

Sarval Rendering Plant - Citizen space (August 2022)

We are sorry to hear that residents are experiencing problems with odour from this site. Please be assured we are working with the operator to resolve these issues. We have created this page in response to an increase in reports and we aim to keep residents updated on our regulation of the site. This page will be updated monthly.

Site background

Sarval (Hartshill) Limited operate the animal by-product rendering plant on Mancetter Road in Hartshill. This was formerly known as De Mulder & Sons Limited. The company take animal by-products from the meat processing industry and produce processed animal proteins for pet food products and high-grade fats such as tallow to be made into biofuel. The rendering process generates odorous exhaust gases that need to be abated to prevent nuisance.

The Environment Agency (EA) regulates this site under an Environment Permit, which was issued in 2006. This permit controls emissions from the site into the environment, it includes maintenance, management, and amenity conditions.

A copy of the Environmental Permit for the site can be viewed *here*, however please be aware that this information is not immediately available with a licence for use. Please contact us if you want to know if, and under what conditions, we would be able to license you.

Latest update (to 31 August 2022)

Following the significant odour incident that occurred in August 2022, the Environment Agency have commenced a formal investigation of the circumstances which led up to the incident and the impact caused.

The Company have received a copy of our Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) and we are now in the appeal period before this can be published on our public register and shared on this page.

We continue to press the Company for improvements to the facility to avoid a repetition of the incident and reduce odour emissions from the plant.

We are working with our professional health partners to review impacts from the odours from the facility and ensure the safety of the community.

We are meeting regularly with Marcus Jones MP and Councillor's Margaret Bell and Marli Parker as your community representatives to provide them with the latest information.

We understand that reporting incidents is time consuming and frustrating, however the information that you provide is invaluable for us to understand the impact that the plant is having on the community and investigate and take action. Please continue to report incidents to us using our hotline number 0800 807060.

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

We have produced an FAQ document for the site, which you can read [here](#). This document will be added to and updated if we received further queries that are not already included. Please read through this page and refer to this FAQ document in the first instance if you have any questions.

For any concerns regarding the operational life of the site, hours of operation and traffic movements to and from the site, please contact Warwickshire County Council at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportaproblem>

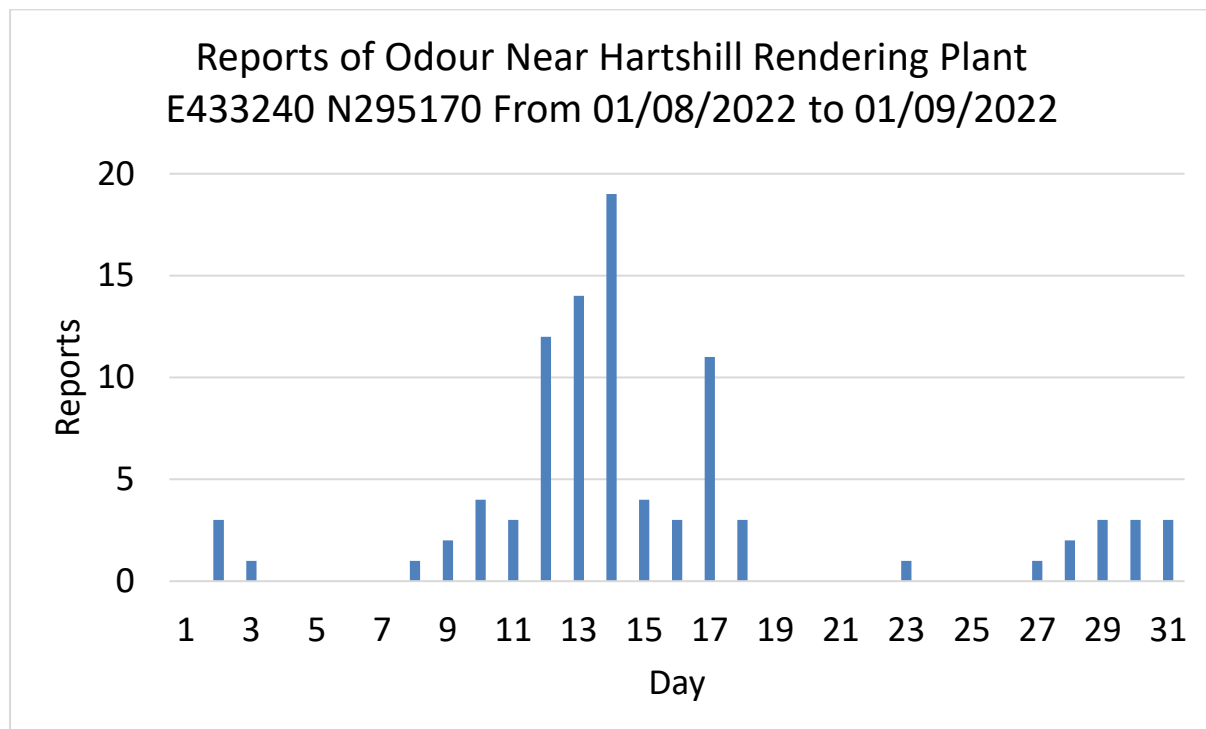
Odour reports about the site

We have received a total of 134 odour notifications between 1 January and 31 August 2022

In August we received 91 reports regarding odours from the site.

Over the Winter and up to Easter there had been very few odour complaints regarding the operation of the company. Since Easter complaints have been intermittent, averaging around 10 reports per month until the incidence from 8 to 18 August.

Over the month of August we saw a sharp rise in incidents reported to us that were centred around the weekend of 13/14 August.



More graphs and maps of the incident reports can be seen *here*.

Recent company investments and improvements to August 2022

- Bio Bed – this is a treatment process by which the gas from the hoppers, crushing area, external balance tank, tallow storage facility and pre-evaporation room is bubbled through wood chippings containing bacteria to remove the compounds causing odours. The company has had one for some time and has recently completed works to construct and bring a second Bio Bed on-line. The previous Bio Bed (1) has now been switched off and will be cleaned and maintained for future use.

Both Bio Bed's were checked by our officers on 15 June and no mal-odours were noted around the beds or the emissions points.

- No.3 Scrubbing Tower is a single stage scrubber (sodium hypochlorite and sodium hydroxide) which treats air from the drying and pressing area, the tallow filter room and the external tallow tanks. Works to refurbish this tower were completed in December 2021 and this is fully operational.
- High intensity odours can also be treated in the PASCFC (Pre-Acid Scrubber and Carbon Filter) System. This provides an additional back up of 10,000m³/hr of treatment capacity. The system is independent from the steam raising process and therefore is a failsafe to treat odours at periods when there is low steam demand or the boilers are not incinerating odours. The media in the carbon filter has recently been replaced to keep this facility in good working order.
- A new weather station has been installed which also records weather conditions for any future interrogation.
- Whilst the site is busy, the Company confirm that it is not operating near or at capacity.
- The Company have updated and implemented their complaints process to ensure that any calls are immediately escalated and investigated.

Regulation of the site

On 5 May, 15 June and 20 June 2022, we conducted odour assessments in and around the site. On 5 May and 15 June no offensive odours were detected by our officers, however on 20 June some odour was detected near the site boundary.

On 15 June we met with the site management to discuss the next phase of improvements and investments at the site. These included modelling the emissions from the plant and reviewing if alterations to the chimney height and operating temperatures would help to dissipate odours away from Hartshill. We also discussed odour generation from the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) and plans to reduce surface aeration and cover tanks to reduce odours.

We carried out a full audit of the odour abatement system on 14 July 2022. Actions arising from this are listed in the section below.

On 29 July, 12 August, 17 August we conducted off-site odour assessments. Offensive odours were detected and the site was identified as the source. On 12 and 17 August the odour was at a level likely to cause pollution and the incident has been categorised as a Category 2 incident 'significant incident' in accordance with our National Incident Categorisation Scheme. From 10 August 2022 weather conditions were extremely hot and were combined with a prevailing wind towards Hartshill village, which worsened the conditions.

On 17 August we inspected the site to identify the cause of the odour emissions and it was found that the ETP was not operating as expected. The Company provided us with a 6-point plan to resolve the issues. The company were already removing 300 tonnes/week of effluent by tanker from the site to reduce loading on the tanks and reducing their inputs of raw materials into the site. The steps in the plan reflect changes needed to several of the tanks including installation of new parts, such as cooling and aeration and a new tank that will offer more resilience to climate conditions. The latter is a significant investment and expected to be commissioned in Spring 2023.

On 27 August we carried out an unplanned check of odour in the vicinity of the site, no offensive odours were detected off site.

Update on health

The community also reported health impacts from the odour i.e. nausea, headaches and vomiting, which our regulatory team referred to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). UKHSA have consulted with health professionals at the Local Authority and the Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards (CRCE) who provided the following advice;

The human nose is very sensitive to odours, and many substances that are perceived as odorous are usually present at levels below which there is a known health effect. Odours can cause nuisance, possibly leading to stress and anxiety. Some people may experience symptoms such as nausea, headaches or dizziness, as a reaction to odours even when the substances that cause those smells are themselves not harmful to health.

UKHSA are continuing to meet and investigate the health concerns that have been reported. They are monitoring the situation and are in correspondence with Councillor Bell regarding the health of the local community.

Actions/Next steps

We continue to make regular odour checks in the area and inspections of the site.

We continue to investigate the circumstances leading up to the significant incident in August and odour emissions from the plant.

The company are regularly updating us to demonstrate progress with their action plan and actions from our compliance inspections.

We met with Marcus Jones MP, Hartshill Ward Councillor's Margaret Bell and Marli Parker and company representatives on Friday 16 September to discuss the issues and plans. Further meetings will be arranged to review the situation.

Actions from the odour abatement audit on 14 July 2022

Review of the operation of the Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser (RTO):

- Options for improved stack dispersion should be explored in conjunction with an impact assessment in terms of atmospheric dispersion modelling of the exhaust plume. To submit a brief outline of the planned actions with prospective timescales to the Environment Agency by 31 October 2022
- We have recommended that the company carry out emission monitoring related to the emissions to air from the RTO for oxides of Nitrogen, Oxides of Sulphur, Carbon Monoxide and volatile organic compounds by 31 October 2022

Review of the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP):

- Provide a progress update on the installation of the cooling system in the aeration tank as stated in the 6-point plan of ETP improvement which was discussed on 17 August 2022 – by 31 October 2022

Review of the Biofilters:

- Submit a report of odour abatement efficiency of recently commissioned biofilter-2 including chemical composition, conducted by an independent consultant by 30 November 2022. The odour sampling and analysis should be undertaken using UKAS accredited procedures.

Actions from the incident investigation audit on 17 August 2022

A report was issued to the company on 2 September 2022. This is currently within the appeal period (28 days). If no appeal is made by the company to the contents of the report, the information can be shared in the October community update.

Report an incident

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