

## What are we contacting you about?

We started providing local people with regular updates regarding the Bellhouse Landfill Site in Stanway, Colchester, between summer 2020 and December 2022.

We resumed the updates in September 2023 due to an increased number of odour reports being received. This update we will provide information on our regulation of the site since September 2023, inform you of any reported problems that may have off site impacts and any other relevant information.

## What has happened since the last update?

Since the last update in September 2023, the number of odour reports that we have received from the public has decreased.

As the infilling progresses, the operators continue to install essential gas collection systems. The activity involves drilling into the waste, to install a pipe and gas control headworks. This action can release small amounts of gas and possibly a rotting waste odour on occasion, which unfortunately cannot be avoided.

Whilst we acknowledge that the potential for odour during these works can be disruptive to some people, the works are an important action. The duration of the works is limited and not constant, but constrained by inclement weather, especially by the recent rainfall.

We will ensure the operator continues to use appropriate control measures during this time and that they are following their operating procedures.

The next phase of drilling works is planned for mid to late February 2024.

Officers attended a small number of reports and have substantiated odour offsite.

We believe the main source to be inadequate cover on freshly tipped waste. The operators have been instructed to improve operations in this regard and are being inspected on a more frequent basis to ensure that this is being completed.

Additional comprehensive audits of other potential sources of odour have been planned for the coming months.

A new communication officer has been appointed who will be acting as the liaison between the regulator, operator and public. This will provide accurate and regular assurance.

## What happens now?

We will continue to monitor the operation of the site through routine compliance inspections and odour monitoring visits in the local area. Regular liaison meetings with the Operators and local councillors, stakeholders, will also continue.

A Citizen Space Page will be developed and posted on a public forum shortly. This will be a short-term publication until the site returns to normal regulatory conditions.

## How do I report odour?

Please continue to report odour that you think is coming from the site to our incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

**As usual, in order to assist us in substantiating all reported incidents we would recommend communicating problems to us as soon as possible. The site operator will investigate reported nuisance as soon as they are notified by us, so real time reporting is important.**

As mentioned, we can raise any specific concerns you may have at the quarterly local liaison meetings. Please use the email address supplied below

[Enquiries\\_Eastanglia@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Enquiries_Eastanglia@environment-agency.gov.uk) Please include 'Bellhouse Landfill' in the subject title.