



NEWS RELEASE

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MILESTONE AT HAUXTON DEVELOPMENT SITE

Developers have completed the remediation on contaminated land at the former Bayer Crop Science site in Hauxton – but monitoring will be done before new homes are built.

Harrow Estates have said work to remediate the site is complete, but have reaffirmed their commitment to monitoring the site to making sure the land is ready for building work to begin.

The site will now be tidied up and boreholes – to allow the ground water to be sampled and tested for at least the next six months – are currently being installed to assess the results of the remediation works.

Stringent monitoring was also carried out during the remediation to make sure the works met standards set.

Land on the former chemical site was contaminated when procedures at the 1940s factory were not as strict as modern standards. Leaving it untreated was not an option and work by developers will see the land restored and brought back into use.

During the clean up operation soil was dug up, treated on site, then returned to the ground. In total 200,000 tonnes of soil material was treated on site and only a fraction was untreatable and removed from site.

The planning permission issued by South Cambridgeshire District Council requires the site to be monitored for a minimum of six months and a report be provided for review and approval by the Environmental Health Department and Environment Agency before final planning permission is granted to build the new homes.

An area of the Council's website was set up to give information from the various groups involved in the works at Hauxton, and the report submitted by Harrow Estates at the end of the six month monitoring period will also be posted.

Mark Nicholls, Harrow Estates Technical Director, said: "Completing the remediation works sees the end to the first phase of this project and is a major milestone. We are very committed to the next phase that will see us monitor the site to make sure the

work carried out by our contractor has been successful. A report on the monitoring will be made once the required period is complete and this will be submitted to the Council for approval.”

Cllr Sue Ellington, South Cambridgeshire District Council’s Cabinet member for environmental services, said: “It is good news that the clean up work has been carried out but it is now really important we continue to monitor results to check the work has been completed to the required standards. Final planning permissions will only be granted for the new homes when results show the land is in suitable condition.”

ENDS

Notes to editors:

For further information please contact Gareth Bell in South Cambridgeshire District Council’s communications team in the first instance – 01954 713289 or gareth.bell@scambs.gov.uk.

Harrow Estates plc – Developer of site

Vertase FLI – specialist remediation contractor

Atkins Plc – an environmental and engineering consultancy who provided independent on site validation and monitoring as works were being undertaken

South Cambridgeshire District Council – planning and environmental health

Environment Agency – responsible for environment and ground water

Health Protection Agency and NHS Cambridgeshire – public health advisors

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