

Jameson Road Landfill Site, Fleetwood, Lancashire

Background

Jameson Road Landfill Site is now operated by Transwaste Recycling and Aggregates Limited (TRAL). The site was formerly owned by SUEZ who had reduced activity on the site in recent years. Recently the new operator has increased their waste acceptance activity and started to increase the landfilling activity.

The Environment Agency is the primary regulator of the waste activities under the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations. We carefully monitor the performance of a landfill site using a wide range of parameters including groundwater, surface water and air monitoring, pollution reports, the operator's own monitoring and aerial photography.

We use all these parameters to determine the performance of the site and if we have concerns, we require the operator of the site to take steps to resolve them, promptly.

Why is this happening?

Late last year the Jameson Road landfill site was taken over by Transwaste Recycling & Aggregates Limited. The site holds an environmental permit to accept non-hazardous waste for disposal and it is regulated by the Environment Agency. When a landfill site has been covered for some time, the waste starts to breakdown and generate landfill gas.

When a site re-opens there is increased risk of odour and emissions due to older waste still being present. There is still infrastructure in place to control emissions, but this needs to be managed effectively in order to prevent impact on the community and the environment.

Why is this happening?

Modern landfill sites are constructed to strict standards to contain waste, collect any landfill gas and collect any liquid (leachate) that is generated as waste material breaks down over time. When areas of the landfill are filled to agreed heights, they are covered and capped with extraction points for gas and leachate installed.

The leachate is collected and treated before being sent to sewer and onto waste water treatment works, the gas is collected and in most cases utilised to produce electricity.

The Jameson Road site has been inactive for a long period of time, as the landfill activity on site has restarted some of the older waste has been exposed which is leading to odours.

What are the Environment Agency doing?

- We continue to visit the site once per week to check compliance with the environmental permit. We are also carrying out daily odour assessments to understand the impact on the local community.
- We have used our enforcement powers to stop the use of a 'tipping bay' which has been a source of off-site odour. The operator has listened to us and stopped using this bay. As a result they are now tipping directly into the landfill cell and at a reduced rate of waste input.
- We also required the operator to work with a smaller tipping face within the landfill and to apply more 'cover material' (non-odorous inert) to waste already deposited in the landfill. They are now doing this and we are asking them to address further areas of concern.

What are the Environment Agency doing?

- We are aware of landfill gas odours being detected off site. This has been noted by members of the public reporting to our incident hotline, 0800 80 70 60, and by regulatory officers during our odour assessments. We have asked the operator to address this as a matter of urgency. Further landfill gas extraction infrastructure will be installed this week to help reduce odorous emissions.
- We have updated partners at Lancashire County Council, Wyre Borough Council, UK Health Security Agency, and local councillors and MPs.
- We have created and will continue to update an online information page in order to keep the community and partners updated:
- [Information on Jameson Road Landfill Site, Fleetwood, Lancashire - Environment Agency - Citizen Space \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](#)

What are the Environment Agency doing?

Drone flights: We will continue to deploy our drone - This helps to provide an overview of the activity and potential progress being made with engineering and any measures being taken to better manage odour from the site



Permit Compliance

The site holds an environmental permit to accept non-hazardous waste for disposal and it is regulated by the Environment Agency.

The environmental permit has conditions that an operator is required to follow to minimise impact to the people and the environment. This includes managing the operations on site to control odour. Handling waste material does inevitably involve dealing with odorous material and may lead to occasional periods of odour; however these should not have a prolonged effect on local residents.

Assessing Compliance

It is our role to assess compliance with the permits and to take appropriate regulatory action if we identify any breaches. We do so by reference to our [enforcement and sanctions policy](#) and the [Government's core guidance on environmental permitting](#) and with appropriate regard to the [Regulators' Code](#).

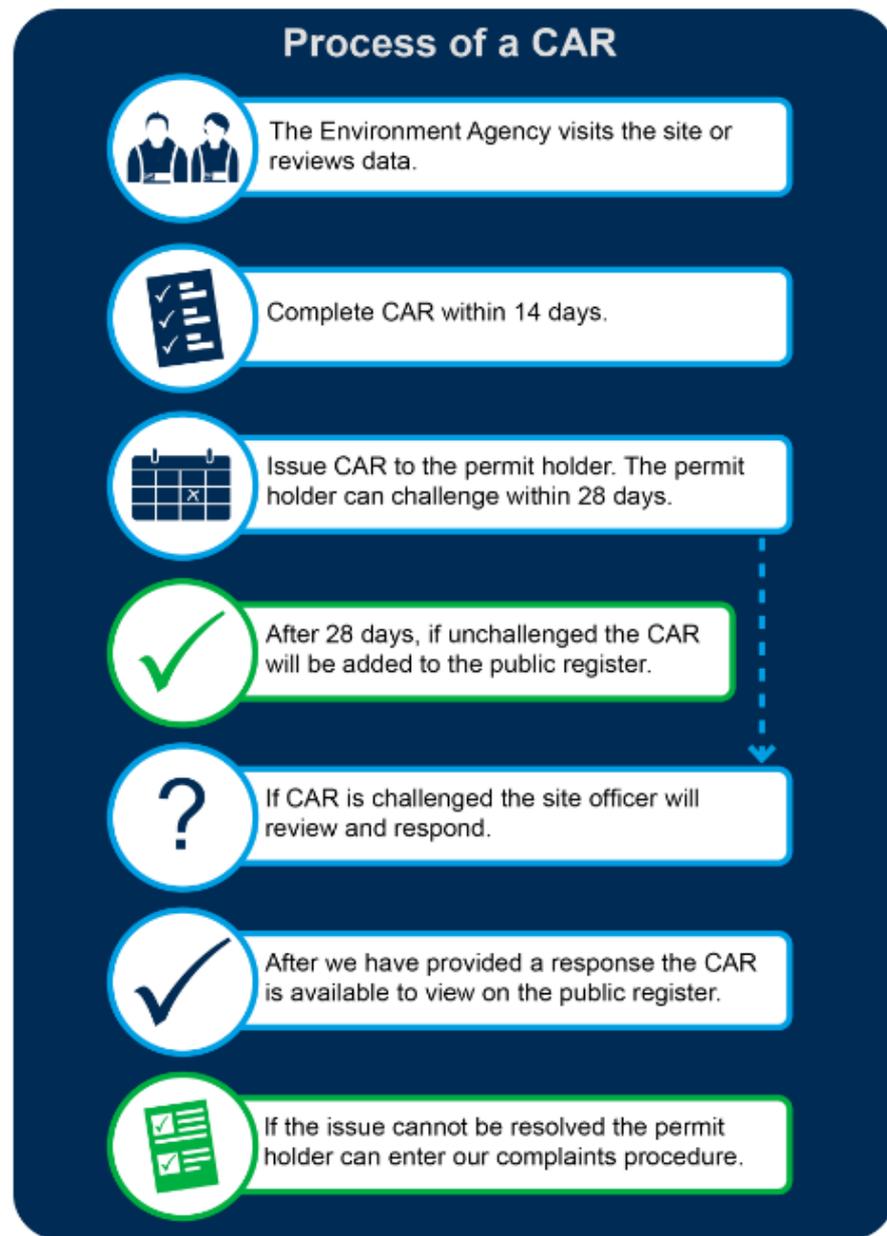
Permit Compliance

Compliance Assessment Reports (CAR)

A CAR is used to record the findings of our site inspections, audits and monitoring activities, reviews of monitoring and other data/reports.

We use these forms to:

- record our observations
- provide advice and guidance
- identify and score permit breaches and specify any remedial actions required
- inform the operator of enforcement action, if any, that we are considering.
- We use our guidance on assessing and scoring environmental permit compliance to score permit breaches in accordance with our Compliance Classification Scheme (CCS).



Odour Management

The permit includes a condition that requires that ‘Emissions from the permitted activities to be free from odour at levels likely to cause pollution outside the site, as perceived by an authorised officer of the Environment Agency, unless the operator has used appropriate measures including, but not limited to, those specified in an approved odour management plan (OMP), to prevent or where that is not practicable to minimise the odour’. The OMP must be kept up to date and each revision is assessed by our officers to ensure it covers all the key areas of operations in relation to odour management.

Officers assess compliance with the odour condition by:

1. Verifying the presence, type and intensity of odour in the vicinity of a permitted site,
2. Identifying whether the site is the likely source of the odour, and if so, going on site to determine the causes of any odours and whether the operator is taking appropriate measures to control the odour.

Odour Management

Officers carry out odour investigations (including off-site odour assessments) in accordance with our guidance and by reference to published odour management guidance

Odour intensity describes the strength of the odour as perceived by an individual officer. We record odour intensity using a scale of 0 to 6, where 0 = no odour, 3 = distinct odour and 6 = extremely strong odour.

A permit breach will only be recorded where:

1. Odour due to activities on the site at a level likely to cause pollution outside the site boundary is substantiated by an officer, and
2. The operator is not taking all appropriate measures to control that odour.

If the operator is taking appropriate measures then no breach of the permit has occurred, even if there is some odour. We would expect the operator to identify appropriate measures in its OMP, but we may require additional measures if serious odour pollution occurs.

Next steps

- We will investigate the circumstances that have led to the odours, and should we find evidence of breaches of the Environmental Permit we will seek to take appropriate enforcement action.
- We will also require and oversee further improvements in landfill gas infrastructure.
- We will maintain our regulatory presence to ensure permit conditions are complied with.
- We will continue to keep the community and our partners updated on any developments at the site

Health & Air Quality concerns

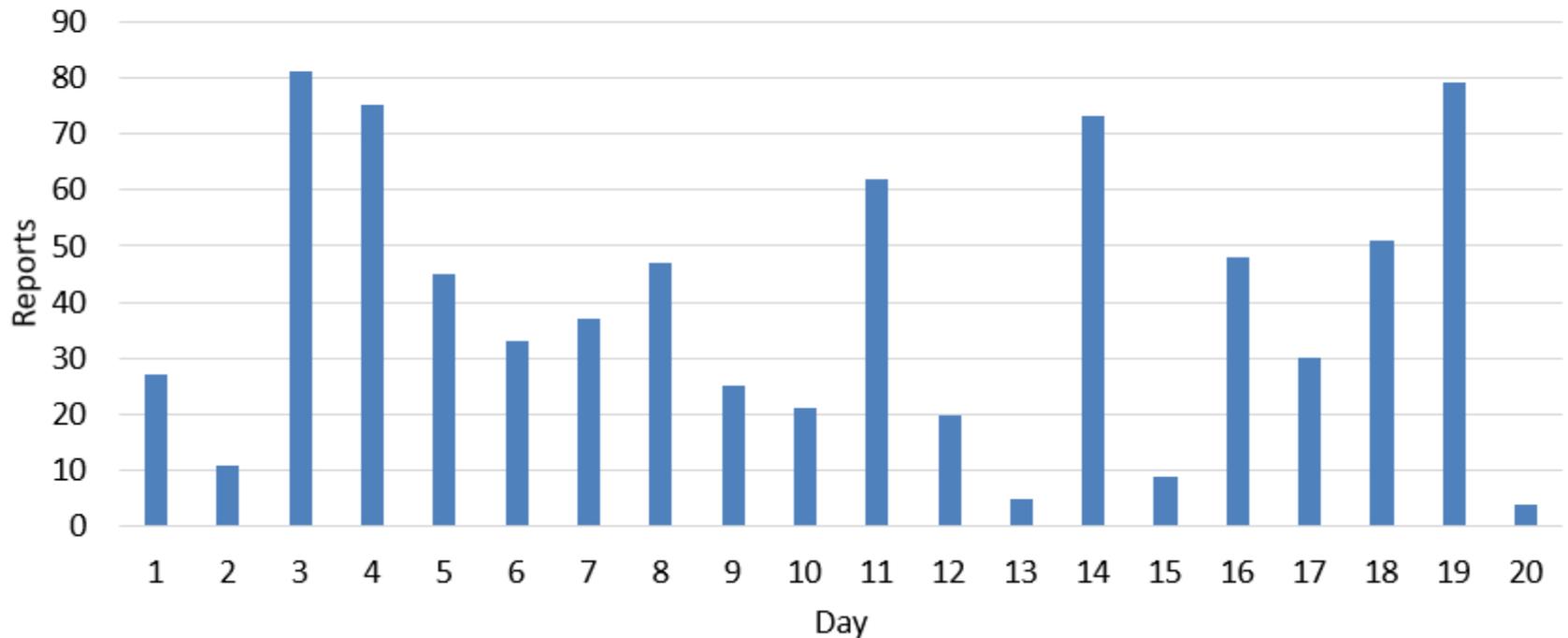
Understandably, residents are raising questions around the impact of landfill odours on their health.

Landfill gas is, in the main, made up of carbon dioxide and methane which does impact the environment. It does contain hydrogen sulphide which is associated with the 'rotten egg' smell and can be detected by people at very low levels. It is distinct and at low levels can lead to annoyance.

We are planning to undertake some local hydrogen sulphide monitoring in the community that we will share as soon as we can.

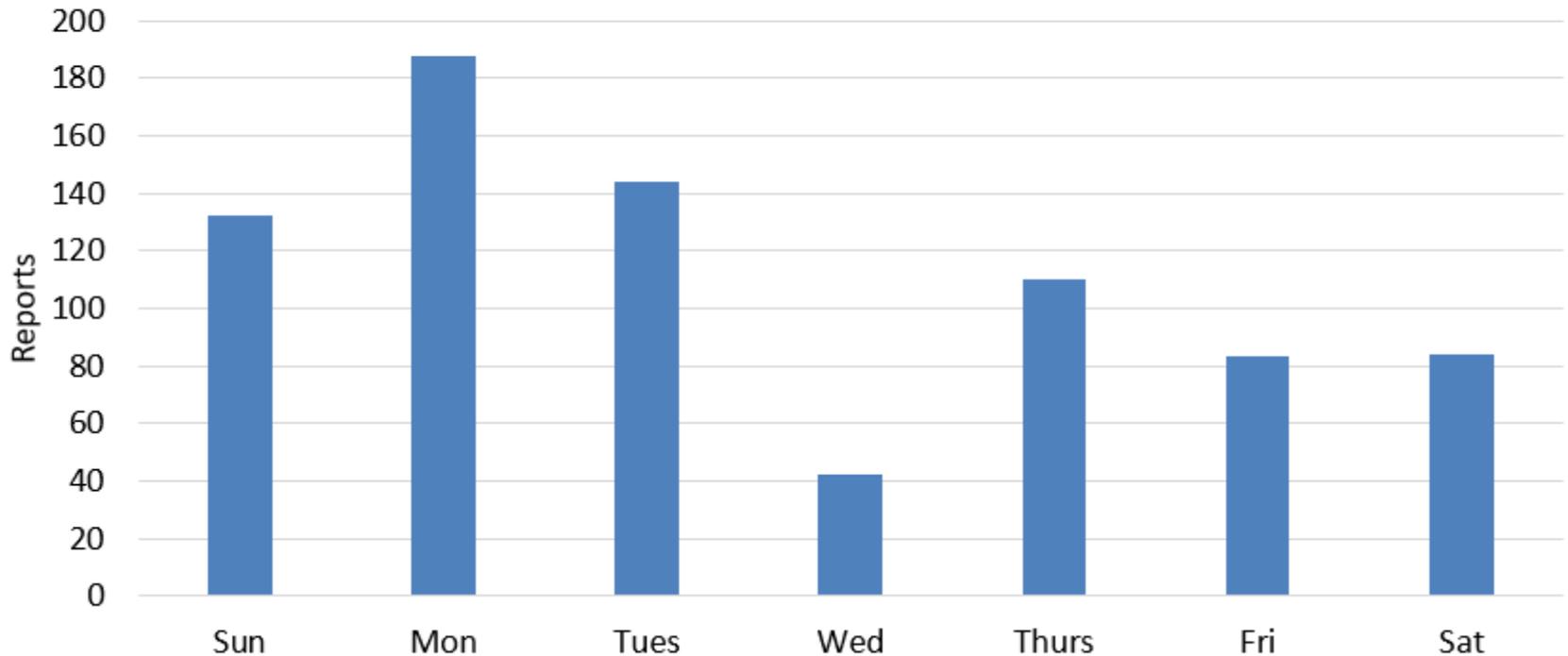
Reports from the public

Reports of Odour Near Jameson Road Landfill Site Phase 1
E333000 N445800 From 01/03/2024 to 21/03/2024



Reports from the public

Odour Reports by Weekday Near Jameson Road Landfill Site Phase 1
E333000 N445800 From 01/03/2024 to 21/03/2024



Who else is involved?

We are keeping Wyre Borough Council updated on the situation, particularly the Wyre Environmental Health Team. We will work closely with Lancashire County Council (LCC) on any planning aspects where needed.

We are also keeping LCC Public Health and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) updated on the situation, as we are aware that impacts from odour can affect people both physically and mentally.

Current health advice from UKHSA:

We are aware of symptoms reported within the community. These include reports of strong odours and transient health effects, such as eye and respiratory irritation. The human nose is very sensitive. Strong odours are unpleasant and can impact on wellbeing, leading to stress and anxiety.

Some people may experience physical symptoms, such as nausea, headaches or dizziness, as a reaction to strong odours, even when the substances that cause those odours are not at concentrations that are directly harmful to health.

What can I smell?

The odour pollution from landfill sites falls into two broad categories:

The first is the waste odour

This is caused by fresh waste rapidly decomposing and tends to come from vehicles travelling to and from the site and whilst it is tipped. This is similar to the odours that are contained within a domestic bin. It poses little risk to human health and can be tackled by depositing the waste quickly and covering it with soils called “daily cover”.

What can I smell?

The second type of odour is landfill gas.

This is gas generated by the breakdown of the waste inside the body of the landfill site. Landfill gas is mostly methane and carbon dioxide, which are odourless and colourless.

However, landfill gas also contains trace components such as hydrogen sulphide that, even in very small quantities, has a strong smell of rotten eggs, which the human body is very sensitive to.

Although the smell caused by the trace levels of hydrogen sulphide gas can be strong and unpleasant, it does not automatically mean that it is harmful. Our sense of smell is very sensitive and we can smell hydrogen sulphide at very low levels.

What can I smell?

What should I do if I am concerned about my symptoms?

If you are concerned about your symptoms, contact your GP or call NHS 111.

What can I do to reduce my risk?

Individuals can close doors and windows whilst the smell is present and then open them to vent the smell from the premises when the smell has cleared.

What symptoms may I experience as a result of odour?

Short-term transient health effects may be experienced such as irritation to the eyes, nose and throat. People who have health conditions that affect breathing, such as asthma, may experience increased frequency and/or severity of symptoms. With continuing exposure, these effects may be prolonged but are not anticipated to continue long-term once exposure is reduced.

Reporting the odour

Reporting helps us to build up a picture of the extent and impact of the odour issue within the community. We encourage people to report to us on our 24-hour incident hotline:

0800 807060