

Roxby Landfill Site – January 2022

Introduction

Following agreement at the community liaison group meeting held in December 2021, we are pleased to be bringing you the Environment Agency update on our compliance work at Roxby Landfill operated by Biffa Waste Services Ltd.

Background

We regulate the Environmental Permit held by Biffa Waste Services Ltd. for Roxby Landfill Site. The environmental permit contains conditions relating to site operations, which includes the waste types allowed, the handling of them and any relevant emissions standards and monitoring requirements.

Our Commitment

As part of our regulation of the site, we continue to carry out air quality/odour assessments during routine visits to the site which include both announced and unannounced visits.

Our officers are working closely with Biffa Waste Services Ltd. to make sure that improvements are made and odour nuisance is reduced to a minimum.

Latest news

Compliance Inspections

We recognise that there has been an increase of odour reports since November 2021 and have conducted 6 inspections and community odour monitoring visits. The findings from these inspections identified breaches of the sites permit in December 2021. This was for not using sufficient resource to progress with capping work at an appropriate pace, given the number of odour reports being received. The site was also given a warning.

Summary of Inspections

- 15/11/21 – Site inspection. Compliant with Environmental Permit
- 25/11/21 – Community odour monitoring. Compliant with Environmental Permit
- 08/12/21 – Community odour monitoring. Compliant with Environmental Permit
- 17/12/21 - Community odour monitoring, and site inspection. Two permit breaches identified.
- 06/01/22 - Community odour monitoring, and site inspection. Compliant with Environmental Permit.
- 14/01/22 - Community odour monitoring, and site inspection. Compliance investigation still ongoing.

We received 19 odour reports on 14 January, together with correspondence from Andrew Percy MP and Winterton Town Council.

In response to the increased number of reports that had been logged, we deployed additional response to the area to inspect Roxby Landfill and to also undertake odour survey work in the community. The root cause into the odour emissions detected is still being actively investigated, and will continue through our upcoming compliance work.

There has been an increase in odour reports in the last few months and we believe the majority of these are linked to landfill waste odours from the site. We are now investigating the root cause of odours; this will not be limited to the operations of the site. We will be liaising with our colleagues across the EA who regulate the waste producer's site, with a focus on the contents and suitability of the waste being sent to the landfill.

Enforcement can range from giving advice and guidance, issuing warnings, through to considering criminal proceedings. If you would like to read more about our policy, it is available on our website at www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-enforcement-and-sanctions-policy.

Engineering

In addition to site visits, we receive a number of reports and documentation in line with the requirements of the environmental permit. We receive Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) plans for the installation of permanent gas wells, together with plans for the installation of sacrificial gas collection lines and pin wells and temporary capping.

Biffa has further proposed to place 10-15,000m² of temporary capping together with permanent and temporary gas collection systems. This work will reduce the open area of completed infilled areas, and aid collection of landfill gas, a by-product of the degradation of waste mainly consisting of methane and carbon dioxide plus trace gases such as hydrogen sulphide. The dates proposed were not acceptable to us, and we have actioned Biffa to move these dates forward and we can confirm that this is being implemented.

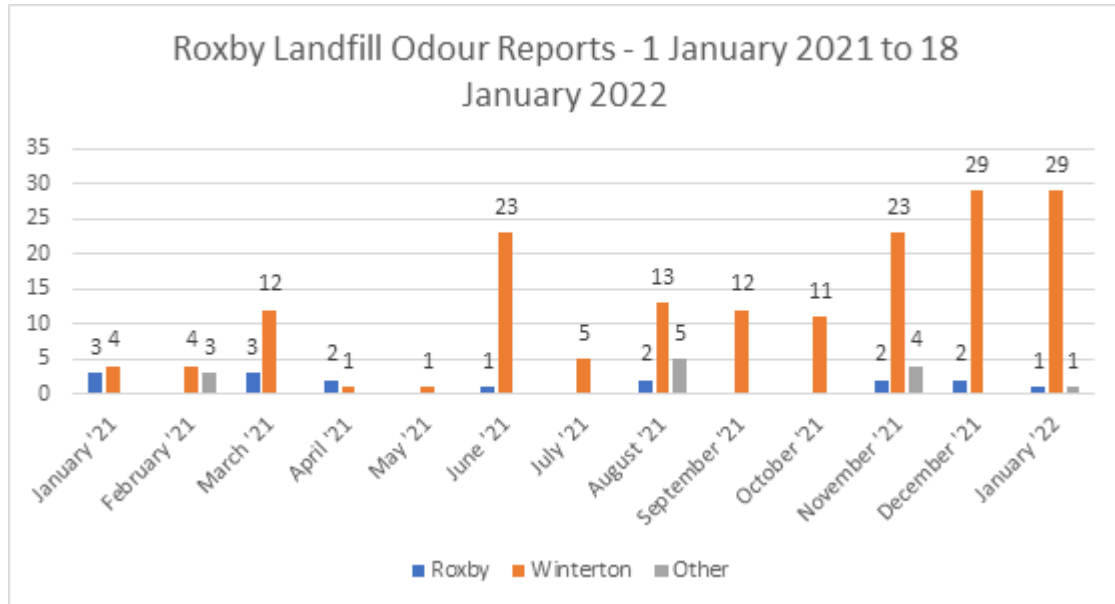
Original timeline of work:

- 30 – 50 pin wells into the top section of Phase 12 week commencing 10 January 2022
- Circa 10,000m² – 15,000m² temporary LLDPE plastic capping will close down the area of Phase 12 – week commencing 24 January 2022.
- Drill a further 5-8 deep gas wells towards the end of February beginning of March 2022, once the temporary capping has been completed.

Revised timeline following Environment Agency action:

- Installation of 30 – 50 pin wells into the top section of Phase 12; Commencing 10 January 2022, which is projected to be completed week commencing 17 January 2022.
- Install a further 5-8 deep gas wells week commencing 17 January 2022.
- Commencing temporary LLDPE plastic capping week commencing 10 January 2022, with an area of roughly 15,000m² - 20,000m² to commence capping when drilling is completed.

Odour Reports received by the Environment Agency through our Incident Hotline



Roxby Community Liaison Group

The Environment Agency meets regularly with members of the Roxby Community Liaison Group. The latest meeting was held on 7 December 2021 with representatives from North Lincolnshire Council, Winterton Town Council, Roxby-cum-Risby Parish Council, Biffa, and residents.

The date of the next meeting is currently proposed for 7 March 2022, however, due to the increase in odour reports, we are looking to bring the meeting forward to January 2022.

Our Feedback to You

Often you will ask us for feedback following your report. We will endeavour to report back directly where we can but this may not always be possible. We will continue to provide updates via Citizen Space and through regular contact with your local representatives. Biffa will continue to issue updates to the group to share with the community.

Next update

We will provide our next update in February 2022. If you would like to provide feedback on how useful you found this update please email LNenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Please continue to use our Incident Hotline 0800 80 70 60 to report odours

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88