

Keeping You Informed No 11

Grange Landfill Ltd, Droppingwell, Rotherham

November 2021

Our role is to protect and improve the environment so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of a clean, safe and healthy place to live.

We are responsible for granting or refusing environmental permits and regulating sites that deal with waste. We will not issue a permit if current evidence suggests that the operation will be harmful to health or the environment.

This briefing will give you up to date information on the current situation regarding Grange Landfill at Droppingwell, Rotherham.

At the time of writing the site remains non-operational.

The operator, Grange Landfill Ltd, is required under the conditions of the environmental permit, to install engineered infrastructure to meet the requirements of the Landfill Directive to ensure that the proposed landfill activity at this site will not impact on the local environment.

The existing landfilled area will not be re-opened.

Current situation

On site works have been temporarily paused by the Operator due to priorities elsewhere, and plant is being removed from site.

The Operator has not yet confirmed as to when works may recommence at Grange Landfill, but we anticipate that it may not be until sometime in the new year.

What has happened on site since 2020

The preparatory works were delayed due poor weather conditions and then the Covid pandemic. However, works were able to recommence in 2021.

The following works for the site preparation have also been completed

- ground investigation works to determine suitability of the in-situ ground conditions to meet the relevant engineering standards;
- engineering works to install a surface water management system.

Once activities recommence on site, then work on completing the engineered containment bunds around Cell 1 needs to be finalised.

Complaints and Investigations

We completed our investigation into the complaints made against Grange Landfill Limited regarding alleged irregularities in the environmental monitoring data. We found no evidence to suggest that the site operator had falsely submitted sampling data from the borehole once it had fallen out of service.

We shall work with the operator to finalise proposals for the reinstatement of BH05.

During the summer we also received several complaints regarding unacceptable levels of dust affecting local residents. We discussed this with the operator and ensured that appropriate measures were put in place to minimise any dust, these included using a water bowser on site.

You can be assured that we take all complaints seriously and will carrying out a full and transparent investigation.

More information on these can be found on the [Grange Landfill Information page](#), and frequently asked questions (FAQ) document.

Site Inspections

In December 2019 we agreed with Rotherham MBC (RMBC) that we would seek to undertake routine site inspections on quarterly basis. However with the restrictions that the Coronavirus epidemic placed upon us we were not able to commit to quarterly inspections during 2020.

Following the easing of government restrictions we have now resumed site inspections on a quarterly basis during 2021/22.

After each inspection we produce a Compliance Assessment Report (CAR) form which records our findings and any actions we have asked the Operator to undertake.

What happens next?

Although no dates have been confirmed we expect the operator to re-commence activities on site early in 2022.

Once all engineering works to comply with the permit conditions are complete the operator will submit a validation report to the Environment Agency. If we are satisfied that all conditions have been met to the required standard, the Operator will be given permission to operate the landfill site.

Please note that no waste disposal activities will commence until our Regulatory Specialists are fully satisfied that the landfill infrastructure has been engineered to the relevant standards.

Further information:

What is not covered by an EA permit?

A number of regulated bodies take responsibility for different parts of the site.

The Environment Agency regulates against the permit and the waste on site. Therefore our regulatory remit only extends to the landfilling activity itself.

Any issues with regards to health and safety on site remains the remit of the **Health & Safety Executive**.

Concerns regarding traffic movements, fall within the remit **Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council** as they are responsible for regulating and enforcing the conditions within the planning permission.

About Grange Landfill Site

The permit only allows the deposit of inert waste. The updated legislation means that the definition of inert wastes has changed.

Inert waste is now defined as "waste that does not undergo any significant physical, chemical or biological transformation".

Inert waste will not dissolve, burn or otherwise physically or chemically react, biodegrade or adversely affect other matter with which it comes into contact in a way likely to give rise to environmental pollution or harm human health. The total leachability and pollutant content of the waste and the ecotoxicity of the leachate must be insignificant, and in particular not endanger the quality of surface water and/or groundwater.

Where can you find out more?

If you would like more information on any specific issue relating to Grange Landfill site please contact:

The Yorkshire Landfill Team by telephone on **03708 506506** or by

Email to Yorkshire-Landfill@environment-agency.gov.uk

Should you wish report an incident call the Environment Agency incident hotline.

Telephone: 0800 80 70 60

24-hour service