

Mr Ewan Larcombe  
67 Lawn Close,  
Datchet,  
Berks

**Our ref:**

**Date:** 06 August 2010

Dear Mr Larcombe

### **Eton Road and the Myrke Ditch**

Thank you for your email dated 25 July 2010 regarding fly-tipping and pollution on Eton Road and in the Myrke Ditch and your subsequent telephone conversation with my team leader Jeanne Capey.

The fly-tipping on land owned by us on Pococks Lane (Eton Road) was removed on the 26 and 27 July by our maintenance team. We removed five lorry loads of waste and sprayed the area due to the presence of human waste. We have secured funds and are currently submitting plans to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to agree a permanent solution to prevent travellers and fly-tipping on our land.

At our water quality monitoring site on the opposite side of the road we intend to install security bollards inside the gates to prevent access by unauthorised vehicles. These are due to be installed during August.

Weed clearance is due to be carried out on this section of the Myrke Ditch in September as part of our regular maintenance programme using our permissive powers. The duty to maintain this watercourse remains with the Riparian Owner, in this case Eton College.

Following your report of pollution in the Myrke Ditch, we inspected the watercourse and discovered sewage fungus in the river and a general grayish appearance to the water. Some staining of concrete in and around the river was also observed.

Our officers traced the source upstream to a sewer overflow and took samples for which we are still awaiting results. Thames Water were contacted and attended the site where a blockage in the sewer, causing an overflow to the Myrke Ditch, was removed. We have highlighted the issue of sewer overflows to Thames Water previously and they are now working on a project to resolve the problem.

Thank you for highlighting the pollution matter to us. If you wish to report a pollution incident in the future you may contact our 24 hour incident hotline on 0800 807060. If you would like any further information please contact me by email [ian.tomes@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:ian.tomes@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely



**Ian M Tomes**  
**Flood Risk Manager – South East (Thames Region)**

cc: Cllr Ian Trenholm,  
Paul Leinster  
Linda O'flynn  
Cllr J Grey  
Cllr G Muir  
Cllr Colin Rayner  
Adam Afriyie MP  
Graham Leaver  
Caroline Spelman MP