



Hollingdean Waste Transfer Station and Materials Recycling Facility - Information Sheet

In Hollingdean, Brighton, there is a waste transfer station and materials recycling facility. This leaflet explains our role in regulating the site and who you can contact to talk about it.

Our role

We help businesses to make sure they don't harm the environment. We permit waste processing centres to operate, such as recycling sites. Before granting a permit, we set strict environmental conditions to prevent waste operations from harming the environment or people's health. We then make sure the operator continuously meets them.

We issued South Downs Waste Services Limited with an Environmental Permit on 31 March 2008. This allows the company to operate the waste transfer station and materials recycling facility in Hollingdean.

Is an environmental permit the same as planning permission?

No. Planning permission allows a new site to be built in the first place and then be used, within its conditions. An environmental permit allows the site to process waste once it has been built. The planning authority (Brighton and Hove City Council) decided to grant the site planning permission. They asked our advice, and after due consideration the Planning Committee granted planning permission for the facility.

How are environmental permits issued?

A business which needs an environmental permit must apply to us. Providing that a business can prove the site meets all the legal, environmental, technological and health and safety requirements, we are legally obliged to issue the permit, even if some people do not approve of the decision.

How does the Environment Agency regulate the site?

We regulate the site against the conditions of its permit. We do this by carrying out site inspections, audits and by reviewing data the operator is required to submit to us. This information is openly available and can be requested or viewed at any time.

What does the Environment Agency do if the conditions of a permit are not being met?

If a business breaches the conditions of its permit, we will take enforcement action in line with our publicly available enforcement and prosecution policy. Options available include a warning, formal caution, prosecution and issuing a notice to take action. It is not always clear cut whether an operator has breached the permit. There is often a test of reasonableness which we will need to investigate and review before we decide what action to take.

customer service line

08708 506 506

incident hotline

0800 80 70 60

floodline

0845 988 1188

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

What is the Environment Agency doing about odour from the site?

We know that some local residents have been affected by odours in the Hollingdean area. An obvious potential source is the Hollingdean waste transfer station. The permit requires that odours must not be so serious as to cause annoyance to the surrounding community. However, to ensure the permit is reasonable in law, we accept the site may give off odour from time to time. But steps must be taken to prevent or control this odour through the odour management plan we have required the operator to produce.

We are aware that people continue to be affected by the site and are requiring the operator to make improvements. We carry out regular odour checks in the area. We currently meet the operator every month to review our findings and agree further improvements to their operations.

Who can I report odours to?

If you smell an odour that you think is coming from the Hollingdean site, please report it straightaway to our free phone incident hotline (see below). Your report helps us build up a picture of the problem. We will contact the operator on your behalf, but will not share your identity. You may, of course, report odours direct to the operator.

If you think the odour is coming from another source, away from the site please ring Brighton and Hove Environmental Health on the number below.

When a serious and sustained odour is reported to us, we will seek to attend and investigate to check its source. In order to prove a breach of the odour conditions on the permit, we need to smell the odour ourselves. We will need to show that the waste site is the source and that the operator hasn't taken the steps to control this odour, set out in their odour management plan

If I find noise from the site a problem who should I report this to?

Although the local authority has agreed to take the lead on noise, there is an environmental permit condition relating to noise. The permit relates to the site premises only and not associated noise such as that caused by traffic movements to and from the site.

Excessive noise from the site also has the potential to be a statutory nuisance, which is regulated by the Local Authority. We are working with the Local Authority to address noise complaints. If you wish to report noise originating from the site premises you can do this by ringing Brighton and Hove Environmental Health on the number below.

Where can I find out more information or get in touch?

Environment Agency incident hotline: 0800 807060 (anytime)

Environmental Health at Brighton & Hove City Council: 01273 294490

If you want more general Environment Agency information please either call our National Customer Contact Centre on 08708 506506 or via email to enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

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