

25th July 2022: Following meeting with [REDACTED] to update him on Tetrattech Report, [REDACTED] and I carried out an inspection of the site. Inspected sump area that receives water from the piped drain. Small flow from drain into sump area. Checked area between sump and river for evidence that silt laden runoff had been discharged. Grass and vegetation immediately below sump area flattened indicating water had flowed over it. No silt coating present on grass / vegetation though to indicate runoff was silt laden. Access lane adjacent to culvert showing signs of minor erosion. Also minor erosion just above where any flow from the sump area would emerge. Stone / gravel that had been eroded from lane located at the bottom beside the corner of the lagoon. Checked vegetation below this for signs of silt, stone and gravel that would show continuity to river but none. Checked river for signs of pollution but none.

Also checked the 3 ponds. Water level lower in Pond 3 since my last visit. [REDACTED] had informed us he had lowered the water level in it using a slurry tanker with the water run over grassland. He also informed us he had desilted pond 2 using a long reach digger. Took photos of ponds 2 and 3.

26th July 2022: Examined photos of the site received from reporter of the incident for any evidence that would confirm pollution. No photos showing the river or a discharge to the river.

27th July 2022: Rang [REDACTED] at 1115am. Asked him if the catchment for the drain concerned remained the same namely parking area and he confirmed it did. Any water coming in via site entrance from public road will also go that way. Informed by [REDACTED] there had been extremely heavy rain during the night of 23rd July and early morning of 24th July 2022 that had resulted in extensive flooding in the Drumahoe area but they had no issues on their site despite the weather conditions. Asked him about bricks and concrete stored on his site in area above lagoons. He said he recycles such material. Asked by [REDACTED] who had made a complaint. Informed him I couldn't tell him that. He asked would he get that information if he submitted an FOI. I said that if he wished to do that, it was his decision. He also asked how anyone would see what is on his site and had someone been on his site or used drone footage. I said I would need to check what the legal position is about such disclosure.

28th July 2022: Checked Rivers Agency flow gauging station graph for the 23rd and 24th July to get an indication of the river flow conditions on 23rd and 24th July 2022. River started rising at 1730 hours on 23rd and rose rapidly before peaking at 2330 hours. Drop was much slower. Level at 0645 was 2.027.

Visited [REDACTED] site Drumahoe with [REDACTED] at just after 10am. Took photos. Checked sump area again. No discharge from drain. No flow out of first section of sump below pipe. Took approximate measure of depth of this part – ranges from 3 to 4ft deep approximately. The left hand side of the next section of sump area was dry. Still water lying to the right of this area. Historic vehicle tracks (overgrown with vegetation) in a section of the end of the sump area. Examined vegetation and access lane again but no change from 25th July - vegetation immediately below sump area flattened indicating there had been a flow but no silt or staining on vegetation to indicate contamination, minor erosion on access lane, stone/gravel that has been eroded from lane sitting at bottom corner beside lagoon. Checked river and it was clean.

E-mail from the reporter of the incident had raised concern that “cement laden waste is being dumped on site through which runoff is likely percolating”. Two photos were submitted. Inspected the areas concerned on the site. Bricks, pieces of concrete and cement present. No river pollution issues as any runoff from the locations will not reach the river.

Inspected road gullies on the old A6 road. These gullies are mainly now covered over due to the realignment of the road connecting to the new A6 road. Two still open. Dry during our visit but looking at the new road layout, some runoff may potentially enter [REDACTED] site from the public road during rain.

Met [REDACTED]. Asked him again about the bricks and concrete material. He said the material will be crushed and turned back into raw material to be used again. Asked him to ensure that any runoff from the drain is contained on site and not discharged. Asked him about vehicle tracks. He said it had been used for vehicle access. He outlined again what area this drain takes water from. He said it's to prevent the water from running through the working part of his yard.

Told him there was an e-mail address to which he could send any FOI and EIR requests to DAERA.

9th August 2022: Call from [REDACTED] about site in relation to a complaint they had received following the flooding on 23rd and 24th July. I informed [REDACTED] we had already investigated the issue.

15th September 2022: Telephone conversation with [REDACTED] who provided an update. This coming weekend A6 contractors will complete installation of new drainage arrangements on Glenshane Rd / A6 outside [REDACTED] site. This will include installing a channel across entrance to prevent water running into [REDACTED] site. He also said work tidying up the field beside the site was ongoing.

21st September 2022. Observed the work carried out on the Glenshane Rd / A6 that should prevent water running into Chambers site.

[REDACTED]