

Poplars Landfill and Anaerobic Digestion Facility, Cannock – March and April 2020 update

Introduction

This is the fifth 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. We continue to carry out regulatory visits to sites that could cause serious environmental harm where required. However, we are reducing regulatory visits to other sites and review how best to regulate them in accordance with the Government guidance.

Latest news

Progress with agreed action plan

We remain in contact with the site to ensure that the action plan we agreed with them is still being progressed.

Recent improvements the site have made to increase the capture of landfill gas and reduce odour potential include;

- Installation of an additional 15 deep gas extraction wells
- Installation of an additional 25 pin wells
- Additional geo-membrane plastic capping in the active tipping area (approximately 2500 m² fitted since 14 February 2020)
- Reduction in size of the active tipping area

March monitoring observations

The mobile monitoring facility (MMF) that we installed on 31 January 2020 continues to take measurements of methane (CH₄), hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x). As with February, preliminary data for March so far indicates the levels of H₂S detected are below the World Health Organisation air quality guidance limit.

As mentioned in our previous update, a full report on the measurements and findings will not be available until late summer.

Operational life of the landfill

As explained in our February update, this is something which is decided by the County Council. However, Biffa stated in their December 2019 newsletter that the site takes in 500,000 tonnes of waste a year, and has a void of approximately 4.5 million tonnes to fill until completion.

Water outside the site boundary

We are aware that at times water accumulates near the roundabout at the junction of the A460 southbound and Orbital Way. We understand from Staffordshire County Councils website that it is a blocked drain, awaiting works to fix the fault.

Keeping local residents updated

On 5 March 2020, before social distancing was put in place by the Government, six of our experienced Regulatory Officers visited the Heath Hayes area of Cannock to distribute our late February newsletter to the local community by hand. We spoke to a number of residents during the leaflet drop and were able to provide feedback in person and re-assure people that even though the landfill odour situation is much improved, we continue to work with the site to ensure they operate in accordance with their permit requirements.

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>

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.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88