

19 December 2024

Whinney Hill Landfill Site

Community Update

Month	Number of reports	Types of report
June	65	Gulls/Odour
July	301	Gulls/Odour/Vermin
August	50	Gulls/Odour
September	37	Gulls/Odour
October	94	Gulls/Odour
November	112	Gulls/Odour/Vermin
December	67	Gulls/Odour/Vermin

Current Situation

We are still receiving reports about odour, gulls and vermin through to our incident hotline. Whilst there was some improvement over the summer months, we have seen an increase in reports more recently with the site continuing to impact local residents.

Our officers have continued carrying out regular day time visits to the local area and on the whole only faint odours have been detected, with only one visit noting a distinct waste odour. However, we are aware that for some residents the odour is strongest late in the evening and very early in the morning. Odour can become more noticeable overnight in the colder weather conditions as odour stays closer to the ground in lower temperatures, which is why odour maybe more noticeable at these times.

Gulls are still present on site but over recent weeks they have also been observed in large numbers in the residential areas of Clayton-le-Moors, Altham West, Great Harwood, Church and Huncoat. SUEZ are continuing to deploy approved measures to control the gulls, including firing cannons and deploying birds of prey, and these have been seen in operation by officers whilst carrying out regular visits. However, we do appreciate that the gull numbers and their activity continue to impact local residents.

Our Regulation

Since our last update we have continued our focus on the regulation of the Whinney Hill Landfill site through regular site inspections and meetings with the SUEZ management team to understand what actions they are taking to resolve the issues.

We have provided feedback regarding odour reports to SUEZ to help them understand what operations on site are causing intermittent odour, be that waste delivery or the standard of cover material being used.

Customer Service line **03708 506 506**

Floodline **03459 88 11 88**

Incident hotline **0800 80 70 60**

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On the 17 December we met on the landfill site with SUEZ and Natural England to understand whether further action can be taken to mitigate the gull population and reduce the impact on local residents. We acknowledge the challenge involving gulls is taking time to work through, but we hope to be able to update you further on this in the new year.

Updating the community

A community liaison meeting arranged by SUEZ took place on 4 October 2024 and was attended by representatives from the community, councillors, Hyndburn Borough Council and the Environment Agency. During the meeting SUEZ gave an overview of the current site operations and challenges, with attendees having the opportunity to ask questions.

The next community liaison meeting is planned to take place on 17 January 2025. If you are interested in attending the next community liaison meeting please contact whinneyhillfs.uk@suez.com for further information. There will be Environment Agency representation at that meeting.

Our dedicated webpage for information about Whinney Hill remains active for the community to access: [Information on Whinney Hill Landfill Site, Accrington, Lancashire - Environment Agency - Citizen Space \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](https://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/citizen-space/whinney-hill-landfill-site). We have recently updated the webpage with additional information and updated the frequently asked questions document.

Reporting the issue

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

Reporting helps us to build up a picture of the extent and impact of the pest and odour issue within the community. It also allows us to notify the operator of an issue so that they can take action at the site.

Should members of the community have concerns about their health and need advice they should contact NHS 111 or their GP.

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