

# Poplars Landfill and Anaerobic Digestion Facility, Cannock – July 2020 update

## Introduction

This is the sixth 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 and frequently asked questions (FAQ) document will answer many of your questions. Our FAQ document can be accessed via our online information page, the link to which is included in this newsletter.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update.

## 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

We received an increased number of odour reports in late June/early July and on 23 June we substantiated a faint, intermittent 'waste' odour. Following these reports and subsequent conversations with Biffa, we continue to work with them, to ensure all appropriate measures are being taken to minimise odour from newly deposited waste, landfill gas and all other potential sources.

Poplars has remained operational throughout the lockdown period, albeit with a much reduced waste input to the site. Some of the works completed in recent weeks, to minimise odour, includes:

- Installation of a further 3662 metres squared (m<sup>2</sup>) of temporary geomembrane capping on the current active tipping slopes. This was completed on 3 June 2020. This type of capping work will continue across the site as waste is added to the landfill over time.
- Construction of a new access road to the tipping area, to allow the original entrance to the current tipping area to be capped.
- Installation of 10 additional pin wells immediately next to the active tipping slopes.
- There has been a significant increase in gas collection as a result of measures taken on site over the recent months, which will have a positive impact on managing and reducing odour potential for the site. Approximately an extra 500-700 cubic metres an hour (m<sup>3</sup>/hour) of gas is being collected, dependent on atmospheric pressure.

customer service line  
03708 506 506

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
03459 88 11 88

- Biffa identified a localised crack in the clay capping on part of the site, which may have contributed towards landfill gas odours. This capping is currently being repaired and Biffa's ongoing gas surveys are not detecting any further landfill gas issues at this location.

## Air quality monitoring unit

Our air quality monitoring team have started analysing the data which was collected from the monitoring unit between 3 February 2020 and 17 June 2020. As mentioned in our previous updates, a full report on the measurements and findings will be available towards the end of the summer. Once completed, this report will be made available to view on our online information page. The link to this page is included in the newsletter below.

The air monitoring unit will remain in place for the foreseeable future to support our investigation into odour reports in the area. It will continue to take measurements of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) and oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), although readings taken after 17 June will not be included in the report mentioned above.

## 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.

## Keeping local residents updated

During this period of restriction due to Coronavirus 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/poplars-cannock-information-page>

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@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Engagement_Westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk)

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