



recycling and recovery UK

Path Head Quarry landfill site update

17, October 2016

Dear Neighbour,

I would like to inform you about a series of earthworks that will be carried out over the coming winter months at the Path Head Quarry landfill site near Blaydon in preparation for its closure in February 2017.

SUEZ recycling and recovery UK (formerly SITA UK), is the company responsible for the operation and restoration of the Path Head Quarry landfill site. This has provided an essential service for the disposal of waste from local homes and businesses since 2007.

However, no more waste will be disposed of at the landfill after 31st January 2017. Once the site has closed, work will begin to restore the site to woodland, grassland and heathland, with public access routes across it.

In the first instance, this will involve the completion of earthworks to landscape the site and seal in the landfilled waste with an engineered, impermeable cap to keep odours in and rainwater out. A layer of soils, one metre in depth, will then be placed on top of this cap to provide a suitable surface for vegetation to grow.

This activity will be noticeable to anyone with a view of the landfill as it involves the removal and redistribution of a significant amount of soil from a large mound of material in the northwest corner of the site. This material was left over from the quarrying operations that took place before 2007 and is largely made up of sandy soils that are ideal for the kind of plants that help create a heathland habitat. The use of these soils to landscape and restore the site should mean that no additional restoration materials will need to be transported to the site by road.

Preparations for the start of the work are expected to begin in November. Vegetation will be cleared from the area on the mound where soil is to be taken from and this will involve the removal of a large number of trees and gorse scrub located uphill and east of the footpath on the mound.

After consulting with wildlife experts, it has been agreed to carry out these essential works during the winter to avoid unnecessary disturbance to wildlife.

The earthworks are scheduled to commence in 2018 and it is anticipated that public access routes across and around the site will be open within a few years of the site's closure

In the meantime, SUEZ is progressively installing additional infrastructure at the site to manage leachate and landfill gas. These works have continued over the summer and have helped to address issues experienced at the beginning of the year following flooding at the site over the winter of 2015.

Once the site is fully restored, SUEZ will retain responsibility for its aftercare for decades to come, until such time as it is deemed to no longer pose a risk to the environment by the Environment Agency. During this time SUEZ will maintain the site and continue to manage the essential leachate and gas control infrastructure.

We will endeavour to keep you updated with any further developments at Path Head Quarry landfill, but if you have any questions about activity on site leading up to its closure next year or would simply like to know more, please do not hesitate to get in touch. The quickest and simplest way to contact us is via email at pathhead@sita.co.uk

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Walton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barry Walton
Regional Communications Manager