

For attention of the Operator / Owner

**The Parish Clerk
Corpusty with Saxthorpe Parish Council
Bodgers Field,
Norwich Road,
North Norfolk,
Corpusty
NR24 2BB**

Our ref: AM23016-VR-CSPC

Date: 17th August 2023

By email to Parish Clerk at c.sparishclerk@gmail.com

Requirement to remediate environmentally harmful unpermitted flood risk activities including dredging and reprofiling of right bank of River Bure and installation of gabion basket hard bank protection adjacent to Village Green at Corpusty and Saxthorpe:

- **What3words location:** ///measuring.fearfully.attends
- **National Grid Reference:** TG1126630311
- **Land registry title:** NK466382

Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016

Dear Madam,

We are writing to you further to our letter ref AM23016-CSPC dated 31st March 2023 and our surveys carried out on 17th April 2023 at the above location.

Our investigation concludes that the works carried out at your site have caused environmental harm and require remediation.

Our assessment identified unpermitted flood risk activities including:

- use of heavy machinery on the riverbank for;
 - dredging of the river bed;
 - bank reprofiling and removal of gravels from the riverbed;
 - harmful removal of river bank vegetation along the reach; and
- Installation of unpermitted hard bank protection (Gabion Baskets)

These activities are classified as Flood Risk Activities and they have caused environmental harm. We refer to them as “The Works” in this letter.

We assess that you are operating this site in contravention of Regulations 12 and 38 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016, as The Works are classified as a Flood Risk Activity and you do not have an Environmental Permit issued by the Agency.

Remediation requirement

As we discussed on site 25th July 2023 the environmental impacts of The Works have been assessed by Agency ecologists and we consider that The Works have caused harm to the environment and require remediation.

Our priority is to work with landowners and operators to enable remediation of any damage done by unpermitted works.

A report detailing our findings, best practice guidance for river maintenance and remediation options have already been sent by email from Rob Dryden to the Parish Clerk on 31st July.

We are writing to you now to confirm that you are required to remediate The Works detailed above in accordance with the requirements set out in the abovementioned report at the earliest practicable appropriate time before **1st April 2024**. These are the measures we discussed and agreed on site 25th July 2023.

Please reply on or before **11th September 2023** to confirm how you will be taking steps towards remediating The Works in accordance with the criteria set out in this letter.

Gabion basket unpermitted structures

We do not assess that removing the Gabion Basket bank protection installed without authorisation would provide any environmental benefit.

You may therefore leave these works insitu as unpermitted structures at your own liability if you wish to do so.

If you choose to remove them to avoid this liability, then you will require an environmental permit for these works.

Environmental Permit requirement

Some of the remediation works required constitute flood risk activities in their own right and they will need to be carried out in accordance with an Environmental Permit which must be issued by the Agency before works commence.

You should contact ps0.eastanglia@environment-agency.gov.uk for advice regarding the process of applying for an environmental permit. Further information is available at [Flood risk activities: environmental permits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/flood-risk-activities) and also for your information please review the advice at [Owning a watercourse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/owning-a-watercourse).

Please note that it can take up to two months to process a permit application.

Monitoring and compliance

We will continue to monitor your site and review any requirement for enforcement action as necessary. We may also carry out compliance checks to ensure that conditions attached to the necessary Environmental Permit are fully adhered to.

If remediation works are not carried out voluntarily, I need to inform you that we may elect to either:

- Enforce works to repair and / or remediate the risk / harm and serve a Notice under schedule 25, part 1, para 8 of the above regulations; or
- Arrange emergency repair / remediation works and recharge these costs to yourself

Remediation activity is not an enforcement process or sanction, however it should be noted that any remediation work carried out will be a factor taken into consideration when we determine what final enforcement sanction to apply.

Further information

Please see our Enforcement and Sanctions policy here:

[Environment Agency enforcement and sanctions policy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

You may wish to seek your own independent legal advice.

Please contact me by phone or email to discuss or clarify the issues raised in this letter if you need to do so.

Yours faithfully,



Alistair Moseley
Enforcement Officer, Flood and Coastal Risk Management,
Asset Performance (Norfolk & Suffolk)
07920 331959
Ali.moseley@environment-agency.gov.uk