



REQUEST 17989

As a continuation of FOI 17965, or as a new request:

I ask why a designation has not been considered or processed given the known history of the site and the reasonably foreseeable nature for contamination there (asbestos waste materials dumped on site, the potential for fall out from particles in the air from production areas settling within the proximity of the site, notwithstanding the impact of the fall out from the 1979 Turner Brothers Asbestos fire.

It is well documented that blue asbestos (crocidolite) was processed there from the late 1950s until about 1970. This was before the 1969 Regulations were in place. Visible dust was seen by workers on site and local residents played with what was described as "marbles" or "snow".

RESPONSE

This FOI is in relation to the South Hindley Urban Village Masterplan, red line boundary under A/18/85784/OUTMAJ, which does not, as far as we are aware, include the former Asbestos Works site associated with the Hindley Green Business Park

The Environmental Protection team do not currently have any plans to proactively investigate any sites within the Borough as we have not identified or prioritised (risk assessed) sites to investigate under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The focus of our current Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy is site investigation/remediation via the planning regime, through development/re-development.

It is not possible for the Council to provide confirmation that a particular property or area of land will not be assessed at some point in the future as this is subject to any amendments/changes in legislation and/or advancements in scientific knowledge along with the availability of resources.

The only known Nominated Landfill Site associated with the Hindley Green Business Park is A073 -Back of T.B.A. Belting, Hindley Green, which is not within the red line boundary of A/18/85784/OUTMAJ.

Ground contamination was investigated as part of PPG Industries IPPC Permit application to the Environment Agency (not Wigan Council), circa 2003/4. Waste including asbestos, raw rubber and rubber belting, waste cotton, polyester resins and refractory waste were found on site. It is understood that some of this waste may now have been removed from site.

The current status of the landfill and condition of any gas protection measures at the site is unknown.

The Environment Agency may hold additional information. You would need to request details, if any, from the Environment Agency directly.

The Environmental Protection team does not hold any information in relation to any pollution incidents from the factory.

For any new planning application for proposed development at the site, the Environmental Protection team would recommend, where necessary, that the Development Management team apply appropriate conditions to the planning consents that require the investigation of land contamination and, if identified, that it should be remediated appropriately.

The Environmental Protection team would only recommend discharge of such conditions once we are satisfied that any necessary remediation has been completed to an appropriate standard.