

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 Overview

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 investigate the reasons for this, and to try and resolve any issues as quickly as possible. In response to this we've also increased monitoring (both proactive and reactive) around the site and have planned a visit to the site every week.

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 at that time. The Environment Agency identified this as a breach of the operator's permit.

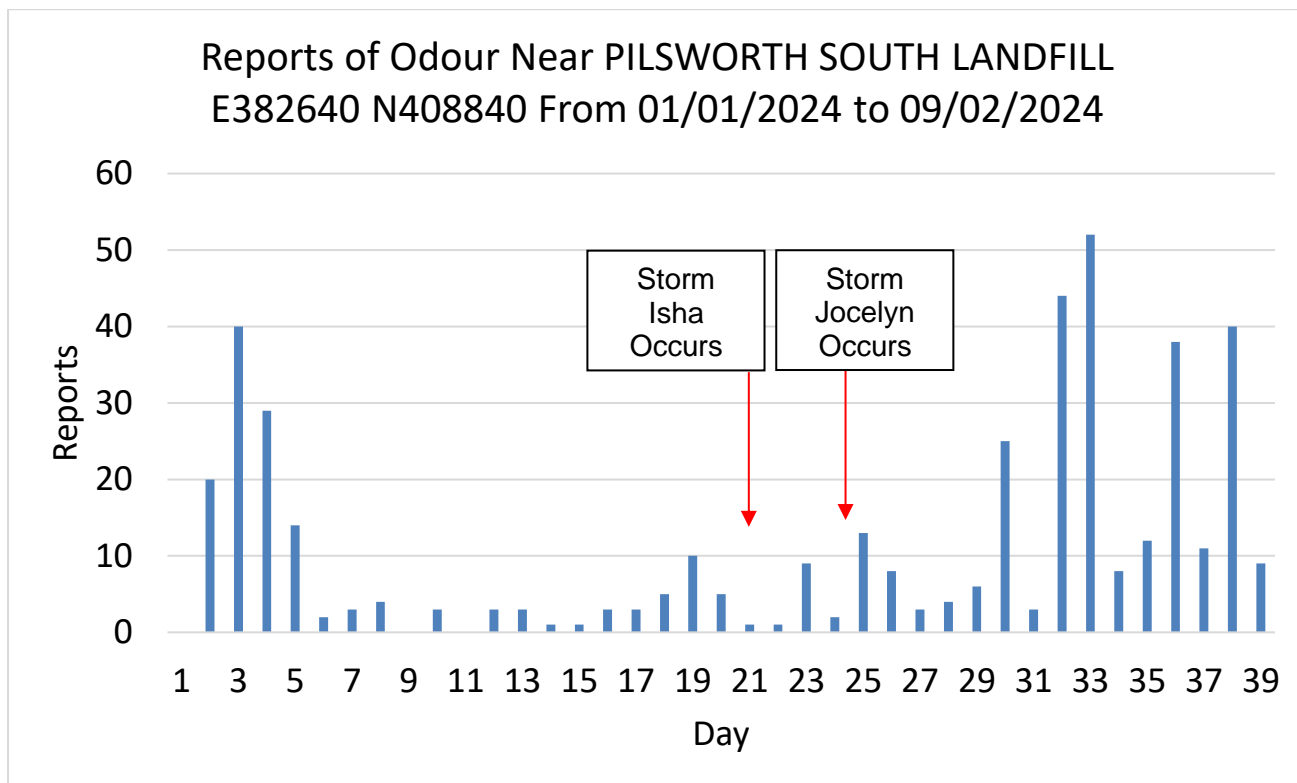
The operator had drilled new gas wells to aid in the collection of landfill gas. The drilling process had the potential to release additional odours. The drilling process was completed for those new gas wells by 14th December 2023. The wells are now connected, and this should further mitigate the odours from the site.

Odour Update since January

Another part of the engineering works to reduce odour undertaken by the operator has been to install capping across exposed waste. To date this capping area is approximately 70,000m² with only the currently operating cell now being uncapped. Capping of the exposed waste allows better control and capture of gas as the waste decomposes.

However, since we last wrote to you in January there have been two named storms, Isha and Jocelyn. As a result of these storms there has been tears there have been tears in the plastic sheeting used for temporary capping. Repairs to the tears have been impaired due to inclement weather since those storms with dryer conditions required to weld the plastic sheeting together. We are ensuring that the operator carries out the necessary repairs.

The graph below shows the trend of complaints and identifies a spike shortly after the 2 named storms experienced in late January.



Since our last newsletter in January, we have:

- Carried out several proactive and reactive odour checks where we have detected odour pollution in the area which we believe is coming from the site.
- Inspected the site following the named storms, to assess any potential damage to the temporary capping – at this point we confirmed the presence of damage to the cap.
- Followed up inspections to assess the repairs being undertaken on the torn cap.
- begun reviewing a number of the operator’s internal procedures to assess whether they require any improvements in order to ensure compliance with the conditions of the permit

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188

www.gov.uk/environment-agency



Picture above shows: An Environment Agency landfill officer inspecting the integrity of the capped area and gas management system following increased complaints the day before.

We are also regularly meeting with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), Bury Council and Rochdale Council to keep them informed of our actions and the actions of the operator.

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

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 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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