

## Clayton Hall Landfill Site Community Update

Please see below the numbers of reports received in February to date.

Month	Number of reports	Types of report
December	15	Mainly Odour.
January	47	Mainly Odour
February (to date)	262 (to 1pm 16/2/24)	Odour

Last weekend we saw the largest increase of odour reports in recent months, on Friday and Saturday we received 112 reports in total. Odour was substantiated by Environment Agency officers on Wigan Road and the community areas in between. Odour can be impacted by weather conditions; the start of last weekend brought an East/Southeasterly wind that moved odour towards the properties to the Northwest of the landfill site. We have included a heat map at the bottom of this update showing where most reports have been received from.

This situation is impacting residents and has been caused by the operational decisions of Quercia. The current activity taking place on site has the aim of minimising the impact to the community of a longer term.

### Why is this happening?

Quercia Limited stockpiled waste on the landfill above the permitted planning control heights and action has subsequently been taken by Lancashire County Council to enforce the reduction in height and to move waste material. This needs to be moved now to avoid a prolonged risk of odour - the longer the waste remains in situ, the greater the risk of impact on the community. As work is carried out to excavate and move the waste stockpile, there will be increased risk of odour. Quercia **must** carry out this activity and implement the measures needed to minimise the risk from odour. This includes, but is not limited to, covering the waste fully at the end of the day with appropriate covering materials and using additional odour control equipment. Quercia have committed to closing the landfill site for waste acceptance next week from 19 February.

### What are the Environment Agency doing?

We have increased our compliance activity both on and around the landfill site. Since our last update on 6 February we have carried out 4 site visits. This increased presence will continue for the coming weeks.

- We have officers out within the community checking on levels of odour and will continue to do this for the next 3 weeks at least.
- We follow a preplanned route around the site, investigating the source of odours.
- We will make sure that Quercia focus all effort to fix the problem as soon as possible.
- We will use regulatory enforcement powers if Quercia do not focus all attention to reduce the overall risk to people and the environment.

- We are looking at why this situation happened, investigating and will hold Quercia Limited to account. Quercia did provide an update for the community before the last Clayton Hall Landfill Liaison meeting on 7 February.

### Who else is involved?

We continue working closely with Lancashire County Council (LCC). LCC have taken action under planning controls to require Quercia Limited to reduce the height of the stockpiled waste.

We are also making sure that LCC Public Health and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) are updated on the situation. We are aware that some of the reports we have received reference how the impacts of the odour are affecting residents both physically and mentally.

Clayton Hall Landfill Site is within a Chorley Brough Council (CBC) ward. We are providing updates to Chorley's Environmental Health department.

### How are we keeping the community updated?

At this point we are providing regular summaries to all partner organisations, the chair of Landfill Liaison group and the Clayton Hall Landfill action group.

This will include a summary of Environment Agency activity, the reports received and any summary information of locations reports.

We will make the results of our compliance inspections and checks available to the public as soon as we can.

### Reporting Impacts

We encourage people to report odour to us on our 24-hour incident hotline on 0800 807060 or via email [incident\\_communication\\_service@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:incident_communication_service@environment-agency.gov.uk), this helps us to build up a picture of the extent and impact of the odour issue within the community.

Members of the community should contact NHS 111 or their GP if they have concerns about their individual circumstances and require health advice.

Heat map below showing the main areas of reports up to 13 February

Please note that we have received reports from other residents around the site, those are not included as it may identify individual properties and affect general data protection regulation (GDPR)

