

Summer 2023

Port Clarence

Giving a Helping Hand

Augean has always made a conscious effort to be part of and support the local communities near to our sites. This important aspect of our business ethos is realised in a variety of ways through our Community Funds, discretionary donations to local community groups or projects, regular litter picks, charitable fundraising and, when necessary, mitigating the consequences of fly tipping which is an ongoing issue in many areas.

In these challenging times with the rising cost of living, sadly many more people have found themselves turning to food banks to support their day to day lives. We are very proud that all the Augean workforce up and down the UK have stepped up and donated items or raised funds to send parcels to local groups in their area.

As the cost of energy has continued to be a factor affecting people, we have been careful to provide items that require little or no cooking to prepare. Items donated have included necessities other than food, such as household cleaning and washing products and for personal care.

As a company that treats and disposes of hard to handle wastes, Augean makes an important contribution to the everyday, good function of society on a national level. However, giving practical, hands on support to communities at a more local level such as this, is very important to us as we know it can, and does, make a difference to those living and working near our sites.



At Port Clarence we have been showing our support as well by sending our donations to the Billingham and Stockton Borough Foodbank.



Augean Acquires Future Industrial Services Ltd

In March 2023, Augean completed the acquisition of Future Industrial Services Limited (FIS) which now has become part of the Augean Group.

The combined business will offer a more diverse range of recycling, recovery, treatment and disposal services for hard to handle wastes underpinned by a network of strategically located sites and service centres. The Augean Group now has 23 sites across the UK. This enhanced footprint will allow the company to work to achieve the best environmental outcomes for wastes through an increased spectrum of capabilities.

Both Augean and FIS have a wealth of expertise, high standards of operation and strong reputations for excellent customer service. Most importantly FIS shares a strong commitment to health, safety, and environmental compliance, which is a cornerstone of the business. With these same objectives and values, Augean has wholeheartedly welcomed all its FIS colleagues into the Augean Group.

Importantly, this is an example of the ongoing support and investment in the future of the company by Augean's shareholders Ancala Partners and Fiera Capital Infrastructure.



**Port Clarence Landfill and Waste Recovery Park Open Day
2 September 2023. See back page for more details.**

More Than Just a Landfill

While our Port Clarence site is home to our nationally important landfill facility for the safe disposal of both hazardous waste and non-hazardous wastes it is probably less commonly known that the site is also home to the Port Clarence Waste Recovery Park, the UK's largest integrated specialist waste facility on a single site.

Policy and legislation are progressively changing to limit the amount and types of wastes sent to landfill and refocusing on the need for the increased treatment, re-use, recycling or recovery of waste. Augean therefore began to develop the Waste Recovery Park in 2008, with the facility planned to include up to 13 integrated waste management treatment activities to maximise the recovery and recycling of industrial and hazardous wastes. The company explores ways of improving existing techniques and ways in which it can increase the recycling and reuse of materials following treatment and to substitute wastes for products in processes saving material resources and limiting the amount and types of wastes sent to landfill.

The range of innovative technologies and waste recovery activities that have been assembled at the Waste Recovery Park include soil treatment and recycling, energy recovery, chemical treatments and waste sorting to enhance the potential for the recovery and treatment of different waste types. Through treatment, wastes that cannot be recovered can also be treated to reduce the hazardousness and volume of the material to make it suitable for landfill.

As the Waste Recovery Park is located directly adjacent to the landfill, any residues from the waste treatment that cannot be further safely reused, recycled, or recovered without presenting long-term environmental risks can be disposed in the landfill without the need for further transportation. Augean is continuously looking to improve the services provided at the Waste Recovery Park as part of our commitment to ensuring that we use the Best Available Technique to manage waste.



Left - Exterior of the Waste Recovery Park building

Above - Waste segregation inside the Waste Recovery Park

Apprenticeships at Augean

We see our people as our greatest asset. They are a key resource that possess the skills and qualifications necessary for us to safely deliver the wide range of services that we offer in a challenging sector. Continuous training and personal development investment in all our workforce forms an essential part of our continued success.

The waste sector is very exciting to work in and Augean provides roles that may be not immediately obvious like employing chemists and engineers. There are diverse opportunities that could lead to being part of providing innovative solutions to manage difficult by-products of the things we use every day, reducing carbon, reusing waste, and developing waste as a resource. There is a fantastic opportunity for everyone in the sector to make a difference to the environment and leave a positive legacy.

Augean invests in encouraging the workforce of tomorrow through Apprenticeships. These allow young people, or those wanting a change of direction, to develop the right skills and knowledge for a career in the context of a real, paid job, learning alongside more experienced workers. The hands-on experience underpins the 20 per cent of working hours that are spent in study towards qualifications.

There are now Apprentices at most of Augean's sites (and the equivalent in Scotland where Apprenticeships work a little differently) filling a variety of different roles. Our Apprentices play an essential part in supporting the success of teams across the company and are crucial to ensuring that Augean has the highly skilled people that we need, now and in the future.



*One of our
apprentice
Chemists*

Saltholme Nature Reserve

Through the Teesside Environmental Trust (TET), who administer the Landfill Communities Fund, Augean is the major funder of the nearby Saltholme Nature Reserve run by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). Augean has supported this project since 2004, which has transformed an area of industrial wasteland into the richly biodiverse area it is today.

Spring and Summer are a very busy period on the reserve due to the influx of visitors – both the human and avian variety! During the warmer months Saltholme is particularly well known as being home to hundreds of pairs of common terns that mainly come to the UK's coastal areas to breed. This year the common terns started to appear in April on the Main Lake at Saltholme and will stay until around August or September when they will start to migrate south again.

Other migrating birds that have been seen include the common sandpiper, many different types of warbler and

also cuckoos. The latter is very significant as their declining numbers meant cuckoos were classified as a Red list species, those species most under threat, in 2021, making it one of the highest conservation priorities.

Saltholme is also home to a wide variety of moth, butterflies and dragonflies. In late May 2023 a new boardwalk was opened overlooking the Dragonfly Pools that line the path to the Saltholme Pools hide. Visitors can now safely observe the emerging dragonflies and damselflies and enjoy the spectacle of the adult form of these fascinating 300 million-year-old insects.

Saltholme is open daily, with lots of frequent activities and events. To plan a visit or find out more go to <https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/saltholme/>



Common Tern



Dragonfly



Cuckoo

Health and Safety First

Historically, the waste management industry did not have a good reputation for Health and Safety. For nearly two decades, Augean has been a leading figure in changing that perception, by building a culture within the company where Health and Safety is at the forefront in the mind of every employee, every day.

Employees are encouraged to report even minor cuts and grazes as the next person doing the same thing might not be so lucky. Reporting Near Misses are also encouraged, where an accident nearly happened but didn't, so we can change that action or process to make it safer. Reporting Safe Acts can also help make changes for the better. We set annual targets for the reporting of Safe/Unsafe Acts or Conditions and we communicate our progress on this back to everyone on a regular basis. All of our workers are made to feel empowered enough that they feel able to stop any unsafe working practice or action, whether this is by a colleague, regardless of seniority, or a contractor.

Our attitude to Health and Safety may not be shared by other companies. When it is necessary to use an outside contractor on one of our sites, they are given a full site induction where the site rules are explained, how we do things on site and any potential hazards are clearly identified.

One of the biggest risks when it comes to Health and Safety is complacency. Raising and keeping awareness of the safety of all our staff and those around them is a constant task that is never finished



The Waste Hierarchy

The protection of the environment and human health through the safe and responsible management of wastes that we all collectively produce as a society is the primary role of the waste management industry. In recent years there have been significant changes in policy and legislation designed to encourage an increase in treatment, recycling, reuse or recovery of waste. This is referred to as the waste hierarchy.

There is a need to produce less waste and manage the wastes that cannot be reduced in the most effective way. This means putting waste to beneficial use; or recycling it into another useful product; or deriving energy from it like energy from waste plants. This is particularly important for managing household waste.

There is increased customer and public interest in sustainable methods of waste management, and this has encouraged companies like Augean to take an innovative approach. We have sought to continuously improve the services

we provide by introducing new processes so we can continue to deliver the best environmental techniques and solutions for waste management. The company explores ways of improving existing techniques and ways in which it can increase the recycling and reuse of materials following treatment and to substitute wastes for products in processes saving material resources and limiting the amount and types of wastes sent to landfill.

We all want to see reuse and recycling improve, but the reality of that ambition is that these processes on industrial waste streams will always generate small quantities of material that can't be reused, recycled or recovered in a cost-effective manner. This is normally because the wastes are contaminated or their chemical composition means the residues cannot be safely reused, recycled or recovered without presenting



long-term environmental risks. Therefore, the best environmental option for that material is in a landfill that has been constructed to ensure the residues are sealed to prevent unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Landfills are an important necessity of the waste management infrastructure that a thriving economy needs, and they might well be a resource in the future.

Waste Crime

Fly tipping is probably the most visible type of waste crime that we see or experience on a regular basis. Unfortunately there are a range of types of waste crimes that are not so visible, these are generally categorised as; waste sites that are operating without permits or regulation, sites that do have permits but the actual activities of the site breach these, misclassifying waste, burning waste and illegally exporting waste.

While there may be different types of waste crime, they all present a danger to the environment and human health. They also have a very tangible cost in other ways. In 2021, the Environmental Services Association (ESA) conservatively estimated that waste crime cost the UK economy £924 million in 2018/2019, and it is probably more than that in 2023. This is a substantial rise from the estimated cost in 2015 of £604 million to taxpayers, legitimate businesses and private landowners through loss of revenue and the expense of clean up.

As a responsible waste operator, Augean abides by a very wide range of regulation and legislation to lawfully operate as a business. Planning permission has been sought for every Augean site and permits obtained that set out in minute detail of what can be accepted on each site and how it must be managed. The relevant permits for each site are published on our website at www.augean.co.uk. As well as our own internal inspection programme, Augean's performance on every aspect of a site is subject to scrutiny from external bodies such as the Environment Agency, Health and Safety Executive and other independent auditors.

It is a collective responsibility that all the waste that we produce as a modern society is reused, recycled, recovered or disposed of in the most appropriate and legal way.



If you have any concerns about the waste activities of an individual or a business, you can anonymously raise your concerns with CrimeStoppers by calling 0800 555 111 or on their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information

Open Day and Open Door Policy

The Open Day will be held on 2nd September 2023. All are welcome to come and see how our modern engineered landfill is operated in a way that protects the environment and see our innovative Waste Recovery Park. There will be opportunities to tour the site by vehicle and a shuttle bus will run from Port Clarence village to take visitors to and from the site. Further details will be circulated before the event.

Port Clarence Landfill

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For further information about Augean, please visit www.augean.co.uk or contact our Telephone Helpline: **01642 089980**

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