



This message has been produced by the Environment Agency (EA) and UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), in consultation with Leeds City Council to address health concerns raised by the local community affected by Peckfield Landfill Site.

Peckfield Landfill Site: Reports of odour

We are aware that the local community are continuing to report odour pollution from Peckfield Landfill Site, Ridge Road, Micklefield, Leeds, LS25 4DW (the Site) operated by Caird Peckfield Limited (the Operator). We would like to thank residents for reporting their concerns and encourage them to keep doing so.

The Site is operated under an environmental permit (EPR/BU9726IH) issued and regulated by the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency has assessed that the operator is in breach of a number of their environmental permit conditions. A range of regulatory interventions and enforcement tools are being used by the Environment Agency to address these breaches, to bring the operator back into compliance with the environmental permit and to address the odour issues resulting from those breaches as quickly as possible.

We appreciate that this will be concerning, and residents will want the problem resolved as quickly as possible. In order to understand any potential impacts the odour may have on the local community's health and wellbeing the Environment Agency have consulted with colleagues at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and Leeds City Council.

The following information has been supplied by the UKHSA to assist the community address health concerns.

Are the odours causing or going to cause health effects?

We understand that unpleasant, strong smells can impact on quality of life and wellbeing, so we would like to explain more about the effects of odour on health and wellbeing, and what residents can do to reduce any associated symptoms.

The human nose is very sensitive. There are many things that have a strong smell at levels at which there are no direct harmful effects to health. However, strong smells are unpleasant and can impact on wellbeing leading to stress and anxiety. Some people may also experience symptoms, such as nausea, headaches, or dizziness, as a reaction to strong smells, even when the substances that cause those smells are themselves not harmful to health.

Short-term health effects may be experienced as a result of strong odours such as irritation to the eyes, nose, and throat. People who have health conditions that affect breathing, such as asthma, may experience increased frequency and/or severity of symptoms. With continuing exposure these effects may be prolonged but are not anticipated to continue long-term once exposure is reduced.

Landfill gas contains hydrogen sulphide which is a by-product as the on-site waste degrades. The human nose is very sensitive to hydrogen sulphide which has a characteristic odour of rotten eggs. The first noticeable effect of hydrogen sulphide at very low concentrations is its unpleasant odour, which may cause discomfort and some short-term health effects. At higher concentrations it may cause eye, nose, and throat irritation. It may also disturb sleep if experienced at night at low levels.

What can I do to reduce symptoms caused by odour?

In order to limit the effects of the odour as much as possible, the UKHSA would advise:

- Close windows if there is an outdoor odour and open them once any outdoor odour has reduced.
- You could consider closing windows at night and opening them in the morning in the absence of odours which are more likely to occur overnight and in the early hours of the morning when weather conditions are calm and still.
- Ventilate your property when there is no odour outdoors by opening windows and patio doors etc.
- Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you have concerns about your individual circumstances, feel unwell or require health advice.

Please continue to report odour to the free 24/7 Environment Agency incident hotline on: 0800 80 70 60.

The Environment Agency will continue to update the local community as the situation progresses.

Environment Agency General Enquiries

National Customer Contact Centre
PO Box 544
Rotherham
S60 1BY
United Kingdom

Email enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Telephone 03708 506 506

Environment incident hotline

Telephone (24 hour service) 0800 80 70 60