

# Odour from Buckden North Landfill site

The following briefing note has been prepared to provide an update in relation to concerns about odours from Buckden North landfill. It should be read in conjunction with the previous briefing note issued in November 2020.

## Background

The Environment Agency regulates all Landfill sites in England that are currently disposing of waste. We issue Environmental Permits which include a number of conditions which the Operator of the landfill must comply with. As a regulator, the Environment Agency is also tasked with the role of investigating any permit condition breaches and taking any subsequent enforcement action, this action can range from advice and guidance through to Prosecution for serious offences.

Buckden North Landfill is permitted to accept Non Hazardous waste for disposal. The Environmental Permit (our reference number: RP3732SZ) also requires the landfill to be engineered to provide containment for the wastes. The Operator, Anti-Waste Ltd (also known as FCC Environment), is required to install infrastructure for the collection and management of landfill gas and leachate generated by the degradation of the waste.

## Update on Odour reports

We have received over 100 reports of malodour from Brampton residents since the start of November. We have attended the Brampton area on a number of occasions to investigate these incidents and have substantiated malodours from the Buckden landfill site.

Some reports have included descriptions of sewage type odours. We are aware the local sewage works and pumping station, within the Brampton Park housing estate, may be a source of sewage odours. We would ask that residents describe, as best they can, the odour they are detecting at the time. Further information on how to do this can be found at the end of this briefing note.

## Update on works at Buckden Landfill

We undertook an inspection of Buckden Landfill on 3 December 2020 and identified a number of ongoing issues relating to the control of landfill gas and subsequent odours. We are working with the Operator to identify the sources of odour and put in place measures to minimise the impact. We will undertake further inspections and off-site odour checks to ensure these measures are put into place and are effective.

## Odour: Advice from Public Health England

A number of odour reports raised concerns about potential health impacts. We sought advice from Public Health England and they have provided the following information:

*“The human nose is very sensitive to odours, and many substances that are perceived as odorous are usually present at levels below which there is a direct toxicological effect. Odours can cause nuisance amongst the population possibly leading to stress and anxiety. Some people may experience symptoms such as nausea, headaches or dizziness, as a reaction to odours even when the substances that cause those smells are themselves not harmful to health.”*

### What should I do if I smell an odour I think is coming from the site?

Please call our Freephone 24 hour incident hotline on **0800 80 70 60**, we log all these calls even though we may not be able to send an officer out to the site. There is no action our officers could take to instantly reduce the odour, which can be exacerbated by certain weather conditions.

When you call our hotline about odour please provide as much of the information as you can:

- When you first noticed the problem
- How long it lasted
- When was it at its worst and is it still occurring
- Where you noticed it
- What were the weather conditions like
- What it smelt like
- Is the problem constant or intermittent
- The intensity of the odour on a scale of 1-6

Please use our numerical intensity of the odour categories:

0 - No odour

1 - Very faint odour

2 - Faint odour

3 - Distinct odour

4 - Strong odour

5 - Very strong odour

6 - Extremely strong odour

### December 2020