

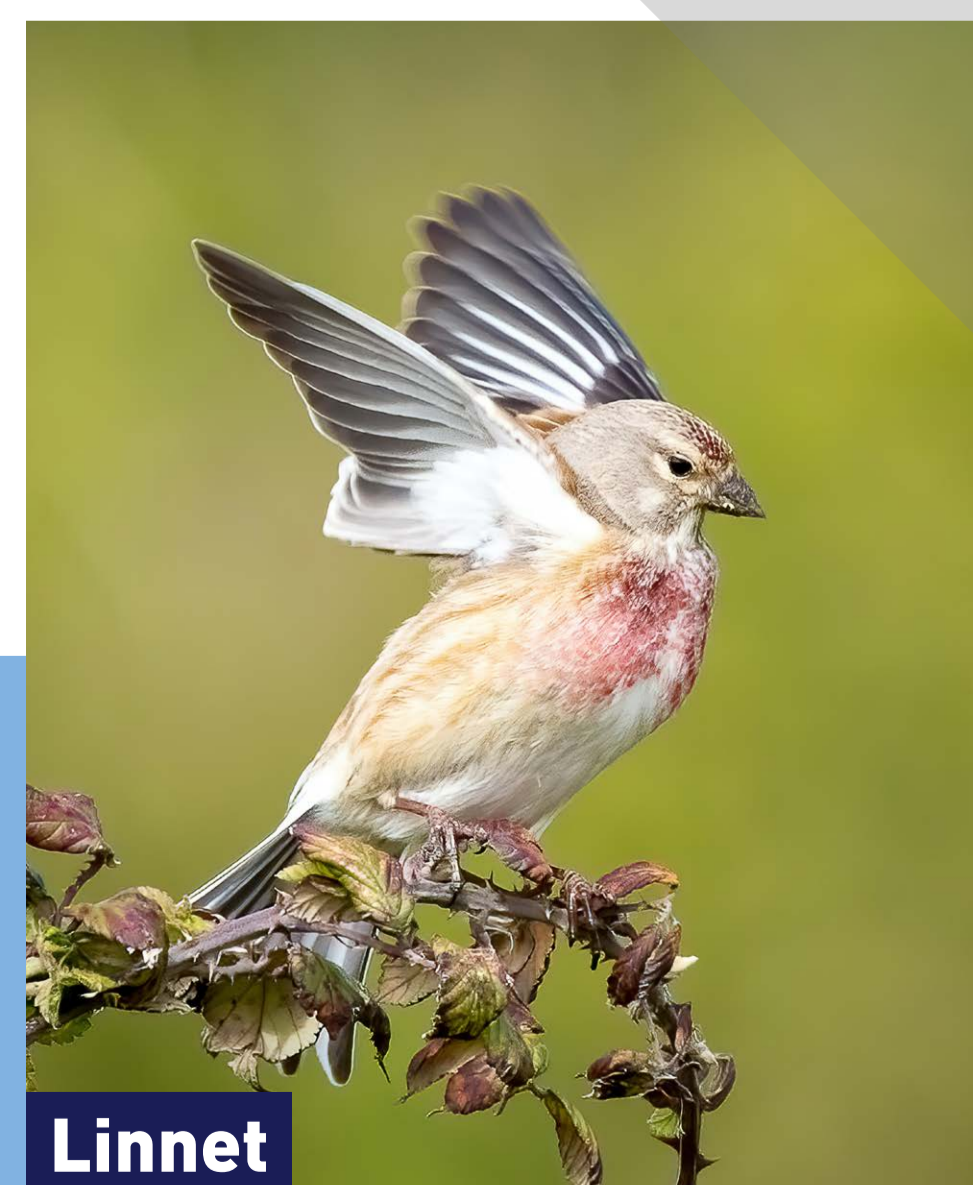
Restoring Albury landfill to grassland and woodland

After a century of sand quarrying, this site was repurposed in the 1990s to accept the area's household waste until its closure in 2012. Today, SUEZ recycling and recovery UK is restoring the area to the grassland and woodland habitats that have been native to this land for millennia.

Welcoming wildlife back to the land

Thanks to soil rehabilitation and planting of native trees and shrubs, the site is now a flourishing ecosystem supporting a plethora of insects and over 68 species of bird. Grasslands like this are important because they provide shelter and nesting for insects, many of which help to pollinate our food crops.

As well as butterflies such as the beautiful Painted Lady, which visits us from the Middle East and North Africa during the summer months, this area is also frequented by exotically coloured goldfinch, linnet (named by the Romans for their preferred diet of linen/flax seeds) and skylarks whose song can be heard high above as they mark their territory.



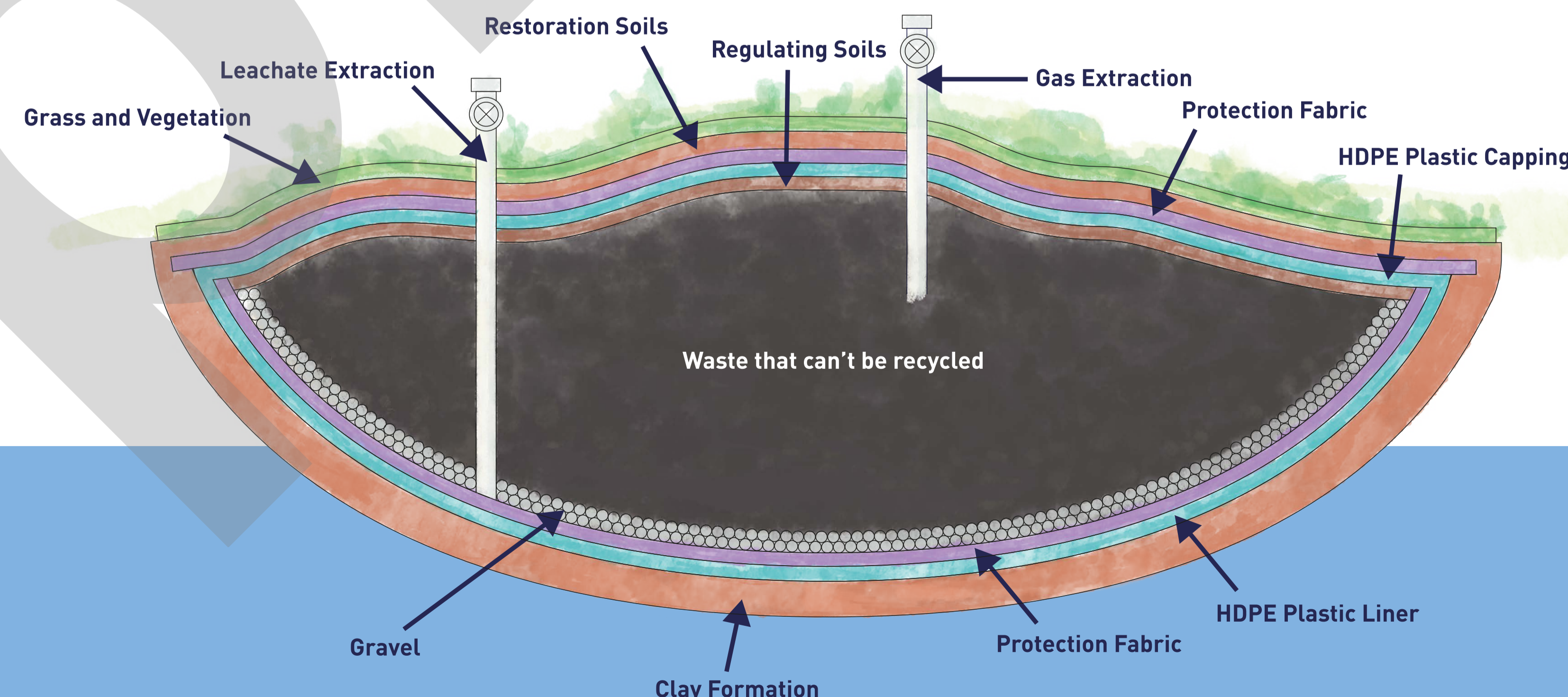
A return to our ancient landscape

Sand quarrying took place here in the late 19th century owing to Albury's position on the Greensand Ridge, a geological feature of South East England dating back 110 million years. This ridge, which runs across South East England, is made of sandstone and during the Cretaceous Period was covered in forest and grassland.



Capping and caring for former landfills

Landfills were often established in former quarries as a way of reclaiming the land. When a landfill closes, it is 'capped' with a protective layer which is then covered in subsoil and topsoil. This, together with a lining on the base of the landfill, prevents environmental contamination by creating a kind of sealed 'pie'. Liquids and gasses are then carefully extracted, and the gas used to generate electricity which is exported to the national grid. You can see some of the pipes that form part of the extraction system from the viewing platform.



A long term commitment

Even though the landfill is closed, SUEZ will be actively managing its upkeep and overseeing the care of the woodland and grassland for many years to come. This ongoing commitment is part of our environmental permit and, to make sure the many species of fauna and flora continue to thrive, we have implemented a 25-Year Landscape and Ecology Management Plan to support the evolving habitats.