

Public Health England have been made aware of current odour issues at Finmere Landfill site and are working closely with the Local Authority and the Environment Agency (EA). The EA have produced information on the current situation and are the lead agency on the current issue.

The human nose is very sensitive to odours and often detects odorous chemicals at concentrations in air which pose no risk to health, however it is acknowledged that chronic environmental odours can be unpleasant and affect wellbeing. 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.

Hydrogen sulphide is produced naturally and from human activities. It is commonly produced from landfill sites, stagnant water and manure. It has a characteristic odour of rotten eggs, that can be unpleasant to local populations. The odour threshold for hydrogen sulphide is approximately 0.011 mg/m³ (0.008 ppm). There are no health-based standards for hydrogen sulphide. However, it should be noted that the odour threshold is far lower than levels where any health effects would occur.

Further information can be accessed on:

PHE.gov (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hydrogen-sulphide-properties-incident-management-and-toxicology>)