



Highfields Landfill Site, Walsall- Community Update July 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 here:

https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/highfields-landfill-walsall/user_uploads/generic-landfill-faqs-2.pdf

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 working from home. In accordance with the Government's and our own internal guidance, we continue to carry out regulatory visits to sites that could cause serious environmental harm. Since restrictions have lifted further we are also now able to recommence visits to sites with sustained amenity issues, where needed.

Latest News

Site Progress

The Environment Agency have prioritised the assessment of the quality assurance plans submitted by the Operator (Enovert), which have subsequently been approved. This has allowed Enovert to progress with site actions quickly. In Cell 4, the northern sidewall liner has been completed and this work has been approved by the Environment Agency. Enovert are now preparing plans for the next tipping area which will be in the south east corner of the site, away from the Walsall Road and housing to the north west of the site.

Gas capture

We continue to work with Enovert to ensure gas capture works efficiently to extract landfill gas generated by the tipped wastes. The construction of new extraction wells on the site occurs in two stages, firstly Enovert submit a construction plan, these explain how they are going to do the construction and we have to approve this plan before they can start. Once completed there's a construction report submitted to show that they constructed the wells to the agreed plan, which we also have to approve (both are part of the permit conditions). The construction report for the gas extraction wells has been submitted by Enovert and this is currently being assessed by the Environment Agency Enovert are providing weekly updates via email to us regarding the gas engines and the gas extraction taking place on site.



Capping

There had been a slight delay to completion of the capping on site, due to heavy rain and storms at the end of June however the capping has now been completed as of 16 July 2020. A large amount of preparatory work was carried out on the upper section of the site during capping of the flanks. Which sped the capping works on the upper sections of Cells 1, 2 and 3.

Air Quality Monitoring

The monitoring unit had a period without power due to the Covid-19 lockdown. We were able to organise reinstatement of the power supply to the monitoring unit in early June 2020. The unit has been checked by one of our monitoring specialists and it is operating correctly and gathering data. It will remain in place until mid-August 2020.



Capping work on site.



Capping works on the upper sections of cells 1, 2 & 3.

Keeping local residents updated

We will 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/>

If you would like to provide feedback on how useful you have found this update, or be added to our mailing list to receive these updates in the future, please email:

Engagement_Westmids@environmentagency.gov.uk

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.