

28 April, 2010

Rattlechain closed landfill site: results of barrier trial

Last December, as part of Rhodia's efforts to find a solution to protect wild birds, a trial of a heavy duty geotextile barrier began over a small section of the water. As I explained in my previous letter, the aim of this trial was to assess the feasibility of covering far larger areas of the lagoon, as well as the visual impact, durability and methods of anchoring the material.

The three month long trial is now over. I am enclosing for your information the full details of the results of the regular monitoring of how the barrier performed undertaken by our environmental consultants over the past months, together with their recommendations for the next steps.

To summarise, the consultants believe the barrier has worked effectively and they have demonstrated that it is feasible to install the barrier over the lagoon.

Next steps

The next steps are to prepare detailed designs and method statements for the barrier and its installation. We have commissioned two companies to prepare detailed plans of the design, manufacture and recommended method of laying the barrier across the lagoon. Given the technical complexity of this project, this stage is expected to take approximately three months. Once we have these plans we will be able to cost the project and hope to be able to give the go ahead for the work to begin. This approach is of course dependent on the agreement of the Environment Agency, our regulator.

Finding a solution to local concerns about the Rattlechain is very important to Rhodia and, as ever, your views are most welcome.

Yours sincerely

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