

creating a better place
for people and wildlife



Elaine De Can
Town Clerk
Canvey Island Town Council
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Our ref: AMC/2021/11795

Date: 5 August 2021

Dear Elaine,

Thank you for your email of 28 July 2021 regarding bank erosion alongside Canvey Lake and Lakeside Path.

I can confirm that the Environment Agency is not responsible for funding the repair works as stated in your email. This would be the responsibility of the relevant landowner, as they see fit.

The presence of the Environment Agency's three pumping stations around the lake, namely St Joseph's, Rainbow and Winter Gardens, are crucial to the internal surface water drainage network for the Island. These pumps lift water into Canvey Lake, which itself acts as a balancing pond, from which the water then gravitates out to Hilton Dyke via the weir. Without these pumps performing this function, surface water from the adjoining open channels and culverts cannot reach the lake, and therefore surface water issues would be apparent.

The pumps themselves are simply lifting stations. This is to say that their outfalls do not jet water at significant velocities. The amount of water movement produced does not increase bank erosion in the immediate vicinity of the pump outfalls.

We believe that the erosion alongside Lakeside Path, as shown in the photos, is not exacerbated by the operation of the pumping stations.

The Environment Agency continues to maintain, operate and inspect flood risk management assets across the Island, including pumping stations, the seawall, open channel Main Rivers, floodgates and tidal barriers. We are funded to maintain structures that perform a flood risk management and/or flood defence purpose. Unfortunately land erosion is not within our gift to resolve.

I trust this has answered the matters raised to your satisfaction. If I can be of further help in this, please do contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. J. Hawkins".

Simon Hawkins
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