

Keeping you informed

Alne Brickworks Landfill Site Update

June 2017

Our aim is to protect and improve the environment so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of a clean, safe and healthy place to live, work and play.

We issue environmental permits and set standards for those operating waste management facilities, including landfills like the site at Alne Brickworks.

Background

Alne Brickworks Landfill at Forest Lane, near Easingwold has an environmental permit allowing the disposal of non-hazardous general municipal and construction and demolition waste.

The site was operated by York Recycling (Processing) Ltd until the company went into liquidation at the end of last year. The company that operated the gas utilisation plant at the same site, The Walled Garden Power Company, also went into liquidation. The landfill permit is currently the responsibility of the liquidator.

We have been informed that the liquidator still hopes to sell the site and we continue to assist with queries from potential purchasers. The liquidator is fully informed of the works that we are carrying out on site.

Current Situation on site

We have awarded a contract for remedial works at Alne Landfill. Works commenced on 21 March 2017 and are expected to finish at the end of June. The ultimate aim of the contract is to reduce the risk of any serious pollution being caused by the site through:

- Collecting and flaring landfill gas
- Collecting and disposing of leachate

- Remediating leachate escape around the perimeter of the site
- Clearing the ditch along the eastern boundary to prevent flooding onto the fishery
- Securing the site against unauthorised access.

Landfill Gas Management

Subcontractors employed to commission the landfill gas collection system are working on site. They have serviced existing infrastructure and have connected up the majority of the gas collection system across site. The gas flare has been operational although some issues with it are still being resolved. However we expect that soon it will be operational 24hrs a day.

We are working closely with the appointed contractors to keep a close eye on the works as they are progressing.

Leachate Management

The leachate collection infrastructure is currently being installed. This includes putting 2 leachate storage tanks on site. Once the installation is complete leachate will be pumped out of the landfill into the storage tanks and then it will be removed from the site by tanker for treatment and disposal elsewhere.

We expect work to start on the remediation of the escape of leachate on the south eastern corner of the site to start later this month. Investigations into a source of leachate escaping from a pipe on the western side of the site will also be carried out and a plan will be developed to deal with this.

Work at the boundary of the site

Works have been carried out to clear the vegetation along the eastern boundary of the site to provide access to the ditch running along the edge of the site. This ditch was blocked and has now been de-silted to ensure that the surface water run-off from the site can flow away and does not flood onto adjacent land.

Footpath Closure

The footpath that runs around the site will be closed during works to remediate the leachate outbreaks as heavy machinery will be used in that area. The footpath will be reinstated in agreement with the Rights of Way officer at NYCC and new fencing will be installed.

Odour problems

The number of odour complaints reported to us has reduced. You have not told us that you have been experiencing odour since February 2017.

With the landfill gas system now nearly complete and, while we continue to manage the landfill gas, we expect that you will not get any future odour problems from the site.

Should you experience any odours from the site please report them to us on our 24 hour incident hotline so that we can investigate.

Keeping you informed

Alne Brickworks Landfill remains a priority site for us and we are committed to making sure the site poses no harm to the environment or human health.

We will issue a further newsletter when the works on site are complete. In the meantime we continue to:

- keep Parish Councils, Hambleton District Council, NYCC & councillors & MP informed of the site and actions we are taking;

- advise and provide information to the liquidator;
- encourage the local community to report any nuisance or pollution from the site;
- meet with adjacent landowners

Our Yorkshire Area Landfill Team can assist you with any specific queries related to environmental matters not covered in this briefing.

You can contact her through our National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506 or by e-mail at yorkshire-landfill@environment-agency.gov.uk

How can you help us?

If you are experiencing any problems or have any concerns related to the landfill site please report them to us as soon as possible.

The Environment Agency operates a 24-hour incident hotline. You can use this number to tell us if the site is causing an odour or other pollution.

Our incident hotline number is 0800 807060.