

Jameson Road Landfill Site Community Update

Since our last update of 28 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	1379	Mainly Odour
April (to date)	403	Odour

Current Situation

There are still odours within the community that are not acceptable. Our officers are out daily assessing the odour and its impact. We are looking at two distinct types of odour:

1. One is a 'bin waste' odour that is ordinarily associated with waste being brought into a landfill site.
2. The other is a 'rotten egg' odour that is more associated with landfill gas.

Over the last few weeks, we have noticed some reduction in the 'bin waste' type odour within the community. Over the past week we have noticed a slight reduction in the intensity of landfill gas odour on various days. However, this is still not acceptable and is impacting the community.

The installation of 6 new gas wells was completed by Transwaste on Thursday 28 March. This means that more gas can be collected and managed - which will help to reduce the odour and better control gas. The volumes of gas collected should steadily increase, it is the responsibility of Transwaste and their contractor to do this.

We have served an enforcement notice today insisting on further work to be completed by Transwaste to provide better cover of the problematic parts of the landfill. The installation of cover in addition to the new gas wells will provide greater confidence that gas/odour will be controlled. This work may take several weeks to fully complete.

We are maintaining regular visits to the site. During the visits we check on any progress being made and ensure that Transwaste are doing all they should be as quickly as possible. We will continue to provide regular community updates, although due to legal reasons, we are unable to provide all of the details of the visit and our findings.

Enforcement actions

We said in our last update that we had served an enforcement notice to stop tipping activity that was causing odour. Transwaste subsequently complied with that notice.

Today we have today served a regulatory enforcement notice that directs Transwaste to cover the problematic area of the landfill site. We are pushing to deliver on our commitment to ensure that Transwaste fix the problem as soon as possible.

Getting the cover in place will take several weeks, however, as the cover is installed, the odours in the community should reduce. Transwaste have until 15 May to have this cover installed and fully functional. Officers will be checking progress each week when we visit, and our drone will help capture clear evidence of work taking place. We will update our web page with any information as soon as we are able.

Multi-Agency Working

We are working with partners, Wyre Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and UK Health Security Agency. Each organisation has a different role in providing advice or regulating under specific legislation Jameson Road.

Environment Agency - We are the primary regulator of the Jameson Road (Phase 2) Landfill Site. This is done under the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations. The site is operated by Transwaste Recycling and Aggregate Limited who hold the Environmental Permit for the site. The most appropriate way to deal with the current issues on the site is through that permit. Please see our webpage for more information on how the Environmental Permit works.

Wyre - Wyre Council have a duty for monitoring under statutory nuisance legislation.

Lancashire County Council - Have a dual role in planning control and public health guidance.

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) - Provides the government and the public with health information based on evidence and information available. UKHSA have provided the latest health advice in relation to Jameson Road Landfill, please see below.

Monitoring

We are looking to place a Mobile Monitoring Facility (MMF) within the community. The MMF monitors different substances - Methane, Hydrogen Sulphide and particulates (dust).

We have national monitoring experts who install and maintain the equipment. They will work with the local team to find an appropriate site with the right security and power supply. We will use the data gathered to provide assurance that the control measures and actions taken by the landfill operator are effective. This is not a process that provides instant real-time data and takes place over a period of time. We will share the monitoring reports and information with partners and the community as soon as we can.

You may have noticed that there have been more of our badged Environment Agency vehicles in and around the Fleetwood area. These vehicles are part of our ongoing response to odour complaints in the area.

Primarily these vehicles are being used by our officers to conduct daily odour runs in the community, with checks at locations across Fleetwood and Thornton Cleveleys to understand the level of odour impact on the community.

Our incident command Unit is also being used to support some of our additional work in the area, including site visits and drone flights. It is important to note that neither of these vehicles have sensors or other equipment to carry out air quality monitoring, they are there to support us with our wider activities.



You may also see our drone flying above the site. The drone flights are being done to support our ongoing investigation and to help us understand what work Transwaste are carrying out on the landfill site to mitigate odour impacts.

Leachate

The Environmental Permit at Jameson Road requires Transwaste to contain, extract, treat and dispose leachate to sewer. Leachate is the liquid generated from the breakdown of the waste within the landfill. Jameson Road has an engineered liner which prevents any leachate escaping to the wider environment. Leachate collects at the base of the site, is extracted and carried to the leachate treatment plant within the boundary of the site.

This plant treats the leachate prior to it being disposed to sewer with the permission of United Utilities. Transwaste are required to monitor leachate, groundwater, surface water, and gas as part of compliance with the permit.

We are aware of reports from members of the public expressing concerns about leachate management. There is no evidence to suggest that leachate is not being controlled appropriately. However, we will assess all aspects of the landfilling operation in due course.

We have had questions around the nature of waste within the operational landfill site, in particular landfilling of animal carcasses. The waste accepted at the landfill is non-hazardous, the landfilling of carcasses is not permitted, we have no evidence of this taking place. We will provide more information on our web site in due course.

Customer Service line **03708 506 506**

Floodline **03459 88 11 88**

Incident hotline **0800 80 70 60**

How are we keeping the community updated?

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)

We do want to ensure our updates reach as much of the community as possible. This includes to local MPs, councillors, and local social media groups. We are reviewing distribution and looking at how best to keep people better informed.

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.

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 80 70 60

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 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.