



## Highfields Landfill Site, Walsall- Community Update May 2020

### Introduction

These updates will provide residents with the latest information about our regulation of the Highfields Landfill site in Walsall.

Keeping you up to date on our progress is very important to us and we hope our updates and frequently asked questions (FAQ) document will answer many of your questions. Our FAQ document can be accessed via our online information page

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/highfields-landfill-walsall/>

### Coronavirus: The Environment Agency response

We are working hard with Government and other emergency responders on protecting the public and the environment from the effects of Coronavirus. The Environment Agency remains fully operational, with the majority of our staff still working from home. We continue to carry out regulatory visits to sites that could cause serious environmental harm where required. However, we have reduced regulatory visits to other sites and continually review how best to regulate them in accordance with the government guidance.

### Latest News

#### Site Progress and Covid-19

Over the past few weeks Enovert (the operator) has continued to make improvements to the site despite the Coronavirus restrictions. The Environment Agency has prioritised the assessment of the improvement plans submitted by Enovert. This has allowed Enovert to progress with site actions quickly. The Environment Agency and Enovert are reviewing progress on a weekly basis and meeting (virtually) every fortnight. The progress on site has seen a reduction in the numbers of complaints received.

#### Gas capture

The improvement work on site has focused on the active cell, where new waste is being tipped. New extraction wells have been placed at different depths throughout the active cell, to improve extraction of gas. The connection of these wells will limit gas escaping directly in to the atmosphere.

There has been an increased and steady rate of gas collection on site. Enovert has increased gas surveys on site to check that there are no outbreaks of gas. It is the outbreaks of gas that can cause odours.



## Capping

The capping on site is key to future control of gas. Enovert's ongoing capping program to cap inactive cells 1 to 3 and active cell 4 has seen some delays over the last few weeks. This is due to sourcing materials, Covid-19 restrictions and weather conditions. However, over the first part of May a great deal of progress has been made.

A stabilisation layer of clay has been placed over cell 1 with ongoing preparative work on the other inactive cells. On the active cell 4, further clay has been applied. The site is now awaiting a delivery of more GCL (geosynthetic clay liner) to continue the work.

Around 4500m<sup>2</sup> has now been permanently capped with a similar size area now being prepared.



## Air Quality Monitoring

The fixed Air Quality monitors located in the Horse and Jockey pub car park, continues to collect data. However at the beginning of the Coronavirus lockdown period the pub had to close and turn off its power. As the power source for the monitor's runs from the pub, this resulted in a break in data collection, the monitor will stay in the car park and continue to collect data.

## Keeping local residents updated

During this period of restriction due to Coronavirus we will continue to only update you if there are any significant changes we need to make you aware of.

Our online information page has been updated in line with this:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/highfields-landfill-walsall/>

## Environmental concerns

To report an environmental incident or concern, please call our free 24 hour incident hotline on:  
**0800 80 70 60**

Please do not try to contact our officers directly - we cannot guarantee that your call will be logged and dealt with in a timely manner unless it is made through the incident hotline.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this update.**