

Keeping You Informed No 10

Grange Landfill Ltd, Droppingwell, Rotherham

October 2020

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 or filled.

Current situation

We have recently been informed by the operator that the preparatory activities on site - which were temporarily stopped due to poor weather conditions in late 2019 - are expected recommence imminently. The proposed works are to complete the installation of the haul road around Phase 2 and construct a secure compound.

What happens next?

Although no dates have yet been given the following works will be necessary for the next stages of the site preparation:

- 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; and
- basal lining system within the footprint of Phase 2 of the landfill.

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. It is unclear at present how long it will take to complete all the necessary preparatory and engineering works, however we do not anticipate that disposal activities will commence until spring 2021 at the earliest.

Further information:

We are still in the process of completing our investigation into the complaints made against Grange Landfill Limited regarding alleged irregularities in the environmental monitoring data submitted.

We expect to conclude our investigation shortly, once we have received some further information and any additional investigation required. You can be assured that we are carrying out a full and transparent investigation into the complaints.

To avoid prejudicing any potential legal proceedings we are unable to make public any details of the investigation until it is concluded.

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.

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.

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