

**10 March 2014**

**Statement on temporary closure of Chapel Farm landfill site**

Hills Waste Solutions offers sincere apologies to local residents who have been affected by odours coming from the Chapel Farm landfill site near Blunsdon, Swindon and would like to reassure people that every possible action has been taken to try and bring this situation back to normal.

Since receiving complaints of odours Hills has worked with the Environment Agency on a daily basis to understand the reason for the odour increase.

However, despite completing all the additional works agreed with by the Environment Agency, and undertaking substantial additional works which go over and above what is normally required of a landfill operator, the situation has not improved.

Being mindful of the impact that the odours are having on local residents, Hills has made the decision to temporarily suspend landfill operations at Chapel Farm site with effect from today (Monday 10 March 2014).

Additional capping material is being moved into the operational area of the site to assist with sealing off areas where potential odours are coming from. A drilling rig is due to be on site to install further gas extraction wells in the operational area on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> March. It is anticipated that the suspension of landfilling activities will enable a full assessment of the installations and their effectiveness.

It is however important to understand that the suspension of landfill operations will not, on its own, stop emissions of landfill gas / associated odours - it is the existing and proposed gas collection infrastructure that will ultimately help capture the gas.

The site is due to be fully completed in July/August 2014.

Landfill users are being contacted and where possible will be diverted to other waste disposal facilities. Some tipping may take place at the site today and tomorrow to accommodate customers who are already en route to the site and cannot be diverted. It is our intention that no further waste disposal will take place from Wednesday.

This closure only affects the landfill operations and the mechanical skip sorting area will remain open and operate as normal, therefore there will be vehicle movements in and out of the site.

Hills remain responsible for the environmental management of the site under the permit and will continue to be regulated by the Environment Agency.

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