

Roxby Landfill Site – February 2020

Introduction

This is the first in a series of updates which will provide residents with the latest information about our regulation of Roxby Landfill Site

Keeping you up to date on our progress is very important to us and we hope our updates will answer many of your questions.

We are sorry to hear that residents are experiencing problems with odour in the local area. Please be assured that we are working with the operator, Biffa Waste Services Ltd, to resolve these issues.

Background

We regulate the Environmental Permit held by Biffa Waste Services Ltd for Roxby Landfill Site. The environmental permit contains conditions relating to site operations, which includes the waste types allowed, the handling of them and any relevant emissions standards and monitoring requirements.

Our Commitment

As part of our regulation of the site we continue to carry out air quality/odour assessments during routine visits to the site which include both announced and unannounced visits.

Our officers are working closely with Biffa Waste Services Ltd. to make sure that improvements are made and odour nuisance is reduced to a minimum.

Latest news

There has been an increase in odour reports in the last few months and we believe the majority of these are linked to landfill gas odours from the site.

Following these reports, the site operator (Biffa Waste Services Ltd) agreed a voluntary action plan with ourselves which identifies a number of improvements that could potentially reduce odour nuisance.

These include the installation of 15 deep gas extraction wells and over 200 gas extraction pin wells with further gas infrastructure (deep gas wells, pin wells and scavenger lines) to be installed.

Deep gas extraction wells are essentially pipes which have been drilled down to between 20 to 25 metres below the surface, whereas gas extraction pin wells are drilled down to a much shallower depth of no more than 6 metres into the landfill. Scavenger lines are pipes laid horizontally within the waste and connected to the gas extraction system.

The voluntary action plan also includes laying 40,000m² of capping material which comprises of welded plastic membrane (LLDPE). To date 8200m² has been laid. We recognise the inclement weather may

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

delay the agreed timescales, Biffa has reassured us that additional resource will be made to accelerate progress with the capping when a suitable weather window is available.

On 5th and 6th February 2020, Biffa identified a further area on site which may be an additional point source of odorous emissions. An engineering plan has been submitted and works will commence on 11th February 2020 to remediate the issue. During this time, there is a potential for further releases of odours and we will monitor the situation carefully.

Roxby Community Liaison Group

The Environment Agency meets regularly with members of the Roxby Community Liaison Group. The latest meeting was held on 30 January 2020, with representatives from North Lincolnshire Council, Winterton Town Council, Roxby-cum-Risby Parish Council, residents and Biffa. We continue to update Andrew Percy MP of progress and actions being taken.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 6th March 2020 at 10am; if you have any questions or require further information, do contact your local representative.

If you would like to receive our newsletter, please email LNenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk and we will add you to our mailing list.

We will continue to provide updates via our newsletter and through regular contact with your local representatives. Biffa will continue to issue weekly updates to the group to share with the community.

Your odour reports

We want to hear from you if you have an environmental incident or concern, including any odour concerns.

To do this, call our free 24 hour incident hotline on:

0800 80 70 60

Please do not try to contact our officers directly - we cannot guarantee that your call will be logged and dealt with in a timely manner unless it is made through the incident hotline.

When reporting odour incidents to us, we will ask you to assess the strength of the odour on a scale of 0 to 6. To help with your assessment, an explanation of this scale is as follows:

0 – No odour

1 – Very faint odour (need to inhale into the wind to smell anything)

2 – Faint odour (you can detect an odour when you inhale normally)

3 – Distinct odour (there is clearly an odour in the air as you leave your car or enter the area)

4 – Strong odour (a bearable odour but strong, you could stay in the area for some time)

5 – Very strong odour (unpleasantly strong, you will want to leave the area quickly)

6 – Extremely strong odour (likely to cause nausea and a strong need to remove yourself from the odour immediately)

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Our Feedback to You

Often you will ask us for feedback following your report. We will endeavour to report back directly where we can but this may not always be possible. We recognise the importance of providing feedback and will do this through the Roxby liaison group and updates such as this one.

North Lincolnshire Council

North Lincolnshire Council has reviewed the planning approvals for the site, and confirm there are no breaches.

Next update

We will provide our next update in mid-March 2020. If you would like to provide feedback on how useful you found this update please email LNenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.