

## **LANDFILL AND INCINERATOR SITE ON BANKS OF RIVER YEALM @ NEW ENGLAND near LEE MILL**

- 1) As you can see from the attached map, the Yealm is a very short river that suffers a high degree of exploitation from South West Water (clean water taken from Dartmoor and seven Sewage Treatment Works on the catchment discharging into this very short spate river). We will ignore all the other water quality issues of mega industrial estates, china clay workings and proposed new towns discharging into the river.
- 2) South West Water has its cake ..... and now it wants to eat it. Their waste subsidiary Viridor wants to take all the waste -both trade and household- from the West of England and incinerate and/or landfill on the banks of the Yealm in an old gravel pit just south of the A38.
- 3) The site is one of 87 that Devon County assessed and scored in 2006. It ranked equal 60th of the 87. It is in the property portfolio of a company which develops waste sites. It is suddenly the most favoured option in Devon and is being “unofficially” promoted by Devon County Council.
- 4) To gain access, a road is being built along the river, through ancient woodland, and then a new bridge to span the river (no consultation with riparian owners to date, nor acknowledgement that we exist). This road will carry up to 150 HGV lorries per day, 7 days a week for the proposed 25 year life of the site.

[http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environmentplanning/planning-system/planning\\_applications-mw/planning\\_applications/newenglandfw.html](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environmentplanning/planning-system/planning_applications-mw/planning_applications/newenglandfw.html)

- 5) Above is the link to the Viridor planning application, which, as you might imagine, is a hymn to the joys of landfill and incineration, particularly on this ‘highly suitable and appropriate’ site.
- 6) They can prettify it all by calling it Energy from Waste and a Resource Recovery Centre. The application shows how carefully they have chosen the colour to paint the buildings and the disabled access and parking. However, it skates over the fact that, in addition to incinerating and recycling, they propose to line and fill some big holes (just under 1,000,000 cubic metres of big holes!) that are below the water table with household and industrial waste ..... on the banks of a river that is already struggling to survive as a salmonid river with over-exploitation of its ever-diminishing resources. The Yealm catchment is showered with fancy sounding acronyms to safeguard it. It has SSI’s, AONB’s, EU Special Area of Conservation, Shellfish Waters Directive, County Wildlife Sites and so on. When the chips are down, they don’t seem to count for much.
- 7) It would seem that Viridor and Devon County Council think that, with a little bit of window-dressing, they can steamroller this through. If you don’t agree with their plans, please object, either online (via the link above or on DCC’s Home Page there is a link to New England) or in writing to The Planning Officer, DCC, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QW.  
**The closing date is April 19th**

<http://www.southhams-hell.co.uk/index.html> provides more info on the toxic bottom ash residue from the incinerator side of the operation and also about the dioxin build-up from the 90 metre high chimney stacks and more detail on all the other issues.