

# Bletchley Landfill

27 October 2023

## The landfill site:

Bletchley landfill is a regulated facility that is operated by FCC Waste Services (UK) Limited under Permit EPR/BM4635IH. The site, a large former clay extraction quarry associated with brick making, has held environmental permits for several decades. The current permit allows the operation of landfilling, a leachate treatment facility that discharges to sewer, and use of spark ignition engines to generate electricity from the landfill gas extracted from the site.

## What is the Environment Agency's role?

We are the primary regulator and are responsible for granting or refusing environmental permits, setting the conditions and making sure that permit holders comply with them. We carry out periodic audits and inspections to check that the operators are complying with their permit conditions. We investigate complaints of odour and make sure the operator is taking measures to prevent or minimise odours offsite. If a breach of permit conditions is identified we will investigate and take appropriate enforcement action, this action can range from advice and guidance through to prosecution for serious offences.

## Malodour reports

The Environment Agency has received a number of reports relating to malodours coming from Bletchley Landfill over the last 2 weeks. In response to these reports our officers attended and conducted odour assessments on the 16 and 25 October during which we have substantiated malodours off site and traced the source back to the landfill site.

Our investigations into the cause of these malodours is ongoing so we are unable to provide details on the specific cause of the malodours at this time.

It is not fair or reasonable to expect zero odour from a landfill site, landfill operations will always have periodic smells, but this should not be a sustained or significant event. We are aware that there has been a noticeable increase in malodour over the last two weeks and we are working to identify the underlying cause of this increase and ensure the operator implements any required improvements to ensure odour is reduced to a level where it does not cause annoyance.

We understand the impact that the recent odour issue is having on the local community, and we will continue to use all our regulatory tools until the issues are resolved.

## Concerned about the site – who to contact.

If the intensity and duration of odour is such that it is offensive to you or is affecting how you use your home or local amenity, please call our free 24 hour incident hotline number: **0800 807060**

When you call our hotline about odour please provide as much of the information as you can:

- When you first noticed the problem.
- How long it lasted.
- When was it at its worst and is it still occurring?
- Where you noticed it.
- What were the weather conditions like
- What it smelt like.
- Is the problem constant or intermittent?
- The intensity of the odour on a scale of 1-6.

Please use our numerical intensity of the odour categories:

0 - No odour

1 - Very faint odour

2 - Faint odour

3 - Distinct odour

4 - Strong odour

5 - Very strong odour

6 - Extremely strong odour

### **What happens when you report a problem?**

We log all calls even though we may not be able to send an officer out to the site.

There is no action our officers could take to instantly reduce the odour, which can be exacerbated by certain weather conditions.

Reports are passed to the operator to start investigations, though please be assured that no personal information such as names or addresses are shared. Depending on the circumstances we will also attend to assess the odour and identify any potential sources. Whilst we cannot look at all reports immediately, prompt reporting ensures that we are able to target our site visits appropriately and provides the best chance of identifying any potential source and associated actions.

### **How we will keep you informed:**

These incidents are resource intensive so to ensure that our officers can focus their time on investigating and addressing the odour issues we will not be able to provide individual feedback.

Instead, we will issue regular updates through briefing notes, like this one, that will be sent out to interested parties to be shared widely amongst the community. Our next briefing will be provided no later than 20 November 2023.