

Jameson Road Landfill Site Community Update

Since our last update on 7 March we have received more reports from members of the community around Fleetwood.

Month	Number of reports	Types of report
January	5	Odour
February	75	Mainly Odour
March (to date)	567	Mainly Odour

Current Situation

We have continued our presence on site with our focus on ensuring that the operator, Transwaste, is meeting the requirements of their environmental permit; to control emissions and odour at the site. We are also carrying out daily odour assessments to determine whether the actions of the operator are effective. This process also provides information on how the odours are affecting the local environment and the community.

We remain committed to ensure that Transwaste are doing everything they can to fix the problem as soon as possible.

Drone flights: We will be deploying our drone again in the next 7 days. The drone 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.

Gas monitoring: We have recently conducted some surface monitoring of landfill areas, known as cells, to determine any emission levels of methane. This will assist us further in building a picture of what is going on at the site and how we can help to minimise the impact on residents and the environment.

Enforcement: We are currently considering regulatory enforcement to describe steps that the operator needs to undertake moving forward.

Who else is involved?

The Environment Agency is the primary regulator of the waste activities under the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations.

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.

How are we keeping the community updated?

At this point we are providing a regular summary to all partner organisations, Local MPs and Councillors. We also understand that a landfill liaison group is being considered by the local councillors and the operator. A landfill liaison group provides a way for the operator to update the community. The Environment Agency, as regulator, will be represented at any liaison group.

The summary will update on Environment Agency activity and include the number and a summary of the locations of incident reports we have received to date.

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

We have set up a web page to keep the community informed which will be updated regularly. All updates in relation the current situation are available here:

[Information on Jameson Road Landfill Site, Fleetwood, Lancashire - Environment Agency - Citizen Space \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](https://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/citizen-space/landfill-sites/fleetwood-landfill-site)

We will continue to provide these updates as the situation changes. If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive them directly then please send an email to:

engagement.cmbInc@environment-agency.gov.uk

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.

Please see 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, which 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

customer service line **03708 506 506**

floodline **03459 88 11 88**

incident hotline **0800 80 70 60**

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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”.

- 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.

Are the smells causing or going to cause health effects?

The human nose is very sensitive. Many things have a strong smell at levels at which there are no direct harmful effects to health. However, strong smells are unpleasant and can impact on wellbeing leading to stress and anxiety. Some people may also experience symptoms, such as nausea, headaches or dizziness, as a reaction to strong smells, even when the substances that cause those smells are themselves not harmful to health.

Following exposure to any substance, the adverse health effects depend on several factors, including the amount to which you are exposed (dose), the way in which you are exposed, the duration of exposure, the form of the chemical and if you were exposed to any other chemicals. The first noticeable effect of hydrogen sulphide at very low concentrations is its unpleasant odour, which may cause discomfort and some short-term health effects (as described in the paragraph above). At higher concentrations, it may cause eye, nose and throat irritation. It may also disturb sleep if experienced at night at low levels.

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.

What can I do to reduce symptoms caused by odour?

To limit the effects of the odour as much as possible, we would advise:

- Close windows if there is an outdoor odour and open them once any outdoor odour has reduced.
- You could consider closing windows at night and opening them in the morning in the absence of odour.
- Ventilate your property when there is no odour outdoors.
- Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you have concerns about your individual circumstances and require health advice.

What is being done to understand the potential health impact of the odour on local residents, and how long will this take?

In the case of individual sites, the Environment Agency carefully monitors 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 even 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.

If the operator of the permitted site does not respond to our concerns, we can carry out our own check monitoring and use a range of enforcement notices to force the operator of the site to take action.

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

or via email:

incident_communication_service@environment-agency.gov.uk