deadline. Subsequent visits by Environment Agency officers in August and September 2017 revealed that some work had begun but not as agreed and to a poor standard.

In mitigation, Laing said he had relied on the assurances of a builder as to the quality of the remedial work and was no longer using the storage facility himself.

Neil Paisley, Senior Agriculture Officer at the Environment Agency, said:

John Laing has repeatedly shown a disregard for the law and a disregard for the environment since an initial pollution incident in 2014.

Pollution of any watercourse is a serious offence because of the devastating impact it can have on fish, wildlife and ecosystems. We will take action against anyone who fails to act in accordance with environmental laws and fails to comply with orders to ensure pollution

is prevented.

If anyone spots a potential pollution issue they can report it to the Environment Agency's free 24-hour incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

Corporate report: Waste Metric Dashboard: March 2018

The National Waste Programme publishes a range of waste metrics to track progress and ensure that expected programme benefits are being delivered.

The metrics demonstrate:

- the successful diversion of waste away from disposal to the LLW Repository
 - the optimal use of key national assets, such as the LLWR site and waste treatment facilities
 - the safety and environmental performance of the National Programme
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Notice: W12 0NN, UK Research & Innovation (UKRI): environmental permit application advertisement

The Environment Agency consults the public on certain applications for Radioactive Substances Activity. The arrangements are explained in its [Public Participation Statement](#)

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- which Environment Agency office you can visit to see the application documents on the public register
- when you need to comment by

The Environment Agency will decide:

- whether to grant or refuse the application
- what conditions to include in the permit (if granted)

[Notice: John Foster Yeoman: application made to abstract water](#)

The Environment Agency consult the public on certain applications for the abstraction and impoundment of water.

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- which Environment Agency offices you can visit to see the application documents on the public register
- when you need to comment by

[News story: LLW Repository Ltd earns Gold award](#)

LLW Repository Ltd's (LLWR) Engineering, Design and Construction Framework (EDCF) with GRAHAM Construction has won a Gold award in a prestigious national scheme.

Delighted team members from both organisations were on hand at the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) ceremony in Manchester to receive the honour, which recognises high standards in the construction sector.

It was only the second time the Framework had entered the scheme and it earned a bronze award last year. In addition to striking gold, a Most Considerate Site runner-up accolade was also awarded to the west Cumbrian facility.

"We are on a journey of continuous improvement, so to better last year's pleasing performance amid stiff competition was superb," said Cath Giel, LLWR's Head of Public Affairs.

"We received more points from our CCS monitor this year than last so we were hopeful of improving on a bronze, but to win gold was outstanding.

"High standards are set for the organisation and for individuals, so this recognition is another feather in our cap.

"We take our community responsibilities extremely seriously, and a lot of hard work went into our entry."

In the Framework's inaugural year in the scheme, the better of two scores awarded by a CCS monitor was 43 marks out of 50.

Two visits this time merited scores of 45 and 46 with maximum 10s scored in the 'Protecting the Environment' and 'Secure Everyone's Safety' categories.

The CCS monitor noted: "This project continues to be managed at the highest level, not only achieving an exceptional level in all five of the scheme's checklist sections, which in itself is an achievement, but also by being innovative."