

Poplars Landfill and Anaerobic Digestion Facility, Cannock – December 2019 update

Introduction

This is the first in a series of updates, which will provide residents with the latest information about our regulation of the Poplars Landfill site in Cannock.

Keeping you up to date on our progress is very important to us and we hope our updates will answer many of your questions.

We are sorry to hear that residents are experiencing problems with odour in the local area. Please be assured that we are working with the operator, Biffa Waste Services Ltd, to resolve these issues.

Background

We regulate the Environmental Permit held by Biffa Waste Services Ltd for Poplars Landfill Site and Anaerobic Digestion Facility. The 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.

Latest news

There has been an increase in odour reports in the last few months and we believe the majority of these are linked to landfill gas odours from the site.

Following these reports, the site operator (Biffa Waste Services Ltd) agreed an action plan with ourselves, which identified a number of improvements that could potentially reduce odour nuisance. These included the installation of 23 deep gas extraction wells and 40 gas extraction pin wells, with a further 50 pin wells having been installed last week. Deep gas extraction wells are essentially pipes which have been drilled down to between 20 to 25 metres below the surface, whereas gas extraction pin wells are drilled down to a much shallower depth of no more than 6 metres into the landfill.

We will be monitoring progress with the agreed action plan.

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.



customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

Biffa Waste Services Limited has confirmed that they are committed to the long term future of the site and compliance with their Environmental Permit. They have assured us they are employing all their resources to tackle the potential sources of odour from their site.

We will act firmly if the company does not comply with the commitments it has made.

Your odour reports

We want to hear from you if you have an environmental incident or concern to report, including any odour concerns.

To do this, 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.

Our response

We take any reports of odour seriously and ensure that they are fully investigated. When we receive a call to the incident hotline, an officer will decide on the level and nature of our response.

Our feedback to you

Often you will ask us for feedback following your report. In the first few days of reporting a concern or incident, we will be carrying out investigations and often do not have any definite answers to share with you. However, we recognise the importance of providing feedback and will do this through the Poplars liaison group and updates such as this one.

Next update

We will provide our next update early in the new year.

If you would like to provide feedback on how useful you found this update please email Engagement_WestMids@environment-agency.gov.uk

Thank you for taking the time to read this update.