

Pilsworth South Landfill - Feb 2026 update

Good afternoon,

We are now three months on from the reopening of Pilsworth South Landfill, and we want to provide residents and stakeholders with a clear update on site operations, our ongoing monitoring, and what you can expect moving forward.

Odour Reports and Regulation

Since reopening, the Environment Agency has received approximately 35 pollution reports which appear to relate to Pilsworth South Landfill Site.

Although none of these odour pollution reports have been directly substantiated by our officers each report has been reviewed in detail including a review of:

- Wind direction, wind speed and barometric pressure at the time of the complaint
- Operational activities occurring on site
- Other activities in the local area which may also be a source of odour pollution

For example, one odour pollution report coincided with a period when the operator was carrying out proactive landfill-gas infrastructure work, as required by the site's permit. We undertook reactive visits on 11 and 12 February – although our inspection report is being written up, we can confirm that operational activities at the time of the visit were assessed and perceived as meeting permit requirements in relation to odour management. The operator was using all appropriate measures on these occasions.

Compliance Checks and Site Visits

Our regulatory work continues at pace. Since waste acceptance restarted, we have carried out a further scheduled 6 site inspections, each designed to assess compliance with a specific aspect of the environmental permit. We conducted 4 announced and 2 unannounced visits, reviewing waste acceptance, methods of placement and adherence to management plans previously updated when the facility was shutdown. We also checked for odour control and reviewed site infrastructure and appropriate measures employed by the operator to prevent pollution outside the landfill boundary.

Additional visits are already planned over the coming weeks and months. We will continue our methodical approach to ensuring that the site operates to the required standards.

Mobile Monitoring Facility (MMF)

The MMF monitors ambient air around the site generally, including the presence of methane and hydrogen sulphide, which are surrogates for odour pollution from a landfill site. The Mobile Monitoring Facility is located at a local primary school in Heywood.

Key findings so far:

- The monitoring showed results consistently below the World Health Organisation's (WHO) odour annoyance guideline level and WHO's daily health impact assessment guideline level for hydrogen sulphide.
- The initial three-month study completed in 2024, undertaken while the site was voluntarily closed, recorded no breaches of UK Air Quality Standards or WHO Guideline levels.
- A new summary report, covering 10 May 2024 to 31 December 2025, is now available:

 [MX_Heywood Summary 10 May 2024 - 31 Dec 2025.pdf](#)

The latest study confirms that ambient air in the vicinity of the landfill site has not been significantly impacted by the site's reopening. We were pleased to see that across both 2024 and 2025, there were no readings above the WHO 30-minute odour annoyance guideline value and the WHO's daily health impact assessment guideline level for hydrogen sulphide.

Looking Ahead

We will continue to undertake ambient air monitoring in the vicinity of Pilsworth South Landfill and will keep residents informed of any developments.

A further summary of the ambient air data collected by our MMF will be published in three months' time.

Reporting Pollution Incidents

If you notice anything of concern — particularly odour, noise, pollution, or operational issues — please report it so we can investigate promptly.

24-hour incident hotline: 0800 80 70 60

Online reporting: Report an environmental problem - GOV.UK