

We are writing to you with this update about Pilsworth South Landfill, Pilsworth Road, Unsworth, Bury BL9 8QZ as you have recently contacted the Environment Agency. We will not share your details with any third parties.

Thank you for contacting the Environment Agency to report incidents of odour from Pilsworth South Landfill.

The Environment Agency recognise the ongoing difficulties that odour has caused in your community. We want to assure you that we take all reports and complaints very seriously. We are working with the site operator Valencia Waste Management Limited, to investigate the cause of the odour and to put solutions in place.

### **The role of the Environment Agency**

Valencia Waste Management Limited holds an Environmental Permit for waste activities (disposal by landfill) and The Environment Agency regulates the site to monitor compliance with the conditions in the permit.

The Environment Agency's job is to balance the needs of people and the environment. As part of this we are responsible for permitting and regulating landfill sites, so they don't harm people or the environment. We can never totally remove the impact, but it is our duty to set high standards for operators and require them to meet these even where that is difficult.

The Environment Agency carries out monitoring and checks to see if an operator is meeting the standards we set. When they don't, we investigate and take action. In doing this we have to follow both the law and the Regulator's Code (set by government) which ensures we treat operators fairly.

### **Odour**

Complaints to the Environment Agency about odour from Pilsworth South landfill site have been increasing since November 2023. We have dedicated additional staff and other technical resources to resolve the issues as quickly as possible. In response to this we've increased monitoring at the site and have planned a visit to the site every week and frequent visits to the vicinity to monitor odours around the site.

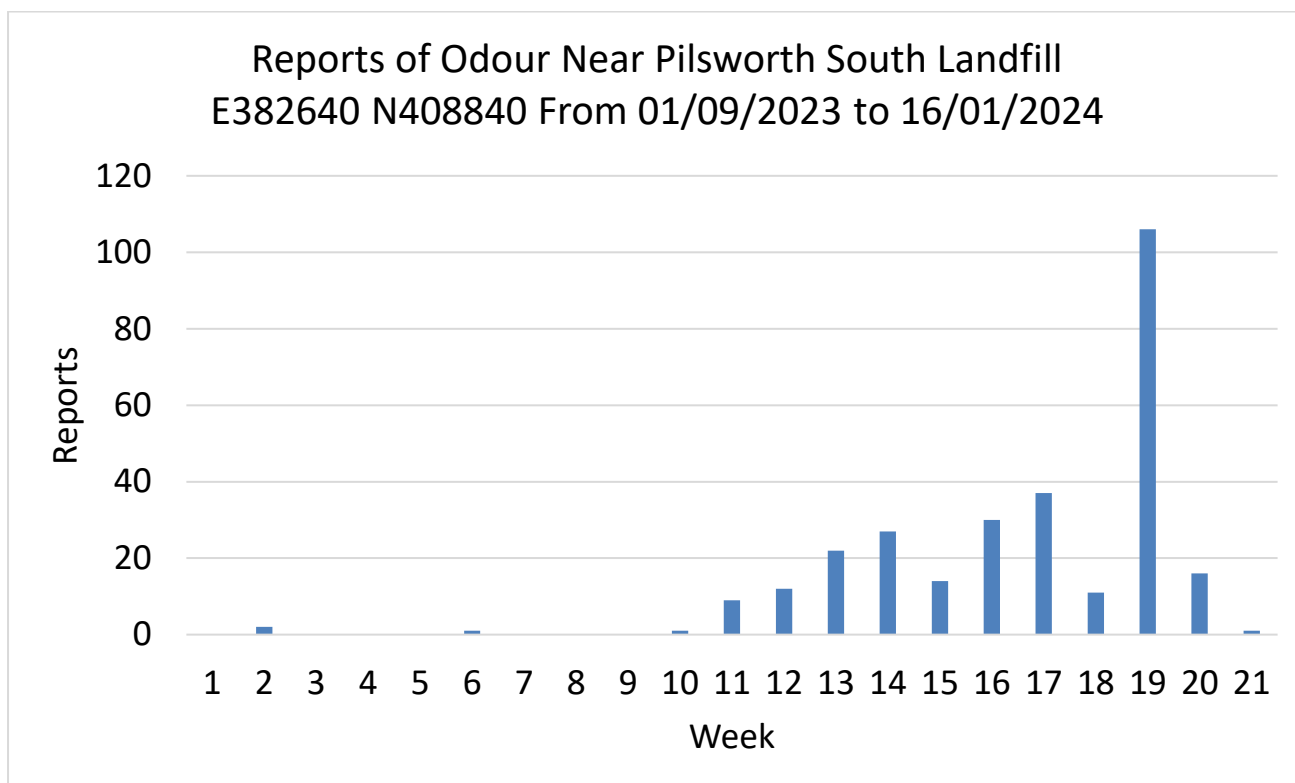
The operator had undertaken engineering works for the purposes of overtipping throughout the latter months of 2023 without prior approval, which may have added to the odour experienced in the areas around the site. The Environment Agency have identified this as a breach of the operator's permit.

The operator has drilled new gas wells to aid in the collection of landfill gas. The drilling process had the potential to release additional odours. The drilling process is now complete for those new gas wells. The wells are now connected, and this should further mitigate the odours from the site.

Another part of the engineering works to reduce odour undertaken by Valencia has been to install further capping across exposed waste. To date this capping area is approximately 50,000m<sup>2</sup>. Capping of the exposed waste allows better control and capture of gas as the waste decomposes.

The operator intends to cap an additional 20,000m<sup>2</sup> over the coming weeks which should further mitigate odours emanating from the site.

The graph below shows the trend of complaints and identifies a spike when the engineering work was ongoing with a marked decrease since the turn of the year.



### **Reporting Incidents**

We will continue to monitor the situation, please continue to report incidents to us. Please use our 24-hour Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60 or email [Incident\\_Communication\\_Service@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Incident_Communication_Service@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Please feel free to pass this newsletter to anyone you know who doesn't currently receive it but might be interested and want to be kept informed. If anyone would like to receive it directly, please email us at [correspondence.gmmc@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:correspondence.gmmc@environment-agency.gov.uk) and we will add you to our distribution list. If you no longer want to receive updates, please also send an email to the same address and we will remove you from our distribution list.

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