

Keeping you informed

Update on our work at Peckfield Landfill Site

December 2023

Our aim is to protect and improve the environment so everyone can enjoy the benefits of a clean, safe and healthy place to live, work and play. We issue environmental permits that set standards for those operating waste management facilities including landfills like the site at Peckfield.

The operator, Caird Peckfield Limited (CPL) must comply with the strict conditions of its permit in order to minimise its impact on the environment and the local community.

We are aware of the ongoing landfill gas odours being experienced by residents and would like to update residents of Micklefield and the surrounding villages about our regulation of Peckfield Landfill Site.

Background

Enforcement action to address non-compliance with the permit conditions.

On 25 October 2023, Environment Agency Officers conducted a gas survey on Peckfield Landfill Site which showed that there were uncontrolled methane emissions on site. Officers concluded that there was a lack of appropriate measures being taken to minimise the uncontrolled release of methane and that conditions set out in the permit had been breached. A Category 3 non-compliance with the permit was recorded.

The Environment Agency then used the results of the gas survey to require an action plan from CPL, detailing the steps it would take to bring the site back into compliance. However, on 29 November 2023 Environment Agency officers made a further site inspection and determined that, although some progress had been made, all of the steps detailed in the action plan had not been completed or would not be completed by the required deadlines. As there was a breach of the permit in relation to the uncontrolled release of methane to air, a Category 2 non-compliance was recorded.

As result of this, on the 12 December 2023 the Environment Agency served an enforcement notice on CPL under Regulation 36 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016. The enforcement notice requires CPL to undertake works to improve the site infrastructure in order to bring CPL back into compliance with their permit. The deadline for the completion of these infrastructure works is 19 January 2023. We are continuing to liaise with CPL to ensure these works are completed.

After this deadline, Environment Agency officers will complete a further site inspection, to gather evidence and to assess whether the company has met all the requirements of the enforcement notice. If there is a failure to comply with the enforcement notice, this may result in further enforcement action being taken in line with the Environment Agency Enforcement and Sanctions Policy.

Reporting of Odour Issues

There has been a marked rise in the number of odour reports we have received since the end of October 2023. As a result of this, Environment Agency Officers have undertaken a number of odour assessments, finding strong odours associated with landfill gas downwind of the landfill site. This supports the details

provided by members of the public. We would like to thank all who have taken time to report the odour problems experienced within the village.

The completion of works we have required will contribute to the reduction of surface landfill gas emissions from the site, and therefore the associated odour.

Restoration Works

Final restoration work is due to commence in 2024. Activities on site will continue whilst restoration work is undertaken. This will include the importation of soils to recently capped areas so you may see activities on site to bring in the soil needed for this work. We do not expect this will produce odours as the type of grassland proposed requires very little organic matter. Once restoration work has been completed, these areas will be seeded with grass in line with the planning conditions for the site.

How you can help us

We run a 24-hour incident hotline. You can use this number to tell us if the site is causing a nuisance. Our hotline number is **0800 807060**. In order to gather reliable evidence we need reports to be timely and accurate.

You can also find more information about the Peckfield waste site at:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/yorkshire/peckfield>

Site Contact

Caird Peckfield Limited can be contacted on 0113 2865784 should you have any questions or issues regarding the operation of Peckfield Landfill Site.