

Airport washing de-icer into brook

7:00am Tuesday 6th May 2014 in [News](#)

SOUTHEND Airport has been discharging de-icer into Prittle Brook for more than two years, the Echo can reveal.

The airport's owner, the [Stobart Group](#), has applied for a permit from the Environment Agency to discharge up to 79,188 gallons (360 cubic metres) of "trade effluent consisting of deicer"

into the waterway every day.

The company, which took over the airport in 2008, told the Echo the application is for surface water running off in the winter, but wildlife groups are outraged the practice has been going on.

John Fuller, coordinator of the South East Essex Friends of the Earth, said: "We are very concerned about this in case it has implications on human health. We understand the Environment Agency deems it within tolerable limits, but I think that will be little reassurance to the fishermen who harvest shellfish in the River Roach.

"The fact that it has been going on for two years shows the controls on the airport are woefully inadequate."

Paul Gilson, chairman of [Leigh](#) and Southend Fishermen's Association, which owns a stretch of shellfish beds in the River Roach, said shellfish health checks only detected e-coli, so other pollutants could be missed.

He said: "I've seen the application and I'm extremely concerned about it. This is serious.

Some pollutants are not too bad, but when you are talking about the sheer volume they want permission for, and that traffic at the airport is only increasing, it could do a lot of harm."

Prittle Brook runs through West Wood in [Hadleigh](#), Belfairs Park in Leigh, and [Priory](#) Park in Southend, past the airport and into the River Roach at Purdeys Way, [Rochford](#).

Neal Warren, chairman of the Castle Point Wildlife Group, which manages West Wood, said: "They will dilute it, I'm sure, but whatever you do it is going to harm the natural environment.

"I'm in shock to be honest that the Environment Agency would even contemplate allowing that volume to be put in the watercourse.

"There is so much being done to clean the brook and improve the water quality. It just seems like we are taking a big step back."

The airport's owners claim the Environment Agency has monitored the situation and found little impact on the area.

A spokeswoman from the airport said: “This permit deals with the run-off of surface water from the runway, which during the winter months may contain traces of de-icing chemicals used on the runway to maintain safe operations.

“The permit allows a cumulative 360 cubic metres per day to be run off into Prittle Brook and Eastwood Brook.

“As part of an agreed trial with the Environment Agency, [Southend Airport](#) has been carrying out these procedures for the past two winters.

“Extensive ecological monitoring has been taking place during this period, and the Environment Agency reports little or no impact on water courses and wildlife.”

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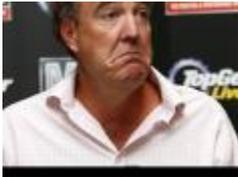
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7:48am Tue 6 May 14

Steve H says...

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- Score: -23
- [Like](#)
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8:49am Tue 6 May 14

Sensible Man says...

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And does anyone really trust the Environment Agency to look after our interests - I certainly don't !!

Sort it out Southend Airport!! Come up with some ideas to get rid of this stuff in a better and more acceptable way!! What do other airports do - specifically those that do not have a convenient river or brook handy?

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8:51am Tue 6 May 14

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9:06am Tue 6 May 14

howroyd says...

Who is going to monitor just how much of these chemicals are washed off into the brook and how do we know its only going to be small amounts. for all we know once they get the go ahead and more aircraft use the airport it could be huge. They have spent thousands of pounds clearing and cleaning the brook in Belfairs Park because of the new Wildlife Centre, what is the point of all that if they are going to allow all this pollution to be washed in it. Who knows what damage will be done to the wildlife there.

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- [Like](#)
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- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

10:37am Tue 6 May 14

trustthepilot says...

Not unlike the decades of air pollution that we suffered from the originated at Corytown. (and leaded petrol).

In the 1980s Switzerland forced Zurich Airport to build de-icing bays - basically a drainage system that would recycle de icing fluids.

We taxied the aircraft to the specific stands...de- iced and then taxied for take off...All they consisted of were a series of drains, sumps filtering and pumping systems.

- Score: 0
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

11:10am Tue 6 May 14

jayman says...

for a start. The EA are not necessarily to be trusted on this issue and many other issues especially where large corporate involvement can play an influence.

if the de-icer is glycol-based then in will most definitely cause harm to the environment given the slow flow of the river roach (prittle brook probably not being the discharge outlet).

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i note with interest that this story lacks the usual echo inclusion of a picture of the airport terminal building, complete with airport logo...

- Score: 15
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
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11:21am Tue 6 May 14

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Maybe the Echo is starting to realise that there are a few unanswered questions.

- Score: 12
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

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12:46pm Tue 6 May 14

Ian P says...

"The airport's owner, the Stobart Group, has applied for a permit from the Environment Agency to discharge up to 79,188 gallons (360 cubic metres) of "trade effluent consisting of deicer" into the waterway every day". Come on Echo even you can see that statement is wrong, especially as a couple of sentences later you clearly state, "The company, which took over the airport in 2008, told the Echo the application is for surface water running off in the winter". So the application is actually for run off which may contain some traces of deicer during the winter months, falling far short of 79,188 gallons of deicer per day, quoted at the start of the article.

- Score: -10
- [Like](#)
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1:48pm Tue 6 May 14

Biker One says...

Steve H wrote:

So the Airport isn't opening up a tap and pouring chemicals into the brook as the headline leads you to imagine, but has permission and has notified the Environment Agency that small quantities of the chemical is used to de-ice the runway may wash off into the brook with surface water.

If the EA is OK with this then what is the problem?

It's to de-ice the aircraft, not the runway!

- Score: 3
- [Like](#)
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2:14pm Tue 6 May 14

emcee says...

As with any business, Stobart MUST apply for a permit for ANY run off into the watercourse. It just so happens that this run off MAY contain traces of de-icer during the winter.

How much oil, fuel and other rubbish, including de-icer during the winter, gets run off from our local roads every year? Probably a whole lot more.

This article is yet more sensationalist drivel from the Echo written in such a way to cause reaction amongst those who are too dim to read past the first paragraph and, therefore, see the whole picture.

- Score: -10
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

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2:37pm Tue 6 May 14

disenfranchisedpast says...

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Jayman

"For a start, the EA are not to be trusted....."

And thats based on?

- Score: -7
- [Like](#)
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- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

4:20pm Tue 6 May 14

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- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

5:02pm Tue 6 May 14

sesibollox says...

No one likes frozen fish...

- Score: 0
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

7:06pm Tue 6 May 14

Steve H says...

How has my comment gone from 14 thumbs up at 5pm to 15 thumbs down at 7pm?

Is there a way of manipulating the vote?

- Score: -7
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

7:07pm Tue 6 May 14

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Have you read the article?

- Score: -3
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
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8:05pm Tue 6 May 14

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So based on nothing but a paranoid fantasy then

- Score: -7

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- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

8:30pm Tue 6 May 14

maxell says...

I challenge the echo or airport to produce documented evidence that this stuff has been going into the brookes over the time stated, I was informed by the echo that stories will not be published without hard evidence so it should be easy to produce, independent water tests say different. I bet that nothing has been put into the brooks , its all about a false sence of security before they really deposit de icer, of course there are no problems there is no de icer yet (starnge how the reporter departed the echo on friday) 3 days prior publication.

- Score: -13
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

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8:38pm Tue 6 May 14

costa-del-blowfly says...

This clearly requires further investigation. Key facts such as; the composition of this 'effluent runoff' from the runway and how this has (if at all) impacted the water quality of the brook needs to be understood (the later can easily be determined independently).

If this runoff is having a negative impact beyond the accepted tolerance, then the airport needs to address this.

- Score: 4
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

9:01pm Tue 6 May 14

Nebs says...

howroyd wrote:

Where is the application on the Environment Agency website where they are welcoming people's views. I can't find it. It says people can comment up until 20th May how can we comment if we can't find the application.

I phoned the EA this morning to ask why it was not on their website, and how making someone drive 100 miles to view the application was in accordance with their stated objective of giving people more power over what happens in their neighbourhood. They promised to phone back. They didn't.

I also checked the airport website, but no mention of it on there either.

- Score: 2
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

9:40pm Tue 6 May 14

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Comments (24)7:48am Tue 6 May 14

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i note with interest that this story lacks the usual echo inclusion of a picture of the airport terminal building, complete with airport logo...

- Score: 15
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

11:21am Tue 6 May 14

Nebs says...

jayman wrote:

for a start. The EA are not necessarily to be trusted on this issue and many other issues especially where large corporate involvement can play an influence.

if the de-icer is glycol-based then in will most definitely cause harm to the environment given the slow flow of the river roach (prittle brook probably not being the discharge outlet).

If the environment agency have issued a licence to discharge glycol-based chemicals then they have in effect sanctioned the release of untreated chemicals which flow into a SSSI site (river roach).

i note with interest that this story lacks the usual echo inclusion of a picture of the airport terminal building, complete with airport logo...

Maybe the Echo is starting to realise that there are a few unanswered questions.

- Score: 12
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

12:46pm Tue 6 May 14

Ian P says...

"The airport's owner, the Stobart Group, has applied for a permit from the Environment Agency to discharge up to 79,188 gallons (360 cubic metres) of "trade effluent consisting of deicer" into the waterway every day". Come on Echo even you can see that statement is wrong, especially as a couple of sentences later you clearly state, "The company, which took over the airport in 2008, told the Echo the application is for surface water running off in the winter". So the application is actually for run off which may contain some traces of deicer during the winter months, falling far short of 79,188 gallons of deicer per day, quoted at the start of the article.

- Score: -10
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

1:48pm Tue 6 May 14

Biker One says...

Steve H wrote:

So the Airport isn't opening up a tap and pouring chemicals into the brook as the headline leads you to imagine, but has permission and has notified the Environment Agency that small quantities of the chemical is uses to de ice the runway may wash off into the brook with surface water.

If the EA is OK with this then what is the problem?

It's to de-ice the aircraft, not the runway!

- Score: 3

- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)
- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

2:14pm Tue 6 May 14

emcee says...

As with any business, Stobart MUST apply for a permit for ANY run off into the watercourse. It just so happens that this run off MAY contain traces of de-icer during the winter.

How much oil, fuel and other rubbish, including de-icer during the winter, gets run off from our local roads every year? Probably a whole lot more.

This article is yet more sensationalist drivel from the Echo written in such a way to cause reaction amongst those who are too dim to read past the first paragraph and, therefore, see the whole picture.

- Score: -10
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)
- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

2:37pm Tue 6 May 14

disenfranchisedpast says...

Biker One wrote:

Steve H wrote:

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Nope its to deice the runway, deicing of aircraft usually runs into tanks set beneath the stand. Look at a satellite picture of the airport and where the stands are in relation to the waterways, they would have to make a serious effort to get deicer from the stands to the brook.

Jayman

"For a start, the EA are not to be trusted....."

And thats based on?

- Score: -7

- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

4:20pm Tue 6 May 14

jayman says...

disenfranchisedpast wrote:

Biker One wrote:

Steve H wrote:

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Jayman

"For a start, the EA are not to be trusted....."

And thats based on?

Quote me correctly and I might answer you

- Score: 3
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

5:02pm Tue 6 May 14

sesibollox says...

No one likes frozen fish...

- Score: 0
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

7:06pm Tue 6 May 14

Steve H says...

How has my comment gone from 14 thumbs up at 5pm to 15 thumbs down at 7pm?

Is there a way of manipulating the vote?

- Score: -7
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

7:07pm Tue 6 May 14

Steve H says...

Biker One wrote:

Steve H wrote:

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If the EA is OK with this then what is the problem?

It's to de-ice the aircraft, not the runway!

Have you read the article?

- Score: -3
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

8:05pm Tue 6 May 14

disenfranchisedpast says...

jayman wrote:

disenfranchisedpast wrote:

Biker One wrote:

Steve H wrote:

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Jayman

"For a start, the EA are not to be trusted....."

And thats based on?

Quote me correctly and I might answer you

So based on nothing but a paranoid fantasy then

- Score: -7
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

8:30pm Tue 6 May 14

maxell says...

I challenge the echo or airport to produce documented evidence that this stuff has been going into the brookes over the time stated, I was informed by the echo that stories will not be published without hard evidence so it should be easy to produce, independent water tests say different. I bet that nothing has been put into the brooks , its all about a false sence of security before they really deposit de icer, of course there are no problems there is no de icer yet (starnge how the reporter departed the echo on friday) 3 days prior publication.

- Score: -13
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

8:38pm Tue 6 May 14

costa-del-blowfly says...

This clearly requires further investigation. Key facts such as; the composition of this 'effluent runoff' from the runway and how this has (if at all) impacted the water quality of the brook needs to be understood (the later can easily be determined independently).

If this runoff is having a negative impact beyond the accepted tolerance, then the airport needs to address this.

- Score: 4
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

9:01pm Tue 6 May 14

Nebs says...

howroyd wrote:

Where is the application on the Environment Agency website where they are welcoming people's views. I can't find it. It says people can comment up until 20th May how can we comment if we can't find the application.

I phoned the EA this morning to ask why it was not on their website, and how making someone drive 100 miles to view the application was in accordance with their stated objective of giving people more power over what happens in their neighbourhood. They promised to phone back. They didn't.

I also checked the airport website, but no mention of it on there either.

- Score: 2
- [Like](#)
- [Dislike](#)

- [Quote »](#)
- [Report this post »](#)

9:40pm Tue 6 May 14

jayman says...

disenfranchisedpast wrote:

jayman wrote:

disenfranchisedpast wrote:

Biker One wrote:

Steve H wrote:

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Jayman

"For a start, the EA are not to be trusted....."

And thats based on?

Quote me correctly and I might answer you

So based on nothing but a paranoid fantasy then

I refer you back to my original comment.

"for a start. The EA are not necessarily to be trusted on this issue and many other issues especially where large corporate involvement can play an influence."